



River Currents



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THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

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SUMMER 2008

MRFA 9th Infantry Meeting in Indianapolis, IN June 12-14, Checkout Sunday, June 15, 2008

Planning 2009 Reunion with the Adam's Mark: September 2-6, 2009

Your officers and board members will be meeting with the Adam's Mark and the Local Convention Bureau staffs in June to finalize the plans for our 2009 reunion. We thought that some of you who have never been to a gathering of the troops or a reunion or would rather like a smaller group environment, etc., may be interested in attending and doing some socializing with some of your fellow Army and Navy members.

We have asked the hotel to set aside a number of rooms for those of you interested in visiting with the officers and board members and anyone else that may show. There will be no meals or events scheduled, although we will have a hospitality room where every one can

congregate and snacks and beverages will be available. We will set up a CD-DVD player for those who want to show their CD or DVDs. There is no registration fee.

The hotel has shuttle service available for anyone who wants to go to downtown Indianapolis and visit some of the local sites. Times vary on when the shuttles leave and return to the hotel so you may want to check with the main desk for their schedules.

The dates are Thursday, June 12 to Saturday, June 14. Checkout on Sunday, June 15. Cost per room per night is \$79. To make reservations, call 317-248-2481 and be sure to mention you are making reservations under the Mobile Riverine Force Association and give the dates you plan on staying; you are not required to stay all three nights. If you live in the area and just want to drop in, you are



THE SALES STAFF AT THE ADAMS MARK.

more than welcome. For more information, feel free to contact Albert at mrfa@bellsouth.net (my new e-mail address); Michelle Jackson is your contact. Her direct phone number is 317-381-6130. Her email address is mxjackson@adamsmark.com; or Reggie Vaughn at 317-381-6127.

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Burning of R-112-1

This picture illustrates what happens when you mix jet fuel with rockets.

This is Refueler 112-1. It is also referenced as Romeo 112-1 (phonetic alphabet). Refuelers were used to fuel the Zippo boats that had a flamethrower in the well deck and were used for clearing foliage and bunkers. This particular boat was hit by rocket fire on the Song Ben Tre April 16, 1969. Compare the unburned boat next to it to see how much destruction occurred. If memory serves me correctly, no one died. I believe there were some injuries. Riding one of these or being involved in escorting one lead to a huge pucker factor. Stop and think about it, one gets hit you have got to get off, so either another boat helps that exposes them to the same attack or you go swim-

ming. So, which shore do you want to swim too? Chances are the attack would occur on a narrow river or canal and with a burning boat blocking the way you came in; your choices of exit are suddenly limited.

Robert C. Heniey NSD Dong Tam



Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 9th Infantry Division Artillery

Descriptive Note: Operational report for quarterly period ending 31 January 1969

Corporate Author: Adjutant General's Office (Army) Washington, D.C.

Handle/proxy Url: <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/AD501469>. Check NTIS availability.

Report Date: 31 January 1969

Pagination or Media Count: 23

Abstract: Throughout the period 1 November 1968 to 31 January 1969, the 9th Division Artillery supported the widely spread operations of the Division. No major changes in the nature of Division operations, as described in the previous ORLL, occurred during the period. Each brigade continued to exploit helicopter mobility, conducting as many as 10 insertions daily. Contacts with the

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From the Galley

Due to more information than usual, I decided to skip "From the Galley" for this issue but will catch you in the Fall Issue. I do want to say thanks to each and every one of you for your continuing support it's greatly appreciated.

Albert

Medal of Honor Recipient Clarence Eugene Sasser

Rank and organization: Specialist Fifth Class (then Pfc.), U.S. Army, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division.

Place and date: Ding Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam, 10 January 1968.

Entered service at: Houston, Texas.

Born: 12 September 1947, Chenango, Texas.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.



Sp5c. Sasser distinguished himself while assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion. He was serving as a medical aid man with Company A, 3rd Battalion, on a reconnaissance in force operation. His company was making an air assault when suddenly it was taken under heavy small arms, recoilless rifle, machine gun, and rocket fire from well-fortified enemy positions on three sides of the landing zone. During the first few minutes, more than 30 casualties were sustained. Without hesitation, Sp5c. Sasser ran across an open rice paddy through a hail of fire to assist the wounded. After helping one man to safety, was painfully wounded in the left shoulder by fragments of an exploding rocket. Refusing medical attention, he ran through a barrage of rocket and automatic weapons fire to aid casualties of the initial attack and, after giving them urgently needed treatment, continued to search for other wounded. Despite two additional wounds immobilizing his legs, he dragged himself through the mud toward another soldier 100 m away. Although in agonizing pain and faint from loss of blood, Sp5c. Sasser reached the man, treated him, and proceeded on to encourage another group of soldiers to crawl 200 m to relative safety. There he attended their wounds for 5 hours until they were evacuated. Sp5c. Sasser's extraordinary heroism is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.



Note from New Member

Thanks guys for the outpouring of support on my email "Need Help PTSD!" Just a "Thank You" for the great response to my email. As embarrassed as I was to ask, I really appreciate the support and graciousness of this organization's members. I guess there is a time for everything and I am glad after almost 40 years that I have found this group.

Rich Kopec-ARL-38
255 McCosh Road
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043
973-220-2977 Cell

9th Infantry Division: Where We Were 1966-1969

The 9th Infantry Division had the dual honor of being the first Division since World War II reactivated for direct deployment into combat and the last Division sent to Vietnam. The Division had received its colors at Fort Riley, Kansas, on February 1, 1966. Division engineering elements began arriving in Vietnam in October 1966. The first 5,000 troop contingent landed on the beaches of Vinh Long on December 19, 1966. Division headquarters was at Camp Bearcat (formerly Camp Martin Cox) some 20 miles northeast of Saigon. Construction of a permanent base, Camp Dong Tam, in the VC-infested Mekong Delta started in January 1967. Initially it housed the Division's 3rd Brigade Headquarters and the 3rd/60th Infantry Battalion.

The Division's first significant contact with the enemy occurred on January 20, 1967, when units of the 1st and 2nd Brigades and the 3rd/5th Cavalry--participating in Operation COLBY--defeated Main Force VC in the Phuoc Chi Secret Zone (25 miles east of Saigon). On March 10, 1967, the 2nd Brigade moved into Camp Dong Tam and the 3rd Brigade relocated northward to Tan An. To improve Division mobility in the inundated Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone, two battalions from 2nd Brigade--the 3rd/47th and 4th/47th--joined US Navy Task Force 117 afloat in June to establish the Mobile Riverine Force. To bolster armored fire power in I Corps Tactical Zone, the commander of Allied Forces in Vietnam ordered the Division's armor reconnaissance squadron--A, B, and C Troops, 3rd/5th Black Knights Cavalry--to Wunder Beach (15 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone) in February 1968. This reassignment distinguished the 9th Infantry Division as the most widespread division in Vietnam. In August 1968, the Division relocated its headquarters and colors to Dong Tam (now a division-size base camp).

The 9th Infantry Division was part of Increment I of the U.S. troop withdrawal from South Vietnam. The 1st and 2nd Brigades, along with Division headquarters, departed Vietnam in July and August 1969 leaving the 3rd Brigade at Tan An to operate as an autonomous combat unit under administrative control of the 25th Infantry Division. The 3rd/60th Infantry had been given the honor of spearheading the Division's withdrawal by departing on July 8, 1969; the first 9th Infantry Division Battalion to go home. The lone 3rd Brigade withdrew a year later during October 1970 as part of Increment IV.

Notes: From Members

Tomorrow, 25th March, 1969 was the day I was hit, along with 12 other guys, three died that were in front of me, they laid next to me for 2 hours before they got us out, I am sure many of us were with people when they died, but does it ever go away after 40 years and it was like yesterday. I spent 10 months

in the hospital but at least I lived, if you want to count the last 40 years living, sometimes I don't. Just a thought.

March 25th, 1969, we were on our way to be picked up after our usual 3-day hike in the jungle (B Co. 4th Bn, 47th Inf). I couldn't even tell you what squad we were in, or I should say I was in. I remember we saw a couple of VC or at least we thought they were, to me anything in black pajamas was a VC. We headed their way to see if we could catch them, but you all

know how impossible that is, those guys could walk on water as far as I was concerned, well anyway I think we gave up and started heading back to our pickup LZ, I don't remember how far that was, really I was in the dark most of the time, I just carried the M-60 and that was my



job, and of course down in the DELTA the M-60 Gunner was required to carry all of his own ammo, anyway that is the way I remember it, because I don't remember no one carrying ammo for me.



Anyway on the way to the LZ, we came across a fallen tree over a canal or stream, whatever you want to call them. The Tiger Scout in my squad said not to cross number 10, but the Point Man said it was OK, and most of us agreed, we didn't want to get wet again, we were always wet, let's stay dry and go get picked up. Well there were some arguments with the Point Man and the Tiger Scout and of course the Point Man won out, he said he would go first. I was fourth in line, the Point Man went first, the Scout was second, the guy who carried the M-79 grenade launcher was next, and I, with the M-60, was right behind him. Well it happened that day that the M-79 was third in line, we used to switch positions, it was his day to walk third and I was fourth with the M-60.

Everything was going fine I thought. The Point Man was across the log or tree, the Tiger Scout was on the log about in the middle, and the M-79 Man was just ready to get on the log and of course like they tell us never to bunch up I was a few feet behind him. The one thing I remember before the blast was looking around, seeing all the guys, the thick jungle, guys chatting about what they were going to do when they got back to the ship, well that was happening I guess no one noticed the 50-lb Chicon (spelling) was on the other side of the stream, creek, or whatever

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Where We Were in 1969

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you wanted to call it, I heard a loud noise, I don't know what else to call it, it happened so fast, but as I was falling my head turned where I had just looked and the whole landscape had changed, no more trees, limbs or vines, or people, I could hear screaming, people calling for medics, my steel pot had lifted off my head along with the M-60, where they went I do not know, I remember falling, a Sgt came over and cut my pant's leg open, and the blood was spurting with every beat of my heart, I was covered with blood from head to toe, I was lucky I was facing sideways from the bomb, if I was turned the other way I would not be here now, or if it had been my turn to walk third that day I would have been dead.

It took them 2 hours or so I was told to get us out, they had to go back and get chainsaws to cut an LZ because there were 13 hit by that claymore. I laid next to one of my friends (can see his face but can't remember his name) and the Tiger Scout for most all of that time, the Scout was killed instantly I was told, but my friend in front of me was alive at first with a big hole in his chest, I laid there listening to him try to breathe, it became harder and hard-



er for him until I heard the last bit of air escape from his chest. Was one HELL of a day, March 25, 1969, 39 years ago this week and I was all of 19 years old.

Larry Kinser B CO 4th/47th 3/68-3/70
lgktexas@centex.net

Sick Call

Member Larry Hunter served on the USS White River LSMR-536 1966-1967 as a CS2. If you would like to send him a message, please feel free to do so. His wife Ruthie will pass the message onto Larry. Larry has had a rough go of it battling his cancer and it's been setback after setback. Let's keep Larry and his family in our thoughts and prayers. Larry is a tough guy and he keeps fighting. You may e-mail Larry at LHunter536@aol.com.

My lovely wife Frances has been diagnosed with cancer of both breasts as well as the cervix. She will be undergoing her first breast cancer treatments tomorrow May 5th at the Balboa Naval Hospital. Allen Metzger 1034 Monterey Ct., Chula Vista, CA 91911; phone 619-427-0876; or email humbul11@cox.net; Allen served in NaVSUPAct Danang 1968-69.



More from Larry: Here is one from February 19, 1969

Battalion Hit VC Near Mo Cay

River Raiders of 4th/47th killed 17

Elements of the 4th battalion, 47th Infantry killed 17 enemy soldiers, detained 20 suspects, and accepted four Hoi Chanhs in an operation January 27, 3 miles southwest of Mo Cay. Company B accounted for nine of the enemy dead, while Company C was credited with eight, and the two combined to capture nine weapons, eight pounds of documents, three pounds of medical supplies, and assorted VC packs and ammunition.

Most of the enemy soldiers were killed in scattered action throughout the day, but Third Platoon of Company B ran into an ambush late in the afternoon during which they killed six and detained one.

The ambush started as the first squad was walking along a trail, (my squad) and the VC who were in bunkers set off a command-det-onated mine.

"The first squad was pinned down," explained First Lieutenant Jeffery Bain, platoon leader. "The third squad swung out along a dike. When we got halfway over, we started firing at them. Two of them started running away and we killed them. The others were in bunkers that we blew with grenades."

I think the guys did an outstanding job," Bain said. "We had them two squads to one, but they were in bunkers."

Postscript: This is the day my squad leader was shot, but I can't remember his name and the Tiger Scout was wounded by the booby-trap.

Larry Kinser B Company 1st squad Company B, 4th Bn 47th Inf, 9th Inf. Div., Taken from the Old Reliable Paper Feb. 19, 1969

My Time on the Rivers

By Rod Walker

I was asked to write something for the *River Currents*. Something that was unique to the unit that I served with while in Vietnam. I served with River Division 132 while I was in-country. I was on CCB-1 and ATC-15. Some of the things that stick in my mind probably are unique to all the heavy boats that served in the Delta. I remember the heat especially. Trying to get some sleep in the well deck of a Tango boat where the temperature would be well over 100 degrees. Always tired. But I always wondered if the Monitors and Zippos were even hotter? I remember cooking c-rats with a slice of c-4 using another can for the stove. I remember an officer new to country running out of the well deck when the c-4 was lit. There was a shower head hooked up on our boat. Most people just used the bucket that served for another use. Even then, you never really felt clean unless you could get to the Benewah. Seemed like heaven to have air conditioning and good food once in a great while. As an engineman, I recall the shortage of parts all the time. How we jury rigged things just to keep the boats running. Some boats had to

Veterans Day 2008, Washington, D.C.

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2008. We will be gathering at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 8:30 a.m. and proceed to the Wall at 9:00 a.m.

We have blocked 40 rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza at 1333 North Courthouse Road in Arlington, Virginia 22201, for November 8 to 11. Room rates are \$119 (plus tax) per night. For reservations, call 703-528-4444 and refer to our group reservation code "MRE." Reservations may also be made online at www.arlingtoncourthousegardeninn.com. Be sure to enter the online reservation code "MRF" in the booking box labeled Group/Convention code. Reservations under these group codes must be made before the cutoff date of October 18, 2008, so make your reservation soon.

The MRFA will have a hospitality room available November 9 and 10. Come join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2008. We look forward to seeing you in D.C.

For more information, you may contact Board Member Bob Pries at 9702 Friar Tuck Drive, West Chester, OH 45069, 513-755-1223 or email rpries@cinci.rr.com.



be jump started every morning to leave the waterborne night position. We did our best in a very difficult situation. We looked like a rag-tag bunch, mismatched uniforms, and shower shoes. The uniform of the day was cut-off jungle greens. Our hair wasn't always trimmed right to Navy regulations either. I got a haircut and shave one time and had a rash for a week afterwards. He must have been a VC barber. I remember hauling Vietnamese troops out on search and destroy missions. When they came back they had ducks, pigs, and chickens with them. These animals ran around the well deck where we had to live. What a mess! The smell was almost like NUC MOM. Remember that?

I remember the Vin Te Canal especially. That was a place that we mixed it up with the enemy. There were times of quiet and then times of total disquiet when the B40s were flying. We had a great adventure.

We had top-notch officers and great crews regardless of what river division that you were assigned to. Really a band of brothers and I salute you. Welcome home!



THE SEABAG

The author of this article is unknown; it was submitted by Don Blankenship



There was a time when everything you owned had to fit in your seabag. Remember those nasty rascals? Fully packed, one of the suckers weighed more than the poor devil hauling it. The damn things weighed a ton and some idiot with an off-center sense of humor sewed a carry handle on it to help you haul it. Hell, you could bolt a handle on a Greyhound bus but it wouldn't make the damn thing portable. The Army, Marines, and Air Force got footlockers and we got a big ole' canvas bag.

After you warped your spine, jackassing the goofy thing through a bus or train station, sat on it waiting for connecting transportation and made folks mad because it was too damn big to fit in any overhead rack on any bus, train, and airplane ever made, the contents looked like hell. All your gear appeared to have come from bums who slept on park benches.

Traveling with a seabag was something left over from the "Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum" sailing ship days. Sailors used to sleep in hammocks. So you stowed your issue in a big canvas bag and lashed your hammock to it, hoisted it on your shoulder and in effect moved your entire home and complete inventory of earthly possessions from ship to ship. I wouldn't say you traveled light because with one strap it was a one-shoulder load that could torque your skeletal frame and bust your ankles. It was like hauling a dead linebacker.

They wasted a lot of time in boot camp telling you how to pack one of the suckers. There was an officially sanctioned method of organization that you forgot after 10 minutes on the other side of the gate at Great Lakes or San Diego. You got rid of a lot of issue gear when you went to the ship. Did you ever know a tin-can sailor who had a raincoat? A flat hat? One of those nut hugger knit swimsuits? How about those rolls for your own neckerchiefs. The ones the girls in a good Naval tailor shop would cut down and sew into a 'greasy snake' for two bucks?

Within 6 months, every fleet sailor was down to one set of dress blues, port and starboard undress blues and whites, a couple of white hats, boots, shoes, assorted skivvies, a peacoat and three sets of bleached out dungarees. The rest of your original issue was either in the peacoat locker, sea bag, or had been reduced to wipe down rags in the engine room. Underway ships were not ships that allowed vast accumulation of private gear.

Hobos who lived in discarded refrigerator crates could amass greater loads of pack rat crap than fleet sailors. The confines of a canvas back rack, side locker, and a couple of bunk bags did not allow one to live a Donald

Trump existence. Space and the going pay scale combined to make us envy the lifestyle of a mud hut Ethiopian. We were the global equivalents of nomadic Mongols without ponies to haul our stuff.

And after the rigid routine of boot camp, we learned the skill of random compression packing; known by mothers worldwide as 'cramming.' It is amazing what you can jam into a space no bigger than a breadbox if you pull a watch cap over a boot and push it in with your foot. Of course, it looks kinda weird when you pull it out but they never hold fashion shows at sea and wrinkles added character to a salty appearance. There was a 400-mile gap between the images on recruiting posters and the actual appearance of sailors at sea. It was not without justifiable reason that we were called the tin-can Navy. We operated on the premise that if 'Cleanliness was next to Godliness', we must be next to the other end of that spectrum. We looked like our clothing had been pressed with a waffle iron and packed by a bulldozer.

But what in the hell did they expect from a bunch of jerks that lived in the crew's hole of a 2200 Sumner Class Can. After a while you got used to it. You got used to everything you owned picking up and retraining that distinctive aroma. You got used to old ladies on busses taking a couple of wrinkled nose sniffs of your peacoat then getting up and finding another seat.

Do they still issue seabags? Can you still make five bucks sitting up half the night drawing a ship's picture on the side of one of the damn things with black and white marking pens that drive old master-at-arms into a 'rig for heart attack' frenzy? Make their faces red. The veins on their neck bulge out. And yell, "Jeezus H. Christ! What in God's name is that all over your seabag?" "Artwork, Chief... It's like the work of Michelangelo... My ship... Great huh?" "Looks like some damn comic book!" Here was a man with cobras tattooed on his arms. A skull with a dagger through one eye and a ribbon reading 'Death Before Shore Duty' on his shoulder. Crossed anchors with 'Subic Bay 1945' on the other shoulder. An eagle on his chest and a full blown Chinese dragon peeking out between the cheeks of his butt. If anyone was an authority on stuff that looked like a comic book, it had to be this BM E7 sucker.

Sometimes I look at all the crap stacked in my garage, close my eyes and smile, remembering a time when everything I owned could be crammed into a canvas bag. Maturity is hell.

A person who values their privileges above their principles soon loses both.

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

On the River

I was at the FSB on the river when one night it was particularly hot and humid so that sleeping downstairs in a bunk would be uncomfortable. I fully knew that sleeping outside on the top of the boat would be dangerous, but I figured to wake up and move fast



if Charlie fired at me. Our boat, the detainee boat, was anchored to the shore but a medical aid boat was tied to us leaving a 3- or 4-foot gap between the boats. Anyway, I woke up in the wee hours of the morning and I had already rolled two or three times before I woke up. In quick succession, I heard the sound of several rounds going past my body just as for some strange reason my right arm started to curl up as if I was going to hook onto something. The next half second, I found out why my arm was curling up as my body was going between the boats and about to go in the river.

My hooked arm caught on to the rope tying the two boats together and there I was hanging between the two boats a mere second or so after I woke up. Quickly, the MP sleeping nearby decided to go downstairs and I merely made myself a lower profile by sleeping on a stretcher instead of on a cot. The MP only thought that a sniper nearly hit me.

Larry Webb HHC 2nd Bde

Lessons Learned

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

enemy were generally small, involving enemy platoons or squads. In order to support the decentralized and fast-moving tactics of the maneuver forces, the artillery battalions were forced to continue the practice of splitting batteries frequently. Although several batteries were subjected to mortar attacks and a few to standoff attacks by small arms and rocket fire, no attempts to overrun battery positions occurred. Further, no barge or truck convoys were ambushed. Although the dry season began during the period, availability of suitable positions from which to support the infantry continued to be a difficult though not insurmountable problem. No significant curtailments of Brigade operations were necessitated by the wet terrain and paucity of non-divisional artillery in the Division's TAOI. The 1st and 2nd Brigades were forced occasionally to operate outside of US artillery.

Descriptors: *Army Operations, *Artillery, Army Training, Close Support, Infantry, Protective Masks, Airmobile Operations, Cs Agents, Artillery Fire, Vietnam, Night Warfare, Illumination, Chemical Warfare

Subject Categories: Military Operations, Strategy And Tactics Fire Control And Bombing Systems

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Boatswain's Pipe and Navy Traditions

In the past, some of you especially our Army brothers have asked about the use of the Boatswain's Pipe and some of the shipboard sounds and calls of the Pipe: the call to General Quarters, etc., that would follow...

Below you will find the history of the Bosun's Pipe and some of the calls it was used for.

Origin of the Boatswain's Pipe

The use of the Boatswain's Pipe is almost lost in antiquity, but we know that the ancient galley slaves of Greece and Rome kept stroke by the flute or whistle.

The Pipe or Call was originally used as a badge of rank also and as such was worn by the Lord High Admiral of the Royal Navy and was known as

the Whistle of Honor. It was made of gold and suspended from the neck by a gold chain.

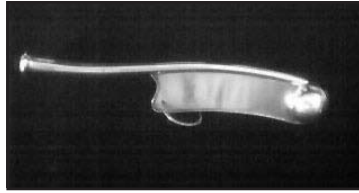
These officers also carried a Whistle of Command, which was of silver, and was used for passing orders and blown as a salute to certain personages. It was enjoined that it should

be blown on these occasions "three several times."

The first time it was used to actually pass an order was during the Crusade of 1248, when the Cross-bowmen were piped to come on deck and engage the enemy.

The present form of the Bosun's Pipe is actually a facsimile of that taken from the body of the infamous pirate Andrew Barton by Admiral Lord Howard.

At times, the whistle seems to have been a somewhat weighty instrument. It is believed that it was Henry VIII who laid down the names of the parts of the whistle, and the weight of the Whistle of Honor was put at 12 "Oons" or ounces of gold, while the chain was to be of a certain value of golden ducats."



Boatswain's Pipe in the U.S. Navy

The Boatswain's Pipe (originally termed a call) dates back to the days of sail. It had

and topside spaces for inspection"

Inspection Personnel: "All hands to quarters for Captain's inspection"

Knock Off Work: "Knock off ship's work"

Late Bunks: "Up all late bunks"

Liberty Call: Liberty Call, Liberty Call "Liberty commences for Sections 1 and 2 to expire on-board 0700 a.m. Tues., Sept. 18, 1968"

Mail Call: Mail Call

Mess Gear: "Mess gear, clear the mess decks till pipe down" "Early chow for cooks, Mess cooks, and watch reliefs"

Mistake or Error: "Belay my last"

Muster on Station: "All divisions muster on stations"

Pay Call: "Pay day will be held in accordance with the plan of the day" usually Mess decks were used.

Preparations for Getting Underway: "Make all preparations for getting underway"

Quarters for Muster: "All hands to quarters for muster, inspection, and instructions"

Reveille: Reveille, Reveille, All hands heave out and trice up. The smoking lamp is lighted (in all authorized spaces)

Smoking Lamp: "The smoking lamp is out throughout the ship (or between certain frames) while taking on fuel (handling ammunition)" "The smoking lamp is lighted in all authorized spaces."

Sweepers: Sweepers, Sweepers man your brooms. Make a clean sweep down fore and aft. Sweep down all decks, ladders, and passageways. Throw all sinkable trash clear of the fan tail (or throw all trash and garbage in the receptacles provided for on the pier).

Taps is piped onboard ship every night at 2200 "Taps! Taps! Lights out! All hands return to their bunks and maintain silence about the decks. Taps."

definite practical uses in those days, many of which have now ceased to exist. Men high on the royal and top gallant yards could hear the pipe under weather conditions that would cause the human voice to be inaudible or unintelligible.

Although the days of sail are gone, the Boatswain's Pipe is still very much a part of the Navy. Since the Pipe or Call is a device distinctive to the sea and particularly to the Boatswain's Mate rating, all the Boatswain's Mates should take special pride in knowing how to use it correctly and effectively. The use of the call implies the right to pass and to issue orders, and thus it continues to be a symbol of authority.

MRFA 9th Infantry Meeting

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The speedway and downtown bring all the excitement of the city right to your doorstep. Here you will find the warmth and charm of the grand hotels combined with the comfort and efficiency of the most modern accommodations. Our staff will provide unrivaled service and attention to detail, taking care of all your needs. Experience Indianapolis' finest hotel and have a truly remarkable stay!

Location: Just one half mile from the Indianapolis, International Airport and only 8 minutes to downtown, the Convention Center, RCA Dome, and Circle Centre Mall. Easy access to interstate highways makes the Adam's Mark a convenient destination from any part of the city, state, or country. Address and phone: 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46241, 317-248-2481. Airport: Free shuttle to and from Indianapolis International Airport, accessed by courtesy phones located in both baggage claim areas.

Guest amenities: Free parking, outdoor pool, health club, gift shop, same day dry cleaning and laundry, express checkout, safe deposit and security storage, shoe shine, room service, and wireless high-speed Internet in lobby area. Accommodations: Our 407 deluxe guest rooms and suites feature Large work desk, Herman Miller Ergonomic Desk Chair, complimentary high-speed Internet access, speed dial phone with message alert and modem access, remote control color TV, in-room movies, iron/ironing board, hair dryer, wake up and turn-down service, non-smoking and accessible rooms available. Dining and entertainment: The Marker Restaurant--Award-winning American and continental cuisine--and the Marker Lounge for quiet moments, featuring large screen TV.

A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.

Douglas McArthur

Standard Phraseology:

You must use the customary phraseology of the service when passing the word as Boatswain Mate of the Watch through the ship's general announcing system. Pages from the shipboard standard organization and regulations listing the watch routine are generally available somewhere near the watch station. Any word listed that is enclosed in quotation marks must be passed exactly as written. Here are some examples selected from a typical list (Ref: BM NAVEDTRA):

Air Bedding: "All Divisions Air Bedding"

Arrivals and Departures: Title of Officer by proper number of Boat gongs

Boats: "Away the Motor Whaleboat (gig) (Barge), away!"

Church Call: "Divine Services are now held (Location). Maintain quiet about the decks during divine services"

Collision: "Collision, collision, port side frame twenty (or other location)"

8 O'Clock Reports in Port: "On deck all eight o'clock reports"

At Sea: "Lay before the mast all eight o'clock reports"

Extra Duty Personnel: "Lay below to the Master-At-Arms Office (or designated area) all extra duty personnel"

Fire: "Fire, Fire, Fire, there is a class (A,B,C,D) fire in compartment (give noun name of compartment, if known) away the nucleus (or in port) fire party"

Flight Quarters: "Flight quarters, Flight quarters, man all flight quarters"

General Quarters: "General Quarters, General Quarters all hands man your battle stations"

Hoist in Boats: "First division stand by to hoist in or (out) number 1 motor launch or Captain's gig"

Inspection Material: "Stand by all lower deck

9th Division In-Country Unit KIAs

9th Infantry Division KIAs by Unit. The right column indicates breakdown to Company Level, including Unit Designation and Authorized Strength, as well as months and dates in-country. The right column indicates total KIAs from all Companies. See specific notes following.

11	1st Battalion 16th Infantry (1 month) A Co-3 / B Co-3 / C Co-2 / CSC-2 / HHC-1	(Authorized: 971) 12-Sept-68 / 21-Oct-68 Total 11
140	6th Battalion 31st Infantry (30 mos) A Co-21 / B Co-23 / C Co-35 / D Co-45 / E Co-6 / HHC 10	(Authorized: 920) 8-April-68 / 12-Oct-70 Total 140
255	2nd Battalion 39th Infantry (31 mos) A Co-75 / B Co-47 / C Co-73 / D Co-4 / E Co-38 / HHC-18	(Authorized: 818) 1-Jan-67 / 3-Aug-68 Total 255
198	3rd Battalion 39th Infantry (31 mos) A Co-57 / B Co-44 / C Co-48 / D Co-18 / E Co-17 / HHC-14	(Authorized: 818) 3-Jan-67 / 6-Aug-69 Total 198
135	4th Battalion 39th Infantry (31 mos) A Co-19 / B Co-42 / C Co-35 / D Co-16 / E Co-11 / HHC-12	(Authorized: 818) 6-Jan-67 / 30-Jul-69 Total 135
183	2nd Battalion (Mech) 47th Infantry (44 mos) A Co-42 / B Co-52 / C Co-52 / D Co-9 / HHC-28	(Authorized: 907) 30-Jan-67 / 12-Oct-70 Total 183
201	3rd Battalion 47th Infantry (Riverine) (30 mos) A Co-57 / B Co-49 / C Co-43 / D Co-17 / E Co-25 / HHC-10	(Authorized: 814) 30-Jan-67 / 18-Jul-69 Total 201
230	4th Battalion 47th Infantry (Riverine) (30 mos) A Co-83 / B Co-46 / C Co-55 / D Co-27 / E Co-12 / HHC-7	(Authorized: 814) 30-Jan-69 / 18-Jul-69 Total 230
303	2nd Battalion 60th Infantry (46 mos) A Co-81 / B Co-93 / C Co-66 / D Co-28 / E Co-17 / HHC-18	(Authorized: 818) 20-Dec-66 / 12-Oct-70 Total 303
251	3rd Battalion 60th Infantry (Riverine) (31 mos) A Co-71 / B Co-69 / C Co-41 / D Co-14 / E Co-43 / HHC-13	(Authorized: 814) 20-Dec-66 / 8-Jul-60 Total 13
239	5th Battalion 60th Infantry (45 mos) (Mech for first 21 months) A-Co-47 / B-Co-65 / C-Co-64 / D-Co-14 / E-Co-8 / HHC-43	(Authorized: 907) 20-Dec-66 / 12-Oct-70 Total 239
16	E Company 50th Infantry (LRRP) (13 mos) 20-Dec-67 / 1 Feb 69	(Authorized: 118) Total 16
9	E Company 75th Infantry Ranger (LRRP) (20 mos) 20-Dec-67 / 1-Feb-69	(Authorized: 118) Total 9
7	43rd Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) (47 mos) (trsfdr to 1st ID in 1969)	(Authorized: 28) 1-Feb-69 / 12-Oct-70 Total 7
3	45th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) (38 mos) (including Separate 3d BDE)	(Authorized: 28) 19-Aug-67 / 21-Jul-71 Total 3
1	65th Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker Dog) (32 mos) (including Separate 3d BDE)	(Authorized: 23) 15-Feb-68 / 12-Oct-70 Total 1
197	3rd Squadron 5th Cavalry (57 mos) (detached from 9th ID in 2 / 68, except for D Troop) A Troop-42 / B Troop-31 / C Troop-56 / D Troop-45 / HHT-20 / Other-3	(Authorized: 952) 2-Feb-67 / 8-Nov-71 Total 197
3	39th Cavalry Plt. (Air Cushioned Vehicle) (4 mos) (Separate 3d BDE only)	(Authorized: 35) 1-May-70 / 1-Sept-70 Total 3
23	9th Aviation Battalion (Divisional) (31 mos) A Co-18 / B Co-4 / HHC-1	(Authorized: 427) 30-Jan-67 / 23-Aug-69 Total 23
34	2nd Battalion 4th Artillery (105-mm Howitzer, Towed) (44 mos) A Battery-8 / B Battery-12 / C Battery-6 / D Battery-5 / HHB-1 / HSB-2	(Authorized: 468) 28-Jan-67 / 23-Aug-69 Total 34
20	1st Battalion 11th Artillery (105-mm Howitzer, Towed) (31 mos) A Battery-10 / B Battery-5 / C Battery-3 / HHB-1 / HSB-1	(Authorized: 468) 1-Jan-67 / 14-Aug-69 Total 20

23	3rd Battalion 34th Artillery (105-mm Howitzer, Towed) (31 mos) A Btry.-7 / B Btry.-7 / C Btry.-5 / HHB-2 / HSB-2	(Authorized: 468) 19-Dec-66 / 26-Jul-69 Total 23
8	6th Battalion 77th Artillery (105-mm Howitzer, Towed) (10 mos) A Battery-2 / B Battery-2 / C Battery-1 / HHB-3	(Authorized: 529) 20-Jul-68 / 1-Jun-69 Total 8
10	1st Battalion 84th Artillery (155-mm Howitzer, Towed and 8-inch SP) (30 mos) A Btry.-4/B Btry.-2/D Btry.-1/HHB-2/HSB-1	(Authorized: 616) 2-Feb-67 / 16-Aug-69 Total 10
39	15th Engineer Battalion (Divisional) (34 mos) A Co-12 / B Co-7 / C Co-6 / D Co-8 / E Co-2 / HHC-4	(Authorized: 972) 19-Oct-66 / 24-Aug-69 Total 39
1	571st Combat Engineer Company (12 mos) (Separate 3d BDE only)	(Authorized: 165) 1-Oct-69 / 12-Oct-70 Total 1
5	9th Military Police Company (Divisional) (33 mos) 19-Dec-66 / 25-Sept-69	(Authorized: 189) Total 5
4	9th Signal Battalion (Divisional) and Provisional Signal Company (32 mos) B Co-2 / C Co-1 / Prov Sig Co-1	(Authorized: 641) 19-Dec-66 / 19-Aug-69 Total 4
3	1st Brigade HHC (31 mos)	(Authorized: 199) 3-Jan-67 / 12-Aug-69 Total 3
11	3rd Brigade HHC (46 mos) (includes period of Separate 3d BDE) HHC-9 / AVN-1 / CID-1	(Authorized: 199) 16-Dec-66 / 11-Oct-70 Total 11
6	9th Infantry Division HHC (32 mos) 16-Dec-66 / 27-Aug-69	(Authorized: 170) Total 6
3	9th Division Support Command HHC (DISCOM and Band) (32 mos) 19-Dec-66 / 27-Aug-69	(Authorized: 103) Total 3
6	9th Division Artillery HHB (32 mos) 19-Dec-66 / 18-Aug-69	(Authorized: 213) Total 6
4	9th Administration Company (32 mos) 30-Dec-66 / 26-Aug-69	(Authorized: 545) Total 4
6	9th Medical Battalion (Divisional) (31 mos) C Co-5 / HHC-1	(Authorized: 371) 4-Jan-67 / 18-Aug-69 Total 6
8	9th Supply and Transportation BN. (Div.) (32 mos) A Co-3 / B Co-3 / HHC-2	(Authorized: 485) 16-Dec-66 / 23-Aug-69 Total 8
2	99th Combat Support Battalion (12 mos) (Separate 3d BDE only) B Co-1 / HHC-1	(Authorized: 544) 1-Oct-69 / 12-Oct-70 Total 2
5	335th Radio Research Company (a / k / a 335th Army Security Co) (32 mos) 12-Jan-67 / 28-Aug-69	(Authorized: 157) Total 5
7	709th Maintenance Battalion (Divisional) (31 mos) C Co-1 / E Co-2 / A Co and HHC-4	(Authorized: 854) 26-Jan-67 / 20-Aug-69 Total 7
9	1097th Trans. Co. (Medium Boat) (25 mos) 26-Jan-67 / 20-Aug-69	(Authorized: 246) Total 9
1	9th Replacement Company	Total 1
3	Reliable Academy Cooks-2 / Cadre-1	Total 3
1	Error in unit listed-A / 2 / 16 should be A / 2 / 60?	
1	Unidentified by Unit (Missing in Action?)	

2,625 Total Deaths

All KIA numbers are derived from the 7 May 2007 version of the Coffelt Vietnam KIA database (with adjustments for the 335th RRC and 1097th TC).

NOTES

Infantry and Engineer Battalions are broken down by Company, Artillery BNs by Battery and Cavalry Squadrons by Troop. HQ Company is usually listed as HHC, HQ Battery as HHB and HQ Troop as HHT; HSB = HQ and Service Battery.

The 1st BN, 16th INF was a 1st ID (Straight-leg INF) BN that was swapped for the 5th/60th INF (Mech) of the 9th ID in Sept 1968.

The 1st/16th served with the 9th ID for just over 1 month before it was redesignated 5th/60th INF of the 9th ID in October 1968.

In most 9th ID Infantry BNs, the Combat Support Company (CSC) was designated E Company, but in the 1st ID it was "CSC." The Armored Reconnaissance Troops (A, B, C, and HHT)

3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry were detached from the 9th ID in Feb 1968.

D Troop, 3rd/5th CAV (Air Cavalry) remained with the 9th ID and later with the separate 3rd BDE; it left RVN in early 1972.

The Armored Reconnaissance Troops of 3rd/5th CAV were attached to 1st CAV DIV, 101st ABN and 1st BDE-5th MECH DIV.

The authorized unit strength numbers and dates of arrival and departure are from Shelby Stanton's Vietnam: Order of Battle.

The number of months in-country (or assigned to the 9th ID) was calculated from the dates, but the 5th/60th was adjusted for the 1st/16th.

The authorized unit strength numbers are for 1968, except for those labeled "Separate 3rd BDE only," which are 1970.

Thanks to Jim Stone E/CO 2nd/39th 1968-69 for assisting with this info.

In-Country Navy KIAs

U.S. Naval Forces, Mobile Riverine Force Task Force 117, South Vietnam Personnel Killed in Action/Missing In Action: 1967-1971.

This is not a complete listing; we are still searching. If you can help us find more of our departed comrades, please let us know. If you can help us update the information below or if you know of someone that is not on this list, please provide the information by email to Mike Harris at mekong152@charter.net.

We have not listed the names or units of the TF-117 KIAs and missing just the total numbers of each unit only. For the names, boats, ships, and units, please go to www.mrfa.org/navykia.htm.

"May fair winds, following seas, and our thoughts, always be with them."

The following are the total of KIAs for Task Force 117 and CTF 117 Staff. No KIAs known at this time

CTF-117 RivFlot One Total 13

We are not sure what units these folks were serving with at the time of their demise... All we know is they were part of TF-117.

All Navy KIA's Lists were compiled from Navy records and W0-3 Ralph Fries USN Ret.S Navy bases and activities compiled by Albert Moore and assisted by Bob Stoner.

U.S. Naval Forces Task Force 117, 1960-1975

River Squadron 9, River Assault Division-91	Total 10
River Assault Squadron 9	Total 1
River Squadron 9, River Assault Division-92	Total 8
River Assault Squadron 11	Total 3
River Squadron 11, River Assault Division-111	Total 15
River Squadron 11, River Assault Division-112	Total 15
River Assault Squadron 13	Total 0
River Assault Squadron 13, River Assault Division-131	Total 6
River Assault Squadron 13, River Assault Division-132	Total 6
River Squadron 15, River Assault Division-151	Total 8
River Squadron 15, River Assault Division-152	Total 1
River Squadron 15, River Assault Division-153	Total 4
River Assault Group 21/23	Total 1
River Assault Interdiction Detachment-70	Total 2
River Assault Interdiction Detachment-71	Total 2
Commander Task Group-194.7	None Known
Commander Task Group-194	Total 1
USS Askari ARL-30	Total 2
USS Benewah APB-35	Total 4
USS Colleton APB-36	Total 1
USS Krishna ARL-38	Total 1
USS Tom Green County LST-1159	Total 3
USS Mercer APB-39	Total 1
USS Nye County LST-1067	Total 1
USS Outagamie County LST-1073	Total 1
USS Tutuila ARG-4	Total 5
USS Westchester Cty LST-1167	Total 17
YRBM-17	Total 1
YRBM-18	Total 1
YRBM-21	Total 4

In-Country Navy KIAs

CTF Market Time Forces Task Force 115 – 1960-1975

Coastal Surveillance Force	<i>Total 3</i>
Beach Jumper Unit-1	<i>Total 2</i>
Inshore Undersea Warfare Group-1	<i>Total 13</i>
PCF Division-101 (An Thoi)	<i>Total 7</i>
Coastal Division-11	<i>Total 14</i>
PCF Division-102 (Danang)	<i>Total 4, MIA 1</i>
Coastal Division-12	<i>Total 8</i>
PCF Division-103 Cat Lo	<i>Total 1</i>
Coastal Division-13	<i>Total 5</i>
PCF Division-105 (Qui Nhon)	<i>Total 1, MIA</i>
Coastal Division-15	<i>Total 9</i>
US Coast Guard Squadron ONE	
Coastal Division-12	
USCG Point Welcome WPB-85329	<i>Total 2</i>
USCG Point Orient WPB-82319	<i>Total 1</i>
USCG Point Arden WPB-82309	<i>Total 2</i>

Gamewarden and U.S. Naval Forces Task Force 116 – 1960-1975

Commander River Squadron/Commander River Patrol Flotilla-5 Staff	<i>Total 6</i>
River Section/Division-511	<i>Total 9</i>
River Section/Division-513	<i>Total 7, MIAs 2</i>
River Section/Division-514	<i>Total 4</i>
River Section/Division-515	<i>Total 3</i>
Commander River Patrol Squadron-57	<i>Total 2</i>
River Section/Division-521	<i>Total 5</i>
River Section 522/Division-572	<i>Total 12, MIA 1</i>
River Section 523/Division-572	<i>Total 4</i>
River Section 524/Division-573	<i>Total 3</i>
River Section/Division-531	<i>Total 7</i>
River Section/Division-532	<i>Total 6</i>
River Section/Division-533	<i>Total 6</i>
River Section/Division-534	<i>Total 3</i>
River Section/Division-535	<i>Total 8</i>
River Section-541/River Division-591	<i>Total 2</i>
River Section-542/River Division-592	<i>Total 4</i>
River Section/Division-543	<i>Total 6</i>
River Section-544/ River Division 593	<i>Total 7</i>
River Division-594	<i>Total 1</i>
Commander River Division-55	<i>Total 1</i>
River Section/Division-551	<i>Total 5</i>
River Section/Division-552	<i>Total 5</i>
River Division-553	<i>Total 9</i>
River Division-554	<i>Total 9</i>
USS Harnett County LST/AGP-821	<i>Total 4</i>
USS Hunterdon County LST/AGP-838	<i>Total 4</i>
Attack Squadron (Light)-4 (VAL-4)	<i>Total 6</i>
Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron-3 (HAL-3)	<i>Total 4</i>
Detachment-One	<i>Total 9, MIA 2</i>
Detachment-Two	<i>Total 3</i>
Detachment-Three	<i>Total 14</i>
Detachment-Four	<i>Total 5</i>
Detachment-Five	<i>Total 1</i>
Detachment-Six	<i>Total 4</i>
Detachment-Seven	<i>Total 1</i>
Detachment-Eight	<i>Total 4</i>
Seal Team-1	<i>Total 34</i>
Seal Team-2	<i>Total 9</i>
Underwater Demolition Team-12	<i>Total 1</i>
Underwater Demolition Team-13	<i>Total 2</i>
Mobile Support Team-2	<i>Total 4</i>
Strike Assault Boat Squadron-20	<i>Total 4</i>

Mine Squadron-11/Detachment ALFA	<i>Total 13, MIA 2</i>
Mine Division-13	<i>Total 4</i>
U.S. Army 458th Transportation Company (PBR)	<i>Total 2</i>
USS Krishna ARL-38	<i>Total 1</i>
USS Tom Green County LST-1159	<i>Total 3</i>
USS Mercer APB-39	<i>Total 1</i>
USS Nye County LST-1067	<i>Total 1</i>
USS Outagamie County LST-1073	<i>Total 1</i>
USS Tutuila ARG-4	<i>Total 5</i>
USS Westchester Cty LST-1167	<i>Total 17</i>
YRBM-17	<i>Total 1</i>
YRBM-18	<i>Total 1</i>
YRBM-21	<i>Total 4</i>

U.S. Naval Bases & Support Activities Vietnam Updated April 2, 2008

An Thoi U.S. Naval Support Activity	1965-1971
Ben Keo U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base	1969-1971
Ben Luc U.S. Naval Support Base	1968-1971
Binh Thuy U.S. Naval Support Activity	1966-1972
Cam Rahn Bay U.S. Naval Base	1965-1971
Can Tho U.S. Naval Support Activity	1966-1972
Cat Lai U.S. Naval Intermediate Support Base	1965-1971
Cat Lo U.S. Naval Combat and Logistics Base	1965-1971
Chau Doc U.S. Naval Combat Base	1969-1971
Cho Moi U.S. Naval Logistics Installation	1969-1971
Chu Lai U.S. Naval Support Activity	1964-1971
Cua Viet U.S. Naval Support Activity	1967-1970
Danang U.S. Naval Support Activity	1964-1973
Dong Ha U.S. Naval Support Activity	1967-1970
Dong Tam U.S. Naval Support Activity	1966-1971
Go Dau Ha U.S. Naval Advanced Base	1969-1971
Ha Tien U.S. River Patrol Boat Staging Area	1968-1970
Hiep Hoa U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base	1969
Hoi An U.S. Patrol Boat Base	1969-1971
Hue-Tan-My-Phu Bai U.S. Naval Support Activity	1965-1970
Kien An U.S. and Republic of Vietnam River Forces Operating Base	1969-1970
Long Binh U.S. River Forces Operating Base	1969-1970
Long Phu U.S. Intermediate Support Base	1969-1971
Long Xuyen U.S. Advanced Support Base	1966-1971
Moc Hoa U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base	1968-1971
My Tho U.S. Naval Support Activity	1966-1969
Nam Can U.S. Advanced Tactical Support Base	1969-1971

1. Sea Float was established at Nam Can, on the Song Cau Lon, 25 June 1969. It was a joint U.S.-Vietnamese operation called Tranh Hung Dao III/Sea Float. Sea Float was built on a 12 Ammi barge complex in the middle of the river. In early 1970, U.S. Navy Seabees started building a permanent shore base called Tranh Hung Dao IV/Solid Anchor.
2. In mid- or late September 1970, all American personnel moved ashore in a 4-hour period into the Solid Anchor base. The vacated barges were stripped of building materials by local Vietnamese. When the ASTB "Breezy Cover" (aka Song Ong Doc) was destroyed on 20 October 1970, the former Sea Float barges were used to rebuild a New SOD near the village of the same name.
3. Solid Anchor was heavily mortared in January 1971, but not overrun. Solid Anchor itself was the last American base turned over to the Vietnamese on 1 April 1971. The last American advisory teams left Solid Anchor on 1 February 1973.

Nha Be U.S. Naval Support Activity	1966-1972
Nha Trang U.S. Naval Operating Station	1965-1971
Phu Cuong U.S. Naval Advanced Support Base	1969-1970
Phuoc Xuyen U.S. Naval Adv. Tactical Support Base	1969-1971
Qui Nhon U.S. Naval Support Activity	1965-1971
Rach Soi U.S. Naval Intermediate Support Base	1969-1971
Sa Dec U.S. Naval Support Activity Detachment	1966-71
Sa Huynh U.S. Naval Support Activity Detachment	1967-1970
Saigon U.S. Naval Headquarters Support Activity and Naval Support Activity	1950-1973
Song Ong Doc U.S. Naval Riverine Operational Base	1970

There were actually three (3) ATSB Song Ong Doc bases (actually called Breezy Cove):

1. The original ("old") Song Ong Doc was constructed at the mouth of the Ong Doc River in mid-1969, about the time a similar ATSB called Sea Float was created at Nam Can. Old SOD was destroyed on 20 October 1970.
2. The replacement ATSB, "New" SOD, was constructed from the Sea Float barges that became surplus when operations moved ashore in late September 1970 and became Solid Anchor shore base. The New SOD barges were moved up river from the mouth and closer to the village of Song Ong Doc. New SOD was turned over the VNN in early 1972. The remains of New SOD were moved permanently to Ca Mau in 1973.

Tan An U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base	1968-1969
Tan Chau U.S. Naval River Patrol Base	1969-1970
Tam My U.S. Naval Support Activity	1965-1970
Thuan An U.S. Naval Intermediate Support Base	1971
Thuyen Nhon U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base	1969-1971
Tra Cu U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base	1968-1971
Vinh Long U.S. Naval Facility	1966-1971
Vung Tau U.S. Naval Support Activity Detachment	1965-1971

Naval Support Activity – Saigon Personnel KIA/Missing in Action Southeast Asia Theater of the Vietnam War – 1960-1975

Headquarters Naval Support Activity Saigon 1950-1966	<i>Total 6</i>
Naval Support Activity Saigon 1966-1973	<i>Total 7</i>
ATSB Ben Keo 1969-1971; ATSB Ca Mau 1969-1971	<i>Total 1</i>
ATSB Chau Doc 1969-1971; ATSB Cho Moi 1969-1971; ATSB Go Dau Ha 1969-1971	<i>Total 2</i>
ATSB Ha Tien 1968-1970; ATSB Hiep Hoa 1969; ATSB Hoi An 1969; ATSB Kien	
ATSB Long Binh 1969-1970; ATSB Long Xuyen 1969-1971; ATSB Moc Hoa 1968-1971 ATSB Nam Can 1969-1971; ATSB Phu Cuong 1969-1970; ATSB Phuoc Xuyen 1969-1971	<i>Total 2</i>
ATSB Rach Gia 1968-1970	<i>Total 1</i>
ATSB Song Ong Doc 1970-1971	<i>Total 2</i>
ATSB Tan An 1968-1969; ATSB Tra Cu 1968-1971	<i>Total 2</i>
ATSB Tuyen Nhon 1969-1971	<i>Total 2</i>
Detachment An Thoi 1965-1971; Detachment Ben Luc 1968-1971	<i>Total 1</i>
Detachment Binh Thuy 1966-1972	<i>Total 3</i>
Detachment Can Tho 1965-1972	<i>Total 1</i>
Detachment Cat Lo 1965-1971	<i>Total 3</i>
Detachment Dong Tam 1966-1971; Detachment My Tho 1966-1969; Detachment Nha Be 1966-1972	<i>Total 9</i>
Detachment Sa Dec 1966-1971	<i>Total 1</i>
Detachment Tan Chau 1969-1970; Detachment Tan Son Nhut Air Base 1966-1972	<i>Total 8</i>
Detachment Vinh Long 1966-1971	<i>Total 1</i>
Detachment Vung Tau 1965-1971	<i>Total 1</i>
Intermediate Support Base Cat Lai 1965-1971	
Intermediate Support Base Long Phu 1969-1971	
Intermediate Support Base Rach Soi 1969-1971	
APL-27	<i>Total 2</i>
APL-30	<i>Total 1</i>
APL-55	<i>Total 2</i>
PBR Mobile Base-2	<i>Total 2</i>
USS Brule (AKL-28)	<i>Total 1</i>
USS Mark (AKL-12)	<i>Total 1</i>
USS Tutuila (ARG-4)	<i>Total 5</i>
YRBM-16	<i>Total 5</i>
YRBM-17	<i>Total 2</i>
YRBM-18, Total 1 07/27/68 Ward K. Patton, CS1, Fontana, KS.	<i>* MIA *</i>
YRBM-20	<i>Total 2</i>
YRBM-21	<i>Total 4</i>
USS YFR-889	<i>Total 1</i>

The History of the 1097th Transportation Company

Introduction

The 1097th has been earmarked for success since its activation and the promotion of one of its first Commander's William "Gus" Pagonis to Lieutenant General in recognition of his outstanding achievements as Chief Logistician during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Several key turning points for the unit will be outlined here for posterity. They include the units involvement in the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the 1097th's involvement in the Vietnam War in 1967, the unit's move to Panama in 1976, the unit's accomplishments in 1986, the unit's involvement in Operation Just Cause in 1989, the unit's restructuring in 1991 to a composite boat company, the winning of the National Defense Transportation Association Unit of the Year award in 1994 and 1997, the unit's involvement with Operation Safe Haven in 1994 and 1995, and the initiation of the company downsizing in accordance with the PC-TIP in 1996.

Cuban Missile Crisis

Not much is documented on this period, except for a mention in a command speech by Captain Ashworth in 1983. In his speech, he states, "During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the 1097th was moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where it trained and remained on alert."

Vietnam Era

The 1097th earned the majority of its campaign streamers and awards during the Vietnam Campaign. During this period, the Company supported the 45th Engineer Group at Vang Ro Bay in the effort to help build a deep water port there. That port was constructed and was the second largest in Vietnam. Under the Command of Captain Pagonis, the Company had a strength of 19 LCM-8s, 1 LCM-6 command, control vessel, and up to 180 men. The LCMs used at this time were more than 25 years old, but Captain Pagonis assigned one LCM-8 as the Damage Control Vessel (DCV) to perform maintenance when required. The DCV and maintenance team at the time kept spirits high with its motto, "Never deadline a vessel." Apparently, it worked as reportedly the unit kept a 90% operational status of its boats.

The mission in July 1967 on the Mekong Delta was to support the 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery, a part of the 9th Division's 2nd Brigade. The Artillery consisted of six 105-mm Howitzers mounted on floating barges. The 1097th mission was to maneuver these Howitzers into firing positions along the deltas. This allowed infantrymen of the 9th to have enough fire support to land at various areas conducting waterborne assaults in the deltas. The Company remained flexible throughout its tour that is one staple of its outstanding success. This is witnessed in articles highlighting how the Company was able to create waterborne landing platforms for Hueys, move six Howitzer barges, and two mortar barges. Due to the need to develop a doctrine for this

new and unique mission of supporting riverine operations, the 1097th spearheaded how LCMs would be used for the future of riverine operations. The 1097th during this tour became completely waterborne, as did the Artillery unit it supported, thanks to the ingenuity and creativity of the 1097th soldiers. By the end of the tour, the 1097th modifications created living quarters, fire direction centers, command posts, landing pads for medevacs, ammo depots, and maintenance facilities all completely waterborne. What made the unit so successful in Vietnam also brought great credit to the unit. Captain Pagonis was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" device, and the Legion of Merit for his actions as Company Commander. Other awards included four Bronze Stars for valor and 24 Army Commendation Medals with "V" device. During this era, more than 100 heroism awards and six unit medals were presented to the Company.

After Captain Pagonis left for the advanced course in early 1968, Captain Gary D. Wilde assumed responsibility for command. Under his command the Company grew in strength to 27 LCM-8s and 181 men, but continued the Artillery support mission on the deltas with consistent success.

One notable incident in the Vietnam era was the tragic death of a young platoon leader that happened on 26 September 1967. Second Lieutenant William Yongue died from drowning. He was attempting to cut loose a piece of rope that was caught in the propeller to get one of the vessels underway for a mission. As he attempted to cut loose the rope, he hit the bridge of his nose on the bottom of the vessel and did not return to the surface. Lieutenant Yongue had been one of the 24 men that had received the Army Commendation Medal as noted before. Apparently, Lieutenant Yongue was respected by his men and his community at home. His funeral service was filled to the point of standing room only from his friends and family from all over the state. He was promoted posthumously to First Lieutenant, and the Company named the maintenance barge USAV Yongue.

The last Company nickname, River Raiders, came from the original nickname given during the Vietnam Era of River Rats.



The above photos were taken at the Ft. Snelling Memorial. The left one is the MRF Memorial and the one on the right is for the 9th Infantry Division.

KIA Listing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Naval Support Activity-Danang Personnel KIA/MIA Southeast Asia Theater of the Vietnam War 1960-1975

Naval Support Activity Danang 1964-1973; Admin.	Total 2
Lighterage Boat	Total 9
Medical	Total 2
Military Police Security Operations	Total 3
K-9 Security Unit-1 (Navy Sentry Dog Unit)	Total 2
Supply Operation	Total 6
Harbor/Port Operations	Total 13
Public Works Operations	Total 17
Camp Carter	Total 2
Camp Tien Sha	Total 7
Detachment Chu Lai 1964-1971	Total 9
Detachment Cua Viet 1967-1970	Total 15 MIAs 3
Detachment Dong Ha 1967-1970	Total 9
Detachment Hue 1965-1970, Total 2	
Detachment Nha Trang 1965-1971; Detachment Phu Bai 1965-1970	Total 1
Detachment Qui Nhon 1965-1971	Total 2
Detachment Sa Huynh 1967-1970; Detachment Tan My 1965-1970	Total 6
Detachment Thuan An 1971; Naval Communications Facility	Total 1
APL-5	Total 1
LCU-1477	Total 3
LCU-1482	Total 1
LCU-1614	Total 1
LCU-1617	Total 1
PBR Mobile Base 1	Total 1
YNFB-2	Total 1
YFU-4	Total 2
YFU-12	Total 1
YFU-62; Mine Explosion	Total 8
YFU-67	Total 1
YFU-70	Total 1
YFU-78; Ammunition Explosion, NSA Danang	Total 7
YTB-762	Total 1
YTB-779	Total 1
YTL-42	Total 1
U.S. Army; 329th Heavy Boat Company 5th Transportation Company Mine Explosion	Total 11, MIAs 9

U.S. Naval Forces Individual Units Personnel KIA/MIA Southeast Asia Theater of the Vietnam War 1960-1975

Assault Craft Squadron One/Assault Craft Division Eleven	Total 1
Assault Craft Division Twelve	Total 2
Assault Craft Division Thirteen	Total 1
Assault Craft Squadron One	
LCU-1500 Ammunition Explosion NSA Danang	Total 12
Commander Service Squadron	Total 3
CTU 73.1.2 Mobile Support Unit Detachment Bravo Subic Bay, PI	Total 1 MIA
Explosive Ordinance Disposal Group, Pacific	Total 3
Harbor Clearance Unit-1	Total 8
Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam	Total 6
Military Assistance Command Vietnam	Total 6
Military Assistance Command Vietnam/Studies and Observation Group (SOG)	Total 1
Military Sea Lift Command	Total 2
Military Sea Transport Service	Total 2
Commander Naval Forces Vietnam	Total 9
Naval Support Facility Cam Ranh Bay 1965-1971	Total 9
Naval Communications Station, Philippines	Total 1
Combat Camera Group Office	Total 1
Naval Oceanographic Office, Total 1	
USAF 428th Tactical Fighter Squadron	
USAF 474th Tactical Fighter Wing (USN Exchange Pilot)	Total 1

In Memory Of

This section is for the members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one their fallen comrades. In some cases, the name of the sponsor will precede the name of the person who was KIA, or has passed on since Vietnam. It's \$25 for 4 issues.

Jack Benedick for C Co 4th/47th 66-68, C Co 3rd/60th 69, and E Co 3rd/60th Inf KIA 4/7/68
 Jerry Bogart for Jack Bogart USS Tom Green Cty LST 1159 12/22/06
 Maj/General Lucien Bolduc, Jr. USA (Ret) for Guy Tutwiler
 Bill Brennan for Tom Swanick GMG3 USS White River LSMR-536
 Brothers of the 2nd/47th Inf for all Army and Navy KIAs
 Frank T. Buck, FN USN for son, ENFN Frank H. Buck T-92-10 KIA 12/28/67
 James J. Byrnes for members of the Junk Force, Dung Island
 Lee Connell for David Wilson 2nd/60th KIA 08/05/69, Timothy Shelton 4th/39th KIA 06/25/69, Steven

Murray 4th/39th KIA 05/26/69, Harvey Crabtree 2nd/4th Arty KIA 06/19/69, Dennis Mattox 1st/501st 101st Abn KIA 08/23/69
 Gene Cooper for Steve Brichford FT2 68/69 and Jerry Roleofs 67-68 USS White River LSMR-536
 Janice Dahlke for son Randy Mueller D Co. 2nd/47th KIA 03/03/69
 Ted Fetting B Co 2nd/60th Inf. 10/67-2/68 for all from B Co. 2nd/60th and KIA 2/2/68 Fred Jansonivs (ND), Elroy "Stevie" Le Blanc (CA), and Roy Phillips (IL)
 Nan Fulton for Lt/Gen Bill Fulton Cdr 2nd Bde Asst Div Cdr 9th Inf Div (1966-68)
 John W. Gerbing for Noel T. West A Co 4th/47th KIA 6/19/67
 Regina Gooden for Sgt Lloyd Earl Valentine B Co 3rd/47th Inf (9/5/68)
 Fred Gottwald for Sgt. Walter J. Garstkiewicz C Co 3rd/60th and C Co 6th/31st KIA 01/09/70
 David Hammond for Lt Willie Kitchen C Co 3rd/47th (1967/69) killed in an automobile accident 1992
 Jeffie Hanks for Seaman John E. Hollis died 11/11/70 Kien Phong
 Gerald Johnston USS Nye Cty for James "Willie" Will-eord Nye Cty LST-1067 11/28/66, friend, and sailor 19-year-old (RIP Buddy)
 James Long Sr. ComRivFlot-One Staff 11/67-11/68 for Carol Ann, beloved wife
 David Lynn for Howard Burns (QM2), Robert Bouchet

(SM2), and Herman Miller (GM3) 08/11/68
 IUWG-1-3 Qui Nhon
 Richard MacCullagh for John Phillips HMC
 Adam Metts for Donald L. Bruckart T-111-2 KIA 03/31/69
 James A. Morse for Mark W. Weachter CTO-3
 VP Roy Moseman for Oscar Santiago C-2 4th/47th (10/67-10/68)
 Jasper Northcutt for SSGT Henry T. Aragon B-2 2nd/47th KIA 08/23/67, SGT James E. Boorman B-2 2nd/47th KIA 08/27/67, SP4 James D. Bronakoski B-2 2nd/47th KIA 04/27/67, SP4 Michael G. Hartnett B-2 2nd/47th KIA 04/27/67, and SGT William D. Mize B-2 2nd/47th 5th/60th KIA 10/28/67
 John Philp for LTC William B. Cronin 2nd/47th KIA 04/27/67 and for Colonel Arthur D. Moreland USA (Ret.) 2nd/47th (4/67-12/67)
 Robert Sutton for LT James Frost Vin Te Canal Chau Duc KIA 11/69
 Robert Thacker for Earl T. Pelhan Jr. SSG KIA 15th Combat Engineers
 Steven Totcoff for brother CPL Dennis S. Totcoff B Co 3rd/47th KIA 5/2/68
 USS Guide MSO-447 for Shipmate and Brother Harold Foster
 Tommy Walker USS Haverfield DER 393 (12/63-07/67)

MRFA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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- ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Donation
☐ Sponsor ☐ **CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Note Below!**

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- ☐ WWII ☐ Korea ☐ Vietnam
☐ Army Member: Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon): _____
☐ Navy Member: Ship, Boat Hull Nos. or NavDet: _____
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Membership Rates:

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☐ To become a member, mail your check or money order (payable to MRFA) to:

Charlie Ardinger • MRFA Membership Chairman

1857 County Rd. A14, Decorah, IA 52101-7448

Please Note: This form may be used for New Memberships, Renewals and Changes of Address. Be sure to check the appropriate box.

Seeking Info

The following is a request from one of our members seeking info about a fellow Vietnam Veteran of the Brown Water Navy.

Fellow MRFA Members

Now I got my email address corrected and receiving all the info. I am searching for news of my best friend in the Navy. He was KIA 1 month before I arrived in RVN in March 1969. I would like to hear from any shipmates who might have served with him the very short time he was alive in Nam. I have a very interesting story of David I will share at an appropriate time. He was a fine human being and like many of our fallen brothers was one off America's finest. Thanks in advance.

John Gibbs

Following is an answer to John's request seeking information on David Land.

John,

Perhaps I can help, I was the Commander of River Division 151, within which was the boat, T-151-5. David and his shipmate, Jose Campos, were both killed instantly when a subsurface mine was detonated below the boat on January 14, 1969. At the moment, I was immediately behind them in the following boat at the time of the explosion. It was a difficult time as the division was under attack, and rescue was underway to find those wounded or missing from the explosion. By the following day, we were finally able to locate all the missing and deceased, which included David and Jose. The surviving crew had been evacuated for medical care.

You may wish to look in the readily available history

book, "Mobile Riverine Force," written by Major General William B. Fulton, ISBN # 1-56311-382-1, published by Turner Publishing Company, of Paducah, Kentucky. 1-502-443-0121. A photograph of the Tango boat after the explosion, and a brief account of the operation is above in the book on page 75



There is an extensive new book on the Riverine Forces that just came out, called "Vietnam Iron-clads" by John M. Carrico, published by Brown Water Enterprises, www.brownwater.net ISBN-13, 978-0-9794231-1-6. There are numerous photos of River Division 151 boats in that book: Pages 39, 40, 41, 42, 73, 84, 96, 97, 98, 99, and 112. Among them might be photos of T-151-5. You would certainly get an understanding of the operations that David was involved in for his 8 months in the Mekong Delta. Chief Boatswain Mate Carl Lindsey was the Boat Captain of T-151-5, and I believe you could reach him through the MRF Association.

Please let me know if I can assist you further. David and Jose, two fine sailors, gave their fullest to our Country and will always be remembered.

PHIL Ferrara pferrara65@comcast.net

PLEASE NOTE: YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE is printed on the front of your issue of River Currents.

TAPS

Those gone, but not forgotten...

Albert, I received word recently of the death of **Jim George**, a plank owner of RivDiv 91. Jim served on A-91-2 in 1967. This information comes from fellow Div 91 sailor Greg Brenner, A-91-5 who kept in contact with Jim over the years. The information from talking with Greg is that Jim died on January 22, 2008, while undergoing surgery for the removal of his prostate gland. Jim's son Anthony notified Greg the day after his death. Jim recently retired as a school teacher. Jim is survived by his wife, Jeannie, and two sons, Anthony and Matthew. I received a note from Jim at Christmas, and he sounded so happy and once again complete. I was so pleased for him. He spoke of attending the next reunion in 2009. I am sad that will not happen. You may contact Jeannie George at 32280 Auburn Dr., Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025, 248-645-0374. Al Breninger COS RivDiv-91 10/66-12/67



MRFA Member Daniel Dodd, PHC USN (Ret.), 76, of Kingston died Friday, February 15, 2008, in Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre, surrounded by his friends. Chief Photographers Mate Dodd was a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was the official photographer of ComRiv Flot-One and many of his pictures were published in the book "Mobile Riverine Force Vietnam."



Following his discharge, he was caretaker of the elderly, prior to suffering a stroke. He was also an avid gardener. He is survived by very dear friends, Marie, Lisa, Matt, Lorissa, Kayla, Leonard, James, Sue Ann, and Jimmy Jr. Private military funeral services was held at the convenience of his friends with interment in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Community Care of Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre. Many of Chief Dodd's Vietnam photos can be found on the Association's web site www.mrfa.org. Chief Dodd donated all his photos and audio to the MRFA not only are his photos on the web site but posted in our mobile trailer and on display at our reunions. Chief Dan Dodd was a good man and a good Sailor and will be missed by all who knew him and those whom served with him. The officers and members of the Mobile Riverine Force Association express their sincerest gratitude and admiration for the courageous work of combat photographers, like PHC Dan Dodd, USN (Ret.). While the official photos are the property of the people of the United States, the heroism of those who took the pictures, as that of their subjects, will be their legacy forever.

Member Ed Lammons was a friend of mine from PTSD class in Tampa Florida. He joined the MRFA in 2006. We were all trying to help him with his PTSD claim. He died today when he suffered a massive heart attack and passed away February 26, 2008. Please keep Ed and his family in your prayers. You may contact Irene Lammons at 9816 N Central Ave., Tampa, Florida 33612, 813-930-8604. Ed served on PCF-53 TF-116 (03/67-03/68). Andy MRFA 2/39

Dear Albert, My brother, **Steve Wilson**, was part of the Mobile Riverine Force in the war. He was there I believe in 1969/70, in the Mekong Delta. Steve is in his final days; he is dying from cancer. The Navy has agreed to say that Agent Orange was part of the reason for it. Not sure what I am trying to write, but I do know Steve wanted to be at the last convention, but could not attend, because of his condition. I just wanted someone to know this. The Vets were on the streets with the American Flag as they took Steve away. I was proud of my brother and all of you. Thank You for your Service. Steve will be buried at the Kentucky Vets. Cemetery at Fort Knox.

Stephen served on Tango-152-49 and T-51 (09/69-10/70). I am sure Steve's wife, Vickie, or his brother, Mark, would like to hear from some of his old River Rats in their time of need. You may contact Vickie Wilson at 198 Casablanca Ct., Cecilia, Kentucky 42724, 270-862-5935, sdw109@yahoo.com, or brother Mark Wilson Wis2Ma@aol.com, 757-412-9225.

Sincerely, Mark Wilson

Hello Al. I thought I would send this along for our next *River Currents* publication. **Sgt Robert "Smitty" Smith** was with Charlie Company, 4th/47th when we first came together at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was with us throughout 1967 in Vietnam. He was Charlie Company's cook, so I am wondering if you might have known him? I am sorry, but I do not have a family contact. I learned of this obituary from another ole Charlie Company trooper, Joel Onstad, who lives in the Tacoma, Washington area. He just happened to notice it in his paper the other day. Thanks, Al.

Member **Albert Festag** passed away on July 2007. Cdr Festag was Commanding Officer and served on the USS Askari (08/68-08/69). You may contact Joan Festag at 14488 Arnott Road, Licking, Missouri 65542-9033.

Member **Maurice Johnson** passed away on March 9, 2008. His wife is so glad that they were able to attend the reunion last summer in Indianapolis. Maurice served



with Charlie Company 2nd/39th 9th Infantry Division from 1968 to 1969. He was a brave and wonderful man who was very proud of his military service. In passing, Maurice received his desire to be buried with his fellow soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. You may contact Leslie at 7508 Dumont St., District Heights, Maryland 20747, 301-336-3766, moeorlesjohnson@aol.com.

Brian E. Bartelt died at the VA Medical Center, Hospice Unit in Dayton, Ohio, January 18, 2008. Brian served in River Assault Squadron 9 in 1968-1969. He was a RM3. Brian went to school with me in Xenia, Ohio. "We met on my first day in-country in Dong Tam and after I got all checked in with River Assault Squadron 15 we went and "hoisted" a few beers together." Charles Allen

Member John Livingston passed away February 13, 2008. John was assigned to the 483rd military police platoon, 3rd Brigade (Go Devil) of the 9th Infantry Division (2/70-5/70). The platoon provided the military police support to the 3rd Brigade after the 9th MP Co stood down with the 1st and 2nd Brigades. John was based in Tan An. You may contact the family at PO Box 174 Uniondale, New York 11553-0174, 516-797-8731.

BMCN Wayne Pallen USN (Ret.), recently passed away. Wayne served in RivRon 15 1969-70. You may contact Jody Pallen at 1382 Cove Landing Dr., Atlantic Beach, Florida 32233, 904-247-3111-7571.

Member David Hammond passed away unexpectedly on January 16, 2008. He was a proud member of the Mobile Riverine Force Association. While in Vietnam, David served with C Co. 2nd Platoon, 3rd/47th Infantry from May 1967 to May 1968. You may contact Miriam at 2179 Grand Traverse St., Henderson, Nevada 89052-7018, 702-263-9783, miriam_hammond@lv.mgmmand.com.

Member RADM Robert Collins, USN (Ret.), recently passed away. Admiral Collins served in MRF-TF-117 (1/68-1/69). RADM Collins served in the U S Navy from November 1942 to July 1979. He was born in Strawn, Texas, May 1925. Some of his duty stations included CTF-73, CO USS Fox CG-33, CO USS Kenneth D. Bailey DD-713, and CO of four other ships of TF-117. Significant awards included the Silver Star, Legion of Merit W/Combat "V," Bronze Star Medal W/Combat "V," Purple Heart, and Navy Commendation Medal W/Combat "V." You may contact his wife, Joy Collins at 12630 Thistle Down, San Antonio, Texas 78217-1888, 210-654-8172. May he rest in peace.

We just received word that **Sgt Major Leo Mons USA (Ret.)** has passed away. While in Vietnam, Leo served with C Co 9th Inf. Div. from April 1968 to May 1969. No Battalion was listed. Leo also served as a Drill Instructor at Fort Bragg before shipping out to Vietnam.



Dear Charlie:

I have enclosed some information on the obituary for **Col George Benson**, 3rd Brigade Commander, 9th Infantry Division. It appeared in the Washington Post on 28 December 2007. The reason I am sending it to you so late

is that I waited to see if it would appeared in the spring edition of the *River Currents*. Since it did not, I hope that it will appear in the next edition.

I had the privilege of serving with Colonel Benson on his staff of the "Go Devils." He was the epitome of an officer and gentleman. And under the most trying conditions of combat, he never got rattled or lost his cool. He was in every respect an outstanding leader and his staff and his men loved him. During the Post Tet campaign and the battle of "The Y Bridge," he was credited with commanding seven maneuver battalions and two ARVN Battalions including one ARVN ranger battalion successfully. Col Benson was a 1945 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Col Benson served as a Battalion Commander during the Korean War and a 3rd Brigade Commander in Vietnam. You may contact Barbara H. Benson at 5225 Pooks Hill Rd., Bethesda, Maryland 20814, 301-530-5270.

With health permitting, I hope to see you and the gang this year.

LT Colonel Richard E. (Dick) Crotty US Army, Retired 540-337-3825, E-mail ltcrejfc@aol.com

Member Larry Moore, 60, of Indianapolis, passed away on April 14, 2008. Larry was an active member of the MRFA and most will remember Larry as he always brought his red POW/MIA truck to our reunions for display. While in Vietnam, Larry served with the 2nd/47th (Mech) Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from February to June 1968. You may contact the family at 4952 E. 21st St, Indianapolis, Indiana 46218, 317-634-0887.

"Larry enjoyed the reunions and we all enjoyed his participation and he did an excellent presentation with his POW/MIA truck. He will be surely missed by all who have met him and knew him; he was a good man and a true brother. Larry was proud of his service in Vietnam and to his Country." Albert Moore

My wife of 28 years, **Joan Gibbs**, died peacefully in her sleep by my side on October 15, 2007. Respectfully submitted John Gibbs. John served at Naval Support Detachment Nha Be 3/69-3/70. You may contact John at 1843 S. Volutsai, Wichita, Kansas 67211, 316-686-7877, jlgstable@cox.net.

Member Richard Scott passed away the morning of April 28, 2008, due to cancer Agent Orange related. Scotty retired from the Navy as a Chief Gunners Mate (E-7). Scotty served on the USS Benewah APB-35 1966-67 as a GM2. To all who knew him, he was a great guy and a great shipmate. Scotty was an outgoing person with a great sense of humor.

Prior to each reunion, I would always receive e-mails asking if Scotty would be attending and those who did not remember his name would always ask if the Big Guy off the Benewah would be attending. Scotty was an avid golfer and teller of jokes and he cared for his shipmates and friends. But the love of his life was his wife Paula and she was his life.



Paula said Scotty wanted to keep his passing simple; no funeral or wake and to be cremated with his ashes strewn over his favorite golf course for one last game. He also loved chocolate and Paula had M&Ms cremated with Scotty. Gunners Mate Richard Scott was a good sailor, friend and shipmate who will never be forgotten.

You may contact Paula Scott Wright at 43 Middle Rd. Newbury, Massachusetts 01951, 978-462-4322, scotusn@verizon.net.

Member Anthony Tamuzza passed away August 17, 2007. You may contact Barbara at 55 Kraft Place, Kingwood, New Jersey 07456, 973-962-0412.

Diane Vivian Richardson, 62 years young, the adored wife of John Henry Richardson passed through heaven's gates Friday, May 2, 2008. For 4 years she fought a long and tough battle with multiple myeloma bone cancer. Diane is a veteran of the Vietnam era, getting married to John on his first leave before he went to Vietnam and Diane were married for 42 years.

Diane was a nice lady whom I will always remember for her smile and happy disposition she truly was a good person and we will miss her greatly. Diane made all the MRFA & 9thInfDiv reunions.. Albert.

John (Big John) Richardson served with A/CO/3rd/47th 9thInfDiv 5/66-5/67 you may contact John at PO Box 2083, Monroe, New York 10950, 845-496-1821.



MRFA Catalog Products



T-Shirts All shirts \$22.50 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE
SCREEN PRINTED LOGOS		
River Rat Vietnam NEW! (Rat Five Colors on White)		
Vietnam Combatant Craft Crew (VCCC) (Silver Insignia on White) NEW!		
FULLY EMBROIDERED LOGOS		
2nd/47th (Mech) Infantry (Ash)		
9th Infantry Div. Logo (Dark Blue)		
Brown Water Navy Vietnam (Brown Logo; Dark Blue)		
Combat Action Ribbon (Tan)		
Combat Infantry Badge (Ash)		
MRFA Army and Navy (Ash)		
River Assault Force TF 117 (Ash)		
BOATS (Ash Color)		
ASPB		
Monitor		
Tango		
TOTAL T-SHIRTS x \$22.50 EACH	TOTAL \$	

Commemorative Coins \$10.00 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
Purple Heart	
Vietnam Service Medal	
U.S. Army	
U.S. Navy	
TOTAL COINS x \$10.00	TOTAL \$

VCCC Pin \$7.50 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
Vietnam Combatant Crewman Pin	
TOTAL PINS x \$7.50 EACH	TOTAL \$

MRFA & 9th Inf. Poster \$21.50 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
Beautifully Poster Reproduced in Full Color	
TOTAL POSTERS x \$21.50 EACH	TOTAL \$

MRFA Coffee Mug \$30.00 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
Member's Name (max. 20 characters & spaces)	
Member's Rank or Rate (max. 4 character & spaces)	
Command in Vietnam Army Navy USCG Purple Heart	
TOTAL MUGS x \$30.00 EACH	TOTAL \$

Embroidered Hats \$21.50 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
2nd/47th Infantry	
9th Infantry Division Logo (Dark Blue)	
9th Infantry Div with CIB Vietnam (Olive Drab) NEW!	
9th Inf Div with Vietnam Ribbon VN (Olive Drab) NEW!	
CIB (White)	
Combat Medic w/Insignia (Black)	
9th Medical Battalion (Dong Tam)	
IUWG	
MRF w/Combat Action Ribbon Vietnam (Olive Drab)	
MRF w/Vietnam Ribbon Vietnam (Olive Drab)	
MRFA Logo (Dark Blue)	
US Navy Corpsman Vietnam Vet with Insignia	
Purple Heart (Off White Blue Bill)	
Purple Heart with 9th Infantry Division	
Purple Heart with MRF	

ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
Boat Hats (Off White Blue Bill)			
Tango		Monitor	
ASPB			

Ship's Hats (Dark Blue) Gold lettering showing ship's name with "Vietnam" text, and USS...

Askari ARL-30	Brule AKL-28
Benewah APB-35	Indra ARL-36
Carronade IFS-1	Mark AKL-12
Colleton APB-36	Satyr ARL-23
Krishna ARL-38	Sphinx ARL-24
Mercer APB-39	Nueces APB-40
White River LSMR-536	
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SAVE 20% ON MRFA AND 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION T-SHIRTS

Book \$28.50 (includes S/H)

VIETNAM STUDIES, RIVERINE OPERATIONS, 1966-69

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
By Lt. Gen. William B. Fulton (USA Ret.) 9th Infantry Division, Vietnam. 210 pp with Pictures and Maps.	
TOTAL BOOKS x \$28.50 EACH	TOTAL \$

Video 60 MIN. \$30.00 (includes S/H)

BROWN WATER PRODUCTIONS (RARE COMBAT FOOTAGE)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
Full Color MRF & 9th Infantry Division Video	
TOTAL VIDEOS x \$30.00 EACH	TOTAL \$

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HIGH QUALITY VINYL, FULL COLOR, 12" x 3"

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
MRFA & 9th Infantry Division Logos	
TOTAL BUMPER STICKERS x \$7.50 EA.	TOTAL \$

High Quality Decals \$5.00 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
9th Infantry Div Octofoil (Five Colors)	
MRFA Logo	
TOTAL DECALS x \$5.00 EACH	TOTAL \$

Ambush Print \$150.00 (includes S/H)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
Limited Edition, Full Color Print by Bill McGrath	
TOTAL PRINTS x \$150.00 EACH	TOTAL \$

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Make checks payable to Mobile Riverine Force Association and send to MRFA Products Chairman, Bob VanDruff, 2906 SE Starlite Drive, Topeka, Kansas 66605
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For pictures and more info on our products, go to our website www.mrfa.org; scroll down to the River Rat and click on the link. It will take you to the product pages.

NEW! COMMEMORATIVE COINS! MAKES A GREAT GIFT!



DON'T FORGET TO ORDER EARLY FOR FATHER'S DAY!

Embroidered Patches \$5.00 (includes S/H)

ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
9th Infantry Div.		Brown Wtr Navy	
IUWG		MRFA	
MRFA Mekong Delta		River Raiders	
River Rat		TF 117	
RivRon 9		RivDiv 91	
RivDiv92		RivDiv 111	
RivDiv 112		RivRon 13	
RivDiv 131		RivDiv 132	
RivRon 15		RivDiv 152	
RivDiv 153		ASPB Div 595	
47th Inf. NEW!		39th Inf. NEW!	
60th Inf. NEW!		VCCC Brown Water	
VCCC Patch In Five Colors NEW!			
VCCC MRF Silver NEW!			
Other: (See our website www.mrfa.org for complete listing!)			
TOTAL PATCHES x 5.00 EACH	TOTAL \$		

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