



River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2
SUMMER 2007

2007 Reunion • Indianapolis • Adams Mark is SOLD OUT!

Our reunion at the Adams Mark Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241, for August 30-September 2 is booked solid!

We have filled our block of rooms at the Adams Mark Hotel. Our backup hotel is the Days Inn Indianapolis Airport. It is

three blocks from the Adams Mark. More information on page 6 in this newsletter.

The Adams Mark will also have a waiting list. If you would like to get on their waiting list, call (317) 248-2481. This is just in case someone should cancel or they can find a few more rooms to open up. If you have any questions on the Adams Mark, contact Angela Jordan, Convention Services Manager at (317) 381-6107 or e-mail ajordan@adamsmark.com.

The Adams Mark offers a free airport shuttle service. To phone the hotel for shuttle service, look for the bank of phones in the airport baggage area.

The Adams Mark has a free downtown



shuttle daily. Shuttle hours from the hotel to downtown area will be posted in the lobby. The shuttle will leave at 10 a.m., arrive at 12:30 p.m. or leave at 12:30 p.m. and return at 2:30 p.m. Those interested in

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When you arrive, please register outside the Main Hospitality Room, the Hall of Champions. Don't Miss Out! Make Your Reservations Today!

Mortar Attacks on Dong Tam

The following are answers to a Veterans Service Officer's request seeking assistance (about a mortar attack on Dong Tam) for a 9thInfDiv soldier who had filed a VA claim. Over the years, we have received many requests such as this from members and service officers alike, who have filed claims and seek verification from the MRF and 9th Infantry members. As you can see below, the members of the Association have stepped forward to help a fellow Vet seeking assistance. Sometimes we don't have all the answers and have to forward a request elsewhere, but whenever possible the members always step forward. It's a brotherhood that will never be broken. Bravo Zulu to all.

The frequent mortar and rocket attacks on Dong Tam were well known to the Army and Navy personnel based there in 1968-69. I personally served with E Co 2nd BN 39th Inf of the 9th ID from 2/68 to 2/69 and witnessed numerous mortar and rocket attacks on that base. That was in spite of the fact that most of the members of my unit, including myself, spent the majority of our time out "in the field" at forward patrol bases and smaller base camps.

Here is a link to a web site page that describes (including photos) the 23 Feb 69 rocket attack that destroyed the main fuel dump and the 26 Mar 69 attack that destroyed the main ammunition dump (he also has a Newark, NJ, newspaper report

of that incident) by an eyewitness, Bob Fischer at http://www.gingerb.com/vietnam_dong_tam_enemy_attacks.htm.



Bob's web page only recounts a few of the major attacks on Dong Tam. From its earliest days as a US military base in 1967, Dong Tam was subjected to frequent mortar and rocket attacks - usually several per night, intended to demoralize and wear down the troops based there. Bob has more of the history of the Dong Tam base, along with photos and maps at http://www.gingerb.com/vietnam_dong_tam.htm, with links to a number of other pages.

There were previous incidents where enemy mortar and rocket attacks destroyed other ammunition and fuel supplies and randomly killed and maimed US soldiers and sailors at that base. Those incidents are not as well documented.

If you do a Google search on "Dong Tam mortar rocket attacks," you will find a number of incidents mentioned online at

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Unconventional Warfare on Unconventional Boats

by M. B. Connolly

There is nothing pretty about a Tango boat. In fact, most of the River Assault Craft (RAC) lacked the lines and appearance of a classic boat. Early on, the unaware tagged our group as McHale's Navy. It took a good while for the boats and their crews to dispel the preformed opinions of the rest of the Navy in Vietnam. The early riverine operations were done with professionalism, courage, and with virtually no fanfare. Hence, only we knew what we did and we took great pride and satisfaction in our accomplishments.

In early 1969, when troop lifts and major operations were waning in anticipation of the withdrawal of the 9th Infantry, River Assault Craft began to be deployed to other Navy op areas, namely Giant Slingshot, and other interdiction operations. These op areas were manned primarily with PBRs and commanded by PBR officers. The "big ugly RACs" didn't fit the public relations image of the sleek and speedy PBR and sometimes we were not really welcomed with open arms. Likewise, with standing military procedure that the senior officer in the op area was in command, care was taken at first to ensure that the River Assault Division Officer was not

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Sammy L. Davis

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery, 9th Infantry Division; **Place and date:** West of Cai Lay, Republic of Vietnam, 18



November 1967. Entered service at Indianapolis, Indiana. Born: 1 November 1946, in Dayton, Ohio

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Da-

vis (then PFC) distinguished himself during the early morning hours while serving as a cannoneer with battery C at a remote fire support base. At approximately 0200 hours, the fire support base was under heavy enemy mortar attack. Simultaneously, an estimated reinforced Viet Cong battalion launched a fierce ground assault

upon the fire support base. The attacking enemy drove to within 25 meters of the friendly positions. Only a river separated the Viet Cong from the fire support base. Detecting a nearby enemy position, Sgt. Davis seized a machine gun and provided covering fire for his gun crew, as they attempted to bring direct artillery fire on the enemy. Despite his efforts, an enemy recoilless rifle round scored a direct hit upon the artillery piece. The resultant blast hurled the gun crew from their weapon and blew Sgt. Davis into a foxhole. He struggled to his feet and returned to the howitzer, which was burning furiously. Ignoring repeated warnings to seek cover, Sgt. Davis rammed a shell into the gun. Disregarding a withering hail of enemy fire directed against his position, he aimed and fired the howitzer which rolled backward, knocking Sgt. Davis violently to the ground. Undaunted, he returned to the weapon to fire again when an enemy mortar round exploded within 20 meters of his position, injuring him painfully. Nevertheless, Sgt. Davis loaded the artillery piece, aimed, and fired. Again he was knocked down by the recoil. In complete disregard for his safety, Sgt. Davis loaded

and fired three more shells into the enemy. Disregarding his extensive injuries and his inability to swim, Sgt. Davis picked up an air mattress and struck out across the deep river to rescue three wounded comrades on the far side. Upon reaching the three wounded men, he stood upright and fired into the dense vegetation to prevent the Viet Cong from advancing. While the most seriously wounded soldier was helped across the river, Sgt. Davis protected the two remaining casualties until he could pull them across the river to the fire support base. Though suffering from painful wounds, he refused medical attention, joining another howitzer crew that fired at the large Viet Cong force until it broke contact and fled. Sgt. Davis' extraordinary heroism, at the risk of his life, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself and the US Army.

25th Anniversary of The Wall on Veterans Day 2007, Washington, DC

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11, 2007. 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.

Because this is the 25th Anniversary of The Wall and all the other activities (see below) that will be going on, we have asked for another date for a ceremony at the Navy Memorial.

Schedule for Sat., Nov. 10, 2007

The opening ceremony will take place on the Mall at 3rd Street between Jefferson and Madison Drives, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial 25th Anniversary Parade will be from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Immediately following the opening ceremony, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial 25th Anniversary Parade will step off, with thousands of participants, military vehicles, floats, veteran motorcyclists, and marching bands. Alongside the reviewing stand will be limited bleacher seating for those veterans and members of the general public who wish to view the parade.

Washington Monument Grounds are open from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Parade participants and the general public can enjoy a variety of activities and street vendors.

Hotel: We have blocked 40 rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse



Plaza in Arlington, Virginia, for November 8-12. Room rates are \$119 (plus tax) per night. For reservations, call 1-703-528-4444 and refer to our group name "MRFA". Reservations may also be made on-line at arlingtoncourthouse.gardeninn.com and be sure to enter the online reservation code "MRFA." Reservations under these group codes must be made before the cut-off date of October 17, 2007, so make your reservations soon. A Hospitality Room will be available on November 9 and 10. The Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/ Courthouse Plaza is located at 1333 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22201.

Hotel Parking: Self Parking: \$10.00 - Fee effective January 1, 2007.

In/out privileges are available. Secured parking and covered parking are also available.

Parking Information: \$10 charge effective January 1, 2007. Garage parking has a 6' clearance.

We look forward to seeing you in DC. Come and join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2007. For more information, contact Board Member Bob (Doc) Pries at 9702 Friar Tuck Drive, West Chester, OH 45069, (513)755-1223 or rpries@cinci.rr.com.

Go Green with the MRFA

The rising cost of postage, increased postage amounts for oversized letters, etc., has caused us to rethink our current newsletter mailing process. There are a couple of ways we can still get you the quality newsletters that we've been providing and save money for the organization so that we can avoid a needed dues increase to keep up with the rising mailing costs. Those of you with email addresses are being asked if it would be possible for you to receive your newsletter by email or by downloading the current version each quarter on the web site in the form of a full color PDF file. This would not only cut our mailing costs but would also save on the amount of newsletters being printed. Initially, we will send out a link with the location on our web site each time we have a newsletter ready for you. Also this way we can archive the past issues so they can be downloaded at a later date.

If you are willing to help the Association in this way, please email Charlie Ardinger at mrfamembership@mabeltel.coop.

We appreciate your help in this regard and look forward to continuing to provide the quality products, newsletters, web site, reunions, etc., without having to increase our dues for a time. Please bear with us as we work out any kinks in this process. We will need you to make sure we keep a current email address on file. We'll make a link on the web site to a contact where you can always keep us current on your contact information. We need and would appreciate your response as quickly as possible.

Those members who do not have email or access to a computer will continue to receive the newsletters by mail. To those members with e-mail who decide you want to continue receiving your newsletter by regular mail, you may still do so. With your help we hope we can have this up and running by our fall issue.

Mortar Attacks

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<http://www.virtualwall.org/dr/RadtkeCLO1a.htm>. In 1969 the base at Dong Tam, just west of My Tho City on the Mekong River, was home to the 9th Infantry Division, parts of the Navy's riverine forces, a port facility, and a variety of supporting forces, including the 191st Assault Helicopter Company. Because it was a target-rich environment, the Dong Tam complex attracted more than its share of mortar and rocket attacks. On 2 March 1969 a mortar shell hit the 191st AHCs operations center, killing six men..."

From a US Navy report for July 69 posted at <http://www.riverinesailor.com/July1969.htm>

"Dong Tam Base and the Mobile Riverine Base were again subjected to rocket/mortar fire during the month. At 1605 on the 10th, Dong Tam received a single 107-mm rocket that impacted less than 50 feet from the in/out processing center, resulting in three USA killed, and 18 USA and 3 USN wounded. The next night at 2112, Dong Tam received incoming mortar. Nueces (APB 40) and Satyr (ARL 23) took the suspected VC positions on the south bank of the My Tho River under fire immediately with unknown results..."

From a web site describing the history of the 3d Surgical Hospital in Dong Tam at <http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/msgfisher/3surg-1.htm>, comes this excerpt (relating to 1967): "Shrapnel from the frequent mortar and rocket attacks on Dong Tam Base Camp often punctured the inflatable MUST units, seriously hampering operations. This necessitated a self-help program to cover all MUST elements with earth-filled revetments. A severe mortar attack

ground attacks. Ben Luc was the site of a frequently attacked bridge that carried the traffic on Highway QL 4 (the main road artery that went south from Saigon into the Mekong Delta) over the Vam Co Dong River. My Phuoc Tay was a smaller, more rural village and site of several South Vietnamese government bases and sometimes a base for US military forces (including 9th ID units and Special Forces). It was located way out in "Indian Country" in northern Dinh Tuong province on the edge of the infamous Viet Cong controlled stronghold known as The Plain of Reeds.

Jim Stone, E/2/39 Recon, 1st BDE - 9th ID, RVN: 2/68-2/69

I was a Naval Advisor to the Vietnamese Riverine Force-RAID 73, based at Dong Tam sometime in the fall of 69 through to my departure in Sept. of 70 and can tell you that darling base's nickname was "Mortar City" and not for outgoing either. If a statement to that effect is needed and that I was there to witness a considerable number mortar/rocket attacks, I'd be happy to supply one. We frequently climbed to the top of our water tower to watch (and rather sickly applaud a good hit as in the night they hit the ammo dump there; there's gotta be records of that one at the very least). I and another Advisor there (one "Duke" Petmecky of Del Rio, Texas) also spent a fair amount of time running around like fools picking up hot pieces of mortar shrapnel after these attacks. I never spent much time writing home about it to avoid scaring Mom but its possible Duke did. He might have something that would give actual dates, if I can get in touch with him I can ask if he minds my giving out his address and phone number (no computer). You might also try Bob Cooley (bcool@worldnet.att.net). He was stationed at Dong Tam with RAID 72, I think around that same time. The only other thing I could supply would be pictures of Dong Tam taken from the top of that water tower, none of which unfortunately show any mortar damage, partly due to the size of the place. It was not a small base at all!!

Peace and Out, John Gilmartin



on 24 July hurried the construction plans and the revetments were completed in September 1967. The Hospital was assigned to the 68th Medical Group, 16 February 1968. The 3rd Surgical Hospital closed out its operations in Dong Tam during summer of 1969, when the 9th Infantry was returned to the United States."

For a "Donut Dollie's" perspective on the Dong Tam mortar attacks, see Emily Strange's site at www.emilydd.com/Writings/writings/1st_mortar_attack.htm and at www.emilydd.com/Writings/writings/incoming.htm.

As for Ben Luc and My Phuoc Tay, these were much smaller bases and subject not only to mortar and rocket attacks, but also more vulnerable to sniper attacks and

Enemy Action at Dong Tam

They Don't Like Us

Colonel Ira Hunt (Rocket Attack 23 Feb 69)

The evening of February 23, 1969, had begun peacefully with some of the guys jawing outside on the DISCOM bleachers. A couple flares popped over the east perimeter, that wasn't at all unusual. Several more pops soon followed and in a short time the entire length of the perimeter was aglow in incendiary illumination. All of the east perimeter bunkers were sending flares! This was very unusual. The parachutes suspending the flares caught the wind and drifted back over the berm above our heads. I ran into the barracks and got my camera. As I stepped out of the barracks, I heard a whoosh and then a horrific detonation. Without thinking much about exposure or focus, I snapped a few frames in the direction of the explosion. The southwest corner of Dong Tam was enveloped in a firestorm! The Viet Cong had managed to put a 122-mm rocket over the top of the berm into one of the fuel storage tanks at POL depot near the fixed wing airfield. The intensity of the ensuing fire ignited other tanks. All we could do was watch the flames and pray no one was too close.

Communist bombardment of Dong Tam was not unusual. Between January and May 1969, prior to the monsoon season, Dong Tam was mortared with great regularity, typically three times a night for weeks on end. It was like the Doctor Pepper slogan: 10-2-4. The VC wanted to keep us awake and edgy, tired soldiers made mistakes and had poor attitudes. Charlie would throw in three rounds, wake everybody up, and off we'd go to the bunkers with flak vest, helmet, and rifle. It got so intense at times that some fellows opted to



Join the CCB-18 Working Party!

If you live in the San Diego area and would like to assist in the restoration of CCB-18, try being an MRFA volunteer on the working party, Army or Navy! If you are interested, please contact Charles Campbell, 677 G St. SP#1, Chula Vista, CA 91910; phone 619-427-6835 or e-mail: cccec@cox.net. You can also contact Everett Jones at 1947 Gotham St., Chula Vista, CA 91913, 619-421-3721 or by e-mail: oneerj@pacbel.net.

sleep in the stuffy bunkers along with the hyper cautious short timers (those with 30 days or less to serve in-country). On the evening of March 26, 1969, at 2230 hours (10:30 p.m. civilian time), Dong Tam took no less than 13 120-mm mortar hits. We were already exhausted from lack of sleep. After the All-Clear sounded, many of us returned to our bunks. At midnight, we were again awakened by the sound of incoming ordinance. We grabbed our gear and dragged our feet to the bunkers. Then

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Enemy Action

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we heard a single, KA BOOM!!! At that point in time as the world knew, it had ceased. More than 500 tons of ammunition detonated in one horrific, incomprehensible, 4th of July fireworks finale. Several larger, guy-jarring, teeth-rattling explosions were followed by small arms ammo cooking off and the ever present whizzing of shrapnel through the air. DISCOM was situated the breadth of Dong Tam's Harbor away from the chaos. We caught hell that night. Sadly, the US Navy caught worse. They were across the street from the ammunition bunkers.

Associated Press International reported in the US newspapers that Red mortars blew up 500 tons of small arms ammunition at HQ base of the 9thInfDiv. It was further reported that three Americans were killed, more than 60 wounded, scores of buildings destroyed, and wrecked. After the last of the ammunition cooked off and it was relatively safe to venture from the personal shelters, we found sharp, jagged, heavy chunks of burst artillery shells the length of a man's forearm. The entire southern flank of Dong Tam was littered with the stuff. Dong Tam's ammunition depot was situated on the south perimeter between the Song My Tho and Dong Tam Harbor. The US Navy shared the area south of the basin with the ammunition depot and, subsequently, suffered the worst casualties and greatest property damage. The ammunition dump had been perfectly placed by the 9th Infantry Division Engineers. Their wisdom saved many lives the night of March 28, 1969.



Even the House of the Lord did not escape the wrath of the Communists. During a devastating VC mortar shelling between January and March 1969 (Second Tet), the swimming pool, class six liquor store, EM Club, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Reliable Academy barracks, and a civilian run gift shop (affectionately called Charlie the Gook) all received hits. The most popular VC target seemed to be the heliport. It was a large, hard to miss target, full of expensive things, and not far from Division headquarters.

Night Probes and Mortar Attacks

The most common way the Communist got our attention was to toss in a few mortar rounds. They did this often; typically with no specific target. Their purpose was to cause mayhem throughout the base and instill fear in US troops. At other times, they would probe the perimeters, creating a diversion to launch some other attack. They would also send lone sappers past the roving security patrols, past the LPs (listening post), under the wire, and over the mine fields in an attempt to penetrate Dong Tam's security defense. Whether rumor by fact or design, we would hear of a perimeter guard post found with all the guards killed--the message being, Keep alert and stay alive! A popular sentiment often reiterated by lifers trying to make an impression on troops: There are only two kinds of soldiers in this war, the quick and the dead! Well, there was also a third type of soldier in Vietnam who was neither quick nor dead but, rather, morally disillusioned, too terrorized to be afraid, and too tired to care about Esprit de Corps. These were the fellows with the hollow eyes that stared but did not see. They didn't have to. All of their senses functioned in harmony to create a perception of their environment. They didn't have to see Charlie to know that he was there. The divine spark of their life was lit but no longer glowed with much warmth; very effective troops if you stayed out of their way. They didn't always distinguish the good guys from the bad; kind of like a short-timer and an FNG.

Above from member Bob Fischer's web site: www.gingerb.com/vietnam_dong_tam_enemy_attacks.htm.

What Color Alert is This?

During the month of July, headquarters, 9th Infantry Division, instituted a new policy forbidding soldiers to have ammunition in their possession while at Dong Tam. The defense of the base now relied on the perimeter guard and roving security patrols out in the bush. All of the new company-size personnel shelters were

being built without firing ports. The threat of Dong Tam being overrun was, apparently, over. There was, however, a sinister underlying rationale behind taking the ammunition away from soldiers in camp. The long-term psychological effects of 5 years of escalating combat, an officer cadre saturated with career-oriented commanders, an unclear military objective, and dwindling support for both the war and soldiers on the home front had transformed the USARV into a very mean and disillusioned army. Too many quick tempered troops were hurting themselves and others. Along with the ammunition restrictions, a new protocol came to be observed during alerts. Four colors coded the degree and severity of attack. A GRAY ALERT was the mildest kind, indicating that there was plenty of time to get things done, stop at the mess hall for a refreshing Kool-Aid, grab your rifle, helmet and flak vest, and shuffle over to the armory to wait in line for ammunition. A YELLOW ALERT meant you had to cut out the refreshments and walk faster to the armory line. An ORANGE ALERT meant an attack was imminent. Now you had to hastily grab what you needed from your hooch, run like Hell to the armory, and wait in line for bullets. I never quite understood the significance of a RED ALERT. With that long line at the armory you might just as well have bent over and kissed your rosy red arse goodbye. Now, when things went BOOM in the night, amidst the confusion and fear, the cry of--What color alert is this?--could be heard. I opted to hide a loaded magazine under a loose board in the side wall of the hooch. I also accented the front of my flak vest with a few decorative, copper tipped, brass cartridges in the stretch webbing. No one that mattered ever seemed to notice, which was a good thing for me. Getting court marshaled for having bullets in a war wouldn't have read well in my 201 file, nor improved my already cynical attitude toward our commanders. After 6 months in the Delta, I just didn't have the patience for lunatics who lived in bunkers while their troops slept outside and wore gold spaghetti braid on the beak of their baseball caps (actually most really didn't have officer's brocade on their baseball caps--it was probably tattooed to their butts).

Notes from the MRFA Membership Chairman

Members, sometimes it takes 4 to 6 weeks before you will receive your membership card because we need 200 pieces of mail to use our bulk mail permit. Please be patient. Also don't forget to let me know when your address changes. As noted in the article on page 2, send your name and e-mail address if you would like to receive your next issue of *River Currents* by e-mail instead of by postal mail. If this last month you have not received an e-mail response from me, please send me another email (I deleted some messages by mistake). Thanks for your support.

Charlie Ardinger (563) 735-5924 or mrfamembership@mabeltel.coop

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

Getting in the choppers in Vietnam was no big deal, except it was real.

Cal Meyer...A-A-A-O 2nd/39th

Unconventional Boats

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senior to the Commander of the op area. Heaven forbid that an RAC Officer would have command over a group of PBRs! That was one of the reasons that our boats were moved around so frequently on our early deployments out of Dong Tam.



The integration of all of our boats into the general Navy interdiction and surveillance effort in III and IV Corps was successful because of the amazing capabilities of the boats and the ingenuity and extraordinary efforts of the boat crews and support personnel. Gunfire support, psyops, helo and medcap platforms, river patrols, VN troop lifts, and ambush operations became common for River Assault Craft after mid-1969. Try hiding a Tango in a rice paddy for night ambush! Add the use of the Zippo (flame-thrower), Douche (water cannon), the Monitors, Alphas, and the ubiquitous Tango for just about any imaginable operation and it can be argued that they became the backbone of the Navy inshore efforts in 1969 and 1970.

Waterborne Guard Post (WBG) or Ambush

The use of RAC in some of the interdiction operations was hampered by a lack of speed, but the defensive capabilities of the boats made them perfect for ambush operations. The large number of boats available made it feasible to station craft every click on many waterways that were crossed by enemy personnel entering the Republic of Vietnam from Cambodia. While it is hard to hide a Tango boat, the flight deck provided a high vantage point and its defensive capabilities were such that it could stand and fight. Consider that the plain old Tango boat had two 20-mm cannons, an MK-19 grenade launcher, six 50-caliber machine guns, and an array of hand-held weapons. With the exception of artillery, this was more firepower than that of the average VN outpost on the border. Add a 105-Howitzer monitor and air support, and the lone Tango in ambush became a fortress.

The "stand and fight" *modus operandi* required that the boats in ambush have perimeter security against both waterborne and landborne sapper squads. RAC crews used some very unique measures to effect perimeter security. Claymore mines, PSID sensors, and concussion grenades were used to advantage. Early in the deployment of RACs to Operation Giant Sling-

shot, the Navy in Tra Cu was trained in the use of Claymore mines for base defense. An Army Major "expert" demonstrated how to set them up for maximum effectiveness in protecting the perimeter. His first test firing injured two sailors and scared the hell out of all the rest of us. We learned respect for the Claymore mine. Later, on the Vinh Te Canal, Tangos in WBG protected their perimeter from attack by mounting two command-detonated Claymores on the ramp. Visual sighting or PSID alert from sensors placed ashore near the boat could be responded to by detonating the Claymores. They are a wicked weapon and if improperly secured can be dangerous. The 3-ton ramp of the Tango was a solid base for the Claymore. One PBR tried mounting two Claymores on the bow and ended up blowing the whole bow off the boat. The best defense for swimmer attack was having concussion grenades hanging on the reinforcing rods around the superstructure of the boats where they were readily accessible to all hands topside. The 105 Monitor perimeter defense utilized Beehive rounds with no delay setting.

In ambush, two Night Observation Devices at each WBG were essential to cover upstream and downstream. Near the Cambodian Border scanning the rice paddies was also necessary. On the Vinh Te Canal, we placed a large combination infrared/search light on the flight deck of one of the Tangos. The power source was a jeep that we backed into the well deck. Both were courtesy of the Army and even came with a Sergeant to service the light and drive the jeep. The infrared search function located targets that were then illuminated with the search light. All of the boats that could bring guns to bear and air support could fire down the beam of light. It was incredibly successful in thwarting numerous attempts to cross into Vietnam. The platform light sitting on the flight deck was pretty obvious and the enemy often concentrated their attacks on that boat when it was moving into ambush position for the night. On one occasion, a B-40 round got into the well deck and showered the jeep with shrapnel. Our CASREP reported "four flat tires" but the next echelon of command did not find any humor in our levity. The enemy continued to punish that Tango and late in October of 69, the sergeant was killed in action and the Army retrieved their light and jeep.

A technique that was perfected on the Vinh Te Canal was the use of the MK-19 grenade launcher for indirect fire spotted by another boat in ambush. Often, ambush sites had limited distance vision due to tree lines or low brush lines. By elevating the grenade launcher, a boat that could see the target could talk the fire in by such exact terminology as "up a little, down a little, come left a little," etc. Combined with the infrared spotter, it was an effective

device in stopping many crossings out of Cambodia.

Unconventional Underway Operations



Just as the RAC proved versatile in static operations, their utility was exercised with success in underway operations as well.

Interdiction, "float ops," and transportation services were amongst those operations.

On the Vam Co Te and Vam Co Dong Rivers, sitting in ambush was a dicey proposition so the RAC usually stayed underway and joined the interdiction efforts of the PBRs in attempting to stop infiltration out of the Parrot's Beak into South Vietnam. The slow RAC had the advantage of being able to stand and fight if fired upon and had weapons that could be used without spraying the whole countryside with ammunition. Enemy fire from a hooch could be addressed with the Zippo or possibly a beehive 105 round (set with no delay) without wiping out a whole village or spraying the neighboring province with .50 cal. rounds. When underway, the RAC were loud and made their presence known at some distance. Enemy units attempting to cross the river often squatted down in the brush on the shoreline and waited for the boat to pass and then slipped across in a sampan. They had learned early-on what the profile of the Zippo looked like and did not fire on that boat. We had some success in floating a Tango downstream making a lot of noise and having the Zippo hang back and wait for the enemy to fire at the Tango. When Charlie ducked into his spider hole to avoid the Tango's response, the Zippo moved in and filled the spider hole with napalm. The enemy in the Delta was NOT a slow learner. They figured that out pretty quickly and we all became bored with just floating down the river every night knowing that they were crossing despite our efforts. Finally, we devised a technique that nobody believed. We sent the Douche Boat (appropriately named Irma) out at night floating and hosing down the bank closest to the Cambodian Border. When the enemy got a blast of water that could knock a hooch down, he often responded by firing his weapon... and the Zippo was right behind Irma!

We got information from the Army intel folks that the interruption of supplies out of the Parrot's Beak had caused the enemy to try using a heavy duty rope across the river to "high-line" supplies. It was lowered when boats passed. We began to troll the river with our minesweeping gear. It was a simple chain with angle iron welded to it at a 45-degree angle. On the first night, the trolling boat caught a rope and pulled

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SOLD OUT

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using the shuttle, please contact Angela Jordan ajordan@adamsmark.com or 317-381-6107.

Back-up Hotel at The Days Inn

Our backup hotel is the Days Inn Indianapolis Airport. It is three blocks from the Adams Mark at 5860 Fortunate Circle W, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Room rates are \$79.00 per night. To make your reservations, call the hotel at (317) 248-0621. Mention that you are making reservations under the Mobile Riverine Force Association. Be sure to give the reunion dates (August 30 through Sunday, September 2).

The hotel provides complimentary airport transportation and free shuttle to and from the Days Inn to the Adams Mark. Overnight parking is free for guests; extended parking rates are available. A complimentary hot buffet breakfast is offered daily, and the hotel has an on-site restaurant and lounge. Complimentary USA Today is available weekdays in the lobby. Guests can go for a dip in the seasonal outdoor pool.

Property Amenities: Located 2 miles from the airport, this hotel is 4 miles from Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Conseco Field and the RCA Dome are 6 miles from the hotel. Downtown Indianapolis is 8 miles away.

Restaurant: PK's Restaurant, serving regional favorites daily. *Full American Breakfast Buffet Daily *Luncheon Specials *Dinner fare for the light to hearty appetite *Room Service Available. **PK's Lounge *Serving wines, brews and spirits.

If you have any questions about the Days Inn, please call and ask for General Manager Dennis Anderson at (317) 248-0621.

Grilled Sirloin Strip Steaks with Mustard Marinade

Grill or broil these flavorful sirloin strip steaks.

INGREDIENTS:

1/3 cup olive oil
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
1/4 cup dry red wine
2 cloves minced garlic
1 teaspoon dried basil
2 tablespoons hot & sweet mustard or bold & spicy
1 tablespoon ketchup
2 pounds boneless sirloin strip steaks (4 steaks, 1-inch thick)

PREPARATION:

Combine oil, vinegar, wine, garlic, basil, mustard, ketchup in large, or shallow bowl. Add steaks. Marinate for 1 hour, or cover and refrigerate overnight (recommended).

Grill steaks on oiled grill rack over hot coals, or broil-pan rack; about 5 minutes per side for medium rare. Serves 4.

2007 Reunion • Indianapolis, IN • August 30-September 2

Schedule of Events

Registration: Starts at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 30 to 9:30 a.m.
Friday, Aug. 31.

Large Hospitality Room:
Snacks and Beverages - Open daily beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Products Sales: Held in the Large Hospitality Room beginning at 9:30 a.m. daily.

Raffles: Daily, we'll have a 50/50 (TV-VCR-CD player combined) and MRF Wall Clock by member Bob "Pops" Nichols of the 3rd/60th. Plus the MRFA and Vietnam-Indochina Tours In Country Tour Announces a Grand Prize drawing for a ****Free 10-day Ground Tour of Saigon and the Mekong Delta****.

From the Delta to the DMZ Dance:
Complete with a DJ. Dance the night away September 1 from 20:00 till ???



Dean Ayers "Pig Out": Friday, August 31 at 1700. Guest Speakers will follow the "Pig Out".

The Red Cross's **Emily Strange** (Dong Tam, 1968-69) Back as a speaker by popular demand! Read more about Emily at www.emilydd.com.



Vice Admiral Emmett H. Tidd (USN Ret.) - In May 1969, then Captain Tidd, reported as Chief of Staff and Aide to then Vice Adm. Zumwalt who was Commander United States Naval Forces, Vietnam and Chief, Naval Advisory Group, Military Assistant



Command, Vietnam. Read more about Vice Adm. Tidd at www.mrfa.org/VADM.tidd.htm.

Lieutenant General George A. Crocker (USA, Ret.) - LTG

Crocker's military career includes two combat tours in Vietnam, first as a rifle platoon leader with 3d Platoon, "C" Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division (Mobile Riverine Force/ 1967-68) and second tour, with the RVN 42d Ranger Battalion, Can Tho. Read more about LTG Crocker at www.mrfa.org/LTG.Crocker.htm.



Rear Admiral Donald K. Bullard (US Navy Active) - Rear Admiral

Bullard is Commander, Naval Expeditionary Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Read more about Adm. Bullard



at www.mrfa.org/RADM.Bullard.htm.

Memorial Service: Will be held at 10:00 a.m. September 1 with Chaplains LTC Jim Johnson (US Army Ret.) 3rd/60th 9th Inf Div. and Captain Richard MacCullagh (US Navy Ret.) ComRivFlot-One.

Hall of Champions - Hospitality Rooms:

River Assault Divisions 91-92-111-112-131-132-151-152-153 - Harry Hahn
2nd/47th Infantry - Bob "Doc" Pries
2nd/60th Inf. - Jim Lehne - "Come Join Us Men!"
2nd/39th Infantry, Cal Meyer, Main Hospitality Room
3rd/47th Infantry - 1st Sgt Jack Armstrong
3rd/60th Infantry - Bill Cunningham
4th/47th Infantry - Roy Moseman
USS Benewah (APB-35) Bill Manville
USS Colleton (APB-36) Bill Manville
USS Guide (MSO-447) - Joe Pocs
USS Mercer (APB-39) Bill Manville
USS Nueces (APB-40) Bill Manville
USS White River (LSMR-536) - Larry Hunter
Museum Room - Bob (Doc) Pries & 2nd/47th

Join us at the MRFA & 9th Infantry Division Golf Tournament

All Members and their Guests are invited to join us for 18 holes of Golf. Ladies too!

Where: Bluff Creek Golf Course, 2710 S. Old 37, Greenwood, IN 46143, (317) 422-4736 or fax (317) 422-5571.

When: August 31 with a 10 a.m. tee time. Shotgun Start, Scramble Format, Foursomes, with each player having one drive count on the front and back nine holes regardless of distance. The course will take care of the start, Fun Holes, and Final Scoring for us.

Uniform of the Day: Hawaiian shirts and Bermuda shorts. Cigars are optional. Let's look festive because it will be "5 O'Clock Somewhere" (Alan Jackson/Jimmy Buffet's song).

Food: Each player will be issued (3) Food Chits ("Tickets" for you Army guys) to spend on chow at the turn. There will be Burgers, Brats, Hot Dogs and Chips with Cold Drinks. The drinks are free.

Registration: Dave McCann and Lee Daley will work with Bluff Creek on providing a person on Wednesday, August 29 and Thursday, August 30 to be at the Adams Mark Hotel for pre-registration. Dave and



Lee will also be at the booth to help answer all questions.

Players can also register the day of the Tournament at the golf course. We'll do our best to keep players in Foursomes who want to play together.

Cost: \$40 per player for 18 holes of golf, which includes a cart. - PLUS MUCH MORE!

Prizes: There will be prizes provided for (3) "Fun Holes." There will be two prizes for Closest to the Pins on 9 and 16 and one prize for the Longest Drive on the 18th hole.

More prizes for the Best Foursome. We will announce the tournament winners (foursome) at the reunion that night as part of the activities, with outstanding prizes awarded to each of the four players.

Beverages: the cost of the tournament include "Unlimited Beverage Cart Privileges." There will be plenty of water, soda, and adult beverages available out on the course.

Logo Golf Balls: A "Sleeve" of (3) Logo Balls will be issued to each player at time of registration - Either with 9th Infantry Division or MRFA logo.

Shuttles: We are still working with the Adams Mark. People needing rides to the course and back to the hotel can check in with us at registration on Wednesday and Thursday. We will get the players to the course and back home. Adams Mark will still have a slight charge per person per van. I believe there will be guests who will also want to take players to the course in their own vehicles? Someone has already asked me about that. More information can be found at www.bluffcreekgolf.com.

Contacts for the event:

David G. McCann (M-6) (406) 442-8168 or bdalmcc@bresnan.net.

Orville "Lee" Daley (USS Askari) leethebaker@gmail.com.



The MRFA and Vietnam-Indochina Tours Announce Grand Prize

Free 10-day Ground Tour of Saigon and the Mekong Delta

Cost: \$2 a ticket, on sale in Indianapolis. Grand Prize drawing is Sept. 1 at the Delta to the DMZ Dance. You must be an MRFA member to participate. Winner must use ticket, it cannot be exchanged or given to someone else. You must be present to win.

Operated by Vietnam-Indochina Tours, providing tours to Vietnam for 12 years. For more info contact: Vietnam-Indochina Tours, info@indochinatours.com, tel: 360-570-2096, Olympia, WA.

Ground Tour Includes:

- ◆ Tours of: Saigon, Cu Chi, My Tho, Dong Tam, VC Island, Tan An, Ben Luc, Can Tho & Vung Tau
- ◆ 10-nights three-star hotel accommodations
- ◆ All breakfasts
- ◆ All airport transfers and private air-conditioned ground transportation
- ◆ Private guide and private tours
- ◆ All admissions
- ◆ All boat transportation
- ◆ In lieu of the Mekong Delta tour, \$1,000 towards the cost of a ground tour to I and II Corps can be substituted.
- ◆ Saigon and IV tour can be customized. Contact Vietnam-Indochina Tours at info@indochinatours.com for details.
- ◆ Valid for travel between: 1 Sept. and 30 Nov. 2007 or 1 March and 30 Nov. 2008.
- ◆ Non-transferable, non-redeemable for cash.

The tour is a private tour. Price includes: single occupancy hotel accommodations as indicated on the itinerary, all breakfasts, all airport transfers, private air-conditioned ground transportation, all boat, ferry and train transportation as noted, admissions to all noted attractions, daily English-speaking guides except where noted, and accommodations for guides and drivers.

Ground tour operated by Vietnam-Indochina Tours, who have been providing tours to Vietnam for the past 12 years.

For further information, contact Vietnam-Indochina Tours, Olympia, Washington, (360) 570-2096 or contact Vietnam-Indochina Tours, Olympia, Washington, (360) 570-2096; contact them by email at info@indochinatours.com. The cost does not include: Visa costs, airport departure taxes, meals other than breakfast, and items of a personal nature. Tour does not include transpacific airline flights.

Bon Voyage!

Visit the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial

The Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Admission is free. Other information can be obtained by visiting the IPALCO Enterprise web site or by calling them at (317) 261-6646. Get more info by visiting www.medalofhonor.com/memorial.htm.



A CORRECTION FROM THE EDITOR TO THE WINTER EDITION

Report to LTG Fulton Riverine Communications Nathan Plotkin LTC (USA Ret.). Albert just to remind you about my article in the *River Currents* winter 2006 edition, the name of two of the people were wrong. One was, as stated in the article, LT Now, the correct name is LT. Noe. The other as stated in the article was SFC Archer, the correct name is SFC Arter.

LTC Nate Plotkin (USA Ret.)

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, located 5 miles northwest of downtown Indianapolis on the grounds of the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway, is recognized as one of the most highly visible museums in the world devoted to automobiles and auto racing. In 1987, the museum and Speedway grounds were honored with the designation of National Historic Landmark.

Constructed of pre-cast cement and Wyoming quartz, the facility encompasses 96,000 square feet of museum and administrative office space. Museum display space measures approximately 30,000 square feet. A glass canopy above the main display floor provides year-round natural light. The building also houses two Speedway gift shops, the track's photography department, and other offices.

An air-conditioned snack shop and departure area for bus tours of the historical 2.5-mile oval are located near the museum's front doors. About one-third of the museum's estimated 250,000 annual visitors tour the museum during May, the month of the annual Indianapolis 500-Mile Race.

Approximately 75 vehicles are on display at all times and roadster.

The Hall of Fame Museum also displays the equipment and methods used for timing and scoring the Indianapolis 500 from the first race to the 21st century, including a viewer-activated computer presentation that explains the progress through the years and trophies, honors, and awards from around the world.

For a more visual taste of the Indianapolis 500, the museum offers visitors the 48-seat Tony Hulman Theater, featuring a 20-min. presentation of rare historical footage and Indianapolis 500 highlights.

The Hall of Fame Museum is open 364 days a year (closed Christmas Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and features extended hours to reflect open gate times during May activities. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for ages 6-15, and children under age 6 are admitted free. For more information, contact the museum welcome desk at (317) 492-6784.



Unconventional Boats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

somebody who was hand tending it into the water. Next success was hooking a rope that had been secured to a tree, pulling the tree into the river.

One Tango boat had the large psyops speakers onboard. The psychological warfare group gave us some cassette tapes of Chinese funeral music and Vietnamese text about horrible things that had befallen the enemies of Saigon. It was recorded with electronic distortion and contained graphic details of dismemberment and a poor soul doomed to roam the earth looking for his missing body parts to enter Heaven. Some of the young Vietnamese sailors assigned for training would hide below when we played it. Apparently, the enemy was more perturbed by country music that was also played. The boat was fired at more when it was playing Willie Nelson than when they used the tapes provided.

Unconventional Life Style

Living on the boats in remote areas did give rise to some inventive thinking. We towed a fuel barge around with us and somehow liberated a stainless steel PBR fuel tank that we placed on the fuel barge and filled with fresh water when we got alongside a ship or YRBM. There were no shower facilities at most of the sites so we were able to rig the 671 engine water-cooling system to discharge into a shower head on deck. Revving the engine produced a reasonable facsimile of a shower that was surprisingly warm. The single problem in the small canals was that while showering, it was prudent to watch the intake to make sure that large pieces of contamination were not entering it. In Vinh Gia, our "base" was just downstream for the town privy. I can remember showering with soap in my eyes and never losing sight of the intake.

Boats in the far reaches of the Delta were at the very tag-end of the Navy supply system. It was difficult to establish just exactly who was responsible for our support. We were eligible at times for a "five-finger discount" on certain military and repair items. We traded with the Army for uniforms and 105 Willie Peter and beehive ammunition that the Navy never seemed to have. We were able to order submarine deck shoes (Keds) and got them. They filled an order in triplicate giving us a wonderful trading cache. Probably one of the most shameful practices that occurred was when a boat was at the YRBM and a supply ship showed up, the crew would dress in dungarees and join the working party and walked right through the YRBM and deposited desirable food items on their boat. Even Navy canned hot dogs and dried lyonnaise potatoes were a break from C-rats and LRPs. This unique supply source ended when one of our groups filched a box destined for the ship's store

that contained closely controlled items. The boat didn't get halfway home before it was recalled and the hospitality of the YRBM was severely curtailed.

The difficulties and dangers of the assignments and the courage and inventiveness of the boat crews and their support personnel were the fibers that produced a stellar combat record and knitted the proud brotherhood that we have today.

In Lynchburg, Virginia, there is a monument stairway that honors the veterans of all wars. An inscription there reads:

"I stood up, I showed up.

I stepped forward,

I raised my right hand.

I stood in the gap,

I walked in the fire.

I did not dodge,

I did not evade.

Consequently,

I have nothing to prove,

No one to convince.

Those who matter already know.

Those who don't, never will."

Author unknown

Editor's Note: The attached art work that Mike Connolly has provided with his article came from Bob Smith, a fellow "River Rat" and a talented Navy Combat Artist. The art work is titled, "Night Ambush from Tango Boat (ATC) Vinh Te Canal Nov 69 Cambodian Border." Mike Connolly has learned that Bob Smith is deceased. The art work was Bob Smith's rough draft and a gift to the author, Captain Michael B. Connolly USN (Ret.).

Mike Connolly served as Commander of RivDiv-132 from May '69 to December '69 and Commander of RivRon-13 (TF-117) from January '70 to June '70.

Election of MRFA Officer's Positions

The following Officer's positions are up for election: President, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Chairman and Treasurer, and Products Chairman.

The election will be held Friday evening prior to the speakers, Aug. 31. You must be a member of the MRFA to run for office. Positions are good for 2 years (until the 2009 reunion). If you would like to run for any of these positions, send your name and unit to Secretary Bob Stumpf, PO Box 216, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328 prior to Aug. 1, 2007.

Veterans Service Officers

MRFA Veteran Service Officers Al Holtan and Paul Kasper will have a table in the large hospital room with brochures and other info. Stop by and see them if you have questions or need assistance.

**MRFA****REUNION REGISTRATION****PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUG. 22, 2007**

NAME: _____

UNIT: _____

NAME(S) OF WIFE, FAMILY AND/OR GUEST(S): _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL: _____

QUESTIONS: CALL 828-464-7228 OR EMAIL: MRFA@CHARTER.NET**NOTE:**

There will be a \$25.00 charge for all returned checks. Cancellations prior to the reunion will be charged a \$10.00 processing fee.

Be sure to enclose your check or money order payable to MRFA with this form. Send to:
MRFA Reunion, 106 Bellevue Dr. NE., Conover, NC 28613

REGISTRATION INFO	QTY.	COST	TOTAL
MRFA MEMBER Registration Fee: Included with your registration, you will also receive a complimentary registration for one (1) guest (spouse, girlfriend, significant other, etc).	1	\$35.00	\$35.00
Additional Guest(s): Additional guests include children and/or friends, etc. Note that this fee is applicable to each additional guest.		\$10.00	
Non-Member Registration Fee: If you served as part of the MRF (1F-115, 116 or 117, the 9th Inf. Division or any other Army or Navy supporting unit), but are not a member of the MRFA , this fee applies to you.		\$50.00	
GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED			

VIETNAM IRONCLADS FROM JOHN CARRICO

John Carrico Publishes the *Ultimate Pictorial History of U.S. Navy Riverine Craft in "Vietnam Ironclads"*.

John M. Carrico, of Brown Water Enterprises (www.brownwater.net) releases *Vietnam Ironclads*, the definitive reference guide of the U.S. Navy river assault craft used during the Vietnam War.

Vietnam Ironclads presents a fascinating look at the specially designed armored gunboats used during the Vietnam War. This volume combines years of meticulous research with many never-before-seen photographs taken by Navy combat veterans, and from official government archives. Each type of riverine combatant is explained in its own chapter. The book begins with a historical overview providing insight into the unique challenges of America's twentieth century riverine assault force. Discover the interior details of an Armored Troop Carrier, Monitor, and Assault Support Patrol Boat. Also explore the only surviving river assault craft of the Vietnam War, a program 5 Command and Commu-

nications Boat. This book will appeal to any naval history enthusiast, scale modeler, or military veteran. 135 pages, 8.5"x11" and the cost is \$39.95.

Place an order online by visiting <http://www.lulu.com/content/751883>.

I just received Jack Carrico's "Vietnam Ironclads" and I wanted to personally thank him for the MRFA members Army and Navy.

So Jack ... thanks. This is a wonderful piece of work and a real tribute to all who served on the "Ironclads."

Having done a lot of research myself on the Navy's role on the rivers of Vietnam, it was clear that historical record of our boats, especially during 1969-70, was meager at best. You've done us all proud with this book.

With sincere gratitude,
Bill Patterson M-2, RAS-13, Seafloat, 69-70. He is a retired Captain in the USNR.

Dear Charlie

I would like to take my Bill's place as a sponsor of the MRFA. I'm enclosing a check for that purpose. I remember your dear letter and the picture you sent to us when Bill died last year. I received so many loving thoughts of him--I cannot tell you how much it means to me. All is well here. I did send some of Bill's memorabilia to Albert knowing it would be well cared for. I do not know my own plans but for now am remaining in Arlington with our little dog. Hope all is well with you. Bill is very much alive in our hearts. He was so proud of the Mobile Riverine Force! I had correspondence with Nate Plotkin who wrote the interesting article of MRF communications. I really enjoy the River Currents.

Nan Fulton, 4739 34th Rd., Arlington, VA 22207 (703) 536-3922



MRFA/9TH INF. WEBSITE www.mrfa.org

Mike Harris is our web master. He does a great job with the web site. There's information on the VA, KIA, about anything you want on the 9th, MRF, and other in-country units, patches, books, and tour info. He has it all somewhere on the site. You may contact Mike Harris if you want a book, pictures, etc., posted there. He makes the final decision on what will be posted. Contact him by e-mail mekong152@charter.net. Mike served on Tango-152-1 (68-69).

**MRFA****MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION****Charlie Ardinger**

1857 County Rd. A-14 • Decorah, IA 52101

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

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL: _____

Dates Served in Unit (mm/yr - mm/yr) _____

☐ WWII ☐ Korea ☐ Vietnam
☐ Army Member: Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon): _____
☐ Navy Member: Ship, Boat Hull Nos. or NavDet: _____
☐ Associate Member**Membership Rates:**☐ 1 Year \$15.00 ☐ 3 Years \$40.00
☐ Donation: \$ _____
☐ 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.

Get Well Wishes

We wish good health and fast recovery for each of our brothers and their families.

Member **Tom Paquette** has inoperable brain cancer. Tom served on Tango-111-8 (4/67-12/67). You may contact Tom at 2807 Village Dr, Fairbault, MN 55021, (507) 334-6340, e-mail tompauquette@yahoo.com. I'm sure Tom would enjoy hearing from his brothers at this time.

Hi guys,

First, I want to thank all of you who phoned, e-mailed, and sent cards while I was in the hospital. Your support and prayers really helped get me through it! The short version of where I am right now is what the oncologist told me--my cancer is treatable but NOT curable.

You may contact **Frank Humphreys II** at 4946 Monroe St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, 763-205-5396, e-mail a339vet@yahoo.com. Frank served in E Co 3rd/39th 9th Inf Div (11/67-8/68).

Kathryn Goudelock associate member has been in the hospital with double pneumonia. She's now home and doing much better. Kathryn is the widow of Forrest Goudelock who was KIA April 19, 1968. Forrest served with E Co 3rd/60th. You may contact Kathryn at 2403 E. Dennis Dr., Gainesville, GA 30507; (678) 617-7663.

TAPS

Those gone but not forgotten

*Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar drawing nigh -- Falls the night.*

*"Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*"Then good night, peaceful night,
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright,
God is near, do not fear -- Friend, good night."*

Hi. I am writing to let you know that my dad, **GMGC Charles C Ross Jr.** (US Navy Ret.), passed away yesterday, February 19. I know that he enjoyed talking to the guys about all that you went through and the past. He was very much looking forward to the reunion and had asked my husband just a few months ago if he would take him there and go with him.



He was looking forward to being able to go. He had colon-rectal cancer and when he was diagnosed wasn't given much time but like you all know he was a strong man and such a fighter. We will miss him dearly. GMGC Charlie C. Ross served on ASPB-132-8 (1969-70). I wanted to let everyone know and thought this was a good way and this address was on his e-mail list and I thought it would go out to all the people that he talked to from Vietnam. If anyone would like to contact me, my address is Michelle Koester, 24 Dawn Cypress Lane, Jackson, NJ 08527, (732) 276-5316, sam102288@msn.com. Thank you all for being such an important part of my dad's life. Take care and God Bless.



Wesley Howard passed away February 28, 2007, after a long illness due to lung cancer (Agent Orange related). Wesley served on the USS White River LSMR-536 (1966-68). You may contact the family at Sandra Howard, 512 S Seminole Ave., Okmulgee, OK 74447, (918) 756-9847. Wesley had made his reunion reservation and he really wanted to be with and see his shipmates one last time. May he rest in peace.

Lt. John P. Davis (US Navy Ret.) passed away Jan. 21, 2006. Lt. Davis served on Swiftboats PCFs 86 and 19 from January 1968 to June 1968. John was officer in charge of PCF-19 when she was sunk by friendly fire. PCF-19 had wounded and KIAs. John was seriously wounded and eventually medically discharged from the Navy. John attended a few MRFA reunions and you could not find a nicer person. You may contact the family at Nancy Davis, 811 Bentley Ave., Niles, MI 44446, (330) 652-3967, e-mail nld811@sbcglobal.net.

Larry Brennan passed away May 12, 2006, of lung cancer related to Agent Orange. Larry served on A-112-5 (01/69-04/69). You may contact Candace Brennan at 621 4th Ave, Camanche, IA 52730-1613, (319) 259-8816.

Thomas X. Szewczyk passed away February 14, 2007. He was proud to be a member. Tommy served in A Co. 3rd/60th Infantry (09/68-07/69). You may contact Marna at 1103 3rd St., Rensselaer NY 12144-1915.

Gary Lee Martin passed away Friday, March 23, 2007, at his residence. Gary was retired from the Keyser Police Department in Keyser, West Virginia. Gary served on the USS Okalahoma City CLG-5 prior to joining the Brown Water Navy (PBRs) River Section



532 (8/67-8/68). Gary was proud to have served his country and most proud to have served in the Brown Water Navy. You may contact the family at PO Box 286, Fort Ashby, WV 26719, (304) 298-3999.

Darrell Wayne Storck passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, March 22, 2007. Darrell served in River Division 91 on Tango-91-7 (1967-68). Darrell was wounded in action in October of 1968 and was awarded the Purple Heart. Darrell is survived by his wife Gayle Storck. You may contact the family at 113-15 Point Seven Rd., Kimberling City, MO 65686, (417) 779-1825, dws4851@aol.com. Darrell had just recently retired after 39 years of dedicated service to the United Parcel Service.

David C. Clutch passed away January 27, 2007. David served on CCB-91-1 and RivDiv 153 (69/69). You may contact the family at Mary J. Clutch, 3193 Ridge Creek Cove, Memphis, TN 38128, (901) 416-0493, ckclutch@comcast.net.

Gary Wayne Harvey PO2 passed away March 26, 2007. Gary served with IUWG-1-Unit 2 Cam Rahn Bay (1967-70). POC: Greg Witt, (321) 632-2098, greg.witt@clearcube.com.

David Lipko passed away March 2007. David served with HHQ 9th MP at Ft. Lewis, WA (72-74). You may contact the family at Diane Lipko, 200 Lambert Ter. Apt-10, Chicopee, MA 01020, (413) 534-4284, oghy@charter.net.

Rollie Gangler passed away April 12, 2007, from a sudden and massive heart attack at his home in Palatine, Illinois--he was 61. Rollie served in Lt. Jack Benedict's 2nd Platoon, C 4th/47th at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was part of the original unit when the 9th ID was reactivated for service in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, Rollie served with Colonel Tutwiler's 4th/47th Battalion Headquarters Charlie Company. As Rollie would always say, "God Bless." Contact Gail Eiden at 1307 East Cooper Drive, Palatine, IL 60074.



Donald Gene Williams (a.k.a. "Willy" Williams) passed away from cancer on February 22, 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Don retired as Chief Boatswain's Mate. He served aboard Tango 132-5 in 1968-69. May our Brother rest in peace.

Dorris S. Carter, wife of member Chief Arthur Carter (US Navy Ret.), passed away February 2, 2007. Chief Carter served on YRBM-17 Dong Tam (1967). You may contact the Chief at 416 Holiday Hills Dr., Martinez, CA 94453, (925) 372-0283, cpo77cpo@sbcglobal.net. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Linda Metcalf, wife of Delmar Metcalf, passed away from respiratory problems, February 26, 2007. Linda was a wonderful and caring wife. Linda had been a delivery room nurse for years at Mercy Hospital in Ft. Scott, Kansas. You may contact Delmar Metcalf at 624 Horton, Ft. Scott, KS 66701, (620) 223-0286, enginemd51@hotmail.com. Delmar served in IUWG-1-Unit 2 (1967-68).

Gary Speckman passed away May 19, 2007, at his home in Minnesota. Gary was a plank owner of RivDiv 91. having served on Tango-91-5 & Monitor 91-2. You may contact the family at: Rt. 4 Box 2D, Pine City, MN 55063. We shall miss Gary's smiling face and keen sense of humor at the upcoming reunion.

Captain John "Jack" F. Doyle (USN, Ret.) passed away on May 11, 2007 at the age of 67. While in Vietnam, then Lt. Doyle, was the first Commanding Officer of River Division/Section 535 from October 1967 to July 1968. Jack was very well respected by those who served under him. May he rest in peace.

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.

Lloyd W. Austin for Arthur M. Day KIA 5/8/69 D Co 4th/47 Inf

Jack Benedict for C Co 4th/47th 66-68, C Co 3rd/60th 69, and E Co 3rd/60th Inf KIA 4/7/68

Ellen Bergman for Henry Bergman C Co 3rd/34th and 3rd/60th Inf (09/68-05/69)

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

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