



River

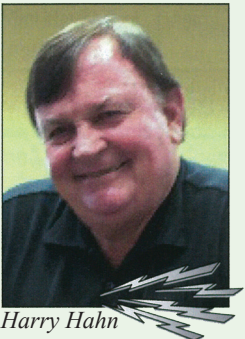
Currents



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1
SPRING 2020

Message From the Radio Shack



Harry Hahn

Hello from the Radio Shack: funny, because although I was a Radioman, besides training, I spent my entire active duty in the Riverine. Never had the opportunity to use the radio shack on a ship. So proud that I was able to serve with such a great group of patriots. Still proud to be associated with all of you after over 50 years of Brotherhood!! I returned from Vietnam March 17, 1970!

We hope that the Coronavirus that is sweeping through the U.S. passes by your house as you hunker down and enjoy some family time!! The warm weather is supposed to bring some relief and hopefully this current state of emergency will have no effect on our September gathering in California.

Our planning is almost complete for the Coronado "Gathering of the Troops" of the MRFA, September 9-11th, 2020. Right now, we are planning arrivals on the 9th, the 10th will be a trip to the Memorial on the Amphibious Base Coronado, and the 11th will be Swift Boat rides all day. Most people are departing Saturday the 12th of September. Highly important is that you make all your final plans now. That includes 1.) Making your hotel reservation, 2.) Sending the registration form to Frank Jones, and 3.) If you indicated you are making a trip to the Memorial on the Navy Base, that you either have a DOD ID, VA ID or have filled out the 5512 form for admittance. Your significant other also needs ID, so read the information carefully. The necessary forms are on the MRFA website. We will be accepting registration until July 10th. If you send in registration after July 10th, we cannot guarantee that your 5512 form will be vetted by the base in time for admittance.

This will be a great, relaxing time at a great venue. The hotel bus will take you downtown Coronado from the hotel so that you can shop or have lunch or dinner at several restaurants.

In the next issue we will have more Plan of the Day information that is more specific.

We have selected a site for our reunion in September 2021. Many of you have asked where we may have it. It will be St. Louis. More information on the 2021 reunion will be forthcoming in our next issue of the River Currents,

Harry Hahn, President, SparksRivRon13@aol.com

A Young Historian from the U.K. Journeys to the Nashville MRFA Reunion!

My trip to the 2019 Mobile Riverine Force Association reunion was a special one.

I had been talking to Stephen Kirby, a fellow collector and amateur historian, about the Brown Water Navy in Vietnam for a while. Mainly about putting a book together displaying the Insignia and uniforms used by the Mobile Riverine Force (Task Force 117). Stephen had already published a book about the River Patrol insignia of Task Force 116 Patrol Boat River (PBR) units in Vietnam, which had a great impact on me. This was inspiration for me to consider doing a similar book on the MRF, as I feel not enough light has been shined on the joint Army-Navy unit over the years. I think when a lot of people think of the Navy in Vietnam they picture a PBR like the one in the film "Apocalypse Now."

I started collecting when I was around fifteen and I am now thirty-one. Back then I joined a Vietnam collectors group in London. A lot of the guys collected 9th Infantry Division items and a small portion on the Navy. For this reason I really got into Naval memorabilia. While doing so I discovered the MRF, which blew my mind when I saw it was joint Navy and Army Task Force operating out of boats. The concept was a throwback to the American Civil War.

Ever since then I have been researching and collecting original items and trying to get more answers on the background of these items such as the unique Berets and Insignia worn by the MRF. While speaking to fellow collectors was good, I never really got the proper answers. It was mainly guess work. I spoke to a few veterans over the years who were helpful. Then I got in touch with Mike Harris



through his "Riverine Sailor" website. I told him about the project I was working on and he kindly invited me to the 2019 reunion in Nashville, Tennessee.

I hesitated for a while about attending the reunion as it's quite a daunting thought traveling over from England and walking into a room to put on a display stand in room full of veterans. After speaking to Mike again he helped assure me that all would be fine. I got myself together and booked my flight with two days to go. I was cutting it fine as the EVISTA (American Travel Visa) can take up to 72 hours to process and I only had about 48 hours, but it all worked out.

On the way over I had to change planes at JFK Airport in New York. While doing so I got to see all the framed pictures of the Medal of Honor Recipients on the wall including Mobile Riverine Force's own Thomas G. Kelley, which was a nice sobering reminder.

Finally, I met up with Stephen Kirby at Charlotte, North Carolina Airport and we drove on to Nashville, Tennessee. On the way we stopped at a Hotel to get some rest where they gave us room 117! Just like Task Force 117, which was a funny coincidence, but not the last one on the trip.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Your membership expiration date is printed on your River Currents just above your name and address.



The Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam Page. After you send a request to join the group, Bob Pries will approve your request to join the group.

Mobile Riverine Force Association Membership Application Form

New Member Associate Member Renewal Sponsor
 Donation CCB-18 Mobile Museum
 Change of address below.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY
 Postal Delivery Go Green with Email

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____
 Cell _____
 E-mail _____

WW-II Korea Vietnam
 Army Member
 Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Battery) _____
 Navy Member
 Unit (Ship, Boat Hull Numbers, Navy Activity/Detachment, etc.) _____

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

MEMBERSHIP RATES	DONATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Years \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

To become a member, mail your check or money order (payable To MRFA) to Frank Jones, MRFA Membership Chairman, 9 San Marino Pkwy, Fenton, MO 63026-7513

A Young Historian from the U.K. Journeys to the Nashville MRFA Reunion!

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Once we got to the reunion and set up our display stand in the RivRon room I started to see a lot of familiar faces that I had spoken to via email or read about in books and magazines. Even some on TV. It was like hanging out backstage with the band, only this band had about 500 members!

Everyone was welcoming and happy to answer and help with my questions. It was a great insight to sit down with the vets and have them talk me through their photo albums and tell me their accounts. They also introduced me to others including their family members.

Ironically I even had some original items with me on display that belonged to some of their crewmates as well as one women's dad!

I got to sit with people who hadn't seen each other in 50 years all talking about the same actions but with different accounts.

It was nice to witness the great camaraderie between everyone on a grand scale. After the 3 days of meeting and talking with a lot of people it was time to go home. The reunion made a great impact on me and I heard a lot of stories that I won't forget as well as meeting a lot of great people.

It's been a long time in the making, but Stephen and I are currently developing the book on the Mobile Riverine Force (Task Force 117).

It will display the insignia and patches used by each unit and boat. This is an area that we both believe that unit histories and camaraderie among soldiers and sailors can be seen through patch development and design changes over time for each unit. We are both committed to documenting these units, to include both the Navy and the Army sides of this unique force through mostly the patches, but also berets, equipment and uniforms that were used.

If anyone can help please get in touch. Anything is welcome whether it be information, an account on a patch, beret, uniform or anything unique you have you can show us and let us photograph. It important to record all this history for future historians, enthusiast and collectors so it will around in years to come. Full credit will be given to anyone who provides assistance.

I hope to see and speak to many of you in the years to come!

Take care,
 Jack
 Jack.ewing.hk@outlook.com
 Jack Ewing
 170 New Kent Road
 London
 SE14YS
 United Kingdom

From The Editor:

As this issue of River Currents goes to press, we hope and pray that everyone in our MRFA family has gone to "general quarters," battened down their hatches, dug their fox holes and are keeping a safe distance from our unseen enemy, COVID-19, the coronavirus, on the perimeter. We've been through a lot over the course of our lives; some good, and some bad. We are tough and we appreciate the blessings life has bestowed upon us. Stay safe! Stay strong! Stay healthy, and we'll see you in San Diego!

MRFA Facebook post by Charles Zies, April 1st.

APRIL 1, 1967 – WILEY WOUNDED 1

We had been patrolling in the Rung Sat. The Rung Sat was a swamp area which was used to filter supplies and men into the Mekong Delta. We were supposed to destroy everything in the area. Anything or anyone in this area was considered the enemy.

We were walking one day and we heard, "Get down!" All of a sudden this water buffalo started running up the middle of the column. It was snapping off trees with his horns. Every one of us started diving out of the way. When the buffalo got to the end of the column the machine gunner killed it.

We found storehouses of rice, a base camp with bunkers and printing presses. They were telling the people to defect. We found little jails above the ground for prisoners and animals. Everything was to be killed or destroyed.

We were walking in this swamp area one day. You would walk, look around. Walk, look around. The mud would cause your bones to be pulled out of joint. Sometimes the water would be knee deep. Sometimes the mud would be like quicksand. You would sink down in it and someone would have to pull or dig you out.

We were at the end of a patrol and our point man was tired. Our squad leader Ken Wiley took his place. The leaders were not supposed to be at the front. They were to direct from behind. Our squad leaders and Officer did their fair share of risk taking. Ken replaced Dones at point. He had only been walking a little while when we heard a loud explosion. Black billowy smoke went up in the air. That usually meant a Chinese grenade. Ken Wiley was screaming at the top of his voice.

Lieutenant Hezler crawled over where he was. They called up the medic. Ken had tripped a grenade right by his leg. Lieutenant Hezler called me up to comfort Wiley while the medic worked on him. I told him he would get to go home and be with his wife. I tried to say words of comfort but he was in terrible pain. I looked down at his leg and it looked like a perforated sieve. I told the medic he was bleeding a lot. I looked up and Lieutenant Heller was looking at me with the meanest look. I'm thinking why is he mad at me? Then I remembered. I had broken one of the cardinal rules of First Aid. He was in tremendous pain, bleeding a lot and I could have killed him by causing him to go into shock. We started cutting down trees for a landing zone. All we had was a dull machete. The copter came in and we had to lift the wounded up into the helicopter. I remember Wiley's leg dangling without support. We never saw him again. We waited several months to hear how he turned out. Several years later we found out he survived numerous surgeries, numerous bouts of infection. He kept on going. Every day is still filled with pain. He mountain climbs, kayaks and enjoys the out-of- doors. He wrote a paper called "Not on My Mother – in – Laws Birthday" about his experience. Ken Wiley's wood carving of SP4 Charlie Zies

Yesterday I was reminded of the fact that I have too much lead in my ass. The shrapnel in my hips keep them from being able to get any sort of MRI image of my hips. Same thing happened with my left leg 20 years ago. That time they actually thought the MRI was broken even

though I told them about all of the shrapnel in my legs. Life is so much fun.

KEN WILEY'S EXPLANATION OF APRIL 1ST

From my prospective, the pilot did not even have an inch of clearance to settle into. The tips of the rotor blades were constantly hitting the tops of the trees as he settled in to pick me up. Then there were so many stumps and it was so tight he stopped in a hover five feet off of the ground. Then, thanks to some really strong arms, they hoisted me into the copter. I started to breathe normally again as he got clear of the trees as we headed to Vung Tau.

The effort that everyone put forth to getting me out of there was monumental and I really do not understand how everyone was able to clear so many trees in such a short time. I truly thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for helping save my life. Every one of you did as much as even the doctors did to make me whole again or close to it.

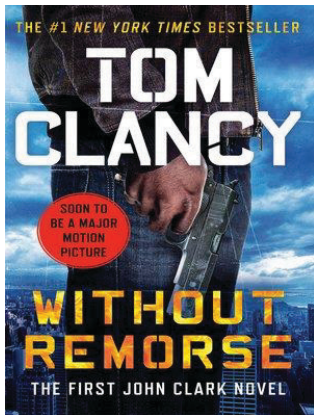
Thanks for all of the kind words about me on this day I just wish everyone could have made it back. Wow, that was 49 years ago. I don't think any of us look day older.

For those that know about my bike accident, I ended up with a broken rib, a good concussion and a lot of contusions and missing skin. I was only in the ER for about 3 hours and sent on my merry way to deal with a total state of confused with a scrambled brain. They were wonderful.

May 15, 1968

Forty-seven Viet Cong were pulverized, May 15th in a heated, daylong battle a couple miles southwest of Mo Cay. The fighting erupted at 1035, shortly after the 3/47th Infantry was airlifted into the area. When the 3/47th started taking fire, the 4/47th Infantry was airlifted to an "LZ" just west of the enemy. The two battalions closed in on the company-sized V.C. force, calling in thirteen air strikes and artillery fire. As morning dragged on to a hot and humid afternoon, the 2nd Brigade began sweeping across the battlefield, counting bodies and picking up enemy weapons. Army losses, as of 1930, in the evening, were six killed in action and thirteen wounded. Another nine were listed as casualties of heat exhaustion. Infantry accounted for forty-three of the V.C. KIA, while Air Force planes were credited with three V.C. killed and fifty-five bunkers destroyed.

Frank Springer and Tom Clancy's "Without Remorse."



In the photo on the right, Frank Springer has a paint brush in his mouth, from his just finished Mark 19 gun mount art work. To his right, is BM2 William R. Taylor, KIA, August 2, 1968.

Very early in the formation of the MRFA, Al Moore appointed Frank Springer as Executive Director, and gave him the mission to expand and promote our organization. One of the people Frank contacted, was Tom Clancy, the bestselling author of many great books. Frank wanted to offer honorary MRFA membership to "John Clark," one of Tom Clancy's two key characters. Clancy has been known to be incredibly accurate in describing military weapons and tactics. He includes personal real life aspects into his characters. Jack Ryan's wife, "Cathy Ryan," has the same education and occupation as Clancy's wife.

Tom Clancy novels focus on two key characters, Jack Ryan and John Clark, who was actually born as John Kelly. John Clark, or Kelly, was originally introduced as a secondary character, and was intended to show a somewhat "darker side" of the story material. According to the storyline and bio of John (Kelly) Clark, he was born in 1944, and served as a Navy SEAL, and part of a S.O.G. team, until coming home and going into the CIA. The John Clark/John Kelly character appeared in eleven different books by Tom Clancy. It has been said that he is the most well written, darker, more complicated character, who would do things Jack Ryan could not, or would not do.

Months went by, and Frank never heard back from Mr. Clancy, but Frank had a surprise when he purchased a hardback book of "Without Remorse," by Tom Clancy, which was published in 1993. In the book, John Kelly has a boat. The name of the boat? "The Springer!" Later in the book, Kelly confides details about his service in Vietnam. He served as a SEAL, operating with "the Mobile Riverine Force," using it as his cover for clandestine operations. John Kelly even drives a '69 International "Scout," just like the one Frank Springer actually owned. If you read one of Tom Clancy's books that feature John Clark/John Kelly, you could easily imagine him operating with the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division!

Frank Springer regrets never having sent Tom Clancy a "Thanks," or a follow up letter. We will forward a copy of this issue of "River Currents" to Mr. Clancy! "Without Remorse" is a terrific book. You and your family will enjoy it, especially its connections to our brother, Frank Springer, and the entire MRFA!

Contact the Editor

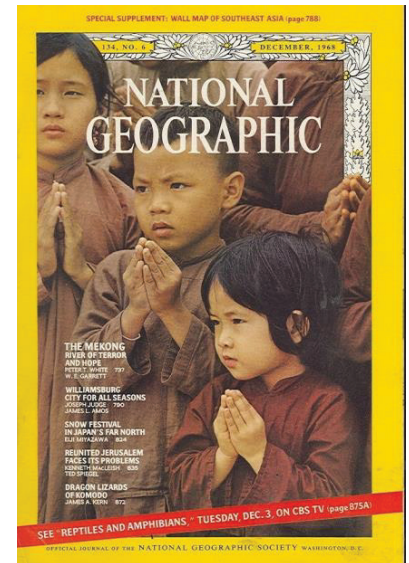
If you have questions, stories, or comments for "River Currents," please e-mail Terry Sater, at terry.s8er@yahoo.com Not all stories can be published. We want a good balance of Army and Navy stories, so please participate!

Questions:

What memory of coming home from Vietnam stands out for you?

What was your nickname, or your friend's nicknames, in Vietnam?

National Geographic Magazine, December, 1968 issue: "THE MEKONG. River of Terror and Hope."



An article in the December, 1968 issue of National Geographic began with;

"First, the war. I saw it blazing most fiercely in South Viet Nam, where the U.S. Navy's "miniature battleships," painted green and built expressly for combat along the Mekong Delta waterways, pitted their rapid-fire cannon against Viet Cong rockets made in the Soviet Union and in China.

Those deadly rockets spewed from bunkers hidden in dense greenery, sometimes along canals so narrow that the boats could not turn around. "It's like the old days," said the commodore of the River Assault Flotilla, "Exchanging broadsides at 15 to 20 yards, point-blank."

In the same magazine issue, Peter T. White, noted that the Vietnamese call the Mekong the "Cu Cu Long Giang," "The River of Nine Dragons." The Minister of Information in Saigon, Ton That Thien, explained that the Mekong actually splits into only eight primary branches, as it flows into the delta and out to the sea, but eight is an unlucky number to the Vietnamese. They were compelled to make the number either seven, or nine. They accomplished that by finding a small, narrow branch that was less than ten miles long, and made it the "ninth."

He also explained, "The Lao and Thai of the Lower Mekong Basin share a common tongue and speak of the river as "Mae Nam Khong," meaning "Mother River Khong." What does "khong" mean? Nobody can be sure. The contraction of Mae Nam Khong into Mekong was made by Westerners. The Cambodians, or Khmers, call the river Tonle Thom, The Big Water."

Sea Cobra Naval Recon Team: The Navy's Secret Weapon in Qui Nhon.

The roots of the Sea Cobra Recon Team can be traced to a concept conceived and developed by IUWG-1 Unit 3's C.O., LCDR. W. Poole Jr. in response to a growing threat by NVA/VC forces to ships in Qui Nhon Harbor. Volunteers to form a reconnaissance/direct action team were solicited. In addition to pre-deployment training in small weapons, boat handling / tactics and SERE School, in country training was provided by the U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group in Nha Trang at their MACV RECONDO School.

A summary of some of the Teams operations are as follows:

Vinh Quang Ambush, August 8, 1968.

At sunset two skimmers (17-foot Boston Whalers) with a six-man squad aboard, set out from Qui Nhon to set a waterborne ambush, west of Vinh Quang. A junk was spotted, moving northeast. The team approached to force the junk aground. Three VC slipped over the side unnoticed and lay in wait of the approaching skimmers. The team was ambushed by the VC, killing SM2 Robert Louis Bouchet, immediately. GMG3 Herman A. Miller II was shot multiple times and fell over the side. QM2 Howard Frank Burns, despite being wounded opened fire with his M60 killing/wounding the three VC. His actions saved the lives of his team. Burns died of his wounds on August 11th. His bravery and sacrifice will never to be forgotten.

QRF U.S. Army, June 5, 1969.

The Sea Cobra Recon Team's were called to assist Binh Dinh Province Advisory Team 42. The team responded to a mangrove swamp, just east of Vinh Quang. The Advisory Team arrived ahead of the Sea Cobras and inserted. When the Sea Cobras arrived a few minutes later, they could hear the gun fire ahead. The Team inserted in chest deep water and moved forward. Gun fire continued. The three PRU's and the Advisor walked into an ambush. Two of the PRU's and the Advisor were killed immediately. The Team pressed forward engaging the VC as they advanced. With the VC in retreat, the bodies of the PRU's and the Advisor were recovered. The

team reentered the water and set out to find the fourth PRU, who was spotted, a few yards ahead. He was kneeling on a plank with the barrel of an AK47 in his mouth. The VC made eye contact and fired his weapon blowing the back of the PRU's head off. The VC was immediately killed. With the last of the Advisory team recovered

aboard. With illumination flares up, the balance of the team opened fire. The firefight lasted thirty seconds, with five enemy KIA and three possible KIAs. The team was receiving automatic weapons fire from the north, with the enemy encircling the team. The team's rear security and sniper pushed to the left. The team sniper killed five of the advancing NVA, with one being an officer killed by a head shot delivered to the red star on his pith helmet. Illumination lit up the entire perimeter. Five more NVA were now KIA by M79 HE.

The NVA opened fire from concealed positions on the west bank of the Phuoc Mai Peninsula. Boats now in position joined the fight with their 30 cal. Browning machine guns and



Sea Cobra team members (right to left), Jernigan, Ousler, Gryga, McGrath & Cole.

the Team extracted. Several Sea Cobra Team members were awarded Bronze Stars for their actions that day.

Snake Island, September 19-23, 1969.

On the first day, at sunset, the Team departed Vinh Quang to recon a mangrove island 1.5 clicks to the southeast. They noted the terrain features, and returned to Vinh Quang.

The second day, at sunset, the team departed Vinh Quang with two skimmers and a seven man squad. As they reached Target Island, they heard what sounded like mud being packed into place, and two males talking freely. They arrived at the island's southern point with two enemy following twenty-five meters out. The team took a security halt. All was quiet as the team set its ambush. One sampan with four enemy aboard entered the kill zone. The team opened fire, killing two and wounding two others. The team was extracted with the enemy WIAs to Vinh Quang, to treat the enemy WIAs and interrogate them. Prisoners were one male and one female. The male named Vo Van Ba, a schoolteacher, born in 1918. He disclosed the presence of NVA sapper and VC logistical units on Snake Island.

On the third day, they got underway at sunset with two boats and an eight man squad. Their target was "Snake Island." The team inserted at 0150, and observed four enemy approaching from the southwest, twenty meters out. The team sniper opened fire, killing two of the four

40MM H.E. from their MK18 Honeywell grenade launcher.

The enemy reinforced their flanking force. On route to the extraction point the Grenadier was bayoneted in his left thigh. He delivered head strikes from the butt of his M79 grenade launcher, shattering his attackers face. With all Team members now safely aboard the boats, artillery called in on the island and peninsula's west bank. B Battery, of the 41st Field Artillery pounded the area with 105 H.E. and W.P.

Intel evaluation reported by Binh Dinh TOC revealed that the Sea Cobra Recon Team had engaged the NVA's E2B Sapper Unit consisting of twenty-five members, and effectively eliminated them as a viable fighting force.

Teams Combat Record:

During the period of July 1968, through May 1970, the Sea Cobra Recon Team conducted 125 other operations. Team losses were 3 KIA, & 5 WIA. Confirmed enemy losses were 28 VC/NVA KIA, 15 VC/NVA WIA and 13 VC/NVA CIA. Thirty-four bunkers, six spider hole complexes, and three tunnel systems were destroyed. Five AK 47s, seven SKS rifles, one 9mm French machine gun, twelve Chicom grenades, & several thousand rounds of 7.62 x 39 ammo were captured.

The Sea Cobra Recon Team was the only one of its kind in the history of the United States Navy.

Ned Arcouette RD3 USN 1968-1972
Sea Cobra Recon Team Member

The Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam



Hey Brothers, check out our Facebook page, “The Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam” Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195572170458597/>

Our Facebook Group is dedicated to all Army and Navy men who served with pride and distinction in a place called the Mekong Delta. Be it on water or land, they all served their country. Whether they were on a Monitor or making a helo assault, setting an ambush on a lonely, quiet, dark night, walking through waist-deep water in a rice paddy, riding a tango boat up a narrow canal, or at anchor in the middle of a brown-water river for long hot hours. Places like Dong Tam, Tay Ninh, Snoopy’s Nose, the Cross Roads, Ambush Alley, My Tho, Rach Kien, Plain of Reeds, Parrot’s Beak, Tan An, Nha Be or Ben Tre and names like Colleton, Washtenaw, Windham, Benewah, Westchester, Satyr, Askari, PBR, and Swiftboat are names and places we’ll never forget.

This group is to preserve a living memory of all those who served in the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam.

Many friendships from days past have been renewed because of our group page. It is a great place to make connections with others who served with the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division.

A few rules are in place to keep order in the group. They are:

1. Politics and religion are the fastest way to start an argument and cause hard feelings and absolutely have no place on this page.
2. We expect members to treat each other with respect.

We hope you enjoy the group.

In Brotherhood,
Doc Pries - MRFA Vice President and Group Admin



IF YOU PLAN ON VISITING THE VIETNAM UNIT MEMORIAL MONUMENT (VUMM) – YOU WILL NEED TO FILL OUT SECNAV FORM 5512-1 IN ORDER TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE BASE

SECNAV 5512-1 form is NOT required for any person who has a DoD ID card

(Retired Military, 100% disabled Veterans and their spouses should have this card. Spouse must present an up-to-date Temporary DoD ID card)

Any Veteran who has a VA Health Services Identification Card (now accepted after Jan 1, 2020). Spouse will still need 5512-1 form.

SECNAV 5512-1 form IS required for: All adults (18 and older) who do not have a DOD or VA Health Services card.

This must be filled out and sent with your MRFA event Registration Form if you are going on the base memorial tour.

Send to Frank Jones
9 San Marino Pkwy
Fenton, Mo., 63026

The last date for submitting this form is July 10th.

NO 5512-1 FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JULY 10th.

The Form asks for:

Employment Activity Information – This is for people accessing the base for employment purposes. Leave blank.

Item 25 – Base Sponsor. Write in VUMM. Sponsor Phone: 760-458-0439

Please get these to us as soon as possible so we can get them in to be approved for our visit. Thank you

Frank Jones
MRFA Treasurer Membership Chairman /
Reunion Coordinator
314-303-2730



**2020 MRFA & 9th Infantry Division
Gathering of the Troops
Registration Form
September 9-11th, 2020
Loews, Coronado, CA**



This is NOT your Hotel form. make Hotel Reservation separately

**This form and 5512 forms must be filled out and sent in to
Frank Jones no later than July 10, 2020**

I have DOD ID or
VA ID

Name _____

Yes/No

Unit in Vietnam _____ Dates _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ or Cell _____

E-mail _____

Send my registration confirmation to me by e-mail Yes No

No guests First reunion

I have DOD ID or
VA ID

Name(s): Spouse/Guest(s) (1 at no charge)	City	State	Yes/No
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Registration fee: Cost includes member and 1 /spouse/girlfriend (\$55)

(Does not cover lodging, food, bus trips, or shuttles)

Total number of other guest(s) _____ x \$25 ea.

Guests under 16 are free \$ 0 Fee

Bus to Memorial = \$20 (Also **SEE REQUIRED SECURITY FORM**) \$ 0 Xtra Guest

PCF - Swift Boat Ride per person fee = \$35 per person \$ 0 Bus to Memorial

Nonmember registration fee (\$80) \$ 0 Boat Ride

Late member registration fee: (\$75) Non-member (\$100) Grand total enclosed \$ 0

Please send this form and 5512 **Security Form for each person listed on this form who does not have a DOD or VA ID** along with your check or money order, payable to the MRFA or Mobile Riverine Force Association to:

Frank Jones
9 San Marino Parkway
Fenton, MO 63026
314-303-2730
mrfatango48@gmail.com
by July 10th, 2020.

Returned checks and cancellations prior to the reunion will be charged a \$25 processing fee.

Note: You will need to check in at the MRFA registration desk to receive your name tag.

MRFA GEAR LOCKER

www.mrfa.org

FREE SHIPPING
ON ORDERS OVER \$60

Unit Patches

These full color embroidered patches vary in size from 2 to 3" in diameter. Long lasting brilliant detail make these items a must have for every collection.

\$7.00



UP001 MRF Mekong Delta (white anchor)



UP002 MRFA Vietnam



UP003 MRF Mekong Delta (yellow anchor)



UP004 9th Inf Div (no words)



UP005 9th Inf Div Vietnam



UP006 9th Inf Div Vietnam Veteran



UP007 RAF TF 117



UP008 RAF One



UP009 VCCC (blue)



UP010 VCCC (brown)



UP011 VCCC (silver)



UP012 Combat Boat Captain



UP013 Combat Boat Crewman



UP014 RivRon 9



UP015 RAD 91



UP016 RAD 92



UP017 RAD 111



UP018 RAD 112



UP019 River Squadron 13



UP020 RAD 131



UP021 RAD 132



UP022 RivRon XV



UP023 RAD 152



UP024 Riv Div 153



UP025 MRF 3/47



UP026 3rd/60th Inf



UP027 39th Inf



UP028 47th Inf



UP029 USS Benewah APB-35



UP030 USS Colleton APB-36



UP031 USS Mercer APB-39



UP032 USS Nueces APB-40



UP033 USS Benewah Logo



UP034 USS Mercer Logo



UP035 River Raiders



UP036 River Rat



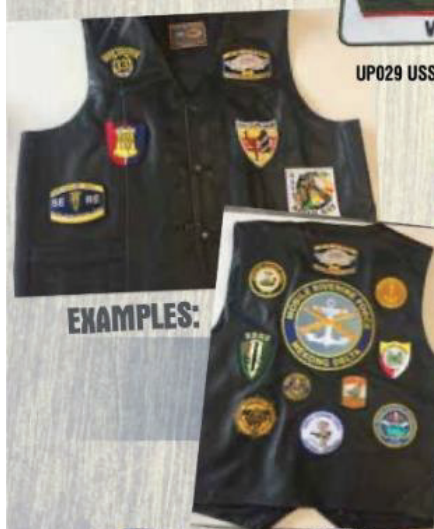
UP039 Brown Water Navy



UP041 MRF Vietnam Veteran



UP042 RAS 13



EXAMPLES:

Jumbo Patches

Enormous 9" diameter patches, a must have for your favorite jacket or shirt!

Full color embroidery is bright and brilliant. **SPECIAL SALE: \$8.00**



JP001 MRFA Vietnam



JP001a MRF Vietnam



JP002 MRFA Vietnam



JP002a MRF Vietnam



JP003 MRF Mekong Delta



JP004 9th Inf Div Vietnam



JP005 9th Inf Div Vietnam Veteran



Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipients – Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division



* P = Posthumous

- Sammy L. Davis, 2nd/4th Arty., 9th Infantry Division
- Edward A. DeVore, Jr., B Co., 4th/39th, 9th Infantry Division * P
- James W. Fous, Co. E, 4th/47th, 9th Infantry Division * P
- Don J. Jenkins, 2nd/39th, 9th Infantry Division
- Leonard B. Keller, 3rd/60th, 9th Infantry Division
- Thomas James Kinsman, B Co., 3rd/60th, 9th Infantry Division
- George C. Lang, 4th/47th, 9th Infantry Division
- David P. Nash, 2nd/39th, 9th Infantry Division * P
- Clarence Eugene Sasser, 3rd/60th, 9th Infantry Division
- Raymond R. Wright, 3rd/60th, 9th Infantry Division
- Thomas G. Kelley, River Assault Division 152, MRF

About the Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor was established by Joint Resolution of Congress, 12 July 1862 (amended by acts 9 July 1918 and 25 July 1963). The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President in the name of Congress to a person who distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

Contact the Editor

If you have questions, stories, or comments for "River Currents," please e-mail Terry Sater, at terry.s8er@yahoo.com. Not all stories can be published. We want a good balance of Army and Navy stories, so please participate!

Questions:

What memory of coming home from Vietnam stands out for you?

What was your nickname, or your friend's nicknames, in Vietnam?

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Excerpts from “Charlie Company, Vietnam 1966-1972, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division”

“The U.S. military is no different. During the 1930s, the War Department did its best to develop several kinds of compact, long-lasting rations that could feed men in combat.

One was the C-ration, first issued in 1939. It was three cans of different meat and vegetables—field manuals of the time described the contents as having “the taste and appearance of a hearty stew”—and three cans containing crackers, instant coffee and sugar.

It wasn’t Mom’s home cooking, but it was filling. Each complete C-ration contained about 2,900 calories and sufficient vitamins to keep the troops healthy.

In 1958, the Defense Department created 12 different menus. Each menu contained one canned meat item; one canned fruit, bread or dessert item; one “B unit” that contained items such as crackers and chocolate; an accessory packet containing cigarettes, matches, chewing gum, toilet paper, coffee, creamer, sugar, and salt; and a spoon.

C Rations Survey!

What was your favorite item in a case of C Rations?

What was your least favorite item in a case of C Rations?

What creative steps did you take to make C Rations more appetizing?

Send your answers to terry.s8er@yahoo.com for our next issue!

B-1 Units	B-2 Units	B-3 Units
Meat Choices (in small cans): Beef Steak Ham and Eggs, Chopped Ham Slices Turkey Loaf	Meat Choices (in larger cans): Beans and Wieners Spaghetti and Meatballs Beefsteak, Potatoes and Gravy Ham and Lima Beans Meatballs and Beans	Meat Choices (in small cans): Boned Chicken Chicken and Noodles Meat Loaf Spiced Beef
Fruit: Applesauce Fruit Cocktail Peaches Pears	Crackers (4) Cheese Spread, Processed Caraway Pimento	Bread, White Cookies (4) Cocoa Beverage Powder Jam
Crackers (7) Peanut Butter Candy Disc, Chocolate Solid Chocolate Cream Coconut Accessory Pack*	Fruit Cake Pecan Roll Pound Cake Accessory Pack*	Apple Berry Grape Mixed Fruit Strawberry Accessory Pack*

TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One

Member Frank J. Gubala passed away on March 25, 2020. While in Vietnam he served with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from February 1968 to July 1968 when he was seriously wounded and sent stateside. Frank is survived by his wife Joyce. - "Frank and I were good friends in Nam. He was wounded in July 68 and sent to Japan. Never knew what happened to him after that. In 2001 I found him and we reunited. Frank, I and our wives went to the reunions together where we re-established our Nam friendship. My wife and I will miss him." - Vincent Dellipaoli



Member Ronald D. Boyd passed away on May 1, 2019. While in Vietnam he served with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from October 1968 to July 1969. Ronald was living in Tylertown, MS at the time of his passing.



Former Member Talbot E. Walker passed away on February 8, 2020. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 11 - River Assault Division 111 onboard Z-111-7 from October 1967 to March 1969. Talbot was a resident of Pleasant Hill, MO at the time of his passing.



Member John T. "Jack" Strickland went missing during a dive expedition on the South Pacific island of Chuuk on October 23, 2019. At this time his body has not been recovered. While in Vietnam he served with Delta Company, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from October 1968 to July 1969.

Contact Changes

Please send Frank Jones any changes in address, phone number or e-mail addresses so that he can keep our database updated.

His address is: 9 San Marino Parkway, Fenton, MO 63026

Frank's e-mail address is mrfatango48@gmail.com

In Memory Of

This section is for members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one of their fallen comrades. In some instances, 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 four issues.

Wendell Affield, for Buddha Ed Thomas, Boat Captain Tango 112-11 (02/68-02/69)
 William Blauser, for Thomas Gaudet, David Land, and Jose Campos our 151 Division brothers that were KIAs
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 John and Doris Chrzanowski, in memory of SP/4 Humberto Ruiz Santiago Jr. Grenadier A Co. 4th Bn 47th Inf. Rgt 9th Inf. Div. Died of wounds 06/27/69, Kien Hoa, South Vietnam (DC Wall Panel 21W Ln 025)
 John and Doris Chrzanowski, for B Co. 6th/31st 9th Inf. Div. Troopers. KIA, B-40 Rocket, 12/13/69, Gary M. Gryzen (DC Wall Panel W15, Line 54) David A. McIntyre, (DC Wall Panel W15, Line 54) and Gary T. Phillips (DC Wall Panel W15, Line 54).
 **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, and Dennis Mattox 1st/501st 101st Abn. KIA 08/23/69
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 **From your Brothers B Co. 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in memory for John Nielsen B Co. 2nd/39th (04/68-04/70)
 Henry Velez, for my fallen brothers, B Co. 2nd/39th Inf.



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