



River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 2
Summer, 2025

Message From the Radio Shack



Harry Hahn

This President's message will be short and sweet. As we continue through 2025, we are completing our goals set out by your senior leadership. One of those goals is continuing to pare down our gear locker. So, as certain items go out of stock, you will notice that they are no longer available. Orders are slowing down. We had already removed shirts from the gear locker a couple years ago. We will continue with the popular hats and pins as long as we can. We will have remaining gear locker items at the reunion in September.

We had a barn burner "Gathering of the Troops" at the Premiere in San Diego, on March 25, 2025, for the **"The Mobile Riverine Force."** As usual, the Loews Hotel in Coronado provided a great venue for seeing your buddies. The USS Midway flight deck was decked out in its glory, with a red-carpet attendance of over 600 people for the 2 hour long Premiere. Additionally, KPBS San Diego aired the first public airing of the documentary on Memorial Day. The documentary is now available for streaming on PBS.org. (<https://www.kpbs.org/news/2025/05/23/the-mobile-riverine-force>)

Sadly, PBS cut 30 minutes off the documentary. However, the full two-hour version will be available on the DVD, which will be mailed this month.

We also attended the Vietnam Unit Memorial in Coronado, where we held a memorial service. That was the very first-



Westport Plaza

time certain members had the opportunity to attend. We thank Tom Matyn and his crew for their dedication to keeping the boats and grounds in ship shape!

Our focus now turns to our September reunion in St. Louis. This reunion will be special as we have some surprises available for the attendees. Early registration was free, along with our gathering shirt sizes for a reunion shirt. You may still attend the reunion as we are taking late "mail in" registration using the form in this newsletter. On Saturday night we will again have our "Banquet of Heroes". This event will include a great buffet, followed by a Quilts of Valor ceremony and the full two-hour

documentary on the big screen.

Westport Plaza has COMPLETED a total renovation, adding a totally new open plaza, and additional shops, restaurants and shops. Check everything out at <https://www.westportstl.com/>!

Our thanks to all who continue to make this association such a great organization. Frank and Linda Jones, Mike Harris and Terry Sater, just to mention a few. The dedication of these people makes the newsletter, membership and reunions possible.

Harry Hahn, President



Message From Arballo Entertainment

Hello There!

As you may know, The Mobile Riverine Force, had its television premiere on KPBS on Memorial Day.

Jeff and I want to extend our deepest thanks to everyone who have reached out to us with your thoughts and kind words on the documentary. Your support means the world to us as we are so very humbled

and grateful. It was always our ambition and mission to honor every Sailor and Soldier of the MRF through this film.

TV Broadcast vs. Full-Length Film

As some of you noticed, the version that aired on KPBS was 90 minutes long. While we pushed hard to get the full two-hour version on the air, we had to make cuts to meet broadcast time constraints.

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**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.*

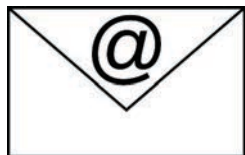
Contact Changes

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



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. All must be family friendly. We want a good balance of Army and Navy stories, so please participate!

Message From Arballo Entertainment

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The 90-minute version is available online via the PBS app, if you would like to view this version online.

The good news is that All DVDs and Blu-rays will feature the full, uncut two-hour version. That's also the version that will be shown at all future screenings and events.

The film has been sent to the duplication company, and we expect to begin shipping by the end of June. For those expecting their "perk" through donation or those that have pre-ordered will receive their copy as soon as they arrive. Thanks for your patience—we're just as excited to get these in your hands.

Posters will also be available soon on our website, with proceeds going directly toward finishing costs and helping us share the story nationwide.

www.themrfdocumentary.com

National PBS Distribution

KPBS, our local San Diego PBS station, is sponsoring us as we pursue national distribution. Once we secure that, the film will be made available to every PBS station in the country. We'll be launching a nationwide campaign to promote it and will need your help: when the time comes, we'll ask you to contact your local PBS station and request they air The Mobile Riverine Force. More details soon—stay tuned via email and our Facebook page.

Upcoming Screenings & Events

We're working closely with Harry and the executive board to plan future screenings across the country. We'll give as much notice as possible, especially for those near screening locations, so MRF veterans can attend and be honored in person.

Veterans Week – Branson, MO

We're honored to announce that both of our films—Scramble the Seawolves and The Mobile Riverine Force—will screen at the Military Film Festival during Veterans Week in Branson, Missouri (Nov 5–11).



Scramble the Seawolves – IMAX Theater, Saturday morning
The Mobile Riverine Force – IMAX Theater, Sunday morning

Admission is first-come, first-served. Veterans attend free; non-veterans pay a small fee. IMAX seats fill up fast, and overflow seating will be available. If you're nearby or planning to visit Branson, we'd love to see you there!

Virtual Discussion – July 7

Join us for a special Zoom event hosted by the Veterans Breakfast Club. We'll be discussing the film and hearing from the community. Details coming soon via email and Facebook.

Jeff and I are so grateful for your unwavering support—from production through post and now distribution. Thanks for your pre-orders and continued donations. It truly means the world to us.

We'll be in touch with more updates soon. Until then, thank you for being the very best part of this journey. We thank God for this tremendous opportunity and truly believe that the best is yet to come. And we can't wait for the adventure ahead.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly if you have any questions that we can answer.

Take care, Jeff and Shannon Arballo

COMMENTS ON THE USS MIDWAY PREMIERE OF “THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE.”

“After our tragic reception home from Vietnam in the 60’s, finally, the veterans of the Army & Navy that endured that war get the recognition, legacy, and the homecoming that we had been missing.”

David Todd, Medic, B Company,
3/47th, 9th Infantry Division, Jan
1967 to Nov 67.

.....

“I spent January, 1967 to April 1968 on the USS Colleton APB-36, one of the original barracks ships assigned to the Mobile Riverine Base of Task Force 117. I was fortunate that our ship was never attacked and the closest I got to combat was carrying stretchers from the medevac helicopters down to the surgery suites and standing watch on the flight deck over the dead in their body bags.

I knew that both the Army units and Navy boats took heavy casualties just about every time that they went out. I knew that the Army guys spent those three-day missions tromping around rice patties and suffering foot problems as a result (when they were on the ship they always wore flipflops to dry out). What I did not know was the horrors of battle that they faced. This film fills in that gap for me. It consists of two hours of interviews of the soldiers and sailors describing losing their friends, wondering if they were going to die that day and the misery of insects, snakes and trying to find dry places to sleep. The acts of true heroism that were shared in the film were very humbling to me. As I have said in other posts, I feel like I am stealing their valor when I wear my River Assault Force TF 116 cap. However, I have always been very

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proud of the Colleton's role supporting the mission of these heroes.

Thanks to everyone involved in creating the film and arranging the premier on the Midway."

Tom Scott FTG2, Gunnery Division, USS Colleton, APB-36, San Diego, CA 92128-3025
858-486-6033 (h), 619-384-9042 (c)

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"I cannot say how much this movie means to me and my family. My widowed daughter-in-law, Michele, and my two grown grandsons, Connor and Riley, who live in Escondido, Ca. joined my wife, Anne and I who flew out from Orlando, FL. for the premiere on the USS Midway. First, the venue was suburb. I have taken my son, Matt, and my grandsons to the Midway on numerous outings over the years the grandsons were growing up. We even met an original Midway crew member while touring the engineering spaces years ago. A 1966 classmate from the USNA, Harry Thaete, is a docent aboard the Midway.

But let me say something about the film. It honored all the folks it needed to honor. All those boat crews; all those soldiers. As a young line officer and the Operations Officer for the USS Colleton (APB-36) from June '68-June '69 (and GQ OOD/Conning Officer for General Quarters transits) I was humbled to get pieces of the history that I had not heard before much less seen personally. After the premier, my family and I returned to my daughter-in-law's home in Escondido buzzing about the film. I did my best to fill in the personal side of things from my experiences and perspectives as a Colleton officer.

The next day I used the MRFA website to connect with the Naval Historical Command and downloaded all the ship's logs from my arrival to the Colleton to her return to CONUS in late '69 after I had rotated home. I have spent hours poring over them trying to connect the dots between the log entries and some of the events described in the movie with which I was not personally involved. I will continue this process to try to understand the scope of the movie and the breadth of the events covered.

I have also promised myself to write my own story of being a ship's officer on the Colleton and the experience of piloting the ship up and down the Mekong as well as navigating for repair trips to Sasebo and Subic in the fall of '68. I am growing painfully aware for the first time that the USS Westchester County may have been our replacement ship while we were in that much-needed repair voyage to Japan/Subic. I hope to determine, if in fact, those mines would have been meant for our ship had we not been absent for repairs.

All in all, the more the facts come out, the more blessed I feel to have played the support role that I did for such an amazing group of sailors and soldiers. It is truly a brotherhood. God bless the MRFA. I am sure that my Vietnam experience preceded by destroyer ops in TF 77, and subsequent service in TF117, contributed to my aspiring to be and then becoming a Navy Clinical Psychologist. I have spent a major portion of my life trying my best to serve military personnel and veterans. There is no one on "God's green earth" more deserving of all the praise I can muster."

Herschel Hughes, Jr., Ed.D.
CDR, MSC, USNR (Ret.)

• • • • •



"This is Anita Bernier, Pete's wife. Here are my thoughts about the recent gathering in San Diego for the documentary premiere:

Our two sons and three daughters came from many different locations to join us in San Diego for the premiere of the documentary "Mobile Riverine Force."

We were so proud to have them with us, especially since this was the first time in 3 years that we were all together.

At this gathering, our children learned so much more about their dad...not only about

his service in the Navy in Vietnam, but also what the MRFA organization means to him.

As their mom, and as Pete's wife, it was gratifying for me to see."

Anita Bernier



Peter Bernier, Elise Bernier, David Bernier, Anita and Pete Bernier, Julie Bernier, Joanna Bernier Nelson, Kate Bernier (Pete's wife)



• • • • •

I served with B Co., 3/60th, '68-'69. Our company was on the Westchester the night it was mined. The navy lost 18 men, 2 ARVNs died, and Bravo Co. had 5 infantrymen who drowned in diesel fuel in the bottom berthing compartment on our side of the ship. Bravo members have managed to go back through our guy's old records, and formed a list of over 100 men who served in B company during the three years we were in the delta. We have had reunions every two years since the 1990's, and just had one last October, in San Antonio. There were 45 of us vets, and around 100 friends and family. One of our Bravo brothers, Ed Eaton, wrote a book, 'Mekong Mud Dogs' which you may be familiar with. Ed attends all of our reunions and was at our last one. I saw your post on Facebook about the showing of the documentary, and would really like to

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see it. hopefully the dates and times that it will be on tv will be posted so that we can all view it. Also, I have read a lot of the books that you have suggested for reading, and appreciate your reviews about them. please keep us informed. stay healthy my MRF brothers.

Dan Hendricks



MRFA Recipient Information - *all fields are required except county and nickname*

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Preferred Name: _____
Street Address: _____
Address Line 2: _____
City, ST, Zip _____
County (if known): _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____
Discharge Status: ☐ Honorable Conditions ☐ Dis-Honorable Conditions
☐ Army ☐ Navy
☐ Coast Guard ☐ Other _____
Dates of Service (year to year): _____
Discharge Rank: _____

E.g.: E1-E10, WO1-WO5, and O1-O10

Our Mission Statement: *To cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.*

Please use space below signature to provide information about locations of service (e.g., stateside, deployments, countries). Example: France, Germany, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Beirut, Granada, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Somalia, the Middle East, anti-terrorism operations and terrorism attacks against Armed Forces personnel. You may also provide comments about the nominee regarding unit or ship assignment, duties or responsibilities while serving, experiences, or other information that will help personalize and make the ceremony meaningful for the recipient. Please add service location, duties, medals/ribbons or any other information you would like to share to help make the award ceremony more personal for all involved. **Add extra sheet if necessary for all information.**

I certify that I have read the QOVF Mission Statement, and affirm the information I provided is accurate.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO

Name: Ginger Fondren
Group Address: P.O. Box 103, Gladeville TN 37071-0103
Email: ginger.fondren@QOVF.org



**2025 MRFA & 9th Infantry Division Reunion
Registration Form
9/18/25 TO 9/21/25
(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)**



Name _____

Unit in Vietnam (1 unit only) _____ Dates _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name - Spouse/Significant Other _____ City _____ State _____

Name - Additional Guests _____ City _____ State _____

Send my registration form to me by e-mail Yes ☐ No ☐ First reunion ☐

Registration is for member and 1 guest (Does not cover lodging, food or drinks)

\$75 for Member - Nonmember Registration \$100. ON SITE/LATE REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS: (\$125) NON-MEMBERS: (\$150) MUST PAY WITH A CHECK!! NO CASH!! THURSDAY AND

\$ 0
\$0, 75 or \$100

FRIDAY 1PM TO 2PM. PLEASE SIGN UP AT CHECK-IN TABLE.

Total number of other guest(s) _____ x \$ 25 ea. **Guests under 12 are free \$ 0**

Grand Total Enclosed \$ 0

Shuttle to Soldier's Memorial, Gateway Arch, St. Louis Zoo and Hollywood Casino, Old Town St. Charles on a first come, first serve basis. Shuttles will operate on Friday (10am to 4pm) and Saturday (1pm to 5pm). Shuttles are free! St. Louis Zoo is free!

***Bus to Vietnam Wall in Perryville on Friday, Sept. 19 at 10am. Number of passengers _____.**
BUS RIDE TO PERRYVILLE IS FREE, BUT YOU MUST SIGN UP WHEN REGISTERING!!*

Please send this form with your check or money order payable to the MRFA. Mail to MRFA 2025 Reunion, C/O Frank Jones, 9 San Marino Parkway, Fenton, MO 63026 before 9/1/2025

Full refund for cancellations will be made until 9/1/2025. After this date NO REFUNDS will be made. Returned checks will be charged a \$25 processing fee.

Note: You will still have to pick up your name tag and lanyard at the check-in table. There will be no admission to hospitality rooms without your name tag and lanyard. NO EXCEPTIONS! CHECK-IN WILL BE OPEN ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, 9AM TO 5PM AND FRIDAY, SEPT. 19, 9 AM TO 1PM.

Only activity on Sept. 21st is breakfast and checkout!

ONLY SEND THE FLIGHT FORM IF YOU ARE DISABLED AND NEED ADA TRANSPORTATION! Please fill out the 2025 MRFA Reunion Flight Form and send to Frank Jones

**FREE
SHIPPING**
ON ORDERS OVER \$60

NEW MRFA GEAR LOCKER

www.mrfa.org

Cotton Hats

Cotton hats with embroidered patch on front. Adjustable back.

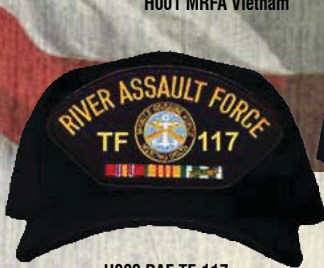
\$25.00



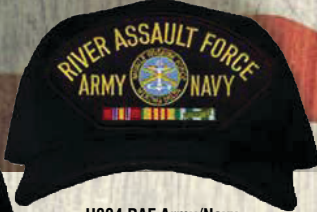
H001 MRFA Vietnam



H002 9th Inf Div Vietnam



H003 RAF TF-117



H004 RAF Army/Navy



H005 Old Reliables
9th Inf Div Vietnam



H009 39th Infantry Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/39th, 3rd/39th, and
4th/39th 9th Inf Div)



H010 47th Inf Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/47th, 3rd/47th, and
4th/47th 9th Inf Div)



H011 60th Infantry Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/60th, 3rd/60th, and
5th/60th 9th Inf Div)

Mesh Back Hats



H017 Combat
Infantryman



H018 Purple Heart



H022 Silver Star
w/black 6"x3" patch
on mesh back
black cap



H020 Combat Medic Vietnam



H021 U.S. Navy Corpsman Vietnam



H023 Bronze Star
w/black 6"x3" patch on mesh back
black cap

Service Award Hats

Service Award hats are available in five styles on an olive drab base.
All cotton, washable.

\$25.00



H012 MRF PUC



H015 9th Inf. Div. Vietnam
SVC Ribbon



H013 MRF Svc Ribbon



H016 MRF CAR Vietnam

MRFA GEAR LOCKER

ORDER FORM

Qty	Model Number	Size	Unit Price	Amount
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
	Subtotal			\$
	Shipping (If order subtotal is over \$60, Shipping is FREE)			\$ 8.00
	Grand Total			\$

1. Indicate your choice of item number (be sure to include size, if applicable), with quantity, and total amount. Add amounts for grand total to enclose.
2. Make check or money order payable to: MRFA. The MRFA does not take credit cards.
3. Mail Gear Locker Order Form and check to MRFA, PO Box 271, Lake Villa, IL 60046. Email Harry Hahn at SparksRivRon13@AOL.com for questions.

HARRY HAHN
President

E-mail

General Hal Moore on Leadership in War and Peace

Thoughts on Battlefield Leadership

Three strikes and you are not out. There is always one more thing you can do to influence any situation in your favor, and after that one more thing, and one more thing after that.



- In battle, the leader must look inward asking, "What am I doing that I should not be doing, and what am I not doing that I should be doing?"
- A leader must be visible on the battlefield and exhibit confidence under any set of circumstances. The determination to prevail must be felt by everyone in the organization.
- In battle, remember that when there is nothing wrong, there's nothing wrong *except there is nothing wrong!* That is when the leader must be ready for anything.
- Prepare your unit for your death and for the loss of your next in command, and so on through the organization. At every level the Soldier must know how to take over for the person he reports to.
- Always trust your instincts. Instincts and intuition give one an immediate estimate of a situation. Your instincts are the product of your training, reading, personality and experience. If my head tells me one thing and my gut tells me something else, I always go with my gut.
- Troops perform well in combat when they have received stressful, realistic training; rigorous physical conditioning, and stern, fair and square discipline. It is equally important to meet their personal needs including food,

water, mail and information about what is going on and why.

- Soldiers in battle do not fight for what some leader says on television or in a speech. Soldiers in battle fight and die for their buddies. They do not want to let their buddies down. It is a matter of honor.

(From Special Issue "Armchair General," September, 2004. Harold Gregory Moore Jr. (February 13, 1922 – February 10, 2017) was a United States Army lieutenant general and author. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the U.S. Army's second-highest decoration for valor, and was the first soldier in his West Point graduating class (1945) to be promoted to brigadier general, major general, and lieutenant general.

Send your questions, comments, or stories for River Currents to the Editor, at:
terry.s8er@yahoo.com.

All MRFA members are invited to sign up for the MRFA e-mail list, at MRFA@gaggle.e-mail.com. To stay informed with breaking news of the MRFA. Everyone is asked to reply to sender, rather than to "All," unless specifically requested otherwise.

Find us on Facebook

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



TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One

Richard Irish

Member **Richard Irish** passed away on December 15, 2024. While in Vietnam he served with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from July 1968 to September 1969.



Davis S. Cangalosi

Davis S. Cangalosi

Member Captain **Davis S. Cangalosi** (USN Ret.) passed away on March 20, 2024. While in Vietnam he served on Staff with Commander Task Force 117 from September 1967 to December 1968. He was preceded in death by Jane, his wife of many years.



Clifford Raymond Fejfar

Clifford Raymond Fejfar

Member **Clifford Raymond Fejfar** passed away on December 27, 2024. While in Vietnam he

served with River Assault Squadron 15/River Assault Division 151 onboard T-151-4 in 1968-69. He left behind Amy, his wife of 47 years.



Ralph Jacob Fries

Ralph Jacob Fries

Former Member, **Ralph Jacob Fries** (CWO-3 USN Ret.) passed away on January 21, 2025. While in Vietnam he served with River Sections 543 & 535 from June 1967 to June 1968. Harlean, his first wife of 50 years, preceded him in death. Ralph is survived by Inez, his second wife.



Thomas William Ziegler

Thomas William Ziegler

Thomas William Ziegler MD passed away on February 21, 2025. While in Vietnam he served with as the first Medical Officer with River Assault Flotilla One from 1966-68. He established a Medical Program for the Army-Navy troops. Dr. Ziegler was predeceased by his lovely wife Elizabeth.



Henry Ralph Huthmacher, Sr.

Henry Ralph Huthmacher, Sr.

Henry Ralph Huthmacher, Sr. (GMGC USN Ret.) passed away on May 31, 2025. While in Vietnam he served aboard USS White River (LSMR-536) from 2/66 to 2/68. Henry is survived by Rena, his loving wife of 66 years.

Meaning of "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

"Fair Winds and Following Seas" is a gesture of good luck to those we will miss and sailors who have served with honor and courage. The combination of phrases implies that a vessel will have good winds, and not have to pound into the waves. The phrase can be used as a toast or salutation between mariners. It is often used at a "beginning" ceremony such as a commissioning ceremony, as well as in retirement, change of command, or farewell ceremonies.

Following seas are defined by Bowditch's American Practical Navigator as *"A sea in which the waves move in the general direction of the heading"* and can be dangerous if the winds and sea are too strong. But the mariners' traditional blessing implies that both are comfortably rolling in the same direction as the boat.

(Sources include the former Naval Historical Center and Wikipedia)

One Man's Welcome to Vietnam!

Darrel Ashlock, GMG2

First picture aboard the ammo LST on the My Tho River

Second picture was after boats were turned over to the Vietnamese and I was reassigned to Advance Tactical Support Base Tra Cu on the Vam Co Dong River.

By Darrel Ashlock, GMG2
1/26/69 and left 1/24/70.



January 24, 1969 the World Airways Jet was full of Navy Mobile Riverine trained sailors who had left the day before from Vallejo Calif. via Travis Airforce Base, approached Tan Son Nhut Air base near Saigon. We had to circle the airport because they were receiving incoming motor rounds. I don't know how long we circled but we finally landed.

As we debarked the plane in our blue wool uniforms the first thing you noticed was the overbearing heat. To quote Robin Williams character in "Good Morning Vietnam" it was "damn hot". I had on a jumper with zippers, so I was able to unzippers each side, but it didn't help much.

We were loaded on school buses which had the windows covered with chicken wire. I asked the driver why chicken wire was over the windows, he replied, to keep hand grenades from being thrown into the bus. We arrived at the Annapolis hotel where we were spending the night. We noticed they were repairing the front. A bomb laden motorcycle parked in front of the hotel, exploded and caused significant damage to the street side of the hotel.

We were assigned to our sleeping quarters and were able to change into fatigues, which was a little cooler. Before we got settled in, we were informed that we would be assigned watch times for security of the hotel. I was assigned the midnight to 4 am watch on the roof of the hotel manning an M-60 machine gun. The hotel was along the flight line medivac helicopters took to a Saigon hospital. A number of them flew over during my watch. I heard gunfire down the street, an Army jeep with a M-60 on the back flew by, responding to the threat. We could hear a fire fight in the direction the jeep went. A little later the jeep came back by with what I assumed was a dead Vietnamese laying in the back—Welcome to Vietnam.

In the morning, we boarded a bus for a ride through Saigon and the country side to arrive in Dong Tam. I was assigned sleeping quarters, until they give me an assignment, in a hooch directly across from the helo pad that was blown up a week or so later. As I explored Dong Tam, I found the EM Club.

I ran into two guys from the boat crew I had trained with, I had been put on a medical hold and followed them a couple of months later. They were waiting for their orders back to the world because they each had three purple hearts. The boat, T-151-5 had been sunk by a command detonated mine, it was thought the mine may have been a dud 750 bomb. Two of my old crew members and a Vietnamese Marine were killed. I was fortunate to have been put on the medical hold. I also ran into guy I graduated from high school with, his tour was up and was waiting for his orders to go home.

We had a bunker just outside the door to my hooch. That night as a couple of mortars were lobed into the camp, a siren went off, and we headed into the bunkers.

In Memory Of

Wendell Affield, for Buddha Ed Thomas, Boat Captain Tango 112-11 (02/68-02/69)
Ron Baker, In memory of BM2 William Comer, KIA 2/68
Serena Barnes, for Michael Barnes 2nd Brigade 3rd/47th 9th Inf.
David Wilson, 2nd/60th, KIA 08/05/69, Timothy Shelton, 4th/39th, KIA 06/25/69, Steven Murrar, 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
Donut Dollie Emily Strange, by Bill Dabel C-1 3rd/39th
Orville "Lee" Daley, for Roger Valentine, CSI USS Askari ARL 30 (1967-1968)
Bill Frede, for BM1 Guy Dail, BM3 Johnny Maness, and SN David Flamburis, T-112-2, 1967
Patrick Haggerty, in memory of CDR Charlie Cox., CO RivDiv 111, (11/67 to 11/68) and Capt. Jim Gautier, CO RivDiv 11 (12/68-6/69)
Susan Hanmer, for SFC Michael Hanmer, RivRon 13 and 153 (07/69-02/71)
Susan T. Henderson, for Ross D. Henderson, Gunner, USS Luzerne County, LST-902 (2/70-12/71)
Gordon Hillesland, for Pat Lawson, NSA Dong Tam (67-68), Mike Mosey NSA Dong Tam (67-68) and Joy Hurd (6/68)
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Jim Towey, for Jack Steinman, who saved many lives, 5/14/69 thru his heroic actions. RIP Brother.
In memory of my Brothers; B Co., 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division



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