

New 3/3 Coin



3/3 RVN ASS'N
NEWSLETTER

Issue #12

This is issue #12 of the newsletter for 3/3 Vietnam era Marines, Corpsmen, Doctors and Chaplains. We will attempt to publish this newsletter three times a year for the foreseeable future in September, January, and May. Please contact us to include or request items of interest. All submitted items may be edited for content, and may be included, if of import, at the leisure of the editor.

This newsletter sponsored by our locator site:

ThirdMarines.net

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Thanks to all who generously support this Newsletter!

The mailing of this newsletter to our offline alumni is supported by your generosity. A \$10 per coin donation is suggested. Contact Doc Hoppy for details. 3/3 Coins are 1.75" diameter



3/3 Coin #'d

2 coins only,
both sides shown

CAR not #'d

3/3 RVN REUNION 2008
July 15-20, 2008 Orlando FL
(Reminder ... again)

Due to the size of our reunions and the accommodations required, John Mick has relocated the reunion from the planned Melbourne FL locale to Orlando.

The reunion Hotel is the Grosvenor Resort Hotel (a Disney hotel), which has been renamed the **Regal Sun Resort**. Same hotel, new name.

The hotel has gone thru a \$25 million dollar overhaul from top to bottom, and the rooms and facilities are top notch.

This reunion will be very affordable. The only fees will be a \$30 registration fee (*per adult*), and a \$40 (*per person*) banquet cost. We will be looking into a child's plate for the banquet at a reduced fee...

That's just \$70 per person (*adult*)! The hotel rooms are \$89+tax per night for the courtyard rooms and \$109+tax per night for the tower rooms (*with views*). Nearly all rooms have two full beds, so room sharing will be a breeze.

Over 200 rooms have been booked by 3/3'er as of this Dec 15. Reserve a room NOW or there may be none available.

Be sure and send in your reunion registration with a check to John Mick.

If you need a reunion invitation, contact Doc Hoppy to have it re-sent. Be sure he has your current address.

See ya in Orlando!

Ham 'n Eggs?

Doc,

I have been E-mailing and discussing things I remember while with 3/3 near the end of '66 around the rock pile area and it was suggested I forward whatever I can remember of those times, to the best of my ability, so it might be included in our Battalion history.

You might title it "Ham 'n Eggs Tales".

Well, what got this started was a story I recall about LtCol Pappy Delong during heavy monsoon rains. Choppers had difficulty getting into us for resupply and what-not, During one sweep operation somebody found a live pig in a village and delivered to the Colonel. I'm sure he looked forward to a fine roasting, but he was cautious that nothing would befall his beloved pig:
He put an armed guard on the swine!

Another time during this rainy season I was to take my squad on patrol. While we were snooping and pooping as cautious and quiet as could be, a shot rang out. My men immediately hit the deck and I asked where that shot came from. To my amazement, and a bit of consternation, one of my men, Homer Cassada, told me that he saw a chicken and had aimed, shot, but missed the elusive fowl ... because he aimed for the head.

Eventually the suicidal chicken appeared again and this time was dispatched with a round in the chest. I put men on lookout and the rest of us de-feathered and put that chicken on a spit and attempted to split up what

was left of that chicken after it had taken the M-14 round. We also found where the chicken was nesting and behold there was one egg in the nest, with that egg being subsequently boiled in canteen cup and shared among us.

This story will affirm that, indeed, I certainly tried to take care of my men.

Semper Fi Fred Tenuto

HUMOR (*Good Medicine*)

Tiny Lindholm is driving around Oklahoma and he sees a sign in front of a house:

"Talking Dog For Sale."
He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard.
The guy goes into the backyard and sees a Labrador retriever sitting there.
"You talk?" he asks.
"Yep," the Lab replies.
"So,! what's your story?"

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time at all they had me jetting from country to country ,sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running."

"But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security wandering near suspicious characters and listening in."

"I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the guy says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that crap."

A man in Phoenix calls his son in New York two days before Thanksgiving and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough.

"Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her."

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this." She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, "they're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way."

There will be no Nativity Scene in the United States Congress this year! The Supreme Court has ruled that there cannot be a Nativity Scene in the United States capital this Christmas season.

This isn't for any religious reason, they simply have not been able to find three wise men and a virgin in the Nation's capitol !

There was no problem, however, finding enough asses to fill the stable.

A touching moment

A hunter and his friend were sitting in a tall tower stand near highway 481 in Maverick Co., TX, early one cold December morning.

Suddenly, a huge buck walked out over the corn they had spread in the shrub w/a tailgate feeder. Moving quickly, the hunter carefully aimed the Leupold scope on his .300 Win Mag at the unsuspecting buck.

As he was about to squeeze the trigger on this deer of a lifetime, his friend alerted him to a funeral procession passing slowly down highway 481. The hunter pulled away from the gunstock, set the rifle down, took off his hat, bowed his head, and then closed his eyes in prayer. His friend was stunned.

'Wow, that is the most thoughtful and touching thing I have ever seen you do. You are indeed the kindest man I have ever known, and I feel lucky to call you a friend.'

The hunter shrugged. 'Yeah, well, we were married for 35 years.'

12/28/07 **Stressor Letters**

I knew that something bothered me about this email, Doc. If a PTSD claimant has a CAR, CIB, CMB, or a valor award, the stressor letter is not required under VA law. All of the 3/3 veterans of our war will have the CAR.

Likewise, if the unit was involved in combat, there is a CAVC decision which requires VA to consider the unit involvement as sufficient proof of combat stressor. I can't recall the court case by name for sure but I think it was Pentecost vs. whoever the Sec. of VA was at the time.

Sorry for the delay but I was screening my saved emails and I just ran back across this one. If you are working on stressor letters for our guys, they are not necessary. BC

Reply:

12/28/07

Almost all of our guys were awarded OR should be awarded the CAR. I say almost, since there may be a few exceptions, but I'm not positive.

As far as the non-requirement of a stressor letter... this is the first I've ever heard of that. In my mind, the stressor letter is of positive benefit, since it is an opportunity to "impress" the reviewer ... about the extent of the "events" that have lead to PTSD.

Without the letter (assuming it is fairly well written and fact filled), the reviewer is more or less at a loss as to the extent of the combat stressors, and may make a lower rating based on this "lack of detailed evidence".

While the letter may or may not be "required", I would definitely advise our guys to compose one and submit it. I can provide them with a lot of detail info to assist in it's construction. I've been advised that the letter should

be no more than 4 pages. I concur under the thought that any lengthier would tend to overwhelm the reviewer.

With a "blow by blow" account of significant events and details including names of KIA's and WIA's is bound to grab the interest and sympathy of the reviewer; as opposed to a simple "I was in Nam and saw a lot of crap and now I'm screwed up." Or simply no information at all....

I've sent out literally hundreds of my "packages" to help guys with their stressor letters. All in all, I get the feedback that it was extremely helpful, and resulted in better, or upgraded, claim ratings. Kewl! Therein lies the basis for my belief that the stressor letter is of significant import.

You didn't include a copy of the email you referred to, so I'm not cognizant of the details or gist of it.

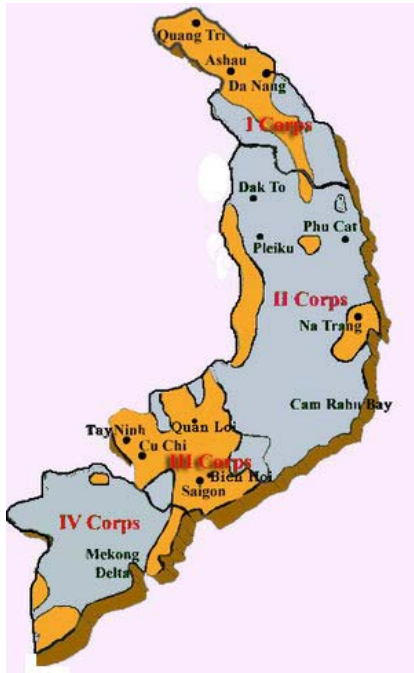
Doc Hoppy

With Sgt. Mike



"Hey, Guffy, you notice any similarity between this stuff we're standin' in an' that Vietnamese beer we been drinkin'?"

Arial Spray Map: Agent Orange



Conditions associated with Agent Orange Exposure:

(most common is, but not limited to)

Diabetes Type II

Type II Diabetes is the most common AO associated condition. Severity can range from modest glucose (sugar) intolerance, to peripheral vascular involvement and loss of limbs, kidney failure and cardiac failure.

This condition is treated by diet modification, and medical treatment.

It must be dealt with in order to limit the damage it causes. It is a compensable (VA claim) disease.

A more complete list includes:

·**Chloracne** or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne. (*Must occur within one year of exposure to Agent Orange*).

·**Diabetes Mellitus, Type II**

·**Hodgkin's disease.**

·**Multiple myeloma.**

·**Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.**

·**Acute & subacute peripheral neuropathy.** (*For purposes of this section, the term acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy means temporary peripheral neuropathy that appears within weeks or months of exposure to an herbicide agent and resolves within two years of the date of onset.*)

·**Porphyria cutanea tarda.** (*Must occur within one year of exposure to Agent Orange*).

·**Prostate cancer.**

At a minimum, an annual PSA test should be completed to screen for prostate cancer. Also, knowledge of the symptoms is of utmost importance.

There is also a genetically passed on connection with **Spina Bifida** in progeny. While rare, it has been AO associated.

All the above AO associated conditions are covered by VA Medical and are compensable.

It is important to be aware of these maladies and see the VA regularly.

Thank YOU to so many...

Along with all the post cards returned to request remaining on the mailing list, there were many coin orders and donations to support the newsletter !

Thanks to your generosity and support, there is sufficient funding available for at least 4-6 more issues .

I'm overwhelmed (*and grateful*).

I'll also be able to go back to a limited color format, which I like better than the straight b/w that was necessary due to the volume needed in the past.

Additionally, I was able to update the database addresses on many individuals. (*This cuts the cost of re-mailing so many each time.*)

We now have our database back online (internet) again. Doc Mike Brown slaved away and created all new programming to make this possible. Jim Graves provided the software support to make it possible.

The LOG IN page is at:

<http://3rdmarines.com/33MainPage.asp>

Use your last name and your old service number to log in.

All 9,600 who served with or were attached to 3/3 in Vietnam are included in the files. Over 7,000 are now accounted for, including nearly 2,000 who are no longer with us.

I'm always available (90% of the time anyhow) via phone to help you with finding contact with old buddies. Holler anytime... phone's on the back of this newsletter (new phone number).



Navy Cross Recipients 3/3 Alumni

LCpl Russell V. Almeida C/3Engr*
12/20/1965
SSgt Leon R. Burns B/1/9*
07/02/1967
LCpl Raymond D. Clay G/2/7*
12/24/1966
Cpl Robert G. Dalton K/3/3
05/25/1969
LCpl Edward Day L/3/3
08/26/1968
Cpl Mark B. DePlanche G/2/9*
01/13-14/1966
Cpl Grover L. Dickson K/3/3
11/11/1966
Cpl James R. Kelly III I/3/3
03/24/1967
HM2 Terrence E. Kierznowski K/3/3
03/24/1967
LCpl James E. McWhorter L/3/3
08/22/1969
SSgt Terrence E. Meier K/3/3
07/21/1967
SSgt Robert F. Moe L/3/3
12/09/1965
LtCol Joseph E. Muir HS/3/3
08/18-24/1965
Sgt Jame E. Mulloy HS/3/3
08/18/1965
GySgt Louis A. Pichon I/3/3
03/24/1967
Pfc Robert L. Quick K/3/3
02/07/1968
Capt John W. Ripley 3/VNMC*
04/02/1972
Pfc Roger D. Rosenberger M/3/3
06/17/1969
Cpl Robert J. Schley M/3/3
04/30/1967
Capt Bruce D. Webb I/3/3
08/18/1965
LCpl Vernon L. Yarber L/3/3
08/26/1968

* Other tour/unit

3rd Battalion 3rd Marines RVN



Unit Awards and Standard Awards

Unit Awards and Standard Awards
3rd Battalion 3rd Marines RVN
NAVMC-2922 pages 58-59
3d Battalion, 3d Marines

PUC 12May65-30Aug66 & 27Oct66-15Sep67 (1 award only)

NUC 18-23Aug65

H&S Company NUC 18-23Aug65

Company I NUC 18-23Aug65

Company K NUC 18-23Aug65

Company L NUC 18-23Aug65

Company M NUC 18-23Aug65

MUC 29Nov67-12Jan68

MUC 1May-15Sep68

NUC 13Dec68-21Feb69

MUC 12Sep83-10Oct83

NUC 14Aug90-16Apr91



Combat Action Ribbon

Authorized on February 17, 1969, this ribbon is awarded to members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard for combat action service. The principal requirement is that the personnel must have been in a ground or surface combat fire-fight, or action during which they were under enemy fire, and that their performance under fire must have been satisfactory. This Ribbon is awarded retroactive thru all years of the Vietnam War.



Presidential Unit Citation

Authorized by Executive Order 9050 on February 6, 1942, this is awarded by the Secretary of the Navy in the name of the President, to any ship, aircraft, or naval unit, or any Marine Corps aircraft, detachment, or higher unit for outstanding performance in action against an armed enemy of the United States on or after December 7, 1941. Although created as a combat award, there have been two non-combat awards authorized. To the USS NAUTILUS (SSN-571) for the first cruise of a nuclear submarine, July 22 to August 5, 1958; and to the USS TRITON (SSN-586) for the submerged circumnavigation of the world, February 16 to May 10, 1960.

(3/3 for dates: 12May1965-30Aug1966, 27Oct1966-15Sep1967 one award only)



Navy Unit Commendation

Established by the Secretary of the Navy on December 18, 1944 and awarded by the Secretary with the approval of the President, this Unit commendation is conferred on any ship, aircraft, detachment, or other unit of the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps which, subsequent to December 6, 1941, distinguished itself by outstanding heroism in action against the enemy, but not sufficient to warrant award of the Presidential Unit Citation. It is also awarded for extremely meritorious service not involving combat but in support of military operations, which were outstanding when compared to other units performing similar service. (3/3 for dates: 18-23Aug1965, 13Dec1968-21Feb1969 only)



Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation

Authorized by SECNAVNOTE 1650, on July 17, 1967, and awarded by the Secretary to any unit of the US Navy or Marine Corps which distinguished itself by either valorous or meritorious achievement considered outstanding when compared to other units performing similar service, but not sufficient to justify award of the Navy Unit Commendation. Awarded for combat or non-combat services. 3/3 for dates:

29Nov1967-12Jan1968, 01May-16Sep1968 only



National Defense Service Medal



Authorized on April 22, 1953 and amended on January 11, 1966, this medal was awarded for honorable active military service as a member of the United States Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard, between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 (Korean War period) and between January 1, 1961 and August 14, 1974, (Vietnam War Period). It has most recently been awarded to active duty military members.



Vietnam Service Medal



Authorized on July 19, 1965 and awarded to all service members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, between July 4, 1965 and March 28, 1973, served in Vietnam and the contiguous waters, and airspace, in Thailand, Laos or Cambodia or airspace in direct support of military operations in Vietnam. Personnel previously awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for services between July 1958 and July 1963 could exchange these medals for the Vietnam S. M. (add bronze star devices, and Corpsmen add FMF device)



Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation *with* Palm Leaf Device



Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States for valorous achievement in combat during the Vietnam conflict, March 1, 1961 through March 28, 1973.

This Unit Citation was awarded to all who were with III MAF units RVN.



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have served for a six-month period in Vietnam, its surrounding waters or in air support against an armed enemy in Vietnam between March 1, 1961 and March 28, 1973. The time limit is waived if the recipient was killed, wounded or captured at any before the limit.

You can remove and save this sheet for reference if desired.

Note that the Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Citation and the Navy Meritorious Unit Citation are all date specific. You must have served with 3/3 within the dates specified to rate the award.

The Combat Action Ribbon is rated if you were under combat conditions. Most all 3/3 Alumni qualify. However, most will not have it on their DD-214, since they left the service prior to it's creation in 1969.

You can submit a SF-180 to obtain an addendum (DD-215) to your DD-214, and attach it thereunto.

It is my understanding that all hands rate the VSM, VCM, and VCG w/palm, since they were awarded to all III MAF personnel.

These awards are in addition to your personal awards, such as the Good Conduct Medal and personal valor and/or performance awards.

REUNION REGISTRATIONS (as of 12/10/2007)

Guests	Dr. Elaine Tripi	Highsmith Carol	Jones Doc Nathan	Potter Warren
H & S	65 Beard Richard	68/69 Beckwith Doc Bill	67/68 Beicht Ron	65/66 Beltran Joe
	67 Blade Clifton	65 Brennan Jack	65 Bruemmer Keith	67/68 Carde Leandro
	68/69 Chatterton Robert	66 Collins Richard	67/68 Cortez John	65/66 Cross Larry
	65 DeAngelo Paul	67/68 Drysdale Walter (Dr.)	65/66 Elias Dwight	69 Findley Thomas
	68/69 Gafford Mike	67/68 Gallagher John	65/66 Germeraad Jake	67 Harrington Mike
	65 Helton Jerry	66/67 Hutzler John	66/67 Johnson Rick (AmTracs)	65 Lamkin Michael
	68/69 McMillian Dr. Michael	67/68 Parker Tom	65/66 Peterson Edward	65/66 Peterson Matthew
	65 Ponec Ken	65/66 Peterson Mrs. Meredith	65 Randall Vernon	65 Schwend Howard
	65 Sinnott Raymond	65/66 Snow Wayne	65 Terry James	67/68 Tutor Gerald
	65 Vanselow Darryl	65/66 Waszak Robert		

68/69 Watt Dale	India	69 Brostad Richard	65 Carroll John	65/66 Fink Charles	68/69 Horting Kenneth	65/66 Keller Anthony	66 Lee William	67/68 Lehrack Otto	65/66 Miller Howard	68/69 Oglesby Doc Bo	65/66 Petty Art	67/68 Pierson Charles	65 Reed James P.	69 Richardson Robert	68 Silveira Doc David	68/69 Simon Tim	66/67 Tenuto Fred	69 Thomas Jimmy	68/69 Wess Doc Michael	68/69 Whitman Steven	Kilo	68/69 Bullock Daniel	69 Burgess Harold	67 Carman James	68 Cohen Rodney	68/69 Conklin Doc Norris	65/66 Duncan Larry	65/66 Eberly Earl	65 Finlay Phil	66/67 Finley Thomas	68 Frank Don	66/67 Goza Columbus	65 Hinds Terry	65 Hinson Burt	68/69 Jeric Martin	67/68 Johnson James B.	67 Marrujo Doc Martin	67/68 Masoli Masoli	68/69 McDonald Jerome	68/69 Mucyn Michael	67/68 Newburn Richard	68/69 North Oliver
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65 Partridge Doc Jim	66/67 Poquiz Ben	67/68 Richards Bob	68/69 Rister Doc Bill	65 Roybal Ernest	66/67 Smith Cliff	68 Trupp Harlin	67/68 Ward Gerald	66/67 Wardrip Stan	Lima	69 Alexandroff Doc John	68 Armstrong Carlton	67/68 Bolson Bob	65 Boone Jesse T.	69 Braswell Glenn	67/68 Buchanan Mike	66/67 Castleman J. H.	66 Churchill Doc Paul	66/67 Devine Fred	67 Dietrich Dennis	67/68 DosSantos Arnold	66/67 Ellingwood Don	67 Gandeza Elbin	67/68 Garrett Robert	67/68 Geyza Leo	68/69 Gray Bill	66/67 Hess John	65/66/69 Ingram Jerry	67 Jewett Doc Russ	66/67 Johnson Les	65 Kidwell Richard	68/69 Laporte David	65 Littlefield LeRoy	66/67 Marlin Steve	67/68 McBride Doc John	66/67 McGowin Francis	66/67 Mixer Warren	65 Murray Frank	65/66 Nichols Daniel	65/66 Niles Wayne	66/67 Panetta Joseph	66/67 Ripley John	66/67 Schwirian Dave	68/69 Sevene Phil	67/68 Tranguch Gerald	67 Wang Robert
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68 Wray Skip	Mike	69 Armitage Charles	66/67 Austin Joseph (Chuck)	68-69 Bantle J. C.	69 Barragan Arturo	68/69 Bartholomew Bart	69 Blink Gerald	66/68 Box J. C.	66/67 Breckenridge John	66/67 Brown Doc Mike	67/68 Clarke Walter	67 Cook Joe	67/68 Cutshall Steven	68/69 Danylieko Richard	67/68 D'Aprile Tony	68/69 Dombrowski Peter	67/68 Elliott Carl "Tank"	66/67 Elrod Jack	65 Fung Vince	67 Gensor Joe	67/68 Glynn Michael	68/69 Greer Ron	66/67 Hardin Doc Rod	68/69 Hazelwood Rick	68/69 Henry Bill	66/67 Hill Gary	65 Hoeye Dennis	67/68 Holman David	69 Hoppy Doc	65/66 Johnson Dave	68/69 Kelly T. J.	68 Kenerly Bill	68/69 Kirby Edwin	66/67 Kistner Tim	68 Langrell Bobby	67/68 Lavacca Vito	66/67 Lindholm Tiny	68/69 Lundmark Steve	65/66 Maple Tom	66/67 Martinez Jose	67/68 McAdam Bill	65/66 McMann Donald	67/68 Mick John	66/67 Moffatt Bob	67/68 Morgan Curt
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68/69	Murphy	J. D.
67/68	O'Donnell	Jeff
67/68	Osterman	Doc Les
66	Palmer	George
68/69	Radonovich	Doc Mike
67/68	Rhodes	Roger
65/66	Samolinski	Richard
65	Sandoval	Ben
68	Sessions	William
66/67	Stein	James
66/67	Tapia	Ernest
68/69	Thompson	Ken
68/69	Tramonte	Pete
68/69	Trapp	Douglas
66/67	Trevino	Robert
65	Underwood	William
69	Vanbencoten	Doc Dutch
67/68	Veteto	Lee
66/67	Vratny	Doug
66/67	Wheeler	Tommy
69	Wilson	Perry
65	Wright	Larry

By publishing date in, there will be many more added. By July, (*if the pattern continues*) there could be as high as 1,000 of us (*including family members*) attend this reunion!

If you haven't signed up yet, make your plans and git'ter-done!

Our numbers are thinning, and next time may be too late to get together with some of your old comrades.

Grab your favorite grandkids and give them a treat, as Disney World is right across the street from the Hotel.

Pick up a 3/3'er on the way down, share a room. You'll never regret it!
See ya in July! ::>>

My "DsM"

I mustered out in 1970, after 4 years of service, as a PR2 (*Personnel Repairman 2nd Class - my own designation*) with my greatest sacrifice being awarded the "DsM w/combat V and TP clusters".



(*my own creation - the Dysentery Squirts Medal*) ... to recognize my great war "wound"; as close to shedding "blood" (*or a choice of other bodily fluids*) under combat conditions as I managed.

I had solved the "problem", of the entire Co. also earning the same award, a few days preceding my Medevac, although I turned out to be the only Medevac casualty ... to the best of my memory. Mike Co. was called to double time over and run security for a downed chopper, and to blow an LZ for a replacement rotor to be brought in. The entire Co. came down with the Tijuana Two Step; I surmise it was from our water supplies, which were dubious to laughable as usual.

We were on Mutter's Ridge, and had been up to the DMZ on Op Pink Panther. We moved down and were south of what I remember as Chopper Hill; Dong Ha Mountain being to our East. We arrived on the hill not having hit any water sources for a couple of days, and everyone was low on water. It was an incredibly hot day. Captain Riley eventually sent a squad down to a stream at the bottom of the hill to retrieve beaucoup canteens of water... in the meantime,

I had popped the cap on a liter of Ringer's Lactate solution (IV fluid), and we collected Kool-aid and sugar in a futile attempt to make it drinkable yet it was like drinking sea water!

Late in the evening, I had an incredible "urge", which evolved into an "explosive" event. This was followed at regular, and increasingly more frequent, intervals by even more "desperate urges" culminating in high fever, and eventually the lack of arousal from exhausted sleep... not a pretty picture! By the morning, I was less than "squared away", and having no change of trousers, ... well, let's say "aromatic" would be an 'gross' understatement. We were destined to be choppered up to run security for Arty on the Mountain and it was not pleasant for those who shared the ride with me... I'm certain.

I was Mevac'd upon arrival at Dong Ha mountain from Mutter's Ridge in latter May or early June 1969. I got off the chopper (*funny everyone else stood away from me*) and my Corpsmen found the Sr. Corpsmen with the Artillery on the hill (*I wouldn't agree to be medevac'd*) and just before the last chopper left, I relented to be evac'd... the Co. was on the hill and "safe" by then. (*I was borderline delirious and dehydrated, running a 104 fever, so am unsure of the date.*) I returned to duty after a few days, having been to 3rd Med and then sent on to DaNang to a Malaria ward. After a few days, I was on my way back up North once again.

I don't remember where or exactly when I picked the Co. back up. I do remember they didn't have my '45 when I headed back for the bush, so I arrived there unarmed, and with two

M-79 round pouches as medical bags/pack, along with flack jacket and partial basic 782 gear. (*My pack was scattered over the DMZ area a week or two earlier when we went to basic gear for a foray into the Z on operation Pink Panther in late May.*)

A couple of weeks later when I felt uncomfortable with my disarmed plight during an intense firefight, I collected a '45 which was no longer needed by its owner.

Within 3 weeks I was out of the bush, and in the rear... subsequently going to HQ Bn 3rdMarDiv and becoming Division Training Petty Officer.... I kept track of Mike Co. from there until the Division was pulling out the last of September 1969, at which point (rather than risk going down to 1st MarDiv, or stateside and piddle for a few months, I finagled transfer to FLSG-B and stayed in QuangTri until Xmas. Now this was really tough duty! I ran the movie projector at the enlisted club which was situated right across from the front door of the BAS, and we had a surveyed out Med reefer in our hooch. A far cry from my days with Mike Co. We had occasional rockets come in, but I slept in my own cubicle real comfy.

We then mounted out and pulled back to FLC in DaNang, leaving Quang Tri to the Army. Within a couple of weeks I was home and a civilian again ... although I have never really left Mike Co., no matter my travels since.



Doc Hoppy M/3/3 1969

Final Muster 2006-2007 12/28/07

H&S

JAMES P. MELVILLE. 10/11/07
Doc RONNIE E. EPPERSON 09/14/07
GARY P. WLODYKA 06/25/07
WILLIAM JOHNSON Jr. 06/12/07
KENNETH A. DILLON 05/24/07
WALTER R. Russ HAUCK 04/07/07
Doc AUSTIN RAY HENSLEY 02/25/07
PAUL E. BAILEY 02/21/07
JACK W. RUBY 02/19/07
ROBERT H. SAWYER Jr. 01/06/07

INDIA

JOHN F. SISSON Jr. 12/19/07
DAVID P. SMELTSER 08/07/07
RICHARD W. WALKO 05/18/07
CHARLES R. ENOS 03/31/07

KILO

JAMES A. WRIGHT 07/24/07
DAVID A. RAMSEY 07/15/07
WILLIAM L. BOND Jr. 06/18/07
GARY F. FERRELL 05/02/07
JOSEPH F. WALKER III 04/12/07
ERWIN B. ROBERTSON 03/22/07
ALVIN E. HAFFORD 03/10/07
HOWELL D. HUNNICUTT 02/16/07

LIMA

JAKE B. SIMS 10/27/07
WILLIAM P. ALVARADO 09/12/07
DENNIS J. FAIRFIELD 06/13/07
JOSE R. GALAVIZ 05/23/07
ALFRED H. ADAMS III 01/18/07

MIKE

TERRY A. FULLER 10/24/07
GARY C. RAUCH 09/09/07
ERNEST S. WEAVER 08/25/07
DENNIS E. MEREDITH 08/07/07
KEVIN T. SWEENEY 08/07/07
LEOREN H. MARTINE 07/04/07
JOSEPH DIXON 06/23/07
BRUCE E. ROBBINS 06/08/07
LOUIS A. ZIMMERMANN 06/01/07
CHARLES W. VAUGHT 05/17/07
TED M. DUDASH 02/02/07

12/28/07
1,895 KIA/Deceased
Total 3/3 roster RVN
9,603

This newsletter is supported basically from donations and from the net sales of our 3/3 Coins. It is mailed out 3 times per year to our 3/3 alumni, *to those requesting it*, who do not have Internet access. There is no compensation for printer costs or computers, etc. All funds are used only for basic costs of paper, inks, envelopes and postage. No one is compensated one dime for their efforts. 3/3 RVN Ass'n and ThirdMarines.net have NO dues (*we all paid those long ago!*). 3/3 RVN Ass'n Reunions are supported independently.

All issues of the newsletters are at:

<http://www.mikecompany33.com/0NewsLtr/NwsLtr.html>

The locator website is at: <http://www.ThirdMarines.net> (*roster access via this page*)

The original Bn home site is at: <http://members.aol.com/gruntusmc/index.shtml>

India Co. site: <http://www.homestead.com/dochoppyshelp/indiaco.html>

Kilo Co. site: <http://www.homestead.com/dochoppyshelp/kiloco.html>

Lima Co. site: <http://www.L33namvets.com/index.html>

Mike Co. site: <http://www.MikeCompany33.com>

There are numerous other sites by our alumni, found in the Links pages of ThirdMarines.net (above) ... as well as links to most USMC Nam units, and other sites of interest ...

If you have online access, and email, please let us know so that we can control our mailing list and keep a handle on costs. *The online version is basically identical to the printed version, and issues are archived and available online.*

I hope you enjoy our efforts, and please contact us for info on old comrades that you may wish to get in touch with. We are locating more every day, and would love to be able to send out a roster to everyone... however, there are more than 5,300+ have been contacted at this writing (12/28/2007), and the list grows daily. Too many to print, but updated daily.

Call, e-mail or write Doc Hoppy for a specific individual(s). Additionally, we may be able to provide documentation to assist with VA Claims, or obtain un-awarded PH's. We have documented over 3,400 individual Purple Hearts, 649 who were KIA with 3/3 (*or subsequent units*), and have documented over 1,200 who are known deceased since Nam. That last group is growing all too quickly.

We have Final Muster pages posted online, and they are updated as info is received.

Welcome Home!
See you in Orlando in July *Semper Fi*