



The BOBCAT Bulletin

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

For all who ever served with the "5th Infantry Regiment"

US Army's 3rd Oldest Regiment - Established 1808

"BOBCATS"

Spring 2016

Web Page Address: <http://www.bobcat.ws/>

Volume I

2016 Reunion Columbus/FT Benning GA

TUE 17 May - SUN 22 May

HI BOBCATS!!

"It's time to get ready for the 2016 Annual Reunion in Columbus, GA,



hometown to Ft. Benning, home of the Infantry. There are so many exciting things planned for this Reunion, you will not want to miss it. The dates are May 17 through 22, 2016, but the hotel has given us the block for 3 days before and 3 days after, so get there early and get things started.

Official registration starts on Tuesday the 17th and the Hospitality Room will be open for us starting then. The hotel block room rate is an unbelievable \$83 a night and it includes a free breakfast, Wi-Fi and parking. The location is great for shops and restaurants.

We are planning 3 full days of events and tours, all of which are shown on the website with the complete details, <http://www.bobcat.ws/reunions.html>. Start by going there and sending me your pre-registration form so I know you are planning to be there. This helps me when I am watching the hotel list. It is important that I get yours sooner than later, so please do that now if you have not already done it.

You will be amazed at our day at

(See Reunion on page 17)

Returning to the War Zone

Dear Relatives and Friends:

"One of the highlights of my life has concluded this past Sunday.

As most of you know, I was determined to take my sons to see where I fought the war in Vietnam during the 1967/68 period on the front lines as an Infantry Officer. Because of health reasons, my eldest son, Tom, could not make the trip but my youngest son, Chris, could go. We came back to America and landed in St. Louis on Sunday evening, 1/31/2016. I would still be in Vietnam if it were not for Chris taking care of me. Yes, I'm a 72 year old man



with health issues and old bones but I needed his assistance especially during the grueling heat of Southeast Asia. Vietnam is located close to the equator.

(See Victor on page 2)

"I'll Try Sir"

New Honorary Member

Your Board of Directors selected a new association Honorary Member. Ronnie Rains an Odessa TX businessman who was instrumental in getting a post office and a school named after Medal of Honor recipient Marvin Rex Young will be honored at our FT Benning reunion.

Ronnie becomes only the 3rd person to be named an Honorary Member.

For more information see page 19

Plaque To Honor MOH Copas

Plans are underway to have SGT Ardie R. Copas' name added to the plaque below. This plaque located in the vicinity of the 25th Infantry Division's headquarters at Schofield Barrack Hawaii contains the

(See MOH on page 9)



The Summer 2016 Newsletter will be out JUN/JUL 2016 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.

(Victor from page 1)

Even though it's winter, the temperature was in the high 90's with high humidity.

This email has many links. If a YouTube link appears please select the full screen view to get an appreciation of what is being shown.

The highlights of our trip are as follows:

We landed at Tan Son Nhut Airport on Eva Airlines. After a restful 14 hour



flight to Taipei, a 3 hour layover, and then a 5 hour short flight to Vietnam. We were picked up by our excellent tour guide Cuong Duc Nguyen. He drove us through heavy traffic as can be seen by this video to the Grand Hotel Saigon where we freshened up before going to the 68 story Bitexco Financial Tower where we saw a panoramic view of the new Saigon. Believe me, Saigon has sure changed in the almost 50 years since I was there last. After dinner we went to Saigon's Notre Dame Cathedral where Mass was being celebrated. I prayed for all the US, Allied, and Vietnam soldiers who fought the war. I also said a prayer for all the Vietnam civilians who were affected by the war. It is estimated that over 3 million Vietnamese were killed during this gruesome war.

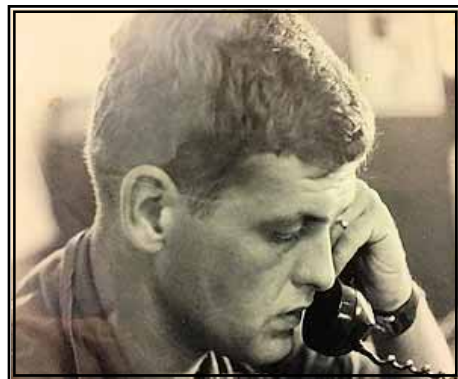
On day two of our tour after a great breakfast we headed towards the 25th Infantry Division(ID) base camp and pasted various sites were battles

where we fought during the 1968 Tet Offensive. The 25th ID base camp is now a Vietnamese army base and is off limits to foreigners including me even though I was wounded there in 1968 (My hooch (living quarters) was hit with a Chinese 122 mm rocket which nearly killed me). We drove by the Ho Bo Woods where my unit was ambushed by a North Vietnam fighting force who caused many casualties to members of my infantry unit. We then visited the Cu Chi tunnels and had lunch on the Saigon River near the tunnels. I had the honor of meeting a one armed man who was a Viet Cong (VC) Lieutenant during the Vietnam War. He was about my age and lost his arm while fighting the Americans. It was a very emotional moment for me and all I could say was I'm sorry that we caused so much destruction to his country and death to the Vietnamese people (these words were translated by our tour guide). This was the moment that brought closure for me to the war I fought during the 1967/68 period.

On day three we traveled around Nui Ba Den and took the gondola car and steps to the top to visit the Buddhist temple. It was difficult for me to climb up the hundreds of steep steps but I made it. During the Vietnam conflict, our communications relay station was on top, the VC were on the sides of the mountain and some American units along with my unit were on the bottom surrounding the mountain. Since this was considered a sacred area, we were not allowed to fire any type of weapon into the mountain. At night the VC would come down from the mountain and lay mines (IEDs) in the road or attack us. We also visited Dau Tieng, the home of the 3rd Brigade of the 25th ID which I frequently visited when I was the 2nd Brigade Assistant Adjutant.



On day four we traveled around Tay Ninh which was the home of the 1st Brigade of the 25th ID which I also visited numerous times during the war. We then traveled along the Cambodia border and near the location where I lost my first soldier who was shot across his chest by an AK47 machine gun fired by a North Vietnam Army(NVA) soldier. I will never forget this fallen soldier who always wanted to make his fellow soldiers happy and smile. We also attended a Buddhists ceremony where I had to



take off my shoes before entering the temple. We then returned to our hotel in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC).

On day five we traveled to Vung Tau where a few American and Allied soldiers spent three days of relaxing time away from the fighting of the war. Three days out of a year of fighting was great for the soldiers who deserved a break. Vung Tau is located on the China Sea located about 100 miles to the south east of HCMC. We didn't have much time but Chris at least took a 30 minute dip in the ocean. After lunch we headed back to HCMC with a visit to Long Binh which was the major port where most of our war supplies came through and then shipped throughout South Vietnam. Long Binh was turned over to South Vietnam in 1972.

On day six we visited the following HCMC areas: The War Remnants Museum, The Presidential Reunification Palace, Shopping in the Cholon Area – Ben Thanh Market. In the evening we went on a Saigon River Dinner Cruise to conclude our visit to Vietnam.

We went back to our hotel, packed our suitcases, rested, and got ready for the very long flight to America. Because of the time change and traveling west, it has taken me over two days to recover. Other than being exhausted, I'm ready to get back to a normal life."

Have a great day

Victor J. Frome, Jr.
Major, USA (Retired)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Here I am again, trying to come up with something new and exciting to tell you for this Newsletter. Well, it's called the 2016 Reunion in Fort Benning, where many of us have our own personal memories of training there.

If your time there was good, bad, or you were indifferent to your situation, this place still has something that sticks in your head. To me, I enjoyed the base and the training I went through. I developed many new friends during this time and even at my advanced age still remember many of their names.

We will spend a day at the base which many are looking forward to. We have other events scheduled and I hope you will sign up to come along. If you have not booked your hotel rooms or made your selections for meals or excursions then I urge you to get this done. Check our website for all the info.

Patti and I just returned from the Bobcat Winter Social in Florida and had a very nice time, a fine meal and a very enjoyable comedy theatre play. The turnout was low in the total of people attending but high in fun, food and laughs. We had a number of reasons for the low turnout as many had other commitments at this time or health reasons and could not come.

This is the last Newsletter of my term in office, as I will gladly relinquish this duty to Tom Frame, our incoming President. I am sure that he will prove to be an excellent choice.

Personally, I have enjoyed my time in the "top spot", and must once again thank the Board of Directors, our Reunion coordinator, and the membership for all the help and support provided to me.

In closing, I want to see all of you at Fort Benning, having a good time and

enjoying your return to the "Home of the Infantry."

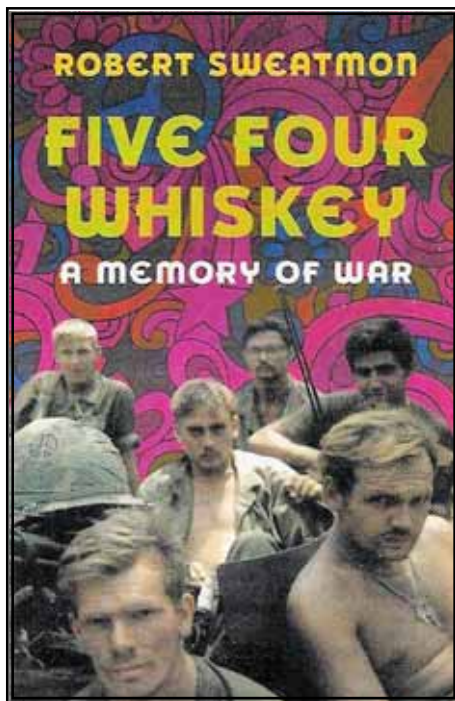
Ciao.

Bart Stanzione

A Worthy Look at a Mechanized Infantryman's Vietnam War Tour

Robert Sweatmon is a former history teacher and television actor from Texas. He also is a Vietnam veteran who has just written an excellent memoir, *Five Four Whiskey: A Memory of War*. The bulk of this well-told book, Sweatmon's first, concentrates on his 1969-70 tour of duty in the thick of things as a member of Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion, 5th Mechanized Infantry in the 25th Infantry Division.

"Stoney" Sweatmon spent many anxious hours in the war zone on night ambushes and as a machine gunner and radioman atop and inside armored personnel carriers. He saw the war at its grittiest, and was seriously wounded



when his APC was blown up by an enemy mine during the May 1970 incursion into Cambodia. Sweatmon recovered from his wounds and was sent back to the field, spending his final months on guard duty atop Nui Ba Den (Black Virgin) Mountain in Tay Ninh Province.

(See Review on page 17)

5th Infantry Association

President - *Bart Stanzione*

Vice President - *Tom Frame*

Treasurer & Quartermaster - *Jim Caudle*

Secretary & Membership - *Paul Robinson*

Historian - *Sam Kier*

Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*

Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*

Past Presidents - *Robert (Bob) Wood and Jon Cartwright*

Bobcat Board of Directors consists of the above and the following 4 elected directors:

Jon Blickenstaff

Andy Gimma

John Snodgrass

George Bates

Chaplain (Appointed) - *Myron Peterson*

Reminder !

1. Notify Paul Robinson about changes in address and phone number etc.
2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 16** (only or the last two numbers) on the address label your dues expires 31 DEC 16. Please renew now!

Reunions

Columbus/FT Benning GA ... 17-22 May 16
Albuquerque NM 2017

HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

Andy Anderson (MG-R)

Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment - Ray Barrett (CSM-R)

Distinguished Members of the Regiment

SSG Eddie Barba(1/5), Jon Blickenstaff, Joe "Red" Burdick, Jon Cartwright, Jim Caudle, Fred Deverse, James Garner, Ron Henry(1SG-R), Randy Kethcart, Sam Kier, Ralph Laubecher, Denis McDonough, Victor Mercado (CSM -R), SGT John Paul Morgan 2/5, Daryl Niles (CSM-R), Jerry Peal, Paul Robinson, Roger Smith, John Snodgrass (MAJ-R), Bob Wood (COL-R)

Honorary Members of the Regiment

Sue Caudle, Carolyn Deverse, Shannon Henry, Carolyn Kethcart, Teri Tringali

Bobcat of the Year

Roger Smith 03, Ron Henry (1SG-R) 04, Denis McDonough 05, Randy Kethcart 07, Hank Engelke 08, Gary Young 09, Joe "Red" Burdick 10, Paul Moir 11, Bart Stanzione 12, Jerry Peal 13, Jim Caudle 14, Sam Kier 15

The **red** numbers after your name on the address label tells what year your dues expires. Need to renew?

ROSTER

The Denis McDonough MORNING REPORT

Additions, Changes & Corrections

The information provided below is new since the last Newsletter was printed.

(Please let me know when any of your information like phone #, address or E-mail address changes or is incorrect. Contact Paul Robinson at:

*paulandjulier@gmail.com or
PO BOX 569, Frankfort MI 49635-0569
or 231-651-0052*

E-mail Changes & Additions:

>>>> If your E-mail address changes you need to notify us if you want to continue to receive Chapter E-mails and to have your correct E-mail address on the roster.

Baker, Stanley - Change
stanleybkr65@gmail.com

McKenna, Kenneth - New
bobcatken68@gmail.com

Lost Members:

We have no information on these members. Please contact us if you have information.

Anderson Jr., John "Andy" - He was a LT in Vietnam and is a Life member.

McFadden, Terri - A life member.

When he joined in 2013 he was active duty assigned to the 1/5th at FT Wainwright Alaska

Roster Changes/Corrections:

Kruchek, Joseph F.
8831 Debra Drive
Dunkerton IA 50626
319-822-7866
A Co 6/69 to 12/69 - Nui Ba Din
12/69 to 6/70
jtkruchek@dunkerton.net

Byrum, Fred - Changes
55 Beeman Road
Lakeview, AR 72642
618-599-7024

Wertz, Ernie - New phone number
864-993-3911

Williams, Clifford - New address: 6636
Clearfork RD, Bastian, VA 24314
& spouse; Monika E-mail address;
cwilliams064@comcast.net

Brady, LTC Edward - Address change
Unit 9700 Box 3675
DPO, AE 09830

**Is attending a one year Counter-Terrorism school in Israel (Former 2/5 CDR)*

New Members:

Harrold, Robert
19 Warwick Rd.
West Newton, MA USA 02465
617-244-3653
B Co. 68-69
bobharrold.xr@gmail.com
Comment: "Best to all Bobcats!"

Lara, Gilbert
PO Box 3584
Houston TX 77253-3584
(838) 865-4494 (or 9494 not clear)
B Co 2d PLT 3/5 INF 68-70

Maxwell, George M. (Wanda)
8125 SW 117th Loop
Ocala, FL 34481
352-414-4287
A Co, 2d PLT, 1/5th 1966-67
georgemaxwell63@yahoo.com
*George was previously a member.

Mahaffey SR, Jerry B. (Anita A.)
208 Speaks RD
Olin NC 28660-9310
704-546-2262
A Co. 1st PLT (Medic) 11/70-4/71
mahaffeyfam@yadtel.net
*Recruited by Randy Kethcart

Sweet, Lloyd (Janet)
112 Steele Ave Ext
Gloversville NY 12078
518 - 860 - 4982
C Co. 4th PLT (Mortar) 68-70
lsweet2@nycap.rr.com

Conner, Harold (Crystal)
2845 Keats Ave
Clovis CA 93611
559 - 287 - 4174
A Battery, 555th FA Battalion 8/51
-5/52 Korea
dandconner@comcast.net

Illness:

Barrett (CSM-R), Ray - In conversation with Andy Anderson I learned that Ray is now residing in a VA home.

Taps:

Melder, Norma - Of Natchitoches LA died on 9 JAN 16

On 9 JAN 16 Carolyn Visage posted:
"I just learned that Norma Melder has passed away. She was the widow of Harold Melder (HQ Recon PLT Medic 2/67-2/68), who only attended one of our reunions before his passing a few years back. I have been Norma's friend on FB since that reunion and have been following her page which posted her illness and now her death yesterday. On behalf of the Bobcats, I did put a post on

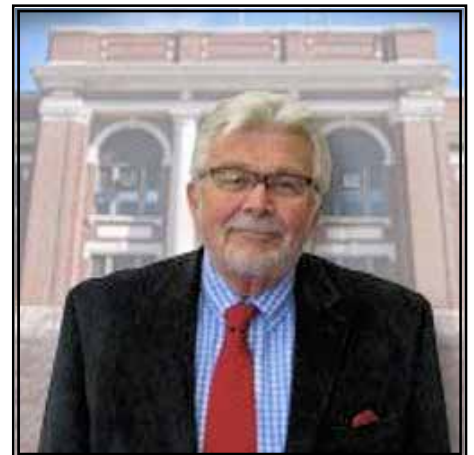


her page directed to her children and family."

* Picture of Norma is above.

Szabo, Michael M. - Richard Soja reported that Mike from Gresham OR died on 9 JAN 16 - He served with C Company in Vietnam 1966-67.

Burg, Eldon - B Company, 2nd Platoon Leader 1969-70 - "of Sheboygan, passed away peacefully 1/15/16 at his residence, surrounded by his loving family and his companion "Wego" on Friday January 15, 2016. He was born June 21, 1942 in Fond Du Lac, a son of the late Chester and Adell (Schrage) Burg. He began his educational career at Garnet School, a one room schoolhouse with 2 outdoor toilets. His educational career continued through graduation from Chil-



(See Roster on page 8)

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

Please send me your thoughts, comments, impressions, criticisms & suggestions etc. along with pictures for "your" Bobcat Bulletin!

Making an Effort to Send Pictures

In a Christmas card

Dear Fred & Carolyn,

"We hope you are having a wonderful holiday season!

Thank you for all of the effort that you are putting forth to keep the memories 'alive' in the Bobcat Bulletin.

I will make a significant effort to sort through my photos to give you something to 'fill in' the blanks in the next year.

Denis McDonough was a big help to get me to 'open up'.

You have been very generous and kind in providing extra Bobcat Bulletins etc. Hopefully I can find some photos worth sharing.

I know that you put a tremendous amount of effort into the Bobcat Bulletin. There are not enough words to adequately express our appreciation!"

Ric & Shirley Myers
Recon 67

Thanks and you too can help

Ric's appreciation of my efforts are appreciated because I do put many hours into trying to make the Bobcat Bulletin the best I can.

However without pictures like Ric hopes to contribute and stories and articles like Sam Kier, Roger Sperl and others have sent we would not have a Bulletin or it would be considerably smaller.

Help!! I had a hard time finding 'stuff' to include in the last Bulletin. So please write something about an experience you have had in the Army. It could be about anything combat, funny or tragic. Our members enjoy reading about other members and what they experienced while in the Army.

"Reunion Brought Fond Memories"

Carolyn:

"I received your email regarding the

George Chavez Retuned to Vietnam Last Year



"Having breakfast with Vietnam Vet friends - 4 of us went to Vietnam last February for a return visit." A Facebook posting by George Chavez

annual meeting. I am not physically up to making long trips so I will have to miss the occasion but do want to send a somewhat belated holiday greeting to all my fellow Veterans of the 5th. I certainly enjoyed being at Lundy's Lane and the ceremony there which brought back many fond memories with my time with the 5th RCT.

My best wishes to all for a happy healthy peaceful new Year's especially give my greetings to Sam Kier.

As we said in the 5th RCT, 'I'll try, Sir'.

Harold J. Levy, MD

TIRED . I regret that I did not ask for his name nor did I have my camera. Proud to have met this gentleman."



George Chavez "having dinner with Gary & Betty Young at Longhorn Café. Good food and good conversation."

Served in 3 Wars

George Chavez on Facebook reported:

"Had a late breakfast yesterday at Cracker Barrel. I was leaving and I noticed a elderly gentleman wearing a cap with the word Veteran on it . I approach the gentleman and got a better look at his cap. Glad I did , on his cap was the following :WW II, Korea and Vietnam Veteran . Also on his cap were pins of the 25th Infantry Division , 2nd Armor Division , Purple Heart and various other pins. I thanked him for his service at which time he proudly stated CSM RE-

Looking for Pictures of her Dad

"I came across your site a few weeks after my dad passed. His name was Wayne K. Miller and was in the 25th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mechanized), Alpha company. I am not that familiar with military nomenclature and couldn't navigate your site very well. Is there a link to pictures/information for his unit from 1967-1968 where I could find information?

Thanks,

(See Comments on page 7)

Treasurer's Report

3rd Quarter Financial Report
(1 July - 31 September 2015)

July

Income:

Dues	\$25
Quartermaster sales	\$126.50
1/5 Gala Banquet Event	\$250
TOTAL	\$401.50

Debits:

Summer Newsletter- Printing	\$520.50
Postage (Summer Newsletter)	\$168.89
Bank Service Charge	\$4
1/5 Gala Banquet Event	\$4800
Albuquerque MCM Hotel Fee	\$500
TOTAL	\$5993.39

August

Income:

Membership Dues	\$135
Quartermaster Sales	\$10.50
TOTAL	\$145.50

Debits:

Quartermaster Sales	\$82
Bank Service Charge	\$4
Prep Taxes for 2014	\$30
Postage	\$133.59
FT Benning Reunion Hotel	\$250
TOTAL	\$499.59

September

Income:

Dues	\$125
Quartermaster Sales	\$22.50
PayPal Internet Sales	\$830.10
TOTAL	\$977.60

Debit:

Bank Service Charge	\$4
Quartermaster Purchases	\$32

Book Sales (Author)	\$66.68
Filing Fee - Michigan	\$20
TOTAL	\$122.68

Assets

Checkbook balance	\$1638.16
Business Account - Savings	\$48710.63
TOTAL	\$50348.79

Jim Caudle,

Treasurer/Quartermaster

Donations to the Association

We are a 501c19 organization. Donations to our Association are tax-deductible.

Harry Van Riper - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$50
Jeffrey McGrath - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$50
Robert Drake - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$25
Kenneth McKenna - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$100
Robert Wright - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$25
In Memory of KIA Kellum W. Grant by his brother Stewart W. Grant and his sister Elen G. White (See story and picture on page 26)	\$300
George Maxwell - \$25 Reunion, \$25 Newsletter & \$25 General Fund	\$75
Abelardo Cardenas - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$25
Bill & Gail Silva - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$50
Barry G. Smith - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$25
Jenny Diaz - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$50
Albert Barkafski - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$50
Stanley Baker - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$25
Bart Stanzionne - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$100
Mary Ann Gilbert - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$25
Frank Villanueva - FT Benning Reunion Hospitality Room	\$25

Deceased veteran's ashes get shotgun salute sendoff

"ST. GEORGE, Utah — Walter "Jim" Hosey went out with a bang.

Several of them, actually.

"The Vietnam War Army veteran from LaVerkin who died Jan. 2 received a sendoff from family members and friends Saturday at the Southern Utah Practical Shooting Range in Hurricane where he had spent so much of his life.

In addition to an American Legion rifle salute, taps and the honorary presentation of the American flag to



Hosey's son Clint and daughters Emerald and Heidi, Hosey received a special kind of tribute in keeping with his personality — Clint loaded 50, 12-gauge shotgun shells with his father's ashes and fired them off with the help of relatives and friends.

"I think he got a kick out of that,"

Clint said, acknowledging that he was holding up well, but eventually realization of the family's loss "gets real."

"It's the first time for me that a veteran's or an individual's ashes were made into ammunition and then fired through a shotgun," Spilsbury funeral director Mark Heiner said after the ceremony. "But it's a fitting tribute to the way he lived."

More than 100 people gathered for Saturday's event, and many took a moment to offer condolences and a few shared memories with Hosey's children. Clint said his father didn't talk much about his service in Vietnam, and Hosey didn't even bring the medals he'd received home with him when he returned from overseas.

Instead, he concentrated on enjoying each day, and part of that included shooting guns.

**Copied from the Army Times "Daily News Roundup's" 11 JAN 16 Website*

Northwest 25th Association

Jerry Peal writes: "Fred, conducted a small Memorial service for 1st Sergeant Fortuno 10 November 2015 at our monthly luncheon. 1/5th members attending were Don Raymond (Recon 65-66), Jerry Peal (C Co. 65-66) and John Swanson (B Co. 68-69).

A picture of 1SG Fortuno is on the easel in the front row. Also pictured in the front row seated is Don Raymond to the right of the picture and Jerry Peal seated the second from the right. In the second row the 6th from the left standing is John Swanson.

Let the 1/5th members know that they too can organize a 25th Veterans group in their area.

I picked up top (Fortuno) for many years and took him to our events. I will sorely miss him and Joe Burdick. Both were founding members of the Northwest 25th Association."



(Comments from page 5)

Ashleigh Fines

P.S. My father took his biological father's given name later in life and was known as Wayne Kenneth Fines when he passed.

"Ms. Fines, I am very sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. I am forwarding this to Webmaster Randy Kethcart who is in charge of the guys from your Dad's time in Vietnam from his years and he might be able to direct you to some of the Men he served with. Once again, I am very sorry to hear of your loss. I was there in 1966 and I am going to forward this to Randy also for you. I am sure he would appreciate any photos from that time period for their website."

Butch Petit

Ashleigh,

"We would love to have your dad's pictures to add to our photo album. We could also post in our quarterly newsletter to see if any of our members remembers your father. There is a ton of information already on our website that you might find of interest. I have copied our newsletter editor on this email. If and when you digitize the photos we can make arrangements on how to get them to me.

Thanks,"

Randy Kethcart

Veteran's Day & More

Roger Hayes runs into another Bobcat

"On Veterans Day I attended a program at my granddaughter Autumn's school. I wore a jungle fatigue shirt with patches.



Afterward Autumn and I were in the

(See Comments on page 8)

(Roster from page 4)

ton High School to UW-Oshkosh (B/S; MS). Additional doctoral work was pursued at UW-Milwaukee and Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology (WSPP).

In 1968 Eldon enlisted in the US Army and graduated on the Commandants List-Infantry CS. He served in Vietnam as an Infantry Platoon Leader, receiving a Vietnam Campaign Medal (W/60 Device), Vietnam Service Medal, and National Defense Service Medal with notable awards being a Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal with V device for Valor and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was a lifetime member of Vietnam Veterans of America Post 618.

For many years he and his wife, Fran, operated Elbur Consulting which provided behavioral health services. Previously employed as a staff Psychologist; Eldon served Sheboygan County as Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Administrator-Sheboygan County Mental Health Center and Coordinator of Intake Assessment and Clinical Treatment for the Sheboygan County Health and Human Services Department. He also served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and Lakeland College in addition to being academic staff at the UW -Extension in Sheboygan.

Eldon has passionately devoted 30+ years to community service. He was a three term Alderman for the City of Sheboygan. Eldon was elected Counsel President and Vice-President in addition to serving as Chairperson of numerous committees. A founding director and first president of REACH Hotline, he was involved in community programs including the restoration of the Islander fish tug and Treasurer of Sheboygan Count Humane Society.

He and his wife, Fran, enjoyed many years of adventure and travel. Eldon was a Sheboygan Yacht Club and Elks Lodge B.P.O.E. 299 member. Eldon and Fran enjoyed sailing, motorcycling and exploring new countries together. He was musically gifted



and played multiple instruments; Drums, accordion, guitar, banjo, harmonica, and trumpet to name a few.

***Dan Curran sent this obituary to me.**

Curtis, Warren - of Bakersfield CA -

From Donna Dressler, "Warren, veteran of HHC, Recon Platoon, 1/5 from 1964 until 1967. He also was a veteran of the 25th Shotgun program. Warren died in Aug 2015.

Gillming, Marvin R. "Curly" - of

Pointblank TX died 5 FEB 16. After graduating from high school in Missouri he was drafted. "Marvin proudly and courageously served his country in Vietnam, achieving the rank of Staff Sgt.



Note on the quilt reads, "Quilt of Honor presented to Marvin Gillming - Quilting Honor and Comfort - Thanking you for your service and sacrifice"

within his 20 month tour. Most folks who knew Marv, knew he lost his leg in



the war. Marv actually received three purple hearts, among his numerous other medals."

After retiring from the Army in October 1969 he returned home to Missouri, Curly served in Vietnam from 3 MAR 68 to 11 DEC 68 in the 2nd & 4th Squad, 2nd Platoon with B Company.

***Information & pictures sent by Richard Hautekeete who said, "My Wife and I attended the funeral. I was honored to be one of the Pallbearers for our fallen brother."**

***Dan Curran also sent me information on Marvin and said, "Was one my squad leaders. Was at last reunion in New Orleans."**

(Comments from page 7)

hallway, and I was approached by someone who spotted the Tropic Lightning patch on my shoulder, and asked which unit I was with. When I said 1st of the 5th (Mechanized) Infantry, he responded, "So was I." The next sentence placed us both in Charlie Company. His name is Robert Kiehm (pronounced Keem).



We exchanged phone numbers, and over the course of the next few days I learned that he arrived in South Vietnam on 22 May 68. He had forgotten which



platoon he was in, but knew the names of several soldiers in Charlie Company's 1st platoon, so I concluded that he served with them.

On 29 July 68 he stepped on a small antipersonnel mine which ended his time with our company after only a couple months.

Tom Frame later spoke with Kiehm, and they concluded that he was on the 12 track.

That was one heck of a coincidence. The Veterans Day program was attended by--guessing--about a hundred and fifty veterans representing all

branches of the military with the exception of the US Coast Guard--no-one



stood when they played the Coast Guard song. What are the odds that two of the veterans present that day would turn out to have served in the same division not to mention the same battalion and company! And as a result we have a new comrade and friend...."

Roger Hayes

Is New Mexico Part of the Confederacy?

In February we were invited by the Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau to come and tour their area to see if we might want to consider it for a reunion.

Paul Robinson responded by saying, "....I ain't opposed to revisitin' it, but just wonder if that fits into our over-all plan of moving from one sector of the country to another...keeping a good balance. Columbus, GA ain't that far from Norfolk....not that I mind whistlin' Dixie, but it seems like Georgia to New Mexico to Virginia is a bit too much of the Confederacy for some Yankees."

And Carolyn Kethcart, our reunion coordinator, responded to Paul by saying, "Awww Paw, it's just down the road a piece....., but whatever the Board wants, I'm willin' to oblige."

And Sam Kier, our historian, responded by saying, "Hey, New Mexico was never part of the Confederacy. The Bobcats licked BG Sibley at Glorieta Pass and chased him and his boys back to Texas."

"One advantage of talking to yourself is that you know at least some-body's is listening."

-Fnkliran P. Jones

JOHN HADDOO, MEDAL of HONOR

BRANCH OF SERVICE
U.S. Army

RANK
Corporal

HOMETOWN
Some Town, MA

HONORED BY
5th Infantry Regiment Association



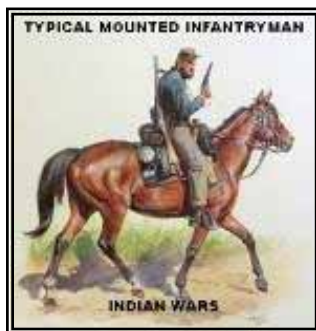
SERVICE ACTIVITY

"Corporal John HADDOO, of Company B, 5th Infantry, was awarded the Medal of Honor for the Battle of Cedar Creek and subsequent actions during the period 21 October 1876 TO 8 January 1877. HADDOO was one of 18 enlisted



soldiers to receive the Medal of Honor for these battles. He was cited for "Gallantry in Action."

The Battle of Cedar Creek (also called Big Dry Creek or Big Dry River) occurred on October 21, 1876, in the



Montana Territory between the United States Army and a force of Lakota Sioux native Americans during the Great Sioux War of 1876. The battle broke out after talks between Colonel Nelson A. Miles, Commander of the 5th Infantry Regiment, and Chief Sitting Bull broke down, and ended with

surrender of 400 Lakota lodges (with approximately 2,000 men, women, and children) to Miles six days later. US Army casualties included two killed and two wounded.

NOTE: The photograph is NOT a photo of Corporal Hadoo--rather it is a photo of a typical mounted infantryman of the Indian Wars."

*Nevin Williams made this entry on "The Registry of the American Soldier" which can viewed at:

<https://www.usarmyregistry.org/Registry/Plaque.aspx?onoreeID=569180>

(MOH from page 1)

names of soldiers of the 25th who were awarded the Medal of Honor. This plaque was made many years ago long before SGT Copas' Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to the Medal Of Honor in 2014.

It was noted by the 25th Division's headquarters that SGT Copas's name was not on the plaque and they alerted



Butch Sincock Executive Director of the 25th Infantry Division Association. Butch thought that this could be corrected by adding a small bronze plaque with Copas' name at the bottom of the monument.

Butch contacted us asking if we could fund this small plaque with SGT Copas' name. The 5th Infantry Division Association's Board of Directors voted to spend up to \$500 to have the plaque made and placed on the bottom of the monument.

Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

1/5th Soldiers Awarded the Medal of Honor

Hello,

My name is Sgt. Kyle Rehkamp, I am currently serving in 1-5 in Alaska. I am studying for the promotion board and had questions about the total number of medal of honor recipients and the name of the soldier that received two medals of honor. Any answers or where to find these answers would be gratefully appreciated.

Thank you for your time,
Sgt. Kyle Rehkamp

SGT Rehkamp,

There have been 58 awards of the Medal of Honor to members of the 5th Infantry Regiment. I have attached a list of the recipients that I revised this past year when the Korean War DSC for Leonard Kravitz and the Vietnam DSC for Ardie Copas were upgraded to the MOH. Two soldiers received the MOH twice. The first was LT Frank D. Baldwin. He was cited following the battle of Peach Tree Creek, GA in 1864 when he was serving with Company D of the 19th Michigan Infantry and then again in November 1874, during the Red River War with the Cheyenne when he was in command of detachments from Company D, 5th Infantry and D Troop, 6th Cavalry. The second honoree was another old Indian fighter, 1st SGT Henry Hogan, Company G. He was cited for his actions during both the Cedar Creek campaign and later against the Nez Perce at Bear Paw Mountain, Montana. As you are probably aware, the Medal of Honor was the only medal available for "gallantry in action" during the Civil War and the Indian Wars so that's why there were so many issued.

Now, if the question is really "how many members of 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry received the Medal of Honor, that's a little trickier. The infantry battalion was not an official working

part of the Army organization until around the time of the Spanish-American War, although there were instances when several companies were grouped together under the command of a senior captain. According to Army lineage, today's 1st Battalion descended from that Company A that was organized in May 1816. So only those men from Company A, prior to 1900, could be truly counted as members of 1st Battalion. Here's a 1st Battalion list:

CPT James Casey, Co A, Wolf Mountain
SP4 Ardie Copas, Co C, Vietnam
1LT Stephen Doane, Co B, Vietnam
SP4 Daniel Fernandez, Co C, Vietnam
SFC Melvin Handrich, Co C, Korea
CPL David Holland, Co A, Cedar Creek
PVT Fred Hunt, Co A, Cedar Creek
PVT John McHugh, Co A, Cedar Creek
1st SGT David Roche, Co A, Cedar Creek
PVT Henry Rodenburg, Co A, Cedar Creek
PVT Charles Sheppard, Co A, Cedar Creek
SGT Marvin Young, Co C, Vietnam

This response may have generated more questions than answers, if so, let me know. I hope this information will help put another "rocker" on your sleeve. (That dates me. You younger folks no longer wear your chevrons on your sleeve.)

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn.

=====

Where to Donate A Picture

24 JAN 16

Hello,

I have a watercolor painting of a soldier in a top hat. Underneath there's the shield of the 5th Light and the motto "I'll Try Sir."

This was given to my stepgrandfather, Charles Almon Hunt, a highly decorated army officer in WWI. He served in France. He retired in 1940 after serving in the War Department or College, commanding posts, etc.

I believe this painting was given to Ta by his troops--perhaps at Ft. Williams, or perhaps in the Panama Canal zone. The hand-written inscription reads "With Best Wishes from the Fifth Light

Fort."

I'm trying to figure out what institution might like to have this painting. I could give it to the Infantry Museum in Columbus, GA where Ta lived with my grandmother until his death in the 1960s, but the Infantry Museum has so much stuff. All of Ta's medals were distributed to his nephews, both army men. I gave his commissions to the Infantry Museum. One was signed by Woodrow Wilson and another by Teddy Roosevelt. What would you advise, please.

With thanks for your help."

Sincerely,

Sandra Strother Hudson

Dear Sandra,

"COL Charles A. Hunt commanded the 5th Infantry Regiment from May 18, 1938 to December 6, 1939. When he took command, the regiment was garrisoned in Portland, Maine but it was soon ordered to deploy to the Panama Canal Zone, arriving there in late October, 1939. COL Hunt was relieved by COL Louis Ford six weeks after arriving in Panama.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army will open at Ft. Belvoir, VA in 2018. It will be a wonderful facility with many galleries. Would you be able to hang on to the painting until then? There is a Maine Military Museum in Portland, Maine, but COL Hunt was there for such a short time. Panama is not an option because we no longer have an Army presence there.

Meanwhile, I would love to have a photo of the water color. What you refer to as a top hat, may be a "shako", the headgear worn by the U.S. Army in the early 19th Century and today by West Point cadets. I would also appreciate your sending me any autobiographical info about your grandfather that you might have so that I can write an article about him for our 5th Infantry "Bobcat Bulletin."

I look forward to hearing from you,"

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Infantry Regiment Assn.

"Thank you so much for answering my query. I will email you later today. Here is a poor snapshot of the small painting."

Sandy Huddon



“No, Jeff, I was wondering if the painting was of Josiah Snelling. Charles A. Hunt was a more contemporary commander of the 5th. He was a World War I First Infantry Division vet that took over the 5th Infantry Regiment in 1938 in Portland, Maine and moved it to Panama in 1939, shortly before retiring from active duty.”

Sam

“Doesn't look familiar as a painting of Snelling to me.”

Jeff Boorum

Hello there.

“This is Colonel Hunt's step-granddaughter.

No, this is not Colonel Hunt. This painting was obviously painted for him and presented to him either in Maine or Panama around 1939.

Sam Kier can tell you more than I about how Colonel Hunt commanded the Fifth.”

Sandy Strother Hudson

“I'm sorry, but the painting just doesn't ring any bells. The subject does not appear to be a 19th century officer – could it be a character?”

And the uniform is not that of an early 19th century officer. The red epaulettes (not gold or silver) would be those of an enlisted man. Style wise it dates to ca. 1812, but is not Federal regulation and especially the hat.

My guess would be that it was an artist's interpretation of a uniform of that period, with a modern face added.”

Stephen Osman

“Thank you, Stephen. Now that I look at it more closely, it does look like more like an artist's idea of a War of 1812 officers uniform. I think he was trying to portray an officer's gold epaulettes by mixing yellow and red paint or is it a colored pencil sketch? In a painting of the Battle of the Thames River, Canada in May 1813, the officers are wearing similar top hats with plume mounted on the side*. But their jackets (coatees) don't have gold piping on the chest. I think that piping was reserved for West Point cadets and the grey coat-ee of the 1st US Rifle Regiment.

(See Sam on page 12)

Sandra,

“I'm assuming that the portrait of the early 19th century infantry officer, that was given to your grandfather, was an important person in the history of the 5th Infantry. My first reaction was that it might be COL Josiah Snelling who commanded the 5th when the regiment built Ft. Snelling in Minnesota in the 1820's. Snelling was a little round-faced man with flaming red hair. The nose is a little different than that in another portrait that I have of Snelling but that could just be the artist's perception.

I'm including Jeff Boorum, the historian at Ft. Snelling, in this e-mail. Maybe he has some ideas regarding the subject's identity.

In several books on my shelf there are pictures of officers, in the War of

1812, wearing top hats with the plume affixed to the side. The enlisted men wore the shako headgear with a bill and with the plume in front.”

Sam Kier

“Sam, I am afraid I am not the site historian, just an admin, but Steve Osman, our last site historian and the former Site Manager may know, I have copied him in.

I was unclear from the email, but is the painting of Colonel Charles Almon Hunt? I am not familiar with that name, but Colonel Snelling's wife was from the Hunt family, her father was a Colonel Thomas Hunt.

Jeff Boorum

(Sam from page 11)

I got the idea from Mrs. Hudson that this painting was given to COL Hunt at his traditional "hail and farewell" party before he left command in Panama to return to the U.S. It's a puzzle. The subject is probably not COL Snelling, and it isn't the father of our regiment, COL James (I'll try, sir) Miller, and it certainly isn't COL Charles Hunt in an antique uniform. He was much more handsome.

Sam Kier

100 Killed 80 Wounded

"Hello, my name is Geoff Ziezulewicz and I'm a reporter with the Chicago Tribune.

I'm writing a story about a recently deceased Korea veteran who served with the 555 in the 5th RCT.

I was wondering if you could confirm any aspects of his service or whether he was part of your association? I am also waiting on the government for such records but thought I'd check with you.

The man's name was Raymond Ferdinand O'Brien, his DOB was 8/1/29 and his service number was 02 021 285.

If there's any confirmation you can offer, I'd appreciate it...."

Geoff Ziezulewicz

Reporter
Chicago Tribune

Proud to have been a Bobcat

Geoff,

"The 5th RCT Assn. Directory contains the name of Raymond F. O'Brien. Assuming the F stands for Ferdinand, Mr. O'Brien served with Headquarters Battery, 555th Field Artillery Battalion in 1949-50. Therefore he would most likely have been deployed to Korea from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in late July 1950. The address given for him is 28466 North Shagbark Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048-9772. He must have been proud of his service with our unit because he used our regimental motto for his e-mail address - illtry-sir@aol.com.

Would you please send me his date of death so that we can place him on our list for this year's memorial service. Thanks,"

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Infantry Regiment Association

"Ha, that's him! His kids says I'll Try Sir was also his license plate!

Do you have any more information regarding the nature of his tour? Or do you show repeat deployments at all?

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/raymond-o'brien-obituary?pid=1000000177128599>

Geoff Ziezulewicz

Geoff,

"The most important part of Ferdinand's tour, to him personally, would have been his survival of the battle of Chinju Pass on 11 August 1950. The 13th NKPA, (North Korean People's Army) Regiment, supported by T-34 tanks and SU 76 self-propelled guns, struck the 555th FAB at Pongamni, at the east end of the pass, from three sides. At that moment, the 555th had no infantry support so the surviving cannoneers fought as infantry. The Triple Nickel lost 100 killed, 80 wounded, all of its vehicles and six 105mm howitzers. The bodies of some of Ferd's Headquarters Battery comrades were found later with their hands bound with wire. They had been murdered by their North Korean captors.

He probably rotated home before the 5th RCT pushed north in late fall, 1950. Most members of the 5th RCT had been wounded a couple of times and that would affect their date of return to the U.S. There were very few repeat deployments in Korea. When you had earned your 36 rotation points, you were sent home and re-assigned. That usually took about a year.

Sam Kier

Expert Marksman Trophy

"I have a trophy cup given to Martin

McCashey, Co. F, Fifth Infantry Division for expert marksman given by a Major Jonson. Do you have any idea what year that would be and if there is any family left.

Any help would be appreciated."

Dave White

Dave,

"Below you have written Fifth Infantry Division. Did you mean to write Fifth Infantry Regiment? The 5th Infantry Regiment won many national and international marksmanship contests during the years between World War I and World War II when it was stationed in Portland, Maine. I haven't run across the name Martin McCashey in my research. What else is inscribed on the trophy cup? Anything about the Leech Cup, Navy Cup, Marine Corps Cup, Rumbold Trophy Shoot, Farnsworth Trophy, or President's Match? If not, the match was probably just a local regimental contest. Did it give Major Johnson's first name. If he happened to be a West Pointer, I can estimate the year of the match starting with that information. If Martin was one of those New England soldiers, he would probably have been born about 1910 and have adult, middle-aged grandchildren alive somewhere."

Sam Kier

A Great Evening

"On our way to Arizona, Julie and I stopped in Moore, Oklahoma...just up the road from Norman where Joe and Janice Bane (On the left) live. Gave them a call and REALLY enjoyed a great evening of cocktails and dinner."

Paulie (Robinson)





The information below was copied from the 25th Infantry Division Association's Website. Webpages were created by Kirk Ramsey.

Photog-Reporter Among Losses

4 MAR 66

"A motion picture photographer for Department of the Army's Special Photographic Team and a reporter for the 25th Inf. Div. were fatally wounded recently while on operational missions with 2nd Bde...."

Pfc. Terry J. Reed, 19, was on a similar search-and-clear mission with A Company, 1st Bn. (Mech.), 5th Inf., on Valentine's Day when he and a freelance civilian photographer were struck by fragments from a Claymore mine.

Reed, the father of one child, had been married slightly over a year when he was sent to Vietnam with the 2nd Bde. in early January. His wife had returned to their home in Iowa from Hawaii shortly after his departure for Vietnam.

He had been a writer for the Division Information Office since his arrival in Hawaii last May.

Well respected in journalism circles, Reed was a graduate of the Army Information School at Ft. Slocum, N. Y.

Only days before, he came under attack by small arms fire in the same action in which Specialist Yoho lost his life.

Reed has been given posthumous awards of the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge."

Hero Buried

"Sp4 Daniel Fernandez, C Company, 1st Bn. (Mech.), 5th Inf., was given a hero's burial this week in Roman Catholic ceremonies in his hometown of Los Lunas, N. M.

The 21-year-old automatic rifleman was killed when he threw himself on a Viet Cong hand grenade to save the lives of five other men, who were part of an ambushing force near Cu Chi.

Flags were flown at half staff

throughout New Mexico to honor Fernandez, whose action has been lauded in his home state and around the world."

**Fernandez was awarded the Medal of Honor for his action*

ARE VIET CONG THEIR OWN WORST ENEMIES?

11 MAR 66

The Viet Cong short course in how to lose friends and antagonize people has been winning droves of villagers in Hau Nghia Province -- for troops of the 2d Bde.

When the brigade arrived at its base camp in January, they encountered hostility and misgivings among the natives, notably in the village of Vinh Cu, where the Americans were regarded as just more soldiers sent against them.

The distrust of villagers in the area is being redirected from the Americans to the Viet Cong because of the guerillas' recent terrorist activities against the civilians.

Recently, members of B Co., 65th Engr. Bn., were working to remove dirt fill from a quarry not far from the brigade's cantonment. A group of children had gathered, sidewalk-superintendent style, to watch the brigade's men and machines at work.

Unnoticed, two Viet Cong stole up behind the children and tossed a grenade into their midst. The resulting explosion seriously injured two of the youngsters, who were immediately hospitalized at the brigade aid station.

Members of A Co., 1/5th (Mech.), who were safeguarding the engineers' operations, reacted and shot one Viet Cong, while the other escaped. When a pursuit force went to locate the downed terrorist, they found only a trail of blood leading to a tunnel. Searching the tunnel proved fruitless when the telltale blood faded.

Such tactics have worked to the Viet Cong's disadvantage. The villagers have ignored warnings to stop selling soft drinks to the Americans in spite of VC threats to mine their marketplace and plant grenades around Vinh Cu.

It is a marked contrast to the animosity "Tropic Lightning" soldiers encountered when they first moved to Cu Chi.

When agents crept into the village several nights ago and erected posters warning they would kidnap 2d Bde's Medical Care Aid Program team, the

medics, ignoring the threat, set up their dispensary as usual the following morning. Over 85 villagers were treated without incident.

And when the soldiers noticed villagers were forced to wade across a stream to go to their rice fields, the engineers got busy and built a 15-foot long timber trestle bridge.

Improving Vietnamese-American relations in Hau Nghia is proving to be a major aim for the brigade. With Viet Cong harassment, their efforts are being made easier.

1 APR 66

Tunnel Running for Fun and Profit

"Tote them demolitions! Lift that tunnel hatch! Crawl through that chamber! Dodge that booby trap!"

Ho-hum, it's all in a day's work for Specialist Four Tony Murdock, who spends more time peering at the results of Viet Cong burrowing than smelling the fresh air of Hau Nghia Province.

Murdock, a 20-year-old native of Radford, Va., is one of the unique breed of soldier to have earned the nickname of "tunnel runner" or "tunnel rat".

It all began shortly after he arrived at the base camp, 20 miles northwest of Saigon, and his unit, Co. B, 1/5th (Mech.) Inf. discovered itself sitting on the end result of 15 years of communist digging.

Cu Chi was the one perfect place in Vietnam to establish a tunnel school. School? SCHOOL?! There was no school according to Murdock. It was OJT (on-the-job-training) and I was the guinea pig.

But the specialist, who spent six months in Vietnam in 1964 as a helicopter aerial door gunner says he doesn't mind squirming through the tunnels, most of which are no larger than three feet by five feet.

Certainly, not a job for a man with claustrophobia, the big problem lies not in the cramped quarters but in the little surprises the Viet Cong leave behind them - punji sticks (sharpened and hardened bamboo stakes), booby traps, stray dogs and even an airplane engine.

"You never know what's around the next corner," Murdock says somewhat obviously. "Sometimes you can go 50 yards along one of those tunnels and there'll be nothing but ants and bats."

(TLN on page 17)

Bobcats Excel At Shooting Straight

Mission:

1-5 IN Marksmanship Team competes in the US Army Small Arms Championship (ALL ARMY) at Fort Benning, GA from 13-19MAR16 IOT represent 1st SBCT & USARAK

Summary:

The US Army Small Arms Championships (ALL ARMY) is a comprehensive live-fire training event that tests Soldiers ability to employ both primary (M16/M4) and secondary weapon systems (M9), problem solve, and think critically under the stresses created by competition. While the elements and spirit of competition are important, the Army's critical intent of the competition in arms program is to develop marksmanship skills at the entry and intermediate level, recognize superior skill at the highest levels, while raising the standards of marksmanship and increasing lethality across the entire force.

Over five full days of shooting, the 1-5 IN Marksmanship Team competed in over 15 different stages. These stages consisted of traditional Excellence in Competition (EIC) style & modern multi-gun events. Individual pistol & rifle skills (both irons & optics) were tested; scores from select stages were added together IOT build the overall team score. While SPC Brugh's score did not count towards the Team aggregate, he still competed on the individual level. The five 1-5 IN Soldiers consistently placed in the Top 5 for the stages they shot. The Team placed 2nd overall (1st Active Duty) with the next Active Duty Team placing 12th (82nd ABN). In addition, SSG Howell earned the prestigious Distinguished Service Rifle Award, becoming one of only 857 people in history who have earned multiple Distinguished Service Awards (Rife & Pistol) since the inception of the Excellence in Competition program in 1884



1-5 IN Team ready to compete (L to R: LT Fiser, SSG Howell, SSG Bartlett, LT White, SPC Brugh)



1-5 IN Team receive awards (L to R: SPC Brugh, SSG Bartlett, SSG Howell, LT White, LT Fiser)

Congratulations

1-5 IN BN Small Arms Marksman-ship Team

You have proudly represented the Bobcats, 1st SBCT Arctic Wolves and U.S. Army Alaska.

Results:

- 1st Place Active Duty Team
- 2nd Place Team Overall
- 255 Competitors (142 Active Duty)
- 43 Teams (23 Active Duty)

SSG Howell:

- 2nd Overall (1st Active Duty)
- 2nd In Pro-Class
- Received Distinguished Service Rifle Award

1LT White:

- 29th Overall (5th Active Duty)
- 8th In Novice Class

1LT Fiser:

- 36th Overall (8th Active Duty)
- 3rd in Open Class

SSG Bartlett:

- 39th Overall (9th Active Duty)

G Co, 1-5 IN conducted sling load operations in support of A Co, 1-5 IN's Arctic training. Pictured below are Soldiers of Gladiator Company hooking up a SUSV (Small Unit Support Vehicle) to a CH-4



Winter Games Teams Recognized

In this picture and the two below outlined in yellow "Members of 1-5 IN's USARAK Winter Games teams were recognized ... for placing First and Second place overall. The competition hosted teams from Fort Wainwright and Fort Richardson. Bobcats leading the way!"

**Pictures from 1/5th Facebook page*



LTC Thomas Hough & CSM Arvento Collins



OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

LTC Ray Meyer



In December 1969, while most of the 25th Infantry Division was still deployed in Vietnam, a 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division was activated at Schofield Barracks. It was to serve as a strategic reaction force for contingencies, other than Vietnam, in the Pacific area. One element in the 4th Brigade was the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment. When First Brigade of the 25th Division returned to Hawaii in December 1970, 2nd Battalion of the 5th was deactivated and its personnel and equipment were used to bring the brigade up to strength.

While I was researching material for *Two Centuries of Valor*, I turned to all the usual 25th Division sources but was unable to determine who commanded that short-lived incarnation of the 2nd Battalion. Finally, this past September, I noticed a posting by Mrs. Mary Weaver on the Bobcat website, claiming that her father, LTC Jules R. Meyer “commanded the Bobcats at Schofield Barracks in 1969-70.” We exchanged e-mails and she sent me copies of her father’s records and press clippings.

LTC Ray Meyer, who entered the U.S. Army in 1943 as a private and had served as a brigade S-3 in Vietnam in 1965-66, was, indeed, CO of 2nd Battalion. He commanded the battalion from December, 1969 until his tragic death in April, 1970. Ray, at the age of 45, suffered a massive heart attack during a field training exercise at the Kahaku Training Area near Oahu’s north shore.

Jules Raymond Meyer was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 9, 1924. He received his early education at

a parochial elementary school and was nearly finished with public high school when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in February, 1943.

Ray was assigned to the newly-formed 97th Infantry Division at Camp Swift for basic training. Following maneuvers in Louisiana and further training at Fort Leonard Wood, the 97th was dispatched to Camp San Luis Obispo, California to receive amphibious training. War Department officials had decided that the division would be sent to the Pacific. In the middle of December, 1944, these plans were abruptly changed.

On December 16, 1944, the German Army launched a massive offensive through Belgium’s Ardennes Forest. So many American casualties resulted from this so-called Battle of the Bulge, that several American units earmarked for the Pacific, including the 97th Division, were ordered to the European Theater of Operations.

Private Ray Meyer’s division crossed the German border on March 28, 1945, and became involved in a major offensive in the Ruhr Valley. It protected the left flank of the Third Army, and consequently the 5th Infantry Regiment, as it advanced into southern Germany and Austria, and was in the process of liberating Czechoslovakia, when Germany surrendered on May 7.

After a short breather at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the 97th sailed for Japan. Corporal Meyer served with the occupation forces in Japan until he was discharged on February 23, 1946.

Ray returned to Philadelphia, finished high school by correspondence, and went to work for a finance company while taking evening classes at St. Joseph’s College. He joined the Army Reserves and was soon promoted to sergeant first class.

Ray married Joan Maitland in June 1949. Their first child, Karen, was ten days old, when Ray was called back to active duty following North Korea’s invasion of South Korea.

After checking in at Ft. Campbell, SFC Meyer was sent to the 33rd Infantry Regiment at Ft. Kobbe, Panama. Six months later, he was granted a direct commission. For the next couple of years, Ray served in the 33rd’s 1st Battalion as a platoon leader, battalion adjutant and battalion S-4.

In October 1953, Ray was transferred to Fort Knox, Kentucky and spent the next two years with the 3rd Armored Division Artillery as an instructor, battery commander and battalion S-4. Then

it was on to Ft. Benning for jump school and another stint as an instructor, followed by staff work at Ft. Campbell with the 1st Airborne Brigade, 502nd Infantry and then Ft. Bragg as an assistant G-3 with the 18th Airborne Corps.

During this period, Ray had completed the coursework needed to receive a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Maryland. He was promoted to captain in November 1957 and major in 1962.

Ray returned to the straight-legged infantry in January 1964 when he was assigned to 1st Bn/35th Infantry at Schofield Barracks. He first served as battalion executive officer and then, following his promotion to lieutenant colonel, was appointed S-3 of 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Soon thereafter, the division left for Vietnam.

Following his tour in Vietnam, Ray attended the US Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He then returned to Hawaii to serve as headquarters commandant for the US Army in the Pacific (USARPAC) at Ft. Shafter.

After a brief period as a battalion commander with the 442nd Infantry, Ray assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry when it was activated in December, 1969. He was 45 years old when he died on April 17, 1970. He’d been a soldier for more than half of his tragically short life. Ray was a senior jump master with staff and command experience in both infantry and artillery units. He was, reportedly, in good physical shape and within sight of being able to retire after 30 years of active and reserve duty.

Ray’s remains were interred at Gettysburg National Memorial Cemetery, Gettysburg, PA. Following his death, Joan and the children remained in Hawaii where she was instrumental in establishing a Gold Star Widows chapter. Joan passed away in 2014. The Meyers are survived by their six children, Karen, Jules, John, Mary, Bryan and Anne.

by Sam Kier

Obtaining Your Army Records

A good first step for information on how to obtain Army veteran service documents is Human Resource Service Center HRC’s. You can contact them online at: www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD or toll free at 888-276-9472 or by E-mail at: ask-hrc@us.army.mil

(Review from page 3)

Sweatmon does a fine job bringing to life what it was like for him to get drafted, get shipped into the maelstrom of the Vietnam War, and get all but inured to the death and destruction that was part of everyday life in the war zone. Refreshingly for a Vietnam War memoir, this book contains only a brief summary of the author's basic training and IAT experiences, sparing us yet another recitation of screaming DIs and the pressure of the final P.T. test.

Instead, we get a compelling narrative filled with pithy and to-the-point passages, such as: "When you graduated from infantry school, you were a member of the most elite, underpaid fraternity in the world. It was a club that almost no one wanted to be part of, at least not in 1969." And: "The absolute absurdity of war is often lost on all but the participants, and the participants are often too busy staying alive to notice anything but the terror of the moment."

Sweatmon offers this up in a deft, self-deprecating style. He describes himself, for instance, "stumbling through" newly assigned duties and as having "a controllable level of battle nervousness" under fire. Facing NVA regulars "caused me to try to look as relaxed as I possibly could," he writes. "It was an act that was terribly transparent to anyone who saw my face." Near the end of his tour he "was no longer acting like a soldier but rather like an American boy who wanted out of this place and to get back home."

The book also sheds light on the unique type of warfare faced by the men who served in U.S. mechanized infantry units in Vietnam. Mechanized companies, Sweatmon notes, "did not have barracks or even a place in the base camps. They lived and fought beyond the war, like a great camp of armed nomads. At least that's how it was with C Company. I can count the times I saw a base camp on my fingers."

Sweatmon also delivers a very accurate depiction of what he and other Vietnam veterans faced coming home without resorting to the "spat upon at the airport by a hippie chick" trope. "Young people," he writes, "who were of college or even high school age looked at us with smoldering eyes and projected an open disdain."

Sweatmon did have an encounter soon after he came home with "a pretty young woman who wore a headband and bell-bottom jeans" on the campus of North Texas State University. "She ran her tiny fingers over the com-

(TLN from page 13)

A tunnel-clearing operation usually sees two men squeeze through the camouflaged trap door armed with .45 caliber pistols, smoke grenades and a knife. Specialist Murdock, who is a fire team leader when not sniffing through tunnels, is frequently the first into the furrows because of his knowledge of booby traps.

But the extent of the underground chambers is what intrigues Murdock. "I've crawled through tunnels as much as five hours and found no end," he claims. "They seem to go on forever. I hear the Wolfhounds found one - two miles long."

As Matt Dillon would say, "It's a chancy job and it makes a man watchful."

For instance, there was the time when "I got trapped in one for an hour and a half one day," Murdock related. "It was a real small area and I tried moving a shoulder at a time. When I slipped to my side, the tunnel caved in and they had to tie a rope around my feet and drag me out."

Even though the Viet Cong live in these tunnels, Murdock has yet to meet one face-to-face feet below the earth's surface, although he has had a few scares in the wake of VC fleeing from a tunnel.

He found the entrance booby trapped, little more than a minor irritant for Murdock. But while he was disarming the explosive, it blew up. The tunnel's former inhabitants had booby-trapped the booby trap. The explosion slapped him against the wall but he escaped with minor injuries.

And then there was the time when he dug through a hole only to find light beaming through.

"Now, this was kind of an eerie feeling, to be crawling and see a light below. We radioed back and then went in with smoke grenades, but all it turned out to be was the bottom of a crater from one of our big bombs," he sniffed.

Murdock says that even when there are ventilation holes, "you still come out soaking wet" from the extreme heat and humidity,

But he likes his job "because it's something different." Too, he realizes there is a wide open market for civilian gophers."

bat ribbons that brought color to the front of my green uniform," he writes. "She looked into my eyes with an anger that was overwhelming and asked me, 'How many babies did you kill to get

(Reunion from page 1)

Ft. Benning itself. They have several things planned for us and will keep us busy for the day, including a lunch in their mess hall.

We will be back on Friday to do a day at the National Infantry Museum, which will include our Memorial Service at the Vietnam Memorial Wall and a basic training graduation ceremony on the parade grounds, sure to bring back some good memories for several of you who did your basic at Ft. Benning. After a lunch in the museum, you will be able to spend the afternoon touring all of the exhibits on display. Randy and I have done this; I promise you won't be disappointed.

We will start our tours on Wednesday by doing Callaway Gardens and the Little White House, which will be an historical event.

It's time to get started. Don't hesitate, as this is going to be a big turnout and we want to make sure you get your room booked while the block is available. All counts for each tour that we are offering must be turned in by April 17th, 30 days out from our start date. So please make sure you have all your tours and meals ordered by then so we aren't waiting to see who is going and who is not. This is a very important issue for me, so please make sure you get it done before the deadline.

Call the hotel as soon as possible, even if you aren't sure that you can make it. You can always cancel if your plans change, but at least you will have your room in the block before it runs out. Call the hotel direct and make sure you tell them you are part of the 5th Infantry Regiment Association and remember you can book 3 days before or 3 days after if you want to spend time there on your own. Hotel number is 706-327-6868.

Any questions, email or call me. I'm here to help all I can. Hope to see you all in GA this May. If you miss this one, you will be missing the best one we will ever have."

Carolyn Kethcart

16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-468-8624 (home) - 708-288-0193 (cell)
carolynjk@bobcat.ws

For more information on this reunion turn to pages 18 & 19.

those?"

**Reprinted from the NOV/DEC "The VVA Veteran"*

2016 Reunion Columbus/Fort Benning GA

Tuesday May 17th - Sunday 22nd 2016

The Columbus DoubleTree

DoubleTree by Hilton



\$83 Single / Double per night
Free parking & Breakfast included
To make reservations call:
1-706-327-6868
and when booking tell them
5th Infantry Regiment Association
* Booking prices are good up to 3 before
and after reunion dates



Groome Transportation Airport Shuttle

\$76 round trip (no discounts)
If you are flying into Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport there is a shuttle that you can take to the hotel or the Groome terminal minutes from the hotel. If you ask we are told that they will drop you at the hotel. If not the hotel shuttle will come and get you.

Schedule of Events

Hospitality Room: May 4 - May 9 (No fee)

Tuesday May 17th
Arrival and Registration

Wednesday May 18th

Callaway Gardens and



the Little White House



Thursday May 19th

Fort Benning Day

Tentative schedule of events

- 9:00-11:00 AM Basic Airborne School Overview possible exit from 34 foot towers
- 11:30-1:00 PM Lunch at the NCO Academy Dining Facility
- 1:30-3:00 PM Armor & Cavalry Restoration Facility (the collection for the future Armor Museum is housed here)
- 3:30-5:00 PM Clarke Simulation Center (Bradley, Abrams, and VBS3)



Friday May 20th

Memorial Service at the National Infantry Museum



- 8:30 AM - Basic Training Graduation at Parade grounds
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 Memorial Service



at Vietnam Wall

- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch at the National Infantry Museum
- 1:00 - 3:00 PM View exhibits at the National Infantry Museum

Saturday May 21th

- 9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership Meeting
- 10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging Free to explore Columbus

Bobcat Banquet

- 5:00 PM - Cocktails
- 6:00 PM - Dinner
- 7:00 PM - Program
- Approximately 7:30 PM - Auction

Dinner Choices \$35 *

1. Braised Beef
2. Red Wine Chicken
3. Grilled Salmon
4. Vegetable Lasagna

* All dinners include house salad, mashed potatoes, and seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls, dessert, iced tea and coffee

>Kids Meal \$15

Chicken Fingers, potatoes, and green beans

Columbus Reunion Pre-Registration

PLEASE complete this form if you are planning to attend this reunion.

By completing this form it will help us plan our needs for transportation and meals etc.

Name _____

_____ Number of additional guests

Names of additional guests

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

⇒ Do you plan on taking the "Callaway Garden and Roosevelt White House Tour"?
_____ Yes _____ No _____

⇒ Do you plan on attending FT Benning Day? _____ Yes _____ No _____

⇒ Do you plan on attending the memorial service at the National Infantry Museum? _____ Yes _____ No _____

⇒ Are you driving? Yes _____ No _____

⇒ Is this your first reunion?
Yes _____ No _____

COMMENTS:

Mail to or contact:

Carolyn Kethcart
16054 Pine Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-468-8624
carolynjk@bobcat.ws

**See you in Columbus/
FT Benning!**

Registration Form Columbus GA/FT Benning Reunion

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ Date arriving _____

	Number	Cost
Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
WED 18 May - Callaway Gardens and the Little White House with Luncheon - \$60 Per Person		
THU 19 May - Ft. Benning Day with lunch at a Mess Hall - \$25 Per Person (Includes lunch)		
FRI 20 May - Graduation, Memorial Service at the Vietnam Wall, Lunch, and National Infantry Museum - \$45 Each		
SAT 21 May - Banquet Dinner Choices		
1. Braised Beef - \$35 Per Person		
2. Red Wine Chicken - \$35 Per Person		
3. Grilled Salmon - \$35 Per Person		
4. Vegetable Lasagna - \$35 Per Person		
5. Kids Meal - Chicken Fingers etc. - \$15 Per Person		
Reunion Donation (<i>Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.</i>)		
TOTAL		
<i>Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)</i>	YES	NO

Make check payable to 5th Infantry Association and mail to:

Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477

Cancellation policy: Except in cases of death or health, refunds will not be made if the request is made in less than 30 days before the reunion.

New Honorary Member

He helped honor a Bobcat MOH

Tom Frame and I have been talking about hopefully arranging with our Board of Directors a invitation for a Odessa, TX businessman (and friend of mine) to attend our Ft. Benning reunion as a special guest. Tom talked to Bart about this and they both agreed that I should be the one to approach the Board with this request.

He will be attending and speaking.

Ronnie knew Rex Young when they

were teenagers and has done a lot to honor his name. He was instrumental in getting the post-office named after Rex, was the driving force in getting the Wilson-Young medal of Honor Middle School named (including making a large donation to have it remodeled), and then sent his private jet to Austin to fly 6 Bobcats to Odessa for the school dedication. (Mike Elam, Stan Baker, George Chavez, chaplain Don Just, Oleh Babbski, and myself) He also offered to pay all expenses for Tom Frame and Elwood Merring to come to the school dedication from Pennsylvania. Elwood took

(See Rains on page 21)

HOUSE OF STRAW

"It was a very veteran and experienced 1/5th Infantry that headed back into Viet Nam from Cambodia. Our weeks of constant engagement in the offensive had earned us a temporary rotation to a less intense assignment in Viet Nam. Don't misunderstand, this would be no picnic, the area where we were headed was the Iron Triangle, which had a history of large-scale enemy action.

The caterpillar stop and go of Bravo Company's movement through the border woods, brought us to a gully and a small engineers bridge across a stream that marked the border of Viet-Nam. A random stop left our track on the Cambodian side and the forward part of the column on the Viet-Nam side of the gully. We all laughed when a member of the squad in front jumped down and made a big pretense of kissing the Vietnamese soil.

On arrival at our destination we learned more about our assignment. We were to replace another unit that was responsible for Rome Plow security. The massive bulldozers with specialized jungle busting blades were cutting back the cover along the road that was the northern leg of the Iron Triangle. Opening and securing the road was necessary to reclaim the land for resettlement and agriculture after years of abandonment and neglect. For now, it was a "Red Zone", "Indian Country", "Enemy Occupied", a "Free Fire" zone. Rules of engagement: If it moves, shoot it.

It was late afternoon when we met up with the unit (unknown designation) that we were to replace. Our tracks were to simply, one by one, pull into the same revetments as the company we were relieving pulled out. It was too late to relocate, and the tropical sun was getting low. We learned from the previous squad leader in our position, (I will refer to him as Sargent Blowhard), that his company had suffered at least a casualty or vehicle loss per day in this assignment. Sargent Blowhard went on to tell us how hard and tough they had it. He proceeded to tell us it was probably the toughest duty in the entire war and that we "new guys" would get our butts kicked.

We could not believe what we were hearing. Sargent Blowhard was obviously missing the big picture and that we were there for the comparative

rest. He and his squad were oblivious to the many bullet holes and RPG scars on our tracks and unaware of the raging Cambodian offensive and our part in it. Before his company pulled out, Sargent Blowhard had his driver drop the ramp. His squad proceeded to dismantle the revetment that we were to occupy, then throw the sandbags into their track with a 2-finger grip. I grabbed a bag. It was stuffed with rice straw! We were speechless.

When we could finally comment, Sargent Blowhard bragged how his transportable straw sandbags really saved time and how the "old man" (his company's commanding officer) never caught on. We settled into what was left of our position and heard Sargent Blowhard shout, "you'll be sorreeeee" as his company rolled off in a cloud of dust. We looked at each other and sadly shook our heads, knowing they were going to Cambodia.

Bravo Company changed tactics. Rome Plow patterns were no longer predictable straight rows paralleling the road. Random deep penetrations were made into the jungle creating huge ½ kilometer square areas where the plows could work, circling toward the center, while Bravo Company patrolled the perimeter of the cuts. Occasional firing broke out as encircled enemy ran to escape the plows across the fresh clear cut to reach the nearest wood line. Random recon by fire and recon in force were performed. At night we dug in at new locations, put out patrols and yes, we filled the sandbags with real dirt! Our casualties and equipment loss went down to less than a quarter of the previous company's loss rate.

The Rome Plow Engineers thanked us for the improvement, and the bad guys were put on notice that there was a new sheriff in town, the 5th infantry Bobcats."

Roger Sperl

Thank you Roger for another article!

You too can help me with the newsletter by sending articles about your Army experiences.

New Coin For Sale

It was decided that we should design a new updated challenge coin. A committee was appointed made up of Sam Kier, Bart Stanzone and Jim Caudle. They along with Randy Kethcart came up with a new coin pictured below.

5th Infantry Regiment Challenge coin is 2 inches in diameter. It is made from brass and has a diamond cut twisted edge. Both sides are in color with a clear epoxy finish.

The price, which includes shipping, for this coin is \$10.50. You can purchase the coin online on our Website at:



<http://www.bobcat.ws/quartermaster.html>

Or you can send a check made out to "5th INF ASSN" to:



Jim Caudle / 5th INF ASSN
1501 Baychester AVE
Norfolk VA 23503



1LT Stephen H. Doane



Honoring One of Our Bobcat Heroes!

**Congressional Medal of Honor
is Awarded to**

DOANE, STEPHEN HOLDEN

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. Place and date: Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam, 25 March 1969. Entered service at: Albany, N.Y. Born: 13 October 1947, Beverly, Mass. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. First Lt. Doane was serving as a platoon leader when his company, engaged in a tactical operation, abruptly contacted an enemy force concealed in protected bunkers and trenches. Three of the leading soldiers were pinned down by enemy crossfire. One was seriously wounded. After efforts of 1 platoon to rescue these men had failed, it became obvious that only a small group could successfully move close enough to destroy the enemy position and rescue or relieve the trapped soldiers, 1st Lt. Doane, although fully aware of the danger of such an action, crawled to the nearest enemy bunker and silenced it. He was wounded but continued to advance to a second enemy bunker. As he prepared to throw a grenade, he was again wounded. Undaunted, he deliberately pulled the pin on the grenade and lunged with it into the enemy bunker, destroying this final obstacle. 1st Lt. Doane's supreme act enabled his company to rescue the trapped men without further casualties. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by this officer were an inspiration to his men and are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.

(Rains from page 19)

him up on this offer, Tom had family obligations and couldn't come.

Ronnie, a Vietnam veteran himself, is also **very** active with both Wounded Warriors and the Medal of Honor Society and sits on the Board of Directors of the Wounded Warriors Family Support. He has, on numerous occasions, flown Wounded Warriors and their family's from all over the U.S. to his 3,300 acre ranch for a week of entertainment. He tells them all they have to bring with them is their toothbrush and change of clothing. They can hunt, fish, swim, play golf on his 9 hole golf course, practice golf on his putting green, view his private classic car collection, or whatever they wish to do while there. He also arranges for them to tandem jump from his private helicopter if they wish to.

Ronnie has also extended an open invitation to the Ben Cui survivors to have a mini reunion at his ranch; his house there offers 24 bedrooms."

Gary Young

****Ronnie has been invited and is expected to attend.***

Veterans are high on 'learning agility'

By Amanda Miller 27 JAN 16

"Corporate leaders that talent management powerhouse Korn Ferry works with are assessed for "learning agility," described as a top predictor of leadership success. After the company teamed up with Exelis Action Corps and Points of Light on the Leveraging Military Leadership Program, Korn Ferry's experts were able to discover how veterans measure up.

As a group, "it is obvious" that vets rate "high on learning agility," says Korn Ferry's Noah Rabinowitz. "In fact, examining the distribution of overall learning agility, we found that close to two-thirds of them are higher than the population mean."

Learning agility predicts a leader's likelihood of being successful in new situations — "the willingness and ability to learn from experience and then apply those lessons to succeed," according to the company."

From "Military Times" Website

Are You Getting This Newsletter by E-mail?

If you did not receive this newsletter in an E-mail that means we do not have your "correct" E-mail address. Please send your E-mail address to me at:

fpd@bobcat.ws

"My advice to other disabled people would be, concentrate on things your disability doesn't prevent you doing well, and don't regret the things it interferes with. Don't be disabled in spirit as well as physically."

-Stephen William Hawking

Order Form

All items are available on our website where you can pay by credit card. Go to: http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml

Name _____ Phone # _____
Street _____ E-mail _____
City, State & Zip _____

(Put the number of each item you want in the line to its left.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| _____ #1 = Hats - \$12.75 | _____ #8A = License Plate at "US Army" - \$10.50 |
| _____ #2 = 3 inch Patch (Like on hat) - \$4.00 | _____ #8B = License Plate "5th Infantry" - \$10.50 |
| _____ #3 = 5th Patch (4") with Tab - \$7.50 | _____ #14 = 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 |
| _____ #4 = 4 inch Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50 | _____ #15 = 5th Key Chain - \$15.50 |
| _____ #5 = Window Decals - \$4.00 | _____ #16A = MIA Bracelet (Black Small) - \$4 |
| _____ #6 = Pins - \$5.50 | _____ #16B = MIA Bracelet (Silver Medium) - \$4 |
| _____ #7 = Challenge Coin - \$10.50 | _____ #17 = 25th Decal with "Bobcat" above - \$4 |

#9 = Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) - Item #437M

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$39.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$39.00

Color: (Circle Color) White Grey Black Forest Green Navy Blue

Size: Small (Without pocket only) Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large (Circle Size)

#10 = Tri-Mountain 5400 High Peak Winter Jacket Windproof/Water-resistant with Hood concealed in collar (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 5400]

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$61.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$61.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00

Color: (Circle Color) [1st color Outer Shell & 2nd color is lining/collar] khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/
khaki or black/khaki

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large {4X, 5X & 6X-large & long sizes
available in some colors}

Have the Bobcat #18 on page
25 put on the lower left sleeve
of your jacket or shirt for \$5.

#11 = Tri-Mountain Sanford Light Weight Summer Jacket (Item #4000). (circle size & color and number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 5400]

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$60.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$60.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00

Color: (Circle Color) Colors: Black, Navy, Desert, Stone, and Moss.

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large 5X-Large 6X-Large (Circle Size)

#12 = Long Sleeve Denim Shirt (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 8960]

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$34.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$34.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$40.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$40.00

Color: (Circle Color) Light Blue or Indigo

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large (Circle Size)

Have the Bobcat #18 on page
25 put on the lower left sleeve
of your shirt for \$5.

#13 = T-shirt with logo as pictured on left breast (50% cot./50% poly.) - \$19.00 (Put # desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 29, P-131]

Color: (Circle Color) White, Oxford, Black, True Navy, Light Blue, Pink, Peribule, North Carolina Blue, California Blue, True Royal Blue, Cornflower Blue, Yellow Haze, Burnt Orange, Cardinal, Deep Purple, Forrest Green, Gold, Island Yellow, Natural, Birch, Jade, Kelly, Khaki Brown, True Red, Safety Green, Maroon, Light Orange, Aqua, Bamboo Green, Classic Brown, Kiwi, Cyber Pink, Dark Graphite, Dark Lavender, Fossil Grey & Olive Green

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large (Circle Size)

Special instructions for order: _____

All Polo shirts, T-shirts, Denim shirts and Jackets are custom ordered and will take up to 3 weeks for delivery

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

Make the check payable to: 5th INF ASSOC

Mail to: **Jim Caudle / 5th Infantry Chapter**
1501 Baychester AVE
Norfolk VA 23503

For information or questions contact
Jim at 757-588-0056 or
E-mail: jecaudle@cox.net

5th Infantry Chapter Quartermaster

Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

- 1). Hats (black) - \$12.75
- 2). 3.3" Patch Exactly like the one on the hat - \$4.00
- 3). 5th Patch & Tab (Sew on type - 4" patch + tab) - \$7.50
- 4). 4" 1/5th Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50
- 5). 3" Decals (Go on the outside of a window or any solid object) - \$4.00.
- 6). Pin - Coat of arms - For hat, lapel etc. (1/2 X 3/4 inch) - \$5.50
- 7). Challenge Coin - \$10.50
- 8). License Plate Frame (8A "US ARMY") or (8B - "5th INF BOBCATS") - \$10.50
- 9). Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt - Item #437M
 - 1). With 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
 - 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$38.00
- 10). Winter Jacket with 5th Crest and CIB or CMB Badge - \$61 or \$66 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 11). Tri-Mountain Sanford Light Weight Summer Jacket (Item #4000). Colors: Black, Navy, Desert, Stone, and Moss with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$60 or \$66 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 12). Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - \$29 with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge or \$40 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 13). T-shirt with logo pictured below on left breast - \$19
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$15.50
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

Order these items by contacting
our Quartermaster Jim Caudle at:
757-588-0056 or
E-mail: jcaudle@cox.net



Have this Bobcat put
on the lower left sleeve
of your jacket or shirt
for \$5 (#18)



Randy Kethcart has made a QR-Barcode for scanning with a cell phone or mobile device that will take you to our Facebook page where you can join our Association or re-new your membership.



Veteran Court Mentors! - Veterans Helping Veterans!
Eusevio "Doc" Alvarado's (2nd from left on bottom) Facebook Posting

Notice: If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 16** at the end of your name, your membership expires at the end of this year. You need to complete the form below and mail in your renewal. Do it now before you forget.

Membership Application
5th Infantry Regiment Association, Inc.
25th Infantry Division Association

(Please Print)

Name: _____
_____ New Member _____ Renewal (Complete only items that need changed)

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Unit (BN/CO/PLT etc.): _____ Dates with 5th INF: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

1 Year - \$15 2 Years - \$25 5 Years - \$60 Lifetime -Ages 1-49 = \$200 50-64 = \$150 65+ = \$100 Active Duty - \$5.00 per year

Donations: (Tax Deductible) General Fund _____ Scholarship _____ Newsletter _____ Reunion _____

Make checks payable to "5th Infantry Regiment Association" and mail this application to:

5th INF REG ASSN PO BOX 569 Frankfort MI 49635-0569
(You can join or renew online and pay using a credit card. Go to www.bobcat.ws and follow the directions.)

Membership Application
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit Served With _____ Dates of Service _____
in the 25th Div. _____

*Attach copies of your DD-214 or other documentation of service.

DUES: _____ Annual = \$30.00 Lifetime - Your age: _____ Less than 30 = \$770 _____ 31-40 = \$645 _____ 41-50 = \$500
_____ 51-60 = \$350 _____ 61-70 = \$225 _____ 71+ \$200

Please make all checks payable to: '25th Infantry Division Association' and send to:

25th Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 7, Flourtown PA 19031-0007

DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

"Hello Sam,

"I just got off the phone with Don Clancey . He received his copy of your book with the inscription that you wrote to him. He was very pleased with the recognition that you accorded him, and is proud to display it and share with his fellow veterans (at Kerrville VA Hospital). Thank you for your kindness and eloquence – he is quite deserving.

I also received my copy. Your book is quite an intensive research endeavor, considering the minute details that you have included over the span of the history of the 5th Regiment. Every person who has ever served in the 5th Regiment should have a copy of this book for personal reference, and for a sense of pride in our military heritage.

Thank you for all of your efforts to provide this very valuable piece of history for us to cherish."

Ric Myers,

Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

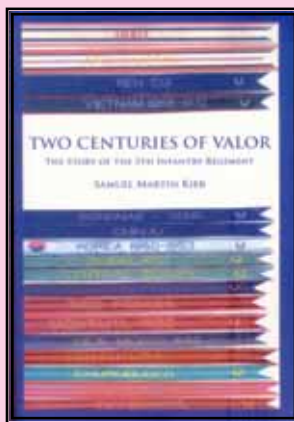
History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

This book "*Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment*" written by Sam Kier our Historian traces the history of the 5th Regiment from its beginning up to the present day. Many of our members are mentioned in the book as

are events and battles that you may have participated in.

You can purchase this book by going to our website at:

[http://](http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml)



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where you can pay for the book using your credit card or you can contact Sam at: 831-646-8025 or

samkier@montereybay.com

New Laws Govern When A Veteran Can Salute

"New laws expand when veterans may salute By Lynn M. Peterson, Army Retirement Services Program Manager.

Do you know the proper conduct when the United States Flag is posted or passes in review, the National Anthem is played or the Pledge of Allegiance is recited? Congress has expanded veterans' rights in federal law in recent years; the most recent was the 2013 change which affected the Pledge of Allegiance. Respect for the Flag During the raising or lowering of the flag, when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, and also during the Pledge of Allegiance, there are different courses of action depending on your current status. In the instances mentioned above, all uniformed personnel should render the military salute, and members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present, but not in uniform, may also salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over their heart, or if applicable, remove their headgear with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over their heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention.

During the National Anthem

During the playing or singing of the National Anthem, individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present, but not in uniform, may also render the military salute. When the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed."

**For additional information, you may refer to the following sections of United States Code (USC): Title 4 USC Section 4 "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag", Title 4 USC Section 9 "Conduct During Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of the Flag", and Title 36 USC Section 301 "National Anthem".*

**Sent by Nevin Williams (COL-R)*

"Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile"

-Franklin P. Jones

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Signed copies of *Two Centuries of Valor* can also be purchased at www.bobcat.ws.

Unsigned copies of a 2nd Edition are now available at www.amazon.com , www.barnesandnoble.com and other online book sellers.

Bobcat Awarded Vietnams Highest Aaward

"Dr. Joe Lex was honored by the Vietnamese Minister of Health with a "Medal of Honor" the highest award the government can give a foreigner."

Joe's career in medicine got started when he was a combat medic in Vietnam serving with Headquarters Company from May of 1968 to May of 69.

Joe is one of the world's most renown experts in the field of emergency medicine and travels the world helping countries improve their emergency medical practices and procedures

**Picture & information from Facebook posting by Bruce Cotta*



Brother & Sister of KIA Donate \$300

We received a check for \$300 along with a letter which read: *"Please accept our donation to the '5th Infantry Regiment Association' in memory of our brother Kellum W. Grant (KIA - Vietnam)."*

The letter was signed:

Stewart W. Grant
97 Lakeview DR
Holmes NY 12531 and

Elen G. White
214 True Hickory DR
Rochester NY 14615

Kellum was from Levittown NY and he was a Sergeant E-5 assigned to C Company who was KIA on 4 May 68.

See picture below for a picture of Kellum.



Joseph Gallagher (KIA), Andy Gimma, Kellum (Kelly) Grant (KIA) Steve (Solly) Solomon, Dennis Hacken and kneeling Jimmy Sutton. Photo courtesy of Steve Solomon .

(Tom from page 27)

fires and columns of black smoke darken the twilight sky listening to 'Green Tambourine' on a tape one of the guys' girl friends had sent him. This wasn't so bad, we were used to rockets and mortars at night.

That night I got to sleep on a cot in the hooch instead of in the dirt, and was looking forward to breakfast in the Mess Hall. I was woken up by the sound of 'incoming'. This wasn't any ordinary rocket attack. They were targeting our 5th Mech battalion area. There were explosions all around as we scrambled into a bunker. I didn't like being in bunkers, so I huddled next to the entrance. As I sat there watching out the entrance, there was a tremendous explosion, the largest I had ever seen or heard. Then there was a huge mushroom shaped fire ball lifting up in the sky, followed by a shock wave that lifted the ground and hit us with its concussion. This was followed by many secondary explosions and shrapnel flying around. The 2/34 ammo dump behind the 1/5 Inf compound had taken a direct hit and went up in one huge explosion, detonating the ammo stored there. Luckily, the companies weren't in base camp or there would have been more casualties. TET 1968 had started!

I don't know how long the explosions lasted. When we were finally able to leave the bunker, total devastation met our eyes. Every building was flattened, smoking or blown apart, even the Mess Hall where I had been looking forward to having breakfast. I can admit now that the ganglion wasn't that bad, and that I saw it as a chance to get out of Katum, that hell hole in the jungle for a few days. It turned into a comedy of horrors for my part. The Caribou flight, the mortar attack and finally the leveling of the 5th Mech compound. Or as poet Robert Burns' wrote in his poem "To a Mouse", "The best laid schemes of mice and men often go awry". Now, I knew exactly what he meant. Better I had stayed at Katum!

By: **Tom Goins**, Alpha Co. 67-68

"Thanks Tom!" - "Send me your story about your Army days!"

A Big Thanks!!

A big thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter by sending me articles and pictures. Without their input the newsletter might be smaller.

THANKS !!!

TET 1968

1/5th's Cu Chi Base Camp Destroyed - *"Be careful what you wish for!"*

Everyone who was in Vietnam for TET 1968 has a story about it, because it was the peak of the Vietnam War. In late November, '67, the companies of the 1/5 Inf Mech, headed up to Katum at the Fish Hook near the Cambodian border, with stops along the way at Boi Loi and Ho Bo Woods, and French Fort on the north side of Nui Ba Den for some Search & Destroy adventure. After leaving French Fort we headed straight up north to Katum, leaving all traces of civilization behind. As we traveled the red dirt road, we saw burned out trucks, and a tank that had hit a road mine. Both sides of the road were shrouded in triple canopy jungle. This was not looking good.

Around this time I noticed that my right wrist was hurting and developing a lump. During the two months at Katum the lump got larger and more painful. At the end of January '68, I went to the Medic tent to have my wrist checked out. I was told I had a ganglion



cyst and that it would have to be surgically removed. This was my M16 hand, so this had to be taken care of. I was given a medical pass, and on January 30th, I went to Prek Klok air strip to catch a Caribou plane for Cu Chi. I was glad to be flying and not going with a convoy which would have taken two days, dodging RPGs and road mines. There were only two other passengers on the Caribou, so I sat by myself on the left side next to the window. The flight was uneventful until we approached Cu Chi. Then the pilot turned and headed out again. I didn't think much about it until the pilot announced that the left landing gear wouldn't come down.

We flew for a few minutes then we were flying over a river. I thought "Holy Crap, is he going to ditch in the river?" I'd been so anxious to get out of the hell of Katum where so many had been wounded and killed, but I wasn't ready to die now. Then the pilot told us to hang on as he rolled the plane completely on its left side. I was pressed against the window, looking at the river directly below. I remember sitting there completely emotionless, like it was happening to someone else, but with some vague plan to get out of the plane when it hit the water and wondering why I left Katum. The plane straightened out again and then did a couple more rolls, and then another. Finally the landing gear came down and we headed back to Cu Chi.



It felt good to be safe on the ground and in the safety of Cu Chi base camp. The next morning I went to the 25th Surgical and had the surgery on my wrist. The doctor sewed it up and told me not to use my hand for a day or two and come back in a week to have the sutures removed. That night, after the real treat of eating in Alpha Company Mess hall, I got together with platoon brothers Rich Purkis and Gary Novak who were in base camp recovering from wounds they got in Katum. This was great, I could actually relax and not have to go out on night ambush patrol or LP. This calm was suddenly broken when a couple of mortars and rockets came flying into the base camp. One of the 5th Mech hooches took a hit, and the fuel dump across the road at the air strip took several direct hits setting two of the JP4 storage bladders on fire. We sat on top of one of the bunkers and watched the

(See Tom on page 26)

Bobcats Win the “Arctic Winter Games”



Winning team of the 2016 USARAK Arctic Winter Games from 1-5 Infantry: 2nd Lt. Mark Hillis, Sgt. 1st Class Nelson Lacour, Sgt. Marshall Gattis, Spc. Michael Bondra, Spc. Jarvis Hunter, Spc. Evan Smith, Pfc. Joshua Bullion, Pfc. Evan Klimek, Pfc. Joseph Wolf and Pfc. Garret Magedson. (Photo by USARAK PAO)



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