



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"

Fall 2017

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

Volume III

HOC MON: February 19, 1968



This painting depicts the Charlie Co. firefight at Hoc Mon during which Fr. Robert Falabella distinguished himself by saving the life of Lt. Jim Marschewski. Painting by Jess Marschewski (Jim Marschewski's son).

Picture sent by Richard Myers

HOLD THIS DATE - BOOK EARLY !!

BOBCAT WINTER SOCIAL

FEB. 8, 2018 to FEB. 11, 2018

(RATES SAME FOR LONGER STAY)

INCLUDES : FREE PARKING & SHUTTLE TO AREA
ATTRACTIONS

(Other Amenities Possible)

New Location

Hollander Boutique Hotel St Petersburg

421 4TH AVE North, St. Petersburg, FL



The Hollander Hotel is located in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg and is in walking distance of restaurants, shops and attractions. We are centrally located near the Salvador Dali Museum, The St. Petersburg Pier, Museum of Fine Arts, The Mahaffey Theatre, Tropicana Field and St. Petersburg Beach. Our new hotel in downtown St

(See Social on page 21)

2018 Reunion - Norfolk, Virginia

Tuesday May 15th - Sunday 20th 2018

The DoubleTree by Hilton
\$99 Single / Double per night

(See Norfolk on page 14)



"I'll Try Sir"

The Winter 2017 Newsletter will be out DEC/JAN 2017-18 - Send me articles, pictures and stories for publication.

Victors make their mark at first-ever Bobcat Adventure Race

Mary M. Rall
U.S. Army Alaska Public Affairs

Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, sunk their claws into an early and unyielding lead to secure the win for the first-ever Bobcat Adventure Race Aug. 24 at Fort Wainwright.

Fifteen four-Soldier teams representing each of the 1-5 platoons, a command team featuring the 1-5 commander, Lt. Col. R. Blake Lackey, and three of the battalion's company commanders traversed 27 miles of terrain as they competed in Bobcat Adventure Race events throughout Fort Wainwright and Fairbanks, said 1-5 executive officer, Maj. Chad Peltier.



Staff Sgt. Richard Davies with Fort Wainwright's 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, knocks out pullups Aug. 24 as he competes in the Bobcat Adventure Race at Birch Hill Recreation Area in Fairbanks. Davies competed on the Medical Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company team, which was one of 15 teams from Fort Wainwright to participate in the event.

The Bobcats competed in events that included canoeing the Chena River; running and mountain biking through Fairbanks; climbing the rock wall at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; completing weight lifting, dead lift, pullup and trauma treatment evaluations at Birch Hill Recreation Area in Fairbanks;

and a trail run and marksmanship qualifications on Fort Wainwright, Peltier said.

According to Lackey, the Bobcat Adventure Race is one of several Bobcat Challenge events the battalion's Soldiers regularly compete in.

"We do about five events a quarter, and those events are focused on building and sustaining readiness," Lackey said. "We do that by focusing on some physical tasks, but also making sure that we emphasize our basic, fundamental tasks—shoot, move and communicate."

Bobcat Challenge events enable Soldiers to better understand what readiness entails in an environment that encourages friendly competition, he said.

"The readiness aspect of an event like this really helps us build that laser focus to understand that at any one time you've got to be ready," Lackey said of the Bobcat Adventure Race. "Sometimes you're not going to know how far you're going to have to go or how long you're going to be gone, but you've got to be ready."

The readiness and decision making of the battalion's platoon leaders were also tested prior to the event, Lackey said, explaining each platoon leader had to incorporate his platoon sergeant and two squad leaders into his foursome to build the most competitive team possible.

"It enabled some team building, it enabled some esprit de corps, but it also enabled that leader to have to make some decisions along the way," Lackey said. "That's what the Bobcat Challenge is all about. It's about building readiness, testing readiness."

Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. John Folta, led the 2nd Platoon, Company C team members to the win for the Bobcat Adventure Race and said the early lead they gained after threading needles and canoeing 10 miles down the Chena River from Fort Wainwright to Fairbanks helped secure first place for his team.

"We were in the middle of the pack to start the needle threading, and we were the first ones done," said team member, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Hampton. "We were in the water first, had a small lead to begin with, and then it just slowly increased over the majority of the pack during the canoeing. So, when we finally got off the water, we had a huge lead, and we were able to maintain that the rest of the route."



Lt. Col. R. Blake Lackey, the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division commander, presents Staff Sgt. Christopher Crabtree, 1st Lt. John Folta and Staff Sgt. Peter Parra of 2nd Platoon, C Company with the Bobcat Adventure Race championship plaque Aug. 24 at Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area on Fort Wainwright. Not pictured is team member Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Hampton, the fourth member of the first-place team for the event.

Team member, Staff Sgt. Christopher Crabtree, said teamwork was paramount throughout the competition.

"Nobody left anybody behind, so we were constantly there with each other," Crabtree said, adding the team was also motivated by a shared desire to win the race.

"Winning matters in combat, and winning needs to matter here," Lackey said, affirming his Soldiers' mindset. "It needs to be built into their ethos, and so healthy competition is something that's good for the organization."

Folta was able to move 2nd Platoon, Company C's placard to the top of the Bobcat Challenge board thanks to the 256 points his team earned at the Bobcat Adventure Race, a standing Lackey said the Soldiers will have to remain ready to protect in future challenge competitions.

Soldiers of all ranks and positions from throughout 1-5 must remain

(See Bobcats on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



"As I write this message, I think about the people in Texas and Louisiana, and the struggle they are going through. Hurricane Harvey has devastated this area. But the American spirit will conquer what Mother Nature has thrown at it. The reconstruction will take plenty of time and effort, but it will be done. It's human nature. If making a monetary donation, check the organization your contribution is going to. The people in the flooded areas will need our help for many months if not years.

I would like to remind everyone that in just 8 short months we will be gathering in Norfolk Va. for our annual Bobcat reunion, May 15-20 at the DoubleTree by Hilton. All the information for the reunion is on our web site at bobcat.ws. Please get your reservations in early as it takes a lot of time and effort to organize the successful reunions we've had in the past."

Tom Frame

President
5th Infantry Regiment Association

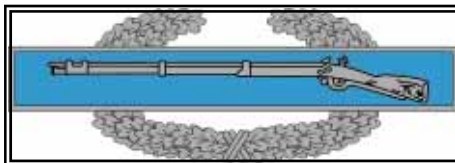
(Bobcats from page 2)

prepared to compete in Bobcat Challenge events and for the top slot of the ranking board in the future, Lackey said.

"Readiness is about all of us," he said. "It's not just about the young."

**Copied from the 1 SEP 17 "Alaska Post" website.*

Combat Infantryman Badge



"The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military award. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an infantry, ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941.

The CIB and its non-combat contemporary, the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) were both created in November 1943 during World War II to enhance the morale and prestige of service in the infantry. Specifically, it recognizes the inherent sacrifices of all infantrymen, and that, in comparison to all other military occupational specialties, infantrymen face the greatest risk of being wounded or killed in action.

After the United States' declaration of war in 1941, the War Department had difficulty recruiting infantry branch volunteers, namely due to the fact that "of all Soldiers, it was recognized that the infantryman continuously operated under the worst conditions and performed a mission that was not assigned to any other Soldier or unit ... the infantry, a small portion of the total Armed Forces, was suffering the most casualties while receiving the least public recognition."...

Moreover, War Department Circular 269 stipulated: "...only one of these badges will be worn at one time" and "the Combat Infantryman badge is the highest award".... later, on 30 June 1944, the U.S. Congress approved an extra ten dollars in monthly pay to every infantryman awarded the CIB—excepting commissioned officers....

In 1947, the U.S. Government implemented a policy authorizing the retroactive awarding of the Bronze Star Medal to World War II veteran soldiers who had been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, because the CIB was awarded only to soldiers who had borne combat duties befitting the recognition conferred by a Bronze Star Medal."

**Information sent to me by Robert Whaley*

5th Infantry Association

President - *Tom Frame*
Vice President - *George Chavez*
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 Bart Stanzione*

Bobcat Board of Directors consists of the above and the following 5 elected directors:

Jon Blickenstaff Andy Gimma
John Snodgrass George Bates
Jon Cartwright

Chaplain (Appointed) - *John Snodgrass*

Reminder !

1. Notify Paul Robinson about changes in address and phone number etc.
2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 17** on the address label after your name, your dues expires 31 DEC 17. Please renew now!

Reunions

Florida Winter Social 8 - 11 FEB 2018
Norfolk VA 15 - 20 May 2018
25th IDA Providence RI ... 6 - 15 OCT 2018

HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment
Andy Anderson (MG-R)

Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment

George Chavez (MSG-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), Bart Stanzione

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, Ed Kawczynski 16, Carolyn & Randy Kethcart 17

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 us 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.

Reid, David - Change
d.d.reid1525@gmail.com

Pughe, John - New
johnpughe1@gmail.com

Rockwell, Doug - Change
bobcat16xraydr@yahoo.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:

Tringali, Teriann - Correction
2 Mountainview Terrace APT 4311
Danbury CT 06810

Harris, Joe E. - Address change
12260 N Sunrise Shadow DR
Marana AZ 85658-4821

Leota, Frank - Address change
28118 George Obrien
San Antonio TX 78260-1459

Schooler, Jack - Address change
30 Golden Hill ST
Trumbull CT 06611
203-502-8323

Pughe, John - Address change
2227 Carrizo Way
Henderson NV 89052
johnpughe1@gmail.com

Person, Thomas - Change
The Heights Unit 3411
36 Haverhill Rd
Amesbury, MA 01913
603-380-6050

Postovoit, Andrew - Address change
1700 Sand Hill RD APT 204
Palo Alto, CA 94304

New Members:

Temple, Lee
1800 Lakewood CT SP 15
Eugene OR 97402
541-461-7021
HHC 9/67-9/68
temple2284@comcast.net
*Donated \$20 for the reunion

Myers, Michael (Elizabeth)
418 3rd street Suite 1B
Fairbanks AK 99701-3585
907-0225-3585
Son of Richard Myers (*Recon Med-ic 67-68*)

mikemyers33@gmail.com
*Michael and his wife Elizabeth are both physical therapists with a practice in Fairbanks Alaska where nearby FT Wainwright and the 1/5th is located. They at times treat active duty Bobcats.

In an E-mail from Ric: "Michael feels a very strong affinity to the Bobcats, and is very proud to be associated with them. Recently, a retired soldier was in his office carrying a 'Bobcat' water bottle. Michael immediately whipped out his membership card, with a great sense of pride, and camaraderie."
*Recruited by Richard Myers

Falabella, Rev J. Robert
2252 Woodruff RD
Simpsonville SC 29681
864-288-4884
BN Chaplain 67-68
*Recruited by Richard Myers

Taps:

Curtis, Warren - It was reported in January 2017 by Donald Dressler. He said: "Did you receive my e-mail about his death? He died in Bakersfield, Ca from complications to a very large tumor removed from the back of his neck. Bonnie Brown, his significant other as well as his ex-wife and children being with him. - Joined Recon 1/5 (HQC) 1964 as a tank loader on a M-41 tank. Bunked next to me. We both went to RVN with the equipment. He had previously participated in the Shotgun (helicopter door gunner) in 1964-65. we went over as infantrymen, since the DOD gave our tanks to the ARVN's. he left Nam Christmas time 66. He was

born in Texas but loved California. He retired out of the oilfields as a rough neck."

Kniley, Kenneth - HHC, 1953, passed away in York, PA on September 18, 2016. Ken was a retired high school math teacher.

*Information provided by Sam Kier

Illnesses:

I am aware of that some of our members are experiencing serious health issues. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

New VA claims process promises decisions within 30 days

"WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs officials on Thursday unveiled a new disability claims process they promise will result in decisions within 30 days, potentially shaving months off some veterans' current wait.

But that timeline doesn't factor in advance work veterans must do on their own to collect relevant medical tests and service documents. And for now, the new process is only open to veterans looking to upgrade existing disability claims, not new cases.

Still, VA officials say the new Decision Ready Claims initiative could significantly reduce wait times and frustration for many veterans whose cases currently take an average of more than 100 days to reach a decision. VA Secretary David Shulkin praised the announcement as "a collaborative effort between VA and VSOs to help veterans."

The DRC process, in a pilot phase since May, requires veterans to work closely with veterans service organizations to ensure all relevant medical evidence has been collected before submitting their claims. Officials said the advance work will allow the files to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a decision within 30 days.

The current process allows veterans to submit claims to VA with little advance paperwork, putting the burden on VA officials to collect military service records, medical documents and other relevant background information. If veterans opt for the DRC process, they'll have to gather and submit those documents themselves."

*Copied from "Military Times" Website

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

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

War Story Never Moral

"A true war story is never moral. It does not instruct, nor encourage virtue, nor suggest models of proper human behavior, nor restrain men from doing the things men have always done. If a story seems moral, do not believe it. If at the end of a war story you feel uplifted, or if you feel that some small bit of rectitude has been salvaged from the larger waste, then you have been made the victim of a very old and terrible lie. There is no rectitude whatsoever. There is no virtue. As a first rule of thumb, therefore, you can tell a true war story by its absolute and uncompromising allegiance to obscenity and evil."

- Tim O'Brien

This opinion by Tim O'Brien was posted on Facebook by Joe Lex

Will Try to Make Next Reunion

Hi Fred,

"Was looking over the Newsletter from the reunion and saw the photo of Beth and me. Thanks, it's nice to be thought of and remembered.

As usual, nice job on the newsletter. Good photos too.

Beth and I will do our best to stay healthy and try to make it to next year's gathering.

Take care, brother."

Ed Kawczynski

Medic Was Shot In The Back

"July 16, 1968, near the Cambodian border we have our enemies on the run trying to get across to Cambodia. One of our tanks hits a command detonated mine. We are also receiving RPG's & heavy small arms fire. A couple of our tracks got hit by RPG's. Since we were on the ground sweeping the area I got hit over my left eyebrow with shrapnel. A couple of our boys were wounded. Our doc started to apply pressure on my bleeding wound, & he removed some pieces of metal. I mention to David to go ahead & assist our brothers that were

wounded by small arms fire. He low crawls about 8 feet & took AK 47 round in his lower back. We were pinned down immediately. The rest of our company came to our rescue. Doc was in bad shape. We called for a Med-Evac. I had been bleeding bad and somebody applied a clean bandage. I tried to at least open my eye but I could not, but that was the last of my worries. I was trying to locate Doc I could not. We got to the Hospital & I asked questions about our wounded. David was flown to Saigon. I felt real bad & prayed for their well being, Thank you Lord!"

Abe Cardenas

**I asked Abe if he knew the medic David's last name and this is his response.*

"About 5 years ago the City of McKinny Texas invited us to spend Veteran Day. Major Snodgrass, LT Cook, SSgt Tom Frame, Robert (he passed away a few years ago. He was sharp about benefits), Paul Moir, Abe Cardenas and Doc David Shortnacy (last name). David lives about 2 hours from McKinny. Tom Frame called him to find out if we could visit him & his family. We arrived at his house and David looked real healthy. He lost the use of his legs but it does not stop him. His wife had baked pecan pies & made good aromatic coffee. I asked David if we could speak in private. We went outside. I was about to speak but he said no, no, no, I know what you are going to tell me. Cardenas I did my job, I am a Combat Medic, & if I had to do it again in my present medical conditions I would do it again. Now clean those tears & let's go inside. At that moment a great load was lifted from my back. I will save the story of when we met the family of Jerry Combust that same day. Thanks Sir"

Abe Cardenas

Dressed as Vietnamese to Rescue Pilot

The Ranger's "Hall of Fame" rarely inducts a Navy sailor into it's ranks but did so for only the second time on June 28th.

Retired Navy Lieutenant Tommy Norris who was a Navy Seal received the Medal of Honor for leading a three day rescue effort of two downed pilots in Vietnam in 1972.

"During the second rescue effort, Norris teamed up with a South Vietnamese soldier. The duo dressed as fisherman and used a sampan to travel up river into enemy territory. After rescuing the pilot, the sampan came under heavy fire, according to Norris' Medal of Honor citation. Norris called in air support, which allowed the three to safely make it back to the forward operating base."

**Information taken from the 17 July edition of the Army Times.*

Army Magazine Mentions 5th Infantry

"Just finished looking at the latest issue of ARMY magazine, August 2017 issue. This is the magazine of the Association of the United States Army. On page 53, a good article was written by Lt. Gen Daniel P. Bolger, U.S. Army Ret. The article is titled "Nez Perce co-founded Army at Big Hole." In the article last two paragraphs Col. Nelson A. Miles and the 5th Infantry regiment was mentioned; "A 520-strong force from the 2nd Cavalry, 7th Cavalry and Miles' own 5th Infantry regiments, aided by Indian Scouts, ran the Nez Perce to ground at Bear Paw, Mont. After a 5 day fight, (Chief) Joseph surrenders on Oct 5."

I thought this was interesting and researched it further in Sam Kier's book "Two Centuries of Valor". There it's debated as to who actually accepted Chief Joseph's surrender, Col. Miles or General Howard. While Miles might have been the deciding factor in Chief Joseph's surrender, rank does have its privilege.

For all you California residents and those that have spent time in Ft. Hunter Liggett, Liggett was a member of the 5th Infantry regiment before "he was promoted to major and became adjutant general of volunteer troops serving in Cuba."

Jeffrey Mc Grath

(See Comments on page 6)

Treasurer's Report

2nd Quarter Financial Report
(1 April- 30 June 2017)

April 2017:

Income:

ABQ Reunion (Tours Etc.) \$2670.00

TOTAL \$2670.00

Debits:

Postage \$83.12

Quartermaster (Hats Etc.) \$1339.70

Bank Service Charge \$4.00

Plaques (Fragging + BOY) \$83.12

Spring Newsletter + Fee \$964.44

TOTAL \$2474.65

May 2017:

Income:

Pay Pal Internet Sales \$3193.91

Membership Dues 150.00

Quartermaster Sales \$110.00

Donations \$200.00

ABQ Reunion (Tours Etc.) \$4704.00

TOTAL \$8357.91

Debits:

Bank Service Charge \$4.00

Quartermaster Sales \$96.25

Postage \$104.50

ALB Reunion (Events Etc.) \$7263.05

Reunion Refund \$550.00

TOTAL \$8017.80

June 2017:

Debits:

ALB Reunion - Program \$70.80

Bank Service Charge \$4.00

TOTAL \$74.80

Assets:

Checkbook Balance \$8340.64

Business Account - Savings **\$56747.75**

TOTAL \$65088.39

Treasurer/Quartermaster *Jim Caudle*

Donations to the Association

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

Lee Temple (\$20 Reunion) \$40

Richard Myers - Newsletter \$100

Your name could be here! \$\$\$

Association Donations

Our Association made two recent donations.

A donation of \$1500 was made to the 25th Infantry Division Association's Scholarship Fund.

And a \$500 donation was made to the 1/5th for their project to make improvements to their headquarters.

(Comments from page 5)

Help! Did you know Joe Randolph Jones?

Fred,
"Could you add this information in our next newsletter, from Angi Jones Caples, daughter of Joe Randolph Jones, A 1/5 Mech, 1966."

Thank you
Tom Frame

Hi!

"I'm the daughter of Joe Randolph Jones. He was 101st Airborne assigned to Co. A, 1st Bn (Mech) 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Div in 1966. He was involved in fighting on June 18, 1966 and I'm trying to find some other people that served with him. I know of this date only as he was awarded an Army Commendation Medal for acts on this date. Are you in touch with anyone that may have been in the same platoon?"

Thank you for your time!

Angi Jones Caples

If you knew Joe please contact Angi at:

angicaples@gmail.com

318-372-9886

Abe Cardenas to have Surgery & Remembers Ben Cui

14 AUG 17

"We just got home from SAN Diego VA. It has been a long day. The moment we enter the VA building I felt my feeding tube very loose & just pop out. We walked to emergency area & had the feeding tube in my hand. Hour & half later doctors had attached a new feeding tube. Thank You Jesus. We took care of my app & God willing I will have vascular surgery 21 of August, Thank you."

20 AUG 17

"I apologize for bombarding you with so many posting. Tomorrow is the Anniversary of the Battle of Ben - Cui-Rubber Plantation, 08-21-68. 5th Infantry Battalion encountered a much larger enemy forces. 08-21-68 is the darkest day in the military history of the 5th Infantry Regiment. My brothers I miss you, 1st Sgt Lang, Rex Young. Jerry Combest thank you for visiting me in the hospital when I was in comatose condition. Thank you Jesus"

Gene Lee's (KIA) Sisters

"David Daugherty: Fred attached is a photo of Gene F Lee's sisters. He was my RTO who was KIA 13 Dec 67. They had been in contact with me and asked to meet."



"They were in Florida so my wife and I met them for lunch. We discussed the circumstances of Genes death and presented them all a Mech Challenge coin which they were very appreciative to receive. Would you please post the pic in the next newsletter? Thanks"

David Daugherty

"Operation New Life"

Aloha!

"I'm trying to both navigate & figure out 1/5th Association Web Site!

I was a member of the 1/5th from NOV 74 thru DEC 77 when the battalion was in "E" Quad at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

I can find no reference or link to anything concerning the 1/5th while it was in Hawaii AFTER Vietnam & BEFORE it went to Alaska.

Richard (Rick) Brown
Master Sergeant (Retired)

Rick,

"When I was writing my book, Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment, I wasn't able to get much information about the 1970's from the Post Historian at Schofield other than one annual historical report signed by LTC Michael Ferguson. I was able to correspond with and interview Ken (Grizzly) Kruger, Company C, 1974-77 and recently received some additional material on Operation New Life from Joe Harris, Mortar Platoon Leader from Alpha Company. Joe was there in 1973-75. I put it all together in the chapter entitled "Guardian of the Pacific."

Do you have any 5th Infantry documents or photos from the mid 70's that you would be willing to scan in and share with me? I would like to have more information about that period of time in our archives. It was an important time in Army history with the end of the draft, a reduction of America's gloom over the Vietnam War, and the creation of a professional force with General Creighton Abrams at the helm."

Sam Kier,
5th Infantry Historian - HHC/5, 1954-56

Hi Sam!

"I will have to go through my Army documents & photographs & see what I may have from my three (3) years with the Bobcats. I have a few photos from training exercises but unfortunately, none from Operation New Life (ONL); which was, by far, the biggest thing that happened during my three (3) years with them. I'll get back with you asap.

A few things come to mind in getting this email from you. Hopefully I'll not bore you.

1) I remember the morning we were suddenly told in early APR75 that we

were being deployed somewhere (we did not know where for many hours afterwards). We did PT EVERY DAY back then & the "PT Uniform" was a white tee-shirt in house silk screened with a green bobcat head, jungle fatigue trousers & green jungle boots. We ran at LEAST three (3) miles EVERY DAY. Physical Training (PT) was in its infancy after Vietnam. My ISG at the time was, I believe, ISG Haime & to the best of my knowledge, he was a native Hawaiian. He is buried in the Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

2) The four (4) entrances to "E Quad" were closed off with concertina wire & guarded by MPs that particular morning. About mid-morning, a half dozen Army busses from the Transportation Motor Pool (TMP) rolled into the center of the Quad. If I remember correctly, sheets of newspaper were taped over all of the side windows of the busses. Suddenly, female Soldiers (still called WACs but that title was already being phased out) started debussing & forming up in front of them. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME that female Soldiers (WE still called them WACs) were being deployed in masse with combat Infantryman!

3) By and by, we were bussed to Honolulu International Airport where we boarded two (2) American Airlines 747s. The flight crews appeared more than mildly surprised that their "passengers" were all Soldiers! To the best of my knowledge, the entire battalion, save a rear detachment, deployed to Guam & spent approximately four (4) months there. I'm pretty sure we did not do a 30 day rotation to KMC on the Big Island that year because of the Operation New Life mission. I seem to remember that we may have landed on Midway Island to refuel but we did not deplane until we landed in Guam so I can't be absolutely positive.

4) I worked in the Battalion S-1 Administration Section at the time of ONL but it was strictly for the admin requirements/needs of the Soldiers & nothing to do with the Vietnamese refugees. I slept in a MilVan ConEx Container with a lock inserted through the hasp to prevent anyone from locking me in. The ONL mission was so intense that I do not honestly remember even seeing LTC Ferguson & CSM McQueen the entire time I worked out of a building near the docks in Agana, Guam.

5) Last but not least. It wasn't too

very much time past our return from Guam that world-wide news was made of a WWII Japanese Soldier coming down out of the mountains on Guam to "surrender" after following his last "order" from Japan to "observe & report all military operations/moves" in the mid -1940s. I believe it was eventually determined that he did not realize that his radio was not working (radio silence was a BIG deal back then!) & he had no clue that WWII had ended DECADES earlier! I remember getting one day off during the entire deployment & I used it to snorkel in a nearby bay that had several wrecks of Japanese Zero's submerged there. What I would have done to have an underwater camera then!

Well, hopefully these thoughts of my recollections from ONL have not bored you. I PCS'd from the 1/5th Infantry "Bobcats" in early DEC77 to Ft. Campbell, KY & remember using a couple of my days of leave enroute from my Home Of Residence (HOR) in Northern Kentucky - just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati - to stop at Ft. Knox, KY where CSM McQueen had PCS'd to earlier that year & seeing if he could get me assigned to Ft. Knox instead of Ft. Campbell. CSM McQueen was originally from Northern Kentucky so we had a "connection" while I was in Hawaii. I wound up spending 34 years & 19 days in the Army. I attained the rank of First Sergeant/Master Sergeant. I spent just shy of eight (8) years on Active Duty (AD), 10 years in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), five (5) years in the Kentucky Army National Guard (KyArNG), 10 years in the United States Army Reserve (USAR) & one (1) year in Iraq. I retired in JUN 08 & have been living the good life ever since. While in the IRR, NG & USAR I worked as a Signal Maintainer for CSX Railroad & do enjoy a double federal retirement!"

Richard (Rick) Brown
Goodyear, Arizona

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

Melvin R. Barnes – Vietnam Combat Veteran – Santa Clarita Resident

By Bill Reynolds
Signal Director of Veterans Affairs

“Recently, Melvin R. Barnes and I met at one of my favorite digs in Santa Clarita, the Corner Bakery, where we sipped coffee and spoke for over two hours exchanging our stories of U.S. Army service during the Vietnam War.

I found Mel to be a proud patriot, very proud of his family and a great American who has served his country and community well.

Student Deferment Ignored

Mel was born September 8, 1947 in Glendale, California, at Glendale’s Sanitarium Hospital.

“I was actually born in a nut house,” Mel joked.

I replied, “Don’t feel bad, I was born in the Crazy Water Hotel, downtown Mineral Wells, Texas.”

Mel grew up in nearby Burbank graduating from Burbank High School June 17, 1966, and then he attended Pierce College while also working at a local aircraft fabrication plant.

Though Mel had a student deferment, he was drafted into the U.S. Army anyway due to the huge demand for troops resulting from the 1968 Tet Offensive in South Vietnam.

Honor Graduate

On June 11, 1968, Mel entered downtown Los Angeles’ induction station and at day’s end, he and a busload of new recruits were bussed up to Fort Ord to begin Basic and Advanced Infantry Training.

Following AIT, Mel and four others were selected for the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at Fort Benning, Georgia, where Mel excelled becoming Honor Graduate and was promoted to Staff Sergeant E-6 in February 1969.

That my friends, is one heck of an accomplishment!

Mel then became an NCO instructor at the academy for the next three months before his deployment to South Vietnam.

Television War

Before flying to Vietnam, Mel received a three week leave of absence to visit his family back home in Burbank.

Given the excessive television coverage of the Vietnam War, Mel’s parents were extremely concerned for his well-being but, at the same time, they were very proud of Mel’s service to our coun-

try.

You see, Mel’s Grandpa Charles Fehring fought at the Argonne Forrest during WWI and Mel’s Dad, Jack Barnes, served in WWII on a U.S. Navy destroyer and saw action at Okinawa in 1945.

Plus, Mel’s stepfather, Charles Kurtz, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Clearly, Mel’s family heritage is steeped in military service.

After serving in Uncle Sam’s Army for one year, Mel deployed to Bien Hoa, South Vietnam in June 1969 as a replacement and his first night in-country wouldn’t you just know that they came under a Viet Cong mortar attack. Welcome to Vietnam!

Mel received orders to report to the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi assigned to 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company of the 1st/5th Infantry Mechanized Regiment as Platoon Sergeant. He replaced the previous platoon sergeant who was killed in action two weeks prior. During his tour of duty, which ended June 14, 1970, his unit experienced long missions in the field constantly seeking enemy forces.

These missions, at times, lasted as long as three months which required the troops to make do using streams and bomb craters filled with monsoon rain water for personal hygiene. There were no shower facilities in Hobo Woods where they spent much time.

Search and Destroy

Mel’s mechanized unit’s principle activities were large-scale search and destroy patrols consisting of night time



Melvin R. Barnes, 34 man Cambodian Border mission, 1970. 25 Casualties.

ambush missions, which for infantry troopers is the most nerve-racking.

They experienced numerous firefights, sniper fire and constant unforgiving, nasty booby traps. It was dangerous as hell.

Usually, the enemy they faced was the elusive 101st NVA Division which the 1st/5th chased across the Cambodian border despite Nixon’s pledge we wouldn’t fight in Cambodia. Sometimes, it became necessary to release Washington D.C.’s shackles.

Mel’s unit also experienced much action in the old French Michelin Rubber Plantation not far from the 25th Infantry Division Base Camp at Cu Chi. Mel said a number of their patrols were recovering bodies from downed helicopters and KIA’s from other units. It was hideous work, but mandatory.

Tunnel Rat

Because Mel trusted his instincts over that of his fellow grunts, he often chose



to take point and take on tunnel rat searches and his troops were all too happy to accommodate him.

Remarkably, there were over 200 kilometers of three level tunnels in the



Typical VC Tunnel in HoBo Woods

Hobo Woods located 20 miles from Cu Chi towards the Cambodian border. The precision of those Viet Cong tunnel diggers was simply mind-boggling.



Melvin R. Barnes, morning after a night ambush mission. Hobo Woods.

KIA's and WIA's

In August 1969, Mel's unit engaged a significant enemy force of the 9th Viet Cong Division while on reconnaissance. His 2nd Platoon literally walked up on the enemy promptly killing one VC sentry when suddenly all hell broke loose with incoming RPG's, heavy automatic and small arms fire blasting away.

In the opening burst of fire Mel instantly lost four KIA's and four WIA's so he grabbed four soldiers to flank the enemy positions and lost one more KIA and another WIA in the process.

Mel's platoon leader called in Huey gunships and Cobras resulting in routing the enemy guerillas, driving them into their bamboo-concealed tunnels and into the surrounding jungle.

Mel recalls that one of his men took a grenade blast to his mid-section and Mel tried desperately to save his life, but it was not to be. That brave warrior died in Mel's arms.

Home Safe and Sound

Things that linger in Mel's mind to this day are sights of blown apart bodies, screams of pain and desperately wounded young men hollering and crying for their mothers.

Thankfully, his tour of duty ended July 14, 1970 and he returned safe and sound to his parent's home where he would begin the next chapter in his amazing life.

Mel will never forget the jubilation as his freedom bird lifted off from Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport bound for Fort Dix, New Jersey where he was immediately Honorably Discharged. Mel's awards include the Combat Infantryman Badge, 3 Bronze Stars w/V Device, Army Commendation Medal, 3 Purple Hearts, 2 Air Medals, National

Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/Bronze Star.

Happy Warrior

Mel went on to complete his education earning his Associate Arts Degree, Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Psychology and his Master's Degree in Natural Health.

Along the way, he worked 33 years with the Glendale Police Department and after earning his teacher credentials he taught Police Law and Science courses for 17 years at Glendale College.

Mel married Heather Brooks in October 1970 and they have two wonderful children, but sadly that marriage ended after 23 years.

Mel, being a happy warrior and a survivor, fortunately met Lisa Valenti and they've been married 20 years.

Proud Military Heritage

Mel is a proud Vietnam combat Veteran and he is very proud of his family which altogether includes four children and eight grandchildren.

Son Michael served four years in the Marine Corps and saw action as a Lance Corporal in Desert Storm.

Son-in-law Joe Hanze was a Marine Corps grunt and saw action in Somalia and Mel's grandson Michael Ryan Barnes currently serves in the Marine Corps at Parris Island.

Another son-in-law, Chris Gibby once served in the Air Force, so Mel's family military heritage is alive and well. These days, Mel stays active and healthy training and instructing as a Black Belt in Marshall Arts."



5th Infantry Hat Emblem from the Indian War period

Sent by Sam Kier



"Some of VFW Post 5587 members getting ready for the Holly Day Parade." Sam Alvarado's Facebook posting. Sam is in the middle.



Albuquerque Reunion Pictures

Below



Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

Dad Served In Korea

Email sent to Randy Kethcart who referred it to Sam Kier.

Hello sirs

"My Dad served in Korea as part of the Bobcats. His name was Robert L Davis. I've been trying to find out about his service and wondered if you can help me."

Thanks

Gary Davis

"A Robert Davis from Richmond, Texas served with Company G in 1950-52. He passed away in 2005. Was that your father?"

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn

WHICH SHOULDER PATCH THIS WEEK?

"I recently corresponded with a gentleman from Newport, RI, whose father served with Baker Company, 5th RCT in Korea. He said that his dad had maintained that the 5th RCT was attached to the 101st Airborne Division during his time of service in the Korean War. I responded that that would have been impossible since the "Screaming Eagles" were inactive from November 1945 until September 1956. However, I could understand his father's confusion.

Between August 1950 and October 1954, the Fifth RCT was under the operational control of six different divisions; 25th, 1st Cav, 24th, 40th, 45th and 3rd, as well as IX and X Corps Headquarters, and the 2nd Logistics Command. The



Patches of some of the units the 5th RCT was attached to during the Korean War

quasi-independent combat team moved frequently around the Korean Peninsula,

wherever it was needed, to take care of tough jobs.

Fortunately, these nine "op-con" attachments did not necessitate changes in shoulder patches. The 5th RCT's small scarlet pentagon with its white border had been officially authorized on March 14, 1952.

The conversation inspired me to go back and review our regiment's parent organizations throughout its history. During the War of 1812, the 5th Infantry was part of Bissell's Brigade of the Right Division. It fought, during the Mexican War, in both Smith's and Clarke's Brigades of Worth's Division. By the time of the Civil War and our government's conflicts with the Cheyenne and the Sioux, the western territories had been subdivided into military departments. The 5th Infantry Regiment served in the Departments of New Mexico, Dakota and Missouri rather than infantry divisions."

Sam Kier

Served with the 5th in the Philippines and Cuba

Hello,

"Would you be able to point me to some place or person who would be able to help me locate my Grandfather's records or anything?

I am looking at his original Promotion Document from October 10, 1903. It was issued at the Plattsburg Barracks, NY He was with Co. D then.

I also have Co. E, 5th Reg, 2/14/1906, Promo to Sergeant 3/23/1907 in Carvenas, Cuba."

Thanks for your time and assistance if possible.

Jim Sleter

Jim,

"Since your grandfather was promoted on 10 Oct 1903, it's very likely that he had just returned in September from the Philippines. Did he ever talk about serving during the Philippine Insurrection? Then in the summer of 1906, your grandfather's Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry was shipped to Cuba as part of the Army of Cuban Occupation. Company E was posted at Sagua La Grande and remained there until February 1909, before returning to Plattsburgh Barracks.

What was his name? I do have some hard-to-read, hand-written rosters that may give us a hint where to go next. It would probably help if I had copies of the promotion certificates that you have.

Sam Kier, Historian, 5th Inf Regt Assn

"Thanks guys for the response.

I was very young when he died so the first answer is no. His name is John Sleter on all of the documents.

I will grab my folder and scan a few and send you the PDFs....

Thanks again,"

Jim Sleter

Jim,

"You might be interested in this article; basically a letter written by a man named Nathan Markovitz who was in your grandfather's Company D, 5th Infantry."

Sam Kier

Sam,

"Here are 2 more years. There will be 2 more coming sometime this weekend. If you don't want any more just let me know."

Jim Sleter

Jim,

"Please do send the other two certificates. I've never seen such documents before. The three that you have sent were signed by Colonels H. H. Adams and Calvin P. Cowles. Adams commanded the regiment from 1903 -1905 and Cowles from 1905 -1913. It's interesting that John Sleter was appointed corporal by Adams when he was serving in Company D but then had to be reappointed to corporal by Cowles when he was serving in Company E. I would like to think that the first promotion was meant to be a temporary matter and not stripped away, at some point, for disciplinary reasons. Perhaps, Company E had its full complement of corporals when John Sleter transferred companies. Thank you for sending these documents.

Sam

Jim,

"Another fellow who was researching his Spanish-American War ancestor sent me copies

(See Sam on page 11)

(Sam from page 10)

of pages from the United States Army Register of Enlistments. He got them through Ancestry.com. This register provides date of enlistment, place of enlistment, physical description of soldier, assigned unit, and finally date of discharge. Are you aware of this document?

Personnel records from World War I to the present are kept at the National Archives Personnel Center in St. Louis but that doesn't help in your case. Ancestry.com would have obtained these Registers of Enlistment from the National Archives in downtown Washington, DC."

Sam,
"Here is 1911."

Jim

Interesting, Jim

"So at this point you don't know the date of John Sleter's first enlistment in the U.S. Army. You do know that, in 1903, he was promoted to corporal, in Company D, a month after the 5th Infantry returned from the Philippines to Plattsburg Barracks, NY. Three years later, he was again promoted to corporal as a member of Company E. In 1907 he rose to the rank of sergeant, while serving with Company E. At that time the regiment was serving in an army of occupation in Cuba. John was camped at Sagua La Grande but regimental headquarters was at Cardenas. His battalion returned from Cuba in February 1909. John may have left the service briefly, then re-entered on November 2, 1909 and was appointed corporal in the 165th Company, Coast Artillery Corps at Fort Totten, NY. Fort Totten was located in the borough of Queens at the head of Little Neck Bay.

Corporal John Sleter was promoted to sergeant, 165th Company, Coast Artillery on March 12, 1911. He was discharged on May 9, 1911 and re-enlisted the following day. (It's beginning to look like John enlisted for two years on each occasion that he re-upped.) At some point, between 1911 and 1919, artilleryman John Sleter received a direct commission to 2nd lieutenant. He was discharged on February 18, 1919 and re-enlisted as a sergeant.

Hopefully, you will be able to get copies of all pertinent pages from the Register of Enlistments. That will provide you with his hometown, the date

that he began his army career and his occupation prior to becoming a soldier.

Thank you for sharing those documents with me."

Sam

Need Information About Father's Korean Service

"Please help I need any info about my father. He was with the 5RCT, 555 FA 1950 Korean War July."

Michael Vassaur

Michael,

"What was your father's full name? What documents do you already have regarding your father's service in Korea? Do you have his Form DD214, a Purple Heart citation, or anything with which to start a search? What might you have heard from him?"

Sam Kier

(See Sam on page 17)

Veteran's Benefits and Benefits of Attending A Reunion

"I know I have mentioned in some of my previous articles about the benefits (to me) of the reunions, how my Dad and Father in Law, looked forward to them. And now that I have a few under my belt, I really understand what they meant to them and to me. Unlike the units of today, where they train together and units deploy together, we of the Vietnam War, except for the early units, were replacement soldiers. We came in to replace those that were lucky enough to complete a tour and sometimes those not so lucky, the WIA or KIAs. You quickly got to know the guys in your squad and platoon, sometimes even in other parts of the Company, but you did not get to know everyone. This is what is great about reunions, meeting and greeting, finding out who is who and rekindling long lost acquaintances. It is also a chance to share information. Two reunions ago in Georgia, General Ander-

son said that we, as a unit, were exposed to Agent Orange and we should look into filing for VA Benefits, if you thought you may have some of the symptoms. Well, like many of us now getting older, I too now have health issues, nothing great but still as the body gets older things catch up. So I went down to my local VA Hospital and filed for hearing aids. By the way, I was issued hearing aids and awarded 10% disability, but while there, my Service Officer said "Have you applied for PTSD"? "No, not me, I just did my job." He said "Boots on the ground, Infantry, you should look into it". So, my claim for Agent Orange was denied and again I went to see my Service Officer. He showed me what paperwork needed to be filled out for a rebuttal and again asked me if I had filed for PTSD. I took the paperwork for PTSD this time with a promise I'll look into it. I don't like to admit that there could be something wrong with me and as I saw it, filing for PTSD was admitting I had a weakness "I was doing my job". I did some research into what does PTSD look like and what are some of the signs. I talked with my wife and she encouraged me to file

"What have you got to lose". Since I don't have any of the Agent Orange qualifiers, I thought why not. I have to admit, filling out the paperwork and writing a statement opened up a can of worms that I had been suppressing for 50 years, and I started to think maybe I have been affected. Much to my surprise, a few weeks later, the VA sent me a notice to appear at this civilian physiologist's office for an evaluation. I went and had a pleasant discussion with the lady and again realized that I have been suppressing feeling for a long time. Low and behold, the VA has awarded me compensation for PTSD, so my advice to you, my fellow veterans, is that if have not filed for PTSD, you are missing the boat. It is not a sign of weakness. Whether you have it or not (denial is one of the signs) let the VA make the decision, and also file for your hearing aids while you are there."

Jeff Mc Grath

B Company 9/68-9/69

**I too had a similar experience with the VA and benefits.*



Judy & Jeff Mc Grath

1-5th INFANTRY - ARCTIC BOBCATS - FT WAINWRIGHT AK



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
1ST BATTALION 5TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
3214 SANTIAGO AVENUE
FORT WAINWRIGHT AK 99703-8000

September 18, 2017

Fellow Bobcats,

The past several months have been highly productive since our return from the Korean Peninsula. The Bobcat Battalion has been serving as the Army Pacific Response Force (APRF), a task which places us on the cutting edge of any emergency response needed throughout the Pacific area of operations. We have spent much of our time preparing for this role, while simultaneously ensuring we continue the incredible progress we made in Korea.

As part of our preparation for this duty, the Bobcats have conducted numerous Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDREs). This should come as no surprise to those who follow the Battalion's Facebook page ("1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment") as we have continued to document these exercises as they occur in order to highlight the incredible work our fellow Bobcats have been doing in the field.

These exercises have focused on training some of the most essential skills required for our role as the Army Pacific Response Force: emergency notifications necessitating a no-notice deployment, rapid mobilization of a company-sized response force, and tough and realistic training once the force has deployed. We have had the good fortune to practice joint-interoperability as we worked with the U.S. Air Force to assist in these rapid deployments. Training has occurred throughout Alaska, at the Donnelly Training Area as well as Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson near Anchorage. Training on this varied and mountainous terrain serves to better prepare our Soldiers to face any threat, from wherever it may come.

As we continue to build on the lessons learned over the summer during Operation Arctic Tiger, we also look ahead to the future. The hard training being conducted today is designed to prepare our Soldiers to engage the enemy on the multi-domain battlefield to come. The Bobcats stand ready to answer the call and face whatever challenges lie ahead, whether that be here in Alaska or across the Pacific Ocean. When that call comes, now, as they always have, Bobcats will lead the way.

Christopher Barber
First Lieutenant,
US Army
Battalion Historian



LTC R. Blake Lackey



CSM Ronald D. Corella

One of the Proudest Moments in Bobcat History

8 July 17

Chris Barber,

"I just received the latest issue of the Bobcat Bulletin and read your piece about Able Company's defense of OP Harry on 12-13 June 1953. Nicely written, young trooper! I'm thinking that the viewing point, OP Cheongsong, may be a current name for OP Howe, which was situated on Line Wyoming, the secondary MLR. It was a fall-back position in the event that the Chinese were able to over-run the more northern Line Missouri. The successful defense of OP Harry, on that night, remains one of the proudest moments in your battalion's story."

Best wishes,
Sam Kier





A special thanks to LTC Lackey and 1LT Christopher Barber for the articles and pictures!

"The Bobcats conducted Joint Interoperability training, working in concert with the US Air Force to rapidly deploy."



"Deployment Readiness Exercises at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson focused on rapid deployment and extensive training on various weapons systems." *(Pictures below Outlined in green in the electronic E-mailed version)*



2018 Reunion Norfolk Virginia

Tuesday May 15th - Sunday May 20st 2018

(Norfolk from page 1)

* Free parking

* Complimentary Shuttle Service to/from the Airport & within a 3 mile radius of the hotel based on request

* 15% Discount at Max & Irma's Restaurant

* Free Wi-Fi in guestrooms

* Pet Friendly with a \$50 fee

* Indoor swimming pool

To make reservations call:

1-(757) 466-8000

and when booking tell them

5th Infantry Regiment Association

* Booking prices are good up to 3 before and after reunion dates

Schedule of events

Hospitality Room: May 15th - May 20th (No fee)

Snacks & Beverages are allowed.

Tuesday May 15th

Arrival and Registration

Wednesday May 16th

The Military Aviation Museum

9:00AM - 3:00 PM \$49 Per person

Depart via motorcoach with your Guide to visit one of Virginia Beach's most revered attractions, the Military Aviation Museum, home to one of the largest private collections of World War II and Korean War era fighters, bombers, trainers and seaplanes in the world. Many aircraft have been fully restored to their World War II condition and are used for flight demonstration, movie production or commercials. Enjoy a guided tour of the galleries and shopping in the gift shop which is stocked with all things flight related

Next, enjoy beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay as you learn about the history of Virginia's largest city and get the pulse on current day in Virginia Beach. See the First Landing Cross at Cape Henry where the English colonists first came ashore in 1607 prior to settling at nearby Jamestown. Walk out on the overlook to see where the bay and the ocean meet, and where the famous Battle of the Capes took place during the Revolutionary War.

Enjoy a stop at the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse, built in 1792, this lighthouse was active until the late 1800's and is currently a Virginia Historic Landmark. Guests may choose to climb to the top of the Lighthouse (small admission fee, pay on own) or shop in the gift shop for all things Light-

house related.

Ride down the resort strip, see the historic Cavalier Hotel as well as the Tidewater Veterans Memorial, a unique structure which pays homage to veterans everywhere. Enjoy free time to stroll the Boardwalk and enjoy lunch on own.

Thursday May 17th

Naval Station Norfolk Tour & Spirit of Norfolk

9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Luncheon Cruise \$79 Per Person
Depart via motorcoach with your guide to tour the Norfolk Naval Base, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 78 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 26 aircraft squadrons comprised of 133 aircraft and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet. This naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. A Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now houses flag officers.

Friday May 18th

Memorial Service at the MacArthur Memorial, Tour of Norfolk, Lunch and Tour of Nauticus & Battleship Wisconsin

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM \$69 Per person

A Riding Tour through Norfolk, lunch at the Freemason Abbey, and a self guided tour of Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin.

Visit the MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. Upon arrival, a memorial service will be conducted prior to the Memorial opening to the public. (Estimated time of service is 1 hour. Service will be planned and conducted by the reunion committee)

After the service, view the outstanding collection housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and achievements of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the short film which chronicles the General's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell the story of General MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop

with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.

Next, learn about Norfolk's colorful history of over three centuries as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District and the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest.

Saturday May 19th

9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership Meeting

9:00 - 10 AM - Ladies Breakfast @ Max & Irma's

10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging

12:00 - 5 PM Free to explore Norfolk

Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails

6:00 PM - Dinner

7:00 PM - Program

8:00 PM - Approx. Auction

Dinner Choices

1. Roasted Sirloin of Beef \$50

Made with a homemade rosemary and peppercorn Au jus

2. Chicken Marsala \$50

Pan sautéed breast of chicken with crimini mushrooms in a Marsala wine sauce

3. Baked Tilapia \$50

Served with a white wine scampi sauce

* All dinners include fresh garden salad, warm dinner rolls, Chef's dessert display, wild rice or red potatoes, vegetable medley, freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.

*If you wish to make a donation to help cover the expenses in hospitality room, any amount appreciated.

For information contact Carolyn Kethcart: carolynjk@bobcat.ws

Carolyn Kethcart
16054 Pine Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-468-8624

Method of payment - You can pay via PayPal on the Bobcat website at: www.bobcat.ws, or send a check to Carolyn.

Make checks payable to the "5th Infantry Regiment Association"

For more Information, pictures and a video go to: <http://bobcat.ws/reunions.html>

Norfolk 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 Military Aviation Museum Tour"?
____ Yes ____ No ____

⇒ Do you plan on taking the "Naval Station Norfolk Tour & Spirit of Norfolk Tour"?
____ Yes ____ No ____

⇒ Do you plan on attending the Memorial Service at the MacArthur Memorial?
____ Yes ____ No ____

⇒ Are you planning on attending the Ladies Breakfast 9 AM SAT morning at @ Max & Irma's ?
____ 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 Norfolk VA!

Registration Form Norfolk VA 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 16 May - The Military Aviation Museum, A Riding Virginia Beach Tour, Free time on Virginia Beach's Boardwalk -\$49 per person		
THU 17 May - Naval Station Norfolk Tour & Spirit of Norfolk Luncheon Cruise - \$79 per person		
FRI 18 May - Memorial Service at the MacArthur Memorial - \$69 per person includes Lunch		
SAT 19 May - Banquet Dinner Choices		
1. Roasted Sirloin of Beef \$50		
2. Chicken Marsala \$50		
3. Baked Tilapia \$50		
* All dinners include fresh garden salad, warm dinner rolls, Chef's dessert display, wild rice or red potatoes, vegetable medley, freshly brewed coffee and iced tea.		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
TOTAL		
Is this the first reunion you have attended? (circle one)	YES	NO

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

Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477



OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

Calvin D. Cowles

Bobcat 6, 1905-13

"The Spring 2017 issue of the Bobcat Bulletin contains an article that I wrote about three 5th Infantry veterans that fought with valor at the Battle of Valverde, on the Rio Grande, in February, 1862. One of them, LTC William Lewis, would later be mortally wounded by one of Chief Dull Knife's warriors at the Battle of Punished Woman's Fork in Scott County, Kansas, on September 27, 1878.

An infantry column was dispatched from Ft. Hayes to relieve Lewis' Ft. Dodge contingent. One of its members was a 28-year-old North Carolinian, 2nd Lieutenant Calvin Cowles. Cowles, like many of the soldiers, was initially sympathetic with the plight of the Northern Cheyenne who had fled the hunger and disease of the reservation in an effort to return north to a healthier climate and an abundance of game. However, when they came upon the devastation caused by Dull Knife's group in Decatur County, Kansas, they changed their tune.

In a letter to his father, Cowles wrote "Our sympathies were with them at first but when we reached their trail of murder, rapine, and desolation, our blood rose against them and there was not a man who would not gladly have risked his life to avenge the defense-less men, women, and children who had been barbarously murdered and outraged." However, there was no time for retribution. Dull Knife's group crossed over into Nebraska where they became Fort

Robinson's problem.

In March, 1879, Calvin Cowles was promoted to 1st lieutenant in the 23rd Infantry and for the next ten years, knocked around from one army post to another in Colorado, New Mexico, Michigan and New York. In March, 1889, he was assigned TDY to the War Records Office, in Washington, DC, and given the task of compiling and indexing a massive collection of Civil War maps to accompany the written records. This "temporary" duty turned into a six-year grind for Cowles. Today's military historians, including this writer, are grateful for the result: The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War.

Calvin Cowles had been promoted to captain during his Washington, D.C. assignment. When he returned to the 23rd Infantry, he was given a company command.

On February 15, 1898, the U.S.S. Maine developed mechanical problems and exploded while it was moored in Havana harbor; providing an excuse for the United States to declare war with Spain. When it appeared that state volunteer regiments were going to be the first units to join the fight, Calvin Cowles and a number of other regular army officers resigned their commissions and volunteered. He was appointed a lieutenant colonel in the 1st North Carolina Volunteer Infantry and reported to camp at Raleigh. His unit was deployed to Marianao, Havana, Cuba from December 11, 1898 to March, 1899. They re-deployed to Savannah, Georgia and mustered out of service the following April.

By May, 1899, Cowles was back in the regular army herding recruits at the Presidio of San Francisco. In August, he was promoted to major and ordered to report to his old outfit, the 23rd Infantry, in the Philippines.

The next six years of Cowles' career were primarily devoted to the Philippine Insurrection. He led a battalion of the 17th Infantry in a successful fight in the Zambales Mountains against a thousand insurgents, served as a provost judge and a supervisor of internal revenue in Northern Luzon, and commanded the sub-district of Davao, Mindanao. He

came home briefly in 1902 but, after being promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned to the 4th Infantry Regiment at Fort Sam Houston, returned to the Philippines with that unit. At times, during the next three years, he served as commander of the 4th Infantry.

On April 11, 1905, Cowles received word that he had been promoted to Colonel and that he was to proceed to Plattsburgh Barracks, New York and assume command of the 5th Infantry Regiment. He relieved the acting regimental commander, LTC George Borden, on August 7 of that year.



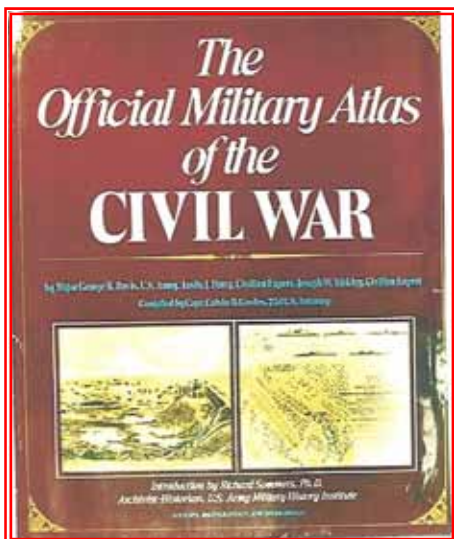
Old Stone Barracks at Plattsburgh

In 1906 the political situation in Cuba had become so unstable that the Cuban government requested American intervention. An expeditionary force, the Army of Cuban Occupation, including the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 5th Infantry, was shipped to Cuba. Upon arrival, Colonel Cowles' headquarters and the 3rd Battalion were posted at Cardenas. Companies E and F were placed at Sagua La Grande and G and H at Carbarien.

Shortly after arriving in Cuba, Calvin received the sad news that his wife, Mary, had died. Despite the fact that he had spent much of their married life off chasing Indians, Cubans and Philippine Insurrectos, the Cowles had been blessed with three sons and a daughter.

The Cuban pacification, lasting until 1909, was a peaceful affair which offered the regiment valuable field training. While there, the regiment received its first machine guns; 30 caliber, water-cooled M1904 Maxims. Twenty-one men from the second battalion were selected to become the 5th Infantry's first machine gun platoon.

The two battalions returned from Cuba in February, 1909. Colonel



Cowles remained in command until he retired on June 26, 1913.

Calvin Cowles golden years might best be termed "semi-retirement." He settled in Hartford, Connecticut and became active with the National Guard as well as the Connecticut State Guard. He signed on as a professor of military science and tactics and commander of the ROTC at Trinity College during World War I.

Calvin married Katherine Hitchcock and she predeceased him by twelve years. The old Indian fighter finally succumbed to pneumonia in Hartford on June 22, 1937 at the age of 88. His two wives are buried with him at Arlington National Cemetery.

COL Cowles' sons followed him into the U.S. Army and all three retired at the rank of colonel. William graduated from West Point and served in the field artillery in France during World War I. David served with the Quartermaster General Department in both world wars and Calvin, Jr went to medical school and served as a surgeon during World War I as well as an assistant surgeon at West Point.

Sources

1. Arlington National Cemetery Website
2. Cullum's Register, Vol. III, p 216, #2492
3. Kier, S.M., Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment, Chap. 8
4. Weymouth, J (ed) A soldier's life on the Indian frontier, 1876-78; letters of 2LT C.D. Cowles.

(Sam from page 11)

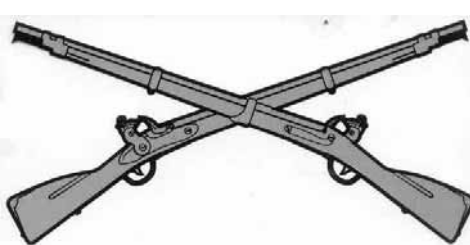
"Yes I have the 214 & I have a few company photos from Hawaii prior to the 5th deploying to Japan."

Michael

Michael,

"You still haven't mentioned your father's name but there was a LeRoy Vassaur of Sanford, NC that served with the combat team in 1949-51. Was he your father? He claimed to have served with Heavy Mortar Company of the 5th Infantry rather than the 555th Field Artillery Battalion. Vassaur's company boarded the USNS Gaffey and sailed directly to Pusan, Korea. There was no stop-over in Japan by any element of the 5th RCT. Subsequent replacements did

(See Sam on page 23)



Honoring Our Bobcat Heroes!

Congressional Medal of Honor is Awarded to:

DANIEL FERNANDEZ

Rank and organization: Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army, Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mechanized) 25th Infantry Division. Place and date: Cu Chi, Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam, 18 February 1966. Entered service at: Albuquerque, N. Mex. Born: 30 June 1944, Albuquerque, N. Mex. c.o. No.: 21, 26 April 1967. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sp4c. Fernandez demonstrated indomitable courage when the patrol was ambushed by a Viet Cong rifle company and

driven back by the intense enemy automatic weapons fire before it could evacuate an American soldier who had been wounded in the Viet Cong attack. Sp4c. Fernandez, a sergeant and 2 other volunteers immediately fought their way through devastating fire and exploding grenades to reach the fallen soldier. Upon reaching their fallen comrade the sergeant was struck in the knee by machinegun fire and immobilized. Sp4c. Fernandez took charge, rallied the left flank of his patrol and began to assist in the recovery of the wounded sergeant. While first aid was being administered to the wounded man, a sudden increase in the accuracy and intensity of enemy fire forced the volunteer group to take cover. As they did, an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the group, although some men did not see it. Realizing there was no time for the wounded sergeant or the other men to protect themselves from the grenade blast, Sp4c. Fernandez vaulted over the wounded sergeant and threw himself on the grenade as it exploded, saving the lives of his 4 comrades at the sacrifice of his life. Sp4c. Fernandez' profound concern for his fellow soldiers, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.



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_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$39.00

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khaki or black/khaki

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19 put on the lower left sleeve
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#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]

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_____ 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]

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_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$34.00
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Color: (Circle Color) Light Blue or Indigo

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

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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

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- 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 - \$23.00
- 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

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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,

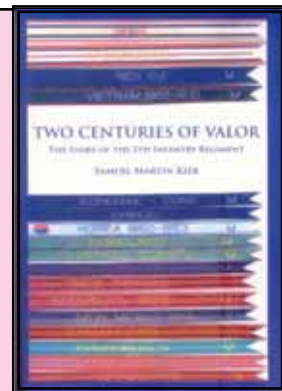
Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

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://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml

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

Notice: If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 17** 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.

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(Please Print)

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(Social from page 1)

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RANDOM MEMORIES, OR VERY SHORT STORIES

By Frank (Tom) Goins

A Flash Of Light

"On a clear moonless night near the Cambodian border, if you weren't on ambush patrol or LP, you could lay on top of a bunker and see thousands of stars and even satellites. Occasionally there would be a flash of light as high altitude planes used strobe lights to illuminate the nearby Ho Chi Minh Trails photographing NVA night movements."

I Survived The Night

"New Years Eve 1967 at Katum, I was out on LP. Seems like I was always on LP or bush, probably because I was. We were set up outside the perimeter in the bamboo and teak forest, close enough to the perimeter that we could hear the guys inside whooping it up and shooting off green flares at midnight. Glad someone was having fun. Later I heard someone walking toward me. I was a few meters from my squad leader so I was on my own with this one. I got into position aiming my M16. He must have heard or seen me, because I heard him take off running. I guess it was an NVA scout. I crawled over to my squad leader and told him what happened. He told me to go back to my position and not do anything unless I had to. He was a short timer and didn't want to get into it. Both the scout and I survived the night."

Ground Moved Under My Feet

"I was patrolling the dirt road between Prek Klok and Katum when the ground moved under my feet. A few seconds later I heard the explosions as the B-52s unloaded their cargo on the Ho Chi Minh Trails about a mile or so away."

Three Dead In A Well

"One afternoon in March 1968, at the Fil Hol, I saw some guys from Bravo Co. standing around in a circle. A couple of us from Alpha Co. went over to see what was going on and watched them lower guys into a well. They weren't coming up. The last guy they lowered down brought up the limp body of one of the Bravo Co. grunts. He was lowered down again and brought up another, then again bringing up another limp body. All three of the guys he brought up were dead. I never did find out what happened

to them, but they weren't wet and there wasn't a mark on any of them."

Diet In Vietnam

"Vietnam was a great diet! I was 5' 10" and 155 lbs. when I got there, and probably 125 lbs. at the end."

We Did The Ant Dance

"One day while taking a leisurely ride on track 33 in the Boi Loi Woods, taking advantage of the warm sun and enjoying the tropical scenery, our ride came to an abrupt halt. Track 33 ran up on a tree stump and suddenly stopped dead. We were stuck. There were tree branches above us and within a few seconds we were all covered with biting red ants. Mike, the driver tried many maneuvers to get 33 off the stump while the rest of us did the "ant dance", trying to get the little buggers off of us. Eventually the track was freed, but we ribbed Mike for the rest of the day."

Daniel Boone Visits

"Wow, it's Daniel Boone! Actually it was Fess Parker who played Daniel Boone on TV. He was making a good will handshake tour. I was sitting in the back of track 34 burned out from walking all day on a S&D. I was too tired to get up and go shake his hand, and there was a lot of brass hanging around him hoping for a photo op, but I did see him. He was very tall and had very red hair."

Beer And Weed

"During the second Tet offensive in April 1968, we were pulled into the Cholon district of Saigon where there had been house to house fighting with the NVA. We got there after dark and the CO had my track set up on the road under a dim yellowish streetlight. Brilliant thinking! No one would notice us there! However, some of the guys in my squad noticed a Mama San and Papa San store across the road and wasted no time in breaking in and stealing some rice wine and beer. If you wanted to smoke weed, and some guys did, preferring it to the 3.2 warm beer they sent out to the field for us, you could get it from almost any kid or Mama San in any village you passed through. Usually it was in a plastic bag or disguised as a pack of cigarettes. The tobacco was removed and replaced with ganja."

Lizards

"The first time I heard the 'fuck you' lizards, I thought it was Charlie out in the jungle taunting us."

Dust Storm

"A huge dust storm came rolling in toward us when we were set up in the dried rice paddies near Hoc Mon. I saw a tank in the distance disappear in it, then it hit us. Everything and everyone was covered with a thick coat of dust when it was over. It was like something you would see in an old western movie."

Rag Dolls

"While riding the tracks through the rice paddies, the track in front of us started going over a steep rice dyke. It came down with a thud, throwing equipment and guys off like rag dolls. Luckily no one was hurt, but it was a sight!"

Heating C-Rations

"To make C-rations left over from the Korean War almost edible, I used to take a pinch of C4 from the back of my claymore mine, light it and cook my Cs. Later I heard that some guys got heat tabs to warm them. We didn't so we improvised."

Outside The Perimeter

"While back at Cu Chi for a stand-down, I was sent out with a couple of other guys to a bunker at Ann-Margret Outpost to pull night bunker guard. I remember thinking as we walked out there, "damn, this is pretty far outside the perimeter." Anyone who has been out there knows what I'm talking about."

What Happened To The People

"We were sent to a hamlet northwest of Saigon for a clean up sweep after a fierce battle. It was a small hamlet. When we entered we could see that there had been quite a battle. Some of the hooches were half destroyed and the rest had numerous bullet holes. The trees were shredded. It was like a ghost town, not a soul there, dead or alive. All the people's belongings were still there. Very eerie. I wondered what happened to the people."

** I bet you too could send me some interesting experiences from your Army days.*

(Sam from page 17)

stop at Camp Drake, near Tokyo, before reporting to the 5th RCT.

That's great that you have his DD214. Do you have any questions about the information contained in it? If you want to send me a scanned copy of it, I can go over the document with you."

Best,
Sam Kier

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 Stanzione 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



Jungle Classroom

20 June 2016

"I recently enjoyed reading *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*. It was a fantastic read on the exploits of former US President Teddy Roosevelt to discover one of the last remaining unexplored areas in South America. This Brazilian rainforest river had never been measured or charted; therefore, it had been penciled in on the map by army engineers as a river of doubt. Roosevelt's ordeal was ill planned from the start and nearly cost everyone their lives. In my judgment, they should have turned back. The expedition met with luck and it was a miracle that both he and son, Kermit, survived.

This story, as told by Candice Millard, reminded me of a situation that I experienced as a young leader. We were deep in a mountain jungle and struggling to locate our position on the map for a resupply. Having been days into an operation, all the men were tired and bitching from the lack of rest, suffocating heat and weight of a soldier's load. I did not know exactly where we were. We needed to request an air supply of water and rations. I needed to triangulate our position, but to do this I had to see with my eyes other terrain features to orient the map. We climbed to a ridge and using our machetes, hacked a path along its spine. Slashing our way out along the ridge, we discovered a small stream of water. Water seeks the lowest point. I reasoned that it would lead us to a waterfall. It did. At this point, I could see that there was no going any further. The fall was 30 feet or more off the side of the mountain. It was pretty, but dangerous. The ground beneath our feet had turned into muck. Standing at the edge I pondered whether to turn around. By now it was late in the afternoon. Low on water, I decided to attempt a decent. Dropping my gear and rifle, it would be me that would try this. I opted not to use a rope for safety. Digging the heel of my boot into the mud, I grabbed a large clump of grass and small vegetation that had managed to root on the mountainside. The technique worked. But as I moved slowly downward, my foot gave way to the water saturated earth. I reached for a clump but I was too heavy. I felt my body drop. Summersaulting once – maybe twice – the fall was broken by the jungle canopy below. Dangling in the thick vines and

tree branches, I could feel the bouncing motion finally coming to rest. Not bodily injured; my pride was bruised realizing that I was now cut off from the entire platoon.

My judgment on this day was impaired due to stresses and a lack of experience, but I learned from the embarrassment of being separated from my men. In hindsight, I should have never taken any action that had the potential of separating me from my leadership responsibilities.

Leadership is an evolution of building upon mistakes and learning from others until you become competent in decision making under stress. All too often we look to some class to teach us about leadership when, in fact, life itself is a classroom – just like the jungle was. Those you meet every day will teach you lessons if you just take time to stop, look, and listen, and don't pass up the opportunity to learn from mistakes."

Joe Harris

Company A Mortar Platoon Leader
1973-75

Is It Fair?

Did you know that if you can no longer live independently That the VA can pay a caregiver to take care of you. However there is a catch. In order to receive caregiver support you must have served in the military after 9/11. This means that getting assistance to pay for caregiver support is possible if you served after 9/11 but if you are a World War II, Korean or Vietnam Veteran this support is not available from the VA. Without caregiver support the only option is probably to be institutionalized. I ask is this fair? In my opinion absolutely not. When Congress passed the legislation that made this possible I would sure like to know what made them think that those who served after 9/11 are more deserving than those who served prior to 9/11. My guess is that it came down to cost.

Anyhow what can you do about this unfairness? I suggest that the best course of action is to contact your congressman and senator and demand that they correct this injustice.

Fred Deverse

Coleman MI Memorial Honors Warriors



This memorial located in Coleman Michigan honors warriors from all of America's recent wars. An amazing feat for Coleman MI which is a town of only 1,198 people. They received permission to copy the 25th Infantry Division's Memorial located in both Schofield Barracks Hawaii and Fort Benning Georgia.

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