

Boot to Boot

COMPANY D
1ST BATTALION
12TH CAVALRY



VIETNAM, 1965-1972

FOR HE TODAY THAT SHEDS HIS BLOOD WITH ME SHALL BE MY BROTHER FROM THIS DAY TO THE ENDING OF THE WORLD

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2018

2018 Delta Reunion San Antonio, Texas September 6-9

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Arrive, VFW Welcome Dinner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Lackland AFB, Ft Sam

Houston, Mi Terria, Mercado,

Alamo, or Downtown Tour

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Memorial Service,

Company Business Meeting,

VA PTSD/Benefits Briefing for

Spouses & Significant Others

Banquet

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Depart

#1's Corner



Happy
New Year
to all the
Delta
Company
Brothers-
in-Arms.
It was a
year filled

with great things for Delta.

Some of us will be on the way to Vietnam in April to trace the path of our unit and explore the country at peace. We will have the opportunity to honor those we lost, reminisce, and celebrate the opportunity.

We also are preparing for our Reunion in San Antonio, Texas. From all reports I have received this will be another great experience. There is more information provided in this issue regarding the Reunion.

The Advisory Board is preparing diligently to present significant information for the present and the future of Delta at the coming Reunion.

Please be sure to contact others of the Delta Vietnam cohort and let them know about our organization. One thing we have decided to is to make an concerted effort to reach as many brothers in arms as we can in the coming year. I want to thank you in advance for your support in this effort as well as thank you for the support given leadership in the significant effort to develop an organization.

"Boot to Boot"

Dwight D Edwards
President, AKA #1

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Delta Company Website Update

Recent updates and changes to the web site include:

We continued the on going updates to the Roster for all periods. More additions and “finds” keep increasing the number of Brothers accounted for in Delta. Thanks especially to Fred Mac Lennan and Ken Goff for many additions. Let's continue this important effort by “finding” our brothers.

Added new Photo pages from Mark Vinglish, Ronald Morgan, Jammie Swidecki, Lonnie Anderson and Doug Kuhlman. Thanks to all of them for sending in great photos of their Vietnam experience. New Photo pages that have been recently updated are shown in yellow font on the photo index page. Check them out and if you have names to add to faces or places please send them to me. There are already some name and place updates which I will have posted soon.

Work continues on the “Firefights” page, which may be renamed the “Major Events” page in order to emphasize significant historical events, such as the invasion of Cambodia. Some areas have been updated : Shiny Bayonet, Ia Drang, Two Streams, 506 Valley, Tam Quan, and Firebase Pace. None of the above are complete, but information continues to be added to help document our Delta history. WE NEED WORDS FROM THOSE WILLING TO TELL THEIR STORY. So contact me if you are able to add some detail to events in our history. Any detail, no matter how small, will be appreciated by your Brothers. I will be contacting some of you to ask for your help.

The web site continues to grow with over 100 pages now. We had a record number of “visits” to the web site in December, 4,540 visits with 8611 pages accessed. So many people are checking our Delta 1/12th story in Vietnam.

Bob March

WHAT WE DO IN LIFE ECHOES IN ETERNITY

A Message From Delta Secretary Fred Mac Lennan

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and were able to enjoy time with their loved ones.

The Board of Directors have been meeting once a month by teleconference since the October Reunion. Our goals this year are to account for as many Veterans of the Vietnam Era that served in Delta as possible, to establish a formal tax-free Organization, move forward with the San Antonio Reunion, and maintain contact with all of you through our web site and newsletter.

Since the Tucson Reunion we have accounted for 65 additional Veterans. Unfortunately 25 of those have passed away. I urge everyone to take time to review the web site roster for your time in country. If there is someone who has not been found who you have kept in touch with or you know has passed away, please call me at 347-853-1281 with the info. We have limited resources to assist in these searches, so any information that you can pass on would greatly expedite our cause. Let's make an effort to find people.

Fred Mac Lennan

Two Streams, a Small Unit Action - April 7, 1966 (Part Two)

Bob March

At the end of Part One (October newsletter) the intrepid troopers of Delta Recon platoon were in a world of hurt. One squad and the platoon CP on the North side of a stream bed had all but five people wounded or KIA. On the South side of the stream bed, SSG Rubio's squad also suffered casualties. The NVA were well positioned but were under indirect fire forcing them to stay in their many spider holes. LT Carpenter requested that the one remaining Recon squad come from the LZ, three clicks away, to provide reinforcements. He was also attempting to get SSG Rubio's squad to cross the stream bed and join him on the North side of the stream.

By this time the shooting on both sides became more disciplined. The mad minute like firing for the first few minutes of the firefight would have depleted ammunition much too fast. So both sides were carefully looking for targets and then shooting. The NVA still had snipers in the trees. Recon had no machine guns but the NVA did and they used them to sweep our positions systematically, chewing away the ant hills used for cover by some of Recon. LT Carpenter, PFC March and PFC Rockwell (the RTOs) were behind some very thin dried up bushes which provided sparse concealment. The branches of the bush were being chopped away by incoming rounds.

Radio communication with SSG Rubio's squad was interrupted. This was a serious situation as they were needed on the north side of the stream bed. March and Rockwell were yelling at each other about radio settings. Shooting and explosions were so loud that they had to yell face to face less than a foot away from each other. As PFC Rockwell turned his face towards March, a bullet went right across the front of his face, through the bridge of his nose, blowing his glasses off. Lots of blood was flowing and "Rocky" as he was called, was in bad shape, unable to either see or function. LT Carpenter directed PFC March to remove PFC Rockwell's radio. Rockwell was rolling around on the ground, moaning and holding his face, making it difficult to get his web gear and radio removed. Another trooper, who had been wounded himself, helped Rocky low crawl to the rear where they both were medevac'd by helicopter.

Meanwhile SGT Cheney, the FO, started bringing in 105 mm artillery on the NVA. Recon was glad to see the shells right on target, even though the shrapnel, dirt, and foliage were landing around them. The shells whistled in and the NVA stopped shooting, as they scurried into their protective holes with each incoming barrage. The artillery gave much needed relief, allowing Recon to maneuver and get more wounded out.

At this point a spotter chopper from the 1/9th Cav saw some NVA fleeing their positions heading west along the stream bed. Battalion S-3 was notified and one platoon of A Company 1/12th, which had already been put on standby, was immediately lifted into a blocking position a few clicks west of Recon.

SGT Webb's squad arrived from the LZ, breathing hard from their dangerous run toward the fighting. They followed the same route as the earlier Recon members. PSG Mclaurin (Mac), the platoon sergeant, was with SGT Webb's squad. When Webb arrived at the CP he asked where SGT Lute was and March pointed towards his body about 25 meters in front. PSG Mclaurin and LT Carpenter conferred briefly and deployed SGT Webb's squad, under cover of an artillery barrage, on the right flank of the Recon platoon. There they faced directly what was becoming the most formidable part of the NVA line. SGT Rubio's squad got the word to move across the stream bed. Although some of the NVA had moved back towards the stream junction, many still remained. PFC Carl Colarusso was the first to attempt to cross the dried up stream bed and climb up the north face. (Continued on page 7)

Delta, 1st Battalion, 12th Calvary Reunion San Antonio, Texas, 6-9 September 2018

HOTEL – *El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel* (<http://www.eltropicanohotel.com/>) Rooms are \$127.00 per night including all taxes and fees, with 2 free breakfast buffets. There will be no resort fee and WiFi is free. Rooms are available at this rate for three days before and after the reunion. Booking information on page 1.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION – A trolley runs every 15-20 minutes with a stop just a block from the hotel, making all of downtown easily accessible. A Double Decker Bus stops in front of the hotel every 20 minutes for a “hop-on, hop-off” tour of San Antonio.



Two Doubles Room at el Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel



Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle

Delta’s success at finding its Brothers-in-Arms has made its reunions bigger and better every time.

72 veterans gathered in Tucson in 2017, and we plan to exceed that at San Antonio in 2018. Reunions of the Regiment and Division have never attracted that many Delta Vietnam Veterans.

San Antonio is where you’re most likely to see that friend of a half-century ago.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, 6 September – Check into hotel and register. Welcome Dinner at *VFW Post 76*. *Hospitality Suite* in the *Trinidad Room* open from Thursday afternoon through Saturday night.

Friday, 7 September – In the morning attend *Lackland Air Force Base Airman Graduation Parade* then visit *Fort San Houston Quadrangle & Museum*. Lunch at *Mi Tierra Restaurant*, shopping in the *Mercado* (Mexican market), or tour *Downtown San Antonio*.

Saturday, 8 September – *Memorial Service* and *Company General Membership Meetings*, or *Wives’ VA PTSD & Benefits Briefing* in the morning, take a tour of the *Alamo* or a downtown tour in the afternoon. Our *Banquet* in the evening will be a very special event!

Sunday, 9 September – Departure day.



Take a Boat Tour or Stroll along San Antonio’s River Walk

Delta's Unit Awards (Vietnam)

The *Presidential Unit Citation* is the nation's highest unit decoration, awarded for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy. The unit degree of heroism required is considered the equivalent of the individual degree of heroism required for the Distinguished Service Cross.

The Presidential Unit Citation is a solid blue ribbon enclosed in a gold frame, and is worn on the right. All members of the unit may wear the decoration while assigned. *Only those in the unit at the time of the action cited may wear the decoration after they leave the unit.*

D Company was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation the following two times.

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, PLEIKU PROVINCE Awarded to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), including the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 12th Cavalry, for extraordinary heroism in action from 23 October 1965 to 26 November 1965, on General Order No. 40, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 21 January 1967

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, HOA HOI Awarded to the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 12th Cavalry for extraordinary heroism in combat actions on 2-3 October 1966 on General Order No. 47, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 12 September 1968

The *Valorous Unit Award* is the second highest unit decoration, awarded for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy. The unit degree of heroism required is considered the equivalent of the individual degree of heroism required for the Silver Star.

The Valorous Unit Award is a gold frame enclosing a ribbon of the pattern of the Silver Star Medal ribbon centered on a red field, worn on the right. All members of the unit may wear the decoration while assigned. *Only those in the unit at the time of the action cited may wear the decoration after they leave the unit.*

D Company was awarded the Valorous Unit Award the following two times.

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD, FISH HOOK Awarded for extraordinary heroism in combat in Cambodia and Northern Military Region Three 1 May 1970 to 29 June 1970, General Order 43, Headquarters, Department of the Army 29 November 1972

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD, TAY NINH PROVINCE Awarded for extraordinary heroism in combat in Tay Ninh Province (FSB Pace) from 23 September 1971 to through 25 October 1971, on General Order No. 5, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 26 April 1985

The *Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross* is a military decoration of the Republic of Vietnam awarded to military personnel and Armed Forces units for deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy. Individuals who were personally (by name) cited on orders may wear the Gallantry Cross Medal and appropriate attachment with (but after) their United States awards and decorations. Wear the Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm in a gold frame on the right.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM, 1965-1973

General Orders specific to the 1st Cavalry Division were subsequently confirmed and superseded by a Department of Defense directive that U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) and its subordinate units, between 20 July 1965 to 28 Mar 1973, are authorized the Unit Gallantry Cross with Palm. Thus, all who served in Vietnam may wear the Gallantry Cross. (Continued on page 6)

Fiddler's Green

We have identified 438 Delta veterans who returned. 140--nearly a third--have already gone on to Fiddler's Green, joining the 84 lost in Vietnam. Here are the 23 most recently identified in our search.

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| PAUL H BOZEWSKI | STEPHEN KUCKELMEN | LEWIS E RODGERS |
| BRADLEY CHENOWITH | JAMES LATTER | ROY C RODGERS |
| DAVID L DOTSON JR | JACKIE D LEOPARD | JOEL D ROSS |
| PAUL ENGSTROM | JOSEPH P MILLER | JOHN D SIMMONS |
| PAUL E GOSNELL | BILLY D MINTON | THOMAS SIMPSON |
| SAMUEL B HAMBRIGHT | DAVID H OUTLAW | LONNIE E STEWART |
| GARY HART | JOHN A REDDEN | DAVID WHITE |
| ARTHUR KACALEK | CLEOPHUS REED | |

If you know of a Delta Veteran we've listed who is still with us, or who has gone on to Fiddler's Green, please contact Delta's webmaster at recondelta@embarqmail.com

VIETNAM RETURN

Nine Delta veterans have registered with *Vietnam Battlefield Tours* to return to Vietnam for two weeks beginning April 8, 2018. Included are five from 1965-66, two 67-68 (with spouses), and two 69-70. Six others will join Delta's veterans and tour guide Dave Macedonia (101st Airborne Division, Vietnam). <http://www.vietnambattlefieldtours.com/>

Unit Awards (Continued from page 5) The Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal is a decoration awarded to personnel or units that performed outstanding achievements in civil affairs. Individuals named on orders wear the Civil Actions Medal with (but after) their United States decorations. All members of a unit cited may wear the decoration (on right, in gold frame) while assigned. *Only those in the unit at the time of the action cited may wear the decoration after they leave the unit.*

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTION HONOR MEDAL, FIRST CLASS, 1969-1970

Awarded to the 1st Cavalry Division for 1 January 1969 to 1 February 1969, General Order 42, 1972

PRESERVING HISTORY

Our own Col. John Gergulis writes to tell us *The National Museum of the United States Army* is nearing completion at Ft. Belvoir, VA. The new museum will be 185,000 square feet on 80 acres housing 30,000 artifacts, objects, and images, the vast majority of which have never been seen by the public. (<https://armyhistory.org/>) A new complex is planned to house the existing *1st Cavalry Division Museum* at Ft. Hood, TX. (<https://1cda.org/about-us/museum-foundation/>) Both museums are engaged in fund raising projects that include sale of engraved memorial pavers.

OTHER 2018 CAVALRY REUNIONS

1st Cavalry Division Association, Charleston, WV, June 20-25. <https://www.1cda.org/annual-reunion.html>
12th Cavalry Regiment Association, Branson, MO, September 13-17. <http://www.12thcav.us/>

In the Next Issue of *But-to-But*

More about the 2018 San Antonio reunion. Fiddler's Green, Web Site Update, President's message and other news. Part 3 of Two Streams. Your submissions are wanted.

TWO STREAMS (Continued from page 3) The wall of the stream bed was about eight feet high, and steep enough that one had to use hands to help climb. Carl crossed, then leveraged himself up the north wall. As he edged over the top, at least one NVA opened up on him full auto. Dirt and debris were kicked up all around Carl until he was completely enveloped in a cloud. He then tumbled back down the wall of the stream bed in a heap. Others who saw this thought he must have been killed, but incredibly all the bullets missed him. He got up, ready to try it again. (It is said that this is where Carl was nick named "Combat Colarusso.") It took almost an hour for SSG Rubio's squad to root out the nearby NVA and make it to the other side of the stream bed, where they joined up with the remaining members of SGT Lute's squad. Recon was consolidated and the real fun began.

SGT Cheney received authorization to bring in some "fast movers" to drop napalm on the NVA. A spotter plane fired a marker into the tree line in which the NVA were located. The jets screamed in at amazing speed and lobbed napalm canisters at the smoke filtering up through the trees. The tree canopy was huge, overshadowing the Delta troopers. The napalm canisters drifted end over end after the jets passed and exploded in the tops of the trees. Instantly the troopers found themselves in what felt like a high temperature oven. Even before the napalm gel splashed through the tree canopy towards them and the NVA, the searing temperature from the radiated heat singed their hair. Although the trees absorbed much of the gel, chunks were landing on and around the troopers. PFC Donald Freed was hit directly on the hands and back. Burning painfully, he got up and ran. Another nearby trooper tackled him and rolled him in the dirt. SSG Rubio had a large chunk of what appeared to be inflamed cherry jello land on his back. PFC March used his shirt sleeve to quickly knock it off him. Amazingly, it fell in one piece to the ground. But the napalm damage to the NVA was greater. The NVA snipers in the trees became crispy critters, and the NVA stayed in their holes a little longer than usual.

The search for targets and shooting continued on both sides. Ammunition was being conserved. The firefight already had lasted about five hours. Delta received radio info that elements of Alpha Company were sweeping towards them from their blocking position.

SGT Cheney, working with the aerial spotter, brought in A1E Skyraiders with 250 pound bombs. LT Carpenter moved everyone back about 100 feet to put more distance between Recon and the target, a lesson well learned from the napalm. Again artillery helped break contact long enough to move back and take cover. The Recon troopers lay prone on the ground with their mouths open and ears covered, as the planes dove in and delivered their ordinance right on target. The blast from the 250 pound bombs was still close to the Recon troopers and the shock wave lifted everyone right off the ground. Suddenly the sounds of small arms fire seemed diminished. The radio volume was just not enough. One trooper's ear was bleeding. It's no wonder as Recon was still well within the blast radius of the bombs.

Still somewhat dazed, the troopers immediately returned to their original tenuous positions relative to the NVA tree line. Shooting continued and Recon was unable to maneuver towards the NVA because of the suppressive fire from a well concealed NVA machine gun, which had been positioned to sweep Recon's positions on the right flank. Back and forth it went, wounding three more troopers. One of them was Kirby Cleveland who was shot through the left hip. The bullet exited his right hip. Once again medevac helicopters were brought in and troopers carried their buddies to the rear for evacuation. This is when PFC Frank Crary, a team leader in SGT Webb's squad, spotted the NVA machine gun and made his move.....

(To Be Continued in the April issue of *Boot-to-Boot*)

Boot to Boot

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2018 Reunion

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