



OPERATION

“WELCOME HOME BROTHER”



VIETNAM 2nd Battalion (MECH)
22nd Infantry Regiment
Locator Guide
(UPDATED 3-19-2016)

Operation “Welcome Home Brother” is an ambitious locator effort by Viet Nam Veterans of the 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry (VN222)1966-1970. The program will be a continuation of the efforts previously pioneered by many VN222 Veterans. Their expertise provided a base on which to build this pamphlet. Dick Nash has been appointed by the VN222 Board to serve as Chief Locator. He will provide quarterly reviews to the VN222 Board. The specific locator mission was laid out by the VN222 President to:

- 1) Coordinate the efforts of Company Points of Contact (POC’s) with an immediate goal of doubling our current membership from the 288 now signed up.
- 2) Promote a group effort in making sure that all known successful methods are available and used by all members of the organization, not just the Company Points of Contact.
- 3) Work with the VN222 Newsletter Editor, the VN222 Treasurer and the VN222 Secretary to compile and maintain a list of all active and inactive VN222 members.
- 4) Provide a quarterly report on all activity in this area to the VN222 Board of Directors.



Purpose

The intent of this pamphlet is to be a concise guide or “starting point” to help VN222 Veterans locate former combat Brothers and welcome them home. This pamphlet will not answer every question or cover every situation but will provide the basics to assist in helping identify, inform and integrate former VN222 Veterans into our data base. This pamphlet will be a “living document” and will be updated by the VN222 Chief Locator as new and creative ways come to light to better locate our Brothers. A date will be listed at the bottom of page 1 to ensure you know of the most recent update.

Note: This document reflects the change from “Locators” to company based “Points of Contacts” (POCs) as directed by the Board of Directors during the Reunion of 2015. Company based Points of Contact are selected by the company they served with and dates of service. This will make contact more relevant to the brothers of Triple Deuce.



From the Wall (2008 Washington DC Reunion photo)

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TAB A. “How do I do it?”

This pamphlet is not meant to be an exercise in rocket science or created to be difficult. The prior efforts of many have paved the way for the below listed methods to seek out our VN222 Brothers. Situations in locating VN222 Brothers so far have varied from chance meetings in a supermarket to finding our Brothers at local military awareness events, etc. The key factor is to find our Brothers no matter where or how! Below are some suggested ways to publicize our efforts to find our brothers include:

- Google Search Engine (On-Line) On the internet Google search engine, enter “National Association of Broadcasters.” For most services this will take you to page that has their website on line. It has listings of over 1500 radio/television stations and newspapers nation-wide that support community causes and groups. If this site doesn’t work from your computer try the old fashion way. Contact your local newspaper or radio/television station by phone or letter and ask them to help you submit a PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA). This has led to interviews and articles for some of us. If that happens it sure beats just the PSA. Brevity is the key to getting PSA published. Good luck. (See our suggested sample in Tab D)
- Google the veteran’s name on your internet service. Just enter the name and see if any listings come up on current location, etc. You may be surprised to find they have had a life after VN222.
- 22nd POC’s & other interested parties: A genealogy website <http://www.ancestry.com> has added 90 million military war records dating from 1600s thru Vietnam War, including draft cards.

NOTE: Access to these records is free only through June 6th 2007 (D-Day). Not sure of cost after that.

- Want something simpler? Visit your local VFW or Veterans Hospital Public Affairs office and ask them to allow you to put up our message (sample in Tab D) to help find our Brothers. Ask if they would run it in their internal communication publications too! • Contact your local military installation public affairs office (ask for community relations officer) and seek their assistance to help get our PSA (sample in Tab D) posted at EM/NCO and/or Officers Club bulletin boards, Community Center, etc. • Help us follow up with “new finds” that come to VN222 Newsletter editor and our company POCs attention. We can welcome them home from afar by letter but it will be

great if we could match up some 1:1 visits with those we locate in your geographical area.

- Provide VN222 company POC with copies of old CIB, promotion, award orders (especially R&R orders which often had additional spouse information). Additional hints on this method listed in Tab D examples. We can use those as location sources. See the listing of company Points of Contact (POCs) under Tab C.

- Finally, Download" Form 180-Request for MilitaryRecords" from the National Personnel RecordsCenter (MPR.center@nara.gov) to help us with our locating efforts by requesting a copy of your Company Roster. Please take the time to request a form SF180 requesting form 305-3 for your company roster during the 2nd month you were in Vietnam. Use the email address listed above. After that one is received, complete another for the next to last month in Vietnam. As each is received, photocopy it and send to the webmaster for www.vietnamtripledeuce.org. We are currently working on a complete set of rosters, but some are "very badly copied" so any new and better copies are appreciated. They will all be posted on the website for everyone's use. (Note: service numbers or social security numbers are blacked out).

As you send the copies, please take the time to write on a separate sheet the possible location of any men that you remember. If we can get everyone's cooperation in this effort, we should end up with the names of approximately 75-80% of all who served with us in Vietnam.

- Look in the new members section of Veteran's publications such as the Tropic Lightning Flashes, Combat Infantryman Association, Association of the United States Army (AUSA) and the VFW magazine's Claims section, etc.

- Seek out a book titled 'How to Locate Anyone Who is or Has Been in the Military' by LTC Richard S. Johnson. (We will also try to get this into the hands of all VN222 POCs to provide you guidance.) The book is published by MIE Publishing, P.O. Box 5143 Burlington, NC 27216, Phone 800-937-2133. I understand it has a great location process spelled out.

- Please keep giving company POC's your feedback on new creative ways you find to locate and welcome home our VN222 Brothers. Sharing "best practices" can be a benefit to us all.

TAB B. VN222 Information Resources

- The VN222 website (www.vietnamtripledeuce.org) provides an excellent site to help our Brothers refer our “new finds” for more information. The site contains:
 - ι A Roster of all known members (950+) or brothers who served and contacted us in the past
 - ι Under construction: Official Army Rosters from 1966-1970!!
 - ι History, memorial page, guest book, current and former VN222 Board of Directors, newsletters, battles, merchandise
 - ι Most Importantly. past and future VN222 Reunion information.
 - ι **THIS IS ALSO THE PLACE YOU WILL FIND THE APPLICATION FORM TO JOIN!**
 - ι All Newsletters (in down loadable PDF format)
 - ι This site is best described in the quote below.

"To assist its members and their families in times of distress and to provide them mutual understanding and support; and to participate in and support veteran's functions and programs."

- The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc. newsletter is also an excellent place to refer all VN222 Brothers to read about and/or “tell their story.” This is an outstanding publication and currently gets sent by editors Dan and Vera Streit (Delta '69) to all “new finds” along with a welcome letter.
- Contact Points of Contact (POCs) for assistance from the current VN222 distribution list as a means to concentrate on POC efforts. We’ll need to be careful to protect veteran’s privacy here. (Suggestion: Company POC's can assist by contacting VN222 Brothers by unit to solicit interest in forming a geographical campaign).
- The Chief Locator will integrate “new finds” into the master VN222 distribution list, double check it against VN222 newsletter editor list and provide to company POC’s for use.



TAB C. Points of Contact

The Points of Contact (POC's) can assist you with your needs for greater detail or guidance are listed below. Where possible we'd strongly suggest use of email addresses; however, with that said, please contact the POCs anyway that works for you.

1. Chief Locator

Dick Nash (Alpha/HHC 1969) nash222@frontiernet.net

2. Alpha Co. POCs

Ben Anderson (68-69) benandersona222@gmail.com

Butch Jones (68-69) crbutchj@aol.com

Larry Gallagher (69-70) lrg629ohio@sbcglobal.net

Chuck Weidner (70) 0909cew@gmail.com

3. Bravo Co. POCs

Dean Springer (67-68) desprin@hotmail.com

Steve Irvine (68-69) svirvine@gmail.com

4. Charlie Co. POCs

Jim Neeley (65-67) hot-rod1930@comcast.net

Jerry Rudisill (67-68) rudisillj@yahoo.com

Harless Belcher (68-69) harless-belcher@yahoo.com

5. Delta Co. POC

Dan Streit (69) D222@nckcn.com

6. HHC Co. POC

(We are looking for volunteers)

7. Recon Platoon POC

Erik Opsahl (67-68) epopsahlw@aol.com

TAB D. Samples

1. Public Service Announcement/Posters

“It has been thirty plus years since the Viet Nam war ended. Many of our veterans from that war have never been welcomed home. Veterans of the Vietnam 2nd Battalion, 22d Infantry Regiment “TripleDeuce” (1966-1970) are conducting a nation-wide campaign entitled Operation “Welcome Home Brother” to locate regimental veterans. If you are a Viet Nam Veteran of the “Triple Deuce”, or know of one, please help us reunite with our combat Brothers by contacting (insert your name and email/phone as person doing the campaign in your area.)’

2. Registration Form

Form located at:

<http://www.vietnamtripledeuce.org/VN222MembershipFormNew.PDF>

3. Copy of VN222 President’s letter sent to new finds. (See Next Page)



Vietnam Triple Deuce

**2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry,
Mechanized**



Welcome Home Brother,

As the Viet Nam Triple Deuce President, it is my pleasure to officially welcome you home on behalf of the over 300 current members of our association. VN222 Brothers have enjoyed several joyous national reunions and encourage you to join us at our next one. We would be honored to have you join our ranks. A membership form can be sent to your home address or accessed on line at our website. Look on left side of the page for link to the form. You can find additional information about us and our history on our site www.vietnamtripledeuce.com

I am so glad we have made contact with you and look forward to you helping us do likewise with many of those with whom you served during your time “in country.” VN222 Board of Directors have recently formalized a “Point of Contact” committee that would love to get any copies of orders or other ways you might have to help us with this mission. I will see that your personal information is entered into our membership database and your company Point of Contact be made aware of you as our “newest found Brother!” I know many of us in the association were with VN222 at different times between 1966-70 but still find a common bond with the VN222 motto, “DEEDS NOT WORDS.” You can also catch up on our history by accessing the current issue of the Vietnam Triple Deuce newsletter (and past issues) at the above web site. It is a great information source.

In closing, again WELCOME HOME BROTHER and I personally look forward to shaking your hand at our next national reunion. Be sure to watch the VN222 website for details.

Cordially yours,

Dick Nash (Alpha and HHC 1969)