

Who Am I?

"Name: Steve Irvine"

"Arrived RVN: September of 1968"

"Left RVN: June 1969"

"Company: B"

"Platoon: 2nd"

"Squad: 2nd"



I carried the M60 most of my tour. I can remember some of the names of people in the squad, but not all and sometimes I probably don't spell them accurately. . Names I remember from 2-2 Squad are Jimmie Robinson, Sergeant (Reid) Choate, Joe Williams, Jon Wendelin (we emailed for a while), Bill Sable, Henry Fugate, Chris Kutche (died stepping on a mine), Tom Becker (died in a night ambush response). Other people I can remember only first names for: Roger (50 gunner who was wounded in the legs, last name may be Marshall), Hogie(I took the M60 over from him, he drove the track thereafter).

Other faces I remember from these pictures but don't know the names anymore. There were two squad leaders before Sergeant Choate, one left almost immediately after I arrived (Don was his first name), and the other (who was very helpful to me) left about 6 weeks later I believe his name was Greg MacKinnon .

We started this album idea with Mario because we thought it would make sense to post pictures we took, and share them, partially to record our history, partially to help us remember names, and partially just because. The goal is to get everyone to share pictures here, and then fill in the missing names, dates and events. This section of the album is for each of you who submits pictures to tell us a little about your experience, people you knew, thoughts you might have. Anyone can view the site, but only Triple Deucers can post pictures. Of course anyone related to a tripledeucer who is not longer with us is entitled to post as well.

So, dig thru your pictures, get them scanned and be prepared to help us record the history of the Triple Deuce, in what ever war you were in, in whatever capacity you served.

My personal story was simple. I arrived and was picked by 2-2 squad because I was a big guy and Hogee needed someone to take his M60, since he was taking over track driving duties. I had the usual number of night ambush patrols, listening posts, and daily mine clearing (which was our primary mission). I Was on two tracks that hit mines, and next to another that hit one...God watched over me, I was not wounded. I was in Dau Tieng, the night of the 2nd Tet Offensive when Dau Tieng was seriously penetrated. It was not a pleasant experience but the Triple Deuce stood proud.

I went on R&R late in my 8th month in country. 2 hours before the plane took off for Hawaii, i came down with appendicitus. Nothing in the Army is ever easy, so they cut an 8 inch gash in my stomach to discover the problem (world's longest appendix scar). I was sent to Honolulu (via the Philipines and Guam) for recovery. 4 weeks later I was told to report to Fort Ord, California because I had less that 30 days left of in country available service.



Steve with M60 Machine Gun.JPG | I carried the M60 Machine Gun for most of my Tour. I used a starter belt loaded at all times with a 50 round belt, and another 200 to 300 rounds unboxed "Poncho Via" style over the shoulders. (770x1328)



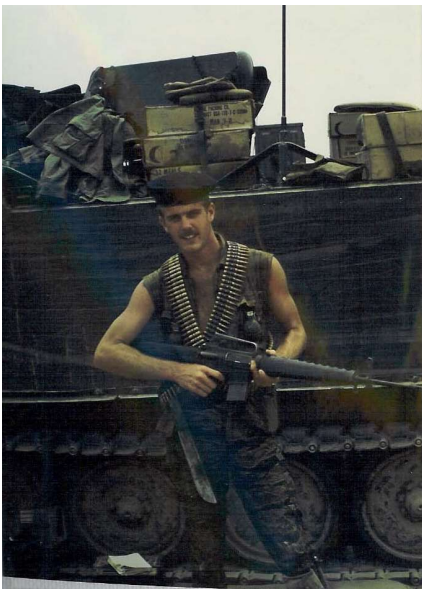
Steve as temporary RTO in the Ben Cui during a road clearing operation.JPG (4659x5923)



2-2 on the Road again steve w m16 in background. jpg | Jon Wendelin in the foreground, Henry to the right. (920x862)



Reid Choate, 2-2 squad leader in 50 Turret.jpg | Reid Choate, our 2-2 Squad Leader. (1437x1025)



Steve "hardcore pose"1.jpg | Sometimes we posed in "unauthorized uniforms" for pics to the folks. I never carried a machete, grenades were always inside my pockets not "clipped on" the vest.. We always wore steel pots. The Berets were just "cool". (681x944)



Steve in 50 Turret with other 2-2 squad members.jpg | Sitting in the 50 Turret, wearing my "lucky" yellow hat. Kept the sun out, lighter than steel pot, but only worn in "safe areas". (1425x1050)



hardcore pose before ambush patrol.jpg | Typical "Hard Core" posed picture to send home. I used an M16 rarely, and typically only on a listening post assignment at night. On ambush patrols I carried my regular M60. The tiger suit was allowed on ambush patrols. I did wear the dagger located on my left leg all the time. (1006x1419)



Steve after long day.jpg | This was typical daily dress. Standard jungle fatigues .I always wore long sleeves to keep the sun off. Notice how dirty we were. The APC's were always rolling in dusty red clay roads during the dry season. The only dust protection we had was a bandana/handkerchief. No goggles were issued. we always wore steel pots, and "sometimes" wore flack jackets when track mounted. (1443x1012)



2nd 2-2 squad leader name unknown.jpg | Assistant 2-2 squad leader, name unknown. (1700x1162)



Bill Sable w famous red scarf.jpg | Notice our fine art taped to the wall of the inside of our track. (1726x1163)



Sable offering up lunch.jpg (1758x1152)



'Doc' and a guy from 2-3 squad.jpg | Doc with the Towel (1758x952)



Sammie walking in basecamp.jpg (1758x1168)



Medic Larry Howard, Member of 2nd platoon. Identified by Bob Crisp while looking at our website in August, 2011.jpg (1695x1168)



Boston getting a haircut.jpg | Even in the field, haircuts were a necessity. (1705x1173)



Purple Heart Ceremony 1.jpg (1725x1169)



Purple Heart Ceremony 2.jpg (1430x985)



Steve Graduation from Basic Training.jpg | Steve at graduation from Basic Training. (880x1275)



Steve arrival in Hawaii on R&R.jpg | Arrival in Hawaii ten days or so late because of the emergency surgery, recovery and layovers waiting for flights to Hawaii. (Via the Philippines, then Guam). I lost 40 lbs from incountry to this date (9 months). (935x885)



Loc Ninh, bomb drop arrow.jpg | The Loc Ninh special forces camp was near the Cambodian border and hit regularly by the NVA. At night, the arrow would be lit and pointed in the direction for airstrike. Then the Special Forces would call out the yardage away from the arrow for the air support. (1758x1158)



Loc Ninh Montagnard soldiers.jpg | Typical Montagnard soldiers. Fierce fighters. Taken in the Loc Ninh Special Forces Camp. (1426x1020)



My cousin Gary Muffley, flew Caribous into small special forces camps like Loch Ninh.jpg | Typical freight for the twin engined caribou aircraft was "live food" (in this case pigs). My Cousin Gary Muffley often flew people as well. Some of the landing sites were so small that he would fly in, break hard, turn around and reposition the aircraft for immediate take off. It was not uncommon to be "mortared" during this process and we were once. (1689x1167)



Loc Ninh w cousin Gary Muffley at Morter pit.jpg | My cousin, Gary Mufley (Air Force Captain) surveying the mortar pit in the special forces camp Loch Ninh. Everything in the camp was surrounded by sandbags, and the outer perimeter was connected via a trench line that surrounded the camp inside a raised berm. Notice the compass marks on the inside of the brick mortar pit. (1768x1173)



Nui Ba Den - Black Virgin Mountain 2.jpg (879x582)



Weapons Cache 1-1.jpg | You hear the term "weapons cache" and the press will talk about a few rifles and some ammo found in a guys house. This is a real cache with hundreds of rounds of RPG, Recoiless rife rounds, packages of explosives, ammuniton for small arms. (2835x2012)



Weapons Cache mines.jpg | Light and heavy mines were used to take out our APC's. Notice also the dozens of 82 mm mortar rounds and RPG's stacked up. I was on two different tracks that hit land mines. The first In 1968, the 2nd in 1969. There were casualties but no deaths both times. I was fortunate, my ears still ring, but no known injuries. (2850x2010)



Weapons Cache 2-1.jpg | The cache was found about 1000 yards from our base camp. The NVA were stashing the stuff in preparation to attack us. A lucky sweep by one of our platoons ran across the cache before the attack could be mounted. (2794x1983)



Weapons Cache French 57 MM Recoil-less rifle.jpg | 57 MM French Recoil-less rifle used by the NVA. (1726x1158)



155 traveling cannon at base camp 2.jpg | These 155mm self propelled cannons were awesome to see and hear in action. Invariably they would get a fire mission every night at dinner. If you were walking along with a plate in hand when they shot, you sometimes lost the plate. Notice also the very fine dirt on the ground. This was formerly dense jungle, but a few weeks of tracks driving around soon killed all vegetation. (1380x1024)



Sammie with M60 at forward basecamp.jpg (2842x2050)



Eagle Flight from Dau Tieng at take off.jpg | Eagle flight taking off from Dau Tieng. In November of 1968 they used as as "Airborne Troops" and we did a full on aerial assault near the Black Virgin Mountain. Landing in an LZ with full on rockets, miniguns blazing away, just like in the movies. We did not make contact and swept thru the jungle back to our tracks. (898x587)



Huey Cobra.jpg | Cobra Gun Ship. Long and sleek with 7.62 miniguns that fired in thousands of rounds per minute. At night we could see the Cobra's shooting "red streams" of bullets to support some beleagured unit far from us. (437x295)



Huey 10 at Dau Tieng taking off close up.jpg | Dau Tieng's airport handled small fixed wing aircraft and lots of helicopters. I was on a caribou (small two engine prop driven) with my cousin (he was a captain in the airforce and we overlapped tours and operational areas) and took incoming mortars as we landed. I've never seen 25 guys move off an airplane so fast. (704x515)



OV 10 Spotter taking off from Dau Tieng.jpg | These ov10 spotter aircraft flew almost straight down, and then launched 3.5 inch rockets filled with white phosphorus that targeted an area for a larger fast jet to bomb. We saw one of those in the battle of the crescent in may of 1969. The spotter fired rockets into an NVA basecamp, followed by a jet dropping 500 pounders. (1726x1167)



Tiger Scout attached to B Company 2-22nd.jpg | Our Vietnamese Tiger Scout. (1025x1421)



2nd 2-2 squad leader name unknown w choate_.jpg | I don't remember his name, he was and assistant squad leader to Choate, who had much more time in country. (1758x1173)



Loc Ninh-1, Special forces and Montagnard basecamp.jpg | Loc Ninh was not in our Area of Operations. However, my cousin Gary Muffley (Airforce Captain) flew a two engine caribou (looks like a small C130) for the Air Force. I was granted a 3 day in-country R&R and stayed with him in Vung Tau. Every day I flew with him to some of the bases he serviced. This was a small special forces camp near Loc Ninh. The entire base consisted of 13 US special forces and 3-400 native troops from the area (Montagnard tribesman). (1394x1010)



Loc Ninh w my cousin Gary and his co-pilot.jpg | Look at the height of the berm surrounding the base. With additional sandbagged fighting positions, you felt "safe" in this compound. They were hit almost daily according to the troops we spoke with. (1758x1167)



3rd brigade hq in Dau Tieng.jpg | How many of these "workers" were VC?..After Dau Tieng was hit in 1969 during the 2nd Tet Offensive, we heard the maps the NVA had were so good that they had the piss tubes properly located on them. (1722x1161)



Company B basecamp near Chu Chi.jpg | We used chain link fencing strung up between steel fence stakes as an RPG screen. Notice the candy gains to the left of the picture. Those are mortar sighting stakes for use on night mortar fire missions. (1426x1020)



Airbase near Saigon where we picked up the 2-2 replacement track after we hit a mine.jpg | The first 2-2 track i was on was DX'd after hitting a mine outside of Dau Tieng in late November 1968. The driver and I went to the main resupply depot (probably Tan Son Nhut) to pick up this "virgin" track. A new track: came with two new M60's with spare barrels and a new 50 Cal with a spare barrel. So we kept the old 50cal and ground mounted it on a bunker. (1758x1167)



coca cola kids near ben cui1.jpg | We called the young Vietnamese who sold us drinks on the road "coke kids". It was amazing, but in the heat of this jungle country, we would stop for a break and 1/2 dozen kids would ride up on bikes, offer coke-a-cola (usually for a dollar), and roll it on ice blocks (who knows where they got the ice) to cool it. (1440x1020)



2-2 on the Road, Hoguee in 50 Turret.jpg | Bill Sable, 2-2s driver looking down at Reid Choate, or Squad Sargeant. The Turret shield was moved from track to track after hitting a mine, as it was not standard issue, but fabricated by mechanics in our basecamps (915x884)



Eagle Flight from Dau Tieng at take off 2.jpg | Once during the rainy season of 1968/1969 we were dismounted and sent out on choppers for search and destroy mission. One felt rather bare out in the jungle without the comfort of 12,000 rounds of 30 cal at close hand. You had to admire the legs who went out like that day in and day out. For us, a firefight could go on for hours w/o resupply, but the legs could run out of ammo in minutes. (1766x1152)



Jack Henkel and Nate from 2-3 squad.jpg | You couldn't get in the chow line if you didn't wear your flack jacket at dinner time. When the 155's started a fire mission, it was not uncommon to see plates flying. Nate on the left, Jack on the right. (1432x799)



Bill Sable 2-2 track driver with grease-gun.jpg | An APC needs regular maintenance, particularly the tracks. Bill Sable (our driver) was always performing this deed for us. You need to keep them greased. Once, after finding an NVA base camp, we dropped powdered tear gas in the foxholes to make them unusable. As we left, we threw a track and had to repair it...with the wind wifiting CX gas our way. (1181x786)



Flame Track with 2'nd Platoon in the Michellin.jpg | Flame tracks were very potent. Here it is used to clear an area for a temporary logger site in the Michelin Rubber plantation. (1429x806)



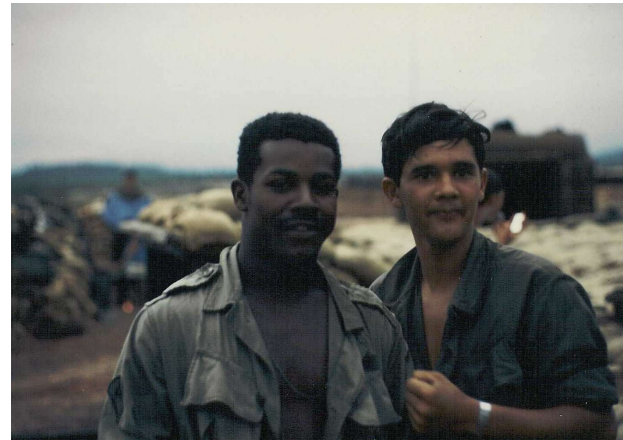
Hard Spot outside of the Ben Cui with lots of sandbags.jpg | This was our "Hard Spot" just outside of Dau Tieng. Everything was layered in sand bags, and a 10 foot berm surrounded the entire complex. There was foo gas on every corner, each track pulled into a carve-out in the berm, and each track berm mounted a 50 cal along with its regular track mounted 50 cal. This was the most heavily sand-bagged and defended small forward base I was ever in. (1412x1003)



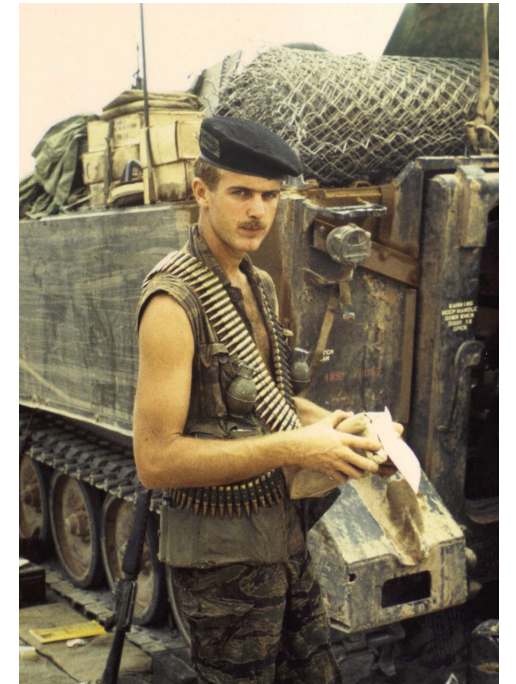
Henry and Joe Williams loading c's.jpg | C-rations everywhere. They had one excellent purpose. They made good seats when three high cases were strapped to the top of our track. The pound cake, fruit cocktail and some of the cheese tins were ok, none of the rest of the rations were very tasty. I survived them only because turkey loaf was at least marginally eatable. (1440x1003)



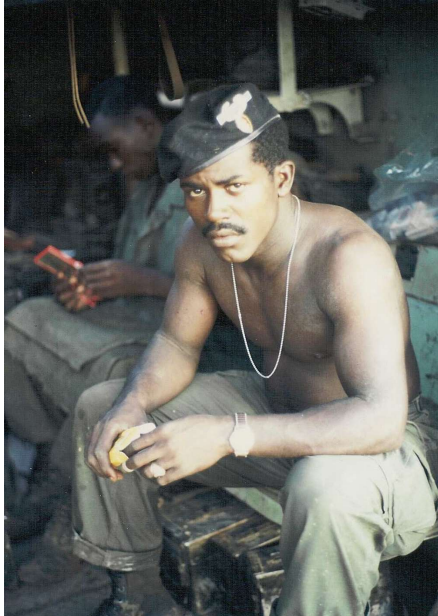
Henry and Joe.jpg | A lot of us bought "unauthorized" berets and wore them. Odd, a few years later the army authorized berets for everyone. 2-2 squad was just a head of its time. (273x208)



Jimmie and Cunningham.jpg | Jimmie Robinson and Cunningham. (1427x1000)



Steve in back of tank.jpg | Another hard core pose... (1000x1425)



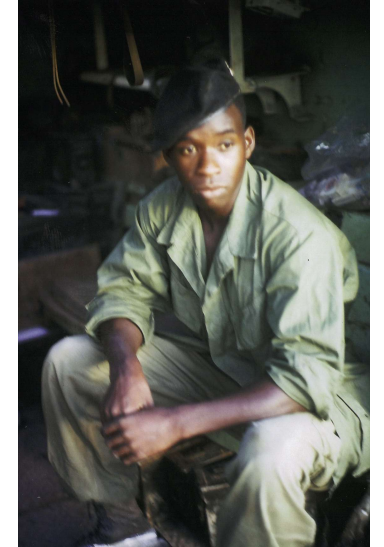
Jimmie and Joe inside tank.jpg | Jimmie Robinson kept us all laughing he had a great sense of humor. Joe in the background was very serious. (1000x1421)



Jimmie Robinson on tank in magazine vest we made.jpg | Jimmie Robinson on tank in magazine vest I made from 5.56 bandoliers. it would hold 14 magazines and the weight was distributed evenly. (1435x1015)



Jimmie Robinson chipping ice1.jpg | Chipping Ice... who knows where it came from, but the vietnamese kids always found some to sell us. (1437x1000)



Joe Williams in the Tank-pensive.jpg | Joe Williams. Joe became a VA counselor after returning, helping many vets recover from PTSD. He was wounded seriously in a fire in December 1969 and left in a wheelchair for life. Joe finally died in 2011. (1123x1755)



John Wendelin w-Broken arm.jpg | We were somewhere outside to Dau Tieng on the road to Tay Ninh in a rubber plantation. On the way out after a sweep we hit a mine. Odd place to hit one, we figure some VC had watched us and put the mine in after we went in. It blew john out of the track and scared the scout dog that was with us. Fortunately no-one was killed. But hitting a mine stops your heart for a few seconds, makes your ear's ring for days. You actually wonder what happened for a few minutes. (1176x746)



Unknown Squad on the move.jpg | Unknown squad, but typical APC (M113 Armored Personel Carrier, we called them "tracks") (888x914)



NVA Rockets and Launchers displayed at 25th HQ-1.jpg (1394x997)



Steve at new base camp-1.jpg | More of typical daily wear. Flak jacket (while track mounted), steel pot, jungle fatigues, first large wound bandage near my left knee. It was hot and for some reason I was not wearing a fatigue jacket. Notice the drain culvert 1/2s. We would make a floor of sandbags, the place the culvert 1/2s over the floor and over them with sand bags. Add a wall in front with shooting port, and a wall in back to prevent mortar shrapnell and you have an instant bunker. sand bags are like cement to sleep on. (1417x1012)



Roam Plows in the Jungle mostly done.jpg (1758x1173)



Roam Plows in the Jungle start-1.jpg | Working with the plows was interesting. They would create a temporary base for all of us in the form of a very high berm. Then they would plow down jungle all day, and retreat to the berm line at night. All night you would hear mechanics grinding the plow blades to sharpen them. I believe the plowing was done after it was determined that agent orange was "not a good substance" to use, but i have no proof. (1403x832)



Roam Plows in the Jungle all done w nui ba dinh-1.jpg | Typically the plows would clear a wide zone around roads to prevent ambushes. This once was lush jungle and deny cover to enemy troop movements. (1429x997)



Sable sitting behind drivers seat-1.jpg (1432x1012)



Steve and John relaxing-1.jpg | Jon Wendelin and myself in some basecamp. John arrived in Vietnam in July 1968, I came in September of 1968. We became good friends and still maintain contact (as of 2025). (924x917)



Bob Crisp 2-1 track Jan-1969, Jan-1970-1.jpg | Bob Crisp 2-1 track 1/69-1/70 Bob currently lives just outside of Knoxville Tennessee. (1417x1018)



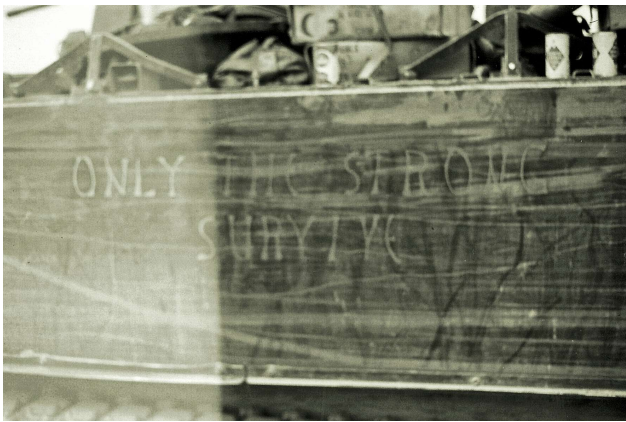
2 hours before R & R Steve had his appendix out-1.jpg | A Medic asked me why I was doubled up next to a wall waiting for my R & R flight. I told him I had some "pain". He promised to take me to 3rd field hospital, have me checked out and would return me to the flight line. 10 minutes after arriving at 3rd field I was being taken to surgery. They considered something other than appendicitous and cut me wide open. So this is my 8 inch "appendix" scar..... (690x944)



Philippines Clark Air base 2.jpg | After the emergency surgery for my appendix, I was flown to the Philippines for three days at Clark Airforce Base. From there we went to Guam for two hours on the tarmac and then on to Hawaii. Normally, GI's were sent to Japan for recovery, but because I was going on R&R when it happened, the Red Cross intervened and I was sent to Hawaii to recover. Someone liked me upstairs. (1758x1273)



NVA Heavy Mortar displayed at 25th HQ-1.jpg (1750x1146)



Only the Strong Survive - Original 2-2 Track-1.jpg | Only the Strong Survive. One of the 2-2 Squad tracks I was on. We hit two different mines and received new APC's each time. Fortunately, no one was killed in either contact, and there was no follow up ambush. (1771x1178)



2-2 Squad Building a perimeter around the center of what the Roam Plows were knocking down-1.JPG (1788x1117)



This is how dense the jungle we knocked down was-1.JPG (1790x1187)



Company sized forward basecamp somewhere outside of Trang Bang, off the road to Dau Tieng 2-1. JPG | Typical fire support base. sleeping and shooting "tunnels" were made from 1/2 drain culverts (see some uncovered in the background). Sand bags covered the culvert halves and a wall was built in front with a window for firing from. A back wall was built to protect from incoming mortars and out going artillery. (1789x718)



It could be very serene at night...bit it was never really calm-1.JPG (1452x1037)



Company sized forward basecamp somewhere outside of Trang Bang, off the road to Dau Tieng2-1. JPG (1789x755)



2-4, B company, weapons platoon-1.JPG | Cunningham in the middle of four members of 2-4 squad, 2nd platoon Bravo Company (640x512)



Steve at new base camp.jpg | More of typical daily wear. Flak jacket (while track mounted), steel pot, jungle fatigues, first large wound bandage near my left knee. It was hot and for some reason I was not wearing a fatigue jacket. Notice the drain culvert 1/2s. We would make a floor of sandbags, the place the culvert 1/2s over the floor and over them with sand bags. Add a wall in front with shooting port, and a wall in back to prevent mortar shrapnell and you have an instant bunker. sand bags are like cement to sleep on. (1417x1012)



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Roam Plows in the Jungle That Last Tree.jpg (1414x829)



Sable sitting behind drivers seat.jpg (1432x1012)



Some 2nd Platoon Guys1.jpg | Fuzzy picture, the rear most guy is Thomas Becker, (KIA March 6, 1969), Shirtless Cunningham, and Forground right side Sammy (unknown last name) (1406x976)



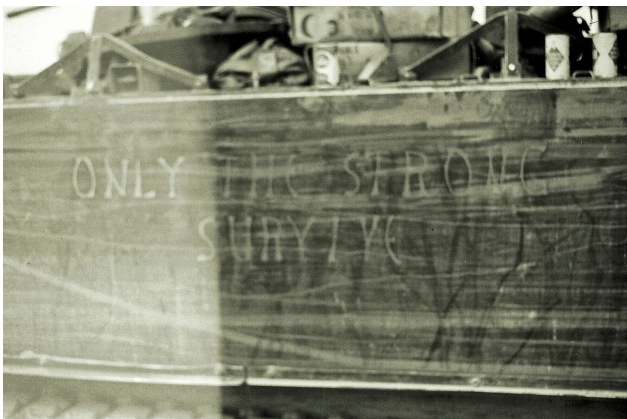
Tom Becker from 2-2 squad.jpg | Tom Becker from 2-2 Squad. Tom was later killed as he and others responded to a night ambush that had been discovered by the NVA. (435x457)



Weapons Cache 1.jpg | You hear the term "weapons cache" and the press will talk about a few rifles and some ammo found in a guys house. This is a real cache with hundreds of rounds of RPG, Recoilless rifle rounds, packages of explosives, ammunition for small arms. (2835x2012)



Weapons Cache 2.jpg | The cache was found about 1000 yards from our base camp. The NVA were stashing the stuff in preparation to attack us. A lucky sweep by one of our platoons ran across the cache before the attack could be mounted. (2794x1983)



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It could be very serene at night...bit it was never really calm.JPG (1452x1037)



Schofield Barracks Memorial.jpg | Post Vietnam at Schofield Barracks (3648x2736)



My Daughter in-law in Iraq next to her Convoy Truck v1-1.jpg | Jane (a real G.I. Jane) is married to my oldest son Sam. Here she is next to the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT, 30 Tons unloaded) she drove during the occupation of Iraq. Like Vietnam, there were no front lines so if a convoy ran into trouble, everyone was instantly in the infantry, however we all know there are no women in combat....lol. She still shoots with me at the range on occasion, and is an excellent marksman. (1024x772)