

The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment

Viet Nam Veterans



Together Then.....Together Again!.....

Thanks for Being There...&...Welcome Home



Editor: Dan & Vera Streit D 69 DMOR - HMOR

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website www.vietnamtripledeuce.org for current contact information.

Vol. 21, No. 2 April 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Strange thing here in Oregon, we didn't have a winter. It was there on the calendar alright, but never showed up outside. I have lived here my whole life and have never seen anything like this. We had the opposite weather that you East-coasters had, but it is a bad thing really, because our mountains have no snow pack. Boston MA got more snow than a popular ski resort on Mt. Hood got this year by almost 20 inches. Can you ski in Boston? We fear for our California neighbors and their farmers who are frantically trying to prepare for the impending drought this will cause. The west will be dry this year.

Of Course, no Oregonian golfer feels guilty teeing off in January, but we are concerned. We don't have floods or tornados. We have forest fires. Everybody has to deal with something. Spring has sprung and that means reunion time.

I see notices for a number of mini reunions posted, and Memorial Day is just around the corner. Time to break out the colors and get involved. Some mini-reunions are just a few Brothers having lunch together while others have grown to a size that needs hotel services

Regardless, please wear your VN222, Inc. colors and let all know that we are still looking for our long lost Brothers, and their family members, to invite them to join us and add to our Triple Deuce history. Be sure and tell them that we like to party our heads off too. Especially at the main event, the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Reunion.

This year at Fort Drum NY where the active duty Triple Deucers hang their hats. Why do keep harping about attending? Because it is so darn much fun Sure, it's important on many levels, but for me, it's pegging the needle on the Fun-O-Meter that gets me going on getting my dues paid, reunion forms filled out, hotel, etc. done. ...and yes, at least one Triple Deuce attendant will be with me at all times to give Home

land Security agents a break.

I was wearing my Triple Deuce jacket the other day in public as I do sometimes, when I heard, "Hey! Triple Deuce! Behind me was a young man that had served with the Triple Deuce in Afghanistan. He did some on his training in Fort Drum, and shipped out from there as well. I told him all about our association and our reunion coming up in September. He is going to spread the word to his buddies about our website and that we want the Afgan and Iraq Veterans to join us. Usually it is an old goat like us that says hello to me when they spot my colors. This was the first time a young person stopped to say hello to me just like I have done with WWII and Korean Veterans over the years. So, now I'm the old soldier telling stories to the young veteran. Now how in the heck did that happen? Oh well, it did and I'm happy to play the part. Many days I hide from the public by not wearing my colors. I am sure glad that I was flying my flag that day. We may get new members because of it. Even if we don't, I will have a great memory and be encouraged to wear my colors in public more often. I hope you do too. It's less than six months until our Fort Drum Reunion in September. I look forward to seeing you all again and spending some time with you having some fun and solving the world's problems together. If only they would listen us, we'd get 'em all squared in no time. Dress right dress!

That's it for this time around. Drop us a note on line to say hello, and write an article for the newsletter while you're at it. Remember, we don't give a hoot about proper English. We speak Triple Deuce Speak around here.

Deeds, not words.

Lynn Dalpez, DMOR
President

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

It's official: spring is here! Finally. Although winter seems to want to hang on, and the weather doesn't always feel like it, spring has arrived. We can all finally emerge from the hibernation. It's a time of new beginnings and everyone around just seems to be happier (maybe it's the anticipation of summer or maybe everyone's seasonal affective disorder is finally wearing off). We can finally get motivated again to do the things that we kept putting off.

"April showers bring May flowers" reminds us that even unpleasant situations can have beautiful outcomes. So here's to muddy boots, cloudy gray days, spring cleaning, and spring showers. Here's to camping and fishing and gardening and. . . . Have you been putting off any thing related to the Triple Deuce? Perhaps it is time to pull out the check book and pay your dues. Maybe you need to dust off the old memory and write an article for the news letter. Just maybe you need to contact your old buddies.

Turbulent weather and a harsh winter will return. If you put off contacting Brothers and contributing to the organization, it just might be too late when you get around to it. Anyway, that is how it seems to this old soldier.

Dan Streit D-/69 DMOR

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION CONCERNS

To conserve both my effort and Triple Deuce money, I would like to ask for additional Brothers willing to receive the newsletter electronically in PDF format to contact me directly by email at

D222@nckcn.com.

Dan

NEW POSITION ESTABLISHED

Gentlemen,

The motion to form a new officer position titled "Cartographer", and have that position filled by **Ben Anderson**, Alpha Co, Mar 68 to Apr 69 has passed unanimously by our Board of Directors. Ben, Welcome aboard. We feel that your idea to post maps at our reunions will be a big hit. ...we can see the attendees spending quite a bit of time pointing out some things and trying to figure out where they were at when this or that happened. Soui Tre? Where the heck is that anyway?

Deeds, not words,

Lynn Dalpez, President, C /4th ID, 65 to 67

THE PROJECT UNDERWAY

The 22nd Infantry Regiment Society is proud to announce the project is now officially underway to erect the 22nd Infantry Memorial Monument on the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum, Ft Benning, GA. A target completion date has been set for a June 23, 2015 with a dedication ceremony pending any foreseen delays.. Our sincere thanks to all who have donated and continue to donate to this worth honor to our fallen brothers throughout our 200 year plus history.

Lon Oakley Jr A/69
President 22nd Infantry Regiment Society.

RE: 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Monument Fund

Gentlemen:

The Members and Board of Directors of the Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc. have instructed me to forward the accompanying check #349 in the amount of \$10,000.00 as a donation to the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Monument Fund. This donation was authorized by the Members to

insure that the names of those who gave their all while in service to the 2nd Battalion(Mech), 22nd Infantry Regiment, Vietnam 1966-1970 be chiseled in stone and displayed in a place of high honor along with the names of all those who have given their all while in service to the 22nd Infantry Regiment.

They will not be forgotten.

Respectfully,
Jim May, HMOR
Treasurer

MONUMENT TO BE DEDICATED

Plans are underway to hold a dedication ceremony to unveil the 22nd Infantry Regiment Memorial Monument being placed on the Walk of Honor at Ft Benning, Georgia's National Infantry Museum on June 23, 2015 11am-noon. Projected to attend the ceremony are Congressman Steve Russell (former 1/22 Bn Cdr) along with current Chief of Staff of the Army General Odinero and current 2/22nd Infantry Battalion Commander Robert Schexnayder and Bn CSM.**Robert Fortenberry**.

If anyone is interested in coming early to visit the museum, we have the new Hampton Inn (next door to National Infantry Museum) with a block of 15 rooms reserved for us at this time from Sunday June 21-Tuesday June 24. If you are interested in getting one of the rooms (double queen beds) contact the Hampton Inn at 706-660-5550 and tell them you are with 22nd Infantry Regiment for the ceremony. Jennifer Contreas is our POC. Additional details on the dedication will be in the next Regiment Newsletter and Vietnam Triple Deuce Assn newsletter. NOTE: If we reserved at least 10 rooms for 21/22 June the hotel we get \$1000 donated to the Regiment Society for cost of activities at this event. Hope you can join us.

Lon Oakley Jr A Co. 69
President 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

DUES INFORMATION CLARIFIED

Check the mailing label of your Triple Deuce Newsletter.

- If you have 2014 or an earlier date after your name, your dues are due.
- If you have an NF and a date after your name, this indicates that you are a new find and the date you were found. Your dues are due.
- If you have an AM (Associate Member) with 2014 or prior after your name, your dues are due.
- If you have a VAM (Vietnam Associate Member) with 2014 or prior after your name, your dues are due.
- If you have a C, CD or CH, after your name, you do not owe dues.
- **If you do not pay your dues, this will be your last Newsletter.**

There is a membership/Renewal Form in this Newsletter for your use.

GROUP E-MAIL REVIVED

The Board of Directors has asked **George Dahl, Charlie Co., 65-67** to help revive the Group e-mail. As some of you will remember, the Group e-mail became a place where Mario Salazar and I argued, endlessly, about political issues. This caused the Group e-mail to become something that it was never intended to be and many Members either ignored the messages or removed themselves from the Group e-mail. That is all behind us.

The revival is intended to provide the Members with a quick way to communicate with as many other Members in as little time as possible. These messages might be about something going on with the VA, a Member in need or ill, mini-reunion activities or just about anything that would be of general interest.

Messages are limited in size by Yahoo, so sending long messages, photos or large attachments will not work. However, links to larger files may be sent.

There are rules regarding messages. No Personal Attacks, No Vulgarity, No Chain Messages, you know, the ones that say you must forward something to ten people in ten minutes or your ears will fall off or your nose will explode or some other terrible thing will happen, none of that.

The way to sign on to the Group e-mail has changed. You must first go to <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/VN2-22Mz/info> and click the **Join Group** box. Follow the directions provided. George will be monitoring and will approve your entering the Group as long as your dues are current. George also has the authority to remove any message and suspend a Member if he deems it necessary. If George cannot resolve the issue, then the Board will and if that means banning someone, so be it.

If you are having trouble joining, then you should contact George at gtdahl@iphouse.com or 651-261-5620.

Jim May
Prov. 1968

THERE MAY BE OTHERS

Charley Vernon Stanley's name will be added to the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial* in May 2015, nearly 47 years after his death.

Approved by the *Department of Defense* in Spring 2014, this Casualty has been on my lists of our regiment's deaths from the *Vietnam War* since Summer 2006 when the *Coffelt Database Team* obtained his Service Record that showed Sgt. Stanley was evacuated from Vietnam to Brooke Army Hospital in Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, and died shortly thereafter.

Sgt. (E-5) Stanley was born 6 April 1927 and left CONUS for Vietnam 11 April 1968, where he was assigned to Charlie Co, 2nd Bn (Mech), 22nd Inf Regt, 25th Inf Div. Regular Army, MOS 11B, he came down with Malaria and was evacuated from Vietnam after 16 June 1968 and admitted to the stateside hospital on 1 July 1968, where Sgt. Stanley died of pneumonia, malaria and renal failure on 7 July 1968 at age 41 and after more than 13 years military service. Buried at Oak Shade Cemetery in Cleveland, TX, he was survived by a wife, son age 3, and daughter age 1. His Vietnam unit, Co C 2 Bn 22 Inf Div (sic) appears on his grave marker.

Anyone who remembers Sgt. Stanley's brief service in C Co should contact me (bradhull@juno.com or 440-871-8975).

This is not the first such casualty from our regiment to be added to the *Wall*. Pfc **William Joseph Scannell's**, name was added in May 2003, mainly due to the efforts of D 3-22 Locator extraordinaire Jerry Giannopoulos. Jerry had tried to locate his platoon-mate and connected to Bill's Chicago area classmates who knew he'd died. Pfc Scannell was WIA 28 Aug 68 (gunshot head wound) at FSB Buell while serving in D Co 3rd Bn 22nd Inf Regt. Evacuated from Vietnam, Bill died 12 Sept 70 in a VA Hospital in Downey IL, reportedly without ever regaining consciousness. He is buried at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Elmhurst IL and remembered on Line 20, Panel 44 of the *West Wall*. Jerry attended the ceremony at the *Wall* when Bill's Name was added.

There may be others ...

Brad Hull, DMOR,
A/69-70
Wall Names Researcher

PURPLE HEART INFORMATION SOUGHT

The following is a letter from Ben Barrett

Just a note to let you know of something that I learned about through the Department of New York Offices of the American Legion. It's called The National Purple Heart Hall Of Honor, and it is located in Vails Gate, New York. I checked them out and sent my info in to them, and I'm now listed on their Roll Of Honor. I thought this might be something that could be sent out in the Newsletter, inviting any of our buddies who received the PH, to check out their website. This organization is a New York State facility, administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. The only way they have to get the needed documentation about PH recipients, is from the Vet or his/her family members. They DO NOT share any of the Vets personal info other than the narrative they ask you to send in about the action in which you were awarded the PH. According to them, only 197,000 of the estimated 1.8 million Purple Hearts awarded since 1932, appear on the Roll. So they are asking for help in getting the word out. You can check them out at www.thepurpleheart.com.

Ben Barrett B/70

FIRST DAY IN THE FIELD

I remember it being pretty hot...but then all the days were. We newbie's went out into a field in Cu Chi where we stood in a long line (what else?) and as we passed soldiers handing out flax jackets, bandoleers, helmet, and one each, M-16. No writing down each person's name and the weapon's serial number or if they did, I didn't see them. It was just - here you go troop! I remember thinking where do we sight these babies in at? And the answer was nowhere. Perhaps if the NVA charged us we could fire three rounds and see what a tight group they were. But I went

into the field only knowing what direction my bullets were going - not if they hit anything. Course the Army never asked me if I could shoot straight...they just wanted to know if I was breathing.

I remember climbing aboard a deuce and a half and heading out into who knew where on a dusty dirt road as part of a convoy. It was probably the daily convoy which included water and ammo and whatever else the company needed. I was glad the jungle was far away from the road. It seemed like a good quarter mile away so there was no chance of any ambushes. (Nice try Pete but no cigar!) We pulled into FSB Wood and a bunch of us jumped down to meet our new platoons. **Steve Cramp** and I were 11B20's and so they told us brought us to the fourth platoon area and wished us a good tour.

Someone grabbed Steve and he went off in another direction and I was told to join a particular group that was watching us dismount. They immediately began complaining and said they had no room for me. Actually there were already four guys to this mortar track and there really wasn't any room for me. They were cramped as it was trying to sleep four in the track and now they had a fifth body! But someone with authority came over and told them to live with it and I was grudgingly accepted. "Fine," I thought, "I come half way around the world, get placed into a running war, and my side doesn't even want me!"

To get me out of their hair for awhile so they could cool off, **Rudy Saldoval** came over and walked me to a bunker. He had me sit in the right direction and said to remove my shirt but for only 10 minutes, as I was lily white. Remember you could always tell the new guys by how white they were? I sat staring at a tree line way far away for the rest of the afternoon. Supper was brought out to me by some guy and I sat there till I couldn't see anything anymore. Out in the boonies when it got dark...it was dark! Not one street light to guide the way! Someone replaced me and I went back to the 4-1 tract area.

A canvas tarp was rolled out from the track, out

about 10 feet and then down to the ground. Two lawn chairs were there and that was my bed for how long I can't remember. I had shelter from two sides and the top but one heck of a draft could blow through that 10 X 10 foot opening from the other two sides. When it rained I was as wet as the ground. I was given a wool blanket but no pillow and they said they'd see me tomorrow.

Sitting in those lawn chairs trying to get semi-comfortable, I was not the happiest person in Vietnam. But I was still alive and that was a good thing. So I decided to stay and see what the next day would bring...

Would like to hear what your first day out in the field was like...send it in.

Peter Rock
B Co./ 68 to 69

Editor's note: You heard the man. Brothers please send your stories.



VISITS FT. POLK TIGERLAND

January 18-20 2015 **Skip Fahel** (B Co RVN 1967-68) and I (both self-proclaimed members of the "Old Goat Squad" of the Society) were honored to be imbedded with the 1st Brigade Combat Team (1BCT) & Triple Deuce conducting

exercises with the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at "TIGERLAND" Ft Polk, LA. Skip and I both took Basic at Ft Polk and then on to TIGERLAND. Skip in 1965 and me in 1968.

Triple Deuce Cdr LTC **Rob Schexnayder** and new CSM **Robert Fortenberry** had made hasty arrangements with JRTC Task Force (TF2) Cdr LTC(P) **Jeremy Schroeder** to get us imbedded with the battalion. The term used, we would later learn, was "inside the box" or inside the "real world" play area of operation (AO). Skip and I were provided two escorts during the two days we were there, TF2 Cpt **Caleb Ling** (whose dad served with 1/22 Infantry 1983-85) and 2/22 S-1 Cpt **Reggie Stewart**. Both were outstanding!

I had driven over from San Antonio and picked up Skip in Houston on Sunday morning on the way to Ft Polk. Upon arrival on post our first stop was the Starbuck's at the PX. As we awaited Cpt Ling and Cpt Stewart's arrival we loaded up on coffee and sweets and had the pleasure to visit with many active duty soldiers at the PX. We were supposed to be cleared by Post G-2 but TF2 arranged for that to be waived Cpt Ling took Skip and me over to the highly secure JRTC Joint Ops Center (JOC) for a specially prepared concept brief for us where he shared what 1st Brigade of 10th Mountain Division would be doing over the next ten days and introduced us to many of those working that Sunday. As imagined JRTC JOC is a 24x7 operation.

After the briefing Cpt Stewart arrived and he and Cpt Ling took us over to North Fort Polk's infamous TIGERLAND. I anticipated things would have changed a lot since 1968 but really was not expecting the only thing left of our old TIGERLAND was the sign, which had been modified to conjunction with today's mission of the area. (NOTE: We took a few photos under the TIGERLAND sign and Cpt Ling even drove us thru the streets to see if we could find any landmarks. Gone were all the WWII wooden barracks, gone the wooden mini PX with the juke box in the cor-

ner, gone the wooden movie theater...gone was the Vietnam era TIGERLAND!

After getting clearance to go "inside the box" I rode with Cpt Ling and Skip with Cpt Stewart. Over the next two days it would be great for me to hear the radio traffic, observations and evaluations of the Officer Controllers (OCs) working with Triple Deuce both at battalion and individual company level. I was sworn to secrecy of what I was hearing but after the fact I had a chance to whisper some positive feedback to LTC Schexnayder and CSM Fortenberry on the good things coming out about Triple Deuce's performance and morale.

We moved into the battalion Tactical Operations Center (TOC) in mid afternoon and met with XO Major **Colin Mahle**...soon to become the new 1BCT S3. It was spooky to be back again amongst the tall pine trees. XO introduced us to new Triple Deuce CSM Robert Fortenberry who took us over to visit with Golf Company support elements. (Many of them wanted to know where **Jim May** was? We told them he would see them at Ft Drum in February.) CSM then took us over to meet with the Triple Deuce Mess Team who were preparing a hot meal for the battalion. It would be the first hot meal in six days for the Triple Deuce. Later we would learn everyone said they were getting hot meal because the "Old Goats" were visiting. Not true but knowing how Jim May and **Pete Garwoeck** would handle it...we did not deny the perception! CSM then took us over to TOC where we met the battalion staff heavy in planning for the next combat operation. We learned that both Alpha and Charlie companies had engaged and defeated the "bad guys" earlier in the day. Also that Bravo Company was at live fire exercise Sunday "outside the box" and would return on Monday.

After seeing everything in the Bn area LTC Schexnayder said he was going to visit with Alpha and Charlie companies and invited us to tag along. Both were located in the small towns "inside the box" they had liberated earlier in the day. (Today's TIGERLAND is made up of a series

of towns reminiscent of Iraq/Afghanistan much like we had VC villages in our day) Getting down to Alpha first it was great to visit with 1SG Cunningham, Cpt Williams and my brothers of Alpha. Skip and I moved down into the wood line defensive positions to talk with the them. ("Inside the box" is real world play so we tried not to distract them from their exercise tactics) Not wanting to hold up things LTC Schexnayder then proceeded to take us a couple miles down the road to link up with Charlie Company and their new commander. Again we had the opportunity to snap a few photos and visit with troops before we had to move out again. As any TIGERLAND alumnus remembers it does get dark quickly among the tall pine trees of Louisiana and we needed to get back to the battalion TOC.

We made it back to Bn TOC just before dark. CSM and XO invited us to stay for dinner and they got zero argument. The hot meal was delicious and Skip captured a photo of it. Skip (a.k.a THE NIGHTFIGHTER) and I ate off the tailgate of a vehicle. As 2100 hours (that's 9pm to you Pete) approached LTC Schexnayder relayed the battalion had been selected for another mission and headed off with commanders. It was time for the Old Goats to depart the exercise area for the night. (There was a strong rumor JRTC did not want Skip or I "inside the box" wandering around at 2 a.m. looking for a "slit trench" to take a leak. That's our story and we are sticking to it!)

The next morning Cpt Stewart picked us up at 7am at the facility where we were overnight and headed us back "inside the box". It had been 32 degrees overnight and fresh coat of frost was everywhere. As we arrived we learned that Bn Cdr and Bn CSM were to be part of a media interview with local leaders and reporters at one of the towns. (NOTE: We will have a map at Syracuse showing all the areas talked about "inside the box" but for OpSec reasons I chose not to list them)

Major Allie Scott, Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for TF2 met us at the town as we awaited arrival of LTC Schexnayder and CSM Fortenberry to be

interviewed. We had the chance to meet and thank LTC(P) Schroeder Senior TF Cdr and really the one who wired our visit together on short notice.

While waiting for the media conference Skip asked Cpt Stewart to walk us around to see some of the tactical equipment and new weapons on display. Skip put on Stewart's tactical equipment including steel pot and we shot some photos. I passed on the opportunity to suit up. We did get to see the new "Rat Patrol" vehicle which Jim May would have loved for convoy security. Got a good photo of that for all to see. We also observed Air Force cargo planes landing "inside the box" simulating resupply operations. Skip got pictures of that too. Lots of activity in small area.

Once all the players arrived there was a simulated press conference with Bn command element asked questions. Reporters were very tricky in the way they tried to back LTC Schexnayder and CSM into a corner. After the event the PAO and TF Senior Cdr gave LTC Schexnayder and CSM Fortenberry big "thumbs up" for the way they answered questions, etc. They are well versed on how to handle the media.

Triple Deuce command element left us and headed back to continue planning for a tough attack on a fortified position that would begin early Tuesday morning. We said our farewells and thanked them again for the chance for we "OLD GOATS" to visit. (NOTE: New CSM is avid golfer and wants in our Society tourney in September)

In the time remaining Monday afternoon, Maj Scott (PAO) took us over to Brigade TOC where we had the chance for short visit with Bde CSM who was working feverishly. He pointed out where Col **Frederick O'Donnell** 1BCT Cdr and 10th Mountain Division Asst Division Cdr Brigadier General **Michael Howard** were sitting and said he would get us over to see them. (We had visited with both at the Army Birthday Celebration at Ft Drum last June) Unfortunately about

that time an attack took place on the Bde TOC and we were invited by the TOC Cdr to leave the area (NOTE: Col O'Donnell sent us a note the next day with his apologies for not getting to visit with some of the "OLD GOATS" while in the area)

As we departed the Bde TOC Maj Scott relayed that if we went back over to TIGERLAND's Alligator Lake we could get a chance to link up with Bravo Company, last on our check list of soldiers to see while at JRTC. On the way we stopped by the area Triple Deuce would be coming back to when exercise was over. Large enclosed and heated white tents across the street from a new mini PX and a Pizza Hut. Not a bad place to clean up and turn in equipment after 15 days in the field. We took one more sweep through the TIGERLAND streets looking for a supposed museum and took a couple of final photos before heading over to Alligator Lake. No luck on museum. CLOSED due to Martin Luther King Holiday.

Daylight was fading Monday as the lead element of Bravo Company pulled in for a final check for "brass and ammo" before being released to go back "into the box" Skip and I had chance to meet with new Charlie Company commander "coin him" and shake a lot of hands before they left us to return to the fight.

With the last check off our list of people to see and with daylight left Skip and I made command decision to head back to the Texas border. With a huge thanks to all who made this memorable trip back to TIGERLAND a reality we headed West and gave a wave goodbye to days gone by!

Lon Oakley JR DMOR A/69
(E-2-3 @TIGERLAND 1968)

TRIPLE DEUCE DAY OBSERVED AT FT. DRUM

February 22nd occurred on a Sunday this year, so Command decided to hold the annual Triple Deuce Day Events on Friday, February 27th. This would provide a long weekend for the Soldiers and their families that would begin with the Triple Deuce Day festivities.

Pete Gaworecki, Charlie Co, 1/22, 67-68, and I made plans to attend the event while the other members of the Old Goats Squad made excuses to stay in their warm surroundings. **Skip Fahel** went as far as having his knee operated on and **Lon Oakley** went even further by having his wife, Janine, operated on, all in attempts to have solid excuses. **Roger Frydrychowski** said he would attend and get back with me on the details. This proved to be a way of giving Pete and me the "slip," we haven't heard a word from Roger. **Ed Schultz** made no excuses. He said he had better sense than to go to a place where 5 degrees above zero was considered a 'warm' day.

Pete and I arrived at what will soon be the old Battalion Headquarters around 1130 HRS on Thursday the 26th. We had made plans to have lunch with Major **Nick Bilotta**, BN S-3 and acting XO, Major **Colin Mahle**, former BN XO and now 1st BCT S-3, SGM **Jim Manning**, former BN SGM and now SGM at G-3 and CSM **Rob Fortenberry**, the new BN CSM. Like all good plans this one quickly fell apart. We learned that meetings would delay the lunch but that Pete and I would be brought over to see the progress being made at the soon to be Battalion site. **SGT Daniel Handshumaker** loaded us into the BN Van and drove the short distance. Impressive doesn't do justice to the way the entrance area to the BN HQ Building looks. The entrance way is painted to represent the 22nd Regiment Distinguished Insignia. Pete has put some photos of this entrance way on the 22nd Facebook Page. As we were shown around the building Pete noticed a number of awards that had been placed along the window ledges. Upon closer

examination we learned that these awards had been earned by the 1st Battalion. At that point SGT Handshumaker told us that every attempt was being made to display the 1st Battalion memorabilia that had been sent to the 2nd Battalion when the 1st Battalion's colors were lowered and cased. We were quickly directed to a display case that held both the 1st and 2nd Battalion's Punch Bowl sets. I've already shared some of this with 1st Battalion Vets and they are, like Pete and I, are more than pleased to know that the 1st Battalion memorabilia hasn't been lost to the ages but will be prominently displayed along with the 2nd Battalion memorabilia. Tango Yankee to **LTC Schexnayder** and **CSM Fortenberry** for safe-guarding the Regiment's property. Well, we did get to The Commons for a delayed lunch. We were the last group served before the kitchen closed. We completely missed Major Mahle but did sit down with Major Bilotta and CSM Fortenberry. SGM Manning, who had better sense than to wait for us, had eaten lunch, went back to work and had returned to The Commons to prepare for an awards ceremony, so we did get to visit with him. During the lunch CSM Lewis, 10th Mtn CSM, also visited with us. CSM Lewis expressed his appreciation not only for Pete and I being at Ft Drum for Triple Deuce Day, but for Lon Oakley and Skip Fahel's attendance during Triple Deuce's JRTC at Ft Polk. The consensus of these career Soldiers was that they had only seen the type of support that Triple Deuce receives from its Veterans in Ranger Units. No other Battalion in the 10th Mountain Division receives the support and attention that Triple Deuce has.

LTC Rob Schexnayder joined us at The Commons where we attended a Combined Awards Ceremony. The Awards were presented to NCO's, Enlisted Soldiers and wives of Soldiers for their outstanding leadership, talents and service.

After the Ceremony Pete and I had a chance to say hello to COL and Mrs. **Mark O'Donnell**, 1st BCT as well as MG **Stephen Townsend**, CG, 10th Mountain Division. General Townsend said,

"I've seen you before," another acknowledgment of the support that Triple Deuce gets from the Old Goats Squad.

It was back to Battalion where we found that most of the S-3 shop had been moved to the new location. Pete and I did our part by holding the doors open while those more capable than us carried out the remaining tables. From Battalion we followed LTC Schexnayder home. We'd been invited to spend the night at Rob and Kim's home and gladly accepted the invitation. Pete and I treated Rob and Kim to dinner in Watertown and then returned to their home to visit. The Schexnayer's are cat people. They have four cats, all with very different looks and dispositions. From the friendly to the shy to the "watch out for that one," the cats rule the house. The morning came and welcomed us with 14 below zero temperatures. We were all off in different directions, Kim to school, where she teaches, Rob back to Battalion and Pete and I to the Golden Unicorn where we were to meet up with **Ben Barrett**, Bravo Co., 2/22, 1970. Ben lives about two hour's drive from Ft Drum and was going to join us for the Triple Deuce Day festivities. Ben, as I had learned from him in a phone conversation, is the mystery Triple Deuce Vet who was responsible for sending "care packages" from his VFW Post to Delta Company during the last deployment. We, the Old Goats Squad, were aware of the "care packages" being sent, but we had no way of finding out who was responsible for the action. Greetings exchanged and breakfast eaten we headed for the Monti Gym where the events were to begin began at 1000 HRS and continue to about 1400 HRS. Monti Gym is named in honor of SFC **Jared Monti**, 3rd Sqn, 71st Cav who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan in 2009.

When we arrived at the gym we found that the parking lot there was filled. Snow banks tend to consume parking lots up here in Winter Wonder Land, and this was the case at Monti Gym. The temperature had warmed to about zero, so the walk wasn't all the uncomfortable. Once inside

the gym we began to be greeted by the Active Duty Soldiers and their families. At this point Pete, Ben and I split up. Individually we could visit with more of these young Soldiers and thank them for their service, and that's what these visits are about.

Triple Deuce Day is a time where Soldiers not only compete in many events, some serious and some just for fun, but also provides a time and place for their families to gather and visit. There's food and drinks available and fun things, like paint-ball competition. This competition wasn't an 'official' event, but was provided for those who wanted to 'shoot it out' with their friends. I was invited to take a look into the room where the paint-ball activities were being held. About the time I got into the room someone let go with a burst from a paint-ball gun and while I was in no danger of being painted, the hair on the back of my neck stood up, my shoulders tried to meet by covering my spine and I puckered up. Well, this was no place for me. Some memories aren't worth revisiting. I did watch some of the weight lifting competition, basketball competition and the combatives competition. There was also another fun event where Soldiers put on 'sumo-suits' and acted out sumo wrestling, with the point being to throw one's opponent outside the circle or to the mat. LTC Schexnayder and CSM Fortenberry were invited to try their skills at this and to their credit they both put on the 'sumo-suit' and competed against their challengers. Pete has also posted a video of this on the 22nd Facebook Page.

It was time to recognize the winners. It is important to note that the individual winners will all be awarded the Army Achievement Medal.

The Battalion Run, which was comprised of a 2.5 mile run and a 1 mile M1152 Gun Truck push, was won by **Alpha Company**.

The Basketball competition was won by **Charlie Company**.

The Combatives were won as follows:

Lightweight Division, **PFC Tyler Held, Alpha Company**

Middleweight Division, **PVT Nicholas Parker, Bravo Company**
Heavyweight Division, **PFC Cory Alston, Alpha Company**



The Ironman Competition was won by SPC Nicholas Darrow, Gulf Company, Bench Press: 375 lbs, Squat: 525 lbs, Dead Lift 525 lbs, Ball Toss 27 ft and sled pull: 16.5 seconds.

After the awards were presented LTC Schexnayder encouraged the Soldiers to get involved in whatever activities WERE OF INTEREST TO THEM. He encouraged them to form interest groups and went on to say that the Battalion would help in fostering these groups. He then introduced Pete, Ben and me to the formation. We thanked these Soldiers for the service and encouraged them to visit the 22nd Web Site and to join the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society. I made it as plain as I could that the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society was as much theirs as it was the Old Goats' standing in front of them.

It was time to case the VN 222 Guidon and depart. I had a 9 hour drive in front of me so I didn't linger.

In closing I want to thank everyone on behalf of Pete, Ben and myself for their hospitality, with a special Thank You to the Schexnayer's for opening their home to Pete and me.

Jim May, HMOR Provisional Co. 1968

"MINI-REUNION"

All are welcome to join "Friends Forever" when we gather in Monteagle, Tennessee (halfway between Chattanooga and Nashville). The event will be at The Smokehouse, a Best Western Hotel, for April 21st to the 26th, 2015. We will be heading to South Pittsburg for the "National Cornbread Festival" on Saturday. Have some fun! It's not too late to make arrangements, please call me, or email for more information:

Betty Brenneman, HMOR,
(941)468-9918,

REUNION REMINDER

This is a reminder that there are two programs that the Board has developed to assist Members in their efforts to get to the Reunion. The first program is the Sponsored Attendees Program. A brief description of this program is that it provides funds for reunion attendance for a Member based upon the "sponsorship" of another Member. The "sponsoring" Member simply states that there's a Member who needs some financial help. VN 222 will pay for all registration, hotel and incidental expenses of the Sponsored Attendee. Transportation expenses are not covered. The second program is the Reunion Loan Program. A brief description of this program is that a Member may borrow all funds necessary, with the exception of transportation expenses, to attend the reunion. There are no repayment schedules or interest charges for the funds. Repayment is made as the Member is able to do so.

There are NO reasons why a Member who wishes to attend the Atlanta Reunion should be kept from attending because of finances. VN 222 has the money that has been donated by Members to help other Members attend the reunion. For more details, contact a Board Member.

TAPS

Leo Carter B / 65 - 67

Please add my Brother-In-law, Leo Carter name to the deceased list of members that served. With the 2/22 Inf Batl in Viet Nam. Leo passed away on January 6, 2009 as a result of a heart ailment. I apologize for making such a late notification regarding Leo but it just occurred to me that we served in the same unit. I served in B company from 1965-1967.

Harless Belcher, C/ 68-69

GUEST BOOK HITS

Name: **Ben Barrett**

Location: Hamilton, NY

Email: sstradli@twcny.rr.com

Phone: 315-824-3074

Just "re-uped" with the Vietnam Triple Deuce. Lookin forward to the Syracuse reunion and the trip to Fort Drum. I live 35 miles from the reunion site. I'm still lookin to hear from anyone that served with me. If you remember "Red Barrett", That's me. Give me a shout. Toast
Posted on: Thursday - Jan 15, 2015

Name: **Lynn Dalpez**, President

Location: Beaverton, OR.

Email: dalpez222@gmail.com

Phone: 503-848-3901

Hi Ben Barrett. 35 miles to the reunion. I'm 3500 miles away and will see you there. Can't wait.
Posted on: Wednesday - Jan 21, 2015

Name: **Phil Guiffre**

Location: A 2/22 Org Boater

Email: falcon1of5@aol.com

Phone: 347-432-0485

Just read Bill Cobb's fyi dau tieng pool. lil known fact. Martha Raye wounded by mortar round USO show 1967 @ pool. Martha only one brave enough to do show there @ time. Nancy Sinatra took her boots to Chu Chi. RIP Martha and all our lost souls.

Posted on: Friday - Jan 23, 2015

Name: **Rudy Roben**

Location: Ridgecrest, CA

Email: rude5967@yahoo.com

HHC/Recon 1969, and HHC/Flame 1970. Flame track named Canned Heat.

Posted on: Tuesday - Feb 10, 2015

HELLOES & COMMENTS

George M. Carter

301-279-8766

gmcarter47@verizon.net

A Co. 4th & 25th ID, March 67 to March 68

"I can't remember names except my friends who were KIA's, **Clayton Martin & Doc Holladay**. I think of them a lot." Newsletter is great, so is Web Site.

Jerry M. Birmingham

256-366-4660

jenniferjandj@aol.com

C Co. 25th ID, April 68 to April 69

Clark L. Lohman

402-731-4819

clark222@cox.net

B Co. 25th ID, Dec. 67 to June 68

George W. O'Brien

334-614-3213

GOV19@ctvea.net

C Co. & HHC, 25th ID, March 68 to April. 69

"Hope to see everyone in September."

Kenneth J. Zipp

845-781-8625

kenzipp@yahoo.com

C Co. 25th ID, Jan. 69 to April 69

Dennis D. Abraham

612-722-5705

stubness1@hotmail.comHHC, 25th ID, Sep. 69 to Aug 70 Bn mail clerk

Dennis would like to locate **Tom Zydron**, Chicago, IL, **Ray Brinka**, Chicago, IL, **Tom Beam**, Xenia, OH, **Fred Wendall**, Willets, CA. Dennis writes, "I would like to donate \$55 to help this Newsletter stay in business. I also built the American Veterans Tribute Wall in 2008. It travels all over the US."

Charles R. Jones

714-293-7474

crbutchj@aol.comA Co. 25th ID, Oct 68 to Oct 69**James I Ross**

405-396-2166

pathfinder66@earthlink.netA Co. 25th ID, Feb 70 to Nov 70Jim would like to locate **Albert "Bucky" May**.**James J. Papczynski**

219-879-3512

pappy.jj@comcast.net

"You folks have done a wonderful job on the Newsletter. I have no words for the pictures added to our KIA list, most touching."

William R. Deckard

812-682-4837

wmdeckard@sbcglobal.net

B Co. 25 ID, 68 to 69

Bill would like to be in contact with anyone who served with him in Bravo Co.

NEW FINDS**John E. Short**

717-248-1594

jeshort@verizon.netHHC & C Co. 4th & 25th ID, July 67 to July 68

"I see **Arnie Pellerin** passed away. Got to know him after Fire Support Base Burt. My track hit a mine and I was assigned to the commo track. He was a good friend and great soldier. We spent 7 days in Taipei. Thought of him many times over the years. He'll be missed."

Carlos M. Mandujano

2809 Tamarack Ave

McAllen, TX 78501

956-225-7662

Recon PLT, 25th ID, Nov. 66 to Nov. 67

Carlos would like to locate Chavez from LA Cruces, NM. Carlos writes, "Proud to have served with HHC 2nd Battalion (MECH) 22nd Infantry Regiment."

Thomas E. Albert

2429 Perry St.

Munhall, PA 15120

412-462-1475

C Co. 25th ID, Nov 68 to July 69

"Where did 45 years go, glad to be back." Thomas would like to locate **Paul Smith**, **Earl Snowden** and **Arthur Lance**.

Patrick J. McGing

12661 SW Kingsway Circle

Lake Suzy, FL 34269

863-722-0117

pjimcg@comcast.netB Co. 25th ID, Jan 69 to Aug 69