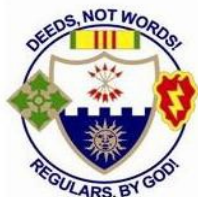


The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I got up this morning at our home in Bea-verton, OR. It was 51 degrees, wind blowing leaves and dead branches off our trees, and I started to think about wearing my long johns (unstarched) again. Not quite yet, but I fear that our great summer is at an end. We appreciate clear summer days in Oregon because we do not get that many, but this was a banner year for getting outside and reminding ourselves why we put up with all our rainy days that does make our state, and our Pacific Northwest neighboring states so beautiful and fun to get out in. We even have Oregonians that have tans this year. (I can hear my brown skin Brothers chuckling on that one. Tans?) I spent a day outside without my VN222 hat off. That was a mistake. I am still peeling and looking pinkish on top.

A year from now I will be packing up for the 22IRS Reunion in New York/Fort Drum home of the active duty Triple Deucers. The ones I have met so far tell me that they are having as much fun now, as we did in our day, what with all the vehicle, weather, food, water, Sergeants, Offi-cers, weapons, gear, and oh yes, the enemy problems we both have faced. The terrain, is lots different for sure, but that's about it, except for the wonderful war toys they carry these days. However, a Sergeant Major's inspection has a pucker factor equal to our day—somethings sim-ply do not change regardless of the passing years. At this reunion we will have an opportu-nity to compare notes once again with today's Triple Deucers unless they get called up again. My guess, is that due to the current Middle East situation, the Triple Deuce is preparing for just that scenario. Let's all hope we can all party together at Fort Drum instead. New England in the fall should be a fantastic visual experience ...continued next page

as well, from what I have seen in pictures over the years, but never in person. Still, what is really floating my boat about this reunion is the experience of tuning into the Triple Deuce of today, and the 10th Mountain Division's huge home at Fort Drum. As our WWII Veterans did for us, it is now our turn to encourage the next generation of Triple, and Double Deucers to carry our flag into the future by keeping our organizations going forward in finding our Brothers and getting them to join us. It is the 22nd IRS that will carry the Vietnam Triple Deuce legacy into the future. I ask all members to support that fact by planning to attend the reunion next year.

A motion was made and passed by our Directors to make Harold Metcalf, our co-webmaster, with Steve Irvine, an official honorary member of the VN222. As the programmer, and monitor of the site, especially the Guest Page (...keeping ads, political tirades, foul language, etc. off our site.) Harold knows how, or can figure it out, to help us with the design and function of the site. It's no easy task, even for a man that has the education to do such things. We plan on future web endeavors taking advantage of Harold's willingness to help us pull it off, along with Steve Irvine who covers the areas that Harold is not comfortable with, such as posting pictures, and design, which I get involved with myself after hearing about what you Members want the world to see and learn about us. As with Dan and Vera Streit, our NL editors, we Directors and Officers—all of us need your input. So, please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas. They may get voted down (Like my Presidential APC idea.), but they can lead to ideas that do work for us. That's the way it's been for me anyway.

Thanks to all who contributed and encouraged the building of the 22nd IR monument that will stand at The Infantry Museum in Atlanta GA. I feel a reunion there in the near future. I sure hope so. The names of all fallen soldiers of the 22nd Infantry Regiment will be on that monument as long as it will last—a very long time.

Veterans Day is fast approaching. Time to put on our colors and get involved reminding the public of our service, survival, and that freedom ain't free. I plan on joining the Brothers of the 25th Infantry Division in the Vancouver, WA. Parade. Please join us if you are in the area. You don't have to march, but if you do, it's not all that far—old guys after all. Drop me an email for details. I wish you all the best on Veterans Day, and all other days as well.

Deeds, Not Words.

Lynn William Dalpez, C/65-67
DMOR President

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Some call it luck, some call it happenstance, I call it Godincidence. The story follows. You be the judge. We took the little camper to the Kansas State Fair for 10 days with a plan to thoroughly enjoy the exhibits, the food and the entertainment. One evening we went to a presentation called "Country Gold" Who all sang is not important. We were seated on the front row. A couple came in and sat next to me. As is my practice I started a conversation about meaningful things---like the weather, hometowns, etc. The woman leaned around me, looked at the wife and asked me "is her name Vera?" (Vera was probably distracted by her smart phone) When I told her indeed it was, she said my wife had been her nursing instructor in the early 1980s. We had a nice visit during breaks and after the concert and set a supper (midwest for evening meal) date for later in the week.

Side note. I have been quite satisfied with most of the medical care and information I receive from the VA. My provider is a personable; knowledgeable physician. I have asked several times about an Agent Orange Registry and have been told that one does not exist. I know many Brothers are on that list; the rest of the story is for those who are not.

Back to our supper date. . . it turns out that the husband of my wife's student had worked for a very long time as a service officer. He said it

was no problem to get on the list. He got the printed information for me and provided me with web links. I know the information has been available but I needed direction. At www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange is a pamphlet called Agent Orange Review also an application form "Agent Orange Worksheet." Another book that I have seen in the racks but never had possession of is Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents and Survivors.

In Chapter 2 page 34 it is written **Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange and Other Herbicides:** A Veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January, 9, 1963 and May 7, 1976 is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations. VA presumes the following diseases to be service connected for such exposed Veterans.

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne or other acne form diseases similar to chloracne
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma)
- Hodgkin's disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Respiratory cancer (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea)
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Prostate cancer
- Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy
- Diabetes mellitus (Type 2)
- All chronic B-cell leukemias (including but not limited to hairy-cell leukemia and chronic lymphocytic leukemia)
- Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease

Why we have to prove exposure when the VA admits it is presumed, I do not know. What I do know is that information regarding support including medical, emotional and financial is available. If you are interested in pursuing the documents and getting involved in the process, follow the web links, talk to your service officer or contact me and I will try to help you find direction. We are all in this together.

Anyway that's how it seems to this old soldier.

Dan Streit D/69 DMOR

UPDATE ON REUNION IN SYRACUSE, NY

I had a great recon trip to the Embassy Suites Hotel in Syracuse NY Thursday 9/18/14. Flew in to Syracuse airport from San Antonio via Washington. Called the hotel and shuttle came and picked me up. I had dinner at Justin's Steak House that evening and toured the banquet facilities. Our hotel point of contact is Courtney Corey who has worked in a superb manner with Pam Brown of Gatherings Plus to wire this reunion together.

Hats off to our reunion hosts Pete Garowecki and Dawn Espisito. Through their hard efforts everything is falling into place for our 9-12 September 2015 gathering. If you have items to donate to raffle email me and I will pass your info to Dawn. The Hotel has 215 rooms available. Our goal is to sell out the hotel Friday and Saturday night and we have extended invitation to Triple Deuce soldiers and families to join us those evenings if possible. Room rate will be \$96 per room. That rate will be good three days before and three days after our reunion. The Hospitality Suite, Quartermaster Store, Raffle Room and Reunion Registration will be on first floor. A Manager's Happy Hour will be 5-7pm nightly and open free of charge to all registered hotel occupants.

The hotel has five floors in the typical Embassy Suites open atrium setting. Breakfast is 6-9 am, made to order, and included in your room cost. All our reunion events will be in the hotel with the exception of the Golf outing, the visit with Triple Deuce Battalion at Fort Drum (50 miles away from hotel) and the Society Banquet Saturday night at Justin's across the street. Pete and Courtney have compiled a list of additional activities in the surrounding areas and we will include that list in next newsletter. The only buses needed at this point will be to go up to Ft Drum on Friday 9/10/14. In the next newsletter we will have reservation data and registration form, listing of things to do in and around Syracuse and

our formal schedule of events and associated reunion events cost. If you have early questions email me at LDO82288@icloud.com

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

A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU EXPRESSED

A tremendous thank you to all those involved in making the reunion in Branson better than the last. The reunions continue to get better each and every time. Thank you to all! Betty Brenne-
man deserves to be recognized as extra special for all of her work for each reunion. Thank you Betty. Yoshi, John Yoshikane, a very special thank you for all of your work photographing everyone very day and for the CD of your travels back to Vietnam.

I understand that many of our Brothers receive the news letter but have never attended a reunion. I encourage all of you to strongly consider doing so. At this recent reunion, I was pleased to connect with someone I had not seen for 47 years. What a tremendous feeling, a very emotional encounter to hook up with **Wayne 'Coop' Cooper** my assistant gunner, who attended his first reunion. I especially encourage the 'boat people' who cruised the Pacific with me, back in 1966 to come to a reunion. You may recall the cruise originated in Tacoma and ended in Vietnam with a stop in Okinawa. We never left our cruise ship, Nelson Walker to experience the island. I am also interested in connecting with all those I served with B Co. 2/22 from day one at Ft. Lewis and ultimately in the weapons platoon.

At my first reunion in DC, I met up with **J W Jacobs** and his wife Brenda, **Ray Krnavek** and Lynn. Since then, I have connected with Jack and Karen Brooks. I did not know Jack in country but now the six of us have all become close friends with my wife and me. In fact, we all look forward to reconnecting at each reunion. The reunion in the Seattle area I met up with **Thomas**

Burts and his lovely wife Margaret and then again in Atlanta with Thomas. Through this past reunion, I was able via email and by phone to connect with **Tommy 'Batman' Sheel** and learned of the passing of fellow brothers **Jack Leshner, All Fuller, Bill Rempher, Joe Grimshide** and **Jim Trzaska**. We need to reconnect before it's too late. **Dick Nash**, A/HHC69 stated it quite eloquently in his comments in the June 2014 news letter "Finding Our Brothers Before It's Too Late". Please take the time to read it, it speaks volumes about us.

There may be instances where some may believe the expense of travel and lodging is beyond their limits. Please know that all of the members of this organization want you to experience the feeling of reconnecting with fellow brothers. Contact anyone of the officers listed in the news letter and you will join us.

Dennis 'Spud' Di Bon
B Co. 2/22 4th Plt.

FUNDS TO BE PUT TO USE

For years VN 222 has been holding \$210 that was sent to us by **Rich Holte's** friends to be used to buy/build/plant a memorial to Rich. Betty Brenneman has also been holding funds sent by Rich's friends. Betty is also holding funds that were collected to establish a memorial for **Dennis Alexander**.

Over the years, the families of both Rich and Dennis have been contacted in an effort to put these funds to use. Well, the use has been established. The family members of both Rich and Dennis have asked that all the funds be donated to the 22nd Monument Fund. Betty has forwarded the funds she was holding and I will do the same with the \$210 in our treasury.

Jim May
Prov. Co. 68

FNG RETURNS TO MEXICO

The same four that went fishing in Mexico last year were present this year, Trip Master, **David Milewski**, Charlie Co 2/22, 67-68, **Gary Hunziker**, Charlie Co 63rd Maint Bn, **Bill "FNG" Bukovec**, Bravo Co 1/22 66-67 and me. We fished on the same boat, Tenacious, with the same crew, Captain Carlos and Mate Alan .

Day one started out with an early catch of a tuna and was quickly and continuously followed by catches of Trigger Fish, Needle Fish, and a turtle caught by Gary Hunziker. Not be out-done FNG Bukovec caught a bird! That's not a typo. He caught a live bird. I'm happy to report that the turtle and the bird were returned to nature without being harmed. Once we realized that we were not going to catch another tuna, we decided that it would be best if we moved and tried our luck with Dorado. That paid off and we brought three Dorado to the boat. Two of which, along with the tuna, would be table fare for us during the balance of the trip at our new favorite restaurant. There was an omen on day one, we did not receive all the beer we had ordered. We would soon learn that not having enough beer would be the least of our worries.

Day two was unlike any other I've experienced while fishing in Mexico. We, along with many other fishermen and fisherwoman, were standing on the dock looking across the Sea of Cortez at a horizon filled, from left to right, with lightening flashes. If I had been in familiar New England waters, I would have not considered setting foot on a boat. I made this known and was told that these "squalls" quickly passed and that there was nothing to be concerned with. So, like the others, we got on the boat and headed out. About ten minutes later I looked out from under the bridge and saw an endless rolling storm front cloud heading our way. I made the comment that I expected Charlton Hesston to show up at any moment. Hesston did not show up, but a light rain did, immediately followed by a wind that torn the 5' X 8' sun shade away from above the bridge. This was quickly followed by 4-6 foot

waves and a driving rain. Captain Carlos asked us what we wanted to do and we quickly replied that we wanted to go back to the dock. Other boats were already headed in that direction.

The day before, David had asked Bill to get something for him from inside the cabin and while Bill was doing so he got bounced around pretty good. The lesson for the FNG was that should anyone ask him to get something while the boat was being bounced around, he should tell them to "get it themselves." During our return to the dock I asked Bill to make sure that the lunches were secure. He took a step towards the cabin, nearly got knocked off his feet and then turned and told me, in the most disrespectful manner, to "do it yourself." We all applauded Bill's reaction and considered that he'd learned a lesson the day before.

The ride back to the dock was in a "following sea." For those of you not familiar with the term, it means that the waves were coming straight at the stern of the boat. This causes the stern to rise, pushing the bow down into the sea and making for a rocking-horse ride. We were all holding on to rails while the wind blew the tops off the waves which were now in the 6-8 foot range. The lightening had caught up to us and we were treated to lightening strikes very close to the boat. There was nothing fun about what we experiencing.

We got back in front of the dock, but were not able to get off the boat because the waves were too high. One moment the water was level with the dock, the next moment it was 6 feet below the dock and the next moment it was 2 feet above the dock. So, we tied up to a mooring to wait out the storm. In fact, we tied up to three different moorings before we found a suitable one. By now, the wind, which had been blowing from the east, was blowing from the south. This caused the bow of the boat to turn to the south which put the port side in direct line with the waves that were still coming from the east. For the next hour plus we all held on with both hands with the rain and waves crashing against us. After all this time Captain Carlos was told that

there was dock a few miles away where we could get off the boat. So, we did just that. After getting off the boat we bummed a ride in the back of a pick-up that was going back to near where we were staying. We were all sitting there in the rain when four more soaking wet men climbed in with us. One had a new “best friend,” the 5 gallon pail he’d been holding on to since the storm hit. The poor guy, an oriental, was ghost white. We saw him later that evening and his color and positive disposition had returned. Once we got back to hotel we all took showers and went for a sight-seeing drive after the rain had stopped. There is no underground drainage where we were, the roads provide drainage and with the amount of rain gravel and rocks, some as big as basketballs, covered much of the road ways. Sightseeing was quickly over so we returned to the hotel. None of us went to the swimming pool that day; we’d all been wet enough.

We later learned that boats had sunk and one had broken in two. No lives were lost. The third day was about as poor a fishing day as we could have expected. I’ve never had any good fishing, on the salt or fresh water the day after a major lightening storm. The third day was no exception.

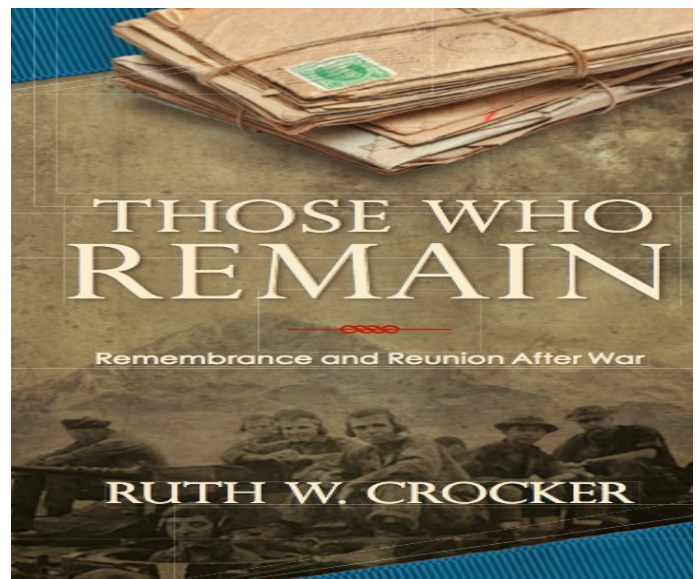
The company was fine and so was the eating and drinking.

The trip didn’t end here. We all went back to the airport the next morning to meet up with David’s wife Judy and their daughter Kim. David’s other daughter, Deni and her family were coming to Cabo for a family vacation. Also coming were David’s brother, Rick, sister, Lori, nephew Andrew and other friends. The party would go for a week.

Bill was scheduled to leave the next day, and wanted to do some shopping for souvenirs before he left. David offered to take Bill to the shopping district but before going Bill was told that the prices asked were usually higher than what a merchant would sell an item for. When

they returned David reported that what Bill did was nothing short of “swindling” the merchants out of t-shirts and other items. David said that Bill completely confused the merchants nearly to the point of being criminal. This activity, as well as Bill telling me to “get it yourself” has been noted by the “fishing committee” and could help to remove the FNG moniker from Bill. On the Monday, after Bill had gone home, we went fishing for bill fish out of Cabo San Lucas; Kim joined us. We managed to catch two Sailfish and one Striped Marlin and considered this day a bit of a salvation to an otherwise unusual trip.

Jim May
Prov. Co. 68



READ THIS BOOK

I have read Ruth Crocker’s book, *Those Who Remain* and am more than impressed with how well Ruth understands and puts into words that there was no rhyme or reason involved in living or dying in war. Ruth provides a simple yet complete way for those with “survivor’s guilt” to understand that they had little to do with their living and others dying. And that, other than taking precautions, fate had more to do with how matters unfolded than anything else.

Ruth also validates the very existence of the Vietnam Triple Deuce as well as the 22nd Infantry Society when she explains how she finally found closure when she came to a reunion and visited with those who served with David Crocker and were with him when he was KIA. Meeting and speaking with these Men provided answers to questions that had gone unanswered for far too long. If it were not for the reunions, Ruth, as well as the family members of other KIA's, would be left with troubling questions for as long as they lived.

Ruth also provides a lesson for those of us who served and survived but still have questions about some of the decisions we made. Ruth doesn't criticize the decisions she made as a 23 year old, but rather displays an understanding that those decisions were based on the circumstances at the time and with the further understanding that a 23 year old doesn't have the life's wisdom that a 60 year old has. Simply put, Ruth gives her 23 year old self a break and doesn't question the decisions that were made. There are too many of us that served who won't give our younger selves a break. Following Ruth's example would be helpful for those who continue to question the decisions they made 45+ years ago.

Whether you are a Veteran or the loved one of a Veteran of the Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan wars, you will find something in Ruth's book that will help you and your loved ones understand and deal with the scars that war leaves us with. The book can be purchased through Amazon, Barnes & Nobel or by contacting Ruth at www.ruthcrocker.com

Jim May
Prov. Co. "68

This is your newsletter. Please submit your articles and stories for the benefit of your Brothers.

FORT DRUM VISITED SEPTEMBER 2014

During my visit to Ft Drum, NY with 2/22nd Infantry (Triple Deuce) in September, I not attended the Battalion Courage Ball at Bonnie Castle, but also had the honor to take part in an Alpha Company awards ceremony.



Alpha Company Commander Graham Williams and **1SG Craig Cunningham** asked me to join them in an awards ceremony where seven soldiers were receiving the Army Achievement Medal (AAM) for recent accomplishments in the battalion. With the company gathered right after morning PT, Cpt Williams told his soldiers he wanted to honor all members of our Regiment Society by requesting I pin the AAMs on awardees and extend my congratulations. As I moved through the ranks making the awards it certainly renewed my faith in the solid soldier now assigned in the Triple Deuce. Great young men! (NOTE: During the same morning visit with Triple Deuce **Jim May** addressed Echo Company soldiers, **Pete Garowecki** talked with Charlie Company and **Skip Fahel** and **Roger Frydrychowski** gave a stirring power point presentation on Battle of Soi Tre to Bravo Company)

After a short visit at Battalion with **LTC Schexnayder**, **Bn XO Major Colin Mahle**, **CSM Cummings** and the **S1 Cpt Stewart**, our assembled

group in the Old Goat Squad, led by Regiment Honorary Colonel Ed Schultz, headed North from Ft Drum to Bonnie Castle for the Battalion Courage Ball held in Alexandria Bay. (NOTE Pete Garowecki took me over to see the PFC Jack Sweet Memorial Monument <KIA February 2008 in Iraq> erected by the city of Alexandria Bay...very moving and in a most beautiful setting in a park across from historic Bolt Castle on Wellesley Island in Alexandria Bay.)

The evening brought a gala with Triple Deuce soldiers and their ladies assembling in the ballroom of Bonnie Castle for dinner and comments from the Battalion Commander and keynote speaker **LTC Jorge Cordeiro**, former Alpha Company Commander in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. Also in attendance was the 1st **Brigade Commander Colonel Frederick ODonnell**. LTC Schexnayder put me in the formal receiving line to greet attendees. Great chance to shake hands with today's heroes of the Triple Deuce. Dinner was excellent.

Near the end of the Ball members of the Regiment Society present were introduced and honored. A special award for exemplary service to the Triple Deuce was presented to Gold Star Mother and HMOR of the Regiment Society Dawn Esposito. In her comments Dawn paid special tribute to all veterans of the Vietnam War and their sacrifice there yet the horrible public reception upon returning home. Touching moment to say the least for we Vietnam vets there. Once the formal program ended the dance floor opened for the evening and members of the Old Goats Squad had the chance to talk with Triple Deuce soldiers and spouses until the wee hours of Saturday morning.

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

DINING OUT ENJOYED AT FT DRUM, SEPTEMBER 2014

The Old Goats Squad made another appearance at Ft Drum to attend the Triple Deuce Battalion Ball. The previous visit was to attend a Dining In; this is Senior NCO & Officer's only event. A Dining Out is referred to as a Ball because Soldiers of all ranks are in attendance with their significant others. Besides dining there is dancing. Soldiers wear their finest uniforms while significant others are dressed in their finest attire. More about the Ball later.

Pete Gaworecki and I arrived at the Syracuse Airport where we greeted **Roger Frydrychowski** and **Ed Schultz**. Pete had been in contact with **Skip Fahel** and learned that Skip would be arriving later than originally scheduled. **Lon Oakley** was scheduled to arrive later. Lon was not going to join us until Friday morning because he had planned to do a full inspection of the 2015 reunion site to include testing the van ride from the airport to the hotel. When we met up with Lon on Friday morning he reported that he was pleased with all aspects of his visit with the hotel. Pete Gaworecki, the reunion host, had done a fine job in recommending the hotel. This is a good time to report that Triple Deuce, 10th Mtn, has been told that unless some unexpected circumstance arises, they will be in garrison for the September 2015 reunion. They are looking into various events for the reunion attendees to witness and/or take part in during the planned visit to Ft Drum.

Ed, Roger, Pete and I went to lunch, thank you Ed, after which, Pete returned to the airport to await Skip's arrival while Ed, Roger and I went to visit with Triple Deuce. We met **Dawn Esposito, Gold Star Mother of SGT Michael Esposito**, at the entry gate. Dawn was in the process of proving who she was and explaining why she wanted access to Ft Drum. We thought it amusing and wondered how the MP's would react if Dawn found it necessary to call General Howard for assistance.

The visit with Triple Deuce was brief because we had to go to the hotel in Alexandria Bay (A Bay) and check in. Unlike past events, the Ball would be held at the Bonnie Castle Resort in A Bay, not The Commons at Ft Drum.

The traditional informal dinner that takes place during these visits was held at the *Last Call Bar & Grill* in Evans Mills, NY. These informal dinners have proven to be informative and enjoyable. Pete had met Skip; they were at the restaurant when we arrived. **LTC Robert Schexnayder**, **MAJ Colin Mahle, XO**, **MAJ Nick Bilotta, S-3**, **CSM Manning**, and **SGM John Lucas**, Operations NCO joined us. MAJ Bilotta and SGM Lucas are new to Triple Deuce and, like other new arrivals, seem not quite certain as to whom the Old Goats are and what we are all about. It didn't take long for them to figure out who we are and what our motives are and then realize that Triple Deuce has more than just the support of a few Vietnam Vets, but the entire Vietnam Triple Deuce and 22nd Infantry Regiment Society organizations. There are, from what I've been told, very few Active Army Units that enjoy this type of support.

We had an enjoyable dinner and found that we'd finished just at the right time. As we were leaving the karaoke people began coming in, together with speakers the size of foot lockers. Ed, Skip, Roger and I went back to the hotel to settle in while Pete returned to his home so that he could pick up Lon at the hotel in the morning. The morning found us, all of us; Pete and Lon had joined us, at Triple Deuce before the Soldiers had returned from PT and their morning run. We were early because Roger wanted to make a presentation to Charlie Company. Skip, with Roger's help, made a slide presentation to Bravo Company. Lon made a visit with Alpha Company. (See Roger's, Skip's and Lon's stories elsewhere in this Newsletter.) And, I made a brief visit with Echo Company. They were busy getting ready to say farewell to **1SG Amiox**, who was retiring, and welcome to **1SG Rupp**, their new 1SG.

After having lunch at "The We'll Never Eat There Again" restaurant in A Bay, we returned to the hotel to do some recon on where the Ball would be held. That done, we decided it would be best to relax and prepare for the Ball that would start at 1700 HRS. (5 PM for those who never quite figured out the 24 HR system.)

We arrived, with the Vietnam Triple Deuce Guidon which was placed along-side the Company Guidons, and began to visit. Dawn Esposito along with **Glenn and Penny Sweet, Gold Star parents of Jack Sweet** were in attendance. It is more than good to see Gold Star family at these events. I hope that Glenn and Penny will be able to join us at the reunion next September. There were many others present who we'd come to know from our previous visits. When the social hour was over we were, as is the custom, seated with Soldiers from the various Companies. The theme of the Ball was the History of the 22nd Regiment. Kim Schexnayder, LTC Schexnayder's wife, is a History teacher and was responsible for providing the photos as well as historical vignettes of past 22nd Regiment Soldiers; one of these photos was of Lynn Dalpez.

The guest speaker was **LTC Jorge Cordeiro**, BN CO, 3rd BN, 66th Armor, Ft Riley, KS. LTC Cordeiro was the Alpha Company Commander during Triple Deuce, 10th Mtn's deployment to Afghanistan during 2003. After dinner I spent time speaking with LTC Cordeiro, who immigrated from the Portuguese Azores at the age of 4 along with his family. It seems that Jorge grew up in my old neighborhood. We spent time comparing notes about people and places. Jorge's high school language teacher is one of my close friends. Small World!

During the Thursday informal dinner we explained the ORA to our guests. A story about the famous F--- Y— lizard that plagued the Boat Originals and later on FNG's was also told. During LTC Schexnayder's introduction of the Old Goats Squad members he invited those in attendance to ask us about the ORA and the lizard. We all told the stories about both to all who approached us. We also took the opportunity to tell

these young Soldiers that they might consider coming up with their own version of the ORA. They are young and have a lot of time to figure this out.

The evening was filled with dancing, the most popular song having to do with "Big Butts." 'Times have changed,' is an understatement. The visiting continued for the Old Goats with as many young Soldiers as we could visit with. It was about 2300 HRS, the crowd had thinned and Skip retired the Guidon.

The morning found us headed back to the airport with plenty of time for Pete to recommend a good diner where we could have breakfast. All of our air travelers got home without incident. We anticipate that there will be other events to attend before the 2015 reunion and look forward to spending time with our Active Duty 22nd IR Soldiers.

Jim May, HMOR
Prov. Co. 1968

TRIPLE DEUCE VISITS

FT DRUM

On the weekend of August 14-17 this year, I attended a reunion of Charlie Company "Boat Originals" held in Portland, OR. As in past get together the men and wives attending had a great time together. During the reunion the men, led by Jim Neeley, discussed passing on a message to the men currently assigned to Charlie Company, Triple Deuce, 10 Mt. Division. Jim composed the message and worked to develop the final certificate. He tried to reach as many of the company "Boat Originals" to add to the message.

"To the Solders of Charlie Company, 2/22 Infantry, 10th Mountain Division:

We, the solders of Charlie Company, 2nd Bn. (Mech)/22nd Infantry, class of 66'-67', 4th & 25th Division, would like to say "Thank You" for keeping the High Standards, Traditions, and the Leg-

acy of our Great Unit going into the future. We also wish you the "Best" in your endeavors in the future. The Triple Deuce is a proud unit dating back to the Indian Wars through to the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan! You HAVE carried out the Tradition of being a Strong, United, and Fearless fighting force. We all are very Proud of you! We have done our part, and you have done it well also. As our Motto says..."Deeds, Not Words"

Thank you "Charlie Company"

From your Brothers in Charlie Company, Class of 66'-67'"

During my visit with Triple Deuce, on September 19th I stood in front of a company formation and briefly described the "draftee" Americans who made up the great majority of the "Boat Originals" and their outstanding performance as a fighting unit in Viet Nam. I read the message from men of Charlie Company, 2nd Bn. (Mech)/22nd Infantry that I had the privilege of commanding in 1967 to the men of Charlie (Chaos) Company, 2nd Bn./22nd Infantry and presented the certificate to the commanding officer, **Captain Dominic (Rondo) M. Rondinelli**, who accepted on behalf of the men.

Later that evening I had opportunities to speak directly with many of the men of Chaos Company who each expressed their respect and admiration for the men of Charlie Company who fought in Nam. They knew of the Triple Deuce history and specifically of the Battle of Soui Tre (F.S.B. Gold) in 1967 for which the company was part of the force awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. On each of my visits to the troops at Ft. Drum over several years I have been struck by their knowledge and respect for their fellow Infantrymen who had fought and those who had died during the war In Viet Nam. The men of Charlie Company '66 – '67 salute the men now and past serving out of sincere respect and admiration for their service to our Country.

Roger W. Frydrychowski C/65-67

BUSHMASTER (BRAVO) COMPANY

During the last two "Old Goats" visit to Fort Drum, I was able to talk to the men of Bushmaster. The first visit I let the men know how much we, the "old Goats" appreciate their service. I talked about my time in the Army, and how the Army experience helped me in my profession as a manager in the health care industry. I answered several questions on both my Army and civilian career. After this discussion, I talked briefly to the men of the 3rd platoon. After the my talk, the platoon leader and platoon sergeant presented me with a 3rd platoon T-shirt. (Swamp Dogs)

Prior to departing, I discussed with CPT William McMurrey that we would be returning for the Battalion Ball and I would like to meet with the company again and make a PowerPoint Presentation.

On the second visit, I made the PowerPoint presentation to the men of Bushmaster, minus the 3rd platoon that was at Fort Polk. The presentation consisted of 141 slides and videos. It covered Bravo Company during the period of April 1967 to April 1968. It included maps of our area of operations, maps of contacts, pictures of road operations, pictures of the different types of terrain, both during the rainy and dry seasons, and some of **Jim Nelson** paintings. Of special interest were the battles of Soui Tre, FSB Burt, Good Friday, and the Trapezoid. I included the Battle of Soui Tre because the battalion receiving the Presidential Unit Citation. I did not discuss this battle, but introduced Roger Frydrychowski, telling the men that it would be better to have a first person account of the battle, by the man that was in command of the Recon Platoon and in the 2nd M-113 to enter the battle area. The men were really focused on Roger's discussion as he traced the battle from start to finish on the map.

After Rogers discussion of the Battle of Soui Tre, I continued with the presentation. I have visited the Battalion every year since 2002, and this is the first time that I was able to make this presentation to the men of Bushmaster.

Skip Fahel, DMOR
B/ '67-'68



BROTHERS MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIP

As Karen and I planned our trip to DC we wanted to go through Gettysburg. **Harold (Snooks) Baltzley** lives 15 miles away so we made arrangements to meet up. Harold was an E6, the "Old Man of our Platoon at 26 yrs old. His advice and common sense kept us out of a lot of trouble in Vietnam....especially this young Lieutenant!

Thanks so much Harold...for helping us stay alive in Vietnam, and for such a great Friendship over the years. Looking forward to the Syracuse Reunion.

Dean Springer , B Co. 67 to 68



Jim and Sharon Nelson at the Branson Reunion

Sharon Kay Nelson wife of Jim Nelson, was born September 25, 1940, in Belleville, Kansas. She grew up west of Agenda in Republic County with her parents, Frank and Emily Houdek Plucar, and a brother, Gene. She died on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 in Salina, Kansas at the age of 73 years, 11 months, and 29 days. She graduated from Agenda High School in 1958. After high school, she moved to Concordia and worked at the Cloud County Bank. She studied banking at Northwestern University in Chicago for one summer, and returned as head of the Trust Department. After 20 years, Sharon became a rural mail carrier southeast of Lincoln. She had a reputation of being conscience and dependable. During this time, she married Jim Nelson of rural Jewell. She was a great business person with a magnetic personality. Sharon will be greatly missed by her husband Jim; her brother Gene and his wife Peggy Lewis of St. Louis; her brother-in-law, Fred Nelson and his wife Lois of Vancouver; and many cousins that she often visited. She loved Kansas and her Czech heritage.

Graveside services were held at 11:00 AM Monday, September 29 at Fairview Cemetery south of Jewell.. Memorials may be given to the Morrison House.

GUEST BOOK HITS

Name: **Al Bridg**
 Location: PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA
 Email: abdebpsl@gmail.com
 Phone: 772-631-8318

Have to say, so glad I was able to attend reunion this year. So good to see everyone. Sure hope we can do Syracuse. Thanks guys and God bless...

Posted on: Tuesday - May 6, 2014

Name: **John Spangler**
 Email: a222div25@hotmail.com
 I second that "emotion", Dick.
 Posted on: Tuesday - May 6, 2014

Name: **Justin Davis**
 Location: Merrill, MI
 Email: justindavis211978@gmail.com

Looking for information/ articles/ or people of the 4th 2/22 (mech) A co. 1966-67. My father is **Lyle Davis** who served during this time. He would like to see pictures or articles of people he served with. If anyone has any pictures or articles to share it would be greatly appreciated, thanks.
 Posted on: Friday - Jun 27, 2014

Name: **Sam Prestofilipo**
 Location: Manchester, New York
 Email: sprestof@rochester.rr.com
 Phone: 585-441-4430

In Triple Deuce December 1967 to December 1968. Just found this site. I was at fire base Bert.
 Posted on: Friday - Jun 27, 2014

Name: **Mike Smith**
 Location: Arkansas
 Email: msmithcpa@sbcglobal.net
 Phone: 501-664-2056

I saw that Troxel signed in was looking for me. I am here. I am not sure I have the slides of you taking the first dump from 2/22 in the Hobo/Boli

woods, War zones A,B,C,D. War Zones E,F,G.I think Z was Cambodia I did that one. You were one great soldier. TheY Needed you.

Posted on: Tuesday - Jul 1, 2014

Name: **Mike Smith**

Location: United States

Email: msmithcpa@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 5016642056

Any of the guys that were in Flame with me or in Alpha Company. Call, write, email. Michael B Smith, Little Rock, AR 72207. I am still good. Not the 19, when I joined you or the 22 when I left you in 1970. I will go walk the dogs and think road sweeps.

Posted on: Friday - Jul 11, 2014

Name: **Phil Guiffre**

Location: A/2/22

Email: falcon1of5@aol.com

Phone: 347-432-0485

Just got done w/lt carpentier's album. saw lt pryor. was **Gary Hartt** and my plt ldr 4 2 mo @ brigade security. anybody have any news about him. By the way great album. Nev forget the Black Virgin or soui tre. long life, guff.

Posted on: Monday - Aug 4, 2014

Name: **Dick Nash**

Location: Illinois

Email: nash222@frontiernet.net

Phone: 309 537 3536

For those who do not know, our own **Bob Price** (Bravo company, 2/22) has been a major player and tireless worker in the construction of the World Trade Center monument in New York City. Looking at the news this morning, I think a "Way to go Bob" is in order.

Posted on: Thursday - Sep 11, 2014

Name: **Michael B Smith**

Location: United States

Email: msmithcpa@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 501-664-2056

I am still here. Not looking to go out any time soon. Alpha 68, Flame 68 to 70. Been flat out in a dry rice patty, hot brass falling on my face.

Good God what a unit.

Posted on: Wednesday - Sep 17, 2014

Name: **Mike Smith**

Location: Little Rock, AR

Email: msmithcpa@sbcglobal.net

It was the best and worst experience of my life. Best men, worst combat. My father, WWII, told me to never hold back. I believed. He flew 60 missions in a B-26 as a navigator/bombardier. His 1st replacement, crawled out of the plane, vomited and quit. Dad said "NEVER KNEW YOU COULD QUIT"

Posted on: Tuesday - Sep 30, 2014

NEW FINDS

Phillip M. Guiffre

6215 82nd St.

Middle Village, NY 11379

347-432-0485

falcon1of5@aol.com

A Co. 4th ID, Jan 67 to April 67

Transferred from 3/22 where he served from Sep 66 to Jan 67

HELLOES & COMMENTS

Michael Daugherty

360-830-5024

mikedaugherty@wavecable.com

Mike was with 124th Signal and spent his time with C Co. 25th ID, Dec. 65 to April.66

William B. Hayward

615-826-9280

WBH@comcast.net

B Co. 25th ID, Jan 68 to July 68

James A. Mancini

58 Chalfonte Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-931-7630
HHC, 25th ID, Oct 67 to Oct 68

Would like to locate **Lester Freedle**.

Terry M. Hackman

330-645-6281
thackman@neorr.com
HHC, 25th ID, Oct 67 to Oct 68

Would like to locate **Danny Utter** and **Marvin Kantola**.

Jerry J. Harder

403 3rd St.
Adair, Iowa 50002
641-742-3773
joswybak@iowatelecom.net
B Co. 25th ID, Aug 69 to Sep 70

Would like to contact
Mike Hudak.

TAPS

Jeff Gaston

Died July 9, 2014
A Co. 25th ID, July 1969 to March 1970

John Edwin Frederick "Jeff" A memorial service for John Edwin Frederick (Jeff) Gaston, 65, was held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 12, 2014 at Laird Funeral Home, South Street, Nacogdoches. Private burial will be at a later date. Jeff died Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at his home. He was born Jan. 23, 1949, in Nacogdoches to Dr. Edwin W. Gaston Jr. and Martha Middlebrook Gaston. He attended public schools in Nacogdoches and Helsinki, Finland, graduating from Nacogdoches High School in 1967. He obtained a bachelor's degree from SFASU in 1976. Jeff received additional training in fire fighting and fire investigation. Jeff loved to work, and for many years worked two to three jobs. He was a fire-

fighter for the City of Nacogdoches, transitioning to paramedic and EMT for the city and later the Nacogdoches County Hospital District. He was also assistant county fire marshal for several years until funding cuts eliminated the position. Jeff began working for KEEE/KJCS radio while still in high school as a deejay and news announcer. He was news director his senior year, and won several awards for his news coverage from the Texas Association of Broadcasters. He continued radio voice work for several more years with KSFA radio. While working nights as an EMT and paramedic, he worked days as an electrician, both independently and for Clark Brothers. Jeff later was employed at Gound Chevrolet as service manager and service advisor. Jeff served his country in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Sergeant (E-5). He was seriously wounded in Vietnam, and was a disabled veteran. Among other awards, he received the Purple Heart and the Vietnam Service Award. Jeff was preceded in death by his father, Dr. Edwin W. Gaston Jr. He is survived by his mother, Martha Gaston; aunt, Ellen Sakach; uncle, Don Gaston and wife, Paula; brother, Tom Gaston and wife, Chris; and brother, Weldon Kant Gaston. He is also survived by nephews, Ryan Cupit and wife, Jamie, and Spenser Gaston; and nieces, Jennifer Gaston and husband, Nick Boland, Lauren Gaston, and Claire Want and husband, Jeremy. He is also survived by great-nephews, A.J. Boland and Jack Want; great-nieces, Eliza Jane Boland, Colbie Cupit and Scarlett Want; and numerous cousins and friends. In lieu of flowers, you may wish to donate to the Veterans Charity of your choice.

The VN 2-22 Newsletter is available electronically. To receive it in that format please contact D222@nckcn.com