



NEWSLETTER

Spring-Summer

2017



WE WILL NOT FORGET

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Redeployment Ceremony 1

2017 Reunion 2

Battalion Commanders 2

Howitzers in Syria 2

Brain Injuries: New Data 2

Vietnam Wall of Faces 3

New Jungle Boot 3

Shop Online PX Websites 3

HESCO Barriers 3

VA Initiatives 3

Fallen Brothers 4

- Gary L. Hauger
- Louis Monaco
- Ronald D. Timbrook

Member Profiles 4

- Brian G. Rogers
- Reg Karg
- John S. Chesbro

REMINDER:

Annual Dues: \$15

Make check out to David Powell
Mail to:

David Powell
130 Stanley Court
Vacaville, CA 95682-6425



REDEPLOYMENT CEREMONY: The battalion stood-down under Redeployment/Drawdown Increment IX (KEYSTONE ORIOLE CHARLIE) in October 1971. Some of its equipment was trucked to the depot at Qui Nhon while other equipment was turned over to the ARVN 24th Corps Tactical Zone. Top left photo is of SGM Kreider passing the colors to LTC John S. Chesbro, the last battalion commander of the 1/92. In the top right photo, the colors are being cased and would remain cased until the battalion arrived at Ft. Hood, TX. The bottom photo is an awards presentation that was part of the ceremony. Representatives from 1st Field Force and the 24th CTZ comprised the reviewing party. Photos courtesy of John S. Chesbro, COL(R).

2017 REUNION – SAN ANTONIO, TX

Alex and Dolly Morales are once again hosting our reunion in San Antonio, TX November 8-12, 2017. Alex served in Charlie Battery as a Fire Direction Officer in 1971. After leaving the army, he worked in state government and was a member of the Army Reserves. Dolly worked in the oil and gas industry. They have four adult children and seven grandchildren. Both are now retired enjoying their family and volunteering in their community. Here is a tentative itinerary for the reunion:



| | |
|-------------------|---|
| November 8, 2017 | Registration & Check In 1-8pm El Tropicano Hotel (eltropicanohotel.com) |
| November 9, 2017 | Lunch at 12:00 VFW Post 76 Dinner/Business Meeting 6-10pm El Tropicano Hotel |
| November 10, 2017 | Free Day –See San Antonio (citysightseeingsanantonio.com) |
| November 11, 2017 | Veterans Parade 12:00 (Ride on flat bed trailer) Evening Social 7-11pm VFW Post 76 |
| November 12, 2017 | Memoria Service 11:00 Veterans Plaza Hotel Checkout 12:00 |

Please check our website, bravecannons.org, periodically for updates as details are finalized. Hotel group rate \$119. You can contact Alex or Dolly at alex.morales@sbcglobal.net or 210-269-4798 if you have questions.

1/92 BATTALION COMMANDERS 1967-1971

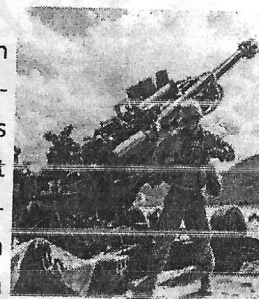
This list was compiled from our unit ORLLs and the internet.

| DATE | COMMANDERS |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Feb 67-Apr 67 | LTC Raymond C. Amenson* |
| May 67-Oct 67 | LTC Joe E. Myers |
| Nov 67-Apr 68 | LTC Alfred J. Cade |
| May 68-Oct 68 | LTC Henry E. Strickland, Jr.* |
| Nov 68-May 69 | LTC Nelson L. Thompson* |
| Jun 69-Jan 70 | LTC Clarence L. Stearns* |
| Jan 70-Jul 70 | LTC Harvey D. Williams |
| Jul 70-Oct 70 | LTC Kenneth M. Stone* |
| Nov 70-Mar 71 | LTC William D. Duffy* |
| Apr 71-Oct 71 | LTC John S. Chesbro |

*Deceased

155mm Howitzers in Syria

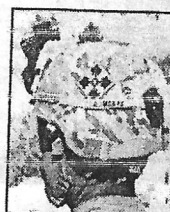
Towed 155mm howitzers have been brought into Syria to support the offensive against ISIS in Raqqa. The howitzers belong to the Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed in the Middle East. No American artillery has been deployed in Syria since the fight against ISIS began in 2014. The mobility and firepower of towed 155mm artillery is once again being realized.



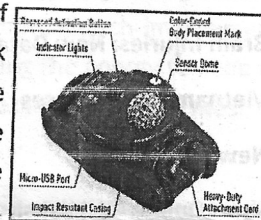
http://www.military.com/daily-news/2017/03/08/us-marines-move-syria-howitzers.html?ESRC=eb_170309.nl

BRAIN INJURIES: NEW DATA

New evidence shows most brain injuries in the war on terrorism are not caused by IEDs but by being around blast intensive weapon systems. What has brought this to the forefront, is the Army's recent decision to suspend a program that placed blast



gauges on thousands of combat troops. Black Box Biometrics, the manufacturers of these gauges, states that the majority of exposures



(explosions) are from blast intensive weapons like artillery, shoulder fired rockets, and mortars in noncombat situations. They go on to say that blast waves from these weapons are less intense than IEDs but that they occur more often thus increasing the chances of injury to the brain.

The Army's decision to stop the program has come under criticism. General Pete Chiarelli (Retired), calls it a "huge mistake." Chiarelli was the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army from 2008-2012 when he was tasked to look into the dramatic rise in Army suicides. Since retiring, he founded One Mind to help find solutions to brain injuries and related illnesses. Chiarelli hopes the Army will restart the program.

The new data is cause for concern. For us old Redlegs, it shows we were likely exposed to more danger than just hostile fire or ground attacks. If you experienced hearing loss from being around the M114A1s, then it is likely that your brain was jolted a time or two. How this new data will be embraced by DOD and the VA remains to be seen. It supports the findings on BOP conducted earlier at Ft. Sill. This is a serious matter as medical research is showing those who suffer repeated trauma to the head may experience such things as memory loss, personality disorders, and cognitive impairment as they age.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=506146595>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhimsK9hN-I>

VIETNAM WALL OF FACES

The Virtual Vietnam Wall of Faces' goal is to have a photo and a story for each of the more than 58,000 names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. At present, there are seven from the 1/92 that do not have photos:



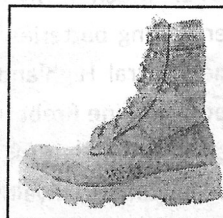
| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Timothy F. Brennan | A Battery 1967 |
| William Burgess, Jr. | A Battery 1969 |
| Ronald J. Carter | A Battery 1969 |
| James Kennedy | B Battery 1968 |
| Hulus E. Key, JR | C Battery 1969 |
| John R. Wurtenberg | C Battery 1970 |
| Charles W. Sterling | HHQ Battery 1971 |

The names on the Vietnam Wall are there so that they are not forgotten. Let's make sure America does not forget their faces as well. If you served with any of the above brothers, check your scrapbooks to see if you have a photo of them and if you do, submit it for posting. The link below has instructions on how to submit a photo online or by mail. Also, consider leaving a remembrance. Words from a war buddy are a powerful way to honor our fallen brothers.

<http://www.vvmf.org/about-the-wall-of-faces>

NEW JUNGLE BOOT

A new jungle boot is being field tested that will improve upon the Vietnam-era jungle boot. Some new features are knit mesh uppers that dry faster, rough leather sides, speed laces, shock absorbing soles, perforations on both sides to push out water, and puncture resistant fabric in the soles to protect the foot from sharp objects like punji sticks.



The new jungle boot will undergo more testing this year to see if further design changes need to be made. The new boot weighs less than 2 lbs.



<http://soldiersystems.net/2017/03/06/us-army-unveils-new-jungle-combat-boot/>

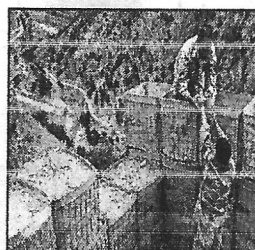
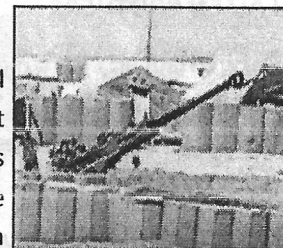
SHOP ONLINE PX WEBSITES

Starting 11/11/2017, all honorably discharged veterans will have online shopping privileges at any military exchange website. The Defense Manpower Data Center will be used to verify eligibility. Registrations instructions will be available at each exchange service.

http://www.militarytimes.com/articles/its-official-military-exchanges-plan-to-offer-online-access-to-veterans-by-nov-11?_source=Mailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Marine%20DNR%202-16-17&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Marine%20Corps%20-%20Daily%20News%20Roundup

HESCO BARRIERS

The Army relies on collapsible steel mesh panels for protection against blasts and projectiles. These panels are lined with a thick polypropylene material that can be quickly filled with sand or dirt. They come in different sizes and can be arrayed or stacked in varying configurations. Hesco the manufacturer,



claims their barriers are faster to erect than just using sandbags. A 1,500 sandbag barrier takes 10 men seven hours to erect whereas with Hesco, it takes two men with a front-loader only 30 minutes. Sandbags are still in use especially in forward operating bases.

<http://www.hescobarriers.com/categories.asp?CatID=17>

VA INITIATIVES

The new VA secretary, David Shulkin, M.D. announced four new initiatives that should improve veteran care:

1. **New Website:** accesstocare.va.gov This new website activated April 12, 2017 provides wait times for an appointment at every VA hospital and clinic nationwide. It also provides patient reviews for each health site and how that facility compares to other hospitals in the area.
2. **VA Choice Program:** Secretary Shulkin is revising the program to give more options to private care that includes removing distance rules and direct pay to private doctors.
3. **REACH VET:** The Recovery Engagement and Coordination for Health Veterans Enhanced Treatment (REACH VET) program analyzes veteran health records to identify those in a statistically elevated risk for suicide, hospitalization, illness, or other adverse outcomes. Once identified, the primary care provider or VA mental health will contact the veteran to determine his/her well being and if care is needed.
4. **Mental Health Care:** Because of high veteran suicide rates and the number of veterans who are disconnected from the VA system, Dr. Shulkin, said, "We are going to go and start providing mental health care to those with other than honorable discharges." This is a positive step since a significant number of bad-paper discharges were for mental health reasons. Recent advances in understanding brain related injuries suggests some of these separations may have been a mistake.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-veterans-idUSKBN16G06P>

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2017/04/12/va-now-posts-wait-times-private-care-co...>

FALLEN BROTHERS

Gary L Hauger: Gary died February 5, 2017 at the age of 69. He was in "A" Battery from 1970-1971. He was laid to rest at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, TX.



Louis Monaco: Lou succumbed to Agent Orange related cancer August 19, 2016. He was 68 years old. He was in "C" Battery from 1968-1970. He is buried at Southern Maine Veteran's Cemetery, ME.



Harold D. Tober: Harold passed away September 2, 2012 at the age of 62. He served in "SVC" Battery. His remains are at rest in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, OH.



Ronald D. Timbrook: Robert died May 26, 2010 in Knoxville, TN. He was assigned to the 1/92 after serving in Germany. He was a battery commander and an assistant S-3. A 1965 West Point graduate, he left the Army in 1970 to pursue a civilian career.



MEMBER PROFILES

Brian G. Rogers: 1968-1969

Brian was assigned to Charlie Battery but much of his tour was as a member of an FO team. "I volunteered for the job and had no formal training. It was all on the job training."



His time in country was cut short when he was wounded in the vicinity of Ben Het while on an operation with the ARVN 11th Rangers in May 1969. He was awarded the Silver Star for continually coordinating fire support despite being wounded in the arms and shoulder. He carried a wounded member of his team to safety while evading capture. His team was listed as MIA for several days. "What I remember most about VN is the dirt, heat, and fear...it seems that when the weather is warm the monsters (nightmares) come out more frequently."

"I enlisted in the Army after my 17th birthday...in fact I received my draft notice in Vietnam. My family served this country all the way back to the Cherokee Indian Wars. I honestly believe that every American owes this country".

After VN, Brian got married, divorced, and remarried. His children and grandchildren are the joys of his life. He worked in several fields and owned several businesses. Currently, he is a real estate appraiser. "Eighteen months ago I was diagnosed with cancer ...I slowed down...but looking over the past 50 years with all that has happened to me I cannot complain."

Reg Karg: 1970-1971

Reg arrived in country during the Vietnamization phase. He served in Charlie Battery as a gunner and section chief. "We did a lot of illumination and H&I fire missions for ARVN outposts around Pleiku. Life on Artillery Hill was almost like being in the states complete with noon formations and police call."

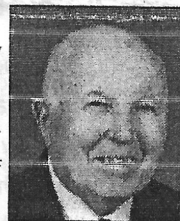


In early 1971, the battery left Pleiku to support Army Engineers who working on highway 14. The battery positioned two gun platoons along the road as the road was being built. "One of those spots was in the village of Phu Nhon where we encountered mortar fire and enemy attacks. Several of our crews members were wounded and one was KIA." Charlie Battery received the Valorous Unit Award for their actions at Phu Nhon and Reg was awarded the Silver Star.

After Vietnam, Reg went to college, married, and worked in the grain handling business for 45 years. He and Gayle have three children and three grandchildren. "My biggest challenge now is balancing my time with the grandchildren, church involvement, and township government duties...finding the energy to keep up with the little people is the greatest task but it is also most rewarding...life has been good."

John S. Chesbro: 1970-1971

John was assigned to 1st Field Force artillery before taking command of the 1/92 in April 1971. "Much of my time was spent in a helicopter visiting batteries spread over a large part of the Central Highlands. As I recall, there were seven to nine firebases we occupied. I submitted a Valorous Unit recommendation for Charlie Battery for its actions at Phu Nhon and a number of valor awards for its members. There was an IOS team on Firebase Six that was overrun. Lieutenant Thacker, the team leader, was recommended for the MOH. I visited him in the hospital. He had bug bites all over him and he was quite dehydrated. Besides our batteries, we had a 105mm artillery platoon, and Quad 50/Twin 40 sections attached to us. At one of the firebases, the 105s used beehive rounds to defend themselves."



In the latter part of his tour, the battalion began moving equipment to Qui Nhon and making arrangement to hand over other items to the ARVN. "It was a hectic time for all of us. Besides moving equipment we had to assign people to other units. There was a host of personnel issues we had to solve. "Commanding the 1/92 is the highpoint of my Army career." John had a previous tour in SE Asia. In 1965, he spent a year as an Army advisor to the Thailand Army. He retired in 1984 as a Colonel.

