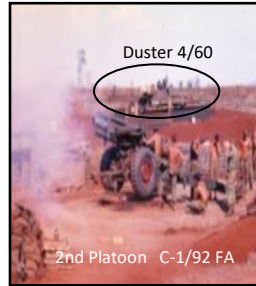




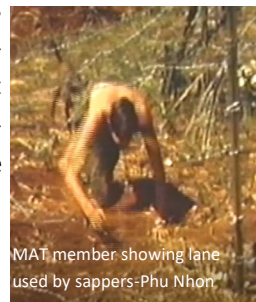
## WHY PHU NHON?

Phu Nhon (TC Miller) was attacked in February and March 1971 by the NVA 95B Regiment. Why would they do this just weeks apart from each other? Mark Mittleman, a medic with the artillery at Phu Nhon, said, "I know why they attacked us. They wanted the guns." Here are three reasons to support that view.

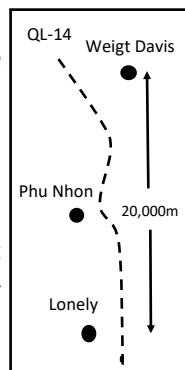
1. By 1971, it is well documented that attacks on firebases targeted artillery. Records from the 30th FA Regiment state, "The NVA hated and feared the 155mm howitzer because of its range and the ability of the round to penetrate the jungle canopy and their bunkers. Intelligence reports later confirmed...there was a concerted effort...to destroy the guns..." The presence of US artillery at Phu Nhon was a distinct threat. That is why the two attacks concentrated on the US artillery even though their part of the perimeter included two 40mm Dusters.



2. Lax security at the local level is another reason. The MACV DSA, Ray Ambrozak, states that the ARVN District Chief resisted his recommendation to burn the tall grass near the compound. After the attack, infiltration lanes marked with bamboo stakes were found in the barbed wire that was covered with the tall grass. Locals working inside the compound were not screened. Papers found on the dead sappers had locations of bunkers and the names of those who occupied them. Ron Milam a MACV MAT member said the locals provided that information. "Some of them never returned after the initial attack." The LNO bunker was hit and had to be relocated during the first attack said Dan Limbaugh, LNO. ARVN units sweeping nearby areas after the attack found bunker complexes in a plantation near Phu Nhon. Had the area been actively patrolled, the NVA buildup for an attack on Phu Nhon could have been preempted.



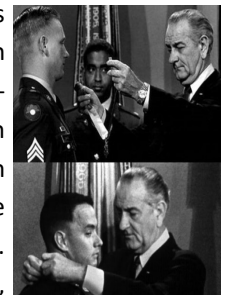
3. The location of the three firebases is still another reason for attacking Phu Nhon. The firebases were placed in a linear alignment thus making Phu Nhon the only firebase that could provide mutual fire support. This highway provided a high speed approach through the Central Highlands and as such, was of strategic importance. In all likelihood, the enemy knew that if the US artillery at Phu Nhon was destroyed, it had a better chance of controlling QL-14.



<http://www.heritage.hardchargers.com/rvn69.htm>  
<https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/items.php?item=OH0929>  
<https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/items.php?item=15290000000>

## THE REAL FORREST GUMP

About 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded by the Presidents of the United State. Only 2.5% of those have been given to artillerymen. Sammy L. Davis is an artillerymen who received the MOH for his actions during the Vietnam War. He enlisted in 1965 and chose the artillery because his dad was an artilleryman in WW II. Soon he found himself in a 105mm battery on a remote firebase in Vietnam under attack by 1,500 Vietcong. Despite being wounded, he loaded beehive rounds and fired them at waves of attackers singlehandedly until he had no more. He heard cries for help from across the river and swam there using an air mattress because he did not know how to swim. Once across he found three wounded infantrymen and managed to bring them across despite incurring additional wounds. In 1968, he was presented the MOH. The photo of him receiving the MOH was used in the movie Forrest Gump but with Tom Hank's head superimposed over his. The film is somewhat patterned over his life. Sammy retired in 1984. During his career, many called him the "real" Forrest Gump.



<https://www.military.com/history/real-forrest-gump-sammy-l-davis.html>

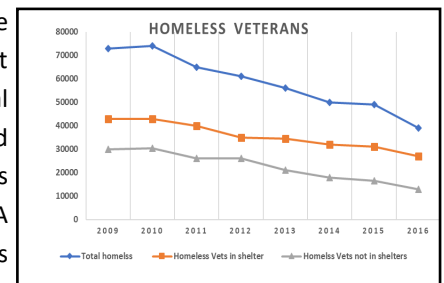
## BRAIN INJURY BLOOD TEST

A new blood test is being used to detect mild traumatic brain injury. It has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. This is a significant milestone because medical personnel will not have to rely only on a description of the incident and symptoms. Instead, there will be an objective marker of the injury to the brain. Limited testing is underway and fielding is expected within two years. Army researchers are saying the test will change the practice of medicine for brain injury.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2018/02/22/this-new-blood-test-can-detect-traumatic-brain-injury-in-troops/>

## HOMELESS VETERANS

The VA embarked on a goal of zero homeless veterans in 2009. There has been a steady decline but the new goal is now 12,000 to 15,000 since some elect to live that lifestyle. That is the "real zero" number said David Schulkin. Critics see it as a move to fund other VA programs while others think it is a big city issue arising from lack of affordable housing and rising rental costs.



<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2017/06/02/va-drops-goal-of-zero-homeless-veterans/>



## RECORD FOR ROUNDS FIRED

A Marine artillery battalion in Syria set a record for firing more rounds in five months than any artillery battalion since the Vietnam War. They fired 35,000 rounds with the M777 Towed 155mm howitzers and in the process burned out two howitzers. The rounds fired exceeded the 20,000 munitions dropped by coalition aircraft for the same period. This took place during the liberation of Mosul and Raqqa from ISIS control.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/marines-in-syria-fired-more-artillery-than-any-battalion-since-vietnam-2018-2>

## ARTILLERY ALONG DMZ

Artillery along the DMZ is a critical factor between North and South Korea. North Korea has 8,600 towed and self-propelled artillery as well as 5,500 multiple-launch rockets of which 70% are deployed along the DMZ. South Korea has a new "Artillery Killer" surface-to-surface missile that can penetrate hardened targets several meters underground. This missile has a range of 120,000 meters and can launch four missiles almost simultaneously. Seoul, the capital, is within range of North Korea's artillery, and this new missile is intended to counter that threat.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2018/03/19/south-korea-to-deploy-artillery-killer-to-destroy-north-korean-bunkers/>

## ARTILLERY MASTER GUNNER BADGE

Artillery is one of seven MOS for which the new master gunner badge can be earned. Those qualified must pass the FA Master Gunners Course. The master gunner distinction recognizes those who are weapon system experts.



Retirees and veterans will be eligible for the retroactive award of the master gunner badge. The new badge is currently awaiting final approval.

<http://soldiersystems.net/2018/01/31/us-army-establishes-master-gunner-identification-badge/>

## COFFEE BENEFITS

New research shows those who drink three to four cups of coffee per day are more likely to experience health benefits rather than harm. Drinking coffee is linked to lower risk of developing certain cancers, cardiovascular disease, dementia, depression, diabetes, liver disease, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and premature death.



<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/11/171122190659.htm>

## BURN PITS-LUNG DISEASE

A recent administrative court for the DOL ruled that exposure to burn pits is linked to lung disease. This ruling is not binding on the DOD or VA but, it could prompt them into making a decision. Vietnam War veterans exposed to burn pit toxins will likely see no benefit from this ruling since the VA's Burn Pit Registry is limited to those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/02/15/court-determines-military-burn-pits-caused-lung-disease-troops.html>

## PIZZA MRE

The Meal Ready to Eat #38 is scheduled to be released later this year. It is a pizza meal that is one of the most requested menu items by soldiers. The MRE replaced C-Rations in early 1980s and is much more varied. Over 270 new items have been added. Each meal provides around 1,260 calories. The shelf life for the pizza ration is three years.



<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/02/23/pizza-mres-way-troops-next-year.html>

## ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Burial space at Arlington National Cemetery is projected to reach capacity in 2043. As a result, new guidelines are being considered to expand the land, change eligibility and/or constructing another national cemetery. Veteran groups are opposed to limiting burial to those killed in action, prisoners of war, purple heart recipients, and Medal of Honor recipients. Each weekday 27-30 burials are conducted.



<https://wtop.com/government/2018/03/arlinton-national-cemetery-capacity-tough-reality/>

## ACT OF KINDNESS-MAY 15, 1969

Donna Rowe was on duty as the head nurse in an ER field hospital when a "dust off" radioed in asking if they could bring in a Vietnamese civilian casualty. Donna gave them permission to come in knowing that Vietnamese civilian casualties were the last priority.



When the helicopter arrived they found a baby wrapped in a dead mother's arms. To free the baby they had to break the arms. The baby started hemorrhaging as soon as she was released and her condition worsened. The baby was rushed to surgery. Donna felt compelled to ask a chaplain on duty to baptize the baby because she feared the baby would not survive. The Catholic chaplain asked for the baby's name and who would be the grandparents. Donna said, "Name her Kathleen," and the two corpsmen with her became the grandparents. Kathleen survived thanks to the medical care she received. She was released to a Catholic orphanage in the area that the hospital supported.

The Catholic chaplain told the story of the baby to his congregation the day after the baptism. A sailor in the congregation asked to see the baby and was so moved that he decided he wanted to adopt her. Months later he was given permission to adopt her and bring her to America.

Forty years later through the effort of a film director Donna and Kathleen are reunited. For the complete story visit the following links:

<http://www.wtfman.com/kathleen>  
<http://inthesadowoftheblade.com/>



## FALLEN BROTHERS

**JOHN PETELA** passed away August 14, 2014 at the age of 66 after a long illness. He was a member of HHB from 1968-1969. John lived in Maine where he enjoyed fishing, golf, and the outdoors. A devout father he leaves behind three children and five grand children. He was proud of his service in the Vietnam War with the Brave Cannons.



**JACKIE PAUL McCASKILL** age 66, died July 28, 2015. He was assigned to Bravo Battery and served from 1970 to 1971. He lived in Troy, NC with his wife and three children. Jackie loved his trucks, pets, fishing, and BBQing for his friends and family. Always proud of his service, he was never without his Vietnam Veteran cap. He was buried with military honors.



**HARRY C. WEBB** died unexpectedly December 29, 2005. He was 57 years old. Harry was member of Charlie Battery and served with the unit from 1969-1970. Harry was a devout Christian and family man. He is buried at the Union Cemetery in Lancaster, Ohio.

## MEMBER PROFILES

### MILTON PAYNE

Milton was a member of Alpha Battery and was with them from May to September 1969 during the siege of Dak To/Ben Het. He served as a cannoneer and wireman before suffering a concussion from BOP caused by a howitzer during a fire mission. "I was in the wrong place and the shock knocked me to the ground. I had blood coming out of my ears," he said during an interview. The injury caused him to be evacuated to the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku and ultimately, to be discharged from the Army for medical reasons.



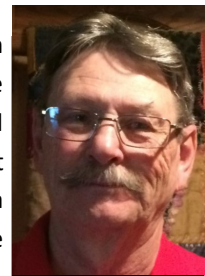
Milton settled in Florida, started his own business, and became a pleasure boat builder. While ferrying boats between Florida and Latin America he ran afoul of the law and was sent to prison. After his release, he tried to resume building boats, but his health prevented him from pursuing it full time. "I still work on boats from time to time and much of what I do is by feel rather than by eye."



Now at the age of 69, Milton is partially blind and the VA had determined he is 100% disabled. He and his dog, Sunny, are making the most out of the time they now have together.

### DENNIS MOSS

Dennis came to the 1/92 from the 6/14 which was at Ben Het at the time. He worked in the battalion's FDC before it was dissolved and then was assigned to Charlie Battery's FDC at LZ Lonely in 1971. At the time, there was a NVA buildup in the Phu Nhon area and Charlie Battery needed help.



Two things stand out from his tour. One was a battery 6x6 fire mission on a village where a medical team was ambushed, and the other was at LZ Lonely where he met Richard Parrish. Richard was a FO who earned the DSC while with the ARVN 3/3 Cavalry Squadron fighting its way to break the siege at Phu Nhon. Dennis left Vietnam in March 1971.



"I took it easy for about six months," Dennis said, "and then I found a job with Del Monte working as a tin can maker for 38 years. I'm retired now enjoying golf, fishing, and volunteering at the American Legion and VFW." Chuck Gull lives about 20 miles from me, and we get together to clean up a section of state highway 26 where a metal sign reads "This road is adopted by the 1st Battalion, 92nd Artillery."

### CLYDE JONAS

Clyde served in the 1/92 from 1970-1971. His first assignment was as the battalion motor officer and his second as the commander of Charlie Battery. He held the command position for 9 1/2 months until the battery and its howitzers were turned in at Qui Nhon.



The battles in and around Phu Nhon were the ultimate challenge to his leadership. "We occupied three firebases at the same time, but we needed help from battalion to make it possible. At one time, I had ten officers assigned to me. The firebases at LZs Weigt Davis, Phu Nhon, and Lonely were set up to operate independently. A first lieutenant was in charge of each, and they had an acting 1SG as well. We had extra medics, cooks, wiremen and equipment such as radios and generators. My ISG ran the rear area at Artillery Hill while I tried to visit each location once a week. I flew into Phu Nhon the second day of the attack. All the roads were cut off." His men called him "Mad-dog Jonas" for the way he braved the dangerous roads linking the three firebases.



Clyde made the Army his career for 30 years. He held numerous command and staff positions. He retired in 1998 as a Colonel to enjoy life with his family.