

7th CAV News



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The Ides of March are fast approaching and shortly thereafter comes the first day of spring,

bringing forth the awakening of a new season. The calendar also tells me that the next column is due in Dennis' In Box, so with that in mind here we go. As I sat staring at my own In Box this morning, I saw another of those phishing e-mails guaranteeing me 20% of an undisclosed fortune. So I thought I would take a few moments to issue a cautious warning that these are nothing but a scheme to get unsuspecting folks to reply and then give up personal information. Once the scammers have your information they will empty your bank accounts and cause you untold financial horror. Don't be taken in by these crooks. Conversely, your lending institutions will never ask for personal verification of information via e-mail.

Joe Persaud a warrior from B Company, 1-7, '69-'70 posts this question. Have you or do you know of anybody that has figured out how to convert the old Vietnam maps, which are in 1,000 meter UTM grid format to GPS, decimal or latitude/longitude coordinates? I have Googled it on the Web, but with no luck. I have found converter tools, but none of them come anywhere near the maps location. In the corners of the Vietnam maps, I have found what appears to be latitude and longitude numbers (degrees and minutes). Those are found in the corners of the maps. I have plugged these in but they are way off when they get plotted on Google maps. I have hours of computer time trying to figure how to convert the UTM to the Google maps. Frustrating! As you know I have been back to Nam and it is my hope to return again someday with GPS coordinates in hand and hire a driver to go back to some of our old sites such as Fort Compton. Your blurb on the maps precipitated this letter to you. Thanks Joe for the column kudos and for this great question. If anyone reading this can help with any thoughts, please advise.

John Guillory, former Vice President of our Association sends in this notice of an upcoming Charlie Company 2-7 reunion. This is short notice as the gathering will be 9-12 May 2013 at the Oak Bower Recreational Area in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. For more details contact Jimmie Brown at (870) 246-7292 or e-mail Jimmie at: <brownjbd@hughtes.net>.

Walter "Doc" Roberts, former member 2nd Platoon, Delta Company 1-7 Cav, RVN '71-'72 sends us this report. Hope this e-mail finds you in good health and ready for the New Year. I enjoyed your last "7th Cav News in the Nov/Dec edition of Saber. Interestingly your paragraph from Marion Siara (C 1-7) sparked something that has been on my mind for the last 41 years. In the fall of 1971, I was levied out of the 82nd Airborne and sent to Nam with an MOS of 91B. I got to talking to another Doc on the plane going over, SP4 Robert Lloyd, who had been assigned to a hospital unit in the states. Once we got to 90th Replacement at Bien Hoa, we were both assigned to HHC, 1st Battalion, 7th Cav. By passing the indoctrination training that lasted a week or so for "combat" MOS's, we got shipped out via truck convoy to FSB Mace with other "non-combat" MOS's. Upon arriving at FSB Mace, we were taken to the Battalion Medical Station which was commanded by Captain Coax, 7th Cav Battalion Surgeon. Doc Lloyd was attached to Company C which was going to the bush the following day. I never saw Doc Lloyd again, a few days later I was flown on a LOG bird out to Company D, which was still in the bush. The guy I replaced in the bush damn near jerked me out of the aircraft, he stated "so and so was a BS'er, so and so had VD and another had Malaria." He said "good luck" was on that LOG bird and gone before I ever got his name. Back to Doc Lloyd, as the story goes, in less than a month after arriving in country Doc Lloyd was WIA while moving forward to contact by small arms fire. I heard he was medevaced to one of the Evac hospitals and sent back to CONUS. While looking at my CMB orders dated 29 December 1971 listed is Doc Lloyd, me and a few others receiving the CMB effective 24 Dec 71. I really would like to know what happened to Doc Lloyd, did he survive or die of wounds later? Maybe you could ask your readers? For the life of me I have never figured out why they call Medical Specialists assigned/attached to Infantry Company or Platoon level units non-combatants, if they are, then why award a Combat Medical Badge? Reflecting, it was a noble MOS and if you took care of the grunts, they took care of you. Thanks Doc for this letter. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Doc Lloyd, please let me know. He's not listed in the Vietnam Casualty Directory of Names which is a good sign.

Jim Savage reports that Jeffrey P. Gottlieb, Lieutenant Colonel, Armor assumed command of the 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry on the 8th of January.

Bud Alley was a roommate of Jim Brigham's on the Troopship enroute to Vietnam. He has remained a close friend of Jim's through the years and has graciously offered his assistance to Jim's family by way of answering questions as they sort through Jim's military belongings. Bud has also been valuable in assisting the Association in consolidating and filling orders from the Quartermaster stores that Jim had in his possession. This report is from a question that Jeff Brigham posed to Bud regarding an item that they found in the home. The story on the "bush ax" is as follows: Our advance party went to Vietnam thirty days ahead of us via air to begin to work on clearing the area and establishing the perimeter for the 20000 troops and 400 or so choppers. It seemed logical that one would just use bull dozers, but because the intake pull of the choppers and its subsequent dust on uptake, it was deemed necessary to clear gently of the surface and cut the grass that grew on the interior of what was to become a perimeter. It didn't take long for the GI's to refer to An Khe as the "Golf Course" because the interior where the choppers and their crews were located seemed to be a country club compared to the combat units manning the exterior of the perimeter. The locals that were hired to help with the task used these little hand scythes and picked up the GI name of "bush hog" and the 2-7 decided to use them as traditional "parting gifts" to officers. They cost about seventy five cents and the funds came from the local Battalion Officer's club, we had the unit crest of Garry Owen attached to them and hence it became a symbol of pride to have it presented to you upon receiving orders stateside. So that is what it is and how long the "tradition" lasted is beyond me as the Division began to adapt to new methods of operating and no longer really used An Khe as the regular base camp. The way An Khe base camp was

organized with an 8 mile circumferential road that was one way. The interior of the circle was where the support and chopper crews lived and were parked. The exterior was where the eight line battalions and the 9th Cavalry Squadron set up their administrative headquarters, living quarters, manned the outer perimeter. Over the year, a strip of land was cleared to broaden the perimeter and it eventually was about 250 yards wide with triple concertina barbed wire and observation towers, spot lights, etc. Your Dad and I were the last of the originals to leave from the 2-7 and on his subsequent tour he was stationed at Phan Thiet on the coast where the Division support activities had moved. So now you know the story of the bush hog. Of course, there are many more tales about your Dad, as he was the real Mr. Fixit of our day and he had this thing about animals, lizards, furry things, you name it, he knew about it and how to handle it and how to make it work, how to sharpen it, build it, scrounge it; Quite a man and his knowledge enriched us all and he was always there to help. Thanks Bud for another glimpse into Jim and by the time I DEROS'ed in September of 1970, the 1-7 was giving us Cavalry Bugles as a parting memento.

Again from Jim Savage comes another report. Greetings and Happy New Year! LTC Rob Kuth here, Commander of 2-7 CAV, TF GHOST deployed forward in Afghanistan. Please allow me to bring you up to date on our current status and Security Force Assistance (SFA) mission abroad. Upon our first few weeks in theater, Garryowen Soldiers completed all reception tasks, conducted various training events and deployed forward into the operational environment across several locations in the eastern portion of Afghanistan. As of late November, the Task Force assumed the Coalition Force lead in our designated areas of responsibility and commenced SFA operations and support as advisors. For the first two months, we have been extremely busy with our current mission and operational requirements. The TF continues to support Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) as they conduct operations and build a safe and secure environment for the people of Afghanistan. The men and women of this great unit are really making an impact as they work side by side with ANSF and the local Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). Advising, assisting and enabling the Afghan National Army (ANA) already resulted in several successful operations. Our Soldiers will no doubt continue to make a difference in the nine months that they are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I can't begin to thank the 1st Cavalry Division and III Corps enough for all the support and resources provided as we prepared for our deployment. From our local training at Fort Hood, to JRTC, to the post and community assistance, out load to Afghanistan and the support while deployed, we will forever be in their debt and honored to be a part of the First Team at the Great Place. On behalf of all who serve in this fine unit, I'd like to say, Happy New Year, Garryowen, The Seventh First! V/R, LTC Rob Kuth.

Our own Joe Galloway has received another honor as he has been selected to serve as a special consultant to the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Congratulations Joe on just another honor which has so defined your illustrious career!

It's been a long 69 years since the Military has seen fit to upgrade segments in the Pyramid of Honor regarding combat achievement, yet on February 13, the Pentagon has been heard from with its announcement of the Distinguished Warfare Medal. This newly minted medal will be awarded to pilots of unmanned aircraft, offensive cyberwar experts or others who are directly involved in combat operations. As currently configured this award would rate higher than a Bronze Star with V device awarded for actual heroism in ground combat. There's something wrong with that scenario - at least in my humble opinion. In many cases a Bronze Star for Valor was awarded after a recommendation for a Silver Star was downgraded by a panel of non-combat officers sitting in an air conditioned office and without their own combat MOS to offer such an opinion. I speak from my own personal experience on this subject having been on the receiving end of such an action. There already exist several potential commendation and achievement medals to support the efforts of these servicemen and women: Joint Service Commendation Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal; and of course the service commendation medals as well as the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service. If you agree I suggest that you let your elected representatives know!

William A. 'Bill' Richardson who has served our Association and our country for well over 70 years will be retiring as President at this year's reunion at Fort Hood. We all owe Bill and his lovely wife, Eva, a debt of gratitude for many years of service on the Board of Directors of the Division Association as well as his service to the 7th Cavalry Association. Nominations are currently being accepted for the position of President. If you are interested, please let me know!

If you live in California and are in need of some "legal" advice then this website may be of interest. Courtesy of Shortround Migut: <<http://amvets-ma.org/wp-content/uploads/2012-12-RAO-Bulletin-Jan-2013-5.pdf>>.

Jim Savage has been working diligently to update the online rosters of Association members. While doing this task, it was necessary to have the rosters "unavailable" for viewing. By the time you receive this Saber all rosters should be back on line. Thanks Jim for this tedious but necessary work.

If you have an elderly parent or expect to be involved in going through their effects, please do a little work beforehand. This early work will save you a lot of personal heartache when the actual time comes. This is especially true if you or your loved one is a military retiree. There are a myriad of hoops that one must jump through with DFAS to include Power's of Attorney, changes of address and a host of others too numerous to list.

I was watching 60 Minutes last night and they had a segment on Veteran Suicides and the statistics are staggering. Over 22 veterans are committing suicide every day, an astonishing eight thousand every year. I make this appeal that if you know someone in this state of upheaval, then either urge them to call the Veterans Crisis Hotline at (800) 273-8255 or call on their behalf. It's the least we can do for our soldiers!

With that, I close this edition of your 7th Cavalry news and I wish each a wonderful spring! Garryowen from Michigan.

New Members Listing

Continued from pg. 2.

SSG BUFFALOE, RODNEY TX 2BCT 1302
 PVT BURNETT, ROBERT KEVIN TX 1BCT 1301
 MAJ BYRUM, VAUGHAN TX HHC HHBN 13

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