



Newsletter of the 3rd Recon Association

Volume XVI Issue 3

<http://www.3drecon.org/index2.htm>

December 2008

Dirty Delta 3rd Recongram



It's time once again to get the "Dirty Delta" word out on what's been going on and what's planned for the future. Many of our brothers were able to rekindle friendships last

month in Florida, but there were also many who were not able to attend. Hopefully, this newsletter will help to keep everyone informed and ensure that each and everyone of you know you are always missed and constantly remembered in your Brother's thoughts and prayers!

Hearty congratulations to all the folks who made our recent 2008 3rd Recon Battalion Reunion held in Kissimmee/Orlando, Florida the tremendous success that it was. In particular, Len Rapauno, Darlene Schneider and Marshall Johnson are to be commended for their untiring efforts in organizing and running this event. Everyone I have spoken to really enjoyed themselves and as always it was another opportunity to reunite with comrades who we've kept in our memories but haven't seen for years. Such auspicious events as Tom Hartung and Bill Donnelly presenting Willie "Horse Collar" Wilson with the "Horse Collar Award" will always be remembered. It seems like every time a reunion is held there is always someone who shows up who has never been before and 2008 was no exception. Last I heard there were no less than seven 3rd Reconners who were able to attend for the very first time! Hoo-Rah!! Ron Moore reported that "Dirty Delta" had the largest number of Reconners attending which is once more indicative of our high moral and Esprit de Corps! Thanks to Ron and Linda Moore for the barbeque they so graciously hosted at their lovely home for over 50 of our Delta Company Brothers. Hopefully, we'll all be able to get together again next year at our Company Reunion and renew our friendships while we listen to the tall tales of our unofficial Company historians Thomas "The Tung" Hartung and Ken "Bugs" Bunner.

Continued on page # 10

3rd Recon Association

<http://www.3drecon.org/index2.htm>

3Charlie 1 - Team Marble Champ

<http://www.3charlie1.org/>

Merry Christman to the Battalion



During the Kissimmee Reunion, reunion attendees were given the opportunity to purchase PX items to send as a package to the battalion overseas. The package was filled out with donations with additional donated PX gear.

Marshall Johnson, PX manager, shipped the items, to include 3rd Recon Playing cards, new 1.75 inch 3rd Recon Challenge Coins, 3rd Recon Patches and other goodies from the PX stock to our brothers.

As a show of further support to our brothers in the battalion it was decided by the executive committee to send a gift to the entire battalion from the association. A t-shirt was selected and a quantity decided on as the association's gift to the Battalion.

The t-shirt design selected, pictured above, is a sand colored tee with flat gray printing; in the hopes our gift can be worn as part of the uniform. 200 shirts were ordered at a cost of \$1,226.00... delivered.

The shirts have been delivered to the FPO, as outlined for Christmas mailings, for their delivery in time for Christmas Holiday.

I know all in the association join me in wishing the current battalion a safe return from their time being in Harm's Way. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Semper Fidelis.

After Action Patrol Reports

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/index.htm>

The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

<http://www.thewall-usa.com/>

President's Message

We all had a great time in Kissimmee/Orlando. Thanks to Lenny, Darlene, and all the people who helped make LZ Gator a success. The PX had a lot of satisfied customers, and the Association made some money. Thanks to the people representing the Associations Companies who tended the bar. It made the whole thing work a lot better. A special thanks to Larry Vetter for sharing with us his recent adventures back in I Corps Vietnam. A lot of people volunteered and did the small and big things necessary to make sure all attending had a good time.

We didn't make any big decisions at the Association meeting. We had some lively debates, but they were fair, and open to all opinions. The biggest issue was about opening the Association up to some of the newer Iraq (non-Vietnam) veterans. To do that, a Change of the Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote to pass. Opening up the Association almost achieved that level. If this is an important issue to you, you better plan on attending the next Reunion/Association meeting. I'm sure we will address it there again.

Jim Hunter and Lenny are working on the Web Site. There has been some and you will be seeing additional improvement over time. Please allow us the time to set things right. Jim Jones tried to do some, but it was pretty messed up. I'm not blaming Shortround. He didn't mess it up. He left us a promising, working, web site that was chopped up by another through my mis-placed trust.

A lot of people pitched in during the Reunion, and a few do all the time. Lenny for one has done a lot for the association in many aspects, but he's overdue to get relief on the Harborsite. I sure would like a volunteer to take his place as Editor of our newsletter.

The attendance at the reunion was mixed. Of the over 230 total attending, I think, we had about one hundred thirty members present. The largest contingent attending was from DELTA Company. The company with the least attending was from ALPHA.

Continued on page # 7

"Pop A Smoke"

<http://www.popasmoke.com/>

Khe Sanh Veterans Home Page

<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/4867/>

Membership News

I number of you may be receiving this newsletter after a long absence and others, perhaps, for the first time.

The reason is there has been a concerned effort by membership to consolidate the numerous association rosters, some of which we have had for many years. To that end we put in many hours and now have a main, raw data, association/web site roster of over 3,300 names and association mailing roster which is currently around the 1,800 mark. This new number includes the addition of over 500 plus located and relocated members with what we can determine to be good mailing addresses.

The revised web roster, when posted, will list all 3,300 plus names that we have determined served with the battalion in Vietnam between the years 1961 though 1971. We know it is not complete. All the names on the web site will be color coded as to their current status. **Scarlet**, is for the battalion's KIA's; **Gold**, is for the battalion's members who have died since their service in Vietnam; **Gray** is for those from the battalion we have no record of or lost their address when they moved with no forwarding address and **Black** is for those, we feel, we have a good mailing address. The revised rosters will be posted on the web site after the first of the year. (This is to allow time for further corrections to verify the additional names/addresses added are correct.)

Please check your mailing label to make sure the information is correct. Also, if you would like us to include, or not include, your retired rank or grade let us know. Remember to contact us with changes or additions. If we don't hear from you it is assumed all is OK.

In addition, if you don't want to receive further correspondence from the association we will remove your name from the mailing roster.

When we do load the new color-coded roster onto the association's web site there may be errors for companies, years, etc. Were talking 3,300 plus names? Mistakes can be made, but again they can be corrected.

Please look over the new roster and let us know of any corrections. Now here is where we can use your help. If you check the roster and see a team-mates name is missing or if you see their name is gray and you have a good address or telephone number contact us so they can be added to the mailing roster.

Also, we have about 12 conflicting reports of having a good address and a report that they have died. If you know for a fact that a brother has died let us know?

Continued on page # 6

'Neath The Moon

There's strange things done
'neath the Vietnam sun,
But the time that locked my jaws,
Was the night 'neath the moon
when the 3rd Platoon
Gunned down Santa Claus

It started off right, just another long night
You had to spend in the dirt.
Security was out, 360 about
With 50 percent alert.

We had 81's and naval guns;
Our tanks were track to track,
An Ontos or so, An Arty FO
Sent barrages back-to-back.

I froze where I stood 'cause out of the wood
Eight horses came charging along.
I froze there in place, fear showed in my face,
"My God," I said, "mounted Cong!"

He was coming our way,
in what looked like a sleigh,
You never know what they'll use.
Our flares were tripped,
our SID's had flipped,
Our TIPSYP's blew a fuse.

We let him get close,
then we yelled, "Who goes?"
Like they do in the movie show.
The answer we got, believe it or not,
Was a hearty "HO! HO! HO!"

Now these troops of mine have seen some time,
They've done a few things backward.
They may be thick, but can tell you a trick,
They knew that wasn't the password.

The 90's roared, the 81's soared,
The naval guns raised hell.
A bright red flare flew through the air,
We fired our FPL.

I'll give him guts, but the man was nuts,
Or I'm a no good liar.
He dropped like a stone in our killing zone,
I passed the word, ... "Cease Fire!"

I went out there to take a close look,
My memory started to race.
My mind plays games when it comes to names,
But I never forget a face.

He was dressed in red and he looked quite well fed,
Older than most I'd seen.
He looked a bit weird with that long white beard,
For sure he was no Marine.

Continued on page # 11

Saepe Expertus,

Semper Fidelis,

Fratres Aeterni

Elections in 2010

By Gene Keith "Hud" Huddleston,
Charlie Company, 1965-66

Len requested that I provide this column on our elections process for 2010. This article uses the 2006 election as a model and explains the sequence of events and their timing for the 2010 elections, assuming that this model will be followed.



The Officers of the Association are up for election every four years. They comprise the Executive Committee and consist of the following, including for reference the name of the current officer as posted on the Recon website:

Association Officers	Current Officer
President	William A. Stussie
Vice President	Stan "Doc" Sellers
Secretary	Steve Lowery
Treasurer	John J "Doc" Winters
Sergeant-at-Arms	Leland Upshaw
Chaplain	William Joe Haire
Historian	Larry Vetter
Publicity/Membership	Thomas J Enwright

By May 2010, the President should appoint the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, or he will have to take on the duty himself. The Chairman may then request the Company Presidents to appoint one member from each Company to serve on the Nominations Committee. They will review the nominations received before posting them on the website to help ensure fair and balanced coverage.

A Nomination Form will be mailed out with the Harborsite in early July 2010, which is three months prior to our reunion in late September or early October. Members may use the form to nominate themselves or other members. Current officers may be nominated for their current office or any other office. Candidates must be members of the 3rd Recon Association.

One form will be used for each candidate. It indicates the office for which the nomination applies. A Candidate's Statement of 100 words or less may be included: who is he; what has he done for 3rd Recon Association; why does he want to serve in this office; what does the candidate expect to accomplish during his tenure. A photo can be included and is highly recommended. A promise of a chicken in every pot is not. **Continued on page # 7**

A BRIDGE OVER THE SEVENTEEN MILE RIVER NEAR NICHOLLS, GA IS NAMED, "DAVID NIPPER MEMORIAL BRIDGE". David, of Delta Company, was the first of many men in the battalion we lost in Vietnam. November 21, 1964

Joseph E. Revell, Charlie Co



My wife, Victoria, Rudy Fontane, and I attended the funeral of Joseph E. Revell, Major, USMC (Ret.) on 18 November 2008 at Arlington National Cemetery along

with Joe's brothers and sisters, children, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, grand children, and cousins. Joe died on Labor Day in Pensacola, Florida.

Before the funeral, we attended a memorial service at the Assembly of God church on North Pershing Drive not far from ANC. Joe's oldest brother, Bob, has been a pastor for 61 years and led the service. He told us about three people: Joseph the Redeemed, Jesus the Redeemer, and Joe the Marine. It was a glorious day for the Revell family when Joe saw the light and became Joseph eighteen years ago.

Bob wrote and recited a special poem for Joseph, a task that Bob freely admitted was difficult beyond his talents to do – but he did it well.

Our Watchman on the Wall

*This would have been a dreadful day
Of grief – unmitigated grief.
As painfully we tried to pray
To find some semblance of relief.
Had not Joe's transformed life sufficed
Because he "...just met Jesus Christ".*

*He did not "get religion" or
Repeat some preacher's patent prayer.
Far more than we were praying for
God did when none of us were there.
And guided Joseph so that he
Received a clear theology.*

*An by that Spirit he discerned
The dangers to both Church and State.
And sought to share what he had learned
And gave us much to contemplate.
In his "Report" as from the "Wall"
He saw the "war" and warned us all.*

*He was a Marine, through and through,
If for his country or his Lord.
To do what he was called to do
Unmoved by hardship or reward.
And from his outpost calls today
For all of us to "watch and pray".*

- Bob Revell **Continued on page # 10**

New chutes get high marks from Marines in Iraq

MMP versatile, easier to use, jumpers say after training in Iraq
By [Cindy Fisher](#), Stars and Stripes
Mideast edition, Tuesday, July 22, 2008

AL ASAD, Iraq — The Marine Corps' newest parachute was used for the first time in Iraq last week during a five-day training program of progressively more difficult jumps. Officials say testing the gear in a war zone makes perfect sense.

The multi-mission parachute system, which the Corps had been testing for about two years, is replacing the MC-5 static line/free-fall ram air parachute system, said Master Sgt. Monroe Stueber, operations chief of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion.

More than 20 jumpers with 3rd Recon participated in the day and night static line jumps from 5,500 feet and higher, and free fall jumps from 10,000 feet, using the multi-mission parachute system.

This was also the first time that static line and free fall jumps had been done together, Gunnery Sgt. Marc Hogue, 39, a 3rd Recon jump master from Tempe, Ariz., said Thursday.

The successful completion of this training package "opens a lot of doors for recon battalions to do this outside the wire in Iraq," said Stueber, 45, of Jacksonville, N.C. Convoying to various locations in Iraq has, in the past, been problematic because of roadside dangers including bombs, he said. On the road, "the biggest threat to us is IEDs (improvised explosive devices); we can beat that by jumping."

Marines could also be brought in by helicopter, but parachuting is quieter, he said.

"We can cut down risks," he said. "This is another means to put somebody into a situation." Once among the most violent areas in Iraq, Anbar province has now become one of the most quiet, so much so that the Marines could do the training here.

Marine recon units had completed some jumps in the past using the MC-5 chute, but the new chute is more versatile and more forgiving than the MC-5, Stueber said. The MC-5 parachute could be used in only two configurations, for static line jumps and for free fall jumps.

Continued on page # 8

Kissimmee, FL Reunion

On Sunday, October 19, 2208 the association's 2008 gathering of warriors at LZ Gator, the Ramada Inn Gateway Plaza, came to a successful close with a great time had by all who attended.

From that Wednesday afternoon on October 15th when all were told to put their feet on the yellow footprints and had the opportunity to have their picture taken with a live alligator, to the Sunday breakfast brunch at the Black Angus Restaurant approximately 230 association members, family, friends and invited guests came together to reunite and enjoy the company of old and new friends, and remember those who are no longer with us.

Among the many attending were many old hands who have enjoyed these coming together events for many years. Others were attending for the first time ever and came away with the same comment, "Why didn't I come to the reunions before?" Others expressed concern about where was so and so this year or even their sorrow about how many of our brothers there are who will never be able to share any more moments with their family, with friends... with us.

The Florida Rain God smiled down on our happy crew with some great weather. We enjoyed warm days and cool nights and not a drop of rain.

The smoking lamp was lit, the beer iced, the food and drink was plentiful. How good does it get? The good times, they just kept a-coming and as they do in New Orleans, we just let the good times roll.

In small groups we gathered and out came the treasured photo albums. The old black and white, the color photos; yellowed with age, windows from another time; these photos were shared and examined time and again. The all to familiar, who knew and what ifs? The sea stories with their familiar, this is the straight scoop, (or some variation of the same). With Memories sparked and the familiar, "Damm, your right! Now I remember", and more stories shared and some with answers or just a smile and/or the nodding of a head. Stories told and retold, again and again... Stories shared with friends, shared with people who understand.

Not a bad way to spend four days in sunny Florida. Not a bad way to spend time anywhere...

Continued on page # 7

Call a Recon Brother Today

The 3rd Recon Association is registered with the Federal Government, "IRS", as a 501 (c) (19) war veteran's organization. Under provisions, 501 (c) (19), of the code; donors can deduct contributions made to or for the use of the 3rd Recon Association. This Newsletter is not an official source for information about the Vietnam War or the United States Marine Corps. "Neither the United States Marine Corps nor any other component of the Department of Defense has approved, endorsed, or authorized the products, services or the activities listed in this Newsletter."

Treasurer's Report

Brothers, Let me begin by saving what a great reunion we had in Kissimmee, Florida.

Much thanks for the reunion's success go to the Chairman, Len Rapuano; Darlene Schneider, for all she did prior to and during the reunion and the countless others who went out of their way, (bar, food service and all around grunts) to make this a smooth running and enjoyable reunion. I tell you it was great to see the many members and family at the reunion enjoying themselves in the company of their recon brothers and our wonderful family and friends.

I'd like to thank Bill Stussie, Dave Otto, the color guard and all others involved in the excellent job with the Thursday night Memorial Service and Saturday night banquet. Hand salute!!!

During the association banquet held on Saturday night, October 18, 2008 we were honored to have many of the family of one of the four battalion's Medal of Honor recipients, Robert Jenkins. We had the honor of meeting two of Robert's sisters and his cousin, along with other family members and friends. We let them know that Robert's sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Also, during the banquet, Larry Vetter showed a short length video, a work in progress of a much longer story he plans, of the actions at FSB Argonne by the entire 12 man team from Charlie Company that resulted in three members, including Robert, being Killed-in-Action. Larry during a 2008 spring visit to Vietnam climbed up to the site of the old base to honor of a pledge he made to Fred Ostrom. While on that mountain-side he took video footage and burned some incense in honor of all the men on that patrol.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the hard work done by our new PX manager, Marshall Johnson. Marshall kept the PX running well with stocked old and new inventory to sell. Along with running the PX he oversaw the Silent Auction; both of which returned a gratifying profit for the association coffers.

As to the treasury. During the battalion association meeting the members present voted to have me finish Fred Ostrom's term of office, which ends at the next reunion in 2010.

As I stated at the business meeting, I shall guard the treasure of the Association and report it's activity, monthly, to the president, vice-president and other officers.

Our bank balance as of November 13, 2008 stands at \$15,529.75. This is after subtracting the cost of the 3rd Recon T-shirts and other items sent as gifts to our brothers who are serving with the current battalion in Iraq.

Continued on page # 11

John Ripley, U.S. Marine Corps

--The man I knew

by Lance Zellers, 3d Recon, 1967-8

The weather was cold and wet. Overcast skies brought frequent rains. Support by air, minimal as it was at that time, had dropped to almost nothing.

Steady, incoming long-range artillery fire blasted at will from concealed sites stretched in an arc from north to west. Counter battery fire with shorter-range weapons was useless. Air could not fly and, therefore, interdict these hidden demons. Intercepted radio communications from enemy artillery observers showed 5-meter adjustments at ranges exceeding 20 kilometers.

Tracked vehicles, in large numbers, from dozers to tanks swept southward along the defined avenues toward the populated areas. It was an invasion of scope and intensity not seen before in this region. Anti-aircraft batteries moved with the invaders. Troops were fresh, well fed, and carried new equipment. Many were not, however, the battle-hardened troops from earlier years of the war.

Chaos reigned. Unit cohesion was tenuous at times. Control became very difficult. The fog of war was everywhere. Individual acts of leadership and courage rallied the defending forces and the defense of the country itself.

Where was the enemy's main thrust, his main objective, and his main threat against the defenders? Finally, the decision was made—the assault by three divisions, reinforced by tanks, artillery, and antiaircraft heading southward from the Demilitarized Zone was the place to commit the country's remaining military reserve unit, Brigade 369 from the only Vietnamese Marine Division.

I was a Brigade 369 Advisor—a "Covan." My boss, Major Bob Sheridan and my fellow captain, Steve Lindsey, sorted our maps, and repacked our gear. We accompanied our Brigade by air into Hue City and back to I Corps, which we had left for a unit stand-down just days before the onset of the Easter Offensive in 1972.

We trucked northward and deployed in a blocking position adjacent to the north-south National Route 1 and along the eastward-flowing barrier—the My Chanh River in Thua Thien Province. Brigade Commander, Colonel Chung, who was among the finest and most capable commanders anywhere, chose to use a mobile command post to neutralize enemy spies or raiders.

It was on one of our pre-dawn, rainy, foggy marches that he drew his command element and our three Advisors up to a bluff overlooking the My Chanh and points northward. As he gazed to the north he turned to us and with a grand, sweeping gesture, these unforgettable words,

Continued on page # 6

Final Taps

2008

John T DeCarlo
Joseph E Revell
Dale L Sare
John M Matranga
Paul J Boroick

These men have been added to our roster listing our brothers who have died since their service in Vietnam. The roster now lists 329 men that we have knowledge of. The list is not complete.

Take a moment and think of them in your prayers and remember.

*"Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there, I did not die."*

In memory of Our Fallen Brothers

*If you are able
Save for them a place inside of you
And save one backward glance
when you are leaving
For the places they can no longer go.*

*Be not ashamed to say you loved them,
Though you may or not have always.*

*Take what they taught you with their dying
And keep it with you always.*

*And in that time when men decide
And feel safe to call war insane
Take one moment to embrace
Those gentle Heroes we've left behind.*

Semper Fidelis

Bill Stussie, President
Stan "Doc" Sellers, Vice-President
Steve Lowery, Secretary
John "Doc" Winters, Treasurer
Larry Vetter, Historian
Tom Enwright, Membership
Leland Upshaw, Sgt-at-Arms

*Saepe Expertus,
Semper Fidelis,
Fratres Aeterni*
**"Often Tested,
Always Faithful,
Brothers Forever"**

Letters, Loss and, finally, closure from Vietnam.

By CHAD Dally Chicago Tribune,
The Daily Press, Ashland

November 10, 2008

BAYFIELD, Wis. - Four times Jeff Savelkoul drove from Minneapolis to the Allen family's Bayfield home. Each time he reached the end of the driveway, turned around and returned home, unable to share what he knew about the death of their son and brother, Merlin Raye Allen, whom Savelkoul served with in Vietnam. After 16 years, Savelkoul finally worked through his hesitation and knocked on that door. He would soon find out that his visit would close the door on 16 years of pain and wonder. The Allens didn't know their son and brother Merl was dead. Yes, he was officially listed as Missing in Action and presumed dead, after a June 30, 1967 incident near Khe Sanh when a helicopter carrying Allen and others with the U.S. Marine Corps' Striker Team was shot down. But the presumption was based on the fact that Allen's body was never recovered from the crash site in hostile territory, so his family was left to ponder Merl's unknown fate. Savelkoul was with Allen on that flight, one of three Striker Team members to survive. And he was able to tell Allen's family something the Marine Corps could not -- that Merl was killed instantly when a rocket struck their helicopter.

The stories of Savelkoul and Allen were part of the Elks Club's annual Veterans Appreciation night held Saturday. Savelkoul's memories of those events were preceded by a reading of eight letters Allen had written between his first day of boot camp on Feb. 1, 1966, and June 29, 1967, the day before he was killed. The letters, read by Dr. John Johnson, a retired member of the U.S. Air Force, paint a picture of an optimistic soldier who tried to see the best in Vietnam and who tried to keep his family from worrying. "His attitude, even though he's living in a place

most of us would call hell, he said "This isn't too bad," Johnson said. "Even though he's eating nothing but C-rations", he said, "The chow here is pretty good." But Allen's letter from boot camp shared how he chowed more than food. "I lost my notebook and my D.I. (Drill Instructor) found it. On the first page I had the day of my discharge," Allen wrote. "The D.I. didn't like that too much, so he made me eat the paper ... P.S. I have a new nickname now: chipmunk."

He wrote his family about scoring well on field tests, and described for them his various duties and what the weather was like. He also tried to comfort his family in Bayfield. "Sorry I haven't written sooner, I will more often," a Dec. 7, 1966 ("742 days left") letter reads. "Don't worry about me at all; this place isn't that bad." By February 1967, the fighting had intensified and Allen writes more frequently about friends lost and about the Vietnamese they had killed. Or almost killed. "I saw something moving in the brush, and I was going to blow it away but it sounded like they were crying," he wrote. "I almost shot them, but I noticed they didn't have any weapons. Two Viet Cong men and one woman came running out of the bushes with their hands in the air. I'm sure glad I didn't shoot now."

Allen didn't entirely shield his family from the realities of war. Yet it's clear the Bayfield native found the Vietnam jungle unlike any other experience. "When the captain came around the ridgeline, trying to call in the artillery, I could feel and hear bullets going by my head," he wrote. "It just didn't seem real." But Allen couldn't hide his pride when he was named to Team Striker, Alpha Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division in Khe Sanh. "Recon is to the Marine Corps what Special Forces is to the Army; in other words, it's the best," he wrote in March of 1967. "... I hope you and dad aren't too mad at me for doing this, but I always wanted to be the best; that's one of the reasons I'm in the Marine Corps."

Continued on page # 11

2nd Force Reconnaissance Co

Gentlemen,

The purpose of this message is to invite you to Camp Lejeune for the activation ceremony of Force Reconnaissance Company, 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, II MEF. The ceremony will commence at 1000, 19 December 2008 at Ellis Field, Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune, NC. There will be a reception following the ceremony at the Courthouse Bay Officers Club.

Please pass this message to any other Reconnaissance Marines/sailors/officers and have them RSVP to my S-1, 1stLt Greenbacker either electronically, steven.greenbacker@usmc.mil, or phone (910) 450-7721 or my OOD at (910) 450-7753. The Force Reconnaissance Association (FRA) and 2d Reconnaissance Battalion Association have been notified of the event.

Semper Fi,
LtCol L. M. Landon
Commanding Officer
2d Reconnaissance Battalion (910) 450-7707

General Robert H Barrow, USMC

27th Commandant of the Marine Corps passed away on October 30, 2008 a highly decorated veteran of three wars.

Born in Baton Rouge, LA; commissioned in May 1943 and served until June 1983.

In 1968 he arrived in South Vietnam to take command of the 9th Marines Regiment. The regiment conducted a series of highly successful operations south of the western part of the Demilitarized Zone and in the Khe Sanh and Ba Long Valley areas. For his valor during Operation Dewey Canyon from 22 Jan to 18 March 1969, he was presented the Distinguished Service Cross.

Other medals received include the Silver Star, Seoul, 1950, and Navy Cross, Hill 1081 Chosin Reservoir campaign.

Use this tear off to make a donation to the 3rd Recon. Association

Mail to:
3rd Recon. Association
Attn: John Winters
PO Box 38422
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Make checks payable to:
3rd Recon. Association

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

H: Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

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Company(s) _____ Yrs. In Country _____

Member Associate Member

Donations are tax deductible.

Please be generous, your support is very much appreciated and needed.

Donation:

\$200. \$175.

\$150. \$100.

\$ 75. \$ 50.

\$ 25. Other _____

Total Enclosed:

Ripley – Continued from page # 4

“ We stay here. We fight here. We die here. He shall not pass.” (Hey, I liked three of his four proclamations! and no, “he” did not pass that point.)

It was during those chaotic first few days after we arrived from Saigon that I rode northward on Route 1, in a single jeep, to coordinate with elements of our advisory northern CP, located at the old Ai Tu combat base in Quang Tri City. Refugees flowed southward. Trucks and supplies moved northward. People flowed across the road—from both sides. It was reminiscent of a similar trip I took along Route 1 during the Tet Offensive in 1968 when some of those “travelers” were wearing NVA uniforms.

Along the way I recovered several remnants of space-junk from the exploded SAM’s, which had fired, at our sparse interdicting air strikes.

It was in a bunker at Quang Tri where I heard my friend John Ripley tell some of his fellow Marine Covans about “The Bridge at Dong Ha.” It was probably his first telling of an event that occurred only a short time earlier. John, who had been my monitor at HQMC and got me into both Amphibious Warfare School and the Advisor tour, had all of us at rapt attention as he unfolded his story. It was in these days that we also heard—first hand--the extraordinary stories of Ray Smith, Walt Boomer, Jim Joy, Larry Livingston, Bill Warren, Jerry Turley, and others.

John, in another time and place had Recon roots, as did I. He was a consummate Marine’s Marine. He is eulogized as a genuine hero at the Naval Academy (Bancroft Hall) and at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

I knew him as John. I knew him as a friend.

Our paths, both in and out of the Corps crossed occasionally. There were infrequent Advisors Reunions. As a Colonel of Marines, he was present at the Naval Academy while my son, now a Lieutenant Colonel, was a student. My family would visit John, Moline and their kids on football weekends.

A few years ago, in Williamsburg, I had dinner with John and some of the board members of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Ever entertaining, John recounted to a rapt audience, some of his other—and there were many—war experiences. Perhaps sometime he will tell you about that special, now shiny, 7.62mm AK-47 round he carries on his key ring. It was one of the rounds, which penetrated his CH-47, toured the chopper, and fell spent in his lap.

John’s spirit is still with the Corps. A piece of him patrols Iraq, and Afghanistan, and everywhere Marines will ever serve.

Come with me now to Wednesday, 12 November 2008. The weather is cold; the skies are overcast and threatening rain. It is a day much like Dong

Ha in 1972. The Marine Corps has just celebrated its glorious birthday. John has been in his grave only five days. I now live in Florida and could not make the funeral. This day I was on my way to a business commitment on the Eastern Shore and stopped to see John once more.

The grass was trampled by the many feet of those who honored him, including the Commandant of Marines. The colorful floral wreaths and sprays were beginning to droop. He lies at about the military crest of a small knoll at the Hospital Point Cemetery at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. It might make a good recon observation point or harbor site if there were more concealment from prying eyes.

He lies among many generations of naval heroes and other men of the sea...Stockdale, Zumwalt,.. and elsewhere on campus, John Paul Jones.

The sounds of tomorrow’s men of the sea surround this quiet hilltop scene. There is the pat pat pat of runners’ feet on the nearby pathway. There are the sounds of the Academy’s intramural activities that flow upward from the sports fields below.

John is home again; home in the world where young minds are influenced, where young careers begin and where, perhaps, another John Ripley will be motivated to serve his own generation.

Rest well, John, my friend.

New Law Authorizes Veterans’ Salutes during National Anthem

WASHINGTON (Oct. 30, 2008) -- Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year’s provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform. Traditionally, members of the nation’s veteran’s service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official headgear. The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense

Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14. The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

Membership – Continued Page # 2

Another year has passed since I have reported on the growth of our membership. Over the last year we have signed up 16 new members with 2 applications working for verification.

The names of the new members are:

Akioka, Harry E 1st Force 1965/66
Barnes, James M Alpha Co 1967/69
Chandler, Raymond E Delta Co 1966/67
Bond, Harold R Alpha Co 1966/67
Diaz, Nicholas Charlie Co 1968/69
Glanton, Rufus C H&S Co 1968/69
Herd, James C Delta Co 1966/67
Lopez, Roman Alpha & Echo 1967/68
Martin, Raymond W 3rd Force
Owen, Michael R Alpha Co 1968/69
Shlender Walter A Charlie Co 1967/68
Seely, Benton P H&S N/A
Smyl, Edward S Bravo Co 1967
Steep, David E Alpha Co 1968-69
White, David A Charlie Co 1966/67
Williams, Robert E Charlie Co 1968/69

Remember, if you know of any former members of the battalion that are not listed on the roster or a member that has changed his phone number or email address please contact me at ttke@msn.com or Phone 770-9741416. I do monitor all my calls so please let me know that you are a 3rd Recon member that is calling, and if I do not answer please leave a detailed message.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Semper Fi, Tom Enwright Charlie Co 64/65

God and the soldier
we alike adore

In times of danger,
not before

The danger past
and all conflict righted,

God is forgotten,

the soldier slighted

Elections – Continued from page # 2

The completed nomination forms may be mailed or emailed to the Chairman by 15 August. He will distribute them to the Nominations Committee members for review and approval, after which they will be posted on the website. Nominations received after 15 August will be processed but may not make it onto the website before the reunion. Hard copies of all the completed nomination forms will be made available at the reunion starting on the first day.

At the 2010 business meeting, written ballots and pencils will be provided to all members present. The ballot will contain the known candidates for each office and blanks for write-in candidates. Nominations from the floor may be used to generate the names of the write-in candidates. Each candidate may be invited to address the members and campaign for their votes.

Secret ballot voting for each office will be done by the members following the campaign speeches from the candidates for that office. The marked ballots for that office will be turned in to the Sergeant-at-Arms. After all ballots for all the offices are completed and turned in, the Nominations Committee under the supervision of the Sergeant-at-Arms will count the votes. Counting can take up to 30 minutes.

The results for all the offices will be delivered to and announced by the current President at one time. The new officers will be installed and take over the conduct of the business meeting from that point on. The ballots will be destroyed.

An improvement can be made on this process by sending the nomination form and call for nominations in the March 2010 Harborsite. The deadline for receiving nominations would be 15 June. The candidates for the offices can then be published in the July 2010 Harborsite. In this case, the Chairman of the Nominations Committee should be appointed no later than February 2010.

A candidate for President could make nominations for the other officers who will serve with him. That is, he would nominate not only himself but also a slate of candidates for all the offices. There is no guarantee his slate of candidates would all be elected, but he could campaign for it to happen.

If none of the above process is followed, nominations for the offices will be done from the floor of the 2010 business meeting.

Associate Directors, one from each subordinate Company, are also members of the Executive Committee and will be chosen by the respective Company memberships.

The activities of the Nominations Committee do not include nominations for any Company-level offices; the Companies will conduct Company nominations and elections during the scheduled company business meeting.

President's - Continued from page # 1

It seems to me that the leaders in ALPHA don't want to participate with others in the association unless they make all the rules in the Sandbox. Some of you guys in ALPHA don't know what you are missing. Understand! You have always been and are members of this, the 3rd Recon Association and let no one tell you otherwise. I have no way of knowing how these rumors go around that Alpha Company is, somehow, at fault, or to blame for who knows what? **Nothing** could be further from the truth. I encourage you to think hard about making your own decision about the next Association Reunion in Deadwood. Remember we will elect Association Officers at that meeting. I will not be running for re-election, and am looking for interested and committed candidates for all the offices.

We are a small and unique group of men. Lets keep in touch with each other. Try to help us, battalion and company level, know if any of our brothers are having difficulties, and reach out to help them, yourself, if you can.

I wish you all and all of yours the best during the upcoming Holidays. Look out for yourselves, and your families. Say a prayer once in a while for your fellow 3rd Recon Vietnam vets, wherever they are and for all those out there fighting for us today.

We sent a couple hundred 3rd Recon T-shirts to the unit over in Iraq now. A small gesture, but they do count and make a difference.

More on the Deadwood Reunion:
It takes a lot of work to put a reunion together. Those who have done it know this well. One of the most difficult issues is getting people to commit to attending in a timely manner. Hollis attempted to address this by offering an incentive to register by a certain time. He talked about it at the Banquet at the reunion in Florida. It involved a drawing from the people registering early that would reimburse the lucky winner for their transportation and lodging cost to attend the reunion up to a certain amount. This sounds like a good plan, but there was concern that it was the right plan. I contacted the members of the executive committee, and we unanimously decided not to go forward with this plan without further consideration of alternatives. Hollis's concern is that there be some incentive to register early so he can reasonably plan the reunion. We support this, but are not taking any action right now. I invite comments from the members at Hungarian1967@aol.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill Stussie

Call a Recon Brother Today!

Kissimmee – Continued from page # 3

And Tun's Tavern. As fine a slop-chute to ever serve a cold brewski to the finest and with the best volunteers keeping those drinks coming. The Dirty Delta mob with Jim Flathers and crew served the assembled on Wednesday night A loud bravo to Rick Cardone's Bravo Company who continued the 3rd Recon's October Fest into the wee hours of Sunday morning. And the great work by the Echo Company Warriors; Jim Doner's Eagles, and some were really flying, who kept the drinks a-flowing as they challenged the other companies in obtaining the most in donations on their night in the trenches at Tun's.

Yes, there was a hard fought, friendly competition among the volunteers in each company to gather the most in donations on their night on duty at Tun's Tavern with a grand prize awarded to the winning company.

The prize of a 3rd Recon Paddle was offered by Lelend Upshaw to the company that made the single most money collected in donations on their night running the bar. The call was close, but in the end Dirty Delta won the trophy. But not without some good humor, "Wes wiz robbed!" or "The fight was fixed" and "We want a recount" were some of the comments by some members of Bravo Company, which were silenced when it was pointed out to them that the prize was awarded to Dirty Delta by one of their own, Leland Upshot. There will be other reunions to better the best???

I'd like to speak of the many donations of merchandise and some fantastic volunteer work. The treasury netted approx \$4,000, 2 raffles & silent auction, during the banquet through the labor and donations of many. A special thank you to Jean Addis for her special donation and the many others with theirs. Thank you to Mary Lowe and the volunteers who gave of their time.

To all the volunteers, who helped in all the little ways, in all the tasks that put the finishing touches that made it a job well done. I can still see your faces, even if I can't remember your name. I remember your labor. Thank you!!! And finally, to two very special volunteers who without their help the reunion would not have been as great as it was. To Darlene Schneider, who has worked tirelessly from the start to the conclusion of LZ Gator as the registration honcho, just one of the many hats she worn over the years. Delta's Company's very special lady.

And Marshall Johnson, PX manager, who drove the PX merchandise from his home in Sarepta, LA and worked many long hours in the PX and oversaw and set-up the silent auction. Thank you.

I'd like to take the time to thank all who helped make LZ Gator a great success.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Len Rapuano, 2008 Reunion Chair

Iraq — Continued from page # 3 In a static line jump, the parachute release is attached to a static line in the aircraft that automatically deploys the chute when the jumper exits the plane. In free fall, a jumper leaves the plane and then hand-deploys his parachute at a certain altitude.

The new parachute can be used in four different configurations: free fall, hand-deployed with an attached pilot chute; free fall, hand-deployed with a drogue chute; double bag static line in which the bag contains a pilot chute and the main chute; and static line with a drogue chute.

Pilot and drogue chutes are auxiliary chutes used to deploy main or reserve parachutes.

"It's an incredible piece of gear. Now instead of several different types of chutes in the paraloft, we have just one," Lt. Col. William Seely, 3rd Recon Battalion's commander, said Wednesday.

Another improvement is that the canopy has nine cells, which gives the parachute a better lift capacity and glide, Stueber said. The MC-5 has seven.

The chute is more maneuverable, and it's a very forgiving parachute, he said.

The 3rd Recon jumpers who used the new chute agreed that it was a vast improvement over the MC-5 parachute.

"I love the MMPS," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Warner, 25. "You can pretty much land it wherever you want to."

Stueber agreed with this assessment. "You can really screw this thing up and still land it," he said.

Once the training package is completed, 3rd Recon hopes to do jumps outside the wire using the multimission parachute system, several battalion leaders said.

"It's easier; it makes more sense; this is what we should be doing," Hogue told Marines after their first jump Wednesday.

Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion line up one behind one another for landing in a drop zone on Al Asad Air Base in Anbar province, Iraq, last week.

This was their second day of static line jumps -- in which their parachute is automatically released as they jump from an airplane -- using the Marine Corps' new multi-mission parachute system.



Gunnery Sgt. Timothy Parkhurst, 41, a parachute rigger with 3rd Reconnaissance Bn., demonstrates how to gently push as much air as possible out of a parachute before packing it for jumping at Al Asad Air Base in Anbar province, Iraq, last week.



Gunnery Sgt. Marc Hogue does a free-fall parachute jump at 10,000 feet into a drop zone on Al Asad Air Base in Anbar province, Iraq, last week. This was the first time that the Marine Corps' newest parachute, the multi-mission parachute system, was being used in Iraq.



Sgt. Chris Forncrook, 23, of Sacramento, Calif., touches down at a drop zone on Al Asad Air Base in Iraq last week using the Marine Corps' new multi-mission parachute system. The 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Marine said the ride down from 5,500 feet up was fun. The new parachute makes landing better, he said. So much so that the Marines could do the training here.



Once among the most violent areas in Iraq, Anbar province has now become one of the most quiet, Marine recon units had completed some jumps in the past using the MC-5 chute, but the new chute is more versatile and more forgiving than the MC-5, Stueber said. The MC-5 parachute could be used in only two configurations, for static line jumps and for free fall jumps.

Meeting of Charlie Company, 16 October 2008

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the inclusion issue, the reunion location for 2010, and other company items. There were 12 attendees at the meeting of the 30 who attended the reunion. The meeting was conducted for 45 minutes in the middle of the Battalion business meeting.

Rudy Fontane explained his proposed amendment to the bylaws to extend full membership in 3rd Recon Association to all war veterans who have served with the 3rd Recon Bn., provided that they had earned a Combat Action Ribbon and/or campaign ribbon. Steve Lowery spoke out against the amendment: for one, he said, it created two classes of Recon Marines, those with the ribbons and those without the ribbons; there is also a bias toward maintaining ours as a Vietnam era association. Rudy was for the amendment, primarily to honor the current Recon Marines who have served in combat.

The reunion location in Deadwood, SD, sometime after September 25, 2010, to get good hotel prices was discussed. A straw vote was taken, and it passed among the Charlie Company Marines present.

Rudy announced his interest in 3rd Recon Assoc. initiating a campaign to erect a memorial to fallen Recon Marines in Semper Fi Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Len Rapuano explained his campaign to have a US Post Office named for Robert Jenkins. After some letter correspondence, the US Congress representative from Palatka must propose a bill in the House of Representatives; if it passes, and both of Florida's US Senators approve, the Post Office will be named in honor of Robert.

Wade Hudson resigned as Treasurer because of poor health. Neil Grissom was nominated and elected to complete Wade's term in office.

Postscript:

(The Association members present at the Bn business meeting did not pass Rudy's amendment to the bylaws. Many members got up and spoke for the amendment, only a few against it. It looked like a shoo-in. But it was first amended to remove the restriction to have a CAR or campaign ribbon. Many of the members must not have liked the Association becoming a non-combat veteran association. A majority voted for the amended amendment, but the magic 60% was not reached. One member wanted to offer up the original amendment, but he was shouted down. Rudy opined that the original amendment would have passed. As Arnold would say, "I'll be bock!"

The Association members voted to have the 2010 reunion in Lead, SD, which is 4 miles from Deadwood, some time after 25 September 2010. Bring your warm clothes. **"Hud" Huddleston**

Photos by Cindy Fisher / S&S

Deadwood 2010!!!

“FROM THE EYES OF WARRIORS” 3rd Recon Association Reunion 2010 Deadwood / Lead, SD

Wednesday, September 22, thru
Sunday*, September 26, 2010

Tentative Schedule

Goal: To heal/ entertain the group for days with a South Dakota, Lakota, flavor.

**ARRIVAL DAY/START: Lead, SD
Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

Transportation to Deadwood: Hourly? Bus every 4 hours? Leave it to the Vet? Will they rent cars/vans themselves? This is a major issue, as it will determine how the remainder of the week will go.

- *Relax and tour Deadwood on your own/provide your own meal.
- *Slot tournament for recon attendees.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Sweat Ceremony at Bear Butte:

Travel to Bear Butte (11 miles through the canyon/25 around. May have to go around if you are in charter buses). This would be early (8:00 AM), as we would want to start the day and the tour with this ceremony.

- *Wiping of Tears Ceremony after sweat.
- *1 hour free time at Bear Butte for those who want to recover/walk the trails/place personal offerings.
- *Return to Golden Hills Resort participants can clean up.
- *We will have someone tell the history of the Black hills from the Lakota perspective.
- * Quick lunch. Leave for Crazy Horse Mt. Should be about 12:00 Noon.
- * Travel to Crazy Horse Mountain: Approx 60-70 miles.
- * There is a movie presentation/ tour 1-2 hours/with free time. End 2:00-3:00 PM *

Travel to Mt. Rushmore: 20 miles
**Conduct Memorial Service
PLACE A WREATH: MEDIA EVENT**
The lights come on in the evening and it is a big deal for tourists. The wreath can be placed at the end of the Memorial Service, depends on if we want the lights or not.
* The event should be over by 6:00-7:00 PM and return to Deadwood.

There are restaurants there at the mountain or you can eat in Rapid City anyplace or at a Golden Corral type.

Friday, September 24, 2010

- * Company meetings.
- * Teams to gather and tell their stories on HD video for the purpose of selling the finished production. All proceeds will go to the Association. Sandy Reid is in charge of this activity. He can be contacted at: 520-466-2655, sandy@rigginginnovations.com
- * Blackjack tournament and poker tournament for recon attendees only.
- * Individual / Group Activities:

5Gold Panning, Horseback riding, jeep trails, trout fishing, mountain biking, golf (three courses), Museums. There are over 20 casinos / saloons /restaurants in Deadwood.

Saturday, September 25, 2010

- * 10:00 - 11:00 AM Back in a Convention type room for Association Business Meeting.
- WRAP UP:

* AFTERNOON: Tours available to: Crystal Cave? Prairie Wind Casino (Oglala Tribal Casino) WE CAN REALLY THROW ANYTHING IN HERE.
Slot tournament and Poker tournament for recon attendees only.

7 pm:

3RD RECON ASSOC. BANQUET
Guest speaker (I spoke with Billy Mills's wife in regards to him being a potential speaker. At the 1964 Olympics, Billy Mills, a Marine Officer, shocked the world when he came from behind to [win the gold medal in the 10k race](#). At the time, he set a world record of 28 m 24.4s and he is still the only American to ever win a gold medal in the 10,000 meters. www.indianyouth.org. She said that he would be retired by then but would probably agree to speak for us.
* EVENING: Dance following banquet? Viet Nam Era Music/ can be recordings with the radio ads / wrap up social evening.

Option Day:

Sunday, September 26, 2010

COORDINATE TRAVEL BACK TO AIRPORT: OR

ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED.

Bus tour of Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Reservation to include Badlands, Wounded Knee, Pine Ridge, and Prairie Wind Casino.

Departing hotel at 8 AM?

2 hours travel time: History of Lakota Warriors will be presented while on bus.
I-90 to Wall, South Dakota: Wounded Knee Mass.

Museum (Approx) 60 miles from Rapid City: 1/2 hour at the famous store/museum.

Travel to Windows: (20 Miles) Best shot of the Badlands: Natural formations through Windows. Photo Opp.

Travel to Cedar Pass/Interior: 9 miles Tribal Resort for lunch on your own (or could arrange for a mass meal/no choice--mess hall type of a meal) Leave by 1:00 PM

Travel to Wounded Knee Mass Grave: 70 -80 miles from Interior
Through Scenic, South Dakota: Famous bar with sawdust floor/ museum of traditional type arts & crafts.

Here by 2:00-3:00 PM: Wounded Knee Grave Site: Place a Wreath/ tribal leader welcome/words/MEDIA EVENT.

SOMEONE WILL BE ON THE BUS TO GIVE PERSPECTIVE, BUT THE VETS SHOULD ALSO HAVE INSIGHT ON THE BATTLE FROM THE MUSEUM.

4:00 PM: Travel Back to Deadwood: via Prairie Wind Casino: Traditional meal.

2010 Reunion Contacts:
Hollis Stabler 918-287-9992 CST
Darlene Schneider 859-342-6456 CST
Marshall Johnson 318-455-9315 CST

South Dakota Web Pages

- Deadwood, South Dakota**
<http://www.deadwood.org/>
- Lead, South Dakota**
<http://www.leadmethere.org/>
- Mount Rushmore**
<http://www.nps.gov/moru/>
- Crazy Horse Memorial**
<http://www.crazyhorse.org/>
- Custer State Park**
<http://www.sdgrp.info/Parks/Regions/Custer/index.htm>
- The Badlands**
<http://www.travelsd.com/placestogo/badlands.asp>
- Scenic Byways**
<http://www.travelsd.com/placestogo/scenicbyways.asp>
- Jewel Cave**
<http://www.nps.gov/archive/jeca/home.htm>

The 3rd Recon PX

is open for business

Marshall Johnson, PX Manager, wants all to know that the PX is up and running with some old and new inventory remaining from the Kissimmee Reunion. In addition, he has stocked/restocked new items to the PX since the reunion, (short and long sleeve denim shirts, golf shirts, sweaters and leather jackets to name a few) Pick up some great gear and support your association at the same time.
Phone 318-455-9315 Central standard time

Recongram, cont from pg 1

The possibility of holding a 2009 Delta Company Reunion was addressed in Florida. Three options were brought up: Albuquerque, New Mexico; Louisville, Kentucky; and Honolulu, Hawaii. Albuquerque was dropped because there was no longer someone to host it. Steve "Shortround" Shircliff had previously volunteered to put Louisville together. Doc Webber had said he would help get a Hawaiian Reunion together but would need some additional assistance. Based on the input received from the questionnaires Darlene Schneider handed out, Louisville and Hawaii had about the same number of interested folks. Louisville is more accessible but it is a location that we have been to before as a Battalion and it would be the second year in a row to have a reunion on the east coast. Although Hawaii would be a great location with lots of neat things to do (Luau, tours of Pearl Harbor, the Punchbowl, etc), the costs of travel may be prohibitive to some. Right now I need input to determine (1) which location between Louisville and Hawaii would you attend, and (2) if anyone else is interested in hosting a Delta Company Reunion in 2009 at a location other than Louisville or Hawaii? Please call (phone: 406-273-2709) or e-mail me (crittersrme@juno.com) as soon as possible but **no later than 30 Dec 08** with your input so we can get going on this. Hopefully, we can all meet in 2009 but if that is not possible the 2010 Battalion Reunion in Deadwood, South Dakota is something to look forward to.

Now is the time to think about our upcoming elections, which will be held at our Battalion Reunion in Deadwood, South Dakota in 2010! The positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, Historian, Chaplain, and Sergeant at Arms will be up for consideration at both the Battalion and Company levels. We need some motivated folks to fill these positions, as these are the leaders of our organization and the ones who will be responsible for our survival in the future. Please step forward and help make Delta Company and 3rd Recon Association everything you think it should be!

Leo Kelm, our Company Treasurer, reports our Delta Company Account balance as of 8/31/08 stands at \$1,659.39. Our previously reported balance as of 12/31/07 was \$1,762.91. Since then we received \$1.48 in interest on 2/29/08, paid \$150.00 to the Reunion Committee on 4/11/08 for a page in the 3rd Recon 2008 Reunion Memorial Book and received \$45.00 from 2 donations on 4/23/08. Our company account is usually funded from donations and whatever is left from our Company Reunion balance after expenses. Our expenses usually include memorial flowers and/or plaques for our departed comrades,

recognition plaques and administrative costs for mailings of rosters, newsletters, etc. Thanks to Leo Kelm and "Gunny" Ted Williams for their generous donations to our Company funds and Darlene Schneider for donating the costs of mailings that were not deducted from the Company funds.

Thought I'd once again include a mention of our Delta Company Brother Willie Wilson's personal efforts to help Veterans in his area by starting a "non-profit" organization to assist needy veterans in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Anyone desiring more information or wishing to contribute to Robert "Willie" Wilson's "Ever Sharp" Veterans organization can contact him by snail mail at 441 Storrs SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507, Phone: 616-633-6882 e-mail eversharpinc2@yahoo.com.

Our Delta Company Roster is available and can be obtained in either hard copy or email attachment form by contacting Darlene Schneider by telephone at #859-342-6456 or e-mail at cheryl.schneider@fuse.net

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season in the coming months. Please take the time to keep in touch with a fellow Reconner. The older we get the smaller our ranks become and the more important it is to take care of each other. If anyone is ever up Montana way, please drop by. Our doors are always open to you who have given so much for your Brothers and our Country.

Semper Fi,
Butch Waddill
(Telephone #: 406-273-2709/E-mail:
crittersrme@juno.com)

Editor's Message

This issue of the Harborsite will be my last turn at bat as its Editor. I've already informed the executive committee of my decision.

Even though I will no longer be your editor I still have tasks I hope to perform and continue to perform for the association.

I'm still the president of Charlie Company and although I will not seek re-election in 2010, I'm committed to relocating former Charlie Company brothers and family. Also, I will continue presenting the Robert Jenkins Award in Palatka, FL, until my term in office expires.

I would also like to see the completed our goal of having the Federal Government's recognize and honor Robert Jenkins with the naming of a post office dedicated to his memory.

There will be others tasks I'll be doing, behind the scenes which I hope will be of benefit to the 3rd Recon Association.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis.

Len Rapuano

Joe Revell – Cont from page # 3

We sang "Arise, My Soul Arise!", one of Joseph's favorite hymns. We concluded with "Amazing Grace".

Since Brother Bob held forth a little too long, we had to hyacko to ANC where we met up with the family in an assigned waiting room. When everyone had gathered, we mounted our vehicles and went in procession toward the Administration Building near Lee's mansion where Joe's ashes were transferred from automobile to the waiting caisson provided by the Army's Old Guard.

A Marine honor guard befitting a Marine field-grade officer was waiting: two platoons of Marines from 8th & I, Color Guard, Staff Officers, and a contingent of the Marine Band.

What a great send-off! Rudy was really impressed. I remembered participating in a similar funeral in 1967, and I was gratified that the Marine Corps still honored its dead now as then. God bless America and the United States Marine Corps!

We followed the caisson in our vehicles. Marines were stationed at each intersection along the way to prevent interruption of the procession. They saluted the caisson as it passed

The ashes were transferred from the caisson and walked to the burial site by Guard Company Marines from 8th & I. A firing squad awaited on the far hill.

At graveside, the Navy Chaplain recited the 23rd Psalm and provided other scripture verses reassuring us of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Joe was a mustang, an enlisted Marine who became a commissioned officer. Two Marine Majors led the honor guard and were also mustangs, as observed by Rudy by their Good Conduct Medals. That was a nice touch by Marine Barracks, 8th & I, Washington, DC.

Joseph Revell's remains lie in hallowed ground in what will become known to me as Revell's Dale. Looking to the north, it lays less than a click south of the Carillons at ANC. He is at rest. Thank God for his leadership and brotherhood as a Marine and for his fellowship as a friend.

Semper Fidelis,
Hud

**Call a
Recon Brother
Today!!!**

Moon – Cont from page # 2

He hadn't quite died when I reached his side
But the end was clearly in sight.
I knelt down low and he said real slow,
"Merry Christmas to all,
and to all a good night."

Now we should have known
our cools were blown
When that light in the East we had seen.
I thought it was flares, and it had to be theirs
Or the damned things would have been green.

I screamed "Mother UP!"
(but it was too late),
Doc came on a dead run...
He did his best and stood the test,
But the damage wasn't to be undone

I picked up the hook and said with a voice that
shook,
"Gimme the Six and quick!"
"Colonel," I said, "Hang onto your head,
We just greased Old Saint Nick."

Now the Old Man's cool, he's nobody's fool,
Right off he knew the word,
If this gets out, there'd be no doubt,
He wouldn't be making his bird.

"Just get him up here,
and we'll play it by ear.
Make sure he's got a toe tag.
Dismantle the sleigh;
drive the reindeer away,
And bury his big goody bag,"

Now by and by, the kiddies may cry,
"Cause nothing's under the tree.
But word came back from FMF PAC
That Santa Claus had gone VC.

There's strange things done
'neath the Vietnam sun,
But the one that locked my jaws,
Was that night 'neath the moon
when the 3rd Platoon
Gunned down Santa Claus.

Treasurer - Continued from page # 4

I'd like to thank all of you who have contributed to the association. Rest assured, I can guarantee you that your donations will be spent responsibly.

Brothers, I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season. Let us all remember, in our thoughts and prayers our departed brothers, those hospitalized veterans and all who serve in our military who guard our gates of freedom. To you and yours, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Semper Fidelis

John "Doc" Winters, Association Treasurer

Letters, - Continued from page # 5

Despite his dedication to service, Allen and many other soldiers were not immune to homesickness. In fact, it was the heat of the Vietnam jungle that sparked Allen's memories of home. "Weather here is hot, and going to get a lot hotter," an April 1, 1967 letter reads. "All I thought about going back through the bush while it was so hot was swimming in good old Lake Superior. I can hardly wait." But Allen never made it home. A brief letter to his parents on June 29 said Striker was going on patrol the next day, and that they were told the area was "all secure." What they didn't know, Savelkoul said, was that they were sent to an area used for staging North Vietnamese troops in advance of the Tet Offensive. On June 30, the helicopter that delivered the team into the heat of battle was hit with a rocket almost immediately after touching the ground. Not only did it blast a hole in the chopper, but also severed fuel lines, sending out a spray of jet fuel that would ignite and engulf the helicopter in flames, Savelkoul said.

Savelkoul and others last year recreated the incident for military investigators at the Quantico Marine base. Piecing together information 40 years later, they were able to determine that Allen was killed instantly when the rocket hit the helicopter. The 20-year-old soldier was directly in front of Savelkoul, and no doubt shielded him from the worst of the blast. In the midst of fire and oncoming bullets, the pilot managed to get the helicopter off the ground and attempt a flight toward safety. It failed to clear a ridge, crashed into trees and fell 90 feet to the ground, Savelkoul said, who was blasted out of the chopper along with two other Striker team members. Although they suffered burns over a majority of their bodies, the men were still alive when the helicopter exploded. They had no weapons aside from one grenade, a .38 revolver and a machete. And by the time he climbed to the top of a hill, Savelkoul lost much of the burnt skin on his hands after pulling himself up with branches. Four flares were fired, but none of them were spotted. The fifth flare was a dud. Their sixth and final flare grabbed the attention of another helicopter pilot, who was unable to unfurl a ladder through the dense canopy. One of the other Striker members, Mariano Acosta -- "Junior" to his friends -- who was also severely burned, managed to climb a tree and chop off branches, giving the soldiers enough clearance to be airlifted to safety. Junior also sent Savelkoul up first, and was second along with another member of the team, Eugene Castenada, or "Cass."

Savelkoul knew he needed to share the story with the Allen family, but said Saturday he could never talk himself into it. The biggest reason was that Savelkoul's burn scars, which covered 65 percent of his body, were still bad enough that he wanted to shield the family from thinking the

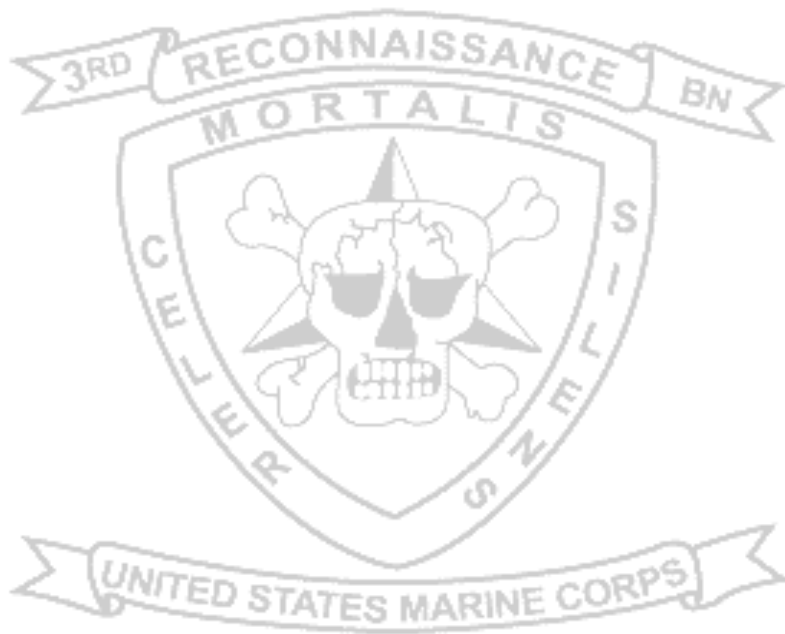
worst about Merl. "I thought, 'If I look this bad, what are they going to think about what happened to their son?'" he said. He knew it was something that had to be done, however, out of respect for Merl and the bond they had formed while serving together.

Allen frequently wrote home to help keep his family at ease. But the soldiers depended on each other to ease the burden of war. It was a bond that developed over time, since Savelkoul remarked that "you never made friends quick over there ... friendships had to be earned and established over time." But Savelkoul found a friend in Allen, who was a mentor to Savelkoul and taught him about reconnaissance. The two also had in common their jobs as radio operators. Yet the conversation often drifted away from the jungle and over to home. We talked about hunting and fishing, girls, cars, what we were going to do after Vietnam," Savelkoul remembered. "We would laugh and talk and dream like the teenagers we were. Vietnam hadn't hardened us yet." Allen also endeared himself to his fellow soldiers through his generosity and ingenuity. Savelkoul spoke of how he wrote to pinup models and received autographed pictures for the whole team in return.

And while the Striker team's calling card was the ace of spades, there's only one in a deck. So Allen wrote the Bicycle Card Company, which sent the team 52 decks of cards, each with 52 aces of spades, Savelkoul said. One of those decks was recovered in 2004 during an excavation of the crash site, and Savelkoul carries one of the cards in his wallet to this day. It was that bond that motivated Savelkoul to follow through on the fifth try and contact the Allen family. It turned out to be "the greatest thing I've ever done," he said.

Marilyn Neff, Merl Allen's sister, recalled that the family's initial reaction was one of disbelief. "We'd been told for so many years that there were no survivors," Neff said Sunday. "And he told me things that only a close friend of my brother's would know, and I knew right away that he was for real." Neff also recalled how their mother, Eleanor, thanked Savelkoul for reaching out to them, but also urged him to reach out to others. "My mom, when she was very, very sick told Jeff 'You've helped me so very much to bring closure. Please go and see the other moms and tell them what you told me,'" Neff said. Along with two other veterans, Savelkoul did just that: they hopped in the car and drove across the country to share their memories with four other families.

And the work to bring closure to the events of June 20, 1967 continues. The crash site has twice been excavated and partial remains of all but five members of the Striker team have been recovered.



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Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni
"Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever"

"Poor is the nation that has no Heroes, Shameful is the one that having them, forgets"



John Romero, James Smith & Wayne Thompson chat with Huey gunner about the landing zone and mission 3 Charlie 1 is about to undertake. Dong Ha 1968.



Marble Champ - 3 Charlie 1, Quang Tri 1968
Rear standing (L to R)
Mike Green, James Smith, Aaron Moore, Jerry Beasley, John Sawyers
Kneeling front (L to R)
John Romero, George Boks, Wayne Thompson