



THE 12TH CAV Trooper



Semper Paratus

Serving Those A/4-12 Cav Troopers who Served In The Republic of Vietnam 1968 - 1971

Volume XII, Issue 2

August 2015

Recollections of Don Scott 3rd Platoon 1968/1969

Please give me some literary license in my writing of this piece, as with the lyrics of a song of the times, "What it is ain't exactly clear" Buffalo Springfield I Think. I arrived in the RVN December 10, 1968. My first recollection of this beautiful country was on approach to Cam Rahn Bay. The pilot announced the Base was under a yellow alert. Considering I had no "combat" experience at that time other than with my girlfriend or boss. I figured I was going to be dead or wounded instantly. I had taken my Basic and AIT at Ft. Jackson S.C. and had made the acquaintance of Claude Sistrunk who also ended up in A Troop.

At the repo-depot I was assigned guard duty one night at some dock with no weapon or at least no ammo and I swear the song "On the Dock of the Bay" by Otis Redding played. When the time came to be assigned to a unit, the First Air Cav had been pretty severely hit a day or so earlier or at least that is what the rumor was. But I felt lucky as I was going to the Demilitarized zone. So much for a name! I arrived in Quang Tri and camp Red Devil for in country indoctrination. As I recall, Sistrunk came to the 5th Mech. at the same time. We spent Christmas there and I said to myself "this isn't so bad" (reality later set in). Then I was assigned to A Troop 4/12 a deuce and a half ride to LZ Nancy then on to catch up with the Troop

in Wunder Beach. Yes that's where they were according to the 1st Sargent. I was assigned to the 3rd Platoon, Sargent Sacks track. "Stella" was painted in big white letters on the 50 Cal. gun shield (nice target). That's where I met Sgt Sack, Dennis Miller, who has since gone to Fiddlers Green, James Logsdon, Ted Deruchowski, Sgt Platt and Sgt Caputo as well as the "Blue Max" Lt. McShane.

All these folks became very much my "away from home" family. The majority of the Troop at that time had come over from Ft. Carson, when the 1st of the 5th deployed and many were getting "short". As the days and months moved forward I made many other "family" members, mostly as rotations home or elsewhere took place and replacements joined the Troop. As time moved slower and missions more difficult, more friends were made.

I feel the need to reminisce about some of the folks I have mentioned. Sgt Caputo became my favorite non-com. It seems if an ambush patrol was called for, he got the assignment, and I got to participate (with out a feeling of pleasure shall we say!) Caputo was good at his job and I trusted him. His butt was on the line also! James Logsdon (Loggy) as I remember was fond of walking point and became a great friend, Ted Deruchowski and I were on the same track until he went home. Gosh, he'd get summer sausage from home, we'd scrape the mold off, with Burgermeister beer and be in

heaven for a day or two. Steve Wilmers was from Mi. and the calmest person in a fire fight I ever knew. Claude Sistrunk and I remained friends thru Vietnam. He was wounded, and I went home it seems before his return. Mike Revill came over with the Troop from the states, I think. Mike was a really great fellow and gave this trooper some good survival pointers thru his stories of early troop combat. David Bagwell, one of those tanker fellows would volunteer for dismounted patrols when he didn't have to, and was a really good friend!

Gosh, as I reminisce about these guys and go thru the troop roster seeing other trooper's names jars my memory. I realize how lucky I was to end up in A Troop 4/12 Cav.

I have attended a bunch of reunions now and have made friends, great friends, with other troopers from other platoons and years in country. I would feel honored to see these guys from "my" time again after all these years. The first couple of reunions were sort of like that first date with the old girlfriend, it takes a few dates to become comfortable, and then you figure out the rest!



Keep your
head Down!

Scotty



Jeannie and John White, Dennis and Joyce Patrick,
Kent and Janine Drake, Bob and Diane Rebbec

Reunions and Cav get together come in all kinds of ways, last winter a group of our fellow Troopers and their wives participated in a clay charity shoot in Naples Florida. As you can see by their sign it was four soldiers and one marine but guess what the Marine didn't show guess he was scared away by the Cav.

The Latest Reunion Info

Here is the latest August 15th info from Charlie Russell regarding events and rooms for our Memorial placement reunion.

Wednesday 28, October: Hospitality suite will be open around 1000 Hrs. see the front desk for the location.

Thursday 29, October: Bus will pick us up 0900 Hrs for a visit to Ft Benning. Will return to the hotel about 1700 Hrs. Currently I am trying to set up lunch in a mess hall, exact change will be required cost (TBD) will notify at sign in. Currently they have no answer on who, what, where and when we will see or do.

Friday 31, October: There will probably be a graduation of some sort. The Parade grounds is located next to the Infantry Museum. Open Time the rest of the day where you can take your time visiting the museum it can take 4 to 6 hours to see everything they have.

Saturday 1, November: 0930 to 1100 Hrs Memorial Stone dedication in the Memorial Park. We will be located in section A1. That Evening we will have our Banquet at the Museum.

The Hampton Inn has 9 remaining rooms in our block, When those are gone, as a stand by I have reserved 10 doubles at the Econo Lodge for \$75 dollars a night. It's about 3 miles from the Hampton Inn. The Econo Lodge is located at 4483 Victory Dr. Columbus Ga. 31903 Phone 706-682-3803. The Hampton Inn address can be found on the registration form on page 3. Charlie Russell

Chairmans Corner

The reunion at Ft benning is fast approaching. As you may already know, the main attraction will be the dedication of the A 4/12 Cavalry Monument. at the "Walk of Honor" at the Fort. As monuments go ours will probably not be the biggest or the most extravagant, but it is extremely important to us, It signifies that after 45 years, those men have not been forgotten. Long after we are gone, those names will be where they should be, in the "Walk of Honor" Its been a long time coming, Thanks to Bobby Schlitzberger for his assistance in making this possible.

The VA Health Care "Choice Card"

How to get Health Care Sooner or Closer to Home

The Veterans Affairs organization has had a major problem in providing health care to eligible, enrolled veterans in a timely manner. One program to address that problem is manifested in the new "Choice Card". The Choice card program is a new, temporary benefit that allows some veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.

With a Choice Card, a veteran can obtain health care services at a civilian, VA-approved medical facility that is close to his or her residence that can see the veteran sooner than the VA can.

Specifically, the "Choice Card" is available to enrolled veterans if:

- * You have been told by your local VA you will need to wait more than 30 days from your preferred date or the date medically determined by your physician.
- * Your current residence is more than 40 miles from the closest VA facility.
- * You need to travel by plane or boat to the closest VA facility to your home.
- * You face a geographic challenge, which presents a significant travel hardship.

So, with the Choice Card and a fairly nearby VA-approved health care facility, a veteran no longer needs to wait weeks or months for an appointment, nor put up with an 80 or more mile round trip to see a medical professional. You can get VA-paid medical care sooner and nearer to home.

Troopers who are enrolled with the VA and who meet any of the criteria above are encouraged to apply for the Choice Card. For more information about the Choice Program, call 1-866-606-8198 or visit (<http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/>). To identify VA-approved health care providers in your community, call the VA at 1-866-606-8198 or see the web page (<http://www.va.gov/opa/apps/locator>)

This information was provided by
Bob Richards HQ Platoon 1970

Registration A Troop 4/12 Cavalry Reunion 2015

October 28th thru November 1, 2015

Hampton Inn, Columbus, Ga.

Trooper Name, Platoon and Year _____

Names of others attending with Trooper _____

Registration Fee is \$50.00 per Trooper _____

Banquet Fee is \$50.00 per person _____

Total _____

Make Checks Payable to: A Troop

Mail to:

Ken Dye
10908 66th Avenue East
Puyallup, Washington 98373

Would you like to visit the Museum: As part of a group tour: _____

As an individual : _____

Prices will vary by the type of tour taken

Lodging Information

The site of the 2015 reunion is the Hampton Inn South/Ft Benning. Located at 2870 S. Lumpkin Rd. Columbus, Ga. Phone number 1-706-660-5550. We have a Group discount code of (CAV). The cost of a double is \$119 tax included. Please make your reservations early our block of rooms is filling fast , we have already added rooms to the block, and more rooms may be hard to get since it's the closest hotel to the Fort and it can fill up fast with graduations from the schools at the Fort. You can check out the hotel at [www.hampton inn south/fort benning](http://www.hamptoninn.com/south/fort-benning) for further information regarding services.

Transportation from the Columbus airport to the hotel is about \$10.00 and transportation from the Atlanta Hartsfield airport via Groom Shuttle service is \$38.00 one way you can contact them at 706-324-3939 or check them out on line. at columbus.groometransportation.com

Just remember get your hotel resevation as soon as you can and then get your registration and banquet costs to Ken Dye so we can be ready to have another great reunion.



A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry
5548 Hazelwood Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43229



Disclaimer

The 12th Cav TROOPER is an authorized publication of the A Troop 12th Cavalry. Articles or opinions expressed in this publication, however, reflect the views of the authors and do not imply endorsement by the Association.

Change of Address

Provide all changes of address to *The Trooper*
5548 Hazelwood Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43229
c/o Keith Eaton



The 12th Cav
TROOPER
Needs Your Support

We hope you enjoy receiving *The 12th Cav* TROOPER. As you can see, the format and contents are new and will continue to improve. The production of such a quality newsletter, however, is not inexpensive. The newsletter constitutes one of the highest expenses of the Association budget. Many thanks to those who have contributed. Many more contributions are needed, Please send your check (Payable to A Troop, 12th Cavalry) along with the form below to Neal Smith, 3002 Arapaho Dr. Fitchburg, Wisc. 53719 We will list all who donate in the next issue.



Thanks for your Support

- PATRIOT
- MIKE REVILL
- CLAUDE VIRES
- CHARLES RUSSELL
- DEXTER LEHTINEN
- WARREN CONGLETON
- ROBERT SAUER
- THOMAS SAWYER
- JAMES RODELL
- STEPHEN KENT
- ALBION BERGSTROM
- BRUCE COLEMAN
- JOHN SMITH
- ROBERT KERIN
- DAVID BLANCETT

I Support *The 12th Cav* TROOPER

Patriot \$25 Trooper \$15 Scout \$10
Name _____