



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 1

February, 2015

Chairmans Corner

Another reunion has come and gone. Some eras have a better turn out, some platoons have a better turn out, but after attending all but one of the reunions, I recognize all the attendees and most of their wives. This year we managed to have three troopers attend that have never been to a reunion. Ed Kalinowski, Martin Stoeker, and Paul Shannon.

One of the highlights of the reunion for me was watching Ron Brundage (Benji) seeing some of his Cav brothers for the first time in 45 years. I think I got more excited than he did. I also enjoyed seeing the Ladies at the " Elvis " show at the Four Queens. Those girls sure know how to have fun, I was proud of them.

This is the first time I attended a reunion and didn't even buy a poker chip. Often I just enjoyed watching people in the hospitality suite. Just sitting there among heros. You may not think that, but we are the guys they make movies about. We may not look like it now, but we did what few others did. I don't think we were much safer in the base camp or firebase than we were in the field. We answered the call of duty, rose to the occasion, and did things friends outside of the military do not have a clue about. It was the adventure of a lifetime.

I heard stories about Ken Dye helping "Rag" Jim Rinaldi and Rinaldi helping Al Hall. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank a guy that helped me in Vietnam more than anybody, Mike Deierling. Regardless of the training we had prior to Vietnam, there was so much to learn as a FNG. Tank school at Ft. Knox was excellent for WWII warfare, but lets face it we were basically infantry. Mike was E-5, 11B and the driver on 26 and former TC on a " gruntmobile ". It must be hereditary, because Mike's son became an infantryman in Afghanistan. Mike taught me Claymores, C-4, trip flares, M-79's, M-60's and the things you didn't learn in tank school, but were important for survival in Nam. Like the rest of us, I hope I was able to pass something on to the new FNGs.

Our next reunion will be at Ft. Benning. We will dedicate

the Troop monument to our fallen brothers. This will also be an opportunity to see a different part of the country. Perhaps brothers from that area will be more likely to attend. I personally haven't been on an Army base since I was in the service. I don't know if I missed anything, but I am going to find out.



Chairman John Sharpe attempting to hold our business meeting was greeted by a birthday present from days past. His first stripper lesson he looks good in pink doesn't he.

**Reunion A Troop 4th Squadron 12th Cavalry Regiment
October 28th Thru November 1st 2015**

This years reunion is being held at the Hampton Inn in Columbus Georgia. It is the closest hotel to Fort Benning, and to the Infantry Museum. Currently the reunion committee is working up some activities for Thursday and Friday but details cannot be firmed up until a later date. Listed below are some of the proposed activities that we can participate in during the reunion.

Thursday: A tour of Fort Benning, we are hoping to include areas such as the airfield to see some of the newest in air support technology, the Cav/ Armor motor pool to see the M-1's and Bradley fighting vehicles, and anything else that they might share such as new weapons, night vision and therma imaging equipment. A trip to a firing range is also possible. This coupled with a meal in the mess hall and a meet and greet with some of the new soldiers is also being looked at for Thursday.

Friday: Attend a graduation ceremony of either a Basic Training outfit or of a Station Unit training (Infantry/Armor0 group. The parade field is adjacent to the infantry museum. Following the Graduation event a tour of the Infantry Museum is planned, this can be a self guided tour or we can organize a a group tour. Tours come in different types and there is a cost of \$13.00 per person for the tour. These tours will require a seperate registration, Please indicate on the regular registration form your interest in the museum tour.

Saturday: The dedication of the A Troop Memorial in the memorial garden next to the museum. After the dedication ceremony we will return to the hotel for the business meeting. Out Banquet will be held in the Heritage Hall in the Infantry Museum. With pictures taken at Five O'clock, Dinner at Six and we must vacate by Ten P.M.

Important Info: Lodging

Hampton Inn South/Fort Benning Group Discount Code "CAV" a double is \$119.00 tax included. 2870 Lumpkin Rd. Columbus, Ga. Phone 1-706-660-5550 Full Breakfast Bar included. Rooms have a fridge, microwave, and free internet.

Remember to book your rooms early, this is a small hotel of about 90 rooms, we have a block of 40 rooms set aside at this time. Our ability to get additional rooms added at a later date may be impossible since this hotel also hosts the parents of soldiers graduating from Basic and the other schools at Fort Benning. Those graduations take place on Thursdays and Fridays so we could have competition for rooms at the hotel. Book early is the best Mantra.

Transportation to Reunion site. From Atlanta Hartsfield Airport about a 90 Min. ride Gnome Shuttle service charges \$38. each way. Contact them at 706-324-3939. From the airport in Columbus, Ga.(Air Service by Delta) a taxi is the best bet at around \$10.

Reserve your room Early



Old Friends just sitting around the hospitality suite. This could be you this year at Ft Benning. Dennis Partrick, Tom Oldham and Kent Drake enjoying the moment.



Troop A 4th Squadron 12th Armored Cavalry
 Reunion Registration
 Fort Benning ,Ga.
 28 October 2015-1 November 2015

Name _____ Platoon _____
 Guests _____

Registration Fee is \$50.00 \$50.00
 Banquet Dinner \$50.00 each Number of Attendees _____ X \$50.00 = _____
Total _____

Would you like to Visit the Museum: As part of a group tour _____
 As an Individual _____

Mail Checks to Ken Dye
 10908 66th Ave. East
 Puyallup, WA. 98373

Reserve Your Room Early

Information Discussed Regarding VA

At the business meeting during the last Troop Reunion, there was a very informative discussion about Veterans Affairs services, during which questions arose about the relationship between the VA Health Care and Insurance. Several Troopers had input on that, but we didn't have a clear consensus. This article attempts to answer those questions based on research on the VA website and in discussion with my state VSO.

Even though the VA has many programs, the ones that we in the Troop most often deal with are Disability Compensation and VA Health Care Services. This article will cover the VA Health Care program.

The VA Health Care Program provides medical services (like going to a hospital, a clinic or your local doctor.) to enrolled veterans for either service-connected or non-service-connected health issues. But this program is not a health insurance program (even though insurance-related terms like "co-pay" are used when it comes to payment for VA services).

During enrollment in the VA Health Services program, a veteran will be assigned to one of eight categories, depending on degree of disability, income, and many other factors. Veterans assigned to the highest priority categories receive health care services for free; those in lower priority categories must pay part of the costs for those services, supplies, or medications. Those costs can be claimed against

any other insurance you have. The VA is prevented by law from making claims against Medicare, however, the VA can bill Medicare supplemental health insurance and/or Tricare for Life (TFL) for covered medical care, supplies, and medications provided for treatment of non-service-connected conditions. (That is from the 2014 version of the VA's "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors", Chapter 1-Health Care Benefits. Here is the web site for the whole book (http://www1.va.gov/OPA/publications/benefits_book.asp)

So, if you get VA medical treatment of a non-service connected condition, it makes sense to inform them of your health care insurance providers, so they can get reimbursed like any medical provider. Even for VA treatment of service-connected conditions (even if its free to you), there is no real reason to keep information about other insurance from them, so I suggest that you tell them if asked.

However, looking at it from the other direction, that is, when you get health care at a non-VA facility, there are two situations. 1) If you use the new VA "Choice Card" to get timelier or more local VA-paid health care service from a VA approved but non-VA facility*, you will inherently be letting them know your VA eligibility. 2) When you cannot or don't wish to use the VA Choice Card, the health care facility will, of course want to know your insurance information, but there is no requirement to inform them of your eligibility