

Boot to Boot

Association of Delta Company
1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry
9817 W Mockingbird Dr
Sun City, AZ 85373

Mailing Permit
or
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Boot to Boot

COMPANY D
1ST BATTALION
12TH CAVALRY



VIETNAM, 1965-1972

FOR HE TODAY THAT SHEDS HIS BLOOD WITH ME SHALL BE MY BROTHER FROM THIS DAY TO THE ENDING OF THE WORLD

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

JULY 2016

About the Above Header

Boot to Boot, a greeting between brothers, memorializes Delta's Airborne roots. Said to have been the unit's "final rally" to stand together in combat, it comes down to us from those who trained and served together in the 187th *Infantry (Airborne)* before it exchanged its colors for those of the 12th *Cavalry Regiment*.

We flew into battle on winged horses so we wear *Cavalry Yellow*, but we trained and fought as *Infantry*, so we color the title *Infantry Blue*.

The 12th Regiment of Cavalry was organized at Fort Sam Houston, Texas in 1901. The *Unit Insignia's* cactus on a cavalry yellow background represents that birthplace and its service on the Mexican border. The motto *Semper Paratus* translates as *Always Ready*.

For the brothers we lost and because we will always be brothers to each other, we adopt the words of Henry V's "Band of Brothers" speech before the battle of Agincourt in 1415, as imagined by Wm. Shakespeare.

#1's Corner



We have just returned from the First Cavalry Division Reunion in Las Vegas, NV.

Don't ask if I won any money; you would only get a fisherman's tale of how the big one got away.

I can tell you there was great fun and experiences with members of the Division past and current.

I really enjoyed interactions with the Division Color Guard and other current troopers that are "Living the Legend."

We had representatives of the 12th Cavalry past who let it be known that we were in town and

Delta Company was represented well.

I want to thank the Delta Company Executive Committee for a great meeting presenting ideas for the Good of the Order, as well as for the Regimental Reunion in Branson this coming September and our Delta Company Reunion in 2017.

There is more information about these coming events in this Newsletter.

"Boot to Boot"

Dwight D Edwards
President aka #1

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The 1st Cavalry Division Does Las Vegas

As Dwight (#1) wrote, many members of Delta attended the 69th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association at Las Vegas' Palace Station Hotel and Casino.



During the event's four days the Delta Brothers were able to spend a great deal of time together. Some had seen each other recently, at last year's San Antonio reunion, and a few who had not in the past half century.

It was particularly gratifying to see Delta veterans from nearly every year the company spent in Vietnam, and of course from the 187th Infantry, our progenitor unit at Fort Benning, Georgia.

On Thursday our Association Executive Committee (Gergulis, Rose, Edwards, March, Van Kirk, and Kjos) met, with topics including the Delta web site, researching our history, funding, and reunions, the 12th in Branson this September, and our own in Tucson, fall 2017. Current information on all of this is provided elsewhere in this newsletter - speaking of which, your's truly, current Secretary/Historian "Army volunteered" (with an assist from #1) to publish a quarterly newsletter, with the first due in July. And here it is, with the help of others, particularly Association VP Bob March, who's been our Secretary/Historian the past few years.

It's Your Newsletter

This first edition of the Delta Company newsletter is a "first draft." We want not only your input on its overall look and content, but also your contributions.

We anticipate #1's *Corner* will be a fixture, as will be *Fiddler's Green*. If we have no recent loss from our ranks we will feature a Brother lost in Vietnam. Every issue will have a *Website Update*, likely something about a Division, Regiment, or Delta reunion, and the contacts/ mailing page. Something related to Delta's history—or discovering it—will be in each issue. This time it's on the National Archives.

There are pages available for your contributions, in this issue an example is *Return to Vietnam*.

Vietnam memories are always wanted. Send something to the newsletter address on page 8. We'll be glad to do the editing.

He continues to assist in both areas, and remains our webmaster.

We spent time together in the Reunion Room (rumor has it Delta closed it down in the wee hours of Friday morning), with an ample supply of our Official Libation both there and at the banquet on Saturday. Yes, that was "outside the rules" and following one encounter with "management" (a moral victory for a Delta RTO) we changed tactics and were alert, discreet, and vigilant in the best tradition of our 1965-66 Recon roots.



With the 1st Cavalry Division's Headquarters preparing for yet another deployment to Southwest Asia, the Cav was represented at the Banquet by its 3rd Brigade Commander, and of course the Color Guard, young and fit in 1870's cavalry uniforms.

Since it was Las Vegas, many took advantage of the entertainment and/or were joined by family.

The next reunion of the 1st Cavalry Association will be shared with the active Army Division at its Fort Hood home in June, 2017.

"Memories are always special... Sometimes we laugh when remembering the days we cried, and we cry when remembering the days that we laughed."
- Anonymous -

Return to Vietnam

Dwight and John's Excellent Adventure - Time for a Repeat?

In 2014, John Gergulis and Dwight Evans took a little trip back to Vietnam, where 50 years before, John, since a Full Bird and ever a leader of men, was the Captain who first commanded Delta, and Dwight, since a pastor, a poet, and more, had a tenuous grip or no grip at all on his "stripes."

An "Odd Couple"? Maybe in "the Nam," but not in "the World." Not after 50 years. *Vietnam Battlefield Tours* presented at the 12th Cavalry Reunion in Branson in 2013. While many indicated interest then, only John and Dwight were winging to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the following spring.

John gave us an overview of transportation after we found some pretty hot photos of the "cabin attendants" on VietJet Air, the [privately-owned] Vietnamese airline. "You fly out of Los Angeles on EVA Air on luxurious, state of the art aircraft, hosted by legions of gorgeous Chinese hostesses. Sadly, these 'Lasses' (right, on VietJet) do *not* provide 'Happy Moment' massages.



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"Seventeen hours later, after a stop-over in Taipei, you arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon. (Most natives still refer to her as Saigon.) Now that you are 'in the Nam,' you will have your very own escorts-guides, and air-conditioned modern bus with cold beverages (beer, water, soft drinks, juices) always on-board. Intra-country travel is by that bus or Vietjet!!"

Dwight tells the in-country story: "The trip included vets with service in I or II Corps and non vets, including a couple that did not serve but desired to experience Vietnam with veterans. There was a Marine group that flew over with us. We met for dinner one night and had a great time.

"The highlight was An Khe and the memorial service we conducted there. In Hue we traced the battle to the Citadel. We truly enjoyed our boat tour of the perfume river with a fashion show. Khe Sanh was memorable with the rebuilt installation complete with a C-130, bunkers, artillery, helicopters and airstrip. In the big market at Khe Sanh we bought pigs for gifts to the Montanyards whose village we visited. We also visited and presented gifts to an orphanage, a great uplift for the entire group."

Vietnam Battlefield Tours was founded by a group of Vietnam Combat Veterans dedicated to providing reasonably priced, quality, and professionally staffed tours to the battlefields of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia for veterans, their family members, historians, and active duty military. The company provides tours focusing on different regions; they can be customized to include most places veterans served. Though the Cav served in more of Vietnam than any other unit, we could likely design a tour to fit, especially if we were to get together a group of our own. Cost? About \$3,500.

"I will ask 'Brother' Dave Macedonia to forward current brochures for our consideration," wrote John.

"Dave was our distinguished 'Chief' escort when Dwight and I represented y'all back in 2014!"

See Vietnam Battlefield Tours, <http://www.vietnambattlefieldtours.com/> VietJet Air, <http://www.vietjetair.com/> EVA Air, <http://www.evaair.com/en-us/flying-with-us/>

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Bob March, Tom Kjos, and tentatively Fred MacLennan, will visit the National Archives in College Park Maryland September 26-30, 2016. Tom has made two previous visits.

There are facilities of the National Archives and Records Administration in 17 states. Records in the well-known St. Louis Archive are the personnel records of individual soldiers (including orders, DD form 214, and other personnel actions), and unit Morning Reports (DA FORM 1), including a once-a-month roster. *No Vietnam era records were lost in the 1973 fire.* Morning Reports are "exception based," only containing information on those individuals whose status had changed that day, along with entries consisting of total numbers for categories like "present for duty."

Unit operational records are located in other facilities, at the *Military Reference Branch* in Washington, DC, for records through 1917, and at *Archives II Textual Reference Branch* in College Park, Maryland, for all units 1917-1954, and from 1954 through Vietnam for units that served in Southeast Asia. Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, also has an extensive archive of privately collected documents.

What's the practical difference between personnel and operational records? Perhaps a veteran was awarded a Bronze Star, but it's not on his DD 214, nor is the order in his personnel file (also in St. Louis). Is he out of luck? He is not, because the *General Orders* (Bronze Stars are *only* awarded on a General Order) of the 1st Cavalry Division (105 boxes, 46 linear feet) are held in the National Archives in College Park. The *Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officers Log[s]* (DA FORM 1594), kept by the Battalion's Operations Section (S3) are located in College Park, though they are far from complete. Some records may also be in private hands and may find their way into non-governmental archives, like that at Texas Tech, or may survive at other military and government organizations, at the U.S. Army War College Library at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, for example.

Because these are original paper records, archive rules are strict. No pens or notebooks are allowed in the Research Room (pencils and paper are provided). No hats, purses, briefcases, handbags, backpacks, or computer bags. Lockers are provided to secure such items. You can bring your computer and camera equipment into the research room. Documents you are taking in (for example a list you've made of files to request) will be inspected and each page stamped, put in a sealed document container on the first floor, then opened and inspected when you reach the Research Room. The same (in reverse) will happen when you leave. The Research Room is monitored by retired Marine Gunnery Sergeants and Army Sergeants Major. Don't screw up!

Once you identify your documents and fill out a "Pull Slip" they are "pulled" from the stacks at 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 o'clock. You get a cart with the boxes you have requested. You can have one cart (about 20 boxes), remove one box from the cart, and just one file from that box, and one document from a file at a time. Don't screw up! The best way to create your record is to photograph each document that you want, then "process" the photos when you get home.
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/57-research-room-guidelines.html>

This work is labor-intensive and time-consuming, so help is always appreciated. Let us know if you'd like to join us. If you have a research request, contact us at least 2 weeks ahead of our trip so we can do a preliminary on-line search for likely source material.

11th Annual 12th Cavalry Association Reunion

The 11th annual 12th Cavalry Regiment Association Reunion will be held at the Welk Resort, 1984 State Highway 165, Branson, Missouri, Wednesday, September 6th through Sunday, September 11th, 2016.

The reunion is open to all who served with the 12th Cavalry at any time, in any war or in peacetime, and their spouses/significant others. We expect our largest group ever this year, so make your reservations early.

It's a busy schedule with a *Welcoming Reception* Wednesday, a Ladies Excursion and the famous *Million Dollar Quartet* show Thursday, and the "traditional" *Hits of the 50's and 60's* show Friday. On Saturday the *Ladies get the Spa* treatment with message, manicure, pedicure, and fun air-brush tattoos, while the 12th Regiment Troopers have their business meeting. Then it's off to the *Banquet*, where the special entertainment this year is *You!*

Additional information, including accommodations, transportation, and the reunion registration/schedule is at http://www.12thcav.us/Reunion_2016_Branson.htm. Link is also on the Home Page of our Delta Company website at <http://www.cattrack6india.com/> All of the activities are optional.

Questions? Call or email: Thomas Crabtree at (432) 689-8330 (home), (432) 853-4851 (cell) or mmctic3@aol.com.

2017 Delta Company Reunion

It was decided at Delta's first-ever reunion in San Antonio (wonderfully planned and executed by Chuck Rose and family) that the company would next celebrate its brotherhood in Phoenix or Tucson in 2017. Current planning is for a September or October event in Tucson, tentatively at the Casino del Sol Resort.

As at San Antonio, we are anticipating a Tuesday arrival and Friday departure, with the first event a *Welcome Dinner*, perhaps at AmVets Post 770, and finishing at a Thursday *Banquet*, with fellowship and stories into the night. Of course there will be a *Reunion Room*.

We are considering visits to the *Old Tucson* movie studios and the *Pima Air Museum* on Wednesday and Thursday, along with ideas for alternate excursion(s) for the ladies.

Tucson, with a population over 500,000 is sited at 2,400 feet elevation in the Sonoran Desert. Along with the destinations above, it's home to the University of Arizona, Kitt Peak National Observatory, and the Mission San Xavier del Bac, founded in 1692. Owing to its higher elevation, Tucson is cooler than Phoenix, with highs in the mid to upper 80's and overnight lows around 60 degrees in early October. Late September is a handful of degrees warmer.

Air travel is fairly easy from most major North American regions, with over 100 flights daily to Tucson International, but Phoenix's Sky Harbor airport, about 112 miles and 1 1/2 hours north, might be an option for some.

Since suggesting the last week in September, we've had input from some that October would be better. Send any requests, ideas, or opinions to Tom Kjos (tomwkjos03@gmail.com).

Delta Company Website Update

There are always new things being posted on the website <http://www.cattrack6india.com> the site dedicated to all the Brothers-in-Arms of Delta Company. It has expanded over the past five years as troopers are “found,” many of whom send us photographs and stories.

The latest initiative is documenting our history in Vietnam: battles, firefights and operations. I plan to put together a narrative for each event, and started interviewing at the Las Vegas reunion. Some very interesting stories were recorded. More info (maps, daily logs, After Action reports, and general orders) will be obtained at the National Archives in September. *It is important you let us know* what you want us to research before we go. The web site pages generated so far are very much “under construction.” They can be accessed by going down the web site Home Page to **Firefights**, clicking there, and scrolling to the various events.

The Morley Safer story from CBS news (Baptism of Fire), which filmed the 1/12th Cavalry in Operation Shiny Bayonet, has been posted, and can be accessed on the page “Bloody Shiny Bayonet.” It can be viewed here: <http://www.cattrackindia.com/ShinyBayonet.com>. Part two of this four part series sadly documents Delta's first KIA, Terry Wright, who was then 17 years old, and includes SSG Perpetua, who was KIA 17 December, 1966.

At the reunion in Las Vegas, a list of previously unknown (to us) 1969-1970 Delta Company veterans was provided and has been added to the Roster. The Roster is important as it gives us a way to contact one another (including the distribution of this newsletter), and a baseline from which to search for Delta members who have not yet been “found.”

Photos of the Las Vegas Reunion have been posted, and can be accessed on the upper left corner of the Home Page.

I encourage you to send in pictures you may have, to be included on the web site. If you have any orders that include names of fellow troopers, send those in also for the Roster. (Photo above, also on the web site, was sent by Fred MacLennan, 70-71.) Send attachments to recondelta@embarqmail.com “Hard copy” items can be sent to:

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WHAT WE DO IN LIFE ECHOES IN ETERNITY

Bob March (#2)



Fiddler's Green Dieter Arnold



We all became attached to Dieter Arnold, in D Company or in the years since, and looked forward to seeing him and Carolyn at the Las Vegas Reunion. Sadly, Dieter G. Arnold, age 74, of Canton, Georgia, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

Dieter was really a nice guy, but he used to say “I’m an asshole, and proud of it!” Everyone would laugh, because while partially true it’s “complicated.” Before his passing he attended most of the reunions and did lots of laughing with his Delta Brothers-in Arms.

Dieter was born May 31, 1942 at height of World War II in Nuremberg Germany and came to the USA at an early age. After his education, he joined the U.S. Army and went to jump school where he received his Airborne Wings, of which he was very proud. In 1965, in Vietnam, he was a Team Leader in Delta's Recon Platoon. One of the stories that he liked to tell was about leading the first ever patrol up Hon Kong mountain, to flush out the VC

who had been firing down on the Division while we were setting up base camp at An Khe.

He was also famous for having been medevac'd from a Recon patrol because a leach crawled up inside his most precious appendage. At a 12th Cavalry reunion, he humorously and in great detail described his special treatment at the 85th Evac Hospital in Qui Nhon, where he suggested various methods of leach extraction to the nurses in attendance.

Along with D Company in Vietnam, Dieter served with the 101st Airborne Division and the 75th Rangers. While serving in Germany, he obtained a BA in Law Enforcement and Criminology and was assigned to Army Intelligence. Fluent in German, he became an intelligence analyst and a counter-intelligence agent, conducting covert operations in Germany. This was at the height of the Cold War and spying was dangerous. He told us of an experience he had while he was undercover in Berlin; a neighbor from Northern Germany who was visiting Berlin as a tourist happened to recognize him and nearly blew his cover.

Dieter spent his whole adult life in service to his country and he will be sorely missed by his Delta Brothers, and wife of 49 years, Carolyn, now a permanent honorary member of Delta Company.

Dieter was a good guy, a hero, and an icon of Delta Company. We'll see you at Fiddler's Green, Dieter. It won't be hard to find you 'cause when we get there we'll just ask: “Where's the guy who says he's proud to be an asshole...but isn't”?”