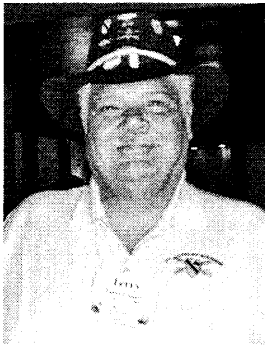


Winter, 2011

President's Column



Terry Combs, President, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association  
B Company, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (ABN) & LRRP's, 1966-67

Dear Fellow Troopers:

As we enter 2011, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Happy New Year! I hope you will make a resolution to contact another trooper and invite them to become part of our association so that they may also experience the healing that comes from connecting with the men who have always had their back.

If you know a fellow veteran that could use a boost in morale, bring them to a reunion. The 64<sup>th</sup> annual First Cavalry Reunion will be held June 8-12 in Killeen, TX at Fort Hood. I hope to see many of you there, as we try to top the attendance of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cav. They always have a good turnout, and we have come close to outnumbering them in the past.

Also, put on your calendar the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Branson Reunion September 14-18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This year's reunion will be held at the Lawrence Welk Resort for the first time. Further details will be forthcoming, but we promise you won't want to miss it!

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, commanded by LTC Joe Holland has reached the 90 day deployed threshold in Iraq earlier this week and Col. Holland says the team is in great spirits and doing very well in Kirkuk, with the scout platoon in Tikrit.

Please take the time to remember our Troopers in the field. We all remember the importance of "mail call" and how it can lift your spirits. Send your prayers, a letter of appreciation, a card or a care package so we may support these brave young men and women. If you wish to send a letter, card or care package to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, contact Ken Howser, the editor of the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry column in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Association's Saber. His contact information is on the back page of this newsletter. He will get you the appropriate address.

Hope to see you all soon, and Semper Paratus!

Terry

## STATISTICS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY

**Editor's Note – These statistics are astounding. The numbers do not support the news media's reporting of the Vietnam War. But, we knew that already.....**

\* 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).  
\* 8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (Aug 5, 1964-March 28, 1973). \* 2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam, this number represents 9.7% of their generation. \* 3,403,100 (Including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the broader Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters). \* 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965 - March 28, 1973). Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964. \* Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack. \* 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam. \* Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1968).

### **CASUALTIES**

The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station (Army Security Agency). Davis Station in Saigon was named for him. Hostile deaths: 47,378. Non-hostile deaths: 10,800. Total: 58,202 (Includes men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total. 8 nurses died -- 1 was KIA. 61% of the men killed were 21 or younger. 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old. Of those killed, 17,539 were married. Average age of men killed: 23.1 years. Total Deaths: 23.11 years. Enlisted: 50,274 - 22.37 years. Officers: 6,598 - 28.43 years. Warrant Officers: 1,276 - 24.73 years. E1 (Private): 525 - 20.34 years. 11B (Infantry) MOS: 18,465 - 22.55 years. Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old. The oldest man killed was 62 years old. Highest state death rate: West Virginia - 84.1% (national average 58.9% for every 100,000 males in 1970). Wounded: 303,704 -- 153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured requiring no hospital care. Severely disabled: 75,000, -- 23,214: 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations. Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII. Missing in Action: 2,338. POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity). As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

### **DRAFTEES VS VOLUNTEERS**

25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII). Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam. Reservists killed: 5,977. National Guard: 6,140 served: 101 died. Total draftees (1965 - 73): 1,728,344. Actually served in Vietnam: 38% Marine Corps Draft: 42,633. Last man drafted: June 30, 1973.

### **RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND**

88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races. 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races. 170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there. 70% of enlisted men killed were of northwest European descent. 86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races. 14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks. 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms. Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population. Religion of Dead: Protestant -- 64.4%; Catholic -- 28.9%; other/none -- 6.7%.

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS**

Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups. Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent. 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds. Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds. Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations. 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service. 63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation. Deaths by region per 100,000 of population: South -- 31%, West --29.9%; Midwest -- 28.4%; Northeast -- 23.5%.

## **DRUG USAGE & CRIME**

There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam veterans and non-Vietnam veterans of the same age group. (Source: Veterans Administration Study). Vietnam veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam veterans has been jailed for crimes. 85% of Vietnam veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

## **WINNING & LOSING**

82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will. Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

## **HONORABLE SERVICE**

97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged. 91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country. 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome. 87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.

## **INTERESTING CENSUS STATISTICS & THOSE TO CLAIM TO HAVE "Been There"**

1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures). During that same Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was: 9,492,958. As of the current Census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day. During this Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is: 13,853,027. By this census, **FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE VIETNAM VETS ARE NOT.** The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by the War Library originally reported with errors that 2,709,918 U.S. military personnel as having served in-country. Corrections and confirmations to this erred index resulted in the addition of 358 U.S. military personnel confirmed to have served in Vietnam but not originally listed by the Department of Defense. (All names are currently on file and accessible 24/7/365).

Isolated atrocities committed by American soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers. – Nixon Presidential Papers.

Kenneth E. Lang, West Point Class of 1956

## A Farewell

**Bob McClellan**, LTC, Retired. A dear friend, mentor and leader who was an original member of Charlie Company, 1/12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (ABN), from 1965 to 1966, has passed from this life on Sunday, November 14, 2010. Robert W. McClellan, age 69, was born in Summit, New Jersey and graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1963. He enlisted in the army and received his commission as an infantry officer upon graduation from OCS at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He subsequently completed airborne training and joined Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> BN (Airborne), 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division at Ft. Benning. He served as a platoon leader in C Company in Vietnam. He served in infantry and airborne infantry units in the US and in the Republic of the Congo on a security mission to assist the loyalist government and mercenaries, in Germany and in Vietnam, where he served two tours. He served a security assistance tour in Lebanon in 1983 where the Marine Corps barracks was bombed. He was assigned as the Army liaison officer to the Marine Corps Education Center in Quantico, where he was a primary contributor to the development of the Marine Corps anti-terrorism program.

Among his many military honors are the Combat Infantryman Badge, Paratrooper Wings, the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars w/ V device, two Purple Hearts, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal w/ V device and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. He retired from the US Army in 1986 and had worked as a contractor/consultant for the US Customs and Border Protection Service until 2010, where he was primarily responsible for identifying and selecting locations at commercial ports of entry on the southwestern and northern borders for the installation of non-intrusive inspection equipment. Survivors include two children, Robert Joseph McClellan of Lorton, VA and Cherie Elizabeth Jernigan of Linda, California. The funeral was held on November 22, 2010 in Woodbridge, VA, with interment at the Arlington National Cemetery on February 18, 2011.



From its activation at Ft. Bliss, Texas, on Sept. 13, 1921, through World War II and Korea, until today, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) has recorded a series of unparalleled firsts. As the Army's first airmobile division, the 1st Cav arrived in Vietnam on Sept. 14, 1965. Less than two months later, demonstrating a mastery of terrain and enemy, it won a Presidential Unit Citation by routing heavy North Vietnamese concentrations around the Ia Drang Valley west of Pleiku. In the next 13 months, Skytroopers met and defeated strong enemy forces throughout the II Corps Tactical Zone. In January 1968, the Cav was needed in I Corps, arriving in time to blunt the enemy's Tet Offensive. After a bitter battle near Hue in February, the unit moved swiftly in April to relieve the embattled Marine base at Khe Sanh.

In October 1968, the Cav was needed in III Corps to thwart a potential Communist threat. The equivalent of a medium-sized U.S. town took wings and landed at the other end of the Republic of Vietnam. While thrusting against enemy positions along the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon, some elements of the division moved further south into IV Corps, working with Naval forces in an operation called "Nav-Cav." Thus the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) became the first American division to have fought in all four tactical zones in the Republic of Vietnam.

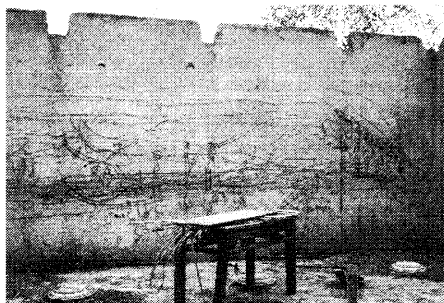
## Various Photos



**Jane Fonda Memorial Urinal.** Kinda brings a tear to your eye, doesn't it?



1/12 Cav lands at Quin Nhon Vietnam on September 20, 1965 to begin what would be a 6 year, 9 month tour of duty for the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.



An enemy classroom with drawings on the wall depicting how the enemy was going to engage soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry. Photo courtesy of John Rudd



**Colonel Jim Dingeman, USA (Ret)**  
**Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry 1968-69**

I hope all of our 12th Cavalry family had a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

We had a great year in 2010 and look forward to the new year with positive thoughts and expectations. The many reunions held last year were a positive move to locate fellow troopers and renew combat relationships which are the backbone of our Association. Our thanks go to those who made those reunions possible. Hope to have a good turnout at Ft. Hood--8-12 June 2011.

ATTENTION TO ALL - Feed your stories to our Web site, this paper or Ken Hauser-Saber contact--We want your input.

Some cause" happiness wherever they go;--others whenever they go". LET'S NOT MARCH TO THIS DRUMMER.

Keep well, support our troops, and take care.

Warm regards,

James (Jim) Dingeman  
Colonel, USA (Ret)  
Honorary Colonel of the Regiment  
12th Cavalry Regiment Association

## **Social Security Benefit for Veterans on active duty between January 1957 and December 2001**

An honorably discharged veteran who has served on active duty between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 2001 who is drawing Social Security benefits or who is planning on drawing Social Security benefits in the future is eligible to count as much as \$1200 of earnings credit per year that they served that can be added to their total earnings for years spent on active duty with the military. This could make a positive difference in the amount of monthly payment that you receive from Social Security upon your current and future retirement.

**THIS IS NOT AUTOMATIC!** You must to your local Social Security Office and take a copy of your DD 214 with you. You must ask for this benefit to receive it. Go to the Social Security website at <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm> for more information or call your local Social Security office. This is not just for military retirees; it is for anyone who has served on active duty during these time periods. This is a little known benefit that you have earned in the service of your country.

## Support for Those Who Support Us

How does Sears treat its employees who are called up for military duty? By law, they are required to hold their jobs open and available, but nothing more. Usually, people take a big pay cut and lose benefits as a result of being called up for active duty. Sears is voluntarily paying the difference in salaries and maintaining all benefits, including medical insurance and bonus programs, for all called up reservist and National Guard employees for up to two years. I know I needed this reminder, since Sears isn't always my first choice. It's amazing when you think of how long the war has lasted and Sears hasn't withdrawn from their commitment. Could we each buy at least one thing at Sears this year?

I submit that Sears is an exemplary corporate citizen and should be recognized for its contribution. I suggest we all shop at Sears at least once, and be sure to find a manager to tell them why we are there so the company gets the positive reinforcement and feedback it well deserves. I decided to check this before I sent it forward. So I sent the following e-mail to the Sears Customer Service Department:

*I received this e-mail and I would like to know if it is true. If it is, the internet may have just become one very good source of advertisement for your company. I know I would go out of my way to buy products from Sears instead of another store for a like item, even if it's cheaper at that store.*

This is their answer to my e-mail:

*Dear Customer:*

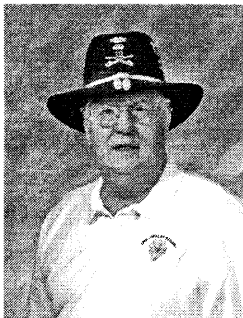
*Thank you for contacting Sears. The information is factual. We appreciate your positive feedback. Sears regards service to our country as one of greatest sacrifices our young men and women can make. We are happy to do our part to lessen the burden they bear at this time.*

*Bill Thorn, Sears Customer Care*

[webcenter@sears.com](mailto:webcenter@sears.com) 1-800-349-4358

Sears needs to be recognized for this outstanding contribution and we need to show them as Americans, we do appreciate what they are doing for our military!!! It's verified! By [Snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) at:  
<http://www.snopes.com/politics/military/sears.asp>

-Anonymous Contributor



**Doug Warden**, Editor, Crossed Sabers and 12<sup>th</sup> Cav Historian

This is just a reminder for all of us to make sure that you have your most recent address and contact information on file with us. Every time the Crossed Sabers is mailed, we have a number of them returned for insufficient address, which is an added cost to our mailings. Please get any changes in your address, email or contact information to me and I'll make sure that the changes are made everywhere they should be.

The *Crossed Sabers* an official publication of the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association.

News, pictures, comments, address changes, etc. can be sent to:

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(405) 826-8008, dougwarden444@hotmail.com.

Membership dues should be sent to Roger King, 885 SW 6th Street, Lincoln City, OR 97367-2709

Visit the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association website: [www.12thcav.us](http://www.12thcav.us)

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