



# Walking Point

The newsletter for D Co. 2/8 Vietnam 1965—1972

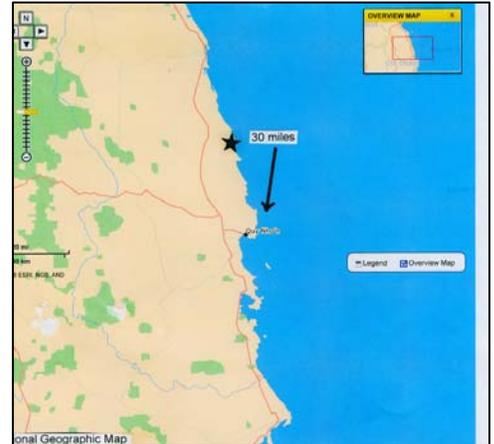
## That First Week on the Bong Son Coast—October 1966 Republic of Vietnam by R. Lee Livingston



### Setting the Scene

It was time to take 30 days of vacation leave and get myself ready for a U.S. Army tour in Viet Nam. I had been in Army schools since April: the first one was Infantry Basic at Ft. Benning, GA; the second was Intelligence Basic at Ft. Holabird, MD; and I finished my third Army school, the Civil Affairs course, at Ft. Gordon, GA, late in August 1966.

It was September 1966, and while on leave from the Army I visited my grandparents, uncles, and cousins in Calgary, Alberta, and in Boulder, Colorado. My grandfather went to WW-I as a medical doctor in the Canadian Army and was killed in France leaving a wife and four kids. In WW-II one uncle served as an engineer officer in the Canadian Army, another was an artillery officer with General Patton and another served stateside. I visited old college friends, too. It was a fun and leisurely way to spend a sunny September in 1966. But there was trepidation.



Meanwhile, over in Viet Nam. To set this scene, here are the recollections of Jim Guest, the commander of D Company, an infantry unit: “In order to clear out hostile forces about 32 miles north of the major sea port of Quy Nho’n, and 18 miles south of the town of Bong Son, Operation Irving was under way. The map shows the relative positions of these places. On September 13, 1966, the 1st Brigade, (Airborne), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) moved to Phu Cat Airstrip and generated a five battalion air assault (approx. 3,000 soldiers) into the Kim Son Valley/Crows Foot area just south of Bong Son on the coast. Company D, 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 8th Battalion (approx. 150 soldiers), operated from a mountain ridge on the western edge of highway 504 south of Bong Son until September 30, 1966.

“During this time 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael Derosier’s platoon made a hard contact with a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regimental Headquarters and its Recon Company, which was acting as security for the HQS. Lt. Derosier was killed during the initial contact. D Co. 2/8 was securing the Battalion Firebase at this time so the company was split: part was left to continue the security mission while the rest reinforced Lt. Derosier’s unit. D Co. 2/8 overran the area and engaged the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) in a running fire fight through hedge rows and a small village, killing and wounding an undetermined number of them. The company was ordered to leave immediately when the Army of Vietnam realized we were in their area of operations and reported it to 1st CAV Div HQ.

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### Angry Skipper Association, Inc. Board of Governors

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## That First Week on the Bong Son Coast—October 1966 (cont)

“On September 30, 1966, D Co. 2/8 was pulled back to what eventually became Landing Zone English, the future 1st Brigade Headquarters, and conducted an air assault on a ridgeline of the Nui Mieu Mountains. Because the air assault was completed with no contact, D Co. 2/8 was ordered to move to the valley south of the ridgeline and occupy a blocking position to the west of Hoa Hoi village located in the valley between the two Nui Mieu Mountain ridgelines. That night D Co. 2/8 moved down the mountain to the valley and occupied the blocking position. As the Company move was taking place, 1/12 CAV Battalion (approximately 600 soldiers) was fighting the battle of Hoa Hoi Village killing around 200 NVA and capturing a small number of them.

“In early October the Army ascertained that a fishing village and the area around it was a primary infiltration route and area of operations for the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> NVA Battalions of the 18<sup>th</sup> NVA Regiment with many Viet Cong (VC) supporting elements. Army operations were to interdict these routes and to inflict as many casualties on them as could be done.

“D Co. 2/8 was then ordered to move directly east toward that fishing village to help B Co. 2/8 with a small force of NVA who were in the vicinity. Air strikes were used on the local mountain to shake them up and get them moving so we could ambush them rather than having to fight up hill against their fortified positions. It worked, and one night a force of them attempted to cross the bay in small boats and get to the Phu Cat Mountains. A U.S. Navy swift boat ambushed them, and, when they attempted to get back to the fishing village, a platoon of D Co. 2/8 ambushed them at the sea wall killing a few and capturing a good number. Some were NVA, and some were local VC. B Co. 2/8 got the rest of them the next morning—some on the mountain and some in underwater caves on the point above the village. This was the start of the joint operations with the Navy swift boat.” (1)

### The Journey Begins:

Monday, October 3, 1966, the Soviet Union announced that it would provide economic and military assistance to North Vietnam(2), and I was going to miss the TV show Gilligan’s Island, which turned out to be a classic. (3) On that warm Monday evening at Travis Air Force Base, California, about 60 miles from home, I waved so long to my parents and girlfriend as I climbed aboard a Pan Am Boeing 707 charter flight to Vietnam. Fortunately, one of the flight attendants was a University of Colorado blonde beauty. As college students we shared meals at a boarding house for five months the previous winter. We had a nice chat on the flight leg to Alaska; it relieved some of the stress of the moment.

There were two or three nights in Saigon (another story), a couple of nights in NhaTrang, then to Camp Radcliff in An Khe for two or three nights, and then out to the field. About 10 days in country—all spent with processing and moving. No in-country familiarization, no training. My weapon of issue was an M-14 that was taken from me in An Khe and exchanged for an M-16. I had handled an M-16 at Ft. Benning to take it apart and reassemble it, but I had never fired one. Anyway, because of poor eyesight, I was not qualified for the combat arms branches of Infantry, Artillery, or Armor.

### That First Week

**October 14, 1966.** I launched from the Battalion Command Post at Landing Zone UPLIFT. The black hat who was directing air traffic was 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Tony Stricker, a former varsity football player at the University of Colorado who later played for the N.Y. Jets. I had had classes with Tony at Colorado. He got me into the Jets-Raiders game in Oakland in 1965 (another story). What a surprise to see him! We had a nice chat while awaiting my bird.

**Morning:** I arrived at D Co. 2/8 about 0800 with the logistics bird that choppered in the breakfast of fried bacon, hard-boiled eggs, sugar-glazed fresh doughnuts, and bundles of uniform parts, boots, and mail. Capt.. Jim Guest and other company officers were coordinating tactics while having breakfast with the Navy on a small swift boat that was 20 yards off shore. Eventually, they swam in for introductions and the day’s work.

**Noon:** First order was to go on a civil affairs patrol. SSgt Paul Floyd led the combat troopers, no more than a squad plus. Our civil affairs team consisted of a medic, a Vietnamese national who was the interpreter, Maj. Hayes, and me. A Navy lieutenant from the swift boat also came along to see the sights. The group of us went down a hill to Chanh Trach 1 (see figure 2), a typical jungle village that was inland about a half mile.

This was my first introduction to a jungle village: lush green foliage that provided wonderful shade; a cramped crowded feeling that was filled with damp and foul smells, and a pack of kids. Here I watched the Vietnamese interpreter, the medic (was it Specialist “Ernie” Pyle?), and Major Hayes, a 1<sup>st</sup> CAV artillery officer detailed to 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade S-5, Civil Affairs, to learn what was to be done. We worked in a meeting room—school house type of building made of cement with large open windows and doors.

## That First Week on the Bong Son Coast—October 1966 (cont)

We passed out soap, entertained the kids, let the medic have a look-see, etc. The yelling, pushing, and noise were like an unsupervised Cub Scout pack meeting gone oh so very wrong! I started my Vietnamese language lessons here. In the throng of people there were no teenage girls and no adult males. And this was noted.

Back to camp by early afternoon. First order is to find the well for fresh drinking water and the latrine. Then to dig a sleeping hole in the sand, set my bug net, and try for a nap. Although the net kept the clouds of sand flies out, there were still so many of the pesky insects inside the net with me that I had to put my hands under me to cover them and wear a head net, too. Ah, sweet repose under the waving palms on a white sand tropical beach in the former colony of China, France, and Japan.

That afternoon, the Company Commander, Jim Guest, had to move heaven and earth with the Battalion and Brigade staffs to get permission to run a night patrol back into that village. SSGT Floyd really wanted to do it, and Captain Guest agreed with him so the necessary permissions were finally granted. (4)

**Night:** That night SSGT Floyd and his troops went back near Chanh Trach 1 village and were ambushed. Jim Taylor was there on that patrol, and he later provided this observation:

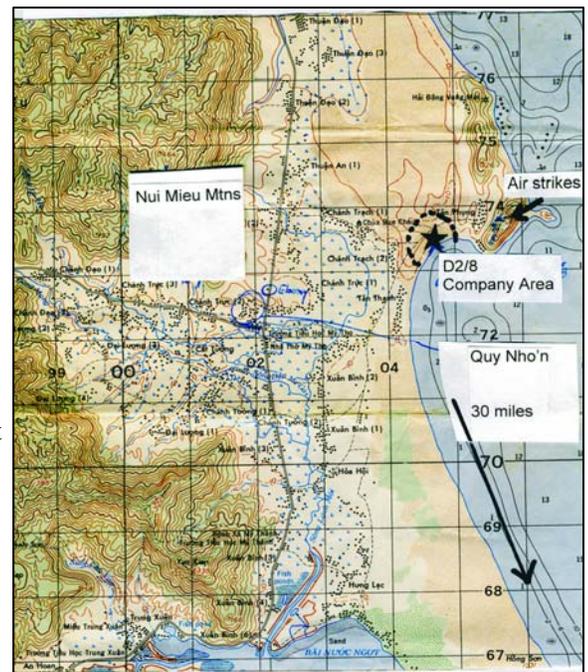
“SSGT Paul Floyd was my platoon sergeant in 1966 in Vietnam. On the night of his death on October 14, 1966 (two days before my 21st birthday) we were sent out on a night ambush. We were working in an area on the coast near Bong Son. Word came down from intelligence that an old schoolhouse in a village near us was being used by local Viet Cong as a meeting place at night. We were to enter the village right after nightfall and set up an ambush site on one of the trails going into the village.

“As soon as it got dark we started into the village toward the schoolhouse. I was walking point and Sergeant Floyd was next behind me. There were lights still burning in the huts and we could hear children talking because the villagers were not asleep yet. In the dark we saw a small figure cross the trail in front of us, but, because we had heard the villagers talking and because we did not anticipate the VC to be there that early, we thought it was a child. I stopped, and Sergeant Floyd came up behind me and put his hand on my shoulder. He stepped around me and walked forward, and speaking in Vietnamese he directed the figure to come forward. Then there was a burst of gunfire that struck Sergeant Floyd. We jumped into a ditch along the trail and everyone returned fire in all directions.

“That’s when I saw Sergeant Floyd laying on the trail ahead, and I jumped out of the ditch and crawled towards him and tried to revive him. He had a pulse, but I could not get him breathing again so I pulled him back to the ditch. The other guys said he was dead but I kept trying to get him breathing again. He died that night on that trail and it has haunted me ever since because the bullets that killed him were meant for me. They gave me a Bronze Star for trying to save him during the firefight, but he is the one who deserved the medal, not me.

“Sergeant Floyd was a professional soldier who was older than the rest of us, but he taught us how to be soldiers, and like all the rest he did not deserve to die in Vietnam.(5) “This was one of the most trying nights I had in Nam. I should have shot the figure when he first crossed the trail and, maybe SSGT Floyd would still be alive.” (6)

To assist in the ensuing firefight, illumination was called for. Jim Guest says the illumination rounds were from a Navy cruiser about 15 miles off shore call sign Barber Shop. (7) Frank LaBletta who was also on that same patrol “...always thought it was Lt. Mandalak (weapons platoon) who ordered the flares from his own holster...” (8) And I, staring into the dark from my hole in the sand and not aware of what was actually happening at that moment a half-mile away, thought the rounds were from the swift boat anchored off shore nearby. Wherever the rounds came from, there were bits of things falling and whistling



## That First Week on the Bong Son Coast—October 1966 (cont)

into the trees around my hole. I decided that if they didn't hit too close, I'd just stay put. Nobody needed me to be up and wandering around in the dark. I'd been on this beach about 14 hours by now.

Jim Guest later noted that the Company was under strict rules of engagement in villages in order to explain why SSGT Floyd was so cautious and gave the instructions that he did. SSGT Floyd did everything right during the action where he was killed, which made it even harder to accept his death. (9)

**Day 2:** October 15, 1966. After breakfast I took a look at a dead Vietnamese that the troops brought back to camp. It was the first body I'd ever seen up close. He had been a healthy, sturdy, thick-set mid-30s male adult. I was surprised at the lack of visual damage caused by the bullets. I thought large pieces would have been pushed out by the tumbling .223 caliber bullet at 3,200 feet per second. Isn't that what they said at Ft. Benning? But they said a lot of things at Benning. The troopers buried the body nearby in the sand. His body was not going to be given to the local village for burial. There was no need for some red-hot local Viet Minh (Communist Party) official to address the village to lionize a member of their "vanguard of the proletariat who gave his life to rid Vietnam of foreign imperial capitalists and who had been bravely working for international socialism and world peace under Communist Party guidance." Or maybe the body was not returned because the village was not being cooperative—so we returned their courtesy. This was just another engagement in a month of such actions.

**Tactics:** The rest of that day, Lt. Mandalak, the weapons platoon leader, was under some pressure to rehearse tactical actions when under ambush and inspect his unit for clean weapons. Seems some jammed during the ambush. Also seems that the med-evacs would not fly that night to come and get SSGT Floyd. There was, naturally, a sour feeling around the company area. And it had only been about 20 days since Lt. Derosier was killed.

**Refugees:** Then I learned my job of moving refugees. Starting early in the morning, families would carry their furniture and other belongings over the hot sand and through the palm trees to our company area. These were people who knew that their area was in a combat zone and were willing to uproot themselves to get out and away from the fighting. The U.S. Army provided free transportation for that purpose. In the afternoon the large CH-47 tandem rotor Chinooks would arrive, and we'd load up people with their furniture through the heat, jet exhaust, blowing sand and noise, and off they'd go. One day I organized several trips of only furniture and then one Chinook load of 75 refugees (or maybe 125). It was an extraordinary load—sticky, smelly, and crowded. They were a small people. It was hot sandy work, but we moved many folks and their belongings out of the area. I also took a round-trip hop on a Chinook to see where these loads were going. Delivery was made to a large and secure field about eight miles away, and there were folks there to help the new arrivals. Seeing that made launching these people off every afternoon a bit easier.

**Enemy:** While the villagers were moving their furniture up to the landing zone, they passed by a screen, or small wall, of palm fronds set up in the sand, under the trees, and off to the side a few yards. From behind this privacy screen the interpreter and trusted local officials watched the villagers and pointed out the occasional VC or NVA outsider among them. One afternoon, one such fellow was identified, and he was subsequently persuaded to discuss the local political/military issues. There was, after all, the need to have a good understanding of the tactical threat situation in our area. He had good information, and the place was lousy with VC locals and NVA regulars.

**Communications:** On the second or third day I had to give the afternoon radio report to Brigade as to what we had been up to: so many chopper loads, so many people. The troopers had done it before, but this time, as several of us were sitting in the sand under a palm and worn out from the day's work and heat, they handed me the radio handset. I made a COMSEC error on the air. I properly used my call sign and then clarified that I was with D Co. 2/8. Oops. A basic test for the green 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Grade: F

**Patrol:** I went with a platoon on a day patrol around the point of land south of Tan Phung and watched troopers paint the yellow 1<sup>st</sup> CAV patch on lots of rocks. This was the updated version of the WW-II slogan "Kilroy was here." Some VC military equipment was found high up on the rocks that had seen some action in the weeks prior. These rocks, a few hundred feet high, made the point that stuck into the South China Sea on the east and where a fishing village on the west was snuggled up against the hill.

That fishing village, Tan Phung, was fly infested and smelled of dead fish, ammonia, and human waste. It was the color of dark gray wet cement. Yet, in a photo it would look like a blue-sky, palm tree waving, thatched-roof village with a white sand, beach-side, rolling surf, tropical paradise.

## That First Week on the Bong Son Coast—October 1966 (cont)

This is a lesson about cameras not telling the whole truth but not lying either. That night the villagers were told not to walk south down the beach the next day. The company commander wanted them to see another in a series of planned air shows on their rocky hill.

**Air Show:** The next morning an old mama-san walked down that beach all alone. I was with the CO and someone else at the top of our sand dune. As we watched her go by I offered to shoot a round towards the old lady—big hero, me. The CO said, “No.” About 2 P.M. the USAF forward observer flew over in his piper cub and established contact with our artillery forward observer. Then we had a show of force by two or three B-57 Canberra jets that put on an impressive precision air strike on the rocks over the village. If any VC were up in the rocks, they got the good show close up. Lots of flash and boom; a precursor to the future of shock and awe!

**Bathing:** Every night I had a swim/wash in the ocean, and consequently I developed some very nasty rashes. No more underwear for me after that. While there were jelly fish in the water and several troopers got stung (10), my red rashes were due to being green in the field and not taking good care of government equipment—me. One night after a swim, I climbed the sand hill up to camp a bit later than usual and was cautioned by the dug-in perimeter guards to come in earlier so as not to surprise anyone and maybe catch a bullet.

**Fresh Food:** One night our interpreter, Big Tinh, bought a live chicken from a local. He held the bird's body under his arm, its head in his hand, and using a pocket knife with a terribly nicked blade, he removed the chicken's head. Then he cleaned and cooked the bird. The vision of him kneeling on that white sand beach at glowing sunset and sawing away on that chicken's neck will never leave me. Tasted okay, but, it was a little dry. Otherwise it was only the little green cans of C-rations for lunch and dinner.

**Light Shows:** At night we could see the flashes from the Navy ships way off shore firing illumination inland. Many of the shells would break up halfway to shore and float on parachutes or fall into the sea; the rumor was that the shells were old ones from WW-II. And then you'd hear the low thunder from the guns being fired so far off shore. Somewhere, some troops were in trouble, and the surface Navy was helping as they could.

**Command:** I felt the team spirit at the Company command post. The management met in the afternoons sitting in the sand under the trees on an assortment of boxes and containers to discuss affairs of tactics, equipment, current status, logistics, and the troops. CO, XO, four platoon leaders, 1<sup>st</sup>Sgt., four platoon sergeants, company radioman, artillery forward observer, and two civil affairs types. The meetings had a very assured, professional, yet almost the feeling of a family gathering about them. The moms and dads whose kids were in DELTA Company had soldiers who were respected and well taken care of.

### Fifty More Weeks To Go

The 2/8 Battalion had a policy of only senior captains being company commanders. Their maturity and experience showed in their tactics and concern for their troops. All the company commanders were eventually promoted to major. Jim Guest, the Company Commander, D Company, in time was raised to major general. And my first boss, Major Wilmot Hall, was replaced in early 1967 by another former D2/8 company commander now a brand new major who became the Brigade S-5. And, although I lived in a tent with him for a month, I can't now recall his name but it might have been Jenks. Calling him Major seemed to work at the time.

I spent a year with the CAV doing what I could to care for refugee families by feeding, clothing, housing, and resettling them. Other duties included maintaining pig farms; building bridges, schools, and roads; building and stocking fish ponds; organizing rice milling, well digging, English classes, and sick calls. But it was the soldiers wearing the CAV patch who carried the real burdens of combat.

I lived an easy life, not the life of a grunt day after day in the boonies. I had access to a reasonable bed and shower for most of my tour at Camp Radcliff in An Khe, but they were not accommodations that included air conditioning or hot water. And, while I never again spent full time in the boonies with combat troops, I did spend the days of March 1967 as well as several more, each with different platoons and companies of the 1st Brigade tramping all over the CAV's area of operations but regrettably never again with my adopted D Co. 2/8.

Being in the boonies was tough living and it gives all the more reason to respect the grunts who soundly beat the local “Charlie” and the North Vietnamese Army regulars in their own nest and did it while putting up with a dangerous and uncomfortable life.

## That First Week on the Bong Son Coast—October 1966 (cont)

### Back in the World

I do not wear the 1<sup>st</sup> CAV patch on the right sleeve of my army uniform. The Team boss, Captain Ivan Miller asked for permission to wear it and was told, no. That decision followed Army rules and was extraordinarily fair to the troops of the CAV. We spent a year with the CAV, but we were not of the CAV. Team #6 of the 41<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Company, assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> CAV, one of four such teams so assigned, was an I Field Force Vietnam asset. But in November 1982, at the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., I stepped away from the watching crowd on Constitution Ave. and joined the ranks of the hundred or so 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Veterans who were marching. It felt very good. “Marching Along Together Again” was the slogan for that day

Today when I see soldiers wearing that big horse blanket CAV patch I always wish them the very best. And I always remember SSGT Floyd and the others. Duty, honor, country.

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1. E-mail from Jim Guest to author, 9 February 2006.
  2. <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/index-1965.html>, on February 2007
  3. 52<sup>nd</sup> of the 100 Greatest TV episodes of all time, <http://members.aol.com/speaker606/jim/tv.html>

### GILLIGAN'S ISLAND

October 3, 1966

In "The Producer," Hollywood deal-maker Harold Hecuba (Phil Silvers) is looking for talent in "out-of-the-way places" when his plane crashes on our favorite tropical isle. To impress the impresario, the castaways mount a musical version of "Hamlet" with Gilligan (Bob Denver) in the title roll. It ain't Shakespeare, but it does get the producer's attention. He quickly rechristens it "Harold Hecuba's Hamlet" and swipes all the singing parts for himself (a quicksilver bit of shtick for Silvers, above, with cast). At the end of this inventive episode, Hecuba steals away—and steals the idea—leaving a sadder but wiser Gilligan to pronounce the moral: "Well, that's showbiz."

4. E-mail from Jim Guest to author, 9 February 2006.
5. [www.virtualwall.com](http://www.virtualwall.com), Paul Floyd, on February 2007.
6. E-mail from Jim Taylor to author, 24 January 2006.
7. E-mail from Jim Guest to author, 9 February 2006.
8. E-mail from Frank LaBletta to Richard O'Brien and forwarded to author, 24 January 2006.
9. E-mail from Jim Guest to author, 9 February 2006..
10. E-mail from Frank LaBletta to Richard O'Brien and forwarded to author, 24 January 2006.



### 2-8th CAV, 1st Cavalry Division OIF 2006—2008

**LTC Scott L. Efflandt, Commander of the 2-8th CAV, OIF 2006-2008** wrote on 13Dec07:

“Within the ranks, life here is coming to a close quickly. Our Relief in Place (RIP) with the incoming unit starts in 2 weeks and the final Transfer of Authority (TOA) is a month out. The activities associated with that, plus beautiful weather and a quiet Area of Operations (AO) have sustained moral. There is a decided leadership challenge these last few months. Everyone's emotions seem mercurial and very near the surface (to include mine), obviously motivation is a predictable challenge, and the families really start to show wear at month 12 of a deployment with significant 2nd order effects over here. As a commander I try to keep it in perspective, recognizing that my CSM and I have some exacting standards. To do this I look across the camp at all the others here; this comparison really shows the discipline, competence and commitment of 2-8 CAV Soldiers. When you step back and look at all the formations vicinity Camp Taji, one would never guess that 2-8 CAV was beginning month 15 of a trying deployment. These kids just humble me! They are a national treasure. “

## D Company (DEMON), 2-8th CAV, 1st Cavalry Division Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), 2006—2008



After a 15 month tour in Iraq, D Company, 2-8th CAV has returned home.. From Oct, 2006 through January, 2008, the 2/8th CAV in Iraq has been under the command of LTC Scott Efflandt. It was in mid 2005 when D 2/8th CAV was stood up, with MAJ Mark Weaver commanding. In Oct, 2006, the company was deployed to Iraq under the command of CPT Jerome Barbour. In late 2007, CPT Mike Doyle took command of D 2/8th CAV, when CPT Barbour moved to command HHC. At that time, MAJ Weaver moved from commanding HHC to the Rear Detachment. After 27 months as the Demon Company First Sergeant, 1SG William Tramel moved on and turned the job over to 1SG Ricky Linton. During the entire OIF tour, CPT Cory Wallace has remained the XO of the company. The Honor Roll for the Demon's are at the ASA website: <http://www.angryskipperassociation.org>. Never Forget.



# VA Aid and Attendance General Information

**What is Aid & Attendance?** Benefits for veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in bathing, dressing, meal preparation, medication monitoring or other various activities of daily living. This benefit is available to individuals who reside in assisted living communities, personal care homes, skilled nursing facilities and those receiving personal in-home care.

**How can these benefits help someone?** Aid and Attendance can help pay for care in the home, skilled nursing facility, personal care home or an assisted living community. The Aid and Attendance threshold for a veteran without dependents is now \$18,234 annually. The threshold increases to \$21,615 if the veteran has one dependent, and by \$1,866 for each additional dependent. The annual Aid and Attendance threshold for a surviving spouse alone is \$11,715. This threshold increases to \$13,976 if there is one dependent child and by \$1,866 for each additional child.

**Who is Eligible?** Any War Veteran with 90 days of active duty with at least one day during active War time. A surviving spouse of a War Veteran may be eligible if married at the time of death. The individual must qualify both medically and financially. Assets cannot exceed \$80K however, many things, including their home, vehicle, annuities, pre-paid funeral expenses and many other are not included in this number. For further information regarding financial qualifications, please seek the professional advice of an attorney or financial planner.

**Eligible dates are 4/21/1898-7/15/1903, 5/9/1916-11/11/1918, 12/07/1941-12/31/1946, 6/27/1950-1/31/1955, 8/5/1964-5/7/1975, 8/20/1990-present**

**How do I apply for this benefit?** There are two ways to apply for this benefit. There are some communities that will assist you in applying or refer you to a professional, who will complete the documentation for you. You may also apply by contacting your Regional Veteran's Administration Office. To locate the closest regional office to you, visit the VA website at <http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash+1>.

**How quickly would I receive the benefit?** This is determined by the accuracy of the initial application. The average process takes between 3-6 months. However, the VA does pay retroactively from the date of application. The resident is paid directly from the VA. This program financially assists the resident with paying their monthly rent, care and/or services.

Information can be found here: <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension/vetpen.htm#7>

**Aid and Attendance (A&A)** is a benefit paid in **addition** to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension.

Active internet web page links are found in a reprint of this information at the ASA website:

[http://angryskipperassociation.org/angry\\_skipper\\_association\\_newsletters.htm](http://angryskipperassociation.org/angry_skipper_association_newsletters.htm)

## New Members since the June, 2007 Newsletter:

John Hemphill, MG (ret); Bn Cmdr, 65-66  
Julius W. Clemmons, Weapons, 65-66  
George A. Hazel, Weapons, 65-66  
Robert H Fugitt, 1SG, 67-68  
Filipe Fuentes, MSG (ret), Mortar, 65-66  
Kerry Kowaleski, Weapons, 65-66

## Deceased Member/s: (Date of Death)

Edward "Ed Tucker, Wild Cat 67 (2Feb07)  
Brian Kuester, White Skull 66-67 (14July07)  
Roland C. Lassiter, Jr, Weapons, 65-66 (1980's)

### Membership count:

**Active Members: 707**  
**Members Online: 257**



Thanks to **Henry Cruz**, Skull 70-71 (Vice President) for his research and finding our comrades in arms.

## Angry Skipper Association, Inc. Treasurers Report

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.  
Profit & Loss (unaudited)  
January 1 through December 31, 2007

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.  
Balance Sheet (unaudited)  
December 31, 2007

### Ordinary Income & Expense

Income	
Banquet	\$ 4,224.00
Donations	22,633.22
Membership Dues	4,195.00
Registration Fees	730.00
Fund raising, Auctions, Tickets	0.00
Tours	2,240.00
Shirts, Hats, Patches	<u>3,481.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 37,503.22

### Expenses

Accounting (tax return)	\$ 925.00
ASA Website	478.50
Bank Service Charges	15.00
Banquet—Fri Event	4,387.30
Banquet—Saturday Event	4,440.40
Funeral/Flowers	900.70
Tours	2,118.00
Corporate	30.00
Entertainment—Reunion	2,550.00
Legal	1,045.00
Insurance	343.00
Miscellaneous (Flags)	1,942.64
Media Production/Copies	1,806.25
Member Assistance	1,007.16
Merchant Account	837.81
Postage & Delivery	1,494.75
Printing & Reproduction	5,464.00
Professional Services—Reunion	3,408.75
Refunds	129.00
Shirts, Hats & Patches	<u>2,397.48</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 35,720.74

Net Income (Loss) \$ 1,782.48

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets:

Checking	\$ 2,243.84
Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,243.84</u>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	<u>0.00</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 0.00

#### Equity

Opening Bal Equity	3,316.97
Retained Earnings	( 2,855.61)
Net Income	<u>1,782.48</u>

Total Equity \$ 2,243.84

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$ 2,243.84

### Vets can salute the Flag in civvies:

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform.

"Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not.

"I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

This Bill was passed July 25, 2007.



# Angry Skipper Association, Inc.<sup>SM</sup>



## May, 15th thru 18th, 2008 Reunion Registration Form Salt Lake City, Utah

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (AKA) \_\_\_\_\_ Platoon: \_\_\_\_\_ Yr(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many will be in your group? \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ In Case of Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 List First names of all in your group: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>No. of</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>May 16, 2008</b> - Friday				
6:00pm-10:00pm	Poolside BBQ w/ live entertainment	\$15.00	_____	_____
<b>May 17, 2008</b> - Saturday				
9:00am-2:30pm	Bus Tour to Park City	no charge	_____	_____
6:00pm-10:00pm	Reunion Banquet (check meal selection below)	\$32.00	_____	_____
	# of <i>Chicken Marsala</i> : _____ # <i>Baron of Beef</i> : _____ # of <i>Vegetarian Pasta</i> : _____ <i>(includes salad, roasted herb &amp; garlic potatoes, vegetable medley and carrot cake with cream cheese icing)</i>			
Shirts & Caps	Number of Reunion Shirts: (order by March 31st)	\$25.00	_____	_____
	Sizes: <i>Small</i> : _____ <i>Medium</i> : _____ <i>Large</i> : _____ <i>XL</i> : _____ <i>XXL</i> : _____			
	Number of ASA Caps	\$12.00	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL EVENTS REGISTRATION</b>				\$ _____

**MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION FEE:**

Membership Fee: 2008 member @ \$15 ea	\$	_____	.00
Membership Fee Life member @ \$200 ea.			.00
Registration Fee:		20.00	
Total Registration & Membership Fee:	\$	_____	.00
Contribution/donation:			.00
Total Events Registration from above:		_____	.00
<b>TOTAL PAYMENT:</b>	\$	_____	.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you want the membership card and/or shirt & cap and will not be attending the reunion. We will have the items mailed to you.

**Please register by April 15, 2008. Please complete form and mail with check (payable to Angry Skipper Association, Inc.) or with credit card info to:**

Register With Ease  
 Attn: Stacey Smith  
 473 Las Cruces  
 Winter Haven, FL 33884  
 Ph: 863.325-0077  
 Fax: 863.325-0051

**PAYMENT METHOD:** \_\_\_\_\_ Check Charge to (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Month/Year  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Do not send this form if you registered online at : <http://www.angryskipperassociation.org>



**Hotel Reservations: Phone 800.521-9997**  
*Tell them you are with the Angry Skipper Association group.*

**You must arrange your own Hotel room. It is not included in this registration.**  
**Your Welcome Package will be available in the Hospitality Suites. Please pick up your package when you arrive.**

## Salt Lake City, Utah 2008 Angry Skipper Association, Inc. Reunion

Our reunion will be held at the **Garden Inn Downtown, 154 West 600 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101** (<http://bwgardeninn.com/>) from **May 15th thru May 18, 2008**. You must call the Hotel and make your own reservations. Their number is **800.521-9997**. The hotel will honor the discounted group rates for our group for 3 days prior to May 15th and 3 days after May 17th for those early arrivals and stay-over's. **Complimentary breakfast** is included in your room rates. The hotel rates are as follows:

\$ 90.00 (singles and doubles); \$100.00 Triple; \$110.00 Quad;  
\$ 129.00 single & double suites; \$149.00 triple suites.

**You must tell the Hotel you are with the Angry Skipper Association for these preferred rates. They will not change the rate if you forget to tell them you are with the Angry Skipper Association group.**

The Best Western Salt Lake City Garden Inn and Convention Center provides lodging in downtown Salt Lake City in the heart of the city off Downtown I-15 and I-80 Exits. With 311 Rooms and Suites, the hotel is within walking distance of Temple Square, the Energy Solutions Arena, The Salt Palace Convention Center, the New Gateway Mall Complex, and the Central Business District. Located within the Trax light rail free fare Zone. The local train will take you anywhere throughout the downtown Salt Lake area at no-charge if you choose to ride over walking. **The Hotel provides complimentary shuttle to and from the airport.** (approximately 2 miles distance)

Our speaker this year will be MG (ret) John Hemphill. MG Hemphill was Commander of the 2-8th CAV 1965-1966. He was the 2nd Battalion Commander in-country for the 2/8th CAV. COL (ret) Frank Trapnell will introduce MG Hemphill. Frank Trapnell was Recon Platoon Leader in 1965.

Entertainment will be provided by Michael Tobian of Utah Live Bands. <http://www.utahlivebands.com> We have arranged for an 8 piece band for our Saturday banquet. For Friday's poolside gathering, we have arranged for a 4 piece band.

A tour, scheduled from 10:00am to 3:00pm, of Park City will include lunch. **Transportation and meal is complimentary.** For more information for the City of Salt Lake, visit: <http://www.visitsaltlake.com/> **Golfers, bring your clubs.**

Our hospitality suites will be located in the pool area, ground floor. **Suites 145 & 146.** The hours for the Hospitality suite is from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. The Hospitality suite will open Wednesday, May 14th at 12:00 p.m. and close at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 18th. When you arrive, please pick up your welcome package at the registration table. The package will contain your meal tickets, membership card, name tags, agenda, roster, shirts & caps, etc. Staffing in the **Hospitality Suite**, for delivery of the packages, will be:

Thur, May 15th:	10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Fri, May 16th:	12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Sat, May 17th:	3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Our flags (US Flag, POW/MIA, Company Guidon [2] & Division Flag) will hang off the 2nd floor balcony overlooking the pool area. We will hang the US Flag given to us by 1SG William Tramel of D ("Demon") Company, 2/8th CAV in Iraq. 1SG Tramel personally carried this flag into combat in Tarmiyah, Iraq.

The registration process will be handled by 'Register With Ease' ("Stacey Smith"). VISA and MasterCard will be accepted, as well. Stacey has set-up a website for online registrations. Go to <http://www.angryskipperassociation.org> for a direct link, or you can mail the registration, with check or credit card information, to the address on the registration form. You may also fax the form with credit card info directly to Stacey. Or, register on-line, then send the check, payable to Angry Skipper Association, Inc., to the Register With Ease address. Please bring your lanyard from last year, if you still have it.

As in previous years, we will mail membership cards, caps and shirts to those who order these items and can not attend the reunion. Golfer's, bring your clubs! There are excellent courses in Salt Lake City.

ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. SM  
P.O. BOX 501  
STOCKTON, NJ 08559

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED  
1ST CLASS  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
Permit #586



*"Remember the bad times once,  
Remember the good times forever"*

[ We're on the web:  
[www.angryskipperassociation.org](http://www.angryskipperassociation.org) ]

Before I was "found" back in '96 I didn't even know I was lost. I am used to being lost though---I can get myself in places GPS hasn't found yet.

But being "found" has been great. I am no longer hiding my Viet Nam service and am proud to be a member of the warmest brotherhood to come out of that war. Angry Skipper, D2/8, whatever & whomever, I look forward to seeing all of you all in Salt Lake City. Heck, I might even pay attention when Jan tells me how to get there. *By Chuck Hustedt, Skull, 69.*

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### **\$300 SS Benefits For Those Who Served**

Please share this with anyone who's had active duty service prior to January 2002 and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this: You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your military service, for active duty any time from 1940 through 2001 (the program was done away with in January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit (see below websites for more detail) credited at time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office - and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Soc Sec website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm> <<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>>

The Association will assist any member with transportation, lodging and meals who may have financial difficulty in attending an ASA National reunion. Please contact Ed Regan or Rich O'Brien, using the return address for this Newsletter, or by e-mail for consideration in receiving aid. Everything will be kept in strict confidence and handled discreetly. The association keeps cash reserves on-hand for this specific purpose. These are funds that donor's have made specifically for the purpose of helping members attend the reunion/s.