



# Walking Point

the newsletter for D Co. 2/8 Vietnam 1965-1972

# Introducing the Company Newsletter

Editor Stan Dillon

Welcome to the new look of the Angry Skipper newsletter *Walking Point*. The bi-annual newsletter for veterans of Delta Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.

We all have been blessed the last few years from the hard and dedicated work of two vet brothers, Ed Regan and Mike McGhee. Their efforts have enabled many of us to reunite over the last few years. Ed started writing a newsletter in the mid 90's sharing with us all his personal feelings about Vietnam and his life in general over the ensuing 30 years. At about the same time Mike

was developing the Angry Skipper internet home page contacting D 2/8 vet brothers and adding their email address to his on-line list (see related story).

"If you build it they will come." With the help of many other Angry Skipper veterans we are building upon Ed and Mike's idea. At approximately 750 names and addresses, of brothers who served in Co. D 2/8 from 1965-1972, our list is growing daily. The ultimate goal of course, is to try and get in contact with everyone who served in Angry Skipper.

As we move toward becoming a more cohesive organization it is my hope

that this newsletter will serve as an additional resource in conjunction with [www.angryskipper.org](http://www.angryskipper.org) in keeping you informed of upcoming reunions and angry skipper news from our brothers that were in D 2/8.

In each newsletter you will find a letter from our President (Ed Regan), information from Treasurer (Bob Burke) and all the latest news on Angry Skipper mini and full reunions.

In addition we hope to include stories from you the reader. Memories, current events, letters to the organization, book reviews, internet information, VA information and

## Delta 2/8 to meet in D.C.

### Veterans Day Mini Reunion 2001

The Angry Skipper *Mini Reunion* will be held Veterans Day weekend November 9-11, 2001 at the Hilton National/Crystal

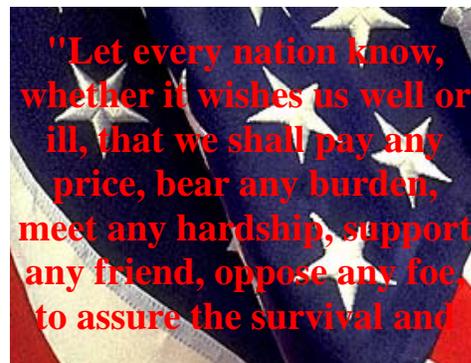
City, 2399 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA. Phone number for reservations is 1-800-774-1500 or direct to the hotel 703-418-6800. Room rates are \$99.00 plus tax. More information on the web at [www.angryskipper.org](http://www.angryskipper.org).



Vietnam Veterans Memorial, D.C.

### Inside this issue:

2002 Reunion News	2
President's Corner	2
Mouse's Doubleclick	3
Memoir Moment	4
On The Net For Vets	6
Editorial	6
VA News	Back page



# Angry Skipper Reunion 2002

information contributed by Rocky Colavita

Troopers make your plans now for the **Angry Skipper 2002 Reunion** in **Washington D.C.**

A block of 60 rooms is reserved at the **Holiday Inn Rosslyn (Va.) at Key Bridge**. They are available from Thursday, May 16 thru Monday, May 20. Special group rate is \$119.00 plus tax (tax rate is 9.75%). Cut off for reservations is April 26, 2002. Toll free reservation number is **1-800-368-3408**. Reservation code for Angry Skipper reunion is "ASK". After April 26, 2002, rooms can be reserved at regular rate. For 2001 this rate was 149.00; for 2002 we have been advised it will be higher.

Dinner at an Italian restaurant in DC for up to 60 people is being planned. Already reserved is a 57 passenger bus for

transportation to and from the hotel. Many mentioned in San Antonio that they will not want to wait long to go to the

Wall so the tentative plan is for up to two buses to depart from the hotel to the memorial, around 9:45 am.



Rocky is also coordinating with Congressman Tom Davis' office for an exclusive tour of the Capitol for our reunion and an audience with someone significant. His point of contact in the congressman's office mentioned the possibil-

ity of Senator McCain or the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, but that is yet to be worked out.

Our banquet back at the hotel is scheduled for 7:00 pm Saturday and Rocky has contacted a very impressive individual to be the guest speaker, but that too is not yet firm.

For some DC activities a list of participant names are necessary; if you are planning on attending please assist us in the planning by filling out the check boxes and returning the response form on page 7.

Questions? See [www.angryskipper.org](http://www.angryskipper.org) or contact Stan Dillon using the newsletter response form or by calling. **Hope to see all of you there!**

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Burke

Angry Skipper is organizing under title 15A Non-Profit Corp. as a domestic non-profit entity in the state of New Jersey.

Once the state requirements are satisfied we will file our Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c) 19 - A post, organization, auxiliary unit, etc. of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Once we have filed and received the IRS approval as an exempt organization I can open our bank account.

In addition, any donations made to the Angry Skipper Organization could be considered a charitable contribution and may be a tax deduction for the donor. More detailed information concerning the deducibility of contributions will follow in the next newsletter.

As we discussed at the San Antonio meeting we will follow the First Cavalry Association By-Laws and method of reporting in case we decide at some future time to affiliate ourselves with them.

If any one has any questions please feel free to email me at [bob@reburkecpa.com](mailto:bob@reburkecpa.com) and I will answer your questions in the newsletter as well.

Your treasurer, Bob Burke

## President's Corner

President Ed Regan

I commend Stan Dillon for taking the time and energy to put together this premier edition of our newsletter.

It brings great satisfaction to me and a rewarding sense of accomplishment to see "Angry Skipper" reaching this level of organization.

What started as a hobby has grown and matured with a lot of help from my fellow veterans of "Angry Skipper" to

perhaps the paramount organization of Vietnam Veterans.

The "Angry Skipper" website created by Mike "Mouse" McGhie has augmented our presences among the elite organizations.

God works in mysterious ways and I am eternally grateful for being part of "Angry Skipper".

See You in Washington DC this coming Veteran's Day Weekend and see you next May at our annual reunion again in Washington DC hosted by Skipper 6 Henry "Rocky" Colavita. "Happy Trails until we meet again."

Honor and Courage

Ed Regan

Range One India

As most of you on-line know we have had Two Web Sites on the internet to honor the men who served in D Company, 2nd BN, 8th Cavalry in Vietnam. I write the web site called "Angry Skipper" ([www.angriskyper.org/](http://www.angriskyper.org/)) and Garry Bruckner (70-71) writes the Skyrooper Tour of Duty" Web Site ([www.skytroopers.org/](http://www.skytroopers.org/)). If you are on-line you should be listed on the "Angry Skipper" Vets on-line page ([www.angriskyper.org/html2.htm](http://www.angriskyper.org/html2.htm)) if not you can add your name by contacting me by e-mail at [mcghie@prodigy.net](mailto:mcghie@prodigy.net).

Garry has linked to all the vital "Angry Skipper" pages such as the "Reunion News" page and the "AS" Vets on-line page. The reunion news page gives you dates and places where D2/8 reunions were or will be held.

As of this date almost 60,000 visitors have been to the "Angry Skipper" web site and over 850 former 1st Cavalry Vietnam Veterans are listed on our "Locator Pages". I have also started giving the "Angry Skipper Web Site Award" to Vietnam Veteran related pages that are well written, honest and provide important information to Veterans.



If any of you have viewed a page that you feel is deserving of our award, send me the URL and I will present that webmaster with the award on your behalf.

This November many of us will be meeting again in Washington D.C. for the Ia Drang reunion. It will be a special reunion in light of the recent tragedies our nation has endured. I'm looking forward to being with my brothers in our Capitol City this coming Veteran's Day. My thanks go out to Stan Dillon for his work on this newsletter and to our president Ed Regan for his contributions to this organization of proud warriors. I also want to take this opportunity to thank those who have hosted past reunions throughout the country.

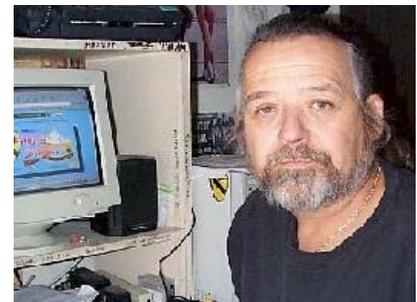
Other Veteran's organizations have followed our lead and are now enjoying mini and regular reunions around the U.S. (I'm not saying we were the first but through our web site many have come to see our organizational skills and have started their own programs.)

Two of our former Commanding Officers are deeply involved in our organization,

Bill Neal (70-71) and Henry "Rocky" Colavita (68-69). Two other former CO's have attended reunions, Ed Livingston (69) and Rod Grannemann (68). Several of our former platoon leaders have also been attending reunions and we hope eventually to have them all with us.

Last but not least, the plans for our reunion next May are complete and will appear on the reunion news page this week as well as in this newsletter. I urge you to make your reservations as early as possible. You may not be able to make flight reservations at this time but you can make your room reservations early to help the reunion host (Rocky) get an idea of the numbers to expect. See you all soon.

Mike "Mouse" McGhie (68-69)



## Memoir Moment

submitted by: Bill Neal

*This is the first installment of Memoir Moment, a regular feature of Walking Point highlighting a single memory or story from a D2/8 trooper. Your submissions are always welcome.*

### Firefight on the Mountain

I'm not sure I have all the facts right, but here is how I remember it. No names will be used in this story to protect the guilty – especially a certain LT, a skillful point man, and an RTO.

Angry Skipper had just returned from R&R in Vung Tau early in the morning sometime in June of '71. A lot of troops were seriously hung over. We were supposed to go into base security at LZ Fanning. However, as we were landing, one

of the Battalion staff officers ran out to the pad to escort me into the TOC for a briefing. A Pink Team had taken fire from a mountain redoubt near old LZ Fountain. They fired back with CS gas and called in artillery. Our orders were to saddle up immediately and head up the mountain to flesh them out. We had a brand new Battalion CO named Blagg, who was out doing a recon of the AO, so I never got a chance to meet him.

We choppered in to an LZ at the bottom of the mountain and started to move straight up in our V – one platoon forward and two back. After about an

hour of going up what seemed like a 45-degree climb, there were a lot of green faces all around me, and I wasn't feeling so great myself.

Just as we were starting up a particularly steep part of the mountain I heard the lead platoon's point and back-up open fire, then I heard the lead squad go on line firing rock 'n roll. I turned to the Battalion RTO and told him to inform Battalion we were in contact, and the FO to set for a fire mission.

**"Just as we were starting up ... I heard the lead platoon's point and back-up open fire"**

continued

## Memoir Moment *continued*

I then grabbed the company radio and asked for a sitrep. After a very long silence the platoon RTO started to speak. Just then the whole platoon must have opened up on rock 'n roll. I didn't know it then, but at that very moment the new LTC Blagg, up in the C'nC, had keyed into our company net to monitor the situation, and, of course the first thing he heard was the lead platoon blazing away. This was his first fire-fight as CO.

After about 15 seconds of all out return fire – silence. I ordered the flank platoons to move forward as the CP was trying to do, but it was slow moving. I finally raised the lead platoon's RTO again and demanded to talk to the platoon 6. 'He's up front somewhere, I can't see him' was the reply "Well, get his ass on the horn, now!"

My Battalion RTO hands me the horn and says it's the CO wanting a sitrep. As I key the mike, the lead platoon opens up again. The only thing I can tell the CO is that we're moving forward to get an assessment of what's going on. Of course, all he is hearing every time he monitors us is a lot of firing and a lot of huffing and puffing on my part.

Meanwhile the FO is putting in marking rounds further up the mountain and informs me that Battalion has inbound ARA due in three minutes. We also have two Pink Teams circling over the AO

looking for something to shoot at. The FO then informs me that Battalion has called for four sorties of F-100's to divert to our location, and the FAC is inbound to our location.



I get on the horn to tell the lead platoon to get smoke out. Silence again. It finally occurs to me I haven't heard a single AK round and no grenades. Hmmm.

We finally run into the rear elements of the lead platoon where they have dropped their heavies and ask "Where the f\_\_\_'s the GD LT?" "Up front." "What the hell's going on?" "I donno." So we keep moving.

The FO is going nuts between his own artillery, the pick teams, the ARA, which is now on station, and the FAC that is telling him that he needs a target for the F-100's. In fact, everybody's looking for something to shoot at and I have no idea what the hell is going on or where to shoot.

As I break through some thick brush and look up, I see about half the platoon standing around in a circle looking at the ground. By this time I'm in a seriously pissed off mood and start chewing ass in all directions, but it's having little effect – probably because nobody can hear me

because of all the aircraft flying around overhead.

As I get to the circle, I see what's left of two shot-to-hell-and-back ground monkeys.

The enormity of the situation hits me like a brick. We had just spent about a million dollars to kill two monkeys, and the new Battalion CO was going to look like a turkey.

Ah, to tell the truth – we killed two monkeys, or to fudge a bit and say we got two step-ons. Too bad those monkeys weren't carrying papers or AK's.

The hunt for targets by all the air assets was getting critical, so I had to make a quick decision. It had to be the bloody truth.

When I told the CO, I thought I was going to be relieved then and there, but I just got a very serious ass chewing. Hell of a way to get introduced to your new CO!

Epilogue: The next day we did find the enemy's cache they were protecting – that's where we got a bunch of B-40's, small arms, bags of rice, numerous bolts of black pajama cloth, and four Singer sewing machines.

Bill "Skipper 6" Neal

*All submitted stories are subject to editing for style and content. Stories can be emailed or sent to Walking Point using the information on the response form page 7.*

*contributed by: Stan Dillon*

## PTSD

### Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder among Vietnam Veterans

Most of us have turned that 50-year mark and more and more of our Angry Skipper Vets are being treated in a VA hospital for PTSD. Our war was a war that no one wanted and we never received the recognition we truly deserved. We came back to our homes and a lot of us hid our

feelings and jumped right into the mainstream of society. We got a job, had a family and moved on; still remembering the past war that no one wanted and remembering the brothers that were killed over there. We never discussed it much because we thought no one would understand. As I think back and remember the pressure that was put on us, from walking point to the stresses the Squad Leader, the

Platoon Leader and the "Skipper" CO had to endure. From the rush of a firefight to the stillness of an ambush at night to the panic of dragging a wounded buddy to a chopper taking fire. So many terrible things we all experienced.

Some veterans have been continually depressed since their experiences in Vietnam while others have delayed symptoms just appearing now. They have sleep

## PTSD *continued*

disturbance, feelings of worthlessness and difficulty concentrating. Some feel isolated and distant from their peers. They feel that most non-veteran peers would rather not hear what the combat experience was like. Therefore, they feel rejected or alone.

Some have rage for no reason. They may strike out at those they love the most, their wives and children. They avoid hitting their loved ones and instead may strike a door or wall to release that rage. They get mad at their boss and usually have a record of constantly changing jobs because they do not respect authority.

Some veterans alienate their wives and have an avoidance of feelings. Many veterans recount episodes in which they did not feel anything when they witnessed the death of a buddy in combat or the more recent death of a close family relative. Most feel guilt as they recount the death of a comrade in combat and



always wonder, "Why wasn't it me."

Some have anxiety reactions, often from a loud, sudden noise or people walking close to them. Some veterans are uncomfortable when standing out in the open. Many are uneasy when sitting with others behind them, often opting to sit up against something solid, such as a wall. Eye to eye contact while talking to another person can create anxiety.

The one I think relates to me the most are classified as Intrusive Thoughts. Traumatic memories; replaying in the mind problematic combat experiences over and over again. Many criticize themselves for what they might have done to change a specific past situation, suffering subsequent feelings of guilt. "If I had only done that differently then we wouldn't have walked into that ambush." The vast majority suffering from this symptom report that these thoughts are very un-

comfortable, yet they are unable to put them to rest. Personally, I know a lot of my memories come back when I hear a helicopter flying overhead or when driving down a road looking at tree lines for someone to jump out.

I'm always reminded when talking about PTSD of a VA rep who as our guest speaker at the reunion in Las Vegas stated that all we were all in good health, mind and body, when we went to Vietnam. He also stated that just by being in combat we could receive a compensation rating. Some of our "Angry Skipper" brothers are receiving disability compensation from the VA for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A few are even receiving a disability rating of 100%.

My fellow brothers if you think you may need help for Chronic or Delayed PTSD please contact your nearest VA hospital. In fact I shall heed my own advice and make an appointment.

## Reunion 2000 Recap — San Antonio

### Good time had by all in Lone Star State!

The Angry Skipper 2001 reunion in San Antonio was quite a success and one of the best we've ever had. Our hosts Ken Patek, Ray Haley and Sgt. B (Clyde Bonnellycke) did an outstanding job. The weather was great for us Yankees and just right for the San Antonio natives. So many things to see and do in just a few days made scheduling ones time quite difficult.

The River walk, The Alamo, Mission Trail, Market Square and yes, Golf for those of us who are still trying to hit, and then find, that little white ball. Thanks to Ray Haley our golf coordinator who made all of the golf reservations and selected some great golf courses.

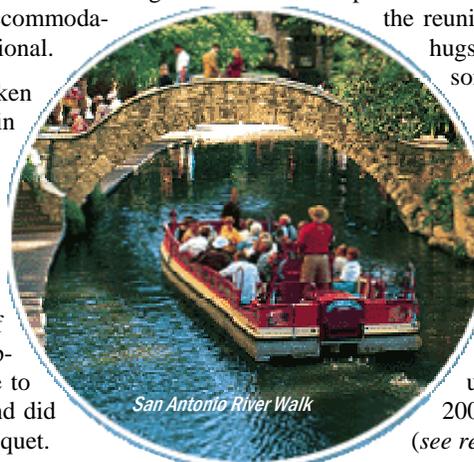
Our thanks also goes to the great people who took care of us at the Holiday Inn Market Square. The food was great and the banquet accommodations were exceptional.

The number taken from the sign-in sheet showed 117 attended the banquet and the same list indicated 67 were Angry Skipper Vets. A few of our fellow troopers only had time to stop for a visit and did not attend the banquet.

Hats off to Lt. Mike Martin who really worked hard in reuniting many of

the men that were in his *White Skull Platoon* in 1971. They may have had the most present from one single platoon at the reunion. The smiling faces, hugs and yes tears were something special to see.

A special Angry Skipper thanks goes to Col. Bacon, and his lovely wife, for joining us and serving as the guest speaker at the banquet. We hope he will be able to attend our next reunion scheduled for 2002 in Washington D.C. (see related story)



## The Trusted Online Home For America's Military Community

Military.com, the largest online destination for the military community, meets the unique needs of military consumers for career transition, VA loans, financial planning, GI Bill, travel, relocation and more. We serve, connect and inform the 80 million Americans in the broader military audience -- active duty, retirees, veterans, reservists, guardsmen, defense workers, family members, enthusiasts, and those considering a military career.

Military.com is the online presence of Military Advantage, a company offering solutions to military consumers as well as the companies and the government agencies that serve them. Founded by mem-

bers of the military community, the Military Advantage team also includes two



former members of the Joint Chiefs, historian Dr. Stephen Ambrose, and other military, academic, and business leaders. Funded by The Mayfield Fund, US Venture Partners, Primedia Ventures, and A&E Television Networks, Military Advantage has offices in San Francisco and Washington.

In each newsletter "On The Net For Vets" will provide information about and a rating for different Internet Websites that offer helpful, insightful or humorous information for Military Veterans.

This review is for [www.military.com](http://www.military.com). One of the most comprehensive and well designed web sites on the Internet. The benchmark for all other veteran/military related sites.

rating: 5 of a possible 5 patches



## Book Review

reviewed by: Contributing Editor Jeff Dillon

Perhaps one of the most difficult tasks for today's military historian is to chronicle the history of an entire war. Beginning to end: the political ins and outs, the social ramifications, the tactics, the strategy and the daily life of the combatants. A monumental task, as even the shortest of conflicts (the Falkland Islands War for example) is far from a simple tale. Much more difficult is for the historian to accomplish

this in a single volume. Especially for a subject as long in duration and as important to the history of a nation as the Vietnam War. Stanley Karnow has been able to do just that with his 1983 *Vietnam A History*. The

*"Even those of us who think we know something about it will read with fascination."*

*-The New York Times*

Pulitzer Prize winning work is a must read for those interested in the history of this era in American history. Introduced to me nearly a decade ago I come back to it time and again for research and reference and the occasional re-read. I highly recommend this book which is widely available.

## Editorial

### September 11, 2001

Our hearts and prayers go out to those who lost family members and friends on this most tragic day in our Nation's History.

The acts of terrorism brought against our country at the World Trade Center the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania are far beyond anything we, or the world have ever seen. As infantry veterans we all

understand the horrors of war and yet, combat veterans interviewed working in the aftermath, while searching for survivors at the WTC, stated that they had never seen anything so devastating.

I have confidence that our military will hunt down this mad dog, Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice. We also must pray that the citizens of this great nation stand behind our leaders and

troops. We Vietnam veterans all know the feeling of being betrayed and abandoned. To the soldiers who will have to go fight this war our thoughts and prayers are with you also.

"they cannot dent the steel of American resolve"

-Pres. George W. Bush

# Letters

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Newsletter



response

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**If you plan to attend the Angry Skipper Reunion in Washington DC, May of 2002 please indicate below as some planned activities may require the names of the participants. Thank You.**

YES! I plan on attending the 2002 DC reunion!

names of attendees

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Your suggestions, comments and story or news submissions are always welcome and encouraged; these along with any address changes or corrections should be sent to the address or email provided below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

*President Ed Regan*

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

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

## Vietnam Related VA News

source: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### Rules Published for VA's Diabetes-Agent Orange Benefits

WASHINGTON -- Vietnam veterans with "Type 2" diabetes came closer today to receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with the formal publication of the rules that will allow VA to provide benefits to those veterans.

"The hazards of the battlefield include more than bullets and shells," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "As our understanding of the health risks faced by our military personnel increases, VA will adjust its programs and benefits to fit the needs of veterans."

Principi's announcement came as the *Federal Register* today published VA's final rules for benefits for Vietnam veterans with "Type 2" diabetes. Under federal law, those rules don't take effect for 60 days. However, VA offices are already

accepting claims from eligible Vietnam veterans.

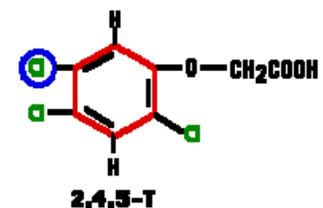
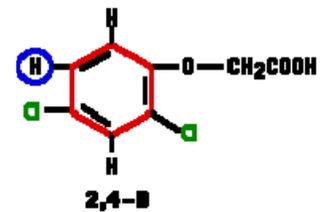
Veterans affected by the new rules will receive a priority for VA health care, and, depending upon the severity of their illnesses, disability compensation that ranges from \$101 to \$2,107 monthly.

Today's announcement follows a report in November by the National Academy of Sciences' prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM) that found "limited / suggestive" evidence of a link between adult-onset, or Type 2, diabetes, and Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam.

VA estimates that about 9 percent of the 2.3 million Vietnam veterans still alive have Type 2 diabetes. The illness is characterized by high blood sugar levels caused by the body's inability to process the hormone insulin. Approximately 16 percent of veterans currently receiving care in VA medical facilities have been

diagnosed with diabetes.

Cost of the new benefit during the next five years is projected to be \$3.3 billion, with about 220,000 veterans receiving benefits.



*Agent Orange Molecule*