



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter,  
Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)  
WEBSITE: [www.b-2-1-196lib.com](http://www.b-2-1-196lib.com)



Volume 3

*A Soldier's Footsteps*

October, 2011

**Commander's Corner:** Well, It looks like it is official and the 2/1 Chapter is an integral part of the Americal Division Veterans' Association (ADVA). The stark realization set in when I had to give an impromptu speech in front of the annual meeting (jumpy as a cat on a hot tin roof). I think I gave thanks the ADVA for accepting our charter request, mentioned the fact that we are looking for any 2/1 veterans/relatives to join us, and mentioned the 2/1 Infantry web site. Other than that, it's sort of a blank.

We didn't have quite as many comrades in attendance as we did in Chicago but, considering the distance from most of us, it was pretty good. B 2 /1 guys in attendance were: Marlin "Eggy" Egeland, Roger Grazioplene, Jesse Mendoza, Rich Heroux, Bill Chrest, Danny Dingus, Ron Pettitt, Don Hicks, Melchor "Melch" Garza, and myself. We picked up 5 new members for the 2/1 web site: Chrest, Pettitt, Garza, Spencer Baba (HHC 2/1) and Jim Pendleton (associate member). The assembled members of the chapter voted to charge a small annual dues fee to cover the cost of the web site and for mailing information to our membership. If you receive a newsletter via snail mail, please get us an email address if you have one; it will save us some money. If you don't, no sweat GI, you'll still get one in the mail. Annual dues will be solicited starting in January. We'll send out a reminder. On a side note, I ventured to the south of Kansas to visit one of our comrades, Harry "Harvey" "Hobart" Humbert who lives in Winfield. I spent about 5 hours with Harry Humbert rehashing the past, present, and future. Harry was his usually funny self and his wife, Sherry, was great as usual. She has convinced Harry to make a road trip to my pig roast on Oct. 8th; so we're finally getting the boy out of Kansas. Last time that happened was our B 2/1 trip to Washington, D.C., in 1993.

I will be attending the annual Indiana Veterans' reunion in Kokomo, Indiana, September 16<sup>th</sup>, where several of the B 2/1 group and some friends have been attending for around 20 years. Attendance for the weekend is around 40,000 people and it's always a good time. I'll have some comments on the reunion in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Since this is my first stab at the world of journalism, I'll call it a day. **Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!**

**Editors Notes:** Thanks to all who have presented something to print in this month's edition. We are sure you will find the items noteworthy. The *newsletter* has been successfully uploaded into the 2nd Battalion Website. If you missed an issue you can find it there. We have also included the Web address in the heading of the N/L so everyone can have ready access to the WEBSITE. If you have anything relating to this N/L, email or write them at the following addresses; Email: [rheroux1@nc.rr.com](mailto:rheroux1@nc.rr.com) or [gcarder@columbus.rr.com](mailto:gcarder@columbus.rr.com). Snail Mail: Rich Heroux, 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7300 or Gary Carder, 1725 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228.

**Navy SEAL Quote of the Week:** The Strong Silent Type! Dana Perrino ( Fox News) describing an interview she recently had with a Navy SEAL. After discussing all the countries he had been sent to, she asked if they had to learn several languages?

His reply: *"Oh no ma'am, we don't go there to talk."*

**MEDICARE PREMIUM INCREASE:** For those of you who are on Medicare, read the article below. It's a short but important article that you probably haven't heard about in the mainstream news: The per person Medicare insurance premium will increase from the present **monthly fee** of **\$96.40**, rising to: **\$104.20** in 2012; **\$120.20** in 2013; and **\$247.00** in 2014.

These are provisions incorporated in the *2010 Health Care Reform Act*, purposely delayed so as not to 'confuse' the 2012 re-election campaigns. This is the amount **automatically deducted from your monthly Social Security check**.

**A DVA Scholarships Announced:** Were you aware that the Americal Division Veterans Association awards yearly scholarships to deserving bright student relatives for it's members. The program started in 1993 when the ADVA awarded a single scholarship of \$300. This year 2011, the Association awarded 52 grants totaling \$45,500. That is quite a jump over the years. The money to fund these scholarships are derived from the annual raffle and donations from ADVA members, families and friends. If you or a member of your family is considering the furthering of their education, the ADVA Scholarship would be a worthy place to start looking for funding. The application can be found on the ADVA website. It's easy to accomplish and the chances for approval are great. So get started. The AEDVA website can be reached through the Battalion website.

**THE NEW GUY:**

New guy in country.

Just a grunt looking at three hundred sixty five days.

This is the day I arrive.

Past black body bags laying on the tarmac in the heat.

I knew what they were.

Met a priest, or he met me?

Said a prayer and gave me a cross.

Kinda nervous.

Did I just get the last rites my first day here?

Apparently not.

It's thirty two years later.

I'm still alive.

The cross from the priest still swings gently around my neck.

Bruce Nielsen; 7-8-2001

**"The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."** -- Thomas Jefferson

**"There are two ways to conquer and enslave a nation. One is by the sword. The other is by debt."**

**John Adams 1826**

### **Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall:**

Most of the surviving Parents are now Deceased. There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going out to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E - May 25, 1968), then resuming at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and end meet. A 36 year period. The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.
- 8,283 were just 19 years old; 33,103 were 18 years old;
- 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old; 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old; One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.
- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam .
- 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam .
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.
- 54 soldiers on attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia .
- 8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.
- Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.
- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.
- The Marines of Morenci, AZ (pop. 5,058) Nine High School seniors enlisted in the Marine Corps. as a group on Independence Day 1966. Only 3 returned home.
- The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.
- The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wife's, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

**Army Cutting 50,000 Soldiers:** U.S. Army plans to reduce its number of Soldiers by nearly 50,000 during a five-year span, a **Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick** said. The service personnel chief said the reductions would start in March 2012. The Army will cut forces in various ways, including buyouts, voluntary and involuntary separations and retirements, to bring the total to 520,400 active-duty Soldiers by Sept. 30, 2016, the report said.

Bostick said the Army would focus first on the temporary 22,000-Soldier increase started three years ago to support The troop surge in Afghanistan. A second phase will involve Soldiers added during an expansion that began in 2007. "We are currently reviewing the lessons drawn from the 1990s as captured in reports by the Army, Congressional Budget Office and the other services to ensure that we retain as much experience as possible from the ongoing conflicts [in Iraq and Afghanistan]."

**Americal Legacy Comes Alive:** In June of this year the ADVA Legacy committee submitted its final text for the new monument planned for the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA. The text outlines the Americal Division's history that is planned for the monument's back panels. Another portion of the display will honor those members of the Division who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was decided during our recent annual reunion in Colorado Springs, CO to have the 2012 reunion in Georgia. Atlanta is the choice location because of easy and economical transportation. The dates are not firmed up as yet but it looks like September or October is preferred. The reunion will serve as a means to allow Americal Division members to see their legacy preserved for future reference and honor. Dedication ceremonies are being planned for the Atlanta reunion. We anticipate a large attendance, so plan accordingly. More to come later as planning continues.



**Site Chosen For Army Museum:** The North Post of Fort Belvoir, VA will be the home of the U.S. Army Museum, scheduled to open in June 2015. Museum construction will be funded privately through the Army Historical Foundation, a non-profit organization. Initial work will include a multistory main museum building with exhibit halls, a theater, food service and retail areas, and an experiential learning center. The Army is the only service without a centralized museum. The National Museum of the Marine Corps is at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA; the National Museum of the U.S. Navy is at the Washington, DC., Navy Yard; the National Museum of the Air Force is at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and the Coast guard Museum is at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

**Caregivers Receive First Payments:** A VA program that provides stipends to family members who care for troops wounded since Sept. 11, 2001, issued its first payments recently. The first group of 176 caregivers trained through VA's *Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers* program received an average of \$ 1,600 in monthly stipends. The amounts of the stipends are based on the condition of the veteran, the amount of care he or she requires and the geographic location of the veteran. Since May 9, 1,250 caregivers have applied for the program which includes comprehensive training. Those interested can review eligibility criteria and download the caregiver application at [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)

**Letters to the Editors:**

**L** Thanks for the note. It's been a wild ride since my "Delta6" days in Vietnam. I started out my Americal days as a Platoon Leader for the 3/21 and was wounded and sent back out as CO of Delta 2/1. Blasted by a booby trap in April 68 and sent home crated up in a body cast. Went on to a major career in the media. President of MTV Networks in NYC. President of Channel One (Anderson Cooper/Lisa Ling) President of Multimedia, sold to Gannet in the 90s. Now CEO of OneMinuteNews.com, news/information website for 18-34 year olds and CEO of Greenlaw/Marshall Communications (we purchase network affiliated TV stations). Been around the World, Adventure Traveling and high altitude mountain climbing (something we can still do at our age, if in good enough shape) Did Kilimanjaro in Africa, Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere. Doing Elbrus in Russia next in the Spring/Summer of 2012 and Denali in Alaska is Summer of 2013. Hope to do 6 of the 7 major mountain summits. Can't do Everest, too old. But will climb to the Everest Base Camp and do some volunteer clean up. I'll keep climbing until I can't anymore or agent orange gets me! Stay healthy. Best Regards, *Doug Greenlaw*

Remember when we were on the island, it was the night when the first man walked on the moon, it was a nice peaceful night but I had dug a fox hole right next to my radio anyway. I was a few feet away from my radio when we started getting mortars. I headed for the fox hole stopping only long enough to grab my radio and I fell into the hole. I landed on someone already there and a few seconds later two more grunts landed on top of me. I felt blood dripping onto my face so I told the guys on top of me that one of them was hit but we did not move until it was over and we found out that the guy above me had hit his nose on my radio and busted it open and he did not even know it. It was funny after it was all over but not while we were getting hit.

*Don Hicks (RTO)*



**P**articipants at the 2011 Americal Division Veterans' Association (ADVA) Reunion: Pictured above are the members of our Chapter that attended the reunion in Colorado Springs in September. From left to right is Jim Pendleton, Roger Grazioplene, Jesse Mendoza, Rich Heroux, Ronnie Pettit, Don Hicks, Marlin (Eggy) Egeland, Danny Dingus, William Chrest, and Chuck Holdaway. Absent are Spenser Baba & Melchor "Melch" Garza.

*Mike Keefe THE DENVER POST 2003*



**I** remember in 1969 when Delta 2/1 (I think) was working with us out in the sands. This particular day we were the lead squad directly behind Delta. They had some contact up front that slowed things down. While taking a break, I was nosing around and found several spider holes. The rear troops from Delta said "don't bother checking those out... our guys up front already did!" Being rather skeptical, as I can be, I decided to do some investigating of my own. I found a bloody GI bandage, and a Chicom hidden in that first hole. I decided, to put one of my grenades in next to the Chicom, and then proceeded to tie one end of that bandage, to the ring of my grenade, (I had pre-straightened the pull ring pin). I had wedged the two grenades in the spider hole with some fallen banana tree logs. (Perhaps I may have done this after witnessing someone's attempt to blow an enemy grenade in place). Anyway, we got a "Fire in the hole" and everyone went over the closest berm, prior to my getting ready to yank on the other end of that used GI bandage. I gave it a quick jerk, and ran perpendicular to the hole, along the berm it was located in. Laid out there, waiting for the big bang.... which never came! As people started peeking their heads up, and looking back over at me. They pointed behind me... It seems the bandage got caught on my web-belt on my canteen top, located out on my right hip. And I had drug that GI grenade out of that hole, and it was not more than 5 or 6 feet behind me! Talk about a pucker factor... after my nerves steadied enough to unattached myself from the GI grenade, I could see that one prong on the pin was not as straight as I first thought. So I carefully picked it up, and return to drop it in that spider hole next to the Chicom, (right after pulling the pin by hand, and doing the spoon drop method...) What a hoot now, but I was sure shaking then! I had amazed & quickly amused those drag end grunts from Delta, in a matter of minutes... They couldn't believe their guys had missed that stuff, and they couldn't believe I almost blew myself up, only minutes after finding that same stuff!!!! LOL

My Guardian Angel was working overtime on this and so many other occasions, like my tripped booby-trap leaving Tien Phuc, as we were putting out trip-flares for our one last night there in March of "69"!!!! Come to think of it, the same company Delta was up front of us that same day too. And there lead squad hit a booby-trap on the front side of that same hill then as well! (The only difference was at Tien Phouc, their booby-trap went off, and messed up at least 4 grunts... and mine didn't, and saved us two? *Bo Borysiak*

**The four Americal comrades presented in last month's photograph from 1995 are from left to right — Robert Stonebook, Gerry "Bo" Borysiak, Jerry Hughes and Craig Weaver.**