

Co. F Newsletter, Winter 2011



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Greetings from snowy Michigan.

The primary purpose of this issue of this Co. F newsletter is to alert all of you about a potentially serious problem associated with Agent Orange exposure. According to Dan Nate, 75th Ranger Regiment Association VA Advocate (and one of our own), the Cu Chi area was the most heavily defoliated area in Vietnam (see chart on page 6 and the inserted map). The chart is a little difficult to interpret, but you'll notice the first horizontal row under "BASECAMP" indicates that the Cu Chi area was targeted for spraying missions involving 39 kilometers over a four-year period from 1967 through 1970, for an "exposure day" total of **519**. I don't have exact coordinates or locations for the spraying, but this is information that may be very important to your VA claims. This may very well be the most important document you'll ever need. I urge you to contact Dan Nate at: dannate1@verizon.net if you have any question or need clarification.

In Tribute

And now some sad news about several of our brothers. We have recently lost two men from the F/75 family (Al Janiszewski and Jim Arp), and I found out that we also lost Jim Kivipeltol in 2007. I have added a couple of comments about Jim Arp and Al Janiszewski taken from various Facebook accounts and emails. Later on in this newsletter, I'll include a list of our comrades who have passed since 2004 supplied by Bill Mrkvicka. I'll start with a thought or two about Jim Kivipeltol.

Jim Kivipeltol and I were in country together in 1970. He was the ATL on Gene Lintner's team when I was a member. I'll always remember the time Jim ("Kip") and I hitched a ride on a Huey up to Nui Ba Din during a stand-down. We both knew the radio guys up there and hadn't seen them in quite a while, and we just HAD to get a picture standing next to the world-famous "Uncle Ho's Memorial Shithouse". That picture, along with the picture of Lintner's team still hangs on my wall. Being the respectful LRRPs that all of us were, we okayed it with our Platoon Sgt. (Colin Hall) before we left. At least I remember okaying it in advance. SFC Hall has argued that we didn't - and he had more stripes than me & Kip combined. Anyway, I seem to vaguely remember that he said it would be okay as long as we went up and back on the same day. What could possibly go wrong? It comes as no surprise to anyone who ever laid eyes on the "Black Virgin" that very often she didn't cooperate. Well, the weather changed that afternoon and were fogged in for about a week. No choppers on or off the mountain. Kip & I only had the set of fatigues we wore on the flight up there, so by the 5th or 6th day we were pretty ripe. We pulled a little guard duty but really didn't have much else to do. Well, that is if you don't include the fun Kip had tossing "Willie Pete" grenades off the mountain at night, just to see if we could get a good picture. Needless to say SFC Hall was not pleased at our

absence. I won't tell you exactly what he said to us, but suffice it to say our immediate futures were in serious jeopardy. Kip will be missed by all who knew him.

Jim Arp - from Mark Ponzillo Jim was the first NCO to walk into the "D" Troop area and ask for a job. He was Ranger qualified and getting ready to rotate back to the states. He became my/our "Dog-Robber". He was good at it and helped the LRRPs get a lot of stuff that was really needed but not in the supply chain. He was one of the many silent contributors to the program who never got proper credit for his efforts. Hell, if anyone knew what he was doing he would have gone to jail. He will always be a part of the original unit. God Bless Him.
Mark

Al Janiszewski - From Dave Riddell. You're right, Dan. Al does deserve recognition and respect from all of us, especially me! Al and I were hootch mates at Cu Chi for nine months; but before that we shared a lot of training history: Leadership Training Course and AIT at Fort McClelland; NCOC and Jump School at Fort Benning where my wife and I met Jeannie, Al's beloved wife; New acting Sgts with an AIT class at Fort Polk; Recondo School at Nha Trang; and of course, many missions together in Vietnam. You can't spend that much time with a man and not remember, right Dan? Why, the last thing I did before leaving the Ranger company at Cu Chi for the last time was to give Al my spit shined para boots he always admired, leaving them beneath his bunk because he was in the field. If I had Tammie's e-mail address I would send her some photos I have of her dad and perhaps share a few more memories of our old and valued colleague, Al Janiszewski. Dave Riddell

Al Janiszewski from Dennis Petersen (aka Dennis Gordon). Very sorry to hear this. I actually remember very little about my time in Viet Nam, but I certainly remember Ski. He was my team leader on my first mission. You are all correct he was a great friend. When I was going to go on R&R he had just returned from Bangkok and just about insisted I go there as well. He had stayed at a hotel that wasn't on the approved list (doesn't sound like him at all, does it?) and had things all arranged for me when I arrived. He told me to ignore the list of approved hotels and find a certain cabbie, whose name I think was Charlie, then give him my name and have him take me to the Diamond Hotel. Ski must have really impressed them because when I arrived at the hotel, checked in and started to unpack in my room, the manager showed up and moved me to a suite. They also took me to dinner at a nice restaurant on an island somewhere on a lake and also gave me a silk shirt as a lovely parting gift. I have looked for him now and then over the years but never found contact information. This year I saw that he had an email address on the roster but the message I sent was rejected.

Fallen Comrades

Here is a list of comrades who have passed away since 2004:

Franklin Robbins	Deceased 12 20 2004
Dennie Callahan	Deceased 06 12 2005
Warren Nycum	Deceased 07 17 2005
William Round	Deceased 18 01 2006
Hugh Howerton	Deceased 06 16 2007
Larry K. Higgins	Deceased 09 08 2007
Jim Kivipeltol	Deceased 06 05 2007
Gary L. Lemonds	Deceased 01 08 2009 (Ranger Hall of Fame)
Cleveland Egelston	Deceased 04 10 2009
Hugh E. Anderson	Deceased 05 24 2009
Al Janiszewski	Deceased 09 11 2009
Demos Johnson	Deceased 11 07 2009
Jim Arp	Deceased 12 01 2010

I have always encouraged you to send me stuff to put in the newsletter. I'll again ask if you want to say a few words about one of these fallen heroes, please send it to me. I will put your thoughts in the next newsletter.

Looking for Information

In October of last year I got a phone call from the son of one of our fallen comrades asking for any information about his father. The call was from Nick Starling asking about his father, Bob Vadnais, who passed away in March of 1983. Nick never knew his father. Nick was in the Army and had been awarded his Ranger tab, serving with the 2nd Battalion. Bob was the Co. F XO for a while in 1970. I'm sorry to say that I don't remember much about Bob. Does anyone have any other info about Bob Vadnais?

I also got an email from Pat Serna looking for information on a couple of the guys he served with. He'd like info on James E Outlaw and David J Zonfrilli. Anybody have any info on these guys? Please email me at twalshx2@comcast.net or call 313-590-6673 if you can provide any other details. Thank you.

Remember These?

I'm going to introduce a new section to this newsletter. I'm taking the title of the section from Bill Boyd who emailed Marshall Huckaby back in 2006 with the question, "Remember These"? Please send me some of your "remember these" items and I'll put 'em in the newsletter. This first offering is from Marshall & Bill.

- * XM16E1 rifle with the split flash suppressor and the sling swivels removed? Every LRRP had one!
- * How to open a case of "Cs" with the split flash suppressor?
- * Canvas three-pocket haversacks we used for a ruck?
- * Getting watered down Jell-O because the Mess Hall ran out of kool-aid?
- * When P-38s were made out of steel?
- * When there were only three sandbagged structures on Cu Chi but bunches of little tents made out of shelter halves and ponchos?
- * When Capt "P" said " If you fire your weapons you have failed in your mission, it's called recon"?
- * White name tags, Black & gold US ARMY, and gold Stripes on your sleeve?

Reunions

The next 75th Ranger Regiment Association (75th RRA) reunion has been set for 25-30 July, 2011 in Columbus, GA. Same hotel (and same rate) as the last reunion. More info and the registration form appears below. I would highly recommend that you make your hotel reservations ASAP since it fills up mighty fast. As I said before, I included the remembrances of our fallen comrades to both let you all know that they have passed and to (perhaps not too subtly) to encourage those of you who are reluctant to attend a reunion to do so. We ain't getting any younger, and we've lost at least 13 of our brothers since 2004. I don't intend to sound morbid, but now's the time to see your friends before it's too late.

To get all the info on the next 75th RRA reunion you must be a 75th RRA member. Annual dues are \$30.00, Life Membership is \$300.00. I highly encourage you to become a 75th RRA member. Since I started attending 75th RRA reunions back in the 1980's I have renewed friendships with many of the guys I served with in 'Nam. Those friendships are something that only we share, and it's only us who can appreciate them. But the real pleasure for me was getting to know all the other men who have served in the family of "Co. F" units. The 75th RRA reunions are always held in conjunction with the Ranger Hall of Fame inductions (two Co.F guys are in the Hall) and the Regimental Change of Command Ceremony. Both are not to be missed. I'd also like to say that about half of the guys who attend reunions bring their wives and/or

families. The hotel has a pool and exercise room. And the 75th RRA always lines up something for the women to do if they don't want to hear us talk about 'Nam. Hope to see all of you there.

To join the 75th Ranger Regiment Association fill out the application form on the 75th RRA website - www.75thrra.com.

Speaking of reunions, we always talk about "off-year" reunions when we have our Co. F business meeting at the Columbus (75th RRA) reunions. 75th RRA reunions are always held on "odd" years (2011, 2013, 2015, etc.). Last year several of us went to Hawaii and had a blast. I realize that a trip to Hawaii is probably out of the question for the majority, so we'll concentrate on having off-year reunions that will be more affordable. To that end, I'd like to suggest that we have our next off-year reunion in conjunction with the 3/4 Cav reunion in Nashville in 2012. The Cav guys have been really pushing for the "LRRP" guys to join them at their reunions. Marshall Huckaby has attended several of the Cav reunions and always has a good time. The benefit of joining the 3/4 Cav reunion is that they do all the ground work, we can just show up and enjoy. Their reunion will be held at the Millennium Maxwell House hotel in Nashville, May 16-20, 2012. Rooms are \$80.00 (online at www.maxwellhousehotel.com use the code1206SQUADR). That rate is good 3 day before and 3 days after the reunion - so come early or stay late. If you register by phone, 615-259-4343 tell them you're with the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry reunion.

I've been in contact with Dale "Dinky" Dow who was in 3/4 Cav in 1968 (call sign "Centaur 35"). He's the Unofficial Unit Historian for the Cav. He'd like us to send him war stories, humorous events, etc. from the men of the LRRP detachment in an effort to put together a book covering the years March 1967 through March 1968. They have already published a book about the Cav's first year in 'Nam (March 1966-March 1967). Marshall Huckaby, Mark Ponzillo and Gene Tucker all had their stories, and some pictures published in that first book. Now, I know you guys are pretty shy (about as shy as a jackhammer), but I'm sure there are stories out there that would be worthy. Please consider submitting stories for inclusion in the next 3/4 Cav book. Send them to me, I'll get them to Dale. Thanks

More reunion stuff - My wife & I attended Veteran's Day in Washington DC last year. I'd like to suggest that we that we consider getting together every year for Veteran's Day in DC. The ceremony at The Wall on Nov. 11 was very memorable - extremely well done. This year Veteran's Day is on 11/11/11. Several of our Co. F guys have been getting together at The Wall on Veteran's Day for a few years.

Let's talk about it at the Columbus reunion.

TO: MICHAEL, PETER, W.

FROM: BILL LEWIS

Bill

SUBJECT: WOMEN'S STUDY, BASE CAMP SPRAYING

CC: LYNDA

TERRY

CHARLIE KRAUS

PAUL SCIPIONE

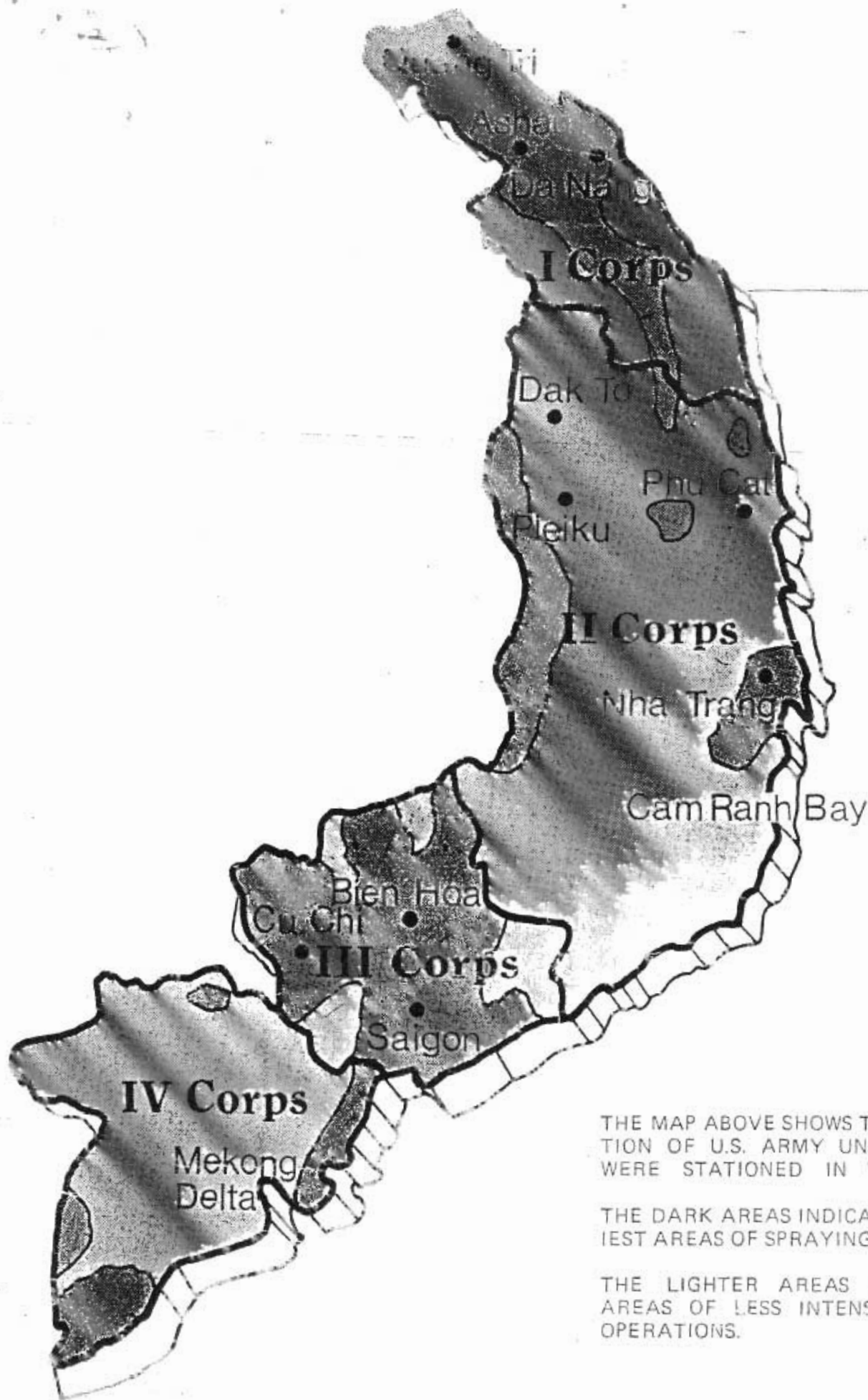
PAUL SUTTON

We are working with the Army Environmental Support Group to evaluate a methodology for determining those bases in Vietnam subject to the heaviest defoliation. As I stated in my memo of 8/5/88, we have developed a method of "ranking" bases by their proximity to known spray missions. We have ranked the 15 largest bases in Vietnam, and the results follow:

<u>BASECAMP</u>	<u>AGENT ORANGE MISSIONS 8 KILOMETERS</u>				<u>Total</u>	<u>EXPOSURE DAYS (Four year)</u>
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>		
1. CU CHI	0	1	33	5	39	519
2. DAU TIENG	7	0	12	1	20	373
3. BIEN HOA	2	0	4	3	9	344
4. PHU BAI	0	6	2	0	8	333
5. QUI NHON	0	0	13	0	13	282
6. CHU LAI	1	0	4	0	5	272
7. AN KHE	3	3	3	0	9	242
8. LONG BINH	0	0	8	0	8	203
9. TAY NINH	0	0	4	0	4	189
10. PLIEKU	0	0	4	0	4	144
11. QUANG TRI	2	0	1	0	3	102
12. NHA TRANG	0	1	1	0	2	89
13. DANANG	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. TAM KY	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. CAM RANH	0	0	0	0	0	0

AUGUST 31, 1988

WVL



THE MAP ABOVE SHOWS THE LOCATION OF U.S. ARMY UNITS THAT WERE STATIONED IN VIETNAM.

THE DARK AREAS INDICATE HEAVIEST AREAS OF SPRAYING.

THE LIGHTER AREAS INDICATE AREAS OF LESS INTENSE SPRAY OPERATIONS.

Company F Fund

As of this writing the Company F Fund has a total of \$3,826.05. I will use some of it to publish and mail this newsletter, last time I sent out a newsletter it cost about \$400.00. All the money in our account is from donations.

I'd like to leave you with this poem that Mark Ponzillo ("Capt. P") keeps in his pocket:

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrade's drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades...such good men.

*Michael Norman
These Good Men*

Please feel free to contact me at twalshx2@comcast.net or by phone at 313-590-6673.

Live long and prosper,

Tim Walsh