

6-31st, Battalion Newsletter - January 2007

This newsletter, our first of 2007, is being distributed to more than ever before, 1135 men. The 31st U.S. Infantry Regiment Association at the 2006 Annual Reunion business meeting voted to reimburse for monies expended on paid search efforts up to \$1,000 per calendar year. In mid-December, we received a reimbursement check from the Association for monies expended. We thank the Board of the 31st U.S. Infantry Regiment Association for their support.

With a resounding response to our search fund campaign and the Association reimbursement check we were able to conduct searches on all the names that paid searches were required on. The results of those searches, to date is 124 of the brothers received our introductory cards and have responded that they are interested in contact with their 6-31st brothers. Bravo Co really answered the call, 48 Bravo brothers signed in. A special thank you to the brothers that responded to our plea for funding, we sincerely appreciate your generosity and support in this endeavor, it is because of your contributions that we are able to search for all who served with 6-31st. ** indicates multiple contributions

John Atkinson, Bravo Co
 Jimmy Apel, Alpha Co
 Darwin Betzer, Delta Co
 ** John DeVore, Echo Co
 Ed Fuller, Delta Co
 Noah Halfacre, Echo Co
 Terry Locke, Delta Co
 Ron Madewell, Alpha Co
 Commodore Mann, Alpha Co
 **Chuck McCammon, Alpha Co
 Harvey Mize, Delta Co
 John Raffo, Bravo Co
 Jim Robb, Alpha Co
 Jim Tierney, Alpha Co
 ** Jerry White, Delta Co

Anonymous, Alpha Co
 Tom Barry, Bravo Co
 Del Bumann, Delta Co
 Rich Dombrowski, Bravo Co
 Dick Gardipee, Bravo Co
 Robert Hill, Delta Co
 Karl Lowe, Delta Co
 Steve Maguire, Alpha/Echo
 Sam Martin, Delta Co
 Bill McMullen, Charlie Co
 Mike Moynahan, Alpha Co
 Jerry Reynolds, HHC Co
 Gary Stoltz, Echo Co
 William (Chris) Wagner, Alpha Co
 Howard Wilson, Alpha Co

Don Anderson, HHC Co
 ** David Bledsoe, HHC Co
 Jerry Carlson, HHC C
 Dan Ezso, Echo Co
 Dean Hess, Alpha Co
 John Knode, Delta Co
 Jim MacMaster, Delta Co
 Mike Manderscheid, Alpha Co
 George Mauldin, Charlie Co
 Dale Deacon Mills, Charlie Co
 Robert Osterheld, HHC Co
 John Ricker, Bravo Co
 Chuck Stradley, Bravo Co
 Gary Weckwerth, Delta Co
 Dan Ziegler, Bravo Co

It was estimated by Karl Lowe, Delta Co and 31st Infantry Regiment Association Sr. Director and Historian that the overall battalion would have been approximately 3,000 men strong from 1967-1970. To date, we have identified over 3,000 names – these names were from the 69/70 Yearbook, Orders, Awards, and the memories of men we have located, names are still being sent in to us, so our work is far from done. I thought I would give you a comparison of where we are. We started this search effort in September 2005, since that time almost 700 men have been located and are interested in reuniting with their brothers.

Company	2006 Total	Deceased	KIA	Located	No Contact	Search	2005 Total	Deceased	Located	No Contact	Search
Alpha	520	50	23	201	4	242	417	32	102	2	258
Bravo	560	51	23	150	1	335	245	9	30		182
Charlie	582	49	38	220	3	272	211		36	1	138
Delta	684	57	45	387	17	178	665	54	265	2	298
Echo	242	17	12	98	2	113	86		18		60
HHC	413	47	9	74	0	283	362	35	29		297
Unknown	9	0	0	2	0	7					
Ft Lewis	29	0	0	3	0	26					
Battalion	3039	271	150	1135	27	1456	1986	136	489	5	1233

Of the names we are still searching for, about 700 are incomplete. We could use your help to fill in the missing information so that we may continue our search efforts and locate these men. So please, find those boxes of memorabilia stashed away in the attic, or the basement, see if you have copies of orders or awards or if your photos had names written on them and let us know if you can identify any of these incomplete names for us. A list of the incomplete names is attached.

In our recent search effort, sadly we found a number of the brothers have passed on... please take a moment of time and remember these men. **Alpha Co** – Fred T Brown Oct 2004, Thomas Cashmore Jun 2003, Stephen J Farrel Apr 2006, Carlos Flores Feb 1977, Seafus Jordan Dec 1984, James Lee Jan

2004, Timothy Leonberg May 1994, Michael Patton Feb 2002 William Rodriguez, Jan 1993, Daniel Swisher Apr 2005 **Bravo Co** – Preston W Aytch Feb 1973, Felipe Blas Jul 1982, Laverne Booher Jul 1973, Eddie Brooks Apr 2002, Carnel Brown Jan 1998, Thomas Burke Jan 1980, Raliegth Cunningham May 1998, Gregory First Aug 1986, Bobby R Justus Apr 2005, Richard Ludlum Feb 1980, Dan Kelsow Sep 1977, Fernando Mendez Mar 1993, Gary Palmer Feb 1998, Raymond Patterson, Jul 1992, Mark Quillinan, Sep 1999, William Rants Jan 1995, Michael C Tramo, May 2004, Bobby L Trimnal Jul 1999
Charlie Co - Gary C Alexander Dec 1999, Patrick M Coleman Oct 2003, Michael J Dostalek Dec 2003, Billie Hilton Aug 2006, Frank R Huggins Aug 2005, Joseph Major Aug 1989, William R Michael Mar 1996, Hilmar Rose Nov 2001, Roger D Simmons Dec 2002, Roger Rudder Feb 2003, Elthrmond Terry Aug 2003, John H. Tiller Aug 2004, Charles B Tyson Feb 2004 **Delta Co** - Stephen Stull, March 2006 **Echo Co** – Marc Albright Nov 2001, James Becker Oct 1994, David E Gilbert Jan 2006, Alan Jones Mar 2006, William W Jones Mar 2001 **HHC** – Bennie Begay Aug 1981, Artie L Robinson Jan 1978, Gary R Sloan Jun 2002, Bert W. Thompson May 2006

It is because of the large number of brothers that have passed on, that we strongly encourage you to plan on attending the next, or a future reunion. Since last January 2006 we have added 97 names of brothers that have passed on. Your brothers want to reunite with you – if not at a reunion, through chat rooms, message boards, e-mails, letters, or telephone conversations. Although the internet is a great way to communicate with others well over half of the men we have located are not PC users and thus the reason for our newsletter, to keep them informed of the happenings of the 6-31st brothers. Many of the brothers have expressed interest in contact, please don't wait for someone to reach out to you, if you are interested in contact; write that letter or pick up that phone and make a call... you will be glad that you did.

We received this note at the website from Bravo Co Commander John Ricker, I forwarded it to our Bravo men with email addresses but wanted to include it here for those without internet access: **“Members of Bravo Company 6th Bn/31st Infantry, 1st Recondo Bde of the 9th Division -- I was the Company Commander of Bravo Co from Feb 1969 to August 1969. I would love to hear from my former soldiers. My telephone at work is 800-824-4120 or home 973-729-3147. Sincerely, John C Ricker, Major US Army Retired”**

I am always amazed to sit back and see the connections unfold when the brothers spend time talking with each other. Surprisingly it doesn't matter if you were Bravo or Echo Co, early Fort Lewis or late 1970... the connections are there, the bonds formed so long ago are strong. The memories slowly return and there is a healing that can only be experienced and which cannot adequately be described in a newsletter. Log into the website, Newsletters at <http://www.vietnam6bn31inf.com> and read the September 2006 Reunion Reflection newsletter. There you will find the words of those men attending the reunion for the first time and what it meant to them.

Have you made your plans to attend the 2007 31st Infantry Regiment Association San Antonio, TX Reunion? The dates are August 23rd – 26th, and will be hosted by 6-31st Chaplain Bill Burns and his lovely wife Florence. Please... consider joining us on the River Walk in beautiful San Antonio. The Reunion Agenda, registration and hotel information is at the end of this newsletter; we sincerely hope your plans are to be with us in Texas.

For the past few years there has been a little friendly challenge back and forth... with Alpha Co trying desperately to regain the title of having the most men in attendance from Delta Co (Alpha had it in 2003, Delta in 2004-2005-2006). Jerry White, our Delta Co ring leader has issued a different challenge for 2007... will the combined attendance of Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Echo and HHC be able to take away the title of the company with the most men attending the reunion in 2007? So what do you say guys... are you up for the challenge? We have 1133 brothers located and interested in contact and reuniting, how many of them can we encourage to attend Reunion 2007?

In the past we've tried to have a Company campaign person for the reunions, this year we thought in addition to a line company campaign person, that we would also have a State campaign person... guess who that is for Texas ?? YES SIR, Jerry White again... the man is obsessed (even more than me) with encouraging as many of you to attend the reunion as possible. With Jerry heading up the Texas campaign, he figures if Delta doesn't win, then he still stands a good chance of winning with Texas attendees...although I did tell him that those 127 men residing in Texas will not be counted as Delta Co when we tally up the attendance numbers. Please let us know if you are interested in helping us out by contacting the men in your State, we will then send you a list of the contact information for those men.

The word is that Jerry has already ordered the high attendance trophy... we wanted to have the trophy in place for last year, we just ran out of time. From what I understand Jerry just isn't sure how he should have the 2007 winner engraved yet, Delta Co or Texas Men.

Kidding aside, it doesn't matter what the engraving is, as long as you are there to celebrate with us. Jerry along with his Delta platoon go-to guys, have done an amazing job at reuniting Delta Company and because of their experiences they want every man of the 6-31st to know the value of a reunion with their brothers. With that said... we'll leave you good folks with these thoughts... there is nothing more important to us than to greet you at a reunion and welcome you home!

We have heard in previous years that for some, the reunions are cost prohibitive. One solution to reduce your cost is to consider room share. A few men in the past have done this and it appears to work well. If you are interested in room share, please try and access the website to view the plan to attend the reunion list. There we will indicate whether or not that person is interested in a room share and we can put you in contact with them.

This brings me to the next topic; please send an email to mary@vietnam6bn31inf.com if you plan to attend the reunion. We will post a list of those planning to attend on the website. Actually the list is already posted with three names – these guys already have their hotel reservations made. The list of those attending may be just the encouragement a hesitant brother needs to finalize his plans to attend, so please be sure and let us know your plans and if you are interested in room share options.

Chuck McCammon is busy working on presentations for the reunion; he is hoping to have one extended slideshow this year based on a time-line. Photographs from the website galleries will be incorporated into the slideshow. We could use your help – if you have photos of any of the KIA's or those members that have since passed away, please be sure they are known to us. We would like to incorporate as many photographs of those men as we can for our 6-31st memorial.

In Santa's Bag... You asked for it, Reunion 2008 originally slated for Memphis, TN will now be held in San Pedro, CA. Based on input received from the men living on the west coast, Jerry White petitioned the 31st Association to see if anything could be done to ensure that we don't wait until 2009 to hold a reunion in the west. Vin Zike and Karl Lowe agreed and the wheels are in motion to hold reunion 2008 in California. Louis Dominguez, Charlie Co presented San Pedro as a reunion option to the Association board last year, and was accepted, Vin is in contact with Louis to get this change of venue rolling.

We've told you about books written by men of the 6-31st; Johnny Tucker, Charlie Co who passed away last year had written a book. His widow, Judith Tucker, is currently in the process of publishing the memoirs of Johnny, we will keep you apprised when the book is nearing release date.

Karl Lowe has recently updated his book in progress "America's Foreign Legion, The 31st Infantry Regiment at War and Peace" Chapter 18 – 6th Battalion Fort Lewis and Vietnam 1967-1970. The book can be read at www.31stinfantry.org/history.html or <http://www.vietnam6bn31inf.com/books.htm> Karl appreciates all comments regarding the history of the 6th Battalion. For those without internet access I have a few printed copies of Chapter 18 that I will send for your review on request.

Email problems – please check the member list and ensure your email address is correct. I am sure the newer anti-spam tools are the culprit; there is a lot of email returned as undeliverable to us. If your email is correct, then be sure mary@vietnam6bn31inf.com or mary.doyon@charter.net are accepted address by your mail system. Email enables us to distribute newsletters electronically, reducing our costs.

Please try and visit our website and review the 6-31st member list to see who we have located. We do not publish contact information on the website, but feel free to contact any of the names listed below and we will get that information out to you. If you do not have internet access and are interested in receiving a list of those located for your company, contact me and I will get a copy of the list printed and mailed out to you.

“Together, we are stronger”

Contact Information

Alpha Company
Dean Hess
1307 102nd Ave
Greeley CO 80634
970-336-1086
hdean2@msn.com

Alpha Company
Chuck McCammon
307 South 90th St
Mesa AZ 85208
480-545-4383
c-mccammon@cox.net

Alpha Company
Ken Steed
308 Eastwood Ave
Ridgeland, MS
601-856-5173
ken_sted2@jam.rr.com

Bravo Company
Harry Whitmore
11721 Ashwood Drive
Little Rock AR 72211
501-954-9550
harrywhitmore@sbcglobal.net

Bravo Company
Moses Callahan
721 Lake Drive
Kernersville, NC 27284-2069
336-992-8063
no email available

Charlie Company
Dale (Deacon) Mills

sdmills@southernco.com

Delta Company – 1st Pltn
Ron Raymond
2590 Pardee Road
Howell, MI 48843-8335
517-548-0650
raybyski@aol.com

Delta Company – 2nd Pltn
Terry Davis
8323 6075 Rd
Olathe, CO 81425
970-323-6619
tdrecondo6@aol.com

Delta Company 3rd Pltn
Jerry White
562 Hogan
Kyle, TX 78640
512-602-5720
jerry.white@amd.com

Delta Company – HQ Pltn
Rex Rumfelt
3599 Vista Grande Dr NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
505-831-6848
rlr251@netzero.com

Delta Company – Wpns
Del Bumann
P O Box 392
New Salem, ND 58563
701-426-8374
cordel@hughes.net

Delta Company –Ft Lewis
Herman Spoto
3050C Belle Meade
Pensacola, FL
850-439-2958
spotoherman@bellsouth.net

Echo Company
Dan Ezso
4800 Rhodes Ave #3
Valley Village, CA 91607
818-753-0535
dan.kathy@sbcglobal.net

Echo Company
Art Decker

acdecker@shentel.net

HHC Company
David Bledsoe
119 Bell Road
Jackson GA 30233
845-354-1503
bledsoe_david@bellsouth.net

6-31st Battalion Newsletter – General Comments

Mary Doyon 35 NW Main St, Douglas MA 01516 508-341-9456
mary.doyon@charter.net or mary@vietnam6bn31inf.com

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Reunion 2007 will be held at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel & Conference Center, San Antonio, TX August 23 - 26th. Check in and Registration Thursday, August 23rd, Friday Ft Sam Tour and other tour, Saturday Banquet and Sunday, August 26th check out and goodbye's.

Room rate is \$99 + tax (16.75%) Includes continental breakfast and free parking (\$8.00 per day parking if not booked with Reunion) The contract date will be honored 2 days on each side (August 21-August 28) for people who come early and stay late. The smaller ballroom is reserved for our hospitality and gathering time, and there is lots of room for memorabilia.

Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-288-3927 - Group code is 31st Infantry Regiment Association and must be used for special rate or by web interface at reservations@eltropicanohotel.com
Shuttles and Taxis provide transportation from/to San Antonio International Airport (nominal fee)

Thursday, August 23 - Registration – Hospitality Suite gathering - Tours
Friday, August 24 – Hospitality Suite gathering – Tours
Saturday, August 25 – Memorial Service – Business Meeting – Banquet
Sunday, August 26 – Goodbyes (Tour for those extending their stay)

OPTIONAL TOURS AND EVENTS

Thursday, 23 Aug 2007 9:30 am - 2:30 pm - The Greune Texas Adventure - \$ 30.00 per person Meet in the lobby of the hotel and escorted to a motor coach for a pleasant trip to historic Gruene TX on the scenic banks of the Guadalupe River. All the town of Gruene has been placed on the National Register of historic places as a restored turn of the 20th century town. Gruene offers unique shopping with many specialty stores, antiques, and wine tasting shops. For lunch there are six excellent restaurants to select from. The town center has several old general stores and even a pottery works and Christmas store. A very nice outing with time to enjoy your friends and see the sights. A cool place for a cool tour in August.

Thursday, 23 Aug 2007 5:30 pm - 10:30 pm - An Evening on the 7A Cattle Ranch - \$ 49.50 per person (all inclusive) Meet in the lobby of the hotel and board the coaches at 5:30 pm. The 7A Ranch is a real working cattle Ranch in the San Antonio area which hosts private chuck wagon parties. The 7A still raises beef on the range the old fashioned way without feed lots or chemicals. The evening includes guides, transportation, main entree is old fashioned pit Bar-B-Que dinner, ranch beans, potato salad, dinner rolls and all the fixin's. The evening also includes beer, and soft drinks, and ice tea. Campfire coffee and pie top off the evening. Our western show feature the country swing band and world renowned trick roper guaranteed to lasso your heart. Also there is a bullwhip and six shooter performance followed by a hayride tour of the ranch.

Friday, 24 Aug 2007 8:45 am - 3:30 pm - U. S. Army Homecoming at Fort Sam Houston - \$ 35.00 per person (all inclusive) We begin our morning with a very short walk to San Antonio's military plaza in front of the Municipal Auditorium. Guides will show you the way to where we will have a wreath ceremony at the Korean and Vietnam Memorials. At 9:30 am we will board our coaches for a short drive to Fort Sam Houston. Our first stop will be at the US Army Medical Museum followed by a tour of the Old Post Museum. Lunch will be at the Fort Sam Houston Club followed by a guest speaker. After lunch we will tour the famous Alamo mission fort with its historic Long Barracks & Chapel. On our way back to the hotel we will stop by the San Fernando Cathedral built in 1731, a true national treasure.

Friday, 24 Aug 2007 8:45 am - 4:00 pm - The Best of San Antonio - \$ 35.00 per person We begin our morning with a very short walk to San Antonio's military plaza in front of the Municipal Auditorium. Guides will show you the way to where we will have a wreath ceremony at the Korean and Vietnam Memorials. At 9:30 am we will board coaches. First stop will be at the SAS - San Antonio Shoe factory which is built like a 1910 general store full of antiques, a car collection and old time soda fountain, everyone loves this store. Our next stop is at the Spanish Mission Concepcion. the mission was started in 1731 and holds great art and a wonderful story of Colonial Spain. On we go to the famous Alamo mission fort with its historic Long Barracks and Chapel. Lunch is on your own at the River Center Mall or the Menger hotel buffet. As we depart downtown we will visit the San Fernando Cathedral and Colonial Governors Palace. Our last stop is at La Villita the site of San Antonio's original town of Baxer.

Friday, 24 Aug 2007 5:45 pm - 9:30 pm - River Walk Dinner with Boat Tour - \$ 42.00 per person (inclusive) We depart at 5:45 pm from the lobby of the El Tropicana and go directly to the River Walk boat landings. Relax and enjoy the lush tropical beauty of the San Antonio River and the fun of gliding past

restaurants, shops, hotels and historic sites on your tour of the River Walk. After your tour we dock at the best Mexican restaurant in the city. Your dinner follow cocktails at the cash bar and is served where you can overlook the boats and people traveling the river. Package includes transportation, boat tour, guides, and restaurant reservations, a great Mexican dinner with salad and ice tea, state taxes and 18% gratuity at the restaurant.

Sunday 26 Aug 2007 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Post Reunion Tour - \$ 35.00 per person National Museum of the War in the Pacific and the Admiral Nimitz Museum. Your tour travels through the charming Texas Hill Country to Fredericksburg, the hometown of Adm. Chester Nimitz. The high point of the tour is the National Museum of the Pacific War. Included in this State park is the Japanese Peace Garden. The George Bush Sr. Gallery of the Pacific War which also tells the complete story of WW II. Also the Nimitz family Steamship Hotel owned by the Admiral's Grandfather and is where Chester Nimitz grew up. The museum tells the story of the Nimitz family in Fredericksburg. In addition there is an Aircraft carrier hanger deck and PT boat museum that is first class. To top off this display of naval history is the Plaza of the Presidents which tells the stories of all our presidents who served in WW II as members of the military. Lunch is on your own at one of the fine German restaurants located on Main Street within one block of the Nimitz Museum. After lunch you are free to return to the museums or enjoy shopping the unique stores on Main Street. We will board the coaches for our return trip at 2:30 pm with arrival at your hotel at 4:00 pm.

The following registration form does not include your hotel accommodations it is for reunion registration only. All reunion events will be held at: El Tropicano Hotel, 110 Lexington Ave, San Antonio, TX 78205. Telephone 21-223-9461 or by web interface at: reservations@eltropicanohotel.com

The room rates offered at the El Tropicano Hotel are \$99.00 per night and include continental breakfast and parking. The group rates will be honored August 21-28, 2007. The Group code 31st Inf Regt Assoc must be used in order to receive the discounted rate.

31st Infantry Regiment Association 2007 San Antonio Reunion Registration Form
 (Registration fee of \$ 25.00 is required for all members and guests)

Name: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email _____

Phone Number home _____ work/cell _____

Co/Battalion of the 31st Inf _____ Where _____ When _____

Events (optional)

Greene Texas Adventure – Thurs, 08/23 \$30.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Evening 7A Cattle Ranch – Thurs, 08/23 \$49.50 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Ft Sam Houston - Fri, 08/24 \$35.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

San Antonio – Fri, 08/24 \$35.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Evening RiverWalk Dinner – Fri, 08/24 \$42.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Post Reunion Tour – Sun, 08/26 \$35.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Tour costs are per person, and include bus transportation, tour fees, entry fees, and lunch,
 advance registration is requested

Banquet – Saturday Evening 08/25 \$35.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Banquet fee is per person, and includes sit down dinner, entertainment and dancing.
 Business casual to Formal dress is appropriate.

Reunion Registration (required) \$25.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Registration Deadline is July 24, 2007

Make checks payable to: 31st Infantry Regiment Association-Mail check and registration form to:
 William Burns
 5926 Woodbridge Rock
 San Antonio, TX 78249

