

6-31st Newsletter ~ March 2008 ~ Reunion Information

We hope that everyone has recovered from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. I for one am counting the days until spring arrives and the cabin fever is but a memory.

Sadly we report that four of our 6-31st brothers have passed on. December 8th. John C. Quick, Alpha Co 67/69. December 20th. Eli Ford, Delta Co 3rd platoon '69. December 30th. Stanley Wicks Sr, Charlie Co, 67/69 the original weapons platoon SGT. January 8th. LT Dominador Yacapin, Delta/HHC 69/70. Please take a moment to remember these brothers. Floral/memorial tributes were sent to the families on behalf of the Brothers of the 6-31st in memory of these fine men. Thanks to Dale Mills, Walt Rutherford, Rick Mickels, and Alex (Big Al's brother) Vargas the 6-31st had representation at the memorial services for Stan Wicks and Domi Yacapin. The Ford family will be holding a memorial service for Eli on March 27th, if any of the brothers in the area would like to attend the service, please contact us for details.

We will soon be starting our effort on the Memorial service to be presented at the August reunion. If you have web access please be sure to check out the Wall and Memory pages on the website and if you have a photo that we do not have please send it in to us. We hope to have a photo for every name and appreciate your help. The 2007 Memorial Service can be viewed online at the website or I still have a few copies of the DVD left if you are interested in receiving a copy.

Speaking of photos, our photo gallery on the website now has in excess of 10,000 photos on line. Chuck will be starting to create the DVD's to show at the reunion so if you are interested in having your photos included on those DVD's please get them to us quickly. Unfortunately we will not be able to add photos at the time of the reunion to the presentation, so get them in early.

Recently the following brothers have signed in as located - Alpha Co: Danny Bradbury, Jerry George and the original commanding officer of A/Co, Channing Greene. Bravo Co: Jackie McMaster. Charlie Co: Ronnie J. Blackwell, Graham Keyes, Tim Worrell. Delta Co: Eddie Gouraige, Lloyd Hess, Floyd Jones, Daniel Manley and Jack Stone. Echo Co: Richard Ingalls and Cliff Meyer. HHC: Bill Goodwin and James Hanson. We continue to make progress at locating the brothers.

A surprise contact that was recently made was Charlie Co 68 medic Richard Essig's son. Richard (Jr.) was only 4 years old when his Dad passed in 1995. Through the website, he found photos of his Dad and was anxious to make contact with the men that remembered his Dad. Thank you Charlie Co for reaching out to this young man, he was excited and thrilled beyond words with your response to his inquiry.

Our efforts at searching for all who served continue, but unless we keep in contact with them the search effort becomes futile. We've located a number of men but, unfortunately no other contact was made and thus they lost interest in the prospect of reuniting. I know we are all busy and it takes precious time to make the effort of contacting guys you haven't seen or heard from in years... it's easy to say, when I have a few minutes I'll get in touch... I've been blessed to have many conversations with the men as they are located, and I can tell you just knowing that they are remembered makes a difference in their lives.

We want to take the time to thank each and every man that has contributed in some way to our 6-31st endeavors, and to let you know where we stand in regard to the financial status of our active projects. The first of our 2008 contributors have been: John Koeppen, George Schwemmer and Bill McMullen, thank you guys!

Despite our best efforts to continue to fund the searches, newsletters and memorial contributions we are falling short of what is needed financially to keep this going. Here is a brief recap of how your contributions are used:

Searches - the searches are funded by: contributions from individuals, 2005/2006 reimbursement by the 31st Regiment Association, and the proceeds from the lapel pin sales. Expenses are considered to be: paper, ink, envelopes and postage calculated at \$1.00/search.

Combined 2006/2007 paid searches conducted totaled	\$7,222.00
Expenses to send introductory letters to all findings	\$1,159.00

Over the past year, our efforts resulted in 310 men being located that are interested in contact with you, their brothers. We still have well over 1400 men that we are trying to locate, as each new man is located – new copies of company rosters or awards are forwarded to us to aide in the search process. Despite our great success in locating men, there is still much work to be done.

Memorial Fund - the memorial fund was established to provide a means to send either a floral remembrance or charitable donation to the family when we are advised that one of 6-31 men has passed on.

We have received \$575.00 in general donations to the memorial fund and have expended \$550.00 in memorial tributes to the 6-31 men, in memory of family members of 6-31 men, and in memory of the active duty 4-31 KIA's. We have also received specific donations designated for a specific memorial fund that are outside of the numbers reported above.

Newsletters - we have been publishing the newsletter 4 times a year, at an average cost of \$600.00 per mailing. The costs are variable depending on how many letters are actually mailed versus using the electronic methods of distributing. Averaged out the newsletter cost approximate \$1.00 for each newsletter mailed or \$4.00 annually per man receiving hard copy. We have close to 1300 men located, approximately half of that number does not have internet access. The cost of the quarterly newsletter has been absorbed by a few individuals; we have received \$250.00 in contributions toward the newsletter.

The censorship of email by ISP (internet service providers) and the SPAM filters used by individuals significantly impact our ability to use an electronic delivery method and ensure that all our men receive the newsletter - the September 2007 mailing returned 35 email addresses as undeliverable, so you can see our cost is on the rise. I encourage you to ensure that the email address (mary@vietnam6bn31inf.com) is in your email address book so that you will continue to receive communications from us.

We ask that you take the time to ensure that those you are in contact with are receiving the newsletters and information that we pass along. Please feel free to print, copy, and share the information with any of the brothers that do not have email accounts.

A more pleasant and interesting topic for all is the upcoming August 2008 31st U.S. Infantry Regiment Association Reunion. Charlie Co. Louis Dominguez and his lovely wife Suzanne are our reunion coordinators and have released the following details:

Day One (Thursday 8/21/2008)

Arrival – All Day - Welcome Table at both hotels.

Hospitality room at Crowne Plaza

4 – 7 PM Dinner Harbor Cruise, **advance registration is required.**

Three Spirit Cruise ships have been reserved for this evening. The ships will cruise Los Angeles Harbor for approximately 2 hours. A Fiesta Dinner of shredded beef tacos, tostados, Chicken Taquitos, Refried Beans, Guacamole and Sour Cream, Chips and Salsa, Margaritas, soft drinks, and coffee is included in the \$40.00 per person price. There will be a cash bar available on board. 300 seats are available and must be reserved by July 21st. Both hotels are within easy walking distance to the docks.

Day Two (Friday 8/22/2008)

All Day - Welcome Table at both hotels.

Hospitality room at Crowne Plaza

8:00 – 9:30 – Continental breakfast

10:00 – 4:00 San Pedro Bus Tour

\$30.00 per person, advance registration is recommended. Bus boards from the hotel.

10:15 – 11:30 – Korean Bell and Ft. MacArthur Artillery Museum

11:45 – 12:45 Buffet lunch at Ft. MacArthur Community Center (formerly the officer's club)

Ft. MacArthur is now the housing center for the Los Angeles Air Force Base,
part of Space and Missile Command.

1:00 – 2:15 – Lane Victory (a Victory ship that served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam)

2:30 – 3:30 Maritime Museum (Museum can also be visited via streetcar)

3:45 – return to hotels

Dinner — on your own, assistance will be available for small groups to make reservations at local restaurants.

Day three (Saturday 8/23/2008)

All Day - Welcome Table at both hotels.

Hospitality room at Crowne Plaza

8:00 – 9:30 – Continental breakfast

9:30 – 10:00 – 31st Infantry Memorial Service

The family of Cpl Anzak, a local 4-31st Polar Bear who was killed in Baghdad, has been invited to attend

10:00 – 11:00 – 31st Infantry Association General Meeting

(Everyone should plan to attend the service and general meeting)

Optional trips and tours for the remainder of the day such possibilities as:

Shopping trip to South Coast Plaza

Long Beach Aquarium and Shoreline Village

Hollywood and LA Tour

Formal Banquet – Crowne Plaza Hotel

(Seating is limited to 300 guests, advance registration is recommended)

\$40.00 Banquet fee is per person, and includes sit down dinner, entertainment and dancing.

Business casual to Formal dress is appropriate.

6 pm Cocktails

7 pm Dinner

Entrée choice: Chicken Provencial or Salmon

Shanghai Bowl Ceremony

Day four (Sunday 8/24/2008)

Check out and Goodbyes

Optional Cruise

Stay one more night at the hotel and join in on a four day cruise on the Monarch of the Seas

See website for details or contact Louis for more information.

PLEASE NOTE: Reunion registration deadline is July 21, 2008. Registrations received after July 21 will be charged a late registration fee of \$50.00.

Hotel Information

(The Crowne Plaza is located downtown and will be the reunion headquarters; the Doubletree is located in the Cabrillo Marina. The hotels are approximately 2 miles apart and Louis plans to have shuttle service available between the two hotels)

Crowne Plaza Hotel – LA Harbor

601 S Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro CA 90731

310-519-8200, 310-547-0269 or 888-444-0401

Rooms are \$109.00 per night – Group Rate Code **31st Infantry Reunion**

Room rate is for single or double occupancy. Free parking

Doubletree Hotel San Pedro

2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro CA 90731

310-514-3344

Rooms are \$110.00 per night – Group Rate Code **31st Infantry Reunion**

Room rate is for single or double occupancy. Free parking

Airport to Crown Plaza Hotel Transportation (Doubletree rates slightly more)

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

Distance: 20 MI North West to Hotel

Shuttle Charge (one way): \$15.00

Taxi Charge (one way): \$55.00

Time by taxi: 30 minutes

Long Beach Municipal Airport (LGB)

Distance: 14 MI North East to Hotel

Shuttle Charge (one way): \$15.00

Taxi Charge (one way): \$55.00

Time by taxi: 35 minutes

The past few years we have made a concentrated effort at encouraging the brothers to attend the reunions. This year we are looking for “West Coast” brothers to assist in our reunion recruiting efforts. What does it take? A few guys from each line company (preferably spanning the tour years) that are planning to attend the San Pedro reunion, and that are enthusiastic about reuniting with their brothers. Email, letters, phone calls to ensure that those located in their company are aware of the reunion. Report back to us with the names of those planning to attend so that we may publish it on our website, we’ve found that the publishing of those planning to attend the reunion encourages others who maybe hesitant to join us. Finally the most important aspect of Company Reunion Coordinators is the meet and greet at the reunion. Search out your company brothers to ensure that they welcomed home.

The coordination doesn’t take a lot of financial commitment on your part, but it does take a commitment to get in touch with your brothers. Are you willing to help us out? If so, send me an email and we’ll get the company located roster out to you so that you can start reunion recruiting efforts for your company.

We are looking for coordinators for Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta and HHC. As most of you know Jerry White (Delta Reunion Coordinator) is taking a sabbatical this year. Echo is being covered by the Art Decker/Dan Ezso dynamic duo that did a great job reuniting the Echo guys last year in San Antonio.

We hope to see you in San Pedro for Reunion 2008, we promise you, if you’ve never attended a reunion before you will be glad that you did! Until next time... take very good care ☺

The Brotherhood – Author Unknown

*“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 of their humanity.
I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military.
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.
As long as I have my 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.”*

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

6-31st Newsletter brought to you by <http://www.vietnam6bn31inf.com>

Company Contact Information

We can always use additional names as company contacts. If you are interested let us know!

Alpha Company

Chuck McCammon
307 South 90th St
Mesa AZ 85208
480-545-4383

Bravo Company

Harry Whitmore
11721 Ashwood Drive
Little Rock, AR 72211
501-954-9550

Charlie Company

Dale (Deacon) Mills
201 Plantation Drive
Macon, GA 3120
478-477-7636

Delta Company – 1st Pltn

Ron Raymond
2590 Pardee Road
Howell, MI 48843-8335
517-548-0650

Delta Company – 2nd Pltn

Terry Davis
8323 6075 Rd
Olathe, CO 81425
970-323-6619

Delta Company 3rd Pltn

Jerry White
562 Hogan
Kyle, TX 78640
512-602-5720

Delta Company – HQ Pltn

Rex Rumpfelt
3599 Vista Grande Dr NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
505-831-6848

Delta Company – Wpns

Del Bumann
P O Box 392
New Salem, ND 58563
701-426-8374

Delta Company –Ft Lewis

Herman Spoto
3050C Belle Meade
Pensacola, FL
850-439-2958

Echo Company

Dan Ezso
4800 Rhodes Ave #3
Valley Village, CA 91607
818-753-0535

HC Company

David Bledsoe
118 Fox Drive
Jackson GA 30233
770-775-4750

REUNION COORDINATOR

Louis Dominguez
845 W 30th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
310-547-4145

31st Infantry Regiment Association 2008 San Pedro, California Reunion Registration
(Registration fee of \$ 30.00 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)

Port of Los Angeles Dinner Cruise – Thurs, 08/21 (*Limited seating, first come – first served*)

\$40.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

San Pedro Military History Tour – Friday, 08/22

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

\$30.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Banquet – Saturday Evening 08/23 (**Room limited to 300**)

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

\$40.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Reunion Registration (required)

\$30.00 x _____ (# participants) \$ _____

Registration Deadline is July 21, 2008 –

Add late registration fee if mailed after 7/21 \$ 50.00

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **31st Infantry Regiment Association**

Mail check and registration

John Cornelson

31st Regiment Assn. Treasurer

3116 Chattahoochee Trace

Gainesville, GA 30506