

# *Bravo Regulars*



**B Company 3/22**



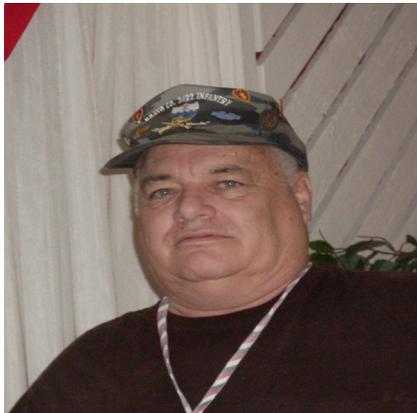
*Vietnam Service*

[www.bravoregulars.com](http://www.bravoregulars.com)

**DECEMBER, 2014**



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## President's Message

Ted Silberies  
President  
ted9er@gmail.com  
(408) 674-2759

Dear Bravo Brothers,

I hope all is well with you and your family and want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

It's hard to believe it's almost 2015 and our time in Vietnam was nearly 50 years ago. The months and years seem to fly by the older we get, don't they? Let's try to savor the good memories we've made since then, and take every opportunity to make more.

On another note, this fall some of us have attended funeral services for members of our Bravo family, offering some measure of comfort to the surviving spouses on behalf of our unit. The Board has recently approved of e-mail notification to members, whenever a member or spouse passes. By providing timely notification, it is hoped that others may become involved in commemorating the passing of our Bravo family members as well.

I can't let a newsletter go by without a plug for our next official get-together. Please make sure to set aside time to attend our April 2016 Reunion in Naples, Florida. Richard Ward, our host, has lots of good times in store for us!

*Ted*



## Reunion News

Richard 'Crazy' Ward  
and Doreen Clark  
2016 Reunion Co-Hosts  
crzyward@gmail.com  
(239) 572-4796

My name is Dorene Clark. I will be helping Richard Ward in hosting the 2016 reunion at his home April 8 -12, 2016. It was such a pleasure to meet those of you who were at the 2014 reunion in Salt Lake City. I thought I should introduce myself to those of you who were not able to attend. Richard and I are already working on the itinerary and events schedule and we are getting very excited. The reunion will be held at Richard's home in Naples, Florida. I will try to keep you up-to-date on events as they become clearer, through this newsletter. Feel free to email me at doreneclark@comcast.net if you have any questions, and I will be happy to assist in any way possible.

Ciao for now,

*Richard and Doreen*



## Editor's Notes

David W. Lowell  
Editor  
davidwlowell@aol.com  
(520) 762-8609

Welcome back Bravo brothers! Hope this finds the majority of you happy and healthy, and the others hanging in their with us, doing the best they can.

To prevent sticker shock when viewing my expenses in John Otte's column, I'll point out that the amount covers two issues of the newsletter and a Memorial Poster and rosters for our reunion. The charges for the webpage cover work done on our website over the past year. That is mostly complete, with a little more work to be done on the photo page and adding a large volume of after-action reports (the ones published in the newsletter) to our history page (if the Board approves).

We have received a request for information on PSGT Albert Graham, Jr., KIA on June 2, 1967. His hometown of Bakersfield, California has a memorial to those residents who paid the ultimate price in defending freedom, and is seeking a photograph. He reportedly came from a poor family and there is no known photo of him. He served with me in our second platoon from late March or early April, until KIA on June 2 by a landmine, while operating 'out in the rubber' near Dau Tieng. Al was black, medium complexion, in his mid-20's, about 5'8", slender build, sharp appearance. Anyone serving with us at the time is asked to review any photos you may have to see if one can be found. I will be able to identify him. Please contact me if any are found.

Recently those members for whom we have an e-mail address received a 'timely notification' about the passing of some members of the Bravo family. Our thought was that many of you would like this information on a more current timeline than quarterly in the newsletter. If you would prefer to not receive such notification, let me know and I'll remove your name from the 'timely notification' list. This initiative is part of a larger plan for noting the passing of members, which was still being finalized at press time. Expect more information in our next issue.

Thank you, Blair Moran (Co RTO 69/70) for sharing with us a video of the group KISS, performing at a USO show in Iraq. It may be viewed at [http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?V=5Mtd1023MKM..](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?V=5Mtd1023MKM..)

Thank you, Cliff Weese (3rd Platoon 3-67/68) for sharing a poem with us about a veteran passing, which is at the top of our Bulletin Board. Very profound.

With sadness, I must report the passing of Roger Clements (69/70). Available information is on our Bulletin Board. Also, two of our member's spouses have passed: Teresa Dell (Paul Dell -1st Platoon, 1/70-5/70) and Cathy Smith (Doug Smith—2nd Platoon—9-66/67 Original). On behalf of Bravo Regulars, our sincerest sympathies.

I found another after-action report on Suoi Tre and have posted it on our Bulletin Board. This is the last report I have. If any of you have reports of battles that weren't covered in our past newsletters, please get them to me. I would especially be interested in information on what we refer to as "the shootout across the tank trail," with a large force of NVA in April or May, 1967. I hope all of you and your families have enjoyed reading about our shared combat history. It is the glue that binds us all.

Just before press time, I received notice of an upcoming gathering of LZ Gold/Suoi Tre veterans, and have posted it on our Bulletin Board. Thank you to all who contributed to this issue of our newsletter. Our next issue will be out in March, 2015 and we will be accepting input through the end of February. Dee and I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and a great new year. May peace be with you.

### *Dave out*

Submissions may appear disjointed at times but are often edited for space, content and/or excerpted from larger personal communications between members. Submissions can be sent to either my email or home address (880 N. Solar Drive, Vail, AZ 85641) or to any Officer. Any photos submitted by mail will be scanned and returned.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

Submitted by Cliff Weese (3rd Platoon—3-67/68)

A Poem Worth Reading

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,  
 And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.  
 Of a war that he once fought in and the deeds that he had done,  
 In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.  
 And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors his tales became a joke,  
 All his buddies listened quietly for they knew where of he spoke.  
 But we'll hear his tales no longer, for ol' Joe has passed away,  
 And the world's a little poorer for a Veteran died today.  
 He won't be mourned by many, Just his children and his wife.  
 For he lived an ordinary, very quiet sort of life.  
 He held a job and raised a family, going quietly on his way;  
 And the world won't note his passing, 'tho a Veteran died today.  
 When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,  
 While thousands note their passing, and proclaim that they were great.  
 Papers tell of their life stories from the time that they were young,  
 But the passing of a Veteran goes unnoticed, and unsung.  
 Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land,  
 Someone who breaks his promise and deceives his fellow man?  
 Or the ordinary fellow who in times of war and strife,  
 Goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?  
 The politician's stipend and the style in which he lives,  
 Are often disproportionate, to the service that he gives.  
 While the ordinary Veteran, who offered up his all,  
 Is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension, small.  
 It is not the politicians with their compromise and ploys,  
 Who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.  
 Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,  
 Would you really want some cop-out, with his ever-waffling stand?  
 Or would you want the one who honors home, country and kin,  
 Just the common Veteran, who would fight until the end.  
 He was just a common Veteran, and his ranks are growing thin,  
 But his presence should remind us we may need his likes again.  
 For countries are in conflict, we find the Veteran's part,  
 Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.  
 If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,  
 Then at least let's give him homage at the end of his days.  
 Perhaps just a simple heading in the paper that might say:  
**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, a VETERAN DIED TODAY."**



**Editor—Re: Obituary**

**Roger Clements, 66, of Columbus, Ohio**

Served with Bravo Company in 1969 and 70. He was born on June 28, 1948 in Columbus, Ohio. Roger grew up in Delaware, Ohio and graduated from Buckeye Valley High School in 1966. In 1969, Roger was drafted into the U.S. Army where he proudly and honorably served our country. He served in Vietnam, and was the recipient of numerous medals and honors including the Purple Heart for wounds received in action Jan. 8, 1970, and the Air Medal for Meritorious Achievement while participating in aerial flight. In 1971 he was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant E5. Roger began his career as a maintenance professional in 1966. During his 45 year career, Roger worked at Air Co., American Can and Metal Container. Roger retired in 2011. In 1969 Roger married the love of his life, Jessica Alaine Stevens, in Delaware, Ohio. They were happily married for 45 years, or as Roger would lovingly say, "ALL OF HIS LIFE." Roger was a member of the Hamburger Inn Coffee Club, the Delaware Moose Lodge and the Delaware AMVETS. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle and he shared a love of classic cars with his brother, Jim. He also enjoyed spending time outdoors and in his (retirement) garage that his sons, Craig and Steve, built for him. The family encourages all Vietnam Era Veterans to explore the long term effects of exposure to Agent Orange. Veterans and their families can learn more by going online to the United States Veterans Administration or contacting your local Department of Veteran's Office.

**BULLETIN BOARD****Submitted by Editor—Suoi Tre After-Action Report**

The Brigade should have known they were in for a fight when the units first arrived and received a warm reception at LZ GOLD. Within a few short days, the VC were not happy we set up shop right in the middle of their staging area. By March 19th, the VC, 2,000 strong, thought they could over run the small force guarding FSB Gold.

The battleground was NE of Nui Ba Den, near an abandoned village east of the Suoi May Tau stream. The battle involved the 3/22, 2/77 Arty, 2/34, 2/22 and 2/12th. Over 647 VC confirmed KIA made it the largest battle ever in Vietnam. U.S. losses were 31 KIA's and 187 WIA's.

The Presidential Unit Citation is recommended for the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and all assigned and attached units for their actions on 21 March 1967.

On 19 March 1967 elements of the 3d Brigade made an opposed airmobile assault into a small clearing near the abandoned village of Suoi Tre in central War Zone C, Republic of Viet Nam, at coordinates XT385708. Their mission was to establish a Fire Support Base at the location of the air landing to support further offensive operations. The Fire Support Base was code named "Gold" after the code name of the landing zone. By late afternoon on 19 March the 2d Bn 77th Artillery (105mm) had been airlifted into position. On 20 March the 2d Bn 12th Inf, under the command of LTC Joe F. Elliot had moved west on a search and destroy mission against Viet Cong forces suspected to be in the area. Less than two battalions of U.S. Troops now remained at Fire Support Base Gold, the 3d Bn 22d Inf (minus Company C), commanded by LTC John A. Bender, and the 2d Bn. 77th Artillery, commanded by LTC Jack Vessey. Total complement of U.S. troops at Fire Support Base Gold was less than 450. To the south, the 2d Bn 22d Inf (M) under the command of LTC Ralph Julian, and the 2d Bn 34th Armor (minus company B) under the command of LTC Raymond L. Stailey were attempting to cross the Suoi Samat River and join the 2d Bn 12th Inf in an offensive sweep to the west. During the afternoon of 20 March the Brigade Commander observed 30-35 Viet Cong 2,000 meters southwest of Fire Support Base Gold. The enemy was engaged with artillery and all units were alerted to the possibility of enemy activity.

At first light on 21 March 1967, in accordance with standing operating procedures, a stand-to was conducted in FSB Gold and a security patrol from 3d Bn. 22d Inf began a sweep of the perimeter. This action prematurely triggered an attack on FSB Gold which subsequently proved to be the largest single attack and the most catastrophic enemy defeat of the war to date.

As the security patrol moved to sweep the perimeter, the enemy force began a heavy mortar attack at 0640 hours followed minutes later by a ground assault from the north, east, and south. This enemy force was later determined to be approximately 2,500 men strong, composed of three battalions of the 272d VC Main Force Regiment reinforced by two additional battalions, and supported by the U-80 Artillery Regiment. The mortar attack consisted of some 500-700 rounds of both 60mm and 82mm. At Brigade Headquarters, thirteen thousand meters southwest, an alert that FSB Gold was under attack was relayed to all elements of the brigade. B Btry, 3/13 Arty (115 SP), C Btry 1/8 Arty (105mm), B Btry, 2/32 Arty (8-inch and 175mm), B Btry, 2/35 Arty (155 SP), all located within supporting distance of FSB Gold, commenced firing preplanned defensive fires into every clearing large enough for the enemy to use as a mortar position around Fire Support Base Gold. The Brigade Commander, Colonel Marshall B. Garth, and the Brigade Sergeant Major, Bill V. Woods, boarded the only available aircraft, an OH 23-G helicopter, and flew from Suoi Da to the scene of the battle. Simultaneously, the Forward Air Controller from Dau Tieng and fighter pilots from Bien Hoa Airbase scrambled their aircraft. Less than 20 minutes from the impact of the first mortar round, the small force of FSB Gold was engaged in a bitter, hand-to-hand struggle with the enemy.

The situation inside FSB Gold had by this time become so critical that howitzers within the perimeter were lowered to fire directly into the waves of advancing enemy soldiers. The tenaciously held perimeter of the Fire Support Base had been penetrated in the north and southeast by 0751 hours. During this penetration the enemy succeeded in over-running and destroying one M-55 Quad .50 caliber machine gun and actually penetrating one of the howitzer positions. The other Quad .50 MG had been destroyed by an anti-tank round during the initial attack. In all, two howitzers were totally destroyed by mortar and anti-tank rounds, and nine others were damaged. In addition, many of the more than 500 RPG-11 anti-tank rounds which were fired into the support base landed in the ammunition stores. In spite of the withering small arms fire and the exploding stores of 105mm ammunition, the gun crews remained at their guns, cannibalizing the destroyed howitzers to keep the damaged ones firing. Crew members from destroyed guns carried ammunition and stepped in to fill vacancies as casualties occurred in the operation crews. All cooks, clerks, and other available personnel in the artillery battalion, which had been formed into a preplanned reaction force, now moved to block the penetration of the infantry's perimeter. By this time the infantry soldiers on the perimeter of the FSB who were subjected to the brunt of the assault were fighting from isolated positions as the

**BULLETIN BOARD****Suoi Tre After-Action Report—continued**

determined enemy force penetrated and encircled the U.S. defensive positions. Small elements of the U.S. soldiers fighting fiercely in hand-to-hand combat continued to resist the assaulting enemy. As the fighting intensified and ammunition stocks depleted, friendly troops reacted quickly to the situation, seizing weapons and ammunition from the dead and wounded enemy. During the course of the action, the penetrating Viet Cong threatened the Command Post of the 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry and the Fire Direction Center of the 2d Battalion, 77th Artillery. These positions were successfully defended, however, and the enemy assault was repulsed after suffering numerous casualties. Twenty-six dead Viet Cong soldiers were found within 50 meters of the artillery Fire Direction Center. By the time the relief force reached the scene of the battle it was estimated that over half of the troops on the eastern portion of the perimeter had exhausted their own ammunition and were using captured AK-47's and Chicom carbines.

Meanwhile, two defensive ambush patrols from the 3d Bn. 22d Inf. Composed of 15 men from Company A, 3d Bn. 22d Infantry at XT384709 and 12 men from Company B, 3d Bn. 22d Infantry at XT388702 reported "hundreds" of Viet Cong all around their positions. The patrols were told to remain in their ambush sites and move back to the perimeter at the first opportunity. Prior to their withdrawal they reported enemy carrying parties pulling "hundreds" of dead and wounded VC to the rear. Both patrols eventually made it back to the perimeter; however nearly half their original number were either dead or wounded.

Air strikes were called in on the outskirts of the perimeter and all supporting artillery units were firing final protective fires around the support base. Nearly 4,100 rounds of varying caliber were used in the accomplishment of their mission. When the Forward Air Controller directing U.S. fighter planes was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft weapons, another plane was made available at Dau Tieng and a replacement FAC was on station within minutes.

Alerted at 0655 hours and ordered to move to the aid of the beleaguered defenders at FSB Gold, the 2/12 Inf, 2/22 Inf (M) and 2/34 Armor pressed on from positions as far away as 3,000 meters. As they started to move, the 2d Bn 12h Inf was subjected to heavy concentrations of enemy mortar fire in an attempt to delay their progress. Treating their wounded on the move, the 2d Bn 12th Inf continued to push on through 2,500 meters of heavy bamboo and underbrush toward their objective at FSB Gold. Harassed by sniper fire and blocked by security elements of the enemy's main attack force, the 2d Bn 12th Inf continued to advance, moving the 2,500 meters overland through dense jungle against a determined enemy in less than two hours. The first element of the 2d Bn 12th Inf entered the southwestern part of the perimeter minutes before the mechanized elements arrived at 0900 hours.

For the 2/22 Inf (M) and the 2/34th Armor, the order to reinforce meant crossing the Suoi Samat River which had already halted their advance for 24 hours while they searched for a suitable crossing site the previous day. The success of the enemy effort was dependent upon this natural obstacle to prevent the reinforcement of FSB Gold. Realizing the urgency of the situation, a personnel carrier was quickly brought forward with the idea of sinking it in the river to serve as an expedient bridge for the remaining elements. Meanwhile, A Co. 2/22d Inf (M) attached to the 2/34th Armor, located a possible crossing site and had pushed one APC across. The first armored vehicle reached the far side of the river at approximately 0745 hours. The lighter Personnel Carriers were pushed through first and the heavier tanks of the 2d Bn, 34th Armor brought up the rear.

Having been repulsed on their first attempt to overrun the FSB, the enemy mortared the objective once again and launched a second determined ground assault. This second assault was interrupted as mechanized columns of the 2/22d Inf (M) and foot elements of the 2/12th Inf almost simultaneously broke into the clearing at 0900 hours, trapping the enemy in a murderous crossfire. The 2/34th Armor was trailing, and swept in immediately behind the mechanized battalion. Both the mechanized and armored elements passed through the 2d Bn, 12th Inf and swept around the southern and eastern half of the FSB while enemy troops swarmed over the APC's. The heavy guns of the tanks were firing direct fire at point blank range into the teeming mass of troops as the enemy panicked and attempted to flee. After the mechanized units assisted in breaking the force of the attack in the eastern and southern flanks, the 2d Bn, 12th Inf moved in on the west and northwest, sweeping the entire perimeter and neutralizing the small remaining pockets of resistance. The full force of available air and artillery support was brought to bear against the Viet Cong force which was now desperately trying to break contact.

At 0931 hours, during the first lull in the fighting, with dazed VC still wandering inside the perimeter, the Brigade Commander directed his UH1-D Command ship to land in the center of the battle zone. Without hesitation, Colonel Garth directed that his helicopter be used to evacuate the wounded while he remained at FSB Gold to personally direct the conduct of the action.

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **Suoi Tre After-Action Report—continued**

Behind the scene of the fighting in Suoi Tre there was another kind of battle going on, one that drew on the resources and ingenuity of all support personnel in the Brigade. All available ammunition stores for both howitzers and small arms were rapidly being depleted. Thousands of meters away, at Dau Tieng Base Camp, at Suoi Da, and at Tay Ninh, the support and service elements of the Brigade were moving and loading tons of ammunition on UH1-d and CH-47 helicopters which flew, in spite of a heavy cloud cover, to begin the tedious and dangerous task of resupplying ammunition to the engaged units. At FSB Bronze, the primary support base for FSB Gold, the first resupply of howitzer ammunition was airlifted in minutes before the last on-hand round was slammed into the breach of a howitzer of C Btry, 1st Bn, 8th Arty.

By 1145 hours the intensity of the fight had tapered off and there remained only the slow task of clearing the battlefield. The scope of the battle was so vast that five days later security and ambush patrols from FSB Gold found weapons and bodies, and captured wounded prisoners up to 1500 meters away.

### **Submitted by Joe Engles—Gunner on Alpha #3 at Suoi Tre**

Not a day goes by that I don't think about that horrific morning at LZ Gold. That was the morning when the lines between Artillery and Infantry blurred. I can't ever think of that battle and the 2/77 without thinking of Alpha and Bravo 3/22. That morning we were one unit. I know your bravery and saw your sacrifice. I would like to extend a genuine invitation to all of my B/3/22 brothers who were inside the wire that morning who put up such a courageous and incredible fight. Here is what's happening and how this gathering has developed. Over the years I've been able to find only six of my 2/77 brothers who were with me that morning for the battle. And that's okay. Every March 21st for the last five years we have had a memorial for all of our brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice that morning and also our 14 brothers we lost on the 19th when we set down on LZ Gold. Several months ago, I contacted my 2/77 at Ft. Carson, CO and introduced myself. They were extremely excited over the idea of holding our memorial there at Ft. Carson. The 2/77 S-3 stated they would like to provide taps and a cannon salute. And if that wasn't enough, something incredible happened. I learned that 2/12 Infantry, who shot their way into Gold that morning and gave you guys some ammo, is actually occupying the floor beneath them. I then spoke to the 2/12 S-3 and both units agreed to have both battalions present for us to make a Suoi Tre presentation of the battle on the 24th. No doubt, a far greater sense of unit pride will occur after they hear about exactly what their predecessors did to put those Suoi Tre streamers on top of their battalion flags. I told them we have one request, us Suoi Tre guys still like to blow things up. So, we are invited into the field with them on the 24th and 25th. How cool is that? If you are an Arty guy, you can go out with 2/77. If you are an Infantry guy, you can go out with 2/12. Other than that, no other events are planned—unless the Ft. Carson units come up with something, which I think they will. So far, there will be the six of us attending from 2/77 and two men from 3/22 Infantry who were with us inside the wire. I am sending B/3/22 this invite and I pray that some, if not all, of Bravo's Suoi Tre veterans will come. Vets from 2/12 Infantry, who shot their way into Gold and handed out some ammo to you guys, and Triple Deuce, who came in when we could hold out probably less than 10 minutes that morning, will also be there. On the 24th, I would ask that one speaker from each unit make a presentation of the incredible part you played. The gathering is restricted to Suoi Tre vets only. Bring as many 3/22 Suoi Tre vets that would like to attend. The plan is to arrive in Colorado Springs on the 19th and out on the 26th, 2015. We are currently arranging hotel discounts. I will advise you of that later. Wives are encouraged to come. I am not retired. So, returning phone calls my take some time. I ask that B/3/22 vets respond with how many men can make it. Let's make a strong showing. Your brother, Terry Smith, of B/3/22, who was at Suoi Tre, is out here with me. His phone is (951) 325-5120. It would be great if one of you who knows him would give him a call. My phone number is (951) 696-9565. My e-mail address is [jcengles@twc.com](mailto:jcengles@twc.com) if you have any questions.





# Association Business

John Otte  
Treasurer/Locator  
bravo6xray@aol.com  
(310) 539-0886

## Financial Report Income and Expense

**July 1, 2014 Balance** **\$9,101.94**

Income

Dues	4,267.00
Reunion Refund	2,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,267.00</b>

Expenses

Newsletter	1,519.28
Webpage	426.00
G/L Adjustment	25.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,970.28</b>

**Nov. 30, 2014 Balance** **\$13,398.66**



*John*

Gerald DePhillip  
940 Oxford Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32084-1813  
904 629-6933  
2nd. Plt.—April 68-69

George Trujillo  
12141 Spruce Street  
Thornton, CO 80602-8186  
303 523-0610  
2nd Plt.—July 67-68

