

Bravo Regulars



B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

March 2014





President's Message

Max Torres
President
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(805) 481-5554

Dear Bravo Company,

July is almost here and it will be nice to see you all again. From the emails that we've received, it looks like Walt and Shirley Shugart will be attending our reunion. It will be an honor to see and talk to them again.

My heart hurts for all the brothers and sisters who live in the Midwest and Northeastern parts of America. All the snow and freezing weather is taking its toll. May God be with all of us in these times.

Please remember to invite our brothers to attend this reunion.

Max

Association Business



John Otte
Treasurer/Locator
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John

Financial Report Income and Expense	
Dec. 1, 2013 Balance	\$9,754.20
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	290.00
Dividend	.00
Total Income	290.00
<u>Expense</u>	
Newsletter	529.68
Webpage	.00
Total Expense	529.68
Feb. 28, 2014 Balance	\$9,514.52



David W. Lowell
Editor
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Editor's Notes

Hello again, Bravo Regulars. To begin, we have another request for information on one of our combat casualties to be used in a memorial project. Our exchange of emails are at the top of our Bulletin Board. The subject of this request is David F. Tinsey, KIA 10/02/70. Remembering and honoring our fallen is the primary reason for our organization's existence. If you served with Tinsey, please respond and share your experience with us as well. Your participation will bring honor upon yourself, our organization and, most importantly, David Tinsey.

The combat story for this issue covers the battle for Ap Cho, in February, 1968. The information is from an after-action report found on the internet.

Thank you, Lane Sterling, for submitting a profound essay on "The Perimeter". Anyone who would like to re-experience the comforting 'hug' of our perimeter need only attend our next reunion. Thanks also to Walt Shugart and Dee Lowell for their input on the topic.

Tony and Roxanne remain busy planning the 2014 reunion in Salt Lake City. Alcoholic beverages will be available as always, despite the state's dry reputation. All three lodging locations are together in a cluster and equal distance from the reunion site. Dee and I are registering at the Crystal Inn and have heard of others planning to stay there as well. We plan to arrive early and take in the local sights along with helping out at the meeting site. Nick Carey, the journalist working on a book about our unit, also plans to attend.

In a recent phone conversation with Richard 'Crazy' Ward (2nd Platoon, Original), he expressed an interest in hosting our 2016 reunion in Naples, Florida. It would be nice to have another reunion in the East where we have a large contingent, many of whom cannot travel to the West venues. He has pledged to attend in Salt Lake City to present us with details.

A note for those who carry concealed. Utah allows concealed carry by permit and recognizes other state's permits. We can remain legally armed.

In roster news, welcome back to Ralph 'Rick' Reisch (1st. Plt. Medic 12-67/68) who contacted John Otte with updated contact information after an absence of many years. Also, I received a voicemail from Douwe Drayer (2nd. Plt. 7-68/69) who went inactive when his contact information was no longer valid about a year ago, wanting to reconnect. Unfortunately, he did not give any new contact information and I have no way to reach him. Also, John Andrews (1st. Plt. Ldr. Original) has been placed on the inactive list. If anyone is in contact with Drayer or Andrews, ask them to call me.

Our next issue will be published in June and we will be accepting input through the end of May. It is also our Memorial Day issue, which is always special. Articles and stories from our members are always welcome. Until then, 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 Annika Dodrill

Dear Mr. Lowell. My name is Annika Dodrill and I am a student at Westlake High School in Austin, Texas. My English class is reading *The Things They Carried*, and is now beginning a project memorializing soldiers whose names are on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. We are commemorating lost soldiers and I received Sergeant David F. Tinsey's name. Through research on www.virtualwall.org and other similar sites, I found that this is the infantry unit he served in. I also found his name on the list of the deceased on this website, where I also found your name and contact information. I was wondering if you could, or if you could get in contact with someone who could, share memories, experiences, or photos about Sergeant Tinsey that I can include in my memorial to make it more personal. If you would like to see similar projects to the one I'm working on and where my memorial will eventually be posted, please visit <http://www4.eanesisd.net/~vietnam/>. I can be contacted at ad27917@eanesisd.net. Also, please feel free to contact my teacher, Michelle Crocker, at mcrocker@eanesisd.net. Thank you very much for your time.

Dear Annika. Thank you for your interest in our unit and its' history. Our organization has over 500 members who served in Vietnam with us. I served at a different time than Tinsey so did not know him personally, but I'm confident I can find someone who did. We publish a quarterly newsletter, with the next one due to be published in mid-March. I will publish your request in that issue and ask for members to contact you. We had a similar request to yours in April, 2011 regarding Virgil Ledford and received a good response. If I may be of any further help, feel free to contact me.

Mr. Lowell, I'm sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you, so many things on a high schooler's mind! I just wanted to thank you for your generous offer to publish my request in your newsletter. That would be such an awesome opportunity to learn about David Tinsey, because I would like my project to be as authentic and personal as possible.

Submitted by Editor—Ap Cho Battle

The battle for Ap Cho was fought between 1-18 February, 1968. Large concentrations of Viet Cong soldiers had massed around Cu Chi and were well dug in around the village of Ap Cho. It was a medium-sized cluster of perhaps 100 buildings, hootches of thatch roofs and sandy mortar walls. The hamlet was just a few kilometers south of Cu Chi and lay astride the main supply route. The 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry regiment, under the command of LTC Thomas U. Harrold, was called upon to engage the enemy and drive them from their locations. The Battalion was forced to attack it daily until all the enemy were killed.

For a period of thirteen days, the 22nd Infantry, supported by other units, moved against the enemy by continual attacks against their fortified positions. Inch by inch they fought their way through the village, hacking away at the bunkers and routing the enemy in close quarter combat.

It was obvious that the North Vietnamese soldiers who had dug in there had no intention of giving up or fleeing. They were determined to fight to the end, and that is exactly what they did, that is—they all died before the hands of the infantry and the supporting fires.

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Ap Cho (continued)

Each morning, the 3-22 units would pass the line of departure, fix bayonets, and attack the enemy positions, often without any fire support or promise of success. Little by little, they gained ground destroying the enemy positions and their occupants. Often they evacuated their own dead and wounded by oxcart.

The battle was long and fierce. The 3-22 worked beside the mechanized 4-23 Infantry units of the 17th and 4th Cavalry; numerous batteries of artillery from the 5th, 8th, 77th, and 13th Artillery Battalions: the 116th, 187th, 125th, 265th, 269th, and 242nd Assault Helicopter Companies. Thirty airstrikes initiated the final assault, laying waste to the battle zone as the combined arms team attacked.

After an extraordinary fighting effort by the infantry and tanks, coupled with immense support from the air and artillery, the battle was won. Although the struggle received little notice and was anti-climatic considering that the Tet Offensive was in full swing, the victory marked a major upset to the enemy's plans to sever the main supply route to 25th Division units.

Enemy KIA from the action exceeded 253. Six POW's were taken along with tons of enemy weapons and supplies. American losses were 44 KIA, six more died, not from hostile action, and more than 134 were wounded. For the men of the 22nd Infantry, "The Battle of Ap Cho" represents another splendid episode in our gallant history.

Submitted by Lane Sterling—Co. RTO/2nd Plt.— 4/68-6/69

The Perimeter.

The Perimeter, in the infantry, is a circle of men. It is half a squad, platoon or company. One half is on guard, staying vigilant, watching for the enemy, while the other half rests, sleeps and carries on with life as it is. They are more than just men, they are a brotherhood in uniform.

They share their plans, dreams and hopes with each other. In hard times, they share their sadness, fears and pain. They face the enemy together, some like brothers, others like fathers and sons, and always as true friends. They find a spirit in each other that binds them to one another in a bond that lasts forever.

As time passes, they will leave the service and each other. They will travel many different paths of life, some to prosper well and others not so well. Somewhere in life's travels, these men find themselves lost in the world, confused, dazed, scared, unhappy, and searching for something; something they are not even sure exists. They are not soldiers anymore, they are called veterans.

Somehow, in their search, they once again find others like themselves. They find brothers of the past, brothers of the Perimeter, that circle of safety, where someone else shares their pain, their confusion and their fear. That Perimeter where that fear is eased, where there is less confusion. They share each other's pain in stories, in tears, and in silence. Inside the Perimeter, eye contact can say it all. This Perimeter is a circle of life and a circle of death; it is a circle of wounded warriors, with wounds of both flesh and spirit. This Perimeter is a circle of iron that

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The Perimeter (continued)

has never broken. It is a circle of common duty that knows no color, no creed and no religious ground. The circle lasts forever, through the best of times and the worst of times. The Perimeter is a place warriors will always see—even for eternity. Just gaze out at our national cemeteries. For out there, on the outer edge, ever so vigilant, are those on the Perimeter. Author - James R. Lawson.

Submitted by Walt Shugart—C.O.—1/67-4/67

If one looks down the roster of all the Bravo Regulars which Dave and Dee Lowell provided us at the last reunion, approximately 560 names are recorded with addresses and phone numbers, which means that many of our brothers-in-arms have never attended a reunion. There are probably as many reasons or excuses to explain their absence, ranging from disinterest, to health, to financial straits, as there are absentees.

If you are one of those who has never attended, then let me try to change your mind. Consider sending the Registration Form with accompanying check to Tony, complete with your travel plans to the reunion, and plan to visit some of the national parks and shrines which are within a day's driving distance from Salt Lake City. You can be sure of a warm welcome from those with whom you served and a renewing of old friendships.

Take it from one who avoided reunions for years until encouraged by his spouse to put aside personal fears and trepidations, face reality, and move into the future with a fresh perspective on his service with Company B. Further, with each reunion, many find healing and resolution of personal conflicts which results in a healthier attitude toward life. Think about it. By attending, you have nothing to lose and a wealth to gain. See you in Salt Lake City.

Submitted by Dee Lowell

Are reunions important? Yes, they are. A neighbor told me a story about her grandfather who is a World War II vet. He has never talked about his time during the war. A few years ago he received a notice about a reunion of his unit close by. He was adamant about not attending. He said he wouldn't know anyone and would have a terrible time. After much persuasion, he finally relented. Her husband took him to the reunion in case he just wanted to leave instead of staying. The first person her grandfather saw as he entered the room was someone he knew. He had a great time at the reunion and has been going back ever since.

Submitted by Editor

Some of us avoid traveling due to PTSD and I am one of them. If that is your reason for not attending, consider this. Traveling to our reunions once every two years is perfect therapy for our condition. Once there, you are surrounded by others who share and understand our condition and you'll feel at home and at peace. Anyone showing signs of stress is promptly hugged until we're all smiling again. You won't feel out of place with us. At the conclusion, we return home to our 'bunkers' for another two years. We do have to live with our condition, but we don't have to surrender to it. Hope to see you there.



Reunion News

Tony Togisala
Reunion Coordinator
ktogisala2@yahoo.com
(951) 722-5667

Hey gang, just keeping in touch and giving updates. Things are moving along on schedule and we are working vigorously to ensure this will be one of the greatest reunions we have ever had. People have requested information on KOA campsites so we have included it on the Registration Form. Regarding the sightseeing tour, we have the option of doing it on Wednesday or Friday. Tickets will be arranged as we receive your funding.

Also, if anyone is interested in the Heber Valley Historic Railroad Authority, based on how many are interested, we can reserve a time space. The trip provides a great view of the mountains and we hear there is a train robbery involved. If we have enough participation, it would be half price at \$7.00 per person. We also have musical entertainment booked from Blue Grass to old timey music of the pioneer era.

We are getting very excited and are looking forward to seeing all of you again. Please send us your registration form and order your hats and shirts so we can get an accurate count submitted. We appreciate all your help and support.

Take care and God bless.

Kereti (Tony) and Roxanne Togisala



**REGISTRATION FORM
BRAVO REGULARS 2014 REUNION
July 23, 2014 – July 27, 2014**

Registration Fee: \$75.00

Per Couple: \$140.00

Full Name: _____ **Spouse Name (if attending):** _____

Address: _____ **City/State/Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Vietnam Unit: _____ **Dates of Service:** _____

I plan to arrive on (date): _____ **I plan on departing (date):** _____

Total number of guests: _____

Names of additional guests: _____

Lodging Available: MapQuest shows all hotels 3.5 miles from reunion facility.

Crystal Inn—801-736-2004 Ask for Cindy Hornsby in reference to BRAVO CO. RSVP Cindyh@crystalinns.com Quoted at \$78.00 per room

Baymont Inn & Suites—801-886-1300 Ask for Beatrice Cervantes in reference to BRAVO CO. RSVP Baymontwvalley@gmail.com. Quoted at \$75.00 per room.

Country Inn & Suites—801-908-0311 Ask for Celina Milner in reference to BRAVO RSVP www.countryinns.com/westvalleycityut. Quoted at \$79.00 per room (king bed only)

KOA Salt Lake City---801-328-0224 \$46.99 + tax: Go to website for a list of amenities. Ask for Stacy or Vicky. Be sure to mention Bravo Reunion. MapQuest shows KOA to reunion facility at 4.3 miles. <http://koa.com/campgrounds/salt-lake-city/>

Reunion Gear:

Shirts-- \$25.00 S__ M__ L__ XL__ XXL__ XXXL__ **Hats-- \$15.00 __**

Activities:

City's Finest Tour — \$50.00 Lunch included <http://www.saltlakecitytours.org/>

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO: Kereti (Tony) & Roxanne Togisala

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