

Bravo Regulars

B Company 3/22



Vietnam Service

www.bravoregulars.com

December, 2012

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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President's Message



Max Torres
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Ted Silberies
Vice President
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Dear Bravo Regulars,

I'm hoping everybody had a nice, happy Thanksgiving and will have a happy Christmas and New Year.

My wife, Rosemary, Richard and I hope you all had a wonderful reunion in Pismo Beach. We all know that putting on a reunion is a lot of hard work and planning. Thank you for coming.

I would like to thank Joe Velis, Richard and Ryan Villarreal and Patrick Toyama for their sponsorship in assisting our reunion.

We also want to give thanks to the city of Pismo Beach; they gave us much help and guidance.

We also want to thank all of our friends for all of their hard work in making our reunion a success. A big Thank You goes to Ron and Sue Wallace. Sue and Ron provided the cutlery, plates and cups.

See you all at our next reunion in Utah. We'll have another great time!

Max Torres

Vice President's Message



Many thanks to Dave and Dee Lowell for putting together our new roster, which was passed out during our Pismo Beach reunion. I'd like to encourage each of you to put it to good use. Take it with you when you travel and try to get together with someone from Bravo. My wife and I had the pleasure of visiting with Charlie and Dottie Weems and Walt and Shirley Shugart on a recent trip to the East Coast.

If you can, take a couple of minutes to use the Roster to send a card or call a few of the guys you served with just to say hello and keep in touch.

While you're at it, check the roster and confirm that the information we have listed for you is correct. I glanced at it and THOUGHT mine was right till Jim Ash brought to my attention that my zip code was off. (You know how picky those LTs can be.)

I look forward to seeing each of you, and (with your help), some new faces at our 2014 reunion in Utah hosted by Tony and Roxanne Togisala.

Till next time,

Ted Silberies



**Ted Rowley
Chaplain
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

My mother told me when I was young, to never rain on someone else's parade.

We met some neat people coming and going, 4,683 miles to California. To minister to some who lost loved ones in the Vietnam War was a highlight for us. No matter where you are, if two or more are gathered in His name, His presence can be felt.

At this Christmas season, I remember our brother, Mark Rowan, whose birthday was December 12, 1943 and who started our reunions in 1988 and

died November 10, 1998. Dennis Amily was the only one that spoke to me of Mark at the reunion. Our focus has blurred as Mark said would happen.

At our first reunion, we were our own entertainment. A camp fire was the gathering place, both day and night. The focus then was to honor the memory of our fallen comrades of 40 plus years ago. That was the unwritten agreement we had with them, whether or not we realized it at the time. They would have done the same for us. Sometimes less is more.

I'm not perfect, I'm not a Muslim, I'm not a Socialist, I'm not a Democrat, I'm not a Republican, I'm not for abortion, I'm not going to be controlled by a big union, I'm not going to be told what to do by anyone. That is not what freedom is all about. I believe that is what this organization is about, and that's why I continue to serve as Chaplain.

I am a Christian and an electrician, I'm not a magician, I'm not a politician. I am who I am, believer of Jesus Christ and what he gave to us, our fallen comrades and what they stood for. What they stood for is the most important thing—Freedom. Freedom to do what you want and when you want. Not everyone is going to always agree with you, but you always have the freedom to leave. Be who you are and say what you think for those that mind don't matter and those that matter don't mind and that is real freedom.

John 17:17—Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth; your word is truth. (Good News Bible)

At this special Christmas time of year, let us reflect on the past and look forward to the future and try to make this a better world. Deeds not Words. My special prayers to all with health problems for He knows and I pray to Him, Christ the King.

Your Chaplain,
Ted Rowley



David W. Lowell
Editor
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EDITOR'S NOTES

The cover photo, submitted by Steve Earp (68/69), was taken following a memorial service at our Pismo Beach reunion. Thanks again to Max Torres and Rick Villarreal for hosting and to Steve Earp for sharing it with us.

At the reunion, I mentioned to Ron Wamsley that when I had time I was going to look into setting up a Facebook page so members could communicate year-round. Ron agreed to take point and research the project, then followed through and set up two. Details are on the Bulletin Board. These sites will be evolving over the next few years and it is up to us how they're used. Thanks, Ron, for your help.

The research project regarding the events behind the movie "Platoon" is continuing. So far, I'm aware of three members who have volunteered to provide information. One of them, Larry Robinson, has also submitted a related contribution to our Bulletin Board. Information on this topic is covered in our last newsletter and I encourage anyone who qualifies to get involved.

Many of our members attend reunions while traveling by RV. Paul Dell is sharing his traveling experience with us on the Bulletin Board and it is typical of many stories I heard at the reunion. Several members were coordinating their travel, meeting on the road and visiting with other members enroute. If this appeals to you, get involved before the next reunion.

As Ted Silberies mentioned in his column, a new roster was distributed to attendees at the reunion. John Otte and I are continuing to update the information to keep it as current as possible. If you would like a current roster, you **MUST** request it by snail mail or email and provide your full current information including name, address, telephone number, unit (platoon and dates of service) and email address if you have one. A current copy of the roster is available at any time. By requiring your personal information with each request for a copy, I'll at least have your information correct when I sent it to you.

Each roster now includes a revision date, which is updated whenever a change is made. The roster also includes mailing codes. Categories #1 and #3 are active members. Category #2 is returns, and the information may not be correct or the member may not want to be involved. Category #4 is honorary memberships for the families of fallen members as well as others.

John Otte and I are in agreement that we would like to return to a quarterly newsletter, and John feels that we now have the finances to do so. Accordingly, we are planning our next newsletter for March.

Reuniting with old friends at reunions is always a pleasure, but a highlight of this reunion is the number of new friends we made. Thank you to all friends, new and old, who made this reunion a memorable one.

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 Ron Wamsley—4th Platoon Original

I have started two Facebook sharing sites. **Facebook “Group” Bravo Regulars:** <http://www.facebook.com/groups/245454475577610/> (click at left) and **Facebook “Community Page” Bravo Regulars:** <http://www.facebook.com/BravoRegulars> (click at left). I don’t know which of these is more appropriate and, at present, these are public and not restricted in any way except by Facebook rules. Courtesy and respect are always appropriate. There are no fees for this and Facebook is the controlling agency however, as the Administrator, I do have some controls including membership and visibility. Hopefully we will have success with sharing here and this will give us a better understanding of what might help keep us in touch throughout each year, perhaps, like a constant reunion. PLEASE PASS THESE LINKS TO OTHER BRAVO REGULARS as my email list is woefully short. Be well my Brothers and Sisters, it is a distinct pleasure having each of you in my life. RG Wamsley: <http://rgwamsley.blogspot.com/> or <http://picasaweb.google.com/rgwamsley> or e-mail: rgwamsley@gmail.com.

Submitted by Larry Robinson—First Platoon 67/68

AMBUSH—First platoon was under heavy fire Jan. 15, 1968 when Oliver Stone and his buddies from second platoon saved the day. First platoon was ambushed shortly after we had stopped to eat our c-rations around noon. Lt. Richard Walker was the first to get it. He walked right in on an enemy bunker and was killed by machine gun fire. Shortly afterwards, my squad leader, Sgt. Thomas Watts, was hit along with several other guys. I heard our Platoon Sgt, Ernest Martin, yell at his RTO Gary Payton to “tell them to get that god damn artillery off us!”. Then a second later, in came an artillery round right over my head, landing on Sgt. Martin. He was killed instantly. About that time an AK crazed my head. Those of us that could, low crawled back about 50 feet and got behind some big ant hills for cover. We continued to fire until we ran out of ammunition. About this time, a very heroic Medic, Spec. 4 Dick Reisch, jumped up from behind his ant hill and ran out into the firing to pull Tom Watts back behind my ant hill. Tom had been hit with AK fire about 5 or 6 times. He was still alive and I tried my best to comfort him. Twice the medic tossed me morphine syringes to give Tom shots to ease his pain. Unfortunately, Tom died on his way back to the field hospital. First platoon was completely out of ammunition. We could hear the gooks chattering about something or other and we thought they were going to get out of their bunkers to finish us off. About that time, Oliver Stone and four of his buddies came crawling up behind us. I told them to be careful, that there were a lot of VC in front of us. Stone said they would go get them. Stone and second platoon members crawled forward toward the enemy bunkers and all we could hear was a chorus of AK and M16 fire. Stone and the others came crawling back. Most of them had been wounded including Stone. What this did for first platoon was to let the enemy know we still had live bodies with live ammo, thus dissuading them from getting out of their bunkers to execute us. For this I will be eternally grateful. Stone and his buddies saved the day because it bought us enough time for the 2/22nd APCs to come to our rescue. They clambered up behind us firing away with their 50 caliber machine guns. It was just like the old movies where the cavalry comes to the rescue. Thank God! This ambush was portrayed in the next to last scene in the movie Platoon which was written and directed by Oliver Stone.

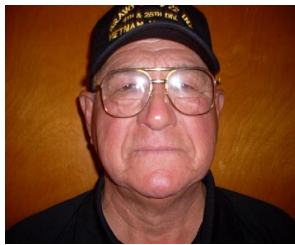
Submitted by Paul Dell—1st Platoon 1970

On our trip to the 2012 reunion, Teresa and I left Pennsylvania on Sept. 7 and headed west. Our first stop was at Winterset, Iowa at the John Wayne Birthplace and Museum. From there we went to Mt. Rushmore at Rapid City, SD and then down to the Crazy Horse Monument. We then spent two nights in Las Vegas before heading towards Pismo Beach, CA. We arrived there on the 17th. We shopped on the 18th and went to Hurst Castle on the 19th. We had a wonderful day and the evening meal at Linn’s Diner was excellent. From Thurs.-Sat., we went to the Veteran’s Center. We reunited with old friends and made some new ones. The food and entertainment was very good. I want to thank Max and his wife for that. On Sat, raffle tickets were given out and then the prizes were awarded. I was happy to see Curtis McFarland win the quilt. Sunday morning we again met at the Veteran’s Center to say our goodbyes. We stayed an extra night and left on Monday. We next stopped at the Grand Canyon for two nights. We then went to Nashville, TN where we stayed for 3 days. We headed for PA and arrived on Oct. 9. We were gone 33 days and traveled 6900 miles. We had a great time and look forward to going to Salt Lake City in 2014.

Association Officers

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Financial Report



John Otte
Treasurer/Locater

INCOME & EXPENSE

August 1, 2012 Balance \$5,942.87

Income

Dues	\$3,770.00
Misc. Income	50.00
Total Income	\$3,820.00

Expenses

Newsletter	\$1,007.62
Webpage Expense	22.50
Total Expenses	\$1,030.12

November 30, 2012 Balance \$8,732.75

REUNION PHOTO GALLERY—GROUPS



REUNION PHOTO GALLERY—ENTERTAINMENT

