



# REUNION JUNE 2009



SPONSORED by the 7TH BN, 15TH FIELD ARTILLERY

**June 4th - 7th, 2009**  
**DoubleTree Hotel, Downtown**  
**Omaha, Nebraska**

**Did YOU Miss the Last One?**  
**“Start Planning to Meet Your Buddy NOW!”**



15TH FIELD ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION  
9343 W CAPITOL DR, MILWAUKEE WI 53222

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# The... **HIGHLANDER**

**7/15TH REDLEGS - VIETNAM**



**FIRST FIELD FORCES - VIETNAM - "First for Freedom"**  
**41st ARTILLERY GROUP / 52nd ARTILLERY GROUP - "Big Guns are Ready"**  
**7TH BN, 15TH FIELD ARTILLERY - "You Yell, We Shell Like Hell"**  
**PHU CAT - AN KHE - PLEIKU - BONG SON - VIETNAM 1967 - 1971**

**VOLUME - 18 NUMBER - 2 "The Highlander Newsletter"**  
**9343 W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222-1534 1-414-464-2939**

<b>Assoc. Founder: 1991, Former Editor &amp; Web Master</b>	<b>ROBERT M. DONNAN</b>	<b>HBB/B-Btry. 1971</b>
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**"WELCOME HOME" ...to our New Members of the Association! The Highlander is published by Editor "Davo" Holdorf and our 15TH Association Leaders listed above.**

**ALL Vets are urged to participate by submitting letters/articles/photos for the news or website. Send "Davo" copies of old Rosters/Orders with names of Vets to search. This is YOUR newsletter, submit or voice your opinion on subjects you wish to have published.**

**Please Up-date address changes ASAP! Once forwarding address services expire, you're lost! The time it takes to find you again can be used to find missing comrades.**

**We ask \$12 per year dues, preferred in January so we can plan our missions. All dues go toward newsletters to all, Vet searching, office supplies, and our Great Website located at <http://www.landscaper.net> No salaries are paid to our all volunteer leadership.**

**Contact "Davo" for membership, wanted, deceased lists, other info. New members are published in each issue. Visit our Website: History, Photos, Articles, Vietnam BN Newsletters, & Vet Benefits. Sign the Guestbook, ...if someone searches for you, your name will appear.**

**Best Wishes, ..... "Davo" & the Assoc. Leadership**



## “INCOMING” !!! - New Comrades, by ...*Davo*



Know a Vet that isn't receiving our newsletters, let us know!  
Contact: “Davo” at 1-414-464-2939 [hidavo@earthlink.net](mailto:hidavo@earthlink.net)  
Start Planning...NEXT REUNION: June 4-7, 2009, Omaha NE.

VET SEARCHES: No computer? If you know the name, city/st, try the phone co's dir asst: 1-800-555-1212. With computers: [www.peoplefinders.com](http://www.peoplefinders.com) by name/age, city, those assoc'd with, take notes. Then [www.zabasearch.com](http://www.zabasearch.com) and/or [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com).

7/15th FA LISTS Available: 800+ Member & 304 KIA/Deceased in MS Word, 2050 Wanted: MS Excel via e-mail or PO. Ask Davo!

7/15TH FA COMRADES FOUND: After June 2008: ( The Highlander is currently being sent to 800+ Vets )

Bailey, Adrian L “Beetle” A-Btry 8-11/71 Pfc/Cook Rock Hills SC 1-803 @yahoo.com	SOME INFO
Bauer, Marion F 12/69-3/71 C-Btry. Sp-4 13A/Wireman Bismarck ND 1-701 @bis.netco.net	REMOVED FOR
Durand Raymon L. HHB 4-12/67 Pfc Wireman Chillicothe OH. Contact “Davo”	WEBSITE EDITION
Forrler, Richard J. B-Btry. 4/70-6/71 PFC 13A/175Gun Cedar Hill MO 1-636	
Hibbler, Samuel Jr. HHB 1967 Sp-4 Wireman Website Guestbook: @yahoo.com NY?	
Lease, David N. C-Btry. 4/69-6/70 Sp-4 13A/Ammo Drvr. Baltimore MD 1-443 @yahoo.com	
Martin, Bruce A. HHB 10/69-8/70 MAJ/XO Walpole NH 1-603 @verizon.net	
Mathis, Clarence C. A-Btry. 8/67-4/68 ( unconfirmed ) Maj. Ret'd Guestbook: @taylor.k12.ga.us	
Miller, Eddie C-Btry. 68-69 PFC 13A Contact via Dean Gearhart if necessary.	
Musgrave, Mike N. 6/67-4/68 SvcBty Sp4/Mech Gilbertsville KY 1-270 @yahoo.com	
Nelson, Wayne L. B-Btry. 11/69-11/70 1LT FDC/XO Livingston MT 1-406 @imt.net	
Smeler, Don F. A/HHB 1971 Medic Sp-5 Stewartsville MN 55976 ( Disc'd/HangUp? ) Contact Davo	
Walshe, Robert W. C-Btry. 11/67-1/69 Sp-4 FDC Cypress CA 1- 714 @sbcglobal.net	
Watson, Richard T. C-Btry. 11/69-70 Pfc FDC Bloomington MN Disabled/Can't Travel, contact Davo )	
Wilburn, Jerry H? A/B-Btry. ? 70/71 Pfc? 13A Website Guestbook: katwilburn@bellsouth.net TN?	
Ystesund, Dan O. “Ollie” 4/68-5/69 A-Btry FDC Sp-4 Bloomington MN 1-952 @aol.com	

6/15FA Contact: [Dick.Brown@us.army.mil](mailto:Dick.Brown@us.army.mil) John Sarantakes: [jsarantakes@kc.rr.com](mailto:jsarantakes@kc.rr.com) Gather Kitchell: [gatorpub1@embarqmail.com](mailto:gatorpub1@embarqmail.com)

A Special “Thank You” to those who sent in copies of old orders!!! Some orders have SS#'s, mid-initials, new names that make “Vet Searching” a much easier and faster task. This is especially true with lists from mid-1969 and before.

### 7/15TH FA DECEASED: “OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS”

Anibas, Valentine V. HHB Sp-4 68-69 Mechanic 17 June 47 - 1 Jan 05 SS# Match Durand, WI. last addy: Arkansas WI. Family?  
McBride, Gerhard M. A-Btry 1971 Sp-4 15F/13A 14 June 51 - 26 May 08 SS#/Match/VVA-Mag & Obit Car Accident, Rochester NY.  
Glidden, Raymond L. Svc-Btry 12/68-9/69 Sp-4 13A 22 Dec 46 - 19 Oct 02 NH/Nat. Guard No last res, SS#: NH Death Index Match  
Hitchcock, Gary W. B-Btry 5/69-1/70 Sp-4 Commo 24 July 48 - 10 July 07 Olive Branch MS, via Sister via John Jacobs/Death Index  
Hankins, Robert B. 1967 HHB LTC/BN-Comdr. 1 Mar 25 - 9 May 08 DuPont, WA. Arlington Nat. Cemetery Interment: 8 Aug. 08  
Lee, Jimmie S. Svc-Btry 4/69-1/70 Sp-4 13A/Commo? 16 Jun 50 - 27 Feb 08 Mountain Home, TN Orig./SC-Death Index Match  
Meinhardt HHB/A-Btry. 70-71 Medic ( Died shortly after going home ) via Ron Anderson, matches William: 11/26/70, unconfirmed  
Pollard, Gerald H. Svc-Btry 12/68-12/69 PFC Supply/S-4 20 Aug 49 - 25 Mar 02 Catonsville, MD Death Index Match  
Roth, William M Svc-Btry 12/68-7/69 Sp-4 Mechanic 25 Feb 45 - 15 Jun 73 No last residence, SS#: WV Death Index Match  
Walden, William H. “Skip” 1971 B-Btry 1LT/Arty 8/18/50 - 3 Jan 05 Wife Alice, Satellite Beach, FL 321-773-6959 skipalice@aol.com  
WWII: Virgil W. Smith A/15th FA BN 11/40-12/45 2 Apr. 24 - 13 Aug 07 Starbuck MN Obit: [pctribune.com](http://pctribune.com) , had step-children.  
Unexpected loss of Roy Everhart's Son: Jonathan D. Everhart ( 23 years old ) 10/24/08 1-336-491-3895 roytheboy1950@yahoo.com

### “MAY OUR COMRADES REST IN ETERNAL PEACE”

THANK YOU! : Our PX Man/Treasurer Mike Donley & I thank those of you who purchase PX items and who donate funds beyond the amount we ask for in yearly dues! “THANKS for the AMMO” !! ( We hope to see you at REUNIOIN 2009! )

Vet Searching: Will continue up to approx. one month prior to the June 2009 reunion, and again a month or two after the reunion.



## 7/15TH FA MEMBERSHIP UPDATES VA NEWS & BENEFITS ( Up-date Your Phone Numbers! )



**Don't Forget! Start Planning NOW for  
REUNION June 4 -7, 2009 - Omaha, NE**

**VETS:** PLEASE UPDATE NEW PHONE #'s, APT. #'s, & E-MAIL's ! ....hidavo@earthlink.net 1-414-464-2939

**Prior Newsletter Issue:** The last issue can be viewed, downloaded, or printed at our website.

**Note:** "Most" ret'd Newsletters w/new addy's are changed for next mailing, but NOT resent. You'll get the next one.

### **7/15TH FA ADDRESS CHANGES & CORRECTIONS:**

**Note:** Some Contact info removed for Website edition.

**Joe Staudt:** Coffeyville KS 67337 **Larry Strassner:** Jessup MD ( ask/Davo ) **Larry Lomax:** @comcast.net **Larry Marr:** @yahoo.com **Mrs. Robert Hankins:** Dupont WA 1- 253? **Josh Hoskins:** Shadyside OH PHONE? **Bob Ardle:** Wapakoneta OH Phone? **Joe Owens:** Salado TX PHONE? **Greg Loman:** Brownsville IN Phone? **Bob Relford:** Roxton TX Phone? **Larry Clifton:** Jasper GA Phone? **Ron Thompson:** Dry Ridge KY Phone? **Rich Raspeni:** Lexington KY Phone? **Andy Moore:** Petal MS 39465 1-601 **Joe Taggart:** Phil, PA Phone? **Lewis Kleinkauf:** N Kingston RI Phone? **Don Shea:** PO Box Bigfork MT Phone? **Mike Reazer:** 1-402 **John Caldwell:** @gmail.com **John Ferguson:** Winter to Oct: Tyler TX **George Catledge:** Work: Lenior NC 28645 1-828- 8am-Noon **Ray Tingstrom:** 1-719 **Harold Morrow:** 1-719 **June (Carl) Moback:** 1-832 @yahoo.com **Dennis Kelenic:** Waukesha WI 1-262 **Don Evon:** 1-865 **Mike Rabbit:** 1-304 **Charles "Eddy" Lewis:** @yahoo.com

**15 FA BN's/Nam Units:** 6th BN: **Mike Howell:** Leavenworth KS A/1/15 **1SG Norm Jones:** Leander TX 78541 PHONE?

**VA NEWS & BENEFITS:** ( Information taken from various Veteran publications. )

**AGENT ORANGE REVIEW:** Great source of info! Write to Agent Orange Review, Austin Automation Center ( 200/397A ), 1615 Woodward St., Austin TX 78772-0001. On line: <http://www.va.gov/EnvironAgents>

**VA NEWSLETTERS:** Latest Benefits: [http://post\\_199\\_gulfpot\\_ms.tripod.com/raol.html](http://post_199_gulfpot_ms.tripod.com/raol.html) <http://www.va.gov/pressrel>

**VA BENEFITS PAMPHLET:** The 2008 Federal Benefits Guide Pamphlet ( 80-0-01 ) is now available. It has 135 pages of info for Vets and their families. Order: 1-800-512-1800, online at <http://ww1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>

**Americans w/Disabilities Act:** In addition to ADA, the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act ( USERRA ) and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ( EEOC ) provide enforcement for individuals who work for companies w/15 or more people. These laws require reasonable accommodations to be in place to meet special disability needs.

**SOCIAL SECURITY:** Don't forget to ask about credits for your Vietnam Service! You're entitled to a \$300 per quarter in ea year you served active duty. Service thru 1967 the credit is added when you apply, 1968 and after is supposed to be automatic??

**SURVIVOR BENEFITS:** Widows are eligible under Comp., Indemnification & Dependency ( CID ). Certain restrictions apply. Widows of 100% service-connected disabled Vets are more easily approved. Ask your local VA about details.

**PTSD AWARD ?:** Legislation surfaced July 2008 to award those w/PTSD the Purple Heart award, stay tuned.

**COMBAT ACTION BADGE:** New legislation has been submitted to approve more Vets to wear the badge. Current law does not include Vietnam Vets. The biggest hang-up is language as to exactly who would be eligible to wear the badge.

**SEASONS GREETINGS!!!** The Assoc. leadership wishes you all a Happy Veterans Day &Great Holiday Season!



## 7/15TH ARTILLERY "DUES & PX" MAIL-IN COUPON

( PLEASE SUBMIT "DUES" EARLY in the YEAR so we can PLAN Our YEARLY MISSION! )

**Dues Pay For: Vet Searches, Website, Newsletters & Expenses. NO \$\$\$ Paid to All Volunteer Leadership!**

**Mail: Mike Donley 4207 W. Reichert Place, Milwaukee WI 53209-3947 1-414-464-3041 cruzn71@aol.com**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mid: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_










Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit# \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

15FA: m/y to my: \_\_\_\_\_ BN: \_\_\_\_\_ Btry: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ MOS/Job: \_\_\_\_\_

I've Located and Enclosed some Old Unit Rosters or Orders with Names to Search: Check Here: ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Price Each</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>\$\$ Subtotal</u>
	Unit Patch with "Allons" ("Let's GO") Added to Scroll Below.	<b>"Allons" Patch 2-1/2 x 4</b>	\$ 7.00	( _____ ) _____
	← Orig.	<b>Orig. Unit Crest 3/4 x 15/16</b>	\$ 6.00	( _____ ) _____
	Lapel →	<b>Crest, Lapel/Tie-Tack 5/8</b>	\$ 4.00	( _____ ) _____
		<b>Combat Arty Pin 1/2 x 1-1/2</b>	\$ 6.00	( _____ ) _____
		<b>Red Baseball Cap/Unit Design</b>	\$ 17.00	( _____ ) _____
		<b>1/2" Gold Unit Number Pins</b>	\$ 15.00 ( #'s 1 & 5, Circle BN: 1 2 5 6 7 )	( _____ ) _____
		Use Pre-Punctured Holes to Attach thru Dense Material, ie: the Cap's Front Patch!		
		<b>Baseball Cap &amp; Number Pins</b>	\$ 29.00 ( Circle BN Above )	( _____ ) _____
		Attach Number Pins on each side of cross-cannons for me: check here:( _____ ): <b>Free</b>		
		<b>7/15 Bumper Sticker 3 x 11-1/2</b>	\$ 8.00	( _____ ) _____
	"Gilden" White, Red/Blk Trim & Logo	<b>15th FA Sport Shirt SM to XL: \$ 33.00 2XL: \$ 35.00</b>	( _____ )	_____
		( Ship'd Priority, Circle Size/s: SM MD LG XL 2XL )		
	100% Pre-Shrunk Cotton, Full Back & Small Front Images	<b>"Redlegs" Artillery T-Shirt</b>	\$ 20.00	( _____ ) _____
		( Black, Ship'd 1st Class, Circle Size/s: LG XL 2XL )		
	Gold/Silver Adj'd Clasp Band, Unit Crest over Cross - Cannons on a Black Face.	<b>15th Field Artillery Watch</b>	\$ 42.00	( _____ ) _____
		Check Style: Mens( _____ ) Ladies( _____ ) Allow 4-5 Weeks Delivery		
		<b>Yearly Dues</b>	\$ 12.00	Donations: _____
		( NO Dues for the Next of Kin of Deceased Vets! )		
		<b>All PX Item Prices Include Packaging/Shipping</b>		
		<b>MAKE CHECKS TO: 7TH BN, 15TH ARTY ORG</b>	<b>Total Enclosed:</b>	_____

View Clearer Images or Print an Order Form at <http://www.landscaper.net> under PX.  
 THANKS for the AMMO!....Especially those who donate above normal dues which allows us to keep sending newsletters to all. ....Mike, Davo, and the Association!!

## 7/15th Field Artillery.... REUNION 2009 UPDATE

### REUNION JUNE 4-7, 2009 - OMAHA, NEBRASKA

The Double Tree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center  
Downtown Omaha: 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE. 68102

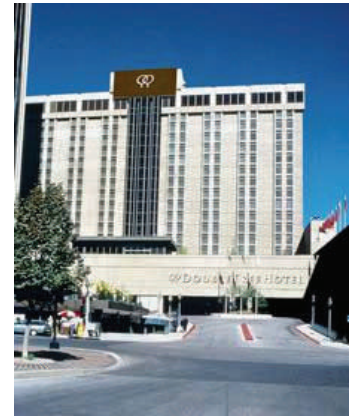
RESERVATIONS: 1-402-346-7600

Mention "15th Artillery Regiment" for your 30% discount!

Room-Block Cut-Off Date: May 14, 2009!

Free shuttle from airport ten minutes away and hotel is  
within walking distance to a variety of things to do!

Virtual Tour: [www.emarketing360.com/Doubletree/NE/OMAH](http://www.emarketing360.com/Doubletree/NE/OMAH)



**Start Planning Now!** The best way to insure your old comrades will be attending the reunion is to make arraignments to meet in Omaha! Have "Davo" e-mail you an up-dated roster with over 800 Vets. Listed. Searches for Vets will continue up to the reunion.

**Parking:** Those with cars will be issued a free pass for the Central City Parking Garage on 17th St. across from the hotel when registering at front desk.

**RV Parking:** Either Free on-site .....or on-street around the hotel for a one-time "meter bagging" fee of \$30 for all RV's, drivers pay \$10 per meter per day for weekdays. Saturdays and Sundays are free. A long RV taking ( 2 ) regular spaces pays \$20 a day through Friday night. ALL RV Drivers **MUST** contact the reunion host in advance to make arraignments for on-site or have the city bag the correct number of meters and assign numbers.

**ROOMS:**Check-in time is 3-PM. Arriving early?, check in and go to our hospitality room to wait for an open room. Check-Out time is NOON. Room discount is good for ( 3 ) before/after the reunion dates. Rooms are guaranteed via credit card, refunds

**Hotel Accommodations:** This "Hilton" features deluxe rooms, swimming pool, sauna, work-out room and computer room.

If you will need Handicapped requirements, tell them when making reservations.

There's the City Center Pub, Signature Restaurant w/a Breakfast Buffet M-F 6:30-9:30am, Sat 7-11am, Sun? \$13.83 w/tx. There are 36 bars, clubs, and restaurants within a six blocks.

Shuttle buses that hold about 15 people run every 15 minutes. They can be used for various places, including the Old Market District. Some places have their own buses as the Ameristar Casino. This casino is 10 minutes away and has a great buffet.

The Hotel bus runs about 5am to 11pm, about every 15 minutes.

**Hospitality Rooms:** We have two Rooms, the Presidential Suite and Executive Suite across from ea other. One will have a reunion registration table and Assoc. PX. One or both rooms having beverages, snack food and tables set up for your photo albums and memorabilia. They'll open about 9am, close near 11-12pm. Both will be locked up over night, or when unoccupied. .

**Travel:** Some airlines now charge a fee for checked bags. Have a luggage tag on the inside of your bags too, eliminating lost baggage.

**South West Airlines** "might" be the only one NOT charging a fee for checked baggage.

Websites show US gas prices. Car-Pooling allows travel at about the same cost of two years ago!

Keep in mind the new reg's for Carry-On liquids now limited to the size of a small freezer bag.

**IF** you're interested in **Car Pool** info, submit your name to Rich or Davo and we'll try to link you up.

**Meals:** While the Hosp. Room will have beverages, finger-food, and such, full prepared meals are on your own. It's possible we'll have coffee and rolls in the morning if the hotel doesn't have that. We may have a sandwich lunch too.

#### **Reunion Registration Form:**

Please fill out the association registration form early so we can plan for our needs, food, tour/s.

**"PACK YOUR DUFFEL,  
.....AND DO THE SHUFFLE"**

to ... **REUNION 2009 !!!!!**

**"We always have a blast."**

**BE THERE!**

## 7/15TH NEWS & MISC.

### Vietnam Parasite Up-Date:

Don Trent's widow Pat Trent called to mention she believes Don may have been exposed to the parasite that is linked to the Cholangiocarcinoma cancer of the bile tract. The parasite is found in Vietnam and surrounding countries, and rare in the US.

The parasite is also linked to Hepatitis-C and water ingestion. The Foremost company made our powdered milk we drank. It is doubtful the powdered milk was contaminated, but it was mixed into water which was supposed to be "potable"; safe to drink. On the other hand, "Ice" may be the source?

Potable ice was delivered to batteries now and then. But it may be the ice used to cool soda and beer in cans sold to Vets by the locals along the roads and in villages. It's highly unlikely the locals used treated water to make ice!

When Vets needed a "Cold One", many bought drinks along the roads. If the ice and water the cans cooled in wasn't treated, this is the likely means of any exposure through water on and around, and some on top rim of the cans. I doubt wiping the cans would remove all contamination.

### PTSD & Smoking:

Recent media reports of the VA combining PTSD & smoking cessation included Varenicline, a drug ( Chantix ) used in process. The FDA advised on potential side effects, and a study is being done. Also issued was a warning that the topic of suicide and/or PTSD should be dealt with on personal levels and in clinics, not by letters to Veterans alone. .

### Ferocious Firepower Newsletter:

Found is a short "Allons" type newsletter from approx. Mar 68 when the 7/15th was teamed up w/ the 6/16th FA. Gen. John Tolson ( 1st Cav. Air-Mobile ) lauded the outstanding artillery support of our units in the Pershing AO.

LTC David Ferebee Jr. said the tribute is due to the professional ability of the men of our BN.

Op. Silver Thunderbolt: 1300 hrs 26 Mar 68 under 1LT Larry Riley, 2-8" roared from LZ Up-Lift to direct-fire style battle. Moving NE into the Valley, 10k's w/the 1/50th Mech., as security, B-Btry. blasted the entrance of caves used by the enemy. Enemy VC brought in by the 1/50th stood dazed after watching "Great Balls of Fire: filled w/steel covering football-field size areas.

A-Btry., covered w/dust, moved to LZ Pony in record time under Cpt. James Butler.

In Dec 1967, Maj. Ray Gatti was promoted to LTC. Ray was assign'd to G-3 Plans Division 1FFV in Nha Trang prior to the 7/15 FA. Upon receiving his new position, he immediately started a BN Maint. Program to insure our units readiness.

There's mention of C/6/16th FA and it's unclear if we worked with the entire unit.

This new newsletter mentions new names not found on our limited amount of rosters we have.

Although there are many names mentioned in this news, they are too many to mention at this time. The complete text will appear in a future newsletter.

### Reduce Heating Bills:

With the rise in cost to heat your home, your best bet is insulating. The ( 2 ) areas that have the most heat loss; attics and foundation box sills. Both areas also have the best pay-back period ( 2-1/2 yrs ). This means the amount you spend on insulating those areas are returned in lower bills.

Old standards were R-19 or 8-inches of attic insulation with a moisture barrier, and new construction is now R-30.

You must have adequate venting to make insl work well. Std. rule is 1 Sq. Ft per 300 Sq. ft. of attic area, 50% of which are loc'd high on the roof, and 50% in the eaves or lower roof.

Box sills are the small area above your basement wall and in between the ceiling floor joists. You can fit about R-19 of fiberglass batt into the area. You can caulk any gaps where air penetrates on the interior. Brown craft-paper is NOT to be used in this area as a moisture barrier due to fire codes.

Replacement of windows have always had poor payback, consider them if you keep your home longer than 10 years.

Old furnaces are about 80% efficient, new units 90-95% but can have problems in design. Be sure you have a good warranty, especially on the heat exchanger, electrics, and labor. Payback varies as to costs.

Boilers are expensive to buy, require yrly or 2-yr service, but cheapest to run.

Contracting Work: Folks want jobs done fast, cheap, & good. Real life suggests you'll get two of those.

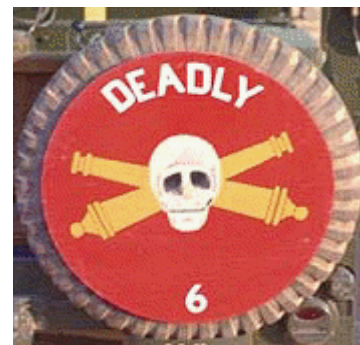


## **6TH - BATTALION 15TH FIELD ARTILLERY**

### **History, News, and Veterans of the “Deadly” Battalion.**

Submitted by John Sarantakes, Gather Kitchell & BN History Folder

Info is from our 6th BN History Folders now in Milwaukee.  
( 105mm Towed ) 1st INF DIV Vietnam. Our 6th BN, was an “Air  
Lifted” Unit and went to places our 8”/175 howitzers couldn’t go!



### **REUNION 2009 6th BN VETS!!! :**

BN History will continue after our next reunion. Time is creeping up fast! If you intend to find more Vets for the June Reunion, now is the time to start. The main-players have contacts. Contact Davo for a list of approx. 50+ and in addition, our website guestbook have many entries from the 6th BN.

**6/15TH VET SEARCHES:** The contacts on page ( 3 ) have names to search! It’s best to use computers at home or a local library. Davo has a list from our guestbook/direct contacts. E-mail hidavo@earthlink.net Check our guestbook: <http://www.landscaper.net> & <http://www.military.com> website has a 6th BN page.

Use “Google” for searches or my favorite <http://www.alltheweb.com> which has an advanced search page. For a fee, the <http://www.militaryusa.com> website has several Million Vets listed for cross-ref, finding mid-initials, states, mos’, etc. <http://www.peoplesearch.com> for locating and <http://www.zabasearch.com> for

### **MISC. REUNION INFORMATION**

**AIRLINES & BAGGAGE:** Keep in mind the new rules for “Carry-On” & “Checked Baggage”!

Most airlines allow ( 1 ) Carry-On, some now appear to allow only ( 1 ) checked bag free. You can search info online, or ask about this when you make reservations. For example, the Midwest website shows them allowing one 50-lb checked bag “free”, but suggests all checked bags no more then 62 inches total dia. They mention fees for over size and weight of \$50 or more.

Carry-On liquids appear the same as 2007, very small amounts in a sandwich type baggie.

While expecting much higher flight costs, Midwest offered a RT fare ( \$250 ) equal to 2007 prices!

### **FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOURS:**

Both tours take places after our Memorial Service, Biz Meeting, and “Photo Shoot”.

Our hosts added a museum tour for those who don’t care to try their luck at the casinos in Council Bluffs IA. Casino shuttle buses run regular and you can assume most have a lunch buffet of some type. You can check at the front desk as to what casinos offer buses and the exact hours they run.

The SAC Museum tour is planned for a total of approximately 4-5 hours including 1-1/2 hours total boarding and travel time round-trip. There’s a 1/2 to 1-hour lunch room time figured in. The actual tour is supposed to be about 1-1/2 to two hours. One ( 1 ) school type bus will be used for the trip and will cost \$5 a head round-trip. The bus holds aprox 50 or more people. We’ll have a Sign-Up sheet in the hospitality room and take names until the bus is filled. Normal Museum Fee is \$7 adults, \$6 seniors & Ret’d Mil., and special group rates as per website: <http://www.sacmuseum.org>.

The museum has a multitude of aircraft on display, mostly used between WWII and the Cold War Eras. They include about 30 aircraft such as the B-17, B-25 Mitchell, B-29, B-52 bombers, the B-1 and the Blackbird Spy plane.

## 2009 REUNION SCHEDULE & DETAILS - Omaha NE. June 4-7, 2009

**TRAVEL:** Those flying land at the Eppley Airport, 10 minutes away. A shuttle bus is available to take you to the hotel lobby. Shuttle buses run 5AM-12PM, and about every half-hour.

Those driving park in front of hotel, register, ask the free pass for the City Garage on 17th St.

Those driving RV's contact the reunion host and Hotel Sales Mgr. to have the parking meters around the hotel bagged. Do this in advance! Ask for details!

**ROOMS:** Deluxe King or Dbl Q, Smoking or non-S, single or dbl. Mention the 15th Arty Regiment Reunion to receive the discount, and good for ( 3 ) days before/ after reunion dates. Get a room confirmation number! Ask the hotel about disabled needs.

**Assoc. Registration:** Your first stop after settling in should be a hosp. room to let us know you're here and receive additional info.

**Hospitality Rooms:** Two suites across from ea other, our main meeting places. Bring your photo albums, memorabilia. Some history folders will be displayed. Rooms open most of the time, & locked over night. Reunion Fees pay for soda, beer, wine, snacks, finger- food, misc. avail. in the hosp. room/s, no stocked liquor. Rooms open around 9AM, one will close at 10PM and the other "might" be open to midnight.

**Fund Raiser:** Vets are asked to bring items for the Sat. Banquet Raffle. Any Military items, or just about anything new or in mint condition can be donated.

**Volunteers:** We can always use help with cleanup, food, hosp. rooms, registration, and other.



**Reunion Hosts:** Pictured above are Rhonda & Richard Pennell who worked out the details for this years event. Contact them with any unanswered questions.

**SCHEDULE:** Our usual sched. applies, some will be arriving a day or so early to recon & set up.

### **JUNE 4th Thursday: Day # 1**

Hosp. Rooms open around 9AM. On your own this day.

### **JUNE 5th Friday: Day # 2**

9AM: Memorial Service to recognize our KIA's and those who have passed on. Our Assoc. Chaplin and members usually participate. Our Business Meeting and Group-Photo Shoot will follow. We'll try to get all done by 12-Noon. Hosp. room/s open after photo shoot and on your own the rest of the day.

The ladies are not required to attend the biz meet, BUT should be readily available for the photo shoot to speed things along.

A Strategic Air Command Museum or Casino trips are planned after the photo shoot. Sign-up sheets will be available.

Casual dress is fine for all three above events, and all other activities through the Saturday . Evening Banquet.

**JUNE 5th Trips:** SAC Museum trip will be via a school bus ( \$5 fee ) and will take about 4-5 hrs. Lunch on you own at museum. Council Bluffs IA casino trip/s ( 10-minutes away ) are via free shuttle buses that travel about every half hour.

### **JUNE 6th Saturday: Day # 3**

9AM: Hosp. Rooms Open and will close prior to banquet time. On your own until 5:00PM. At this time we'll have an Open-Bar serving cocktails prior to food served at 6:00PM. The bar will stay open until drink sales slow.

Banquet Dress is more formal, Men: sport shirts w/dress slacks is the norm, a few wore sport jackets or a suit. The ladies seem to enjoy dressing up more with a nice casual dress, and some have attended with an evening gown.

During the banquet we usually have a short award ceremony, a speaker or two, and a raffle.

Depending on what time the banquet is over would determine if the hosp. rooms will re-open.

### **JUNE 7th Sunday: Day # 4**

"NO" Hosp. Rooms Open! NO events planned. On your own. Some plan to meet for breakfast prior to leaving this day. Some stay an extra day.

**PX:** Our Assoc. PX will have the items we usually sell, plus more. Discounts will be given due to not paying postages.



Don't be a Member of the "Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda" Club.

We ain't getting any younger! Start your planning now, to meet your comrades at....

**"REUNION 2009"!**