



# The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 8 Issue 3

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**“Aerial Rocket Artillery”**....when called on by those who were in danger, our units were there laying it on the line.

We were proud of our Aerial Rocket Artillery Team then and still proud of it now. The Straphanger Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association. Issues will be published on or about the 1st of January, April, July and October. Members who have e-mail will receive a copy as an pdf .

**HE CAME; HE LIVED; HE DIED;  
HE ROSE - SIN LOST FOREVER.**

**Merry Christmas**

**Happy New Year**



## *President's Corner*

### YOU NEVER KNOW

It is the day after Thanksgiving and I'm thinking of some things that have unexpectedly occurred the last few years.

A little over two years ago i was contacted by Hubert Hunnicutt, (the former marine who was at our reunion in Columbus), who was looking for the individuals who rescued him in 1968. As most of you know, we found the individuals who rescued him and they all met at the Columbus reunion.

In March 2015, I was contacted by a retired firefighter from California who was looking for information on a high school classmate, WO1 Frank McPhail, who had been killed in a weather related accident on 10 October 1968, while flying mortar patrol. He wanted information on Frank so that he could honor him at his high school fifty year reunion, along with another high school friend who was also killed in Vietnam. I was able to provide him with information on Frank's accident, and, coordinated with Gary Bishop to establish contact with the retired firefighter. Gary had been in flight school with Frank and had numerous pictures which he provided to the individual. This person was very appreciative of the information and pictures provided. He was invited to attend our next reunion and has indicated that he plans to attend.

In the fall of 2014 I received an e-mail from Tom Payne who is very active with the 118<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company history and reunions. He had received a request from a 12 year old from Houston, Texas, who was looking for information about a crewchief who was killed in a mid-air collision on 28 May 1965. The 12 year old was doing a report on the crewchief and Tom wanted to know if I knew anything about what had happened. I was very familiar with what had occurred, as I was a FNG Warrant Officer taking a stan ride with the company stan pilot after just arriving in-country. I had exited the aircraft about an hour before the accident and had commented to the stan pilot than it seemed very dangerous to be operating in the high traffic area we were using. An officer who came into Vietnam with me, and was a flight school classmate, was taking his stan ride at the time of the accident. Everyone on board the two aircraft was killed. I relayed this information to the 12 year old who wrote a very nice letter thanking me, and telling me that he was very interested in the Vietnam war. Perhaps there is hope for our younger generation!

You never know when your life will be intertwined with that of another or the long-term effects it will have on you and others. I'm sure many of you have had similar events in your life.

Regina and I hope that you have had a special holiday season, and, we wish you good health and prosperity for the new year.

Keep you rotors in the green.

ARA 6

## REMINDER

### 2016 REUNION

WHERE: EMBASSY SUITES, 7290 COMMERCE CENTER DRIVE, COLORADO SPRINGS,  
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WHEN: 7-11 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESERVATIONS: 1-800-362-2779/1-719-599-9100-- USE "ARAA" CODE WHEN MAKING  
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**RATES: \$117.00 PER NIGHT PLUS 9.63% TAX (\$128.27 for the math deprived)**

**RATES ARE GOOD 2 DAYS PRE/POST 7-11 SEPTEMBER 2016**

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY & SEND IN YOUR INFORMATION FORM.  
IT MAKES IT EASIER ON YOUR HOSTS AND INSURES YOU GET ON THE ATTRACTIONS

*Just when you think the country is mired in self-centeredness, totally depraved and without any sense of patriotism or recognition of the price that was paid so they can do as their conscience (or lack thereof) leads them to do someone "shines like a city on a hill".*



A MAN WALKS INTO CHICK-FIL-A: and is Completely Blown Away When He Saw This for Veterans

*By Bill Callen*

*Top Right News*

Chick-fil-A, the same fast-food outlet has once again proved a positive to the world. This time it did so by unveiling an amazing Veterans Day tribute that left Georgia resident Eric Comfort in complete shock.

According to a Facebook post he published on Monday, when he walked into a local Chick-fil-A, Comfort discovered a "Missing Man Table" that contained a single rose, a Bible and a folded American

flag, as well as a plaque within which was the following explanation: "This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms. The tablecloth is white — symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty. The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted — to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast. The chair is empty — they are missing."

After the story went viral, the store manager, Alex Korchan, explained to WSB that his team members had set up the table because they "wanted to honor veterans." Furthermore, he revealed that he planned to offer free meals to all veterans and their family members this Veterans Day between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Korchan also put up a poster so that customers could write in the names of loved ones who they have lost. "We've had a lot of people who have come in and seen it and been touched by it," Korchan continued. "It's been special to see."





*This story appeared in the December issue of The American Legion magazine and I felt it captured so much of what we all felt. It was a time when we all lived on hope.—The Editor*



*A U.S. soldier reads a Christmas card in Vietnam on Dec. 22, 1966. AP*

# **YULETIDE** in VIETNAM

*It was right before Christmas and all through the jungle, the troops could at least look forward to some Hope.*

BY KEITH NIGHTINGALE

**The** perimeter was slow to stir. For a week straight, the men had been working in what they called the Deep Green, the heaviest, densest part of the jungle. The work had been extremely taxing and dangerous. The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army had used this area as a rest stop for many years and carved out broken trails alongside slippery, mud-slicked creek banks.

It was Dec. 24.

The date was meaningless to the unit, whose members were awakened by subtle rays of morning light that barely penetrated the canopy. For soldiers here, home was a distant memory. Another world. For one, home might be a wheat farm in the American heartland. For another, the rolling hills of New England occupied his mind. For others, the bricks and pavement of the faraway inner city were home. But this jungle was not it. Home and Christmas Eve were just passing thoughts or remembrances as each infantry soldier moved to renew and begin the rest of his life - whatever that might be in what was, for now, home, if only for today.

The usual drudgery unfolded. Trip wires, Claymores and flares were recovered. Cigarettes and instant C-ration coffee were drawn upon as Cheerios or Wheaties were in a previous life. Rifles were wiped down with dank oily cloths. Ponchos and liners were laid out to lose their accumulated residues, and unit leadership moved quietly along the perimeter, supervising their charges and working to keep the family together. The fact that Christmas was a date on the calendar did not require any change to the infantry's life cycle. Here at war, in a land of Eastern religions, Christianity and Judaism were subordinate to the necessities of survival. Faith, culture and customs would wait for a more appropriate time and place.

The senior officer received a series of instructions from a distant voice. His radio operator wordlessly proffered him a lit cigarette and an empty fruit can of instant coffee, in a ritual they had practiced for more than four months. A plastic-covered map was stretched across the officer's knees, his back resting against a large splay-rooted banyan tree. With his right hand, he pulled the black plastic radio handset to his ear, and with his left, he held both the cigarette and the coffee. He drew deeply on the cigarette, took a short sip from the can and placed it on the ground. The cigarette hung on his lower lip, glued there by thick saliva.

With a red grease pencil, he made a small dot on the map. Next to the dot, the time: 1400. This is where he would shepherd his men. And by when. He passed the receiver back, picked up the can and drank deeply.

Christmas Eve had begun.

The unit, acting on some silent unseen signal, quietly stood and prepared to move out. Those with the heaviest loads - radio operators and machine gunners - extended their arms to companions who would balance their own loads and help them to their feet. Within 30 seconds, this microcosm of America faced a new direction and another new task, unmindful of the day or its significance.

Their uniformity went beyond the OG-107 fatigues that clung to their skin. Their eyes shared the same gaze: quiet endurance. And, like most soldiers on the cutting edge of existence, their expressions were drawn inward. Where the rucksack harnesses had bitten into their shoulders over the week, salty white grooves had taken shape. Humidity and sweat soon soaked their skin and darkened their fatigues.

They moved forward, uniformly, understanding that life and death were both possibilities by day's end. Furtive thoughts of home bounced through their heads. In the season of yuletide sharing among family at home, the most precious gift each of these soldiers privately desired was just another day.

The column progressed through the dense undergrowth, segments unseen by the whole but felt by everyone within it. No human form could be detected beyond about 30 meters. Each soldier was mindful that the enemy also benefited from this effect and remained in a state of alertness -always on edge, fighting not to succumb to ennui. By noon, the unit reached the edge of the jungle and remained hidden in the vegetation where darkness met the open sunlit fields. The soldiers stopped just short of the clearing, sank into the shade and formed in a triangle. The commander silently indicated with hand gestures to the men: eat and rest. Subordinate leaders selectively chose others to move into concealed security positions along the resting perimeter.

Troops reached into their rucksacks or pants pockets and extracted cans or packages of food and began their desultory ingestion. Some lay their heads on rucksacks and smoked cigarettes. Others drew from their canteens, wiped their faces and quietly awaited the war's next act. The commander, centered now in the perimeter, called in his subordinate leadership. They quietly gathered in a circle and listened. The unit would be picked up at 1400 from a zone they would establish just 100 meters away, in the adjacent paddy field. They would be flown back to base camp and move directly to a division assembly area next to the airfield.

They were to be whisked off the battlefield to sit in the audience of the annual Bob Hope Christmas Show. There would be no showers, beer, chow or fresh clothes. It was off the choppers and assemble in front of Hope.

Merry Christmas.

The commander explained that this was the only field unit to be brought in because it had gone the longest without rotation. The unit would also be provided seats relatively close to the stage. They would be the only troops there with full field gear, weapons and rucksacks. This was intended to be an honor and a Christmas present from the seniors, for work well done. There were several questions and queries, none of which could be adequately addressed, from the subordinate leaders. They broke up and moved to their respective elements to pass along the upcoming events.

By 1400, the troops were standing in the blazing sunlight, arranged in a serial of six groups, each with three soldiers facing three soldiers spread along a distance of about 100 meters in the dry rice fields. A yellow smoke canister popped in the middle of the formation. Smoke curled slowly upward in the still, hot air.

Precisely on time, a string of helicopters arrived overhead, and settled near each group. Their blades swirled and beat the smoke, dirt and rice husks into a brown cloud. As soon as the choppers touched earth, the troops moved toward them, placed their boots on the skids and in a single motion turned their backs to the interior, dropped their rucks on the floor and sat down on the edge, looking out, legs dangling. In fewer than 15 seconds, the birds pulled full power, whipping up another a brown cloud of detritus, and struggled into the blue sky. Inside, the troops closed their eyes to the debris and then opened them as the hot waves of dirt and JP-4 fumes dissipated, to be replaced by the cool forced air of the forward flight.

For the first time in weeks, the sweat, dirt and heat ventilated from the uniforms and was replaced by a wonderful coolness. Eyes surveyed the shimmering fields, creeks, villages and vegetation below. Minds wandered into a rejuvenating idleness. An abrupt change of RPM announced the descent and imminent arrival.

The birds touched down on a partially asphalted strip. Laterite dirt and the gluey stench of JP-4 floated upward. Some men in starched fatigues and spit-shined boots motioned the incoming soldiers to an assembly area where they were to stand and await the remainder of the unit. There was no shade and no discussion, though ice water was available from Lyster bags throughout the open field.

In less than an hour, the entire unit had assembled, drunk its fill of water and awaited instructions. The commander, with no discussion, formed the unit and led the snaking column less than a mile. They passed through a large bowl-shaped enclosure marked by white engineer tape. Several more starched figures approached the commander and pointed to an area near a large stage and white tent. They went to the designated area.

The unit, fewer than 100 in all, settled in about 30 meters from the center stage, surrounded by the mass of local units and headquarters personnel. Directly in front of them were arrayed the wound-d and sick, dressed in their light green hospital gowns. Those in wheelchairs were positioned at the very front, surrounded by nurses, doctors, IVs, bottles and other medical supplies. In front of the wheelchairs were two rows of senior personnel, all in tightly starched fatigues, spit-shined boots and wearing custom-tailored hats with ranks embroidered and other badges attached.



*Entertainer Anita Bryant sings with a U.S. soldier to a crowd of about 15,000 at Bob Hope's Christmas Show in Vietnam in 1966*

The troops dropped their rucks, shouldered the rifles with barrels pointing downward, and sat on the backs of the rucks as tightly as the NCOs could force them. Several starched fatigues walked through the group, stopping to point the machine-gun barrels to the rear, rather than at the stage.

In time, the entire area was filled. A mass of humanity had flowed in to enjoy the annual Christmas visit from Bob Hope and his troupe. Loudspeakers had been set up on poles scattered throughout the assemblage, but the quality was shaky. The crackling banter between Hope and his companions was largely inaudible toward the rear.

Female dancers, in the flesh, produced loud cries from the troops.

Between acts, the soldiers talked among themselves and smoked cigarettes, in the torpor of stultifying heat.

The Hope show featured alternating talk, music, dancing and diversion. As professional as Hope was, the crowd noise and overarching static equaled or dominated the production. Individuals retreated into private worlds for moments only to be brought out by a specific word, note or action from the

stage. Hope had achieved his larger aim. The troops didn't care if they missed some nuance of a joke or song. At least for now, they were not in mortal danger, and some piece of the outside world was here, having shown up for Christmas.

After about an hour and without announcement, but backed by the dull noise of the assembled soldiers, a solitary woman walked to the center of the unoccupied stage. She was wearing a long dress - so different from the scantily clad women who'd earlier performed. Her hair was dark auburn. It fell to her shoulders and curled at the ends. She looked like a girl from home. Unheard by most, she began to sing.

The notes were initially lost on the crowd except for the first rows of wounded and senior officers, who watched, transfixed. Then, like ripples from a rock thrown into a pond, silence passed across the assemblage of soldiers. They stopped talking, dropped their cigarettes and focused on the tiny figure standing on the stage.

Anita Bryant had quietly walked to the center stage and began singing "Silent Night" a capella. The notes drifted from the stage to the top row of soldiers and into the high blue space above them. For a moment, the heat could be ignored, the sweat and stink of massed humanity unnoticed, and Christmas remembered.

Thousands of olive-drab servants of our nation were transported back home. For once in their tour of duty, they experienced a quiet that allowed wonderful, melodic words to comfort them in remembrance of things past and hopeful for things yet to occur.

This was Christmas as they knew it in a distant land.

The song lasted no more than three minutes, but it would play in the soldiers' memories for the rest of their lives. As she concluded, Anita Bryant placed the microphone back on its stand, blew a silent tear-eyed kiss to the troops, turned around and walked off the stage.

Not a sound could be heard. And Hope, knowing best, just stood there, looking across the audience, holding the moment for everyone, brief as it was, during which each of these soldiers in Vietnam was able to come home, as he or she knew it, and there was peace on earth and good will among them all. II

*Keith Nightingale is a retired U.S. Army colonel, military history writer and frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.*

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# A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

## 1967—One Year in the Life of the 2/20th (Continued from the last issue)

*Editor's Note: Jesse Hobby found this somewhere and is sharing it with us all. We will be publishing it in installments due to its length. Jesse has labored over this document, as, in its original form, it was a) the product of many different writers over time, b) was written in the field, and c) was written on a very poor typewriter. Nonetheless, it captures the ups and downs of a critical year in the life of Civil Affair S-5.*

Thus another valuable weapon (The Ch-47 Guns-a-Go Go mortar dropping capability) was added to the battalion arsenal. One of the most practical uses was on interdiction targets with canopy cover. The mortars falling straight down increased the probability of penetrating the canopy and receiving a ground burst.

On 28 March the battalion fired an unusual mission. This was to destroy the boats on the Dam Trae Lake without injuring non-combatants. Under the direction of LTC Farwell, the Battalion CO, battalion aircraft destroyed sixty boats.

A very unfortunate incident occurred on 29 March. While conducting an interdiction mission, an A Battery A/C inadvertently fired two rockets into the village of Sa Huynh. Four civilians were killed, twenty-two injured, and 60 buildings destroyed by this incident.

Although there were few missions that could be classed as significant during March, it was the busiest month of the war for ARA. During March, the Battalion fired on 263 gaps and expended over 31,000 rounds of 2.75" rockets while supporting the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav Div.

### April 1967

During April there occurred several interesting incidents. LTC Knowles assumed command of the Bn on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The battalion suffered a KIA from ground to air fire. On two occasions this month, A Battery ships extracted LRRP's that were in heavy contact. The first extraction took place about 2100 hrs. on 6 April Maj. Richard Mills, after firing suppressive rocket fire landed on the hill top and successfully evacuated a three man patrol. At about 1800 hrs. on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, Maj. Emery Bush, the A Battery CO evacuated another 3 man patrol.

On April 8 the 250,000<sup>th</sup> rocket was fired since the Bn arrived in RVN. The Division Commander, Major General Tolson, did the honors and fired a commemorative rocket. C Battery sent a platoon north to Duc Pho on 7 April in support of Operation La Juine. This platoon enjoyed considerable success during its short two weeks operation. They were credited with 50 enemy KIA (BC) and another 79 possible KIA. Another VC unit was introduced to the effectiveness of ARA.

LTC Knowles assumed command of the Bn from LTC Farwell on 10 April 1967. LTC Knowles came to the unit with a broad, comprehensive knowledge in Army aviation. He first entered the service in 1945 and spent the next two years attending schools in the Midwest under the Navy Midshipman's U-51 program. As a result of the reduction of forces following WW II, LTC Knowles was released from the service in 1947. He spent the next few years getting his Bachelors degree at the State College in Iowa. During this same period he was commissioned as a 2/LT in the NG of Iowa. In 1951 he came on active duty as a 1/LT and attended fixed wing aviation school at Fort Sill. He stayed on at the school as an instructor and in 1953 he went to Korea, where he performed as an aviation aide in the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Returning from Korea, LTC Knowles spent 3 years at Fort Carson, performing various aviation assignments. He was promoted to Captain in 1954. In 1956, he attended the Artillery Officers Career Course, going to Davidson Army Airfield at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In 1967 he was a special Air Missions pilot, Staff Maintenance Officer, and S-4 for the aerial command. At the end of this tour in 1961, LTC Knowles went to the University of Iowa where he earned his Master's degree under the Bootstrap program. In 1961 he went to Europe where he served as the Aviation Staff Officer with 5<sup>th</sup> Corps Headquarters, and with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> Arty, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division. Here, he was a Battery CO and Bn Exec Officer after he was promoted to Major in 1962. Later in 1962 LTC Knowles was transferred to France where he commanded the Flight Detachment from COMZ.

Returning to the states in 1963, LTC Knowles was the Operation and Training Officer for the Department of Rotary Wing Instruction, USA Aviation School, Fort Rucker, Alabama. He served in this capacity until coming to this battalion in March 1967. LTC Knowles was promoted to LTC in July 1966. He is a Master Aviator with over 6000 hrs. logged, 1500 of which are in helicopters. Colonel Farwell was assigned as deputy commander of the Support Command, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav Div.

The battalion lost a dedicated young soldier on 17 April when SP/4 Joseph Smith, US53638030 of A Battery was killed in action while participating as a crew-chief/door gunner on an ARA attack near Bong Son.

May – June

This period saw the loss of an ACH-47 (Go-G0), ARA raids, emergency extractions of an LRRP, and the night relief of an LZ being mortared.

On the first day of May the Bn Radio call sign became “Tough Baron” and was shortened to Baron.

While on a fire mission, a ACH-47 (G0-G0) aircraft crashed and burned killing all the crew members. The dead crew were:

2/LT Carl J. Hicks, 0324945, AC – WO2 Edward J. Weidenback, W2214777, Pilot, SSG Ariston R. Talan, RA 50009854, Flt Engr – SGT Jon Arsyadha, RA12658061, Air Gunnery Supervisor, SP/4 Gary W Radriques RA17884883, Gunner PFC Pike Maye US54380327, Gunner, PFC William P. White US52660674. The crash is determined to be caused by one of the 20mm Cannons forward mounting pins coming out. This allowed the cannon to elevate while firing, destroying the forward rotor.

On 10 and 11 May the battalion conducted ARA raids northwest of Ba Te in support of the Ba Te Special Forces. These raids proved to be highly successful. The Bn was credited with 9 KIA (BC) and 8 estimated KIA, 1 WIA, twenty large barracks buildings destroyed, and 11 secondary explosions. On the 10<sup>th</sup> one ship was hit in the raid. There were no casualties and the aircraft was flyable. G0-Go was hit on the raid on 11 May wounding one gunner. Ordnance used on the raids included SS-11s, 81 mortars (MADS) 2.75” rocket Flecettes, 40mm grenades, 20mm cannons and 7.62mm MG, and .50 cal. MG. Again, on 20 May, A Battery came to the rescue of a LRRP surrounded by enemy forces. After driving back the enemy with withering rocket fire, they extracted the three man force.

On May 13, after being without a Flight Surgeon for almost three months, Cpt. (Dr) Asa Talbot arrived at 2/20th and became a right seat fixture in LTC Knowles’s A/C

On the night of 23 May, LZ Dot was mortared. A Battery fired in support of LZ Dot defenses and was credited with 2 KIA (BC).

On the 23 of May, firing on a VC ambush site, C Battery was credited with 3 KIA (BC).

One significant mission not previously reported was a one day operation in the Ba Te AO. This occurred on 10 May. A section of ARA from HHB, 2/20<sup>th</sup> coordinated searches and firing in the northern Ba Te AO. An intelligence Sergeant from the Ba Te Special Forces Detachment accompanied the section of ARA. Many excellent targets were sighted with the following results:

Two VC KIA (BC)	Total expenditures
One large bldg 20 x 80 destroyed	SS-11 – 2
One hut ruined	2.75”, WP – 2 ea.
	2.75”, HE – 71 ea.
	2.75”, flechettes 12 ea.
	7.62, -2500 ea.

The remainder of May did not produce any significant reports. The battalion continued its outstanding support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav Div.

During June 1967, Operation Pershing rolled on with the same one half dozen noteworthy incidents. The entire operation saw employment of CS, smoke and one instance of employment of the MADA system.

On 18 June five enemy were killed at grid 670269. These were confirmed by BC. On June 20<sup>th</sup> three CS missions and one smoke mission were flown. 23 June saw the engagement of an enemy platoon by elements of ARA. Eight enemy were killed (BC) and twenty huts were destroyed. On 24 Jun an 81mm mortar MADS drop was made on targets of intelligence information. Also on the 24<sup>th</sup>, five SS-1 missiles were fired at VC caves resulting in two large secondary explosions.

#### July

The first of July brought no significant activities but on the second, the versatility of ARA was again tested. 989 CS grenades were dropped in grid 683137. 206 2.75” rockets were fired resulting in 11 enemy KIA (BC); 6 estimated KIA, and 3 WIA, also estimated. Six huts were also destroyed, on 5 July two ARA raids in conjunction with 1<sup>st</sup> AVN DET (GO-Go) resulted in 87 huts destroyed, 44 damaged and 3 secondary explosions, a satisfying sequel to the Fourth.

#### August

8 August saw the first significant activity in the month. 35 flares were employed and 10 enemy were estimated killed by rockets fired during the illuminating missions. On 25 Aug, Go-Go destroyed two huts and damaged 10. Three enemy were KIA (BC).

## September

During the first half of Sept, 2/20 continued its employment of all assets to accomplish the mission and defeat the enemy. On Sept 17, Operation Bolling began with 1/A/2/20 (ARA) GS of the 173 ABN Bde on D Day and 2/9 Cav thereafter, the missions of Operation Bolling was to seize and secure LZ Saddle, establish a fire base and conduct search and destroy operations within the AO. The Operation Bolling period was 17 Sep to 15 Oct 67. On 6 Oct 67, A, 2/20<sup>th</sup> ARA while flying a mission observed 3 enemy. They engaged resulting in 3 KIA. On the same day ARA engaged a bunker, resulting in a secondary explosion and collapsing the bunker. 11 Oct proved to be an active day for the men of ARA on Operation Bolling. At 1015, ARA and a scout team from C 1/9 were sent to check on a sighting reported by ROK advisers. Upon arriving on station both ships received AW fire. They then engaged 10 VC resulting in 6 VC KIA. One ARA ship received hits from small arms fire. At 1720 hrs. one ARA ship had a power failure. The plane crashed. One crewman was injured and the remainder of the crew was extracted.

Operation Bolling terminated on 15 October with the closing of 2/8 at LZ English at 1003 hrs. The overall operation was termed highly successful. Meanwhile back in the Pershing AO, operations on 27 September resulted in one powered boat destroyed and 15 enemy KIA (BC). At the end of the month the total for ARA in the Pershing AO read 185 KIA (BC); 1546 structures destroyed, 41 weapons silenced and 46 caves and bunkers destroyed.

## October

During the period 1 October thru 31 December, the 2/20<sup>th</sup> ARA had detached elements in support of operations in the other AO's, i.e. An Khe, Phan Thiet, Chu Lai, and Kontum. C Battery was detached during the entire month and employed in Operation Wallewa (Chu Lai).

## November

The enemy somewhat slacked off on their activities during November. Bn operations continued with relatively light activity. 14 November saw the assumption of command by LTC Robert M. Tyson Jr. LTC Tyson took command of the Bn, from LTC Knowles and came to us from the Aviation Officer Branch, HQ USAREUR.

A Battery was a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade task force attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the battle of Dak To. Elements of A Battery attacked an enemy mortar position which was taking the Dak To airfield under attack. Credit was received for destruction of the mortar and killing the crew. A night fire mission resulted in engagement of a NVA rocket position. Captain Gary Adams' platoon fired into the position and successfully silenced their activities. Later Captain Henry Gordon and his platoon were credited with stopping a mortar attack against the MAAG compound and a nearby bridge site. After attacking the enemy mortar position, Captain Gordon landed near a burning tank at the bridge and evacuated the wounded crew.

On 17 November, ARA accounted for 3 enemy KIA (BC), 3 huts destroyed and one secondary explosion.

## December

The first significant activities of December occurred on the 7<sup>th</sup>. On that day 3 A/C received hits, CS, smoke, and MADS were employed and a one day record of 2,030 2.75" rockets were fired.

On 8 December 1967, again a busy day, two more A/C received hits. 2 CS missions were flown and 11 enemy kills (est) were assessed.

On 13 December, the Bn was credited with 8 KIA (BC). On 14 December, 5 more KIA (BC) were credited to ARA.

The remainder of the month was somewhat slow in that the Bn only killed 6 enemy (BC). There were many days without any significant activities.

During the year the battalion saw many changes in tactics, procedures, personnel and equipment. Experience has told the story of ARA and as more experience in gained, so with the ability of the 2/20<sup>th</sup> to better perform its mission in the same outstanding manner.

## LA Times: Quote of the Day

Dianne Feinstein: "All vets are mentally ill in some way, and government should prevent them from owning firearms."  
Yep, she really said it on Thursday in a meeting in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee... and the quote below from the LA Times is priceless. Sometimes even the L.A. Times gets it right.  
Kurt Nimmo: "Senator Feinstein insults all U.S. Veterans as she flays about in a vain attempt to save her anti-firearms bill."

Quote of the Day from the Los Angeles Times:

"Frankly, I don't know what it is about California, but we seem to have a strange urge to elect really obnoxious women to high office. I'm not bragging, you understand, but no other state, including Maine, even comes close. When it comes to sending left-wing dingbats to Washington, we're Number One. There's no getting around the fact that the last time anyone saw the likes of Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Maxine Waters, and Nancy Pelosi, they were stirring a cauldron when the curtain went up on 'Macbeth'. The four of them are like jackasses who happen to possess the gift of blab. You don't know if you should condemn them for their stupidity or simply marvel at their ability to form words."

Columnist Burt Prelutsky,  
Los Angeles Times

**THE SAME STATE DEPARTMENT  
THAT FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO  
RESCUE A FEW AMERICANS AT  
BENGAZI  
NOW SAYS IT WILL RESCUE  
200,000 MUSLIMS**  
*BreitbartOneVoice*



It's amazing how left-wingers  
can detect the secret  
motivations of everyone  
except militant Islamists  
who don't make it a secret.



 Enemies of Liberalism  
-@keder

**"The more laws,  
the less justice."**

-Cicero

#ConstitutingAmerica

# Ladies of the Association

## A LOT TO BE GRATEFUL FOR:

We are grateful each and every day for the good things that we have in our life. Most importantly, for our family and friends. As a family, we are small. Larry and I are only children. We are blessed with a great son and daughter and two beautiful granddaughters.

Jennifer, our daughter has taken over Thanksgiving and Christmas. She does most of the cooking and loves doing it. I don't mind!!

For Thanksgiving, we had a special guest— my 94 year old uncle who is the last of our uncles and aunts. He is a writer of books and is a wonderful storyteller, We love to listen to his many stories. We also had two cousins from Tampa, and the beautiful friend of our son - in all, eleven of us.

We sat down at a table which belonged to my grandmother, and drank from glasses that belonged to Larry's grandmother. Our table was bountiful (way too much food). Many of our choices were from recipes passed down over the years.

Yes! We are blessed!! We have ARA friends, Flight School friends, hometown and family friends, and most of all, each other.

Larry and I hope for love, happiness and peace to each of you during this holiday season and for the New Year.

Regina

ARA Mistress



## Chaplain's

## Corner

*"Life in the Vineyard!"*

Friends and neighbors talk about the world events and many ask, "Where are we headed?" That tells me they are uneasy and worried about our place in this great "Garden," where God planted us. "Will there be anything left for our grandchildren" ?

This took me to the scriptures to determine what some of the great prophets had to say about the world situation during the Old Testament time of the kings and wars with surrounding countries. The one that caught my attention was the prophet Isaiah's oracle to the people of Judah during the reign of King Hezekiah who was a vassal to Assyria.

*A friend had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; He built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; He expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild (bitter) grapes. He asked the inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, to judge between him and his vineyard, "What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done to it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?" In judging the vineyard, the people unwittingly passed judgment on themselves. He said, "I will remove its hedge, and it shall be trampled down. "I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!" (Isaiah 5:1-7)*

One could say that Eden was a "Horticultural Experiment." The Vineyard didn't make it! As some of the people of Judah sought the good news of wholeness prophesied by Isaiah, many were distracted by the evils of their day. Many were worshipping other gods and idols. God's promise of removing the people from the land came true. They were shipped off into exile to Babylon. Today, while we continue to wait for the coming of Christ, we also live in a world of evil with all its distraction and pleasures. Just like the people of Judah, many of us believe in God's promise of peace, justice, grace, mercy, and love. Christ's victory remains, although sometimes hidden. We have the ministry of Jesus which is still powerful in the Word, Sacrament, and the Body of the Church. The dream of a "fruitful vineyard" is a present reality! I pray that we can remain faithful and trust in God's promise. God bless us all!

Peace,

Bruce Wilder

Chaplain

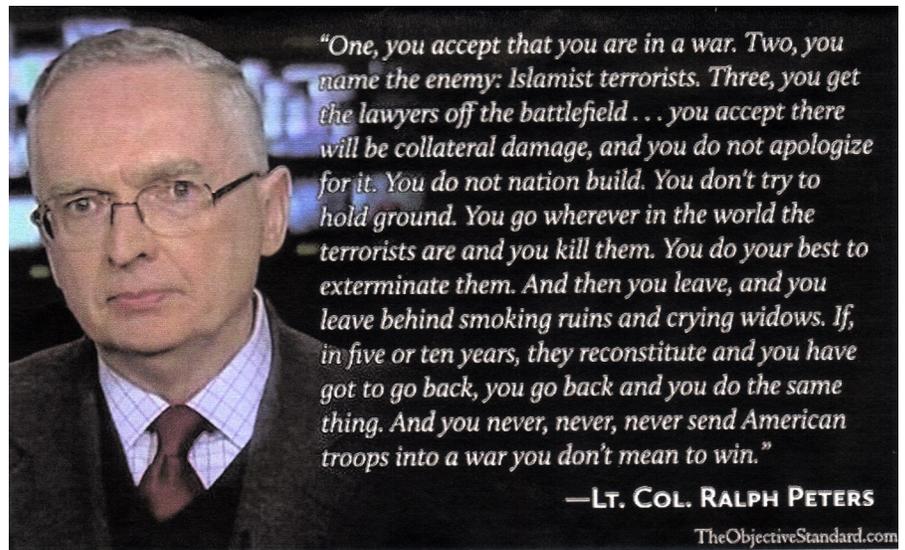
## MOON OVER VIETNAM



*Submitted by Jesse Hobby & owned by Larry Moberly*

Where was he during Vietnam?

If only we had a real President  
and leaders who knew what it  
means to be in a war!



*Submitted by Jesse Hobby*

### **To all my Lefty friends:**

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low-stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral celebration of the old country's winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasion and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all. I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2016, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make this country great. Also, this wish is made without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith or sexual preference of the wishee.

### **To all my Conservative friends:**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
The ARA Board

Have a blessed **CHRISTmas**



**AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**

**Membership Application**

This form may be used for Applying for New Membership or for Renewing Existing Membership. Please circle that which is appropriate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(At time of service in ARA) (If known)

Retired Rank (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

**List all ARA Units that you served in.**

<u>Battery/Battalion</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or PO Box  
City State Zip Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work (if okay) Cell

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Association membership is on an annual basis (unless member opts for life membership) running from January 1 to December 31 and is past due on January 31.

Annual dues are **\$25.00** regardless of when submitting.

Life membership (if paid in full) is **\$250.00**. Life membership may also be paid in **\$50.00** installments on a quarterly basis until paid in full.

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Please indicate in remarks section of check whether this is Initial Membership, Membership Renewal, Life Membership in full, Life Membership payment #.

Mail completed application to: Aerial Rocket Artillery Association  
C/O Jule Szabo  
5118 Brentwood Farm Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

**For Office Use Only**  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Check Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_

Web address – [www.araassociation.com](http://www.araassociation.com)