

River Patrol Force
Brown Water Log
 Gamewardens of Vietnam

GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INC.

Phone : (307) 237-5755
 Volume 1 No. 1
 Editor: W.W. Cater: National Newsletter
 Material for inclusion should be submitted to:
 W.W. Cater : 3510 E 8th ST : Casper, WY. 82609 - 2708 or E-Mail to wwcater@bresnan.net

Presidents Corner

John Woody, Winter 2007

State of the Gamewardens

Gamewarden pace of activity continued during 2006 at a high rate. This past year started in March with several of us attending the US Naval Institute (USNI) Conference on Riverine Warfare. Actually, it started in January when I placed a call for Point Papers of our collective experience from Vietnam to be forwarded to the new Riverine Warfare Command. Our relationship and support of the new Riverines continues.

W. W. Cater and his wife, Jayne, got the 2006 Reunion going by laying out the final plans for the Denver Reunion in August.

Events that are carrying over into the first part of 2007 will be covered herein also.

USNI Conference

The USNI Conference show cased Brown Water warfare from far and recent history to provide the new Riverine Warfare command with information to maximize its start-up and minimize its mistakes. Lee Wahler suggested, in January, that Gamewardens assemble a book of our Vietnam experience to be forwarded to the new command. I made a call for papers in January to a large number of our membership using the new Notice e-mail Program. In a conversation with Dr. Jim Reckner, Director of The Vietnam Center, who was to be a speaker at the USNI Conference, I told him about the experience papers. VADM Emmett Tidd, USN, Retired, was in Lubbock during the phone call and directed us to organize and conduct a Deck Plate Forum of our experience to summarize our experience for Dr. Reckner's conference speech. We then made contact through VADM Tidd with the Mobile Riverine Force Association


to also include their input at the conference. The **Deck Plate Forum** took place at the hotel the afternoon before the Conference started. MFRA and GWVN members provided Dr. Reckner with information to cover his some of his presentation time at the Conference. Lee Wahler and I lead the Deck Plate Forum. Larry Weatherall, Vaughn Shuler, Lee Wahler, and I attended the USNI Conference from Gamewardens.



VADM Tidd at the Deck Plate Forum

Larry Weatherall, Lee Wahler, and I provided our views of the conference in reports to the membership. During the conference, I met with RADM Bullard, Commander Naval Expeditionary Combat Command and Capt Michael Jordan, Commander Riverine Group One. During this meeting with RADM Bullard, we made preliminary arrangements for him to speak at the Denver Reunion. This arrangement was completed in June.


Our input in the conference and from our experience papers changed at least one or two directions in the Riverine Group training plans. It seems that the Riverines use a new term when contractors try to sell them Pigs in Pokes, by replying that the Riverines have talked to the **Graybeards** and feel that the Pig in Poke may not be the best thing. One of our Marine Small Craft Company



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brothers, Maj Dan Witnam summed up our heritage by stating that his call sign would always be Gamewardens 6. Maj Witnam was Commanding Officer of the Small Craft Company during the second fight in Fallujah. This was the unit who requested that they use "Gamewardens" as their call sign.



Marine SURC at Annapolis.

NW Chapter Armed Forces Parade

In May, I met with NW Chapter and attended their participation with the operational PBR in a parade in Bremerton, WA on Armed Forces Day. NW Chapter won the Grand Marshalls Award for Best Veteran's Unit, despite the fact that A. Billy Ratt was in attendance. The operational PBR and A. Billy Ratt were the center of our entry in the parade. The NW Chapter received the Grand Prize Award for Veterans Groups despite the presence of A. Billy Ratt. Well done, NW chapter!

We had to keep A. Billy under raps as he attempted to commandeer a Farmall tractor, Harley-Davidson motorcycle, and Mustang convertible.



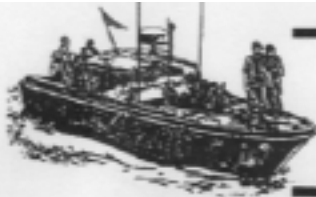
A. Billy attempting to commandeer a Harley.

Riverine Group One Establishment Ceremony

June, members led by Mid Atlantic Chapter attended the establishment of Naval Expeditionary Combat Command's (NECC) Riverine Group One (RivGruOne) and Riverine Squadron One (RivSquOne) commands. In a discussion between ADM Bullard and me, he confirmed to be our National Reunion Speaker.

I delivered the Point Paper Experience three ring binder notes of our experiences in Vietnam to Capt Mike Jordan, RivGruOne, during this meeting. Clarence Cooper and I also met with CDR Campbell, CO of Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron Four, located at Naval Base Norfolk. Our Mid Atlantic Chapter members are heavily involved in support of the new Riverine Squadrons at the deck plate level.

Our relationship with the new Riverines continues as we support their standup. This is evidenced by the new Riverine Group One Challenge Coin which has a PBR as its center logo tying the Riverines to their heritage, River Patrol Force, Gamewardens. By the way, the coin is on our website for sale.



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Recall the Operational PBR

About this time, I received a letter from Naval Historical Center recalling the operational PBR currently in NW Chapter custody. NHC had initiated this recall in January 2006 without contacting GWVN. As I have noted in the last newsletter, we moved the PBRs to Jim Creek Naval Facility to better protect and support them when the Bellingham International Maritime Museum (BIMM) had to move to smaller quarters. This move and some misinformation about our plans for a PBR memorial were transmitted to NHC by the Navy Base Everett, JAG. NHC, wanting to protect its PBR for its own expansion of the Navy Museum in Washington DC caused the recall letter.

Discussions with NHC resulted in a proposal to retain the operational PBR and substitute our static hull in its place. GWVN would rehab the static hull and get it ready for installation in the Navy Museum expansion. This proposal was developed in June. I arranged to hand carry it to NHC in August. GWVN obtained Marine Insurance to cover the PBR in exposition venues and under way operations. In August, the proposal, especially the Marine Insurance portion, and my personal discussion with RADM Paul Tobin, USN, Retired, Director of the NHC, resulted in our retention of the operational PBR. We are obligated to get our static PBR hull ready to go to the Navy Museum expansion in about three years.

Repair the East Coast Obelisk

In June, during a move to re-locate the East Coast Memorial Obelisk at its new memorial location, it was damaged by the Navy movers. A monument repair company determined that it could be repaired. The Mk I PBR and obelisk had been in storage while a new location was prepared to place them on the SpecWar Compound. Right after the original memorial dedication, SpecWar determined that it needed the location for an expansion of its warehouse

facilities. Mid Atlantic Chapter made a call for help in covering the repair cost of approximately \$850.00. It was also determined that the GWVN memorial maintenance fund had been used in boat moves and other maintenance expenditures and had not been replenished. I made a call to the membership for assistance. One member responded by providing \$1,000.00 up front to cover the immediate repair costs. Other members responded by raising approximately \$2,500.00. We were able to return some of the up front money and place the remainder in a renewed memorial maintenance fund. Thanks again, everyone!


The obelisk was repaired and re-installed in the new memorial location. Mid Atlantic Chapter completed the memorial setup and led the re-dedication ceremony. Well done, Mid Atlantic Chapter!



Ralph Christopher & Clarence Cooper at the Obelisk

James E. Williams Leadership Award


About this time, the Mid Atlantic Chapter formalized an arrangement and instruction with James E. Williams (DDG 95) to co-sponsor an award for leadership within the ships company each year. This idea, started by CDR Vance, the original CO was followed up by the present CMC, W. L. Burnett. The award is imbedded in an official James E. Williams Instruction 1650.2.



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The ships company will select an individual each year and submit that individual's qualifications to the Mid Atlantic Chapter for review and award.

This first award was given this February 2007 during the standup of Riverine Squadron Two at Little Creek. Mid Atlantic Chapter members went aboard the USS Williams and made the award to **FC2 (SW) Stefanie M. Dressel, USN**. She will wear our black beret this next year and has been made an Associate Member. Everyone will get to meet her during the 2008 Norfolk Reunion.

Well Done, Stefanie and Mid Atlantic Chapter!



Stefanie and Mid Atlantic Chapter

Rubin Binder Memorial

Rubin Binder, GMG3, gunner on PBR 105, the James Williams boat, died in 2005. He never talked about his experiences in Vietnam to his family or friends. There was no memorial ceremony for him as a result. NW Chapter took this ceremony as a project and organized a grave site and home memorial for his family this past July. They mustered many of that River Division's veterans from his tour in Seattle for the ceremony. They used the operational PBR for the home ceremony. The information is available on their website, www.gamewardensnw.org. Well done, NW chapter!

Denver National Reunion

It goes without saying that the 2006 Denver National Reunion was a great success. Jayne and W. W. Cater planned and executed an outstanding gathering of approximately 130 members and family at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center, Denver. Jayne's friend, Sue Chiuminato, kept us in line and on time also, Thanks Sue! The Hyatt arrangements were superb. We had over 200 at the banquet. Jayne, Sue, and W. W. had a great outing visit program for us. A last minute change in plans had Capt Mike Jordan, Commander Riverine Group One, as our speaker when RADM Bullard had to send regrets. Capt Jordan once again reminded us that we are the keepers of the Brown Water heritage and that the new Riverines are striving to live up to all we stand for.

Several Seawolves, including Jim Walker and Rick Meussner, organized a bike rally and attended. They reported that they had one of the best times in a long while revisiting old friends in TF 116. I suspect that we will see a larger Seawolf group in Norfolk.

Heinz Hickethier, Super Promoter, arranged for Pabst Blue Ribbon Brewing Company to sponsor this year's reunion. Pabst furnished banners, other auction items and PBR beer for the reunion. Age or something has caught up with us as there was PBR beer left when the last member went to bed each night. Heinz, this is a high bar for you to maintain as you provide more PBR beer, etc, at each National Reunion from now on.

We held a BoD meeting wherein I reviewed the past period from the San Antonio Reunion and brought everyone up to date. One action taken by the BoD included simplifying the accounting procedures by moving special funds into the General



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Account and writing special requests from that account when it is necessary by motion and a vote. We will continue to maintain the Scholarship Fund.

The Yearly Member Analysis was covered again to reiterate the need to change the Yearly Member Dues from \$30.00 per year to \$50.00 for a two year period to be renewable at the next National Reunion for every Yearly member. The Yearly Member Dues renewal would be part of the Reunion registration and would be due whether the member attended the Reunion or not. This action would save the member and the organization dues mailing costs and would simplify keeping track of the membership in the database.

I reported that we had saved approximately \$400.00 in the mailing of the last newsletter by the use of the e-mail Notice program. The new bulk mail permit was reported in application and was finalized after the reunion meeting.

I also reported that Gamewardens was very generous in 2005 and 2006 in that we raised approximately \$13,000.00 including \$6,032.28 for Katrina Relief to the Special Warfare Craft Crewmen (SWCC) community in Louisiana and Mississippi which was sent directly to the SEAL/UDT Association for distribution, making all our funds directly available to our shipmates.

We also conducted a General Meeting in accordance with the By-Laws during this reunion and accomplished the following items:

1. The officers reported on our status with a highlight from the Treasurer that we were doing well due to the Ships Store sales, diligent efforts in the membership dues collection, and project fund raising.
2. We elected four BoD members: Bob Johnson, 2010; W. W. Cater, 2010; Glen Slay, 2010;

and Ralph Christopher, 2010. Dennis Scully was officially verified to 2008.

3. Four Officer Positions were also elected by the attending membership for the next two years: President, John Woody; Secretary, Charles Benninghoff; Treasurer, Herb Stephan, and East Coast Vice President, Vaughn Shuler.
4. The By-Laws concerning Yearly Membership and Yearly Dues were changed during this meeting to reflect a more efficient method of accounting for membership and collecting the dues. Yearly dues collection will be made every two years as part of the Reunion Registration process regardless of attendance and the cost of renewal will be \$50.00 for two years vice \$30.00 per year. The common renewal date will be at the time of the next National Reunion.
5. A committee consisting of Clarence Cooper, Capt Mike Jordan, and Herb Stephan was formed to look at the Life membership for changes in the dues. This committee is to report back to the President with their findings.
6. The 2010 Reunion location was next on the agenda with four locations open to the membership for consideration. The locations were: Suisun City/Vallejo, CA; Seattle,



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7. WA; Pensacola, FL and Vietnam. It was suggested by the Secretary that the reunion be held in Suisun City/Vallejo with an extension for those who wanted to go to Vietnam be considered. In the vote, Suisun City was selected. Ken Delfino will be the reunion coordinator. After a discussion of long term financing via a fund raising program, the membership directed the President to investigate, analysis, and implement a long-range plan for fund raising with an immediate implementation of GWVN as a listee in the Government Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) program.
8. A discussion about when to hold future reunions covered the tradition and perceived requirement to hold the National Reunion in August. After discussion, a motion and second to add a statement to the By-Laws that would allow the Reunion Committee for that year decide the date for that reunion. This change to the By-Laws was voted in and would still allow two years advance notice to plan for the next reunion.
9. Former National President Steve Watson was invited by the President to make the Boat Captains gun award for this reunion. The award was made to Charles Benninghoff who has been National Secretary for seven years and on the BoD before this role. Well Done, Charles!
10. This General Meeting was then closed with a proper vote.



Our Seawolf detachment.

Discovery Channel Re-enactment

On my return from the Reunion in August, I participated in an e-mail discussion with representatives from SBSA and MRFA about the location of an operational "Swift Boat" for use in a Discovery Channel re-enactment of personal action by individuals in combat situations. The story line with the PCF would have to center on a Silver Star awardee. There are no operational PCFs in the U. S. I suggested to the forum that Gamewardens has an operational PBR and that we could suggest several Navy Cross awardees from TF 116 who would be good stories for this series. I had in mind the River Division 593 action in which GMG3 David Larsen was awarded his Navy Cross.

The TV production company, Vantage Point Productions, then took us up on the offer. I asked Larry Bissonnette and Heinz Hicketier to lead this effort. Larry B. mustered and scheduled the RivDiv 593 action participants for their interviews with Vantage Point. These interviews took place in September. Larry also planned a RivDiv 593 reunion to take place during the action filming. Larry was the senior officer afloat during this action.

In the mean time, Heinz laid out the plan for the boat operations and secured permission



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to operate it with blank firing in the sloughs on the Snohomish River close to Everett, WA. This was no small chore, even for super organizer Heinz. Heinz had to arrange for support vessels from other NW chapter members for movement of the film crews and re-enactors.

In October, Vantage Point Productions arrived in Everett for the filming. RivDiv 593 mustered approximately 30 of the personnel who were in the action that night. David Larsen and his parents were there to see the filming action take place. They were able to talk to David's shipmates who were in the action that night. Also notable was the fact that one of Walt Thomas' sons played the part of his Dad in the re-enactment.

Check the full story of the re-enactment out on our website, www.tf116.org. Extremely well done, Larry and Heinz for organizing and making this happen!

The showing dates for this were published as Notices and on the website. The showing was on the Military Channel on Monday, March 26, 2007. It was originally to be shown on Discovery Channel on April 21, 2007, but in a phone call from Vantage Point, the Discovery viewing will be on April 27, 2007 instead of April 21st.



David Larsen's parents.

Riverine Group One / Gamewardens Leadership Award

Mid Atlantic Chapter working with RivGruOne, commenced a Leadership Award to be given to each of the Riverine Squadrons by Gamewardens. This award will be directed by National each year. It has been published as COMGRUONE INSTRUCTION 1650.5 and is entitled "Gamewardens of Vietnam Leadership Excellence Award". The first awards will be given in the July/August 2007 time frame.

It should be noted herein that this award is for deck plate leadership and that the awardee may not necessarily be an inspection ready sailor, but will have shown that he or she takes on responsibility and demonstrates leadership when the chips are down.

Bulk Mail Permit

The new bulk mail permit was finalized by the USPS in December. We are now able to make bulk mailings from San Antonio. This will include the newsletters and mailings from the chapters. If you need to make a chapter mailing, get the copy ready and send it to me. I will then get it ready with the mail company to send.

Events starting in 2007

Riverine Squadron Two Standup

This February 2008 found our pace continuing at a high level. We were again invited to the establishment ceremony for Riverine Squadron Two at Little Creek. Approximately twenty black berets were present. Both Commodore Jordan and ADM Bullard pointed to the Gamewardens as having set the standard for brown water warfare and that the Riverines were carrying that tradition into the future. In a discussion following the ceremony, ADM Bullard proposed that Gamewardens attend the final live fire exercises for RivSquTwo at Ft



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Pickett in September 2007. Stay tuned, as we may have a mini reunion the week after Labor Day at Little Creek and Ft Pickett.

Start making plans now to attend the Norfolk Reunion. As things are turning out, we will be well taken care of at Little Creek. I am sure we will be able to convince the Riverines to provide rides on their new combat boats. The RivSquOne group will have returned from their mission by then. We will have the first of our Leadership recipients from the USS WILLIAMS and the Riverine Squadrons as honored guests at the banquet.

NHC Static Hull Restoration

We have received two substantial donations toward the PBR maintenance and restoration project. NW Chapter has started work on the static hull to get it ready for a mid 2007 shipment to the Navy Museum. The NHC has requested that we get the hull back to Washington DC by mid year.

In a discussion with David Larsen, he suggested that we get the Navy to truck the hull across country and stop it along the way where our members live with some publicity to allow our members to talk about their experiences and to raise money toward the hull as it goes into the Navy Museum. I will play this idea with NHC and see if we may be able to pull it off. It would be a good chance for us to stop it at David's home town and somewhere else in the Mid West to get the Mid West Chapter started. Let us know what you think?

Membership

Once again, in Denver at the General Meeting, we changed the By-Laws for Yearly Memberships to a bi-annual payment schedule for everyone. This arrangement changes the dues from \$30.00 per year to \$50.00 for two years. All Yearly dues would be due at the time of the next National Reunion. The dues invoice

would be part of the Reunion registration regardless of whether the member is attending. This saves the member on his yearly dues and saves the organization on mailing costs and greatly streamlines our ability to keep the membership data records together. It seems to be working except for one thing, those with due dates of 2007 would be out of step when we accept their \$50.00 as that extends their next due date to an off year. This came to light when a couple of renewals came to us this year in \$50.00 amounts. I am asking the BoD to help with how to handle this. If your renewal date is 2007, please send only \$30.00 to get your due date to coincide with the Norfolk Reunion. Another way to get all of us in line with the even year, reunion date, would be to join for three years in this 2007 off year time period.

Tri-Task Force Family

In a meeting with Raul Herrera, President, Swift Boat Sailors Association, he suggested that Swift Boat Sailors Association, Gamewardens and Mobile Riverine Force Association join together in a Veterans Day Parade Operation in various cities as a joint group. I think that this is an excellent idea. It is a good project for our chapters and chapter start ups to consider. It is an excellent way for us to get together during the year. It is another way for each of our respective Task Force groups to do a joint exercise like the VUMM.

Notices about this event will follow. We need local Gamewardens contacts so that we can send the contact points to the SBSA coordinator. We need name, phone and e-mail information.

Medical

During the Denver Reunion, many of the discussions between members centered on services they were receiving from the



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Veterans Administration. There were a lot of problems being experienced as a result of a lack of understanding between the VA and the veteran. Many of the veterans have not known what questions to ask just to get started and receive good service. This seems to be an area that Gamewardens can assist its members. After some of these discussions, I asked several members if we should establish some sort of help line for us to get help with. At the suggestion of Charles Benninghoff, Secretary, I set up a committee headed by Charles with Richard Meussner and Charles Castelluccio as committee members. They are to look into the possibility of building a cookbook for us to publish for members to use with the VA. After I returned from the reunion, I was contacted by Walter Schmidt, member and VA councilor, who stated he would assist.

Rick and Walter have both published articles on how to work with the VA. Rick has done work with his Seawolves and has done articles on Agent Orange. Walter writes a series column about working with the VA.

Walter's weekly column can be found at <http://experts.longisland.com/veterans>. His past columns can be found at <http://experts.longisland.com/veterans/archive.php>.

Agent Orange

As a result of my own experience with Prostate Cancer, I am going to include a letter by Rick to his Seawolf brothers about Agent Orange and the VA Agent Orange Registry.

From Rick Meussner

All Seawolves, who haven't done so, were urged to go to their nearest VA Medical Facility and get on the Agent Orange Registry. Admiral Zumwalt had made a similar appeal at our Jacksonville Reunion.

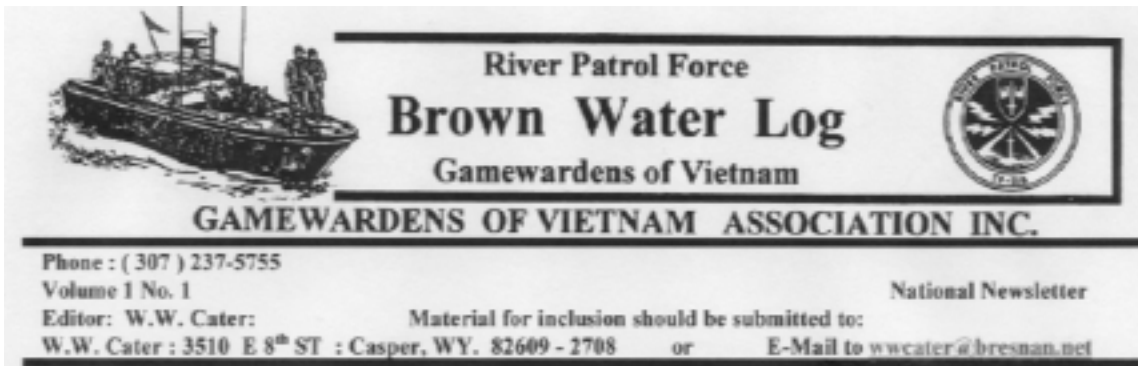
To SUMMARIZE, we were all exposed to Agent Orange to varying degrees. It contained deadly dioxins. There are more than 43 diseases caused by Agent Orange, and more are being added to the list all the time. **Some diseases and illness' caused by Agent Orange take 20 to 30 years or more, (after exposure), to show up.** Some illnesses caused by the dioxin contaminants are being passed down to our children and theirs.

Dioxins are a clear and present danger to human health, and are linked to a wide range of diseases, including cancers and birth defects. Many of the 2.6 million U.S. veterans who served in Vietnam complain of illnesses that they traced to exposure to Agent Orange. Thousands of American veterans now receive government compensation for illnesses linked to Agent Orange. 270,000 Vietnam veterans registered with the VA's Agent Orange program, thus far. The Department of Veterans Affairs compensates Vietnam vets for a growing list of ailments, including Hodgkin's disease, respiratory cancers, soft tissue sarcoma, prostate cancer, diabetes, and skin diseases like chloracne. The VA has organized the illnesses into four basic categories, (Cause by AO), Definitely, Probably, Possibly and No Way, (not yet).

There is not enough evidence to know whether herbicide exposure is linked to a variety of other cancers, including breast, liver, bone, uro-genital tract and skin. **(skin cancer has recently been elevated to category three)**

What If I Served in Vietnam and Have a Disease Not on VA's List?

If you served in Vietnam and believe that you have a disease caused by herbicide exposure, but that disease is not on VA's list of diseases associated with herbicides like Agent Orange, you may still apply for service-connection. Such a veteran needs to



establish entitlement to service connection on a "direct" (rather than "presumptive") basis. The first step is the Agent Orange Registry/

In these cases, VA requires:

1. competent medical evidence of a Department of Veterans Affairs Agent Orange Brief current disability;
2. **competent evidence of exposure to an herbicide in Vietnam; and**
3. competent medical evidence of a nexus (causal relationship) between the herbicide exposure and the current disability.

Agent Orange was sprayed in III & IV Corps, areas where Seawolves operated.

Material is available on the Agent Orange Registry and the many, many illnesses and diseases that affect Viet Nam Veterans as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. Information packets containing information on this issue are available.

I will send a package to anyone requesting the information.

Rick Meussner
16 Pease St.
Enfield, CT 06108
Phone: 860-741-2493
e-mail: rinome@cox.net

Additional Information can be found at the following websites, including information on the AO Registry, the illnesses that are currently recognized by the VA, locations where AO was sprayed and additional background information.

Agent Orange Registry

http://www.tpromo2.com/usvi/ag_org1.htm

VVA's Guide on AGENT ORANGE
<http://www.vva.org/benefits/vvgagent.htm>

<http://www1.va.gov/agentorange/docs/C3AO BRIEF72003A.doc>

Agent Orange - Were You Exposed
<http://prostate-help.org/caverao.htm>

AGENT ORANGE, A KILLER THEN AND A KILLER NOW!
<http://cybersarges.tripod.com/AO.html>

Michigan Agent Orange Commission
http://www.gmasw.com/ao_info1.htm

The Story of Agent Orange
<http://www.usvetdsp.com/agentorange.htm>

AGENT ORANGE INFORMATION PACKAGE


http://www.vvnw.org/Educational_Material/agent_orange.htm

Title of Law: Agent Orange Act of 1991

Law #: Public Law 102- 4

Passed by Congress: 102nd Congress (1st Session)

<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ocga/Laws/PL102-4.asp>



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Statistical Summary of Herbicidal Warfare in Vietnam

<http://www.landscaper.net/agent2.htm>

Agent Orange Talking Paper #1 by Gary D. Moore

http://www.gmasw.com/ao_info1.htm

Morbidity of Australian Vietnam Veterans

http://www.gmasw.com/auss_sur.htm

Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 1998 (1999)

Institute of Medicine (IOM)

<http://newton.nap.edu/books/0309063264/html>

RANCH HAND VIETNAM SOUTHEAST ASIA 1961-1971

<http://www.ranchhandvietnam.org/>

Operation Ranch Hand

<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/AirOps/ranch.html>

STATEMENT BY RONALD COENE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WASHINGTON OPERATIONS NATIONAL CENTER FOR TOXICOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

<http://www.fda.gov/ola/2000/ranchhand.html>

USAF Ranch Hand Herb Tapes Herbicide Amounts from August 1965

http://www.gmasw.com/ao_amts1.htm

Executive Summary Veterans and Agent Orange **Update 1998**

http://www.gmasw.com/ao_1998.htm

VA Watchdog is where the VA goes to find out what it's doing."

<http://www.vawatchdog.org/>

If you have not done it, go to your local VA and register in the Agent Orange Registry as soon as possible.

DD 214 on Line

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided a website for veterans to gain access to their DD 214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. I have not tried it yet. There is probably a security ID code that each veteran must establish to receive the information, but it will be worth it to use the online source.

Standard Form 180, the request form that is normally used to obtain service and medical records, can also be downloaded from this site. This form is used for both records.

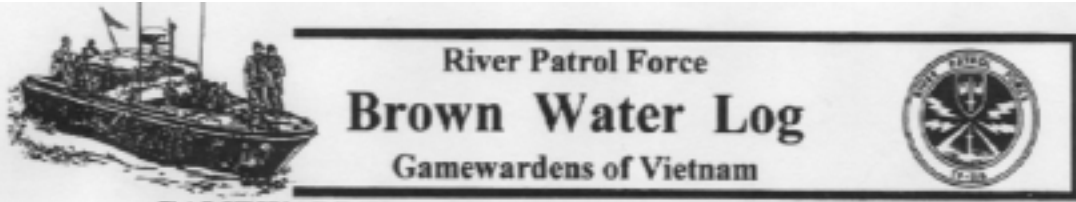
The National Personnel Records Center address is: Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

2008 Reunion

Clarence Cooper has had his first meetings with hotels in the Little Creek area about the 2008 Reunion. We will keep everyone posted via the Notice e-mail program. Start making plans now as I know we will enjoy returning home for a reunion. There will be boat rides galore as the Riverine Group and Squadrons demonstrate their new equipment for us.

Gathering of Eagles

This is thanks to our members who attended the Gathering of Eagles in Washington DC this month as a show of force against the Anti-War march that was held. Our brothers from Washington DC and the Mid Atlantic Chapter were there. We have information



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about the Gathering of Eagles on our website.

And, notice that we have color photos in the current issue.



John Woody
 President

Winter2007.doc

Gary marker, Vaughn Shuler, Jerry Gandy, Marvin McFeaters, and Clarence Cooper represented us.

PBR-FVA Reunion in Seattle

I know that many of you also belong to PBR-FVA as I do. Their 2007 reunion is well under way and will be held during August 2 – 5, 2007. They will provide all the information. This is just a reminder.

One Final Reminder

We have approximately 360 plus members in the e-mail Notice program. Some member e-mails continue to bounce from the program. Some AOL, Earthlink, and other private or local ISPs continue to block the program. If you have any control over your security settings and want to receive the Notices, then you will have to have the settings changed at your end of the Internet. The two addresses that send in the Notice program are jwoody@texas.net and president@tf116.org. Also, some members continue to change their e-mail addresses without sending the change to us. If you receive this as a USPS hard copy and want it electronically, then send me an e-mail so stating, especially if your connection is broad band, and you can receive attachments. The newsletter is done as a Microsoft Word document.