

The Splinter Shield

GVNWCC Newsletter



Gamewardens of
Vietnam-WCC
P.O. Box 2085
Arcadia CA 91006

Vietnam Unit Memorial Moves Closer To Completion

Coronado, CA.- On 21 February, Board members of the Vietnam Unit Monument Memorial Foundation met on a rainy day at the Naval Amphibious Base to decide on a few remaining projects that will bring the VUMM closer to final completion.

The "concept" of placing 26-18"x48" stainless steel placards inscribed with the names of all USN/USCG casualties on the wall was discussed and approved pending board requested quality assurances from the manufacturer.

The poem, "I am Your Wall" (vummf.org) will be placed on the upper section of the Wall along with the stainless steel placards.

Installation of wiring and fixtures that will provide 24/7 lighting for the Memorial is being discussed with NAB Seabees the week of February 23. With the Seabees help along with the Memorial's steadfast volunteers, the VUMM's completion may become a reality by June or July, 2004.

Donations are still needed for the Memorial's work in progress and forward maintenance. For details on contributions and much more, go to the VUMMF website at: www.vummf.org

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"The New Gunners Mate" By Gene Glasco, WCC President

After a couple month's stint in the NAVCOMSTA at Nha Be, I was ordered to the Naval Operation Center (similar to the Army's TOC) at Ha Tien, a primitive and remote Advanced Tactical Support Base supporting TF116/117 ops not far from the Cambodian border (and the NVA 1st Division). Ha Tien was also home to MACV's "Special Team 5" which maintained their own chow hall and barracks on "the hill" overlooking our plywood/corrugated tin roofed "hooches" down below on the Giang Thanh river. Erected on empty fuel bladders that were anchored to the river's edge, our hooch roofs were sandbagged so the backwash from landing helicopters would not tear



Gene Glasco- ATSB
Ha Tien, RVN 1969

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Special points of interest:

- Sign up for the 2004 National Reunion in San Antonio, August 4 through August 7. Go to: www.tf116.org for on-line registration.
- Does a West Coast Chapter reunion in June sound good to you? Send us an email.

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“The New Gunners Mate?”

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them off. From the NOC, we directed Seawolf support and assistance missions for many imperiled PBR and Swift patrols, in addition to calling up Army howitzer response and harassment at a nearby fire support base- the name of which I can no longer remember. There were many “choppers” landing and taking off from our helo pad, but there was one arrival I’ll never forget. Around 1500 a Navy “slick” set down outside our quarters. Out of it stepped a few nondescript (so I thought) individuals. New arrivals were commonplace, and we were expecting a Gunners Mate for one of our injured boat crew. One nondescript older guy wearing shorts and an OD tee shirt comes into my hooch and asks if he can borrow a bar of soap to shave with he says. So I scrounged around my rack looking for some Dial soap, audibly grumbling ... “wonder who this guy is, wanting to borrow my soap”? “Don’t these guys have ditty bags?” Handing him my soap, he thanked me and asked if I was going to be around later on that evening. I told him that my

request to go out on patrol with RivDiv532 had been approved by our CO, and I wouldn’t “be around” after 1700 or so. “Who are you anyway”?, I asked, “the new Gunners Mate?” Then with polite but official sounding delivery he informed me that he was Admiral Zumwalt, Commander Naval Forces Vietnam. “Oh... I mean yes sir” , I said taking a step back trying not to trip over myself. He told me he was going to be leaving Vietnam and will be in a very important position in Washington DC. At the time, I didn’t know he would become Chief of Naval Operations. When reminiscing with Elmo Zumwalt,III just before his unfortunate passing, Elmo asked me, “did Dad ever return your bar of soap”? I said with a chuckle, “it really didn’t matter”.



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 ★ Adm Elmo Zumwalt, Jr. ★
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Help Needed for Unit Memorial PBR Display

Our Vietnam Unit Monument Memorial PBR at CISIM Field is in need of a few maintenance volunteers to occasionally “field day” the boat, boat pad, and perimeter to keep it looking good and presentable at all times. Assurances have been given through a Memo of Understanding to the Navy that the boats, i.e. PBR, PCF, and CCB will be kept clean, and the area around them squared away. It’s really not a lot of work, especially if we have more than one or

two people helping out. We have a list of local San Diego area members that are going to be contacted to solicit their help. If you are within relatively close driving distance to NAB Coronado, will you please consider lending us a hand?

*If you live in the San Diego area and can help us maintain our display PBR please let us know by emailing-
 Gene69-70@sbcglobal.net*

Reunion Nominations

It’s been quite some time since the West Coast Chapter has had a reunion. There have been some inquiries as to when we might have one again, and so we’re taking this opportunity here to ask our West Coast members if they would like to have a reunion this June in San Diego. For those of you who haven’t seen our new Vietnam Unit Memorial, this would be a great opportunity to do so. We have openings for new chapter officers for Vice President,

Treasurer/Secretary, and Supply Officer. A West Coast Chapter reunion would be an excellent opportunity to nominate and elect some new West Coast Chapter officers.



CISIM Field Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California

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Email: gene69-70@sbcglobal.net

**We're on the web!
www.tf116.org
West Coast
Chapter**

*"Boats of glass, balls of brass, and
black berets forever!"*



West Coast Chapter Charter

Gamewardens of Vietnam Association Inc.

P.O. Box 5523

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455-0523

"This is to certify that in accordance with the Bylaws of this Corporation and approved at the 1983 Annual Business Meeting of the Corporation, the West Coast Chapter is an official branch of Gamewardens of Vietnam Association Incorporated a non-profit, tax exempt, veterans group incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia." J. Williams, Secretary

May 1st, 1984 Chapter Number Two

Key Events of 1969

- Canada offers refuge for U.S. military deserters
- President Nixon orders the withdrawal of 25,000 U.S. troops from Vietnam after the U.S. military presence tops out at about 543,000
- "Star Trek" is cancelled
- With the words "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Neil Armstrong is first to set foot on the surface of the moon.
- The New York Mets defy 100 to 1 preseason odds and beat the Baltimore Orioles in the World Series
- The first military draft lottery since 1942 is conducted.
- 50 pence coin introduced
- Test-tube fertilisation of human eggs
- Pele scores 1000th goal
- Boeing 747 and Concorde first flight
- Monty Python's Flying Circus first broadcast
- Woodstock



West Coast Chapter Reunion Turner Field
Coronado, California