



22nd Infantry Regiment Society

Deeds Not Words



Issue 1-2022

Regulars by God

March 2022



The Battle of FSB Gold/Soui Tre



During Operation Junction City, in March 1967, a Fire Support Base (FSB) for the 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division was in the process of being constructed in Tây Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam. The base was near the abandoned village of Soui Tre and was named FSB Gold.



Located at the base would be three batteries of 2/77 Artillery, which would occupy eighteen firing positions. Company A 3/22 Infantry would provide perimeter defense for one side of the

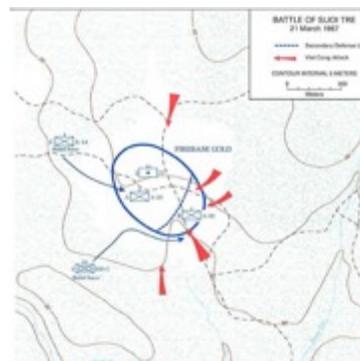
base and Company B 3/22 Infantry would provide perimeter defense for the other side of the base.

The operations began on March 19, when B 3/22 Infantry and elements of 2/12 Infantry were airlifted to LZ Gold, an unsecured clearing at grid coordinates XT 385705. The first airlift was uneventful, but the second and third airlifts were attacked by the enemy, using command-detonated improvised explosive devices. Three helicopters were destroyed and three more damaged, resulting in 15 killed and 28 wounded U.S. soldiers. March 20 saw 2/77 Artillery installed at the base, while A 3/22 and B 3/22 Infantry manned the perimeter line and ran patrols around the base.

At 06:30 on March 21, an ambush patrol from B 3/22 Infantry engaged several enemy soldiers in a firefight just outside the firebase, and one minute later the surrounding jungle erupted with the sound of mortars being fired. A massive amount of mortar rounds began impacting inside FSB Gold. Communist forces immediately launched a major ground attack against the base. The enemy consisted of at least six Battalions of Infantry, mostly from the 272nd Viet Cong Regiment, aided by the U80 Artillery Regiment.

Approximately 2500 Viet Cong soldiers were thrown against the base in successive human wave attacks, in an attempt to annihilate the approximately 450 American defenders at the base. The Regulars of the 22nd Infantry fought back with all their might, but by 06:38 all platoons of Company B were reporting enemy soldiers inside the wire.

Forward air controllers were dispatched over the base to direct air support from their O-1 Bird Dog aircraft. All nearby units of 3rd Brigade were ordered to move toward FSB Gold. Several artillery batteries at nearby firebases within range began firing in support of FSB Gold.



At about 07:15 the first F4 Phantom fighter bombers from Bien Hoa airfield arrived and began dropping napalm in the

tree line, and on enemy troops caught in the open between the trees and the firebase. Nevertheless, accurate fire from Viet Cong rocket propelled grenades (RPG) and 57mm recoilless rifles continued to hit the center of the firebase. By 08:15 the northeast end of the firebase was overrun, and the defenders



Painting by Jim Nelson, C/2-22

of B 3/22 Infantry pulled back deeper into the center of the base, joining the artillerymen at their positions.

The artillery fired “beehive” rounds containing thousands of steel flechette darts at the advancing hordes of enemy soldiers, and when the “beehive” rounds ran out, the artillerymen fired high-explosive rounds at reduced charges, point blank into the Viet Cong formations. An M-45 “quad-50” gun mount, consisting of four 50 caliber machine guns, was captured and turned to fire against the Americans. Before it could open fire, an alert artilleryman from 2/77 Artillery destroyed the gun with a direct hit of high explosive.

Airstrikes were being called to within 50 meters of the firebase, and still the defenders of FSB Gold held their ground. An O-1 Forward Air Control Bird Dog was shot down by fire from a Viet Cong heavy machine gun, the aircraft crashing near the base, and the pilot being killed.

Meanwhile, reinforcements were moving as fast as they could toward the firebase.

Northwest of the base, soldiers of 2/12 Infantry were rapidly approaching. The M-113 Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) of 2/22 Infantry and the M-48 tanks of 2/34 Armor, to the southwest of FSB Gold, were trying to find a way to cross the Soui Samat River and get into the fight.

At about 08:40 elements of 2/12 Infantry arrived at the firebase, and joined with the survivors of B 3/22 Infantry in counterattacking the enemy inside the base. The mechanized units had found a river crossing, and at 09:12 burst forth from the southwestern tree line. The APC’s of 2/22 Infantry and the tanks of 2/34 Armor moved around the edges of the base, pushing the Viet Cong back into the jungle. By 10:00 all enemy forces had been eliminated from within the perimeter and Dust-Off helicopters began arriving to take out the wounded.

Soldiers from 2/22 Infantry and 2/34 Armor pursued the enemy into the jungle, but were pulled back to the firebase for fear of running into a possible ambush. By 10:45 the fight was over, though artillery and airstrikes targeted the retreating Viet Cong until about noon. The ferocity of the battle was apparent, and astounding. Communist casualties totaled 647 killed, the highest total for a single day battle in the entire war. The United States Army’s Center of Military History records that American casualties for the engagement came to 36 killed and 190 wounded.

All U.S. Army units involved were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The courage, determination, and the fighting spirit of the American soldier was never more visibly demonstrated. The Battle of FSB Gold/Soui Tre will forever be noted as one of the most significant engagements of the 22nd Infantry Regiment in its over 200 year history.

Michael Belis, DMOR
Society Historian

Courage Ball

Well, you missed an epic evening with Courage Battalion in Lyons Falls.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your nominating me for the guest speaker assignment. I really can't . . .

Yet another example of how the key requirement for landing many of life's memorable assignments is not being present at the planning meeting!



But in all seriousness, being a part of the Triple Deuce family is always an inspirational experience. Since you couldn't attend, I've attached a copy of my remarks, as delivered -- or at least, as I meant to deliver them. You will note that aspects of the structure of my presentation shamelessly mirror your masterful 2018

address. I am pleased to report that the audience was welcoming, gracious, and kind enough to laugh or get mildly rowdy at the appropriate times.

Three key lessons learned:

1. Arrive early, in sufficient time to conduct a microphone / sound

check. Some folks in the back reportedly had difficulty hearing me. One possible fix, had a sound check been conducted: amp up the sound system. Another, likely more useful: counsel the speaker to modulate appropriately. At the end of the evening, Valerie commented that since I received my hearing aids from the VA last year, I have been speaking more softly than I did prior to having the electronic amplification. She also observed that during my remarks as guest speaker, I did not project nearly as forcefully as in past years. *Mea culpa* -- but

possibly a good reminder for future Old Goat speakers.

2. Wardrobe management: Proper Prior Preparation Prevents Piss Poor

Performance. Another tip for future Old Goat speakers: if

- (a) one adheres to the old-school belief that real men only wear self-tie, rather than pre-tied, formal bow ties; and
- (b) one has not "been to the range" to practice such skills in, say, more than a couple years, then it would be wise to either
 - (1) put in daily tie-tying practice beginning at least a week before the formal event, or
 - (2) dedicate at least a full hour prior to the event to properly tie the #\$\$%^&! thing . . .

3. Tailor the script ruthlessly to fill the time allotted!

As one of our colleagues sagely observed, some of the messages I tried to convey likely were missed because I was speaking too rapidly. The good news: Adam had allotted a full 20 minutes to the guest speaker slot. The bad news: I lacked the discipline to reduce the content to a more comfortable fit (deleting one's carefully crafted anecdotes is a bitch!), and picked up the pace to avoid running too long. Once again, *PPPPPPP!*

As you undoubtedly have heard, the tail end of the evening, after LTC Armstrong removed his jacket, also was quite memorable -- well, okay, maybe not fully memorable for participants in the Grog Ceremony. Mark, Rob and I spent a lot of time in the banquet hall, chatting with Soldiers and their dates, as becomes serious and mature veterans and men of our advanced years. Meanwhile, Jimmy (call sign: "Silver Fox") was burning up the dance floor, inspiring scores of winsome young ladies to say to their dates, "Why can't you be more like him?"

Once more, on a (rare for me) serious note, thank you for the opportunity to represent the Old Goats...

Best regards,
John Poggi

October 2ND, 2021 A Fateful Day

It was on this day that a Platoon of War Hardened 22nd Infantry Regiment Veterans undertook a mission that would determine who, among them, was the best of the group. There was much banter and expectation as they gathered early in the morning in preparation for what they were about to attempt to accomplish. This wasn't going to be a simple and quickly accomplished mission, it would last until late in the afternoon.

To prove that these brave men were more than brutes, but were in touch with present day attitudes, they invited a girl to join them. The consensus was that the girl would add a note of civility to the mission because her presence would cause the men to exercise more control over their actions.

With all personnel and equipment accounted for, the mission was set in motion. Those of us left behind would, due to strict radio silence, not know of the progress, success or failure of the mission until the Platoon returned.

When the Platoon did return, no words were necessary. In spite of all the preparations, and the endless practice, it was clear that the mission had failed. Later, when words were spoken, they were sad words, words of excuses and blame.

However, those words were hollow. Fact was, that our brave men were defeated by a girl. Yes, the girl they brought along to prove their chivalry, had destroyed these men and won the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Golf Tournament.

These men were so distraught, that they went back to the golf course on the following day in an attempt to amend for their previous day's failure, but it wasn't to be.

The girl, **Carrie Woempner**, showed mercy on these men by not joining them. I guess that Carrie had her fill of watching these men moping around muttering to themselves and telling anyone who would listen about 'how it wasn't fair' or some similar lame excuse about how they'd been beaten by a girl.

Jim May, HMOR, Prov. Co., 1968
Pete Martinez, HSMOR, 1-22, 1996-06

President's Corner March 2022 Mark S. Woempner



Greetings Regular's and Families. We had an Outstanding 22nd Infantry Regiment Old Goats visit on Triple Deuce Day (22 February 2022). Ft Drum was having a "heat wave", with temperatures in the 50's, Brrrrr, when I left my home in Arizona it was in the mid 70s! Thank you, Jim May for all your hard work and adroit coordination skills that made our Old Goat Trip on Triple Deuce Day a success! BTW, Jim may have a few comments and pictures later in this newsletter as we inducted a new 22nd Infantry distinguish member of the Regiment...

At our Reunion business meeting this year we voted in several new society officers. Unfortunately, our new Treasurer, Chuck Weidner found out as treasurer, strong computer skills were required (Lol) and he asked if we could find another volunteer with experience in Microsoft Excel. Sooo, our Standfast and Loyal, Martin Oelklaus stepped up to hold down the fort until we could find a good replacement for him. [I am reaching out to everyone on our 22nd Infantry Team, looking for a volunteer for our future Treasurer – Martin will spend a year or so training you before you take over, please send me an email at: \[mark.woempner@gmail.com\]\(mailto:mark.woempner@gmail.com\) to begin the conversation.](#) Skills include MS Excel, Math, handling several checking accounts and Certificates of Deposit. Significant interactions with the executive leadership of the Society. BTW, that means our current 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

address remains: 22nd Infantry Regiment Society; Attn: Martin Oelklaus; PO Box 3258; Independence, MO 64055-8258.

We have been receiving several donations from members and endowments from former members to the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, Thank You. This year's tax deductible donation check to our society is in the mail to Martin as I write this article for the newsletter. Donations to the Society are tax deductible and we sponsor several scholarship funds for society member's family to attend higher education. Martin Oelklaus will provide you a receipt for your charitable donation as we are a non-profit veterans organization.

I know that many of you have been sending me notes on our webpage and its needed updating. Our Webpage Brent McNally has been very busy trying to balance many activities in his life. We are looking for a volunteer to assist him in the upkeep and expansion of our Society website. I am reaching out to everyone on our 22nd Infantry Team, looking for a volunteer for our future Web Master – Brent will transition all administrative passwords and permissions to you before you take over, please send me an email at: mark.woempner@gmail.com to begin the conversation.

Sooo, we are still in the transition phase of moving to an electronic newsletter. We have cleaned up much of our roles and updated a multitude of email addresses. We are still not there completely, so if you hear of anyone that has not received their November and December newsletters, please have them reach out to me and I will fix it as best as I am able. We will send paper newsletters to those folks that I have not been able to contact and update their email address.

Also, in this newsletter we will be including an updated 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Officer and Director contact list to keep you up to date with your leadership team and how to contact us. I am so proud of our organization and thankful that you saved me

when I left the military some 20 years ago and had nothing to belong to anymore – you took me in as a brother. I am also thankful to our Vietnam Vets that ensured that while I was on active duty and walking through an airport, folks came up to me and thanked me for my service – you are my heroes! I do know that freedom is not free and I am thankful to all of you within this society for your service to this great nation.

Cheers!

Woempner.

“Deeds Not Words”.

303-328-1524 (C).

mark.woempner@gmail.com

GMA Honors Veterans

On November 13, 2021, in a salute to Veterans, ABC Saturday, *Good Morning America* had a segment with **Bob and Linda Ollis**, parents of **SSG Michael H. Ollis** as they received of tour of the new Staten Island Ferry named in his honor.



2022 Scholarships

We are now accepting applications for the 2022 Scholarship. Requirements for scholarship:

- A. Served with the 22nd Infantry Regiment.
- B. Be a direct relation (son, daughter, or grandchild of person that served with 22nd

Infantry Regiment. (To include legally adoptive child)

C. Be an active member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, with five (5) years of current active membership. Deceased must have had five (5) of active membership.

Applications should be received by **July 31, 2022**

If you would like a scholarship application or have questions, please contact **Skip Fahel** at eqf15@aol.com.

If you received a paper newsletter - this will be your last paper mailing; send me your correct email address to mark.woempner@gmail.com and you will continue to be an active member of our society.

Dinning Out

After a long absence due to the Covid 19 epidemic, a Battalion Ball was scheduled and held on October 22nd at the 3 Willows Event Center in Lyons Falls, NY. This provided some of the Members of the Old Goats Squad the opportunity to make an early appearance at Ft Drum, an opportunity that I do my best to never miss.

As in the past, I left my home in Maine in the wee hours and headed for the Syracuse Airport where **Skip Fahel, Bravo Co., 2-22, 1967-1968**, would be arriving around 13:30 HRS.

Got Skip into the 22nd IR Staff Car and headed to Ft Drum and Battalion. I'd been up since 0300 HRS and had eaten only an Egg McMuffin so I suggested that we stop at the Cracker Barrel for something to eat. Skip said he wasn't very hungry, but would keep me company while I ate. We were seated, handed menus and upon the return of the waiter Skip proceeded to order just about everything on the breakfast menu. His meal was brought out by the waiter and an assistant. Skip had no less than two large

plates and a side plate in front of him. I didn't think it possible for Skip to finish what was in front of him when he slid three biscuits off the side plate, covered them with gravy and devoured them. About twenty minutes into the drive Skip said that he might have eaten too much. I commented that for a man who wasn't hungry he'd done a fine job of consuming everything that the kitchen had to offer.

We arrived at Ft Drum and as always, were politely asked to state our business by the CQ at the front entrance to the Triple Deuce HQ Building. Skip, as always, told the CQ that we were here to see the BN CO and CSM and proceeded to walk down the hall to their offices. As usual, I stay behind so I could explain who we are, Members of the Old Goats Squad, and why it's OK for us to take liberties with protocol.

LTC Armstrong and CSM Frantz were busy with all that's necessary to run an Infantry Battalion. So, we, I in particular, stopped everyone moving through the hallway and asked what they are up to. I found myself talking with a JAG Officer and her Legal Aide Assistant. I did not ask why JAG was in the building, but I did learn that Brigade has a legal team as part of the HQ element. Things have surely changed since my days with the 197th Infantry Brigade. With the visit over, Skip and I went to check in at the Ft Drum Hotel. We have learned our lesson regarding where to stay while on Post. The Ft Drum Hotel is all that one would expect from a fine hotel. There were beds with sheets, pillows, blankets, and plenty of towels and toiletries in the bathroom, and a BIG TV with lots of channels to select from. Our days at Officers Loop are now part of our history.

After checking in, we decided to take 'old man' naps. I certainly needed one. When we woke up, Skip said he was still full from the breakfast meal, so we wrote off a trip to Watertown for an evening meal. I did need to get some lounge shorts, but the PX was closed, so we proceeded to the Wal Mart just

outside Post. With the shopping done I said that I was hungry but that all I needed was something from one of the fast-food places along the strip. Burger King appeared to be the least busy, so we stopped and went in. While I was trying to navigate the kiosk menu, (I live in a place where people still talk to one another, so the kiosk thing is something I hope I never become familiar with.) Skip was punching select tabs then standing at the pick-up counter. For a man who "isn't hungry," he certainly isn't afraid to order up a good quantity of food. We took our Burger King bags back to the room and settled in for the evening.

In the morning we checked out, we were not staying at the Ft Drum Hotel on Thursday evening because there was no point in staying at Ft Drum because we would not be visiting with the BN on Friday morning. We would be staying at the hotel next to the 3 Willows Event Center in Lyons Falls, NY, which is about an hour and fifteen minute drive southeast of Ft Drum.

We proceeded to the PX and did a little walking around looking for anything that we didn't have, didn't need, but wanted. Skip found some things he was looking for so the trip wasn't wasted. We stopped at the food court for coffee and a cookie. Skip was now more concerned about the presentation he was going to be making to Bravo Co. (OK, Bushmaster Co.) than how not hungry he was. Skip's presentation wasn't going to happen until 1500 HRS, but that was OK, because there was uncertainty about how his slides would be presented. He was correct in his assumption that there might be some difficulties.

I was to meet with **CPT Matt Jacobsen** and the "G" Co., Soldiers at 1100 HRS. My intent was not to disturb the Soldiers activities, but that's not what happened. When I approached the motor pool, I could see the "G" Company Triple Deuce Guidon being proudly displayed. This is the Guidon that the Society presented to "G" Co. Now they fly both the 10th BSB Guidon and the Triple

Deuce Guidon. This is how it should be. They are part of an Infantry Battalion. Skip came along which proved to be a good move because, along with my preaching to the "G" Co. Soldiers about how during a deployment they will be responsible for FOB security, these Soldiers wanted to know about Infantry Squad numbers and activities. Skip was the right man for providing answers.

There were many questions, not only from the Soldiers but from me. I wanted to know how the improved MAW DEUCE was head spaced. I learned that the armors in "G" Co. head spaced barrels to individual MG's and then identified the barrels with serial numbers. The improved MAW DEUCE must still be timed. Interesting, well for me it is. After the meeting Skip and I returned to BN HQ where we took our position next to the CQ desk and stopped every Soldier and visited with them. Skip's presentation with "B" Co. Was still a ways off, so I opted to go to the food court to get something to eat. Skip was trying to get his slide presentation loaded into a lap-top that he could use. It wasn't going well, so he stayed with the IT Lieutenant.

The "B" Co. Soldiers started filing into the room, they were not moving with a sense of purpose. This was attributed to the fact that they had just returned from a 22.2 mile ruck hike. I took the opportunity to explain the advantages of MECH to these more than willing to listen Soldiers. The line, "MECH Soldiers carry nothing," always gets the attention of Leg Soldiers, especially after a ruck hike.

The room was filled, Skip was introduced, but gremlins were still in control of the lap-top, so Skip began the presentation, undeterred by the lack of graphics, Skip referred to the unseen graphics as if they were in plain view. Yes, Skip was undeterred. I would not have been as resourceful. I would have resorted to leading the group in camp songs or some other mindless stalling tactic. After about ten minutes I noticed that heads began bobbing. These young Soldiers were tired.

Good News is that before any of the Soldiers fell off their chairs, the slides began to appear. Now, as Skip was explaining why the tracks were positioned as they were, one could plainly see on the screen where they were, the Soldiers took notice, they became alert and interested. The presentation was a success. Should the reader have the opportunity to see Skip's presentation, I suggest you do so.

Tradition states that the former Officers invite the present Big Five out to dinner during a visit, tradition held. However, the BDE CO had summoned all the BDE's Majors and OPS SMGs to a meeting, so the Big Five was reduced to the Big Two, LTC Armstrong and CSM Frantz. LTC Armstrong had selected a nice restaurant, Zero Dock Street in Carthage, NY. We had a fine dinner and the chance to discuss ideas that we hoped would strengthen the relationship between the 22nd Active Soldiers and the Society.

Skip and I agreed that the present relationship between the BN Command Group and the Old Goats has never been stronger.

After dinner Skip and I continued to head south to Lyons Falls where we would spend the night at the Edge Hotel. This site was selected because it is next to the 3 Willows Event Center. On Friday morning I drove Skip to the airport, Skip would not be attending the Ball, he had promised his wife that he would attend an event with her, so he was keeping the promise and returning home.

Before leaving for the hotel Skip and I were directed to a restaurant in Lyons Falls. From the outside the little building didn't look like much, but when we entered, we knew we were in the right place. The tables were filed with locals, all engaged in conversation. Skip and I were greeted by some of the locals, yes, we were in the right place. With breakfast taken care of, Skip and I headed for the airport. While Skip and I were driving to the airport, **Mark Woempner, HHC, 1/22, 2001-2003** was driving from the airport to the

hotel. Mark had taken a Red Eye in from the West Coast. I had made arrangements with the hotel for Skip's bed to be stripped so that Mark would be able to get some sleep when he arrived. When I got back to the hotel, I found Mark fast asleep. The plan had worked.

I left the room and made my way over to the Event Center where the Ball Committee was preparing the room for the evening's festivities. I had requested that two flag stands be available so that the AFG-IRAQ 22nd Guidon and the VN 222 Guidon could be posted. **LT Logan Starr** pointed out the two flag stands. I posted the Guidons which would be joined by the Colors when they were posted.

Mark and I got dressed and headed over to the Event Center where we were seated with our respective Companies. We were soon joined by **John and Valerie Poggi, Charlie Co., 2/22, 1969** and **Rob and Kim Schexnayder, HHC, 2/22, 2013-2015** who were also seated with their respective Companies. It is always a pleasure to be among the Soldiers. I am reminded that there are many young men and women in this Country who care about and honor the American way of life. It is good to be among people who understand that The USA is the finest Country on Earth and is so because of the sacrifices that were made by those who came before us. I will take the opportunity here to thank **CPT Matt Jacobsen, CO "G" Co.,** and all the members of "G" Company for the warm welcome that was extended to me. John Poggi, gave a well thought out and well presented speech. It will be posted in this newsletter along with John's account of the evening. You will understand why John was well received by the attendees after reading the speech and John's account. The Colors were retired, the music started playing and LTC Armstrong took off his jacket, the sign that it was time to party and party they did.

There's more to tell, but I've gone on long enough with this writing and will end by

thanking all that extended their hospitality and help during the visit. Special thanks to **Kim Armstrong** and the entire Ball Committee and an Extra Special Thanks to **LT Logan Starr** for the effort he put forth in organizing and taking care of all the unforeseen details that came up during the evening. Job well done, Logan.

Jim May, HMOR
Prov., Co. 1968

Ft Drum Visit July 28-31, 2021

This story will be presented differently than the ones I have presented in the past. I will tell my story with as many of the general accounts as I can remember. Each of the other Old Goats will then add their stories to what I've written with the hope of providing a more accurate and complete story.

After a long absence the Old Goats Squad made an appearance at Ft Drum. The occasion was the celebration of Triple Deuce Organization Day.

Well, I headed for Watertown to meet up with **Pete Gaworecki "C" Co, 1-22, 1967, Skip Fahel, "B" Co, 2-22, 1967-1968, Lon Oakley, "A" Co. 1969 and John Poggi, "C" Co. 1969.** Pete had collected these Old Goats throughout the day at the Syracuse Airport. **Mark Woempner, "HQ" Co, 1-22, 2001-2003,** would be arriving later in the evening. We had a good feed at the Fairgrounds Inn and then headed to Ft Drum and our quarters.

We arrived at 2-22, 10th MTN HQ and made our usual noisy entrance. And, as usual, the two Soldiers at the CQ desk didn't know what to say or do. This wasn't a problem for us. Skip, as is his usual custom, headed down the hall to where the BN CO's and the CSM's offices are announcing our arrival. We were greeted warmly by **LTC Armstrong and CSM Harmon**, a familiar face. Plans had been made for us to visit with our respective companies.

I was escorted to "G" Company, the Support Company, where I was greeted by the XO, **LT Cutrone** and **1SG Gardner.** The CO, **CPT Jacobson** was at home. His wife had recently given birth to their third daughter and the CO showed good judgement in helping out at home. After a brief visit with the XO and the 1SG I was escorted to the motor pool where most of "G" Company's duties are performed. I was introduced to the Soldiers who were not involved in one form or another of maintenance tasks. I introduced myself as 'one of them' and then began my usual questions regarding their familiarity with the M-4 weapons.

Many of these Soldiers are new to the Army and certainly new to an Infantry Battalion. I told them that should they be deployed, they would be expected to, in addition to their regular duties, guard the FOB's they would surely be stationed at. And, that becoming totally familiar with their weapons during a night attack would surely bring about disastrous results. As I was speaking, I noticed that more Soldiers were joining the group.

The 1SG joined the conversation by saying that I was reinforcing what Command had been telling these Soldiers and that range time was on the calendar. I then went on to say that it was important for the Support Soldiers to get to know the Soldiers in the Line Companies. And that it was their responsibilities to see to it that the Line Company Soldiers had what they needed to do their work. I emphasized that they were all in the same Battalion and were as much a part of Triple Deuce as any of the Soldiers in other companies. CPT Jacobson joined us and we opened the visit up to Q&A's.

The questions are always good, they want to know what to expect during deployment, something the recruiters don't spend any time on. I didn't attempt to scare them, and I didn't attempt to sugar-coat my answers. While I was making the point that "G" Company was part of Triple Deuce I asked where their Infantry Guidon was. I was told

it had been stolen. And, "G" company is not assigned to Triple Deuce, but attached and flies a Brigade Support Battalion Guidon. I told CPT Jacobson that I understood the relationship but did he want to also fly a "G" Company Infantry Guidon. He answered in the affirmative. The Guidon and Staff have been ordered and as soon as I get them, they'll be on their way to CPT Jacobson and "G" Company.

With the visit over, I went back to BN HQ where I met up with the other Old Goats for a presentation by LTC Armstrong of where the Battalion is heading and what is being emphasized in training. If you are paying any attention to what's going on in the Nation with regard to the Military, you are aware of policies that might be considered as less than what's needed. I can assure the readers that LTC Armstrong, who has spent most of his Army career in the 75th Ranger Regiment, is all about building a fighting force. His attitude is that Triple Deuce is a Light Infantry fighting force and must be as prepared as any Ranger unit to meet any circumstance that they are tasked with. LTC Armstrong has adopted a set of challenges designed to bring Triple Deuce Soldiers to the highest degree of physical and mental toughness possible. And, so as not to interfere with policies that limit training, the challenges set forth by LTC Armstrong are voluntary. Some of these voluntary activities include a recent 50 mile hike around the woods on New Your State and while we were at Ft Drum a 20 mile ruck was conducted that began at 2200 HRS on the Thursday evening we had planned on having dinner with the Command Group. They came by the restaurant, said hello and went on the ruck. Nearly 300 Soldiers volunteered to join in on this event.

Thursday evening was not without a special event. John Poggi was attending his first visit with the Active Troops and as such was awarded his Old Goats Squad Certificate and Old Goats Squad Patch. Welcome to the OGS, John.

Friday morning found the Old Goats on the sports complex field where Soldiers and families were gathering. Contests between companies were going on while Heart 911, yes the same group of 911 NYC First Responders had returned to prepare for and cook all the food that was going to be consumed by the Triple Deuce Soldiers and their families. And, like Heart 911, the AMVETS were present. They had lent their financial and personal support the Organization Day. **Dawn Esposito** gets the credit for bringing these two organizations together in support of Triple Deuce. Thank you, Dawn. While visiting with the Soldiers and families we saw a familiar face, **Dave Thomas, HHC, 1-1998 to 3-2003**. Dave is retired Army and works security at Ft Drum. After a brief discussion the Old Goats Membership Committee, that would be all of us, decided that Dave had more than qualified to be a Member of the Old Goats Squad. His Certificate, Patch and shirt are on their way to him. Welcome to the OGS, Dave.

Late afternoon saw most of the sports complex field being cleaned up with the items used for the various activities being taken down. It was time for us to say so long to our hosts and prepare for our morning departures. We went back to our quarters, cleaned up and headed to Watertown for a meal. Texas Road House proved to be a good choice. We had time to discuss future plans for the Society and how to implement those plans. It wouldn't be a genuine visit to Ft Drum without some sort of problem at the gate. I'll let Skip tell that story. In the morning we parted company. I started my return drive to Maine while the others headed back to the Syracuse Airport. I arrived home just about nine hours later, a bit tired but quite pleased with the trip. It was good visiting with my friends and comforting knowing that Triple Deuce is in good hands.

Jim May, HMOR
Prov. Co. 1968

Visit with Bushmaster, July 29, 2021

CPT Thomas Runnigen and SFC Spiro

Nino picked me up at Battalion HQ and took me to Bushmaster. The first area was the Commo Cage. The most striking piece of equipment was the Soldier-Borne-Sensor [SBS], FLIR Black Hornet, the Platoon drone.



It is about the size [See picture] of the first drone I got my grandson when he was 7 years old. I wanted to take one home. I was also impressed with the handheld radios used by the Company Commander, Platoon Leaders, and Squad

Leaders. The Platoons now are now able to communicate with the squads. Commo equipment has come a long way since the PRC-25.

Next was the arms room to review all of Company weapons from individual to crew served. The new 9mm looks like a toy pistol because of the light brown color. One change was the Company two 81mm mortars where we had three, however, the Platoons now have a 60mm mortar. The Platoons have a lot of firepower!

I then had the opportunity to meet with the Platoon Leaders. I discussed leadership, how my time in the Army enable me to perform in the civilian work force as a manager of ophthalmology practices across the country. I discussed the need for respect for the individual, teamwork, shared communications, and a learning organization. To respect their soldiers, to look out for their welfare, and they will look out for you.

My final comment was the experience and lessons learned with B Company, Triple Deuce enable me to accomplish all the missions I was assigned during my second tour in Vietnam as Company Commander, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 11th

Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, and bring all my men home.

CPT Runnigen and SFC Nino walk me around the Company area, we ended up in the Day Room where we interrupted the 2nd Platoon's Ping Pong Training. I talked with the men for about 10 minutes discussing leadership, trust, looking out for your foxhole mate. Be willing to talk with them if you see they are having problems. They should be willing to seek help if they themselves are having problems.

I then headed to Battalion Headquarters for LTC Armstrong's briefing. During Organization Day, I stayed with Bushmaster as they participated in the different events. At the end of the Company Commander and First Sergeants Challenge, I had the pleasure of talking with Brooke Runnigen while Thom was recovering.

Bushmaster did not win, but put up a good fight in all events, "Deeds, not Words". At dinner Thursday night with the LTC Armstrong and staff, after the presentation of the "Old Goat" to John, I asked everyone to show me their "Challenge Coin", and to my surprise, LTC Armstrong had forgotten his. I told LTC Armstrong no to worry. We have the "Challenge Chap Stick" for moments like this. I then presented LTC Armstrong his "Challenge Chap Stick" while giving him the history dating back to June 23, 2009.

As a custom, Jim always gives me the keys to his SUV [I'm the designated driver]. We never had any problems returning to the post going through security in our prior visits. However, this time, security would not let me drive on post. The security guard told me the driver of the vehicle is now required to have a DOD issued ID Card, even if everyone else in the SUV had a DOD ID. On Wednesday, after some discussion, I security still would not budge. I asked if we could just change driver here, and he said no. Told me to go back to the, MP office registration parking lot. I asked where I can turn around. Then he

said, OK, go on, but you will need the driver of the vehicle with and DOD ID next time. The next night after the dinner with the Commander and Staff, we were again stopped at the gate. The same story, need DOD ID. This time, we [Jim and John] gave security a more difficult time. This guard then stopped, called out “ID Check” to another guard in the gate shed [His shift leader]. He again called out “ID Check”. Then door opened and the guard came out. Just as he got out, he saw us and said, “*you guys*” and gave a big laugh. He was an ex 2-22 medic we had met before coming on post during past visits. We talked for a while and then the told the guard to let us go.

Skip Fabel

Taps

James K Skiles, LTC [Ret], of Covington, LA. Passed away on November 28, 2021. James served with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in 1970.

Anatol (Tony) Kononenko, of Philadelphia, PA passed away on January 18, 2022. Tony served with HHC, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division in 1966-67.

Larry J Prentice, of Tyler, TX, passed away in November 2021. Larry served with C Co, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in 1969-70.

Alberto N. Ulate, of Lancaster, CA, passed away on November 26, 2020. Alberto served with C Co, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in 1967-68.

Phillip D. Sherk, of Mukilteo, WA, passed away on August 20, 2020. Phillip served with C Co, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Division in 1970.

Lest You Forget—What the 22nd Infantry Regiment Did for You:

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MG (Ret) John F. Ruggles Former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

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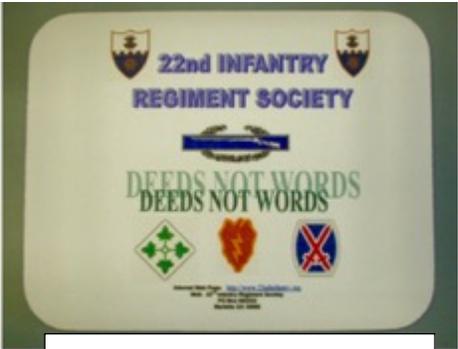
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