



22nd Infantry Regiment Society

Deeds Not Words



Regulars by God



Issue 3-2022

September 2022



President's Corner October 2022 Mark S. Woempner



"Deeds Not Words"
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Greetings Regular's and Families. It's been a quiet quarter this quarter. Having said that our active-duty battalion has several companies of soldiers deployed to Iraq. They would really appreciate any care packages you can send them. They should be

redeploying in December, so send them before the end of October to ensure they receive them in November. I sent out the APO addresses in July and we have had many folks provide care packages for our Regulars. Here's the address for you to continue to support the Care Package effort up to 30 November.

Address Follows:

Task Force Headquarters:
MAJ Long, Andrew
HHC, TF Chippewa (EAB)
APO AE. 09316

I've been in contact with **Dan Johnson**, the Director with the Army OCS Alumni Association (USAOCSAA). The OCS program was established by General Marshall in 1941. It's the largest commissioning source. For many years the Army had various OCS programs including during the Vietnam War

years. The bulk of our membership are Infantry OCS graduates that served in Vietnam. In 1973 the Army decided to consolidate the OCS program at Ft. Benning. Candidates receive 12-14 weeks of basic officer training and then most are then sent to their branch schools. Many of these graduates never step foot on Ft. Benning again. He is looking for OCS graduates to join the ranks of his organization. If you are interested, please drop him an email at: abnstrike@gmail.com or phone him at: 402-981-1072.

Our French 22nd Infantry Society President and Vice President: **Loic Parent** and **Julien Woestyn**. We are planning a visit to Normandy, France the first week of August 2023 (for a week or so) and our European Brethren will take us through the battlefields we fought from Utah Beach where the 22nd Infantry Regiment landed to the Beachhead Breakout. The tour will last from 3 – 5 August. I have If you are interested in joining the party send me an email or give me a call! **Hermino Hernandez** and I will be participating as of today. I'd like to have about 3-4 more folks join us, I am picking him up 03 August at 0900 in Frankfurt, DE. Myself, **Jim May**, **Dave Milewski**, and wives made a similar trip for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day back in 2019 detailed in a newsletter that year – you will have a fantastic time. Here's a note from Loic, our 22nd Infantry France President: *"With Julien we have started to prepare 2023. We said that ideally for you will be to arrive on Thursday, August 3, 2023, on the Normandy at your accommodation and ah your ease. On August 3,4 and 5 you will be with us where we will*

present the liberation of the Val de Saire (region in the northeast of the department of the sleeve) up to the capture and liberation of Cherbourg airport and the inauguration of a plaque in homage to the 22nd (still used today by the US Army during the festivities of June 6). Of course, a trip to Utah will be planned for a rose deposit where you will be presented with the typical outfit used during June 6 but also the battery of Crisbecq where we have already established a commemorative plaque on the site. Here is a preview. When we will have confirmation of your coming, we will make a group on Facebook to show you the evolution and the preparation of the stay.”

Our next 22nd Infantry Society Reunion is scheduled for 17-21 May 2023, so mark your calendars! Skip has completed the contract for **Bob Babcock** (our sponsor for the event) This Reunion marks the 20th anniversary of the deployments of 1st Battalion into Iraq and 2nd Battalion into Afghanistan in 2003. We look forward to a large contingent of our Global War on Terror members attending the Reunion. Here are the details: We will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1500 Bradley Lake Blvd, Columbus, GA 31904. Our group code is IRS22 for guests wanting to call the hotel and make their reservation. You can call 706-660-1000 and speak to the front desk agent or central reservations. Also we will post the URL to make your reservation digitally both on the Society website and in the email coversheet I send to all our eLife Members: www.my-event.hilton.com/csgghgi-irs22-39a62d58-ae86-4b9a-a13a-aece3b4f4788/

I will ensure we have two standard Double Queen Rooms on 18-20 May for those single folks that need a room to participate in the main reunion events with the understanding that you will be sharing your room with other folks. Send me a note at mark.woempner@gmail.com to ensure your get one of the beds...

The room rate is:
 Standard King Room - \$124/night
 Standard Double Queen Room - \$134/night

Taxes and Fees: Room rates quoted are subject to 9% local sales tax, 8% occupancy tax and \$5 hotel/motel fee per room per night.

That rate will include:

- Rate includes two (2) complimentary hot breakfast per room per night (\$25 value)
- Reunion rates will be available three days before and three days after reunion
- Complimentary Internet in all guestrooms
- Complimentary Parking
- Complimentary Indoor Swimming Pool
- Complimentary Business Center

Here is the Itinerary for the Reunion:

Date 2023	Start Time	End Time	Function	Room
16-May-23	0900	1700	Set-up and Hotel Coordination	Conference Foyer
17-May-23	0900	1700	Registration	Conference Foyer
18-May-23	0900	1700	Registration	Conference Foyer
	0700	0730	Golf Preparation	Conference Foyer (depart 0730)
	0900	1400	Golf	Maple Ridge GC
	0900	1800	FREE TIME - Tours in the area	(Non-Golfers) See Listing
	1900	2000	Hemingway Turkey	Azalea Ballroom
19-May-23	0900	1800	Registration	Conference Foyer
	0900	1800	FREE TIME - Tours in the area	See Listing
	1830	2300	Buffet Dinner (ORA/DMOR/HMOR) Presentation/Raffle	Azalea Ballroom
20-May-23	0900	1100	22nd Society then 2-22nd Society Business Meetings	Azalea Ballroom
	0900	1000	Lady's Breakfast (Coffee, juice and pastries)	75 person room
	0900	1500	FREE TIME - Tours in the area	See Listing
	1800	1900	Bus to NIM Dinner	Enroute
	1900	2300	Dinner, NIM viewing	NIM
21-May-23	0800	1200	Memorial Service & Prepare for Departure	Azalea Ballroom then Foyer
17-21 May 2023	1200	2400	Hospitality Room	Azalea Ballroom

I have coordinated for the 22nd Infantry golfers to have fun at Maple Ridge premier golf course on 18 May 2023. By the way, I still have 5 certificates for free golf (with nonalcoholic beverages and food) to play at the Cowboy Golf Club located at 1600 Fairway Dr, Grapevine, TX 76051 in north Dallas. If you're interested in a threesome or a twosome and live in or are visiting the Dallas area this year, give me a holler and I'll mail them to you!

This year's tournament will be held at the Maple Ridge Golf Course located at 4700 Maple Trail, Columbus GA 31909. We should have a great day of fun in the sun! Rare

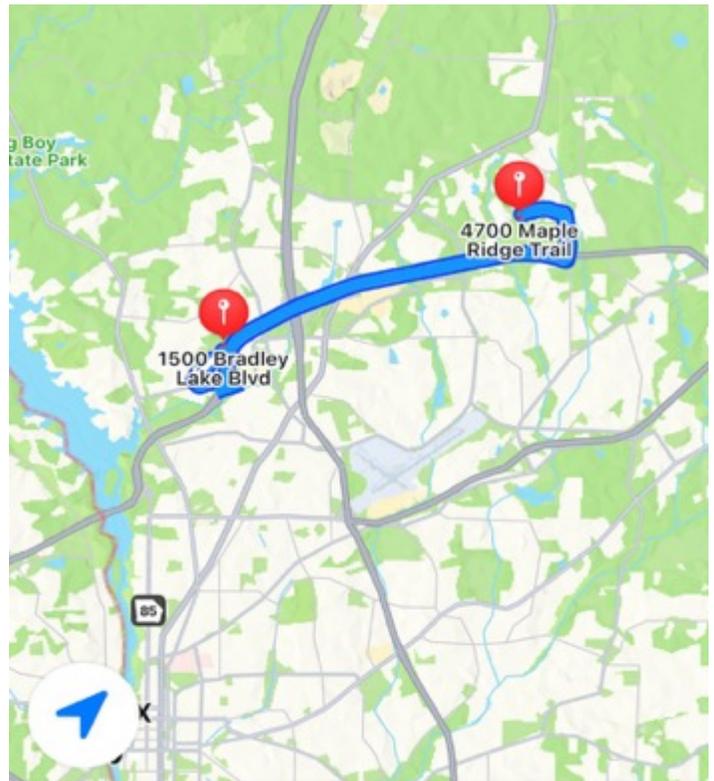
opportunity on a premium course! Price to play in the tournament is Free! Woempner is making a donation to the cause to get you on a premium course at no cost – but I need 14 golfers to join Carrie and me. We have a sleeve of cool 22nd Infantry Titleist logo balls for you to play with! It will be a shotgun start at 9:00AM EST. Arrival at the golf course needed by 8:00 AM EST so folks can get warmed up and settled into their carts.

Throw me an email at mark.woempner@gmail.com if you are interested in playing in the tournament and I'll put you on the list. First 14 players to enroll will enjoy a hell of a great game of golf!

We will meet in the Hilton Garden Inn at 0700 to convoy golfers to the Maple Ridge golf course on time. Map for Drivers below:



We received several donations from members and endowments from former members to the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society this quarter, Thank You. Several have been to the Awb Norris Scholarship fund as well as the



general fund that sponsors Reunion activities. Donations to the Society are tax deductible and the Awb Norris scholarship fund provides scholarships for society member's family to attend higher education. **Martin Oelklaus** will provide you a receipt for your tax-deductible charitable donation as we are a non-profit veterans organization.

We are completing the transition phase of moving to an electronic newsletter – Thanks to **Remy Autz**, who has been contacting those folks by last known phone number those that do not have an email address in the Registrar's database. We have cleaned up much of our roles and updated a multitude of email addresses. We are “closing the books” on the transition in July, so if you hear of anyone that has not received their March or June 2022 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 do not have an email address and have specifically requested a paper copy. My contact information is: mark.woempner@gmail.com and (303) 328-1524.

The Battle of Kontum

At the end of January 1968, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) launched an ambitious offensive operation throughout the entire country of South Vietnam. Every major city and every Provincial Capital were attacked in what came to be called the Tet Offensive. The attack on the city of Kontum, the capital of Kontum Province was initially hampered by elements of the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) who prevented the communists from taking complete control of the city. However, during the assault enemy forces managed to occupy part of the city and some of the outlying territory.

The U.S. Army organization responsible for this area of operations was the 4th Infantry Division. As part of the Division 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry was tasked with clearing the enemy out of Kontum and pursuing him into the countryside. **LTC William P. Junk**, Commander of 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry was given command of the ground forces of the operation and was directed to assume control of all 4th Infantry Division forces in the area. LTC Junk organized the elements at his disposal into six main teams under the heading of Task Force 1-22. Joining 1/22 Infantry in the Task Force and coming under LTC Junk's command were elements of 1/12 Infantry, 2/1 Cavalry, 7/17 Cavalry and 1/69 Armor. Also, under LTC Junk's control were a battery of 105mm howitzers from 4/42 Artillery, a battery of 155mm howitzers from 5/16 Artillery, two M-42 Dusters with their 40mm twin guns and 3rd Platoon of Company B from the 4th Engineers.

Taking the civilian population of 20,000 into consideration the approval of **LTC Nguyen H. Doan** the Province Chief was solicited and received prior to the commencing of any operation. The fourteen days of fighting in and around the city from January 30 through February 12 became known as the Battle of Kontum. The fighting around Konutum in 1972 during the later Easter Offensive also was known as the Battle of Kontum but this

action during the Tet Offensive of 1968 was the first battle for the city.

Just past 0200 on January 30, 1968, various units of the communist B-3 front launched attacks first on the airfield at Kontum and then against the city itself. At the airfield they were repulsed by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces, with the 57th Assault Helicopter Company getting their gunships in the air to help in breaking up the attack.

In the military compound area of the city elements of the South Vietnamese Army and Militia personally led by LTC Doan managed to stop the enemy attack and held a defensive perimeter around several of the headquarters' buildings. At mid-day of January 30 Task Force 1-22 began the retaking of Kontum. Company B 1/22 Infantry and elements of 7/17 Cavalry arrived north of the city and commenced search and destroy sweeps in the area to the north of the airfield. Company A 1/22 Infantry was airlifted to near the bridge over the Dak Bla River at about 1900 hours where LTC Junk joined them and set up his Tactical Operations Center. One platoon of Company A 1/22 Infantry and the Recon Platoon 1/22 Infantry moved across the bridge and took up positions inside the city. The North Vietnamese again attacked the airfield, but helicopter gunships drove them off. About 0400 on the morning of January 31 the communists tried to overrun the forces still holding out in the city. Despite a rocket attack which hit the ammo dump and destroyed most of their artillery ammunition, South Vietnamese (ARVN) forces repulsed the attack.

In the morning of January 31 ARVN and RF/PF (South Vietnamese Militia) troops entered the city to provide security for those areas in friendly hands. LTC Junk

brought in more assets of Task Force 1-22. Elements of D 1/22 Infantry, B 1/22 Infantry and 1/69 Armor broke into small teams and moved throughout the area, eliminating pockets of enemy resistance. By the end of the day 65 enemy soldiers had been killed by Task Force 1-22 alone. Altogether over 250 enemy dead littered the streets of the city and the area around Kontum from the first two days of fighting. On February 1 Company C 1/22 Infantry was brought into the city and the counterattack began.

February 1 to 4 saw the Task Force engaged in house-to-house street fighting which was some of the bloodiest and most violent of the entire operation. The enemy had established themselves in basements, lofts of buildings, rooftops, trenches and tunnels. On February 1 a team from 1/22 Infantry cleared the western part of the city utilizing gunship and tank fire against communist strongpoints. The enemy lost 90 men on February 1 before retreating. Company C 1/22 Infantry made sure the airfield was secure. On February 2 Company D 1/22 Infantry attacked the NVA in the military compound and its 1st Platoon got caught in an ambush. Company C came to their assistance with two tanks and an Armored Personnel Carrier from 2/1 Cavalry, giving Company D time to pull back and regroup. This attack cost the NVA another 47 men killed. About 100 enemy soldiers became trapped in the compound due to Company C's movements and attempted to flee across open ground. Company C, Company D and the three Cavalry vehicles killed most of the enemy in their attempted escape. Companies B and D 1/22 Infantry were airlifted from Dak To the same day and were brought north of the airfield.

The following excerpts from a Stars and Stripes article by the 4th Infantry Division Information Officer described the fighting in Kontum: *"As Company D 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry swept from the center of Kontum to the north, both sides of the street erupted in heavy fire from machinegun nests hidden in two churches. Gunships, called immediately, temporarily silenced the activity. On each corner sporadic sniper fire opened up. In a scene more apropos of World War II the infantrymen moved from house to house, kicking in doors and lobbing grenades into the enemy infested buildings. Near the MACV compound NVA soldiers were holed up in trenches, bunkers and spider holes. Airstrikes were called and secondary explosions shook the area. 'We passed over bunker after bunker, each one containing five to eight NVA dead' remarked **SP4 Roger Ziegler.**"*

(Note: After surviving the Battle of Kontum Corporal Roger Ziegler of Company C 1/22 Infantry was killed two months later in the Battle of Chu Moor Mountain.) The photo shows members of Company D 1/22 Infantry reacting to sniper fire on the streets of Kontum during the battle with RTO Ronnie Colson in the center on February 1, 1968.



Soldiers of Company D 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry react to sniper fire as they patrol

the streets of Kontum, February 1, 1968. Ronnie Colson, RTO, is in center, facing the camera.

On February 3 the enemy realized their hope to control Kontum was gone. Those NVA who had not already left the city broke up into small groups and began to retreat as best they could as Task Force 1-22 steadily pushed them out of the city limits. By February 4 only a handful of communists were left in the city; the majority of enemy forces still in the vicinity were regrouping to the north.

LTC Junk designated areas of possible withdrawal by the communists and sent his forces into these areas with the purpose of finding the fleeing enemy. By the end of the day on February 4 the 1/22 Infantry After Action Report recorded that 634 of the enemy had been killed and confirmed by body count in the battle thus far.

Company C 1/22 Infantry was searching in the area to the northeast of the city, when at 1330 in the afternoon on February 5 it met the North Vietnamese head-on. South of Hill 684 Company C ran into a large enemy force supported by automatic weapons and mortars. Company A 1/22 Infantry joined as reinforcements along with four tanks and the small American force called in artillery, airstrikes and gunships against the enemy. The fighting lasted for six hours before the NVA broke contact and retreated to Hill 684. During the encounter Company C lost 8 men killed and 12 wounded. Company A lost one man killed and 3 wounded. The two Companies pulled back to the military compound at Kontum for the night." On February 6 Task Force 1-22 began the attack on Hill 684. Company A 1/22 Infantry and Company B 1/22 Infantry

were to move abreast and take their objectives. Company A had Objective 1, which was Hill 684. Company B had Objective 2, which was Hill 721, the high ground about one kilometer to the east of Hill 684. Company C 1/22 Infantry was held to the south in reserve and Company D 1/22 Infantry remained at Kontum.

Early in the morning airstrikes and artillery were rained down on Hill 864 after which Company A advanced up its slopes. The attack was stalled around 1030 by well dug in NVA who unleashed a storm of small arms, mortar and B-40 rocket fire from their prepared bunkers on the hill. Company B was directed to discontinue their mission against Hill 721 and join Company A in their assault.

Together the two Companies made a second attack that was also stopped during which Company A sustained many casualties with its Commander taken out of the fight by an incapacitating wound. Airstrikes and artillery hit the enemy on Hill 684 and a third frontal assault was carried out at 1318 in the afternoon. After fifteen minutes of taking more casualties, this attack was discontinued.

The rest of February 6 was spent with sporadic contact. Because of the heavy resistance of the North Vietnamese on Hill 684 LTC Junk devised a plan of attack for February 7, in which Companies A and B 1/22 Infantry would repeat their frontal assault on Hill 684 while Company D 1/22 Infantry, joined by tanks from 1/69 Armor would circle to the west and seize the high ground to the north of Hill 684, trapping the enemy in a pincer movement.

On the morning of February 7 airstrikes and artillery pounded Hill 684 with cluster bombs, napalm and tear gas. LTC

Junk's plan of attack was carried out with the addition of C 1/22 Infantry moving to the east to block a possible avenue of escape and Company A 1/12 Infantry joining in the frontal attack on Hill 684. Most of the communist forces had already begun abandoning the hill and when elements of Task Force 1-22 occupied the summit it was found to be deserted.

During the next five days intermittent contact was made with the enemy until by February 12 it was apparent that the North Vietnamese had departed the area and the battle for Kontum was over. During the fourteen-day battle 17 soldiers from 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry were killed in action while 12 U.S. soldiers from other units were also killed making the total of Americans killed 29. South Vietnamese losses were 66 killed.

The 1/22 Infantry After Action Report showed enemy losses recorded as 844 killed. Another report gives the number of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong killed during the battle as 1189. The battle reduced the 24th North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment to a small force of battered and dismayed men and within a couple of months it was pulled into Cambodia to refit and replace its losses.

In July 1968 a recommendation that the Presidential Unit Citation be awarded to Task Force 1-22 for its actions during the Battle of Kontum was forwarded through channels. In January 1969 **Major General Donn R. Pepke**, Commander of the 4th Infantry Division added his endorsement to the recommendation. The Commander of United States Army Vietnam (USARV) **General Creighton W. Abrams** added his endorsement and forwarded the recommendation to the Adjutant General's Office, whose final decision in March 1970 downgraded the

award. On April 16, 1970, USARV General Orders Number 883 authorized the Valorous Unit Award (VUA) to 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry and its attached units "for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations in defense of Kontum during the period 30 January 1968 to 12 February 1968." The Battalion or elements of it would receive seven more Valorous Unit Awards during its service in Iraq from 2003 – 2009.

Michael Belis
DMOR

AN INVITATION

The Members of the **22nd Infantry Regiment, France** have extended an invitation to the Members of the **22nd Infantry Regiment Society** to attend a reenactment and celebration of the liberation of Val de Saire Region and the capture and liberation of the airport in Cherbourg. The following is from **Loic Parent**.

Hello all, **Julien Woestyn** and I have started to prepare for the 2023 Normandy Region activities. These activities will include reenactments of the liberation of the Val de Saire Region and the capture of the airport in Cherbourg. These activities will commence on August 3, 2023, and continue thru August 5, 2023.

The event will be concluded with the presentation in honor of the 22nd Infantry Regiment. We will also be visiting Utah Beach where the 22nd Infantry Regiment landed on D Day. A Rose will be placed in the water to honor the 22nd Soldiers who landed on D Day. We will then visit the German Bunker complex at Crisbecq where a plaque honoring 22nd Soldiers was previously placed.

As the date draws closer, more details will be made available. We will assist in arranging for accommodations once we know the number of 22nd Members that will attend. We have been successful in locating houses

for short term rental close to where you will be attending events.

You can sign on to our Facebook page to follow our progress or contact me directly at my e address which is posted below. The Members of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, France look forward to hosting you on the historical reenactment.

Loic Parent, HMOR
President
22nd Infantry Regiment, France
loicparent62@hotmail.fr

When we, **Mark & Carrie Woempner, David & Judy Milewski, Gail** and I attended the 75th A



nniversary of D Day events we were treated like royalty. We stayed in a very comfortable house for a very fair price. If you are concerned about a language barrier, don't be. Many of the Members of the Reenactment Group are fluent in English. If you are at all interested in the 22nd Regiment's History in France and Belgium, this is your chance to follow in the footsteps of the Regiment guided by men who are dedicated to that history.

Jim May, HMOR

Triple Deuce Day—2-22-2022

After careful planning, Members of the Old Goats Squad present, **Mark Woempner, HHC 1/22, 2001-2003, John Poggi, Charlie Co., 2/22, 1969, Dave Thomas, "C" Co. and the "AT" Platoon, 2000-2004** and me, descended on Ft Drum on 21 February 2022 in anticipation of spending time with the Triple Deuce Actives in celebration of Triple Deuce Day. The Old Goats present immediately went to Plan "B" due the confusion caused by two Candlewood Suites Hotels located within mortar range of one another. This resulted in one Old Goat staying at one hotel and two other Old Goats staying at the other. Dave Thomas lives nearby, this saved him from joining the confusion. The Old Goats present quickly adopted Plan "B" as a good plan because it avoided having all the Old Goats gathered in one place leaving the Old Goats in a precarious situation and vulnerable to one well-placed artillery round taking all of us out. Well, that's how we made excuses for not all being in the same hotel. It wasn't the best start, but it was a start.

We did manage to get together and present ourselves at Triple Deuce HQ where we hoped to make our plans for the following day. What we didn't anticipate was that Today's Army doesn't go to work on holidays. Other than Thanksgiving and Christmas, I do not recall staying away from work while I was stationed at Ft Benning. Good News was that the CQ had heard of the Old Goats Squad and made no attempt to stop us from entering the building. In fact, they aided us in setting up the meeting room where a most important presentation would take place the following morning.

LTC Armstrong, CO, 2/22, 10th MTN invited us to a gathering to be held at his home that evening. We arrived to find many members of the Battalion present. I am always pleased to see Senior NCO's in attendance at gatherings hosted by Officers. They are all professional Soldiers and treat each other with the respect they have earned in their profession. **Kim Armstrong, CO at Ft Armstrong**, greeted us with her usual ear

to ear smile. Conversations about the recent visit to Ft Polk and JRTC were lively and interesting. As is the usual outcome of Triple Deuce visits to JRTC, the 'enemy' was put at a disadvantage suffering many 'casualties' and setbacks. I was told that **SSG McNeeley, Scouts, HHC**, whom I had met earlier in the day had gone forward and hidden himself in a position where he was able to provide information of 'enemy' movements that resulted in much damage and demoralization of 'Geronimo.' I am a big believe in the importance of intelligence on the battlefield and believe that the entire Battalion learned a good lesson from SSG McNeeley's superior scouting mission. Ultimately, the 'enemy' wins the battle, that's a known going in. However, the Battalion came away knowing that they had done far more than other units have done, learned some lessons and left Ft Polk knowing that the 'enemy' didn't want any part of them. Kim, recognizing that we would tell non-stop war stories, made us put our glasses down long enough to eat all that she had prepared, which has more than we could eat. Mark, John, and I were the last to leave. We didn't have to get up at 0-dark-30, but others did. We went back to our respective hotels and turned in.

After a quick breakfast at the hotel John and I proceeded to the Battalion where I parked in the XO's space. I had misunderstood that he was out on Covid protocol. The XO, **MAJ John Harrell** is a kind and understanding man and showed no upset with my parking in his space. He parked in the space next to it because **CSM Mark Frantz** was out on Covid protocol, so his space was available. Dave Thomas joined Mark, John and me and we proceeded to the BN conference room where a most important Recognition Ceremony would be held.

Some background is necessary here. When the new Command Group took command of Triple Deuce, I was asked by CSM Mark Frantz if we, the Old Goats, could help in solving a mystery regarding a Vietnam KIA. CSM Frantz explained that a friend, CSM

Ryan Macey, was the nephew of SP 4, Lee D. Thomas, KIA 7 March 1969. I was told that Thomas's family had never been able to firmly establish which unit Lee had served in. There were references to 2/77 ARTY and 2/22 INF.

CSM Frantz wanted to know if we could help in unwinding the mystery of who Lee D. Thomas served with. My reply was, "Yes, we do this type of thing." Some or maybe many of the Triple Deucers reading this will understand what went on. We learned that then PFC Lee D. Thomas was a 13F, an FO, and reported to 2/77 ARTY, immediately put in a Jeep and sent to Triple Deuce. Thomas was sent to Bravo Co. in September 1968 and like many of the FO's in Triple Deuce that I've spoken with, didn't see 2/77 ARTY until it was time to go DEROS. There's more to this. Thomas was awarded a Silver Star as a PFC and two Bronze Stars as a SP 4 all while serving with Bravo Co, 2/22.

We were given the paperwork by the family. I asked **Steve Irvine, Bravo Co. 1969**, if he knew Thomas or anything about Thomas death. Steve did remember with great clarity. Steve told of an ambush that went bad on 6 March 1969 at CP 26, CP 26 is a small bridge about 4 clicks away from the Ben Cui Rubber towards Tay Ninh on the MSR. Steve said that 6 Bravo Soldiers were KIA, so we assumed that Thomas had been flown out but wasn't declared KIA until 7 March. We got that part figured out. But in 1969 it was difficult for the family to make sense of what went on. We've seen the telegrams, "Your LOVED ONE was killed as a result of enemy small arms fire on DATE in Bing Dong Provence, RVN."

This doesn't do much more than tell family members that their LOVED ONE isn't coming home, and Thomas had been writing home telling his family that he was with Bravo Co. Triple Deuce. Once we had this information I ask **Brad Hull, Alpha Co., 1969-1970** if he would be able to contact the **Coffelt Group**, with which Brad has a working relationship, this is the Group that

manages the information regarding the Vietnam War Memorial, The Wall, in DC. Brad got right on it and reported that Lee Thomas's name would be listed as a Triple Deuce Soldier.

While this was going on, the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society DMOR/HMOR Committee discussed and approved a motion to submit SP 4 Lee D. Thomas to be designated as an **Honorary Member of the Regiment, HMOR**. Thomas was assigned to 2/77 ARTY, so HMOR was the option available. Triple Deuce Day was approaching, fast. **Joe DiChairo, HCOR, HHQ, 2/22, 2002-2004**, is the head of the Honors Committee and immediately went to work preparing the necessary paperwork for submitting Thomas' name to the Secretary of the Army for approval as HMOR. **CPT Logan Star, S-1, 2/22, 10th MTM**, received the paperwork from Joe, got LTC Armstrong to approve what Joe had sent and quickly returned the paperwork to Joe who immediately sent the paperwork to Ft Benning where **Mike Ramirez, Executive Officer, Chief of Infantry Branch**, who has a working relationship with Joe. Mike looked over the paperwork and told Joe that the request for HMOR for Thomas was being raised to **Distinguished Member of the Regiment, DMOR**.

Fantastic! The Old Goats working on this had planned to unofficially declare that Thomas was a Triple Deucer, but now it would be OFFICIAL. I had the honor of speaking to the "B" Co. Soldiers and others present at the Recognition Ceremony and told this gathering that Lee D. Thomas was a Triple Deucer in 1969, and now and forever more will be a Triple Deucer. I went on to say that we, the Old Goats, were not finished with recognizing Lee Thomas. I made those present aware that Thomas' name would be engraved along with the names of every 22nd Infantry Regiment KIA since the war of 1812 on the All Wars Monument at the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning. Furthermore, both the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society's and the Vietnam Triple Deuce's Newsletters would carry not only this

story but a request for anyone who served with Lee Thomas to contact us so that we will be able to put them in touch with Thomas' family.

After the Recognition Ceremony, the other Triple Deuce Day events took place. The day was dreary, light rain showers came and went. In most other years it would have been snow showers, but the temperatures were unseasonably warm, mid 30's. The first event was the Ground Obstacle Course. Teams of four from each Company competed against the clock. The Old Goats didn't follow the course, it was simply too wet to tramp through the woods, however, we did stay at the finish line. The wet didn't stop the participants from putting great efforts into the event. The times for the six Company teams were very close with "A" Co. taking the honors.

The Division CSM, **CSM Mario Terenas** was visiting. We had a good conversation with CSM Terenas during which we learned that CSM Terenas is the proud father of a daughter who is presently at West Point. He is making plans to be the first Enlisted Man that his daughter returns a salute to once she is Commissioned.

It was time for a lunch break. Mark is presently into seeking out diners as the best places to eat. Dave Thomas recommended Shorty's Place so that's where we went. The parking lot was full of pick-ups and cars, so we knew we were in the right place. The waitress was a fun person, that furthered our belief that we'd come to right place. Drinks were ordered, coffee, tea etc. except for John Poggi, he ordered a heavy-weight milk shake. The drinks arrived and we ordered our meals. John was not his usual talkative self and I soon figured out why. He was inhaling the milk shake, stopping only long enough between gulps to breath. I'll have to check with John's wife, Valerie, to see if milk shakes are on the unapproved list of what John's doctors say about his diet.

After we finished eating, we went back to the Battalion area where the flag football competition between Companies was going on. The on and off showers continued leaving all the participants and observers very wet. The competition was an elimination event with "D" Co. taking the honors. We would have stayed longer and visited with the Actives, but no one was lingering around in the rain.

We went back to our hotel where Mark, John and I did our best to consume a couple of six packs that Mark had brought along all while discussing the day's events and plans for the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society's efforts to bring AFG-IRAQ and Actives into the Society.

The morning found us heading our separate ways. I returned home knowing that we had accomplished our multiple missions. We had honored SP 4 Lee D. Thomas, we had shown the Actives that they are part of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society and we enjoyed ourselves in the company of the Finest America has to offer.

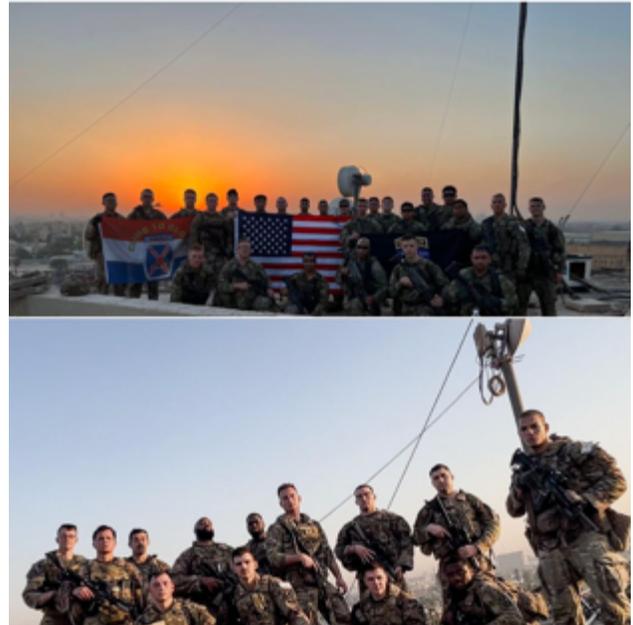
Deeds, Not Words,
Jim May, HMOR
Prov. Co. 1968

Footnote: If you served with Lee D. Thomas, I'd like to hear from you and so would Thomas' family. Please contact me at jlmay@tds.net or 207-634-3355.

Remembering 9-11-2001

Everyone wants to be great, but not many are willing to put in the work to get there. Not many will choose to do hard things.

This morning, 50+ Soldiers from Bushmaster Company and our attachments woke up and climbed 2,071+ stairs to honor the American brothers and sisters we lost in the World Trades Center 21 years ago this day. In the midst of shift work, details, and sweltering heat, these Soldiers continue to amaze us with their dedication, camaraderie, and



enthusiasm. We will never forget what happened to our country, but you can certainly be proud of your Soldiers of Bushmaster Company service today.

Deeds

Twenty Second Infantry, France

August 4 thru 7, 2022. The Twenty Second Infantry, France went to Lingard to commemorate the liberation and the establishment of the command post of Colonel Lanham.

The program included a ceremony in the village of Moyon where we placed our first plaque, then we went to the American cemetery in St James to honor the grave of a fallen Soldier from the 22nd who died in the castle, we also reconstructed a command post, an infirmary and a room for the entire troop. Drill, night march, patrol were in the program of this stay.

Loic Parent, HMOR
President
22nd Infantry Regiment, France



Arley Phillips, of Kuttawa, KT, passed away on November 8, 2021. Arley served with D Co, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division in 1967-68.

Norris Rolax of Anniston, AL, passes away on July 26, 2022. Norris served with Company B, 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, Vietnam, 1967. Anyone who remembers Sergeant Rolax is asked to contact his son David at davidrolax@gmail.com



Reunion registration form for the Society will be in the next Newsletter. Get your room reserved NOW.

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

1. Gave you the opportunity to serve your country in a proud and prestigious national unit.
2. Gave you buddies who stuck by you and helped you endure fear, horror, and hardship.
3. Gave you good reason to harbor a personal feeling of high accomplishment and pride.
4. Gave you treasured lifetime friends markedly improving the quality of your life.



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

Taps

Walter K. Sauer, of Spokane, WA, passed away on June 28, 2022. Walter served with HQ, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam, 1966-67.

22nd Infantry Regiment Society
“Deeds Not Words”
Officers & Directors 2021-2023



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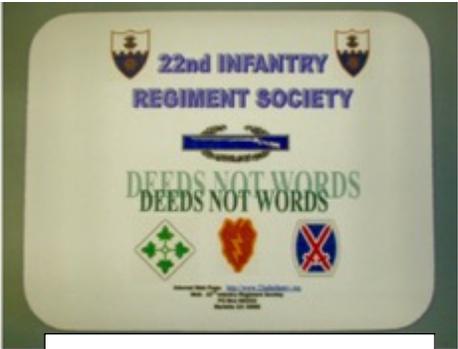
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"All prices are Suggested Donations."

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