

## **Aubrey R. (Randy) Kimler / 4th Platoon**

I have been retired since 2008 and live with Janice, my wife of 32 years (as of 2017), in Port Neches, TX. We have two sons. Since retirement Janice and I have made twenty trips overseas, mostly on ocean cruises. I do lots of volunteer work and serve on a number of non-profit boards. I look at every day as a blessing, that I made it back from the war.

I dropped out of OCS after week 14 and along with some others from the 50th went to scout dog school at Ft Benning. It was a three month class, two and one half weeks living out in the woods with two men to a tent. I served as a scout dog handler in the 41st scout dog platoon, 1st Infantry Division and the 42nd scout dog platoon, 101st Airborne Division. Down south with the 41st wasn't so bad but up north with the 42nd was hell. Walking point for a year wasn't a lot of fun. I returned to the US in July 1970.

When I returned home I went back to graduate school under the GI Bill. I earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration and worked as a city manager for 31 years. Have any TAC officers been located? I would really like to talk with Lt Tolson, 4th platoon if he has been found. I thought he was a good one.

## **Lawrence A. Kirkland III / 2d Platoon**

For the last 14 years my loving wife Jeanette and I have been wrestling my Parkinson's disease, and mostly winning. I can still drive, although I have reluctantly given it up at the insistence of my family. I am in a nice assisted living facility in Carrolton, Georgia, about 20 miles west of Atlanta. How ironic for a guy who spent 20 years managing nursing homes and rehabilitation services for Medicare recipients. We have two children, both boys, who live close by, and one grandson who is 15.

After OCS I was assigned to Fort Wainwright, Alaska under the Voluntary Indefinite Program. I spent my entire active duty tour there and got an early out in February 1972 to go to graduate school. In Alaska I was assigned to B Co, 1/47th as a platoon leader and was promoted to company commander as a 2LT.

I completed a Master's degree in Education in 1979 at the University of South Carolina while managing a Honda dealership in Aiken, SC.

**For twenty years, I managed nursing homes and rehabilitation services for Medicare recipients.**

**My absolutely fondest memory of OCS is signing out for church on Sunday morning and instead of attending services, going to the drop airborne drop zone and making love to my wife in our 64 Chevy. On a less positive note, I also remember getting called to Captain Smith's office one day and being chewed out for instigating a Congressional inquiry. I knew nothing about it, but I couldn't convince Captain Smith of that, so I was restricted to breathing privileges for about a month. It turned out that Jeannette's grandfather was a distant cousin of Strom Thurmond. He had contacted Strom on my behalf, calling into question the Army's wisdom in assigning me to the infantry.**

**Editor's Note: Sandy passed away August 12, 2021**

### **Gary M. Knight / 5th Platoon**

**Now lives in Belle Haven, NC. Public record unconfirmed. (RT: PMK, 092014)**

### **Kenneth R. Knudsen / 2d Platoon**

**I have been married 42 years and have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. To better understand how I now spend my time now, it would be helpful to know how I have spent the last 50 rollercoaster years. In 1972, I spotted my wife, Janet on a crowded dance floor, introduced myself and married her 3 weeks later. We then moved 16 times with 12 different career changes in the next 35 years. In 1986 we adopted our three daughters from India and my son is still wondering what happened to his life as an only child. After traveling, on business an average of 3 days per week all over the United States and spending time in Rome, Paris and Germany, all I want to do now is stay home and spend time with My Girl, Janet and visit our children, and grandchildren. Janet loves to drive high-performance European cars, very fast and I love to ride shotgun and pray for safety. I enjoy working out, reading and walking our three rescued Cocker Spaniels, Chloe, Emma and Bruno.**

**I was assigned to Ft. Jackson and then went to Junp School and Jungle School with Mike Thornton, David Doe and Jim Dupont. I arrived in Vietnam in late June, 1970 and was assigned to 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/5 Cavalry,**

**1st Cavalry Division. In August I came into base camp and was introduced to the new 1st Platoon Leader, Jim DuPont. He had just been reassigned to my company. We ran operations together for two months and on the morning of September 18, 1970, Jim asked me to go to Saigon to be the pay officer. I readily agreed and he took my place on the next patrol. He was killed that afternoon. After Vietnam, I remained in the Army as a Company Commander and General Staff office at Ft. Ord and then went to the Advanced Course at Ft. Benning, and then became a Tactics Instructor. I left the Army in 1976 to go into the corporate arena.**

**In 1976 Procter & Gamble hired me for their management-training program. I climbed the corporate ladder, first at Procter and then became a Vice President of Sales at Frito- Lay and similar positions at Ocean Spray, Nabisco, and finally as Senior Vice President for RCN, a national Telecommunications company. I left corporate and started my own coaching/ consulting business in 2002. I am now semi retired and continue to help companies in Leadership, Strategic Planning and Sales execution.**

## **Paul M. Kochis / 2nd Platoon**

**I am delightfully retired and living in Tiburon, CA with my wife, Amy, since June, 2010. I have a married son who is a fireman in Hayward, CA, a daughter who is a principal ballet dancer with her husband in the Pittsburgh Ballet and the oldest daughter is a home maker with three children by her husband, who is the head football coach with Ball State University. I spend my time these days promoting my book (see <http://www.godgloryandgold.com>), writing (working on a screen play for the book), golf, sailing and hanging with my wife and our numerous friends here. Some travel too.**

**Posted to 5th Division Mechanized Infantry, Fort Carson, then fortuitously to Redeye Missile School, Fort Bliss, followed by 4 months with the Combat Development Command, Hunter Liggett, CA. Joined the 7th Division at Camp Casel, Korea as the Division Redeye Missile Officer. Finished up at 8th Army Headquarters in procurement before an early out in May, 1971.**

**Secured a J.D. from Washington University, St. Louis in 1974, passed the Bar in CT and practiced tax law for five years. Moved over to investment**

management and trust work where I spent the next 26 years, mostly with the former Bank of New England and Mellon Financial. Dabbled in Republican politics in CT. I have served on 18 non-profit Boards as well.

## **Dale G. Kratsch / 1st Platoon**

Records indicate deceased 4/6/2013 (Sandy Carter, Feb.,2017) See “In Memoriam” page of this website

## **Clarence B. Kugler IV / 2d Platoon**

I am in my 44th year of federal service and for the last 40 years with OSHA as a Whistleblower Investigator investigating employee complaints involving 22 different legislative acts protecting whistleblowers. Business is good. Have same wife for 31 years and 2 sons under 30. One dog for 13 years.

Retired 3 July 2017. Entire nation given the day off the following day to celebrate my no longer being able to wreck government cars.

69 Signal Basic, Ft. Gordon- Army Pictorial Center, Queens NY; Motion Picture Producer- 70 Army Materiel Cmd, DC; Attaché Chief Scientist; 71-72 Vietnam Americal & DaNang Support Cmd, BN Adjutant, Co. Cmd., Convoy Cmd., Inform. Officer

76-83 CPT various Reserve units PA & FL-EO with a few good years but never doing required education.

89-05 Civil Affairs SFC Reserves; 18 CA overseas missions. 03 Active age 58 Hungary training Iraqi Free Forces; 04 activated age 59 Baghdad

NCOIC Public Affairs. Retired CPT March 05.

Fell in love with running at OCS and completed 30 some marathons, 40 some triathlons of different dimensions, 2 Hawaiian Ironman and 1 Western States 100 Mile Endurance Run and many ultra runs. Now compete race walking in Half Marathons with wife and now have to provide support to sons who became endurance athletes. It is more fun doing than watching.

Going to the base movie with the rest of you and watching a movie I had a speaking part in, “Three in the Attic”, and having LT Dent yell, “Is that Kugler?”

and then for the next few weeks having to stand on a chair before meals reciting my movie line, "Man what a bummer, she could have been the daughter of Dagwood Bumstead" more times than I care to remember.

## **Louis A. Lallo / 3d Platoon**

I have been fortunate since returning from Vietnam in May, 1971. Two months after returning I enrolled at the University of California San Francisco, School of Pharmacy. While in pharmacy school I met and married a classmate, Vickie. We were married until her death in 2012. Vickie and I have one daughter who followed her parents in healthcare and became a Nurse Practitioner specializing in oncology.

I retired for the second time in January, 2016, and have been enjoying it by keeping busy playing golf, being a docent at the Oakland Zoo, exercising a lot and baking (no laughing allowed). Bottom line is that I am at a good place in life and feel very fortunate.

After OCS, I served as a Basic Training range officer at Ft Polk. While at Polk I shared a rundown mobile home with Steve Porter and Dean (cannot remember his last name) from our OCS class. After six months at Polk we were ready to go to Vietnam.

I was first an Assistant District Senior Advisor with MACV then a MAT leader for six months. At first I was disgruntled with the army, as I bet a number of you felt. First, the army taught me to be an Infantry platoon leader then sent me off to be a range officer then an advisor; second, the army sent me to jungle warfare school only to have me slosh around rice paddies for a year. After I grew older and wiser I realized that as an advisor, I had a much better insight into Vietnam and the war.

After Vietnam, I surprised even myself and became a "lifer" by joining the Army Reserve, (in addition to working at my day job running a chain of pharmacies), I served in Psychological Operations units for about 20 years before switching over to Civil Affairs and finally ending up as the G2 for the 91st Infantry Division. During my 33+ years I served in various command and staff positions, deployed

to Operation Just Cause in Panama, took part in our operation in Haiti, and traveled extensively throughout Southeast Asia. Finally, I retired as an O-6, and would do it all over again, if they would let me.

After finishing pharmacy school my wife and I moved to Sacramento, CA, where I owned a small chain of medical building pharmacies for about 28 years. I then sold my pharmacies and thought that I would spend my remaining years basking in the sunshine. Wrong! Six weeks later, I grew bored and went to work for the State and became California's emergency preparedness pharmacist. Finally, last year, I decided that it was time to perfect my golf game and retired for good (I think).

This is hard to answer. Looking back on the experience, all my memories are my favorites. Most of all was the team work and quality of my fellow cadets. A couple of my favorite times: going to colleges to recruit girls for our senior ball; building that damn monument outside of our barracks; mowing the lawn in the middle of the night; and, CPT Smith ordering me to learn how to play the bagpipes in two weeks (sure thing). All in all, the most influential six months of my life and I thank you all for the example that you set and for all that you taught me.

## **Thomas M. Lankford / 3d Platoon**

Carolyn, my wife of 48 years who I married less than three months before going into the service, and I are happily retired in Scottsdale AZ since 2005. Golf, travel, church and volunteering in the community have kept us busy.

Unfortunately, our three children and seven grandchildren (all under six years old) live in Ohio and Brooklyn, so two years ago we decided to sell our home and buy condos here and in Fairlawn, Ohio. We now live a nomadic life, wintering in Arizona, summers at our lake cottage in upstate NY, and fall through the holidays in Ohio. We can now enjoy family from June through December.

After graduation, I was sent to Fort Benjamin Harrison (Indianapolis) the army's finance School, and then on to New Cumberland Army Depot in Harrisburg Pa. I shipped out of San Francisco in early July with what seemed like the majority of our class. I was assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division and worked in the HQ

Unit's finance office in Chu Lai. Yes, I was a REMF. Generally pretty good duty for my year in Nam. Having fulfilled my duty, I returned to my life.

After discharge in July 1971, I went to the Harvard Business School and earned an MBA, then had a 32 year career with Ernst and Young in Boston, Hartford, Boston again, Cleveland and Charlotte. I had the opportunity to serve as lead partner on many multinational manufacturing, distribution and finance companies, and served as managing partner of the offices where I was assigned. I retired in 2005.

My OCS memories are dim. I recall playing some volleyball and basketball on Cpt. Smith's company teams, and I remember spending a weekend in a motel with Dick Beardsley and our wives to watch us land on the moon for the first time. I guess we had turned blue by then. Mostly I remember at the end of the cycle someone telling me I was graduating at the top of the class, which allowed me to select Finance as my MOS. That led to the Commanding General (name escapes me) of Benning telling me "you can't make a career in this man's army without a CIB", to which I replied "Yes Sir!".

## **Stephan R. Layton / 3d Platoon**

My wife Nancy and I live in Milford Ohio. We are both retired and enjoy our free time. We recently sold our house and moved into a condominium. We have two daughters and three grandchildren who live in the area. We see our family often and are involved with the United Methodist Church. We recently co-led a fund raiser to buy mosquito nets for the Imagine No Malaria project for children in Sub-Saharan Africa. We have been leaders on mission trips to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand through the UMC. After retirement, we have also done some traveling for fun. We were fortunate to be able to travel to Australia, New Zealand, China, and South Korea. Our current favorite vacation places are St. George Island, Florida and the big island of Hawaii.

After OCS I was assigned to a mechanized infantry division at Ft. Carson as a platoon leader. When orders for Vietnam arrived, I had ten months of service time remaining. I thought I might not be going, but I was wrong. In Vietnam I was assigned to a Mobile Advisory Team in IV CORPS. I was located in Sa Dec Province living in villages along a branch of the Mekong. Sa Dec Province was

relatively pacified so we were able to travel safely between our village and the Province capital. Our primary responsibility was training of PF forces. When the MAT teams were eliminated, I spent my last month as the Night Ambush team coordinator.

My daughter, our first child, was born while I was in Vietnam. I left the Army and rejoined the family. It was exciting and totally different being a family of three. We spent a few weeks getting to know each other. Little did I know that my working career after the Army would be with a company whose employees wore brown uniforms. I started working for UPS as a Christmas driver in 1971. After the delivery driver experience, I worked in an administrative position in Human Resources. I joined UPS management after two years and spent most of my time in Industrial Engineering. My wife was working also and we both retired on the same day in 1997.

OCS memories? I have memories of two roommates at OCS. My first was Mike Hughes. He was my roommate for at least eight weeks, maybe twelve. Mike had a degree in Biology from the University of Utah. He must have decided that OCS, or what came after it, wasn't for him. He dropped out and went to a holding company before being sent to Vietnam. I remember Captain Smith talking to us outside in formation, before we graduated, saying that Mike had been killed in Vietnam. I don't know if anyone else remembers Mike. He was a good guy. We never know how the choices we make will turn out. Another roommate I had was Jack Curley. Jack was a good guy also. He was the only one from our class that I ran into in Vietnam, and that was only briefly while I was on my way to my assignment.

## **John S. Lee / 4th Platoon**

What is my life like today? Pretty darned good is the short answer!!! I survived RVN, a helicopter crash, an airplane crash, several in-flight emergencies including engine failures and fires, and years of bush flying in Alaska, all without suffering so much as a scratch. I have two very accomplished sons in their early forties, and four grandsons, all of whom I am extremely proud. My sons help me run a forty year old telecommunications construction and engineering business that has been my life's work. I'm still active pilot. I own two airplanes and a helicopter. I reside in Palmer Alaska. All in all, life has been pretty good to me.



I'm in great physical shape except that I suffer from a couple of ailments that the VA presumes to be caused by Agent Orange from RVN.

Before receiving my draft notice and converting it to an enlistment so I would be eligible for OCS, I was working in my home state of Alaska as a structural engineer for an oil company, and I was moonlighting as a charter pilot and flight instructor. I had a degree in Civil Engineering, and I had taken many electrical engineering courses which contributed significantly to my future in the Army and my life today.

On the day that we graduated from OCS, I was summoned to the 50th Company Orderly Room with one other graduate (I don't recall who....we were interviewed separately...). The suspense was chilling because the interview did not get to the point right away, flooding me with a lot of "What the hell is going on here !!???" questions. As it turned out, that interview was to tie things together and set me up on a course for my entire life..... What they wanted to know was, based on a records check that indicated experience in electronics, whether or not I would consider exchanging my new crossed rifles for crossed semaphores, to accept an immediate commission in the Signal Corps.

I asked what was in it for me (besides obvious delay in being sent to RVN). I tried hard to negotiate helicopter flight school but couldn't get it because I wear glasses. I got the highest score on record for helicopter aptitude.....but couldn't get past the rules. What I got instead was Airborne School at Benning then Signal Officer Basic at Fort Gordon, and then an MOS defining Communications Center Operations Course at Fort Monmouth NJ. (I never ever used my Comm Center MOS for anything in my future assignments.)

After Fort Monmouth I was assigned to an Airborne Infantry Battalion of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg. ( HHC 2nd Battalion, 504th Infantry) I was the Commo Platoon Leader. That assignment was a real racket. I had an excellent NCOIC and I spent most of my time at the base flying club teaching my HHC CO (an Army helicopter pilot) how to fly airplanes.

After about 6 months at Bragg, I was assigned to the 37th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade in Da Nang RVN. That assignment, with thanks to some great EM, NCOs, and Officers set me up on my life's course. My CO, LTC Bill Kesterson and XO, Major Monte Tate, badly needed a Battalion S3, and because the war was

winding down and Brigade couldn't or wouldn't send them a qualified officer, they decided to take a chance on me, a lowly snot nose 2nd Lieutenant..... doing a Major's job. Thanks mostly to some great NCOs I navigated that assignment quite successfully and was exposed in depth to virtually all Army Signal technologies. For awhile I even doubled as S2. Again, many thanks to some great Officers and NCOs for helping me pull that off successfully. I was in this assignment for about 7 months. I was really into it, so much so that I even declined R&R.

The 37th had a detachment at Khe Sahn, near the DMZ. (Khe Sanh was a 1st Cav Airmobile firebase. As I understood things, the overall mission of the 1st Cav was to secure the DMZ and slow the NVA down for the overall US troop withdrawal.) The Detachment Commander was about to ETS and I asked for the job. I got it and I recall I was there about 40 days. When the weather was bad and the gunships couldn't fly, "Charlie" rained rockets and light artillery down on us almost continuously, or so it seemed. I lost one man to a rocket (That still haunts me). He was fetching some part out of a Conex, when a round came in after him, right through the door.) My above-ground equipment (antennas, air conditioners, generators and trucks) took a continuous shrapnel beating. Still, we kept everything running until the very end....that was remarkable because most of my troops were working on equipment that wasn't included in their MOS. Finally, the NVA came after us with Armor. Airstrikes ( including B-52s) couldn't stop the NVA assault and the order finally came down for all units to pull out of Khe Sanh altogether....now...and that was the end of that. I'll never forget LTC Bill Clingempeel, 1st Signal Brigade, formerly of the 82nd, who was right there with me and personally helped me maintain order, control and classified equipment security protocols during our hasty withdrawal down the A Shau Valley. He was badly burned when a lucky round hit one of my fuel storage revetments, just as we were pulling out, but he survived.

I was pretty much a short-timer after we got run off from Khe Sanh, but 1st Brigade assigned me as Commander of a Signal Company based at Camp Evans. Fortunately, I wasn't there very long before I headed back to the US and civilian life. Camp Evans had a LOT of problems that I was not accustomed to, primarily low morale and drugs and other behavior unbecoming US soldiers. It was a nightmare. In making my final decision to stay in the Army or return to civilian

life, I wrestled with this assignment. I'm pretty satisfied with my life but I have always wondered if leaving the Army was my best decision, and maybe I based that decision too much on Camp Evans. I left the Army at McChord AFB in Washington. It was a pretty lonely feeling standing on a street corner at McChord at 0500 with no place to go.

An interesting aside: As a recent OCS graduate, I was treated well and with considerable respect in jump school at Benning. Cadre "awarded" me the (perhaps dubious) task of personally mentoring a Direct Commission Army Doctor, one Captain Jeffrey MacDonald. I liked MacDonald. He didn't have much military bearing, but he was in good physical shape and could do everything if coached. When I leaned on him he got the job done. Eventually, he became a real soldier and went on to Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces training. I never saw MacDonald again after jump school but he went to Fort Bragg too, and within a year he was convicted of murdering his family in a bizarre case at Fort Bragg officer's housing. Knowing the man as I did, I simply could not believe it. I still can scarcely believe it and I have long pondered how I didn't ever see some hint of such instability.

After the Army, I headed back to my home state of Alaska. I got onto the GI Bill right away and earned some FAA Certificates that I needed, including Airplane Multi-engine rating, Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, Instrument Flight Instructor Certificate, and Commercial Helicopter Certificate.

I flight instructed for awhile then moved into contract operations. I worked for several different aviation firms and flew primarily in northern and western Alaska for oil companies, geophysical exploration companies, and mining companies. A telecommunications company that I flew for exclusively for several years is now a branch of AT&T. They were wonderful people to work for and I got a lot of engineering assignments as well as flying duties. I relied heavily on my Army Signal Corps experience from RVN. I settled there for several years before testing for the Alaska Professional Engineer Exam and founded my own contracting company that specializes in telecommunications remote, arctic engineering and construction. That company, New Horizons Telecom Inc, is now 40 years old and is under the command of my oldest son.

**I still fly, but not as much as I used to. As I said, I own two airplanes and a helicopter. I used to work them pretty hard in the business, particularly the helicopter, but as I age and technology changes, things are slowing up a bit. However an interesting contract with aircraft requirements comes along now and then so I train continuously to maintain my proficiency.**

**I have a lot of great memories of OCS. I guess the best memory was when we turned blue. Up until then, I tried to maintain a low profile, and often wondered where it was all going. But, on the day we turned blue, circumstances seemed to become defining, taking on firm and positive direction.**

**Editors Note: John passed away March 10, 2020 See “In Memoriam” page of this website**

## **Gary C. List / 1st Platoon**

**My wife Jill and I live in St Augustine, FL having moved here from Sarasota about five years ago. I was VP of Administration for Palm Coast Data just south of St Augustine. Jill is still a professor of Statistics at Embry Riddle University in Daytona. We have a son, two daughters and two grandchildren. Currently I play a little golf, trade a little in stocks and serve on the Board of the Ancient City Military Officers Association in St Augustine.**

**After being commissioned in the Signal Corps (I was one of those lucky 5-6 candidates) I went through jump school, various signal schools in Georgia and New Jersey and finally Jungle School in Panama before I began my all expense paid trip to Vietnam. I was in the 2nd Signal Group at Long Binh. We supported several Signal Battalions around the country. For the first six months I ran the Com Center, and for the second six traveled around III Corps as a signal quality engineer, frequently climbing those red and white antennas. Returning intact in 1971, I joined the local Reserve Company (372d MP Company of Abu Ghraib Fame) and then managed the next 26 years in Reserves without mentioning it to my employer, with various assignments, including Fort Drum, Fort Meade, Fort Monroe, and Camp David.**

**After completing my Masters at St Francis College, PA I joined Celanese Corporation as a Labor Relations Supervisor. I spent the next 13 years moving around with Celanese and negotiating union contracts with Textile Workers and**

**Teamsters. During that time Celanese was acquired by Hoechst AG of Frankfurt. After my labor days I worked for the parent company and ultimately Hoechst's Behring Diagnostics division retiring (the first time) as Vice President of Administration in San Jose, CA. From there I moved to Sarasota, FL where I taught Junior ROTC for a few years before joining Palm Coast Data.**

**The fond memories of OCS were few, but after spending a couple of weeks in casual status with some senior candidates in what I believe was 9th BN I was actually happy to finally start OCS in the 50th Company. I remember practicing my "command voice" by yelling into the fans at the end of the hallways. It was always interesting walking down the sides of the hallways to keep from scuffing the floors, and of course rock cleaning in the front of the barracks was always stimulating. On a side note, I ran into Captain (by then Major) Smith at the Ft Belvoir Officers Club. After introducing myself his only comment was "List...you need a haircut!" I guess the tiger never changes his stripes.**

### **Ronald W. Lorensen / 1st Platoon**

**Military records indicate that Ronald was discharged from the Army in June, 1971. Ancestry records show that he died on March 29, 2007. An obituary, with the last name Lorensen, was found by Sandy Carter appears to match and can be found here. See "In Memoriam" page of this website**

### **John D. Lynch / 3d Platoon**

**Well, my dear wife Sue (of 43 years) and I are retired and living in Bayport, New York on the coast of Long Island. We have three wonderful children, two grandchildren and another due in January. I'm active in my local church parish and was on the school board for several years. All in all, I've had a satisfying life and career, with old and new friends and family. Sue and I are enjoying retirement. We spend two months in Florida and are already looking forward to next year.**

**After OCS I received orders for Ft. Carson, Colorado and was assigned to Third Brigade HQ as Assistant S3. Two of my roommates were Bill Yacola and Pete Golka of our OCS class. I received orders for Vietnam via Advisory Training at Ft. Bragg and Vietnamese Language School for two months at Ft. Bliss, Texas. I**

arrived in Vietnam on July 14, 1970 and was assigned in IV Corps to Team 88, MAT 79 in Kien Hoa (now Ben Tre) Province in the Delta. I was a team leader for the first six months, then assistant team leader for the last months. We "trained" the local militia who were primarily farmers in Nan Phu Tan and Mo Cay villages. Fortunately my time in-country was uneventful, but had a few instances of "excitement" that made me realize that I did not want to make the Army a career. I will always treasure working with fellow soldiers that you barely knew but were willing to be there and had your back. They were not just Americans but also Aussies who often were our helicopter support. I left Vietnam on May 31, 1971

After the military, I worked in banking and then for 22 years, until I retired, in the gas and & electric utility field for LILCO on Long Island where I grew up.

I enjoyed reading the all the OCS comments from the others because I had forgotten most of those five-plus months. To this day, whenever I do a push-up, which is seldom, I think of CPT Smith. I remember watching the moon landing on TV in a motel. Although I did not keep in touch with my fellow OCS classmates, I'll always remember how we supported and helped each other get through the OCS "experience."

## **Richard J. MacLoed / 6th Platoon**

I am happily retired and living in Rome, Georgia. Unfortunately, my wife Sally passed away in 2015 after years of dealing with Alzheimer's. I enjoy our two children: daughter Skye is a lawyer; son Eric is a doctor, so I'm all set. I play lots of bluegrass and gospel music. I am exercising and eating healthily, but need to lose a few pounds. I am currently dating Linda, to whom I am engaged. If I am able to attend the reunion, I will ask her to come along to meet everyone.

I went to Fort Sill as a Signal Corps 2nd Lieutenant for further training. Then was assigned to 14th MI Battalion as communications platoon leader. Daughter Skye was born there. Then to Vietnam as Headquarters Company Commander of 160th Signal Group. I then rotated with an early out back to States. Mustered out of the Army in California as a First Lieutenant. Flew to Georgia and went back to Law School at the Emory School of Law.

I practiced law in Rome, GA for about 35 years

At OCS, I enjoyed beating Captain Smith and the TACs at volleyball. I also enjoyed performing at Company Ball (or whatever it was).

**Joe S. Marbury, JR / 2d Platoon**

**Charles L. Martin / 3d Platoon**

**Michael T. Matthies / 1st Platoon**

After 19 moves in 29 years on active duty, Mary Jo, my wife of 48 years, found a beautiful little horse property just outside Pinehurst, North Carolina, and said "That's it!" So here we are. Since I am addicted to golf and she has horses, this has worked out perfectly. Our lives are now consumed by horses, dogs, cats, pastures and pine cones, of which there seems to be an endless supply. I now understand the saying "You don't own a farm; a farm owns you." Mary Jo is perfectly happy to spend every minute doing "farm things" but that's not enough for me. Fortunately, I was able to wrangle a job as Starter/Ranger at one of the Pinehurst Resort golf courses – how does playing Pinehurst No. 2 for \$5.00 sound? It does have its drawbacks, however. You do have to put up with the members!

Mike Horn and I were roommates and we both opted for the Vol Indef (Germany) option. As luck would have it, we were both assigned to 1/48 Infantry, 3rd AD, in Gelnhausen, Germany. Mike became the battalion signal officer and I served as platoon leader, Bn S2, Bn S1, and company commander. I had to put in my RA paperwork before the battalion commander would give me the company, and I never regretted it. I don't think I ever consciously decided to make it a career, but every time I completed obligated service and could leave, I got offered something that sounded fun/interesting/whatever. I decided to hang for one more assignment and before I knew it, it was time to retire. I then served in Korea with the 2nd ID where I commanded two more companies. After the Infantry Advanced Course, I ended up at Colorado State University where I spent 18 months completing a master's degree in ORSA (Operations Research Systems Analysis) and three years teaching military science. I spent the next three years as an ORSA-puke (as my boss referred to

us) at TRADOC (US Army Training and Doctrine Command) before attending the Command and General Staff College. After the CGSC, I was assigned to the 3rd ID in Germany in various capacities, finishing up as Deputy Division G3. In 1986, I returned to CONUS and served as XO of 2nd Bde, 4th ID at Fort Carson. In 1988, I assumed command of 1/46 Infantry, a Basic Training battalion at Fort Knox. The two years were tremendously rewarding. Drill sergeants and the young kids who leave home for Basic Training have my undying respect! Following command, I did a War College Fellowship at the JFK School of Government and was then selected to be the Military Attaché to Denmark. After three years in beautiful, downtown Copenhagen, I returned to CONUS and spent one year at TRADOC HQ working “The Army after Next” wargame and retired in 1997.

After retirement I worked as a defense contractor for MPRI and Booz-Allen for several years evaluating and finalizing the structure of the Modular Force design.

I am amazed at the memories that many of you have because most of OCS is a blur to me. One memory that does stick out was the weekend shortly before graduation when we got an overnight pass. A group of us stayed at the Camellia Apartments and sat by the pool all day, drank beer all night and watched the moon landing. I also remember the first time we low-crawled the airborne track. I wasn't smart enough to turn my belt buckle over and worked for hours trying to Brasso out the scratches. Other than those, it was simply the memory of being part of something bigger than myself and banding together with a bunch of great guys.

**Timothy D. Mendez / 5th Platoon** Passed away 6-4-2020 See “In Memoriam” page on this website

**Malcolm M. Metzler / 6th Platoon**

Ann, my wife of 49 years, and I are retired and living in Muncie, Indiana where I practiced law for many years. I am in great shape for the condition I am in. Our son Scott and his wife have 2 children. They live in Muncie and we are thrilled to be able to enjoy lots of grandparent time. Our daughter Darcy lives in San Francisco and is getting married in Santa Barbara on August 26, one day



before my 74th birthday. In addition, I am proud to be an active Clan member-- Metzler Clan that is. I am the most "mature" (I do not use the "O" word) of 9 children, 8 boys and 1 girl. There are over 50 Metzler Clan children and grandchildren (and still counting). We grew up in the Indianapolis area and all but my sister, who defected to Texas, are in Indiana. We Hoosiers continue to socialize on a regular basis and my sister usually joins us at least once or twice a year. Ann and I have also enjoyed traveling -- some business, but mostly pleasure. Destinations have included much of the continental US, Alaska, Hawaii, the Bahamas, Bermuda, several places in Canada and Mexico, several European countries, the Holy Land, Russia, Southern Africa, and China. We have scheduled Australia and New Zealand for next February.

Because of a 1968 amendment to the UCMJ that now required attorneys be available to represent defendants in Special Court Marshalls, the Army suddenly needed a lot of attorneys. After basic, but before I started OCS, the Army invited me to transfer to the Judge Advocate General Corps. I had to decide immediately. By my calculations at that time, I could become an infantry lieutenant and spend approximately 2 1/2 potentially risky years in the Army. Or, I could become a JAG captain and spend approximately 5 probably safe years in the Army. I guess I was still young enough to think I was invincible because I chose the infantry. After OCS, the army apparently decided that, at that time, I was more valuable as a lawyer than as a platoon leader. (I immediately changed my opinion about how smart the army was. LOL) I was assigned to the Center Troop Command at Ft. Benning. I served as Assistant Legal Officer and, for a time, Legal Officer for the Center Troop Command commander. I also served as trial and defense council in a number of legally interesting and challenging cases. All in all, Ann and I enjoyed our time at Benning. Then it was off to Vietnam for me. (Yes, lawyers went too!) I served with MACV in III Corps as Assistant Logistical Support Coordinator for Civil Operations and Rural Development Support. [Editor's Note: For Mickey's account of his service in Vietnam, see Part Three, Section Five.]

I was discharged in May of 1971. I had already graduated from law school and been admitted to practice law in Indiana before OCS. (I have been pleased to see that several 50th Company graduates became lawyers after their Army careers. To the best of my knowledge, Brooks Doyle and I were the only 50th

Company candidates who were attorneys before OCS.) That summer I worked in the Veterans Administration's Indianapolis Regional Office as a field attorney. In September I joined the Muncie law firm of Beasley & Gilkison. I had a general practice with a concentration in labor and employment law. I retired in 2004 but continued to keep my attorney license active until this year. Mostly I advised family, friends, and not-for-profits. I have enjoyed being actively involved in family, church, civic, and professional activities and supporting Wabash College, Indiana University, and Ball State University (as well as the Colts, the Pacers, and the Cubs).

By far, my favorite OCS memory was periodically seeing one of 50th Company's "laundry ladies," my wife, Ann. Someone or something has to refresh my memory for me to recall most other memorable OCS occasions. There are two exceptions. Sixth Platoon TAC Officer, LT Hook, played a prominent role in both. On numerous occasions Hook would admonish an individual candidate or the entire platoon with a "Ya betta hurry up," using multiple inflections. I took this expression home and to this day, Ann or I will occasionally try to motivate the other (and/or our children) by mimicking LT Hook's "Ya betta hurry up." The other exception is Candidate Herb Salls's response to some of Hook's exhortations. As you all no doubt recall, TAC officers from time to time used pushups as "training tools." On one of those occasions Herb became so exhausted that he could no longer do pushups. Hook immediately observed Herb resting, rushed over to Herb and demanded that Herb continue doing pushups. Herb was laying on his stomach and chest, but his hands and arms were in a pushup position. As respectfully as he could under the circumstances, Herb raised his head, looked our TAC and responded with a robust "Can't be done Sir, can't be done!" Herb did not complete the OCS program. Herb's wife, Carol, was Ann's roommate at the time. After Herb dropped out of OCS, Carol moved. Ann, of course, asked me why Herb dropped out. Part of my explanation was the "Can't be done Sir, can't be done" incident. It stuck. Either one of us will still occasionally robustly respond to the other, "Can't be done Sir, can't be done." Postscript: I did NOT want to go into the military, and especially not to Viet Nam. With the benefit of hindsight though, I am very grateful for the many lessons learned, fond memories, and friends made during my army years.

As that great philosopher Garth Brooks has said, "Thank God for Unanswered Prayers."

## **Robert E. Meyer**

I am currently living with my wife Susan in Fayetteville, N.Y. (a suburb of Syracuse). I have four adult children (located in Colorado, Michigan and New York) and six grandchildren (all great). I have a son-in-law in the Army, a son-in-law in the Air Force, and my wife's niece is in the Navy. Still looking for a Marine to round things out. Turned 71 last week and my 50th college reunion (graduated from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y.) will take place next spring.

After graduating from OCS in '69, I flirted with the option of staying in the Army and going Airborne but decided that my family obligations should prevail. Instead, I accepted the option of a guaranteed one year assignment overseas (rather than a quick trip to Vietnam) in exchange for an added year of service commitment. I ended up in a mechanized infantry battalion located in Gelnhausen, West Germany. A higher power must have been looking out for me because I remained in Germany (with family) for a total of four years, and felt very fortunate about that. I did receive orders for Vietnam, but certain general officers interceded on my behalf, and the orders were rescinded; I think my Top Secret clearance and assignment to an NRAS Team may have had something to do with that. Loved Germany, my various assignments, the food and opportunities for travel, but I felt a little guilty for not serving in Vietnam as so many others did.

After leaving active duty I returned to Syracuse, N.Y., found a job in School Administration, and am now a retired. Meanwhile, I continued my military service as a member of various Army Reserve units (infantry basic training units, a chemical affairs unit, and others). As a result of these assignments, I spent quite a bit of time at Ft. Drum, Ft. Dix, and Ft. Leonard Wood. I retired after 22 years as a Lieutenant Colonel.

OCS memories? I don't recall my Platoon number or even my Tac Officer's name, but in spite of his role/duty to inflict misery, I thought he was a pretty decent guy. The whole experience was kind of a blur, but some things stick out.

**I remember being called out in front of a company formation (I thought I had done something wrong!), only to be recognized and congratulated on the birth of my first child and daughter, Jennifer. And the night when the Tac Officers raided the barracks and stripped our beds, emptied our dressers, scuffed our boots and ground pizzas (which we tried to order without their knowledge) and sand onto the barracks floors just hours before an early morning inspection. All was in all, I enjoyed the experience and challenge of OCS.**

## **Ronald P. Michael / 6th Platoon**

## **Robert G. Miller / 5th Platoon**

Since 1985, along with my wife Katy Jo, I have lived right up against the mountains in Salt Lake City, Utah. Officially, we live in Cottonwood Heights. I have been retired since 2007 after working in the financial arena. The last 20 years of my career was as a business broker dealing in mergers and acquisitions of small to medium-sized businesses. Katy Jo is a clinical social worker at Huntsman Cancer Hospital, and she will retire in 2024. This puts me in charge of many household and yard maintenance duties right now. Officially, I'm the House Mangler. Fortunately, I also have time to exercise daily and enjoy the pleasures of cooking.

Near the end of my first year of graduate school in 1968, I received a draft notice to report for duty in September. I immediately researched my options. To be an officer in the Air Force or Navy required a service commitment that in my estimation was too long. Therefore, I chose the Army OCS option. My devious mind was also at work. I knew it would take nearly a year to be commissioned. The Paris Peace Talks were about to start so I assumed they would go fast. Certainly, the war would end within a year. Wrong!

After Fort Benning I was assigned to Fort Riley, KS. I served as the platoon leader for 5 platoons including the rifle team that competed regularly. One of the members of the team had been a sniper in Vietnam. When a replacement was needed on the team, he suggested that I take the position and he offered to teach me how to shoot competitively. I had already received my orders for Vietnam, but I was successful in a major shooting competition. I was asked if I would be interested in joining the 5th Army rifle team and not go to Vietnam. I drank a lot of beer that night and again the next night when I was told that my orders to Nam would not be cancelled. After Fort Riley I went to Jungle School in Panama then

flew over to Vietnam on July 4th of 1970. I served with MACV in the II Corps area in and around Bong Son. Primarily, the year was spent doing night ambushes.

After serving a year in Vietnam I returned home. A week later I was back in law school, which was a bit of a culture readjustment. Of course, there wasn't to be a hero's welcome, but I was just grateful to be back home safe and sound. Received my JD from law school and I have had a very good life since. Incidentally, as a personal choice, I have not used a weapon of any kind since returning stateside.

**William R. Miller / 2d Platoon**      **Bill Miller died in 2010 in Springfield, IL. See "In Memoriam" page in this website.**

### **John D. Moore / 1st Platoon**

**My wife Esther of 50 years and I are Wyoming natives. The winter of 2015 was a bad one in Cheyenne, WY. We decided to make a major change and moved to Melbourne, Florida. We already had friends in the area, so the transition was easier. As of Nov. 2016 we are home owners in a retired officer community called Indian River Colony Club in Melbourne, Florida. We have two children, now in their mid-forties. Our daughter is a Personnel Executive with Nationwide Insurance and our son (retired military officer) is a pilot for Southwest Airlines. Both children have visited and approve of our new surroundings. Esther and I have done some traveling around the U. S. and abroad. Hawaii twice, and most of the States of the Continental U.S. My favorite is the island of Majorca Spain. London is possibly our next stop. We are now much closer to Ft. Benning and are interested in attending the reunion.**

**As I was about to graduate from the U. of Wyoming, I was drafted. The draft board allowed me to graduate in May of 1968. I was 26 years old the day I graduated from OCS. I may have been the oldest candidate in the company and I struggled with the physical demands of OCS. My wife and I were married before Ft. Benning but she stayed in Wyoming and continued her job. Our daughter is a wonderful result of the 18th week party. Because I knew Esther was pregnant, I chose the three-year option so that I could meet our child before going to war and possibly never seeing her. We were assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the 36th Infantry (Mechanized) in Ayers Kasern in Germany, 40 kilometers north of Frankfurt. Probably because of my age, I was assigned as**

the S-4 as a 2 Lt. It lasted until a more experienced officer was available. Later I was a Supply Officer, assistant S-3 because of my Air Force ROTC in college and Deputy Company Commander. By 1971 I was still in Germany. The Pentagon just forgot about me and then the option of an early release was available and I took the opportunity. My discharge, as a Captain, was approved for early 1972. James (Jim) DuPont was my roommate during OCS and we became close friends. He and his wife stopped in Wyoming to visit us on his way to Ft. Lewis. His death in Vietnam had a profound effect on both my wife and I. While in Washington D. C., I visited the Memorial and cried at seeing his name.

Upon returning to Wyoming I was able to find a low paying job. A college friend was an Officer in the Wyoming Air National Guard and invited me to apply. I raised my right hand and stayed in the Guard for 22 more years as a week end warrior and retired in 1996 as a Lt. Col. The money from the Guard check bought our first house. I was still in uniform when Desert Storm began. The Pentagon didn't want LTCs but they needed the enlisted men and women in my unit. My civilian career was in government finance for the State of Wyoming. The last 25 years of my career I was a Budget Analyst in the Governor's Budget Office for the State of Wyoming. I retired in 2001, four years ahead of my wife the school teacher. I had only been retired for 6 months when my wife tells me "you have to do something instead of playing on the computer and letting the dog out." Friends of hers were employed as the staff for the Wyoming House of Representatives. Without my knowledge she contacted her friends about the possibility of my employment as part of the staff of the House. Much to my displeasure, I received a call for an interview. I was hired as the Sergeant-of-Arms for the Wyoming House of Representatives. I loved the part-time job and stayed for 14 years.

To this day, I do not wear a wedding ring. It came off on one of our night forced marches and is still somewhere in the Georgia mud. I remember trying to smuggle pizzas into the dorm in trash cans. Of course we were caught. My memory is a little weak, but I think Jim DuPont's wife tried to help us with that debacle. Mostly I just remember how hard the 6 month struggle was on mind and body. I am proud that I graduated but would not do it again.

**Timothy F. Moriarty III / 3d Platoon**

Tim and Isabelle, his wife of almost 50 years, are both fully retired and living in Hollywood, the city of the stars, although they don't count themselves as one of the "rich and famous." They lived for many years in Santa Monica but have recently downsized to an apartment in LA. His computer is and the fritz and he doesn't have a clue how to fix it. ("I was never very good at the tech stuff.") So this may be a permanent situation.

Nine days after OCS Tim married his college sweetheart and they spent their honeymoon driving from Pennsylvania to Ft. Lewis, WA. This is where he spent the rest of his "long and illustrious" military career, as a Basic Training firing range officer. He missed the Vietnam levy that was supposed to ship a big batch of Second Looies off to Vietnam because his personnel file was on the General's desk so he (Tim) could be reprimanded for speeding (45mph in a 35mph zone, out on an isolated range road). By the time the next VN levy rolled around he had so impressed the post brass with his creative and entertaining teaching methods that they kept him on until it was time for his early out. Military visitors, including from other posts, would could to watch him give his class and learn about his teaching techniques. Then in June 1971 he happily bade farewell to things military.

He used his GI Bill to go back to school where he studied photography. (He had taken the photos for our OCS Class Directory and really enjoyed doing them, so he figured why not give photography a try.) So for the next 40 years he ran his studio in Santa Monica, through good years and bad, occasionally teaching photography courses to help make ends meet. He and Isabelle had learned to like the good life in "La-La Land" and decided to retire in place.

As for OCS memories, much has faded for him, but he definitely remembers working on the Class Directory. He also remembers the strong bonds of camaraderie that helped get him – and everyone – and everyone else through the program. "More PT, Captain Smith!"

**John E. Morrissey, III / 4th Platoon**

**I'm enjoying 3 years of retirement (in December 2016) with my wife of 48 years, Cyndy. We have one son living in Gainesville, VA with his wife and two beautiful granddaughters.**

**We live in Manlius, NY, a suburb of Syracuse. Plenty of golf in the good weather and vacation in the south in the bad.**

**After OCS I was assigned to a mech. infantry co. attached to the 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood. Doug Cannon and I were platoon leaders in the same company.**

**January 70 Ft. Wolters , TX –Primary Flight School.**

**May 70 Ft. Rucker, Al -Advanced Flight School.**

**November 70 - November 71 I was assigned to the 335th Assault Helicopter Company at Dong Tam on the Mekong River. Our area of operations was all of IV Corps.**

**I was the company admin officer and a slick pilot. We flew combat assaults mostly in support of the 5th ARVIN Division. (My personal favorite mission was Nighthawk.)**

**The 335th AHC and I received orders to FT. Riley, KS at about the same time. After leave I rejoined the company until my discharge in March 72.**

**After the army I worked as a commercial credit analyst for 2 ½ years before joining Bache & Company as a stock broker. I remained with the same company as a financial advisor for 39 years but it was Wells Fargo Advisors by the time I retired.**

**Favorite OCS memories- Great classmates, turning blue, and graduating!!!**

**Michael E. Myers/ 6th Platoon**

**Richard R. Myers / 5th Platoon Believed to have passed away 11-17-2018 See "In Memoriam" page in this website**

**Robert J. Myers / 3d Platoon**

**Kevin M. Myles**



## **Richard L. Newcomer / 6th Platoon**

My wife Monia and I live in Goodyear, Arizona (outside of Phoenix). I am mostly retired, but am still serving as Legislative District Chairman in Maricopa County for the Republican Party. My wife and I have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren in the Houston area; we travel to see them and enjoy our time with them. We do like to travel and returned to Vietnam two years ago on a Mekong river cruise. I was able to see Cu Chi including the tunnels, spider holes, etc. My hobbies are reading, travel, gun shows and shooting range practice. I look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

After graduation my first assignment was as a TAC officer at Benning. Between classes I went to Jump School. I then received my “engraved invitation” to join other Americans in Vietnam. Prior that, they sent me to Jungle Training in Panama. I was in Vietnam from July, 1970 until April, 1971, assigned to Charlie Co., 1st Bn, 5th Reg. (Mech.) of the 25th Infantry Division. I was the only Lieutenant in the company with a Captain from Oklahoma. We worked well together. My field duty ended as a mortar platoon leader. The last assignment in Vietnam was as XO for the same company.

When I was discharged I returned to Syracuse University to finish my MBA, graduating in May 1972. I worked at Bethany College as an assistant Dean of Students and associate Business Manager. I left there to work briefly with the CIA in Washington, D.C. In 1978 I joined the National Electrical Contractors (NECA) as an assistant manager for the Chapter. NECA is a national trade association in the construction business. I was appointed as Executive Director in 1983 and remained in this position until 2011 when I retired.

OCS? Lovin’ the PT! (Not)

## **Peter M. Nowlan / 2d Platoon**

On June 30, 2015 I closed my law practice and retired. My wife, Kathy, had retired six years ago, so my primary function has been to disrupt her long established retirement routine.

I am a Director and Vice Chair of the Board, for Gifford Health Care. Gifford Health Care is based in my hometown of Randolph and operates a Critical Access Hospital in town. It has a Federally Qualified Health Care designation and

operates eight health clinics in the greater White River Valley. It also operates a Sports Medicine clinic, a physical rehabilitation clinic, two adult day care centers and a nursing home. My Board and Committee work for GHC has filled the free time that retirement was to provide me.

Kathy and I have two children. Our son Jeff, his wife and daughter live in Charlotte, Vermont. Jeff is the Director of Counseling for Spectrum Youth Services, a non profit in Burlington, VT. Our daughter Kim, her husband, son and daughter live in Essex, VT, also in the Burlington area. Kim's current primary function is caring for her children. Kathy and I go to Charlotte every other Friday to care for our granddaughter. We have a third "daughter" Roza. Roza lived iwth us as an exchange student in 1994-1995. She returned to Vermont in 1997 to attend Middlebury College. She is currently living in Chicago and works as a the mid-west correspondent and producer for CCTV news. Roza'a parents have died, she has become part of our family.

Kathy and I golf, bike and kayak in the summer. We showshow and cross country ski in the winter. I still downhill ski in the winter.

I remained at Ft. Benning after OCS. I was assigned to Co. E, 5th Bn of the 31st Infantry, part of the old 197th Brigade; first as a platoon leader, then as the Executive Officer. The following year I went through the jungle school in Panama and then on to Vietnam. I served with MACV in II Corps. I was assigned to a Mobile Advisory team working with regional and popular forces in the Pham Thiet in southeastern II Corps.

During November 1970 I became quite sick. I was taken by helicopter to the American firebase in the area, then transferred to the hospital at Cam Ron Bay with a severe case of hepatitis. (Contaminated food!) I was returned to Ft. Devens, MA and was in the hospital / on convalescence until March 1971. I was assigned to a desk job with the S-3 of the Post Commanding General.

That summer I extended to indefinite status so I could continue my treatment / monitoring with the Curler Army Hospital staff. The following year I was transferred to Ft. Bragg. As explained to me, the rule was that you could not resign from the service while under orders for transfer and must serve at least one year at your new duty station. I resigned from active duty effective July 7, 1973.

I started law school one week after leaving the Army. I had the GI bill but we

needed additional income so I joined the Vermont National Guard. The only slot available was as the S-2 of an Armored Battalion, so I served with an Armor unit. I resigned from the Guard during my last year in law school.

After leaving the Army I entered Vermont Law School. My wife and I bought a house in Randolph VT as a place to live "for the three years of law school." We grew to love the town and have been here since. After law school I worked as an Assistant Attorney General for Vermont. I had an active federal and state court case load. In 1981 I left the Attorney General's office and opened my own law office in Randolph. It was a general practice office.

I have been active in the community. I have served on the town Select Board (town council), the Union High School Board of Directors, the Regional Vocational Center Board of Directors, and served as Moderator for the town of Randolph for over 20 years. I was an active member and am a past President of the Regional Chamber of Commerce and Past President of the Orange County Bar Association. I have had several appointments as Acting Judge of the Superior Court in its criminal division, in its civil division and in its family division.

## **Dennis C. O'Brien / 1st Platoon**

On Oct. 18, my wife Hedwig and I celebrate our 48th wedding anniversary. We have two children and two granddaughters. Our primary home is in Marietta, Georgia near Atlanta. We spend as much time as possible in Lutz, Florida where our grandchildren live and often spend weekends at Callaway Gardens, a wonderful golf resort about 25 miles north of Columbus, Ga. We first visited Callaway Gardens in 1969, the weekend we turned "Blue," and have been regulars there ever since. I have been blessed with good health and remain active swimming, golfing and practicing yoga regularly.

My military career began in the fall of 1968, a few months after graduating from college in Louisville, Kentucky. The draft-lottery had begun that summer, so I joined up hoping to have a few more options than if drafted, which was a certainty, since my birthday was the first date chosen in the lottery. I was sworn in at the induction center in Louisville, KY, the same location where Muhammad Ali refused to step forward. I completed Basic and AIT at Fort Dix, NJ and was then onto Ft. Benning for OCS. Upon graduation, I received a branch transfer

from Infantry to Armor and attended the Armor Officer Basic Course at Ft. Knox, KY. This was somewhat of a homecoming, since my father was an Armor officer and we'd lived at Ft. Knox where I'd attended high school. Upon completion of the AOB Course, I was married and traveled to Ft. Hood, Texas for my first assignment, a second homecoming, since we'd lived there also during one of my Dad's assignments, though many years before. After a year at Ft. Hood with 2nd Armor Division ("Hell on Wheels"), I was sent to Korea where I served my full tour at Camp McKenzie with the 4th of the 7th Cavalry of the Second Infantry Division, on the DMZ. The 4th of the 7th Cavalry is a very historic unit, dating back to Custer's battle at the Little Bighorn.

I rotated back to the States in 1971, was released from active duty, went to law school, and set out on my legal career. I'm in my 42nd year of a law practice. Most of my work involves federal criminal defense. Though I've scaled back, I still have an active practice with no plans to retire in the near future.

I visited the Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning in mid July 2017 while in Columbus. It is quite amazing and visiting it alone would be worth the trip to the re-union.

## **Thomas J. O'Brien / 6th Platoon**

Today and for the rest of my life I am retired and married to my second wife, Grace. Barbara, my first wife died in 2003 from dementia. We live in Westmont, Illinois, just West of Chicago. I love traveling the world with Grace. Can you believe, I have been to all continents but Australia. My real passion is bass fishing and I hold my club's 2017 record for the largest largemouth bass caught. Next year I plan to go all out and do only fly fishing. I have three grown kids and nine grandchildren. My kids all live within twenty minutes from my house. Safe to say, I do more time baby-sitting than traveling or fishing. I still go to church every Sunday and I am starting a three year enlistment as a church deacon. God help the church with me as a deacon.

Within one week of graduating from OCS I married my college sweetheart. We then moved to Fort Carson, CO. I was assigned to the 69th Brigade, 5th Division. Several classmates were with me in the brigade. Also many more classmates were in different units within the division. Like everyone else I held several jobs during my stay at Carson. Before Vietnam I went to Airborne and Jungle

Schools. Again many of the 50th Company classmates were in my classes. Vietnam is hard to talk about. I served in the 2/8 4th Infantry Division and held several jobs in the battalion. I believe I got the fastest CIB on record because I never made it to the company before I got shot at. In fact within one minute of landing at the company logger I saw a canteen cup hit by a sniper's bullet fly up in the air and over my head. I also served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in HHC Brigade and 1/503 Infantry Brigade. Before I left Vietnam; got dinged twice, got malaria, got into three very rugged contacts, got some medals with V clasps, and got to serve with the best and brightest men the U.S. produced. Left Vietnam through Cam Rahn Bay with many 50th Company classmates. Good drinking times and reunions were had at the Replacement Company.

My military career after Vietnam consisted of being ordered to a USAR Rigging Company in Gary, IN. I was a summer camp fill-in. I stayed at that company for two more years. Also served reluctantly in the 33rd Division in both the HHC division, and the 178th Inf. When I got out in 1979 I had two bars and my transfer to the inactive reserves said Major. I wish I could say my service was extraordinary but it was not. I only did what was necessary to avoid trouble. My work Career was spent in the food industry. Again it's hard to believe I went from a 2nd shift supervisor making Open Pit Barbecue Sauce to one of the Kraft General Foods executive levels. I finished as a VP in Quality Systems. After retiring I continue to work as a FDA Inspector, and food safety state inspector. I was even involved in several contract packaging start-ups. In summary I saw my food career as fun, interesting, ethical, and very rewarding.

I hated every moment of OCS, but because of the other candidates I refused to quit. I am forever grateful for the help I received from the company. One thing generally not known was Dave Sullivan the 5th platoon TAC was my college roommate. "Fat Albert" which was his nickname in college, he and I had a quite a running sophomoric gag battle throughout the OCS cycle. I stayed at Dave's house for one night after graduation. Dave invited Hook, Toolson and one other TAC for dinner. I did mention that I thought the TACs were real jerks for the way they treated the candidates. I won't mention what they said, because it is no longer appropriate. Finally after many years and the graying of my memory, I stand proud to have been in the company of many special men who did their duty and then became a credit to our society.

## **John O'Shea / 2d Platoon**

I live in Burke, VA with my wife, an English teacher, my daughter - also an English teacher and my son who is fluent in Chinese and works as a Mandarin-speaking Park Ranger at Yellowstone.

After OCS, I was assigned as a Training Officer at Ft Benning, then completed Jump School and was assigned as a Platoon Leader/XO for the Honor Guard at Benning. My overseas tour was in Korea; after DEROS, I left active duty and joined the Army Reserve where I held command and staff positions as a drilling reservist for 11 years while working as a marine biologist in New England. I returned to active duty and held a number of assignments including Legislative Liaison for the Secretary of the Army and faculty at the Army War College where I directed the Chief of Staff's Strategic Outreach Program. I retired as a Colonel in 1999

After retiring from the Army, I worked as Director of Defense Education/Public Affairs for the Reserve Officers Association and then entered Civil Service as Director of OPM's Eastern Management Development Center with subsequent position as Chief, Strategic Communications for NASA's Flight Research Center in California followed by my current assignment as Chief, Congressional Actions for the Secretary of the Air Force in the Pentagon.

My best memories of OCS (and 2d Platoon) were the relationships forged in the crucible of our shared experiences.

## **Leslie F. Ojala / 3d Platoon**

A computer glitch ended my first attempt to respond. Using a computer is a love/hate relationship for me, much as OCS was, which sucked big time. I am currently living with my beloved in Ajo, Arizona (near Yuma), an old copper mining town, surrounded by some of the most beautiful and diverse desert in the Southwest. It was recently voted the best small town in the Southwest. This surprises me, but reflects our tiredness with Montana's long winters, plus the opportunity to buy a home in Ajo cheaper than we can rent elsewhere. The Sonoran desert is rich in vegetation and animal life and is delightful nine months of the year. The other three we travel to visit family and friends, and special places, a satisfying way to spend our retirement.

**After OCS I was assigned to Ft. Carson, CO where I served with an infantry battalion, before being ordered to Vietnam and sharing the same airplane as many of you guys. I served with MACV for several months before being medevacked to Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver for an old motorcycle accident which had been exacerbated by OCS and other Army related training activities. Hail Honda! After knee surgery I was reassigned to Ft. Carson as OIC of the correctional treatment branch of the post stockade, rather an enjoyable assignment.**

**After the Army, my wife and I returned to Montana, had two wonderful boys, but eventually divorced in part due to the strength and independence she was forced to develop as a result of our military years, plus other factors that pulled us apart. I served several years as a deputy sheriff, but felt as if I was on the wrong side of the law. I returned to school in education, but again felt that the school system was the biggest part of the education problem. I became a jack of all trades and a master of none, with home health care some of my most rewarding work, plus some aspects of construction. I had experimented with sex, drugs, and Rock'n roll and concluded that they were not "the answer," nor was the accumulation of power or wealth. I have concluded that the answer is not "out there," but is an inner exploration and journey.**

**My most vivid memory of OCS was a morning run, when Captain Smith started to run us around the "Airborne track" a second time and we responded to that challenge with splendid attitude, knowing that we could do it rather easily and bellowing out our own challenge. That, to me, showed what we had been challenged to do, and how all of us had concluded that we could do whatever we decided to do, as individuals and as a group. Powerful stuff, and probably the best gift the Army could have given us. The Army sucked, but it was a pleasure serving with all of you. I will not be attending the reunion. Blessings to you all.**

**Wayne H. Onken / 3d Platoon      Died May 30, 1984 in Slayton MN, his home town    See "In Memoriam" page in this website**