

## **William H. Vermillion / 3d Platoon**

**We are quote retired but working with a non-denominational mission One Mission Society (OMS) in theological education.**

**We live in a senior living place just south of Portland, Oregon in a small town in the Willamette valley. The place is called Hope village in a small but very adequate garden home. Means we are free to travel especially now that our folks are in heaven. However Diana, my wife, of almost 49 years has lupus and several other bone issues so while she travels internationally with me, she stays home usually when I am stateside. And as travel has become more challenging for her, we are moving back to doing less travel after 2017 commitments. At least that is the goal for now.**

**Bill\_vermillion@hotmail.com After traveling and camping in the Southeast for 10 days, I reported to FT Polk LA as training officer. Then orders for Advisor training at Ft Bragg and then on to Vietnamese language school at Ft Bliss and then in June 1970 to Vietnam where I served with MACV, Advisory Team 98, Cong Thang District as an assistant Senior District Advisor until May 1971. I continued in reserves first as a training officer with 104th while going to grad school at the U of W, Seattle and then into Psychops / Civil Affairs when I went to seminary in Portland.**

**After the active duty stint with the Army I went back to the University of Washington and finished my MA and PhD and then felt called/led to seminary and did an MDiv in pastoral counseling. Taught in a seminary and a university, pastored and served in denominational leadership until 2009 with a 3 year stint in Russia serving as a rector at the OMS seminary there (2000-2003).**

**Then in 2009 we came back with OMS to lead a team in theological education with 36 schools scattered around the world. The goal is for all schools to be indigenously owned, operated and staffed. 33 of the 36 are there and working with the other 3 to help that happen. June 2015 I moved out of leadership in that and we focus now on 4-5 schools: Indonesia, Philippines, Brazil and South Korea with a recent time in Nigeria and then involved in stateside denominational schools and one Korean school in LA.**

Washing the rocks, doing PT in combat boots (unlike today's Army), keeping static displays in the foot locker, using glo coat on the toes of the boots, having wet bulb pauses and the honey buns but best of all was graduating.

## **William E. Walles / 3d Platoon**

My wife, Abby, and I just celebrated our fiftieth anniversary (in 2017). I am pastor of New Wine Christian Church in Baytown, Texas, and Abby recently retired after teaching in public education for thirty-three years. We were blessed with two sons and two grandsons.

After O. C. S., I was assigned to Ft. Polk, La. as a training officer. In 1970, I received orders for Vietnam, where I was assigned to Delta Company 5/7, 1st Cav.

At the end of my tour, I returned to Houston and sold rubber and packing products to the oilfield industry. At age thirty-five, I surrendered to the ministry. We have served in Bridgeport, Texas for seven years, and Baytown, Texas for the past twenty-eight years.

My favorite memories of O. C. S. are turning blue and graduating. Even though it was a very difficult time, the leadership skills that I learned in O. C. S. have been invaluable to me throughout my life.

## **Brian R. Walrath / 2d Platoon**

I got married just a few days after graduating from OCS. My wife, Dace, and I are now retired and really enjoying it. We spend most of our time in the summer working in the yard; we've done a lot of landscaping over the years, but today it's mostly just keeping up. I also volunteer once a week at a USO center where we assemble "care packages" for troops in the Middle East. We've done some travelling, mostly in the Western US and to visit several Civil War battlefields. Our biggest adventure was a visit to the Galapagos Islands a few years ago.

My first assignment was at Fort Carson, Colorado, where I was stationed from August 1969 to June 1970. I was assigned to one of the few "straight leg" battalions in the 5th Mechanized Division, first as a platoon leader, then as battalion Property Book Officer (a bewildering job for a newly minted 2nd Lt). In June 1970 I went to Jungle School in Panama (everyone I've ever met who went

there says the same thing: “If they had been shooting at me it would have been worse than Viet Nam.”) Then I was with MACV in Quang Tin Province RVN from July 1970 to May 1971. The first half of my tour I was assigned to a Mobile Advisory Team working with the Regional and Popular Forces. For the last several months I was Assistant Operations Advisor. I got an early out in May 1971. Since the Army I’ve lived in Northeastern Ohio and worked in various positions in the business world, for companies both large and very small, including one start-up. Most of what I did was in Human Resources, primarily in areas related to employment. I spent the last twenty years in the outplacement and career coaching field. I also spent some time along the way working in the Placement Center at Kent State University (where I had gotten my undergraduate degree and, later, my MBA.) It may seem corny after all these years, but for me the high point was when we “turned blue” and received a special ribbon (I can’t recall specifically what it was called, but it was for outstanding performance by the whole company) to put on our guidon. It made me feel that all our hard work had paid off. There are many other memories, mostly funny (at least now) and all stuff that nobody can understand unless they were there. Two shock reveilles (CPT Smith didn’t think one was enough for 50th Co.), one of which I spent crawling up and down the hall inside my sleeping bag cover shouting “I am a worm.” Being poked by the man sitting beside me in class and then poking the guy on the other side so we all would stay awake (assuming the guy at the end of the row who was supposed to start the “ripple” hadn’t nodded off.) Getting two haircuts in one day because some joker said that we could let it grow a little longer. When we were allowed, buying Honey Buns during class breaks and ice cream on the firing ranges – even though we were freezing our rear ends off. At our variety show, a parody of LT Travaline – a helmet liner perched on top of a pair of spit shined boots. Of course, all these memories are subject to the ravages of 46 years. As Mark Twain said: “When I was young, I could remember everything, whether it had happened or not. Now I am old, and I remember only the latter.”

## **Leonard B. Waring / 5th Platoon**

My wife of 53 years, Suzanne, and I have two sons who are engineers and each have families. One lives in Anchorage, Alaska, and the other one lives in

**Bozeman, Montana. Our main recreation has been traveling in our truck and camper to visit family.**

**I hope life has been good to all of you as it has been for me.**

**I won't be attending the reunion in the fall but am interested in reading about the group and hope everyone has a good time and if you are ever in Great Falls, give me a shout.**

**Nearing graduation, I applied for a branch transfer to the Signal Corp. Fellow 50th Co. member, Jeff MacLeod and I went to Fort Gordon, Ga. and then on to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to learn about becoming Signal Corp officers. After that training I was sent to Ft. Riley, Kansas and then on to Nam.**

**Upon arriving in Viet Nam and while waiting for transportation to a unit up North, Jeff MacLeod showed up and told me he had gotten my orders changed and I was to join him at 160th Signal Group headquarters at Long Binh. I figure he saved my life by doing so as it didn't sound good where I was originally supposed to go.**

**I had a maintenance crew including five Vietnamese carpenters. We built and fixed infrastructure projects.**

**Upon returning to the US I went back to teaching in Great Falls. I taught mainly machine shop and welding classes at one of the high schools here until 1993 at which time I went full time with my metalwork shop where I had been doing part time work. I have done and continue to do many different types of metalwork jobs. Probably the greatest percentage of jobs have been custom railings, gates, fences, etc. I also did inspection work for a local engineering firm and have taught welding classes for the local college and several businesses in town.**

**My friends from basic training and AIT, John Fekety, Gary Knight, and Bob Smith joined me on an airplane ride from Fort Ord, California to Fort Benning where we became members of 5th Platoon, 50th Co.**

**It has been interesting to read the articles that have appeared on our computer from 50th Co. grads. I remember reading articles and seeing pictures of the Viet Nam war memorial in Washington DC. I was not impressed. However about 20**

years ago my wife attended a conference in Washington DC and I tagged along. We visited the Vietnam memorial and it was powerful--about made me cry. If you haven't been there, you should go.

## **Donald J. Warkentin / 6th Platoon**

Don died on February 1, 2016. See "In Memoriam" page on this website for obituary

## **Kenneth R. Warner / 4th Platoon**

## **Edward J. Wehner / 6th Platoon**

I have been retired since 2014 and live with, Mary, my wife of 30 years, in Clearwater Beach, FL. Clearwater Beach has been the Trip Advisor's "Beach of the year" for two of the last three years and we aren't leaving.

After graduation I remained at Fort Benning as a TAC officer until receiving orders for Vietnam early July 1970.

Upon arriving in country I was assigned to MACV as a MAT team member in the central highlands between Quin Nhon and Nha Trang(Tuy Hoa).There was an Air Force base not far from our compound which made life easier for us and a little more secure but we spent a lot of time in the field. I had a very good Commander (Major Kyle) and 2 E-7 Sergeants, both on their 2nd tour and lifers. Amazing experience! We also had a totally burned out Captain who was removed from an Army unit and made it harder for me. He was worthless so I got a lot of crap duty but since the area was a little quiet I escaped with no Purple Hearts which I did not want anyway! Thanks to him I did get my CIB and that I did want. The scariest moments for me were the Medivacs because we were required to go on them even though none of our team got seriously wounded. I loved those pilots who risked their lives for ARVN soldiers and seldom complained except for one time when we waited to load one more in the middle of a firefight. He was dead! Boy did I ripped for that and deserved it but I had no idea at the time nor did my Medic. Never happened again! I stayed in the field for 10 months then was sent to a TOC for the duration. That was easy other than night duty but I never slept much anyway. I separated from Army in July 1971 when I landed in Oakland.

**My career was mostly in the wholesale plumbing/heating supply business in Denver. Moved there in 1974 working for a Philadelphia company and started my own company in 1992. Merged with a Minneapolis company in 2004 and retired in 2014. They are still going.**

**Sad to say I do not remember many specific moments of OCS so hearing about them from you guys has been wonderful! I certainly remember how difficult and stressful it was. I have said many times that college was a snap compared to OCS. My Army experience was hard but it still is my proudest achievement. No regrets.**

**I look forward to the next reunion. We got through this together and I thank everybody for that. I am glad to be back.**

**Comas A. Westrich / 5th Platoon**

**James D. Wight / 5th Platoon**

**Lives in Sacramento, CA**

**Robert P. Winship / 6th Platoon**

**I am now retired and live in Etna, Ohio with my wife Lori. I now spend most of my free time on the golf course or working at Winding Hollow Golf Course in New Albany, Ohio. I have won a couple senior club championships and last year won the Tournament of Champions, an invitational consisting of all the private club senior champions in central Ohio. I have three sons, Joel, Matt and Aaron (Lori's son, whom I adopted), and six grandchildren. Joel is a Regional Sales Manager for Orkin, living in Louisville, Ky. Matt is a sergeant in the Covington, Ky., police department. He is also the armorer, weapons instructor and the sniper for their SWAT team. Aaron is a Staff Sergeant in the Army on his third deployment to Afghanistan. He is working as an Intelligence Specialist assigned to a Special Forces unit out of Florida. Lori is a real estate agent with Keller Williams. I can be reached at: [rwinship@columbus.rr.com](mailto:rwinship@columbus.rr.com).**

**After OCS I spent four years in the army, mostly in Germany with the Third Armored Division attaining the rank of Captain, Infantry. I married Therese**

Lussier, and while in Germany, my first son Joel was born. We returned to the states where I was discharged in 1973.

After seven months of job seeking, I was hired by the Internal Revenue Service and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where I started my career as a Revenue Officer in Collections. A couple of years later, we moved to Cincinnati for a promotion. On nights and weekends, I attended Xavier University and earned an MBA in Finance. We had another son, Matthew, and unfortunately a failed marriage. I then moved to Columbus, Ohio, where I met and married my wife Lori. I worked in Columbus as a Collection Manager responsible for a group of Revenue Officers throughout Ohio. At the latter stages of my career, I was assigned as one of three National Lead Instructors tasked with organizing and training a mass hiring of collection personnel across the country. A terrific experience which bore fruit when I was hired after I retired (June 2002) to continue instructing newly hired collection personnel. I did that off and on for about seven years until IRS discontinued hiring.

## **Dennis J. Wolfard / 5th Platoon**

Marti and I have done our best to keep traveling. Our favorite is sailing. We chartered a forty-eight foot catamaran in Raiatea for a week in 2014 with two other couples and just finished another week sailing with friends in St. John in November 2016. We have played bridge with five other couples for the last 30 years and that has morphed into more travel with them. We are headed to Maui with the whole family in March 2017 and off to Myrtle Beach and Columbus GA in October. For those of you with grandchildren you know that we always plan to be in town for the important family events and I wouldn't miss the chance to be with my OCS family in October. See you then!

After graduation, Sandy Carter and I drove our cars out to Colorado Springs. We were devastated to learn we had to live off base in an apartment complex full of beautiful women (I married one of them). Sandy learned a lot as battalion S-2

and I did the same in the brigade S-1 but not as much as during off-duty hours. Snow skiing and hiking in the mountains were our third and fourth favorite things to do. Sandy was always up for the next big excursion. In his words, "Can't dance".

I established a file management system and follow-up system for our office and our message center and I handled all the congressional inquiries. I received an ARCOM for my work at brigade. I got my orders to leave for Vietnam on August 2, 1970. I got married on August 1, 1970. Upon arrival "in country" I learned some Vietnamese phrases and some cultural "no-nos". After that, I was assigned a MACV team in Lac Thien in Dar Lac province with Montagnard tribesmen. In the Central Highlands they had not only bad guys but tigers and elephants. They made our ambush and patrols a lot more interesting. After six months, I was assigned as Deputy Camp Commander at Camp Coryell in Ban Me Thout. I only got four months there before being offered an early out in May 1971. I was awarded a Bronze Star for my service there. I packed so fast I forgot to gather up any memorabilia or pictures. Actually, I don't remember a lot about the trip home. Who knew they would have beer in vending machines at the bases stateside?

After I DEROSSED, my wife and I spent a year in Indiana when she asked' "When does the sun come out?" When she found out all it did was just get light during the day, we came back to Denver, Colorado. I worked as Controller for the Judicial Branch of Colorado State government for eight years, Chief Administrative Officer of the Colorado Department of Agriculture for three years and the State Controller's Office for eighteen years, retiring as the Deputy State Controller in 2001. I have now worked fifteen years at Denver Public Schools in Teacher Compensation. I retired in June 2016. I passed the CPA exam in '78 and the Colorado Bar exam in '83. I have two girls and a boy and two beautiful granddaughters. Marti and I follow them around to their Irish step dancing competitions. In our free time we travel but never back to Vietnam. I don't think that would bring back any pleasant memories.

Building a bar in the day room and decorating it in a nautical theme with burlap and sailor knots. We also made plaques with a Tartan plaid for each room in the 5th platoon with the names of the Scottish clans they represented. We

called our platoon the "Claymore" for the huge sword that always lead the Scots into battle. I remember the Firepower demonstration because I liked the idea of backup. I remember graduation and the disappointment of not getting orders for Ft. Riley or Ft. Bliss where many of my friends were being assigned. I had never heard of Ft. Carson.

I do know that I would never have made it to graduation with my roommate John Fekety. "Finniky" Fekety made sure I finished all my homework when I could hardly think, rolled me out for the morning run when I could hardly stand and re-shined my Cochrans before every inspection because I could never get the hang of a spit shine. Thanks John. I'm sure your attention to detail served you well in your CPA practice.

### **Howard R. Wright, JR / 2d Platoon**

### **Burl D. Wyatt / 3d Platoon**

Now retired and Living in Flemington, NJ.

After a year at Ft. Hood in 2d Armor I was sent to Korea in support areas behind the DMZ. Was Redeye Platoon Leader. Got to liaison with the ROK Army Generals, who we were "supposed" to support with SAM's in case the North Koreans came over the hill.

Back home; married, 2 kids, taught music and was an administrator in public education for 30 years. Now retired.

At night before lights went out, I played song requests on my recorder.x

### **William A. Yacola / 2d Platoon**

My Life Today: My wife Jennifer and I live in Alpharetta, GA.; a suburb 35 miles north of Atlanta. We were married in August; 1972 and have one daughter Catherine born in 1972. I was hired by Dentsply in sales as a Territory Manger in 1972 --- have held various management positions now being the Division Sales Training Manager. Along the way we have lived in several locations in Maryland; a time in Pennsylvania and we moved to Georgia in 1994. This is now home for us.

Stationed at Ft. Carson, Co. (Colorado Springs) after OCS along with a number of our classmates. I was in the only Infantry Battalion. I served as a platoon leader, Recon platoon leader and stint with S3. Then to Vietnam from May, 1970-May, 1971 with MACV. I served in the field with a team of 10.

Once home from Vietnam I was immediately discharged from the Army. After being unemployed for about 6 months I was hired by Dentsply. I am still with them today. Also, in 1972, Jennifer and I were married.

## **Clark S. Yokley / 6th Platoon**

My wife Karen and I live in Ball Ground, GA, about 50 miles north of Atlanta. We have 3 children and 5 grand kids. I retired 5 years ago and stay very busy taking care of my families and attending lots of grand kid sports. The families love my work, I'm pretty cheap, do a fairly good job, and love to help them out.

I, along with Bob Winship and Ron Stryker, volunteered for Germany, thinking we may avoid Vietnam, at least, for a short time. Ron and I were assigned to the same Infantry Battalion with Bob several hours away at another unit and base. After about 6 months in Germany, I was moved to B Company and reporting to Company Commander Ron Stryker. Ron was a pretty darn good commander. Later I was moved to C Company, then S-3 assistant, and eventually became the S-4. Right before I made Captain, I did receive orders for Vietnam, with a reporting date of 12/10/71. 2 to 3 weeks before my departure date, orders were cancelled, talk about a happy guy. However, for whatever reason, old Uncle Sam would not cut me loose until September of '72. I respect all of you guys that did go to Vietnam and thank you and all the brave men and women who served our Country during that time. My career started with Armstrong World Ind. in 1973. After training, my first assignment was in Cincinnati, OH, then to Washington DC, San Francisco, back to Cincinnati, Chicago, and finally on to Atlanta in 1989. Armstrong eventually sold its carpet operations to Shaw Ind. and I spent 9 years with them before going with a large flooring distributor covering the Southeast. I retired in 2011 and have never missed my work career for one minute.

One evening after our dinner meal, we found ourselves down on that activity field, as usual, getting our second round of PT training. The field had a lot of low

areas and when it rained, there were little ponds all around. On this particular day, we had endured the rain and Lt Hook was marching us, probably running us, back to the barracks dodging the ponds. Some crazy, but brave cadet in the 6th platoon decided it would be a good idea to dump the "Hooker" in one of those ponds. All of a sudden, we were all on top of the "Hooker"; he was soaked and totally pissed off. As a result, the "Hooker" had us in a low crawl position for our trip back to the barracks. I don't remember how far it was but I do remember low crawling across a road and past Infantry Hall. Was it worth it? I'd say yes, without a doubt, it showed the 6th platoon was together, one for all and all for one. We knew we were a platoon at that time. But I'd still like to know who was that crazy, brave cadet that came up with the idea!! If you know, let me know, I've wondered for 47 years.

## **David C. Young / 3d Platoon**

Life is good; I am still working in Dallas, since Susie, my wonderful wife of 42 years, still enjoys new sparkling things, and we both enjoy travelling.

Retirement may be in a few years, but we play golf and read now, so what is the rush? Our daughter and son-in-law live in Plano, TX and we live in North Richland Hills, TX, so it is just far enough apart. Our health is still pretty good, so we are truly blessed.

Retired in August 2017.

After OCS, several classmates (Porter, Myers, Pearson, Smith, and Ferguson) and I were assigned to 1/41, 2nd Armored Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. I served as a platoon leader, and later company XO. After 9 months, got orders for Jungle School in Panama, and then to Viet Nam, arriving in country on July 4, 1970. Assigned to a MAT team in Binh Dinh Province in II Corps. We operated out of LZ Orange, near Bong Son. I was very fortunate to have two super senior NCO's on the Team. Our medic was this crazy guy from Texas that carried an AK in the field. Good dude. Our other officer, a captain, appointed himself as the Assistant District Advisor, so did not see him too much.

LZ Orange had a battery of ARVN 105's, so sleep was problematic as they always seemed to have a lot of fire missions. Did a lot of operations with the local RF/PF's, and some joint ops with elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Went

on one op to locate “Salt and Pepper”, reported to be in one of the nearby hamlets, but did not find them. They were the reported Americans travelling with the VC in I Corps.

Seems like LZ Orange always had “incoming”, mostly mortars and rockets. Our kitchen and refrigerator took a direct hit from a 140mm rocket one night. Ate a lot of C-rations after that. Got the “early out” and came back with a lot of classmates in May, 1971. Was a civilian two days later.

After the army, I finished law school, and started working in the title insurance business in Texas. After several years, started my own agency, grew it, and sold my interest years later. Went to work for Stewart Title Company as the Underwriting Counsel in the Dallas office, and have been here for 24 years. Was honored to be elected as President of the Texas Land Title Association in 1988, and have made some good friends all over the State. Had a couple of visits with Stu Ferguson, who was in Albuquerque, and was saddened to hear of his passing in 2014. Since my wife and I enjoy travelling, we made a trip to Vietnam in 2015. Our daughter wanted to come with us, to see what I had seen. I had always thought the coast near Qui Nhon would be good for beach resorts, and now it is a reality! We flew into Danang, and stayed at the Nam Hai Resort, which is fantastic. Had a car and driver take us down Highway 1 past Bong Son, to the old LZ Orange location. It, along with all the other US installations from that era, have been bulldozed. LZ Orange is now the location of one of the many National Cemeteries. Amazing. The roads are now paved, electric lines everywhere, plumbing, and signs in every village for “copying services”! I know my wife and daughter grew tired of hearing me say “Wow, that has changed!” at every corner. The people were friendly, and the resort was amazing. There are even a couple of new golf courses nearby! Flew from Danang to Saigon, had drinks on the roof at the old Rex Hotel, and stared at all the high-rise buildings now in Saigon. An incredible trip. No regrets about going back.

Dimmed somewhat over the years, but I remember “Cooperate and graduate” which worked well for all of us. I still fold my underwear and arrange everything in its proper place. Tried to keep a low profile during OCS. Proud to have been with all these classmates. I do remember Mike Gilpin making it across the stage

with his leg in a cast as a result of Ranger Week. After our bars were pinned on, I had a smile on my face when I introduced Lt. Cross, my TAC officer, as "Bobby". He loved it

## **James G. Zack, JR / 2d Platoon**

I live with my wife of 44 years in Johnstown, CO where I am still employed as the Executive Director of the Navigant Construction Forum™, a construction industry think tank specializing in dispute avoidance and dispute resolution on construction contracts globally.

After graduation from OCS I was assigned to a Mechanized Infantry Battalion in the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, TX. I attended the Jungle Warfare School in the Panama Canal Zone and was sent to Viet Nam in late December 1969. I was assigned as a Platoon Leader in H Troop, 17th Armored Cavalry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. I stayed in this assignment for 6 months and then transferred to 5/46 Infantry as a Platoon Leader and later Company Commander. I DEROSSED in January 1971 and was sent to Fort Jackson, SC as a Company Commander of a basic training company, B-1-1 where I served until January 1972 when I left the Army during one of the first RIFs.

My first civilian job after the Army was with the South Carolina Pollution Control Authority which was later merged into the new South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in Columbia, SC. I served as the Director, Budgets and Grants Administration Division for some 7 years. Also attended night school at the University of South Carolina and received a Masters of Public Administration. In 1978 I signed on with an engineering and construction management firm, CH2M HILL and was transferred to Milwaukee, WI where I worked until 1986 and was transferred to Santa Ana, CA. I worked on numerous projects dealing with disputed issues such as changes, delays, differing site conditions, etc. and became a testifying expert in schedule delay and loss of productivity damages. In 1995 I left CH2M to help found a claims consulting firm, PinnacleOne, where I stayed as a partner until the end of 2000. In early 2001 I joined Fluor Corporation, a global engineering and construction firm, as the Executive Director of the Corporate Claims Management Group. In my entire career of working on claims and construction disputes I have worked in 27 countries outside the US and nearly half of the States inside. I retired in mid-

2010 but after four or so months got tired of retirement so I joined Navigant Consulting as the Executive Director of the Navigant Construction Forum.™ Graduation day when my widowed mother pinned my father's 2nd Lieutenant bars on me -- bars he had earned in a field promotion while serving in the USAAF in the South Pacific during World War II.

**William P. Zelenka**

**Lin A. Zimmerman / 5th Platoon**

My wife Patricia and I are healthy and happy and retired in Wilsonville, Oregon. After thirty seven years of marriage, my first wife Kathy passed away from the effects of ovarian cancer. I remarried to Patricia, who I have known since the fifth grade. We enjoy traveling, playing golf, and spending time at our second home on the Washougal River in the Columbia River Gorge. I enjoy building projects, having remodeled a beach house and our second home.

After OCS: I along with several others went to Ft. Carson-5th ID-Mech. Initially, I worked as platoon leader, motor officer, mess, officer, and held various other jobs. I arrived on a Friday at my company along with Steve Layton. The CO-Robert Vaughn (arrived on the preceding Monday) and XO-Dennis Weaver (arrived on Wednesday) told us we were doing a recon Saturday and would leave on Monday for a two week FTX. My platoon sergeant was on leave. A great start! Later, I was assigned to a 60-day temporary duty as a lay trial counsel. I represented defendants in special court martials. After OJT of about five weeks, I was assigned as a prosecutor. Returning to my battalion, I was assigned the extra duty of battalion legal officer, prosecuting various offenses. I spent the last ten months on active duty as a special prosecutor for a special processing detachment. I should mention I had absolutely no legal training before these assignments. I left active duty in June 1971.

I returned to Oregon, enrolled in summer school, and found out I had been accepted to law school the same day classes started. Apparently, my early out made it hard for the law school to track me down. While enrolling, I found out classes started that evening. There were reading assignments I had not done. The Dean taught my first class. Another great start. After working driving for UPS, security work, I worked as a court bailiff, escorting defendants from jail to

the courtroom and back. Eventually, a judge asked me to be his law clerk. I worked during the day and attended law school at night. It took four years to earn a law degree. I met my first wife Kathy, a probation officer. We were married in 1972. She was the first female probation officer hired in the District of Oregon (Federal level). She retired as the Deputy Chief. We raised two sons. My oldest lives in Ft. Myers, FL and teaches high school English. My youngest spent five years with the 3rd ID, two deployments to Iraq and was seriously injured working as a contractor in the Middle East. He is now recovering. I entered practice in 1975, doing general litigation for a small partnership. One of the partners was a retired O6, who told me to get into the reserves since it paid better than the partnership. I joined a civil affairs group, later joined a civil affairs brigade, and then switched to psychological operations, serving as the FA Team leader (the operations center) and then company commander. I had the opportunity to go overseas many times in support of active duty units. I went on to teach command and general staff, cas-cube (which teaches line officers how to speak in public and deal with the press), and then held various staff positions retiring in 1996 as a lieutenant colonel. As a lawyer, I spent most of my career defending employers and insurance companies in contested workers compensation cases.

## **Gary A. Zittlow / 1st Platoon**

Works for NY Life in St. Cloud, MN. Member of OC 24-69 Facebook

Some of you might remember that that two weeks prior to graduation our Company got a levy for two branch transfers from our class, one for armor and one for AG. Captain Smith announced that if anyone felt they deserved a branch transfer to either one of these branches they should submit an "essay" as to why (fancy that). I submitted one to get a transfer to Armor and I got it. So from Benning I went to Ft. Knox, for Armor Officer Basic. When the class started it was made up of the "69 West Point grads that got Armor Branch so my classmates were kind of impressed that I went to OCS. We had a great group of guys and got treated pretty well (maybe because of the West Point connection.) My first posting after AOB was as XO of Headquarters Co, Garrison at Ft Campbell, KY. Then I went to Korea (I think Armor kept me out of Vietnam). I was assigned as XO Headquarters Troop of the 2/10th Cav, "The Buffalo

**Soldiers", 7th Division at Camp Keiser. When the Squadron was deactivated I went to the 2d Division and got my dream job, Tank Platoon Leader in the 2d of the 72d Armor. We rotated up to the DMZ every 2 weeks, so it was nice getting combat pay and not getting shot at. I have often wondered how my career would have evolved if I would have stayed in the Army because of going through AOB with the West Pointers. I understood that as officers you move through your career with your officer basic class. I really considered going Volunteer Indefinite but frankly I didn't want to push my luck and go to Vietnam.**