

William (Bill) H. Adams / 1st Platoon

1. My lovely wife Judy of 50 years (good grief!) and I are happily retired and living in Lakeville, Minnesota, about 20 miles south of the Twin Cities. I stay busy golfing, hunting, fishing and trying to manage my extensive list of “honey dos.” Judy and I have three daughters and six grandkids who make our lives especially fun.

2. After OCS it seemed likely that most of us would end up in Nam, so when we had the opportunity to go voluntary indefinite and get our choice of first duty station, I jumped on it. Judy and I drove from my parents’ home in Tallahassee to my first assignment at Ft. Richardson, Alaska. I was assigned platoon leader of the recon platoon, Company E, 5/23 Inf., 172nd Inf. Brigade. And then I was assigned at my request to the 172 Support Bn of the same unit. After almost two years in Alaska, the President began the Vietnam drawdown and I ended up in Korea, where I was assigned to the 1/32 Inf., 2nd Infantry Division until my separation from the Army in May '72.

3. What did I do after the Army? Looking back, if I don't laugh I at least smile. Not knowing exactly what I wanted, I returned to school. I attended a junior college in southern Colorado and got an Associate of Applied Science in Gunsmithing. I have never used that commercially, but being in school allowed me to work at night for a newly opened UPS office. I became the student night sort supervisor. When I finished school UPS picked me up as a driver. I drove big rigs over the road about 400 miles every day. It was the most fun I've had working. The demands of family life (by this time, we had three kids) drew us to Minnesota. I had taken the Federal Civil Service test and got a job with the Immigration & Naturalization Service. Over the next 28 years or so, starting as an Immigration Inspector on the border with Canada and rising through the ranks, I retired post 9/11 from the Department of Homeland Security (into which INS had been absorbed) as interim District Director of the St. Paul office of Citizenship and Immigration Services. I'm not sure it was a career, but it wasn't bad for a job. I'm proud of the work I've done and hope it helped further the county's interests.

4. Favorite memory of OCS? You have to be kidding! Cooperate and graduate. I was married for almost two years when my wife dropped me off at OCS. It was a family affair for us. Judy took up residence off base and within a week or so was hauling laundry for all but two of us in the 1st platoon. Some dropped off her list as wives later showed up, but she stayed busy, so it worked out for everyone. Other memories: during a field exercise I got a thorn in my elbow and it swelled to about twice its normal size; I suffered hearing damage on the 90 mm “Reckless Rifle” range; and I was pulled from the oath ceremony at graduation and was administered the oath by my father, a retired RA officer. Now that was special! I remember both how long OCS was and how quickly it went. I remember everything and I remember nothing. It seemed like a blur. Thank God for good platoon Sergeants!

Gary W. Aeschilman / 1st Platoon

Despite our best efforts we have been unable to locate Gary (Jim Fields, 2017).

Bernard (Bernie) W. Alquire JR / 4th Platoon

(As told to Brian Flora)

1. Bernie and his second wife Judy (his first wife passed away of cancer twelve years ago) are happily retired in Phoenix, Arizona. His daughter lives nearby. He used to be very active in the martial arts (six black belts) and in sky diving (1,500 jumps between his military and his civilian hobby jumps), but he has slowed down lately because of back and joint problems. He still does martial arts, though (as a spectator and judge). He and Judy are hoping to make it to the reunion and look forward to seeing everyone.

2. After OCS he went to Airborne and Jungle Schools before heading over to Vietnam.

There he served with MACV in a hush-hush Special Operations Group based in I Corps. He picked up a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He got out when he returned to CONUS.

3. However, he joined the Army Reserves in Arizona, first with a Military Intelligence unit and then with a Special Forces unit, and stayed in for another 24 years. Between overseas deployments to Panama and El Salvador, he worked as an Arizona police officer in various capacities. He retired from the Reserves in 1994 as an LTC, but after 9/11 he felt compelled to "do something" and served as a DOD contractor in Germany with a unit that provided military intelligence support for Desert Storm, and then in Kosovo in support of the UN peace-keeping mission there.

4. Memories of OCS? Repeatedly nodding off at his desk while trying to do the study assignments at night; the endless laps around the Airborne track; and Captain Smith's pledge to break the Post's PT record, "which dang near killed us all."

Robert L. Arnold / 2d Platoon

Despite our best efforts we have been unable to locate Bob. (Peter Nowlan, June 2016)

Richard W. Bardsley JR / 1st Platoon

1. I am now completely retired after 20 years in the Army (I retired as a Regular Army Major); 20 years with the State of Colorado Emergency Management Agency; and eight years with FEMA's Region VIII Public Assistance Office. Alice and I have been married for 40 years, with one son who graduated from West Point, served five years in the Army with tours to the Middle East and Africa, and then joined the FBI as a special agent. We are living in Colorado.

2. After OCS I was assigned to Ft. Carson for nine months and then to Vietnam by way of the Army Jungle School in Panama. I served with the 1st Cavalry Division as a line platoon leader, a recon platoon leader, a company XO, and then commanded the Battalion HQ Company for two months before returning to Ft. Carson for 2 and 1/2 years. I was a company XO, then company commander for a year, and a battalion staff officer for a little over a year before returning to Ft. Benning for the Infantry Officer Career Course. After the career course, I was approved for the educational “bootstrap” program and got one year at the University of Albuquerque where I received a degree in Business Administration and Management, graduating with a 4.0+ GPA. I was then assigned to 1st Army HQ in Ft. Meade, Maryland; Ft. Richardson, Alaska; and finally to the Army Training Board at Ft. Eustis, Virginia. I retired from the Army in June 1983 and returned to Colorado.

3. After the Army, I worked one year for the Jefferson County Colorado Sheriff's Department in charge of their recruiting program. Then I went to work with the Colorado Emergency Management Agency. There I was a senior operations officer, communications and warning officer, state training officer, chaired a Governor's commission on hazardous materials planning, and was the FCC appointed co-chair for the state emergency communications committee. I retired after 20 years and went to work with FEMA Region VIII as a public assistance officer assigned to help states recover from declared disasters. I retired after eight years at FEMA and am finally completely retired and enjoying the easy life.

4. OCS? I have a couple of memories that stand out. First, I remember enjoying pissing off CPT Smith as much as possible, including asking if his Purple Heart was from friendly fire. The second was when the entire company fell out with subdued combat belts and buckles so we didn't have shine the brass buckle. The 3rd was when we got a new TAC officer who we “warmly greeted” by moving his entire office to the roof.

James H. Bauer / 1st Platoon

Jim was located in November, 2016. He does not care to participate in the 50th Company's effort to reconnect. (Paul Kochis)

Kenneth R. Beatty / 2d Platoon

1. My wife, Katie, of forty-seven years, and I live in Lyman, South Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We have only been here for two years. We moved from New Mexico, where we had lived for nearly forty years. My youngest brother has an investment business here and my father was here until his death last May. We spend our days gardening and volunteering at the local food bank, Ronald McDonald House, the Humane Society, and I tutor for Spartanburg Community College. I am a retired teacher and school administrator. We enjoy visiting our oldest son, an economist, and his wife in Maryland and our second daughter, a psychologist, in

Houston. We also like to explore the small towns and historical sites of this part of the country. We visit frequently by phone and e-mail and correspond by mail with our eight grandchildren and five children.

2. After graduating from OCS, I was assigned as a platoon leader to a mechanized infantry unit at Fort Riley, Kansas. I enjoyed the training, learning how to listen and observe as well as to lead. I had a battle-experienced platoon NCO who was a great example of strong, quiet leadership. For over a month of this tour, I was detailed to a special processing unit as a defense council in special court-martials; all the defendants were AWOLs. While at Ft. Riley, I fell in love with Katie, then a student at Kansas State, and we were engaged. It was the best decision of my life! In May, I received my orders for Jungle School and Vietnam. I was assigned as a platoon leader to the Ninth Division in the Mekong Delta near the Vam Co Dong River from which we operated. We were usually inserted by boat, but sometimes by air as well. After three months the Ninth stood down and I was reassigned to the 3rd Brigade of the 101st. There I was assigned to Camp Evans as the Adjutant until a Captain was found and I became the Assistant

Adjutant. In the spring of 1971 I had the privilege of serving as Adjutant in the Forward CP (Camp Anne) near the DMZ during the Lam Som 709 operation. There, I happily found an OCS and Riley pal, Gordan Greta, who was serving with MACV. To this day, I miss the challenges and the people I was honored to know in the third Brigade. After Vietnam, I was assigned to Fort Ord, California, and received a branch transfer to the Adjutant General Corps. I was head of a trainee processing unit and subsequently was promoted to Captain and made the post re-up officer. After three years, I yearned for academia so Katie and I and our two-year-old Beth left active duty for my home state of Michigan, where I transferred to the HQ of the Michigan National Guard. My most interesting assignment there was as Equal Opportunity Officer. After three years, I resigned.

3. In Michigan, I used money from the GI Bill (and part-time work with the National

Guard, English Journal, and a teaching assistantship) to attend graduate school at Michigan State University where I studied English Education with an emphasis in psycholinguistics and language learning. I completed an MA and the course work for a PhD. By then we had three children and needed regular work. I took a position on the Dinetah (Navajo Reservation) in Arizona, at Dine (Navajo) Community College as an instructor. From there, I took a position as a Federal Projects Coordinator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the Chinle Agency of the Navajo Nation. We remained in the Four Corners Area for nearly forty years. For nine of them, we lived and worked on the Dinetah, where our fourth child, a boy, was born. Over the years I also worked as teacher and school administrator. We fully retired in 2006.

4. A favorite memory of OCS was the morning reveille, where units would come together in the shadows of early morning, singing (amazingly!) in perfect unison and two-part harmony. It was emotionally and morally energizing. I remember arriving at OCS a day early and having a surprised candidate advise me to leave and enjoy what freedom I had left.

Craig E. Biggs / 5th Platoon

1. I am happily retired, playing golf, reading a lot, and staying active in the local Lions Club. Alana still puts up with me after 50 years. We have two children, four grandkids, and one great grandson. We are living in Wimberley, Texas. One of these days I'll write the story of how we wound up here; it has a 50th Company OCS link.

2. I actually ended up staying at Benning after graduation, of all things, as a TAC officer! [*Editor's Note: See his account of this in Part Three, Section Three, "Stateside Duty."*] After TAC duty at Benning, I was off to 4.2 Mortar Platoon Leader School where we trained with mortars manufactured by the Whirlpool Corporation using ammo dated 1943! Then it was off to Nam where I served as an advisor in Phong Diem province in IV

Corps. I started on a MAT, then became the PSDF advisor (males under 18 and over 55). We popped one ambush in which our PSDF crew killed one water buffalo and wounded the village chief from a nearby village. My debrief with the Colonel was a performance to behold. I then ended my tour as the advisor to PRU (Provincial Reconnaissance Unit, all Chieu Hoi [VC defector] volunteers). They were some of the toughest, meanest people I have ever been around. They rivaled the Korean soldiers. Part of that job seconded me to the lovely boys with the black choppers, no insignias, and permanently affixed sunglasses. It was an experience to forget, if only I could. I then headed back to the "real world" after telling COL Van Hout, "No sir, I'm afraid I won't be here for you to pin on my captain's bars."

3. After the army I spent seven years in commercial banking, followed by 35 years in the electronics industry.

4. The OCS memories are coming back to me after reading everyone else's comments. I have noted that I figure in a couple of them, for which I am honored. I am the "point man" who went over the cliff on the night Ranger Exercise march, and I am the infamous acting Company Commander who gave the infamous right face command before right shoulder arms resulting in 165 butt plates striking the ground and LT Sullivan giving me the ultimate eye roll. My personal experience, like many of us, involves our beloved CPT Smith. When I requested time to go the base hospital to see my just-born son, he said the Army had all kinds of doctors and nurses who were more

than capable of taking care of both of them. LT Sullivan snuck me out to the hospital the next night. What a guy!

Larry W. Blum / 2d Platoon

Gary J. Bottoms / 6th Platoon

Herman S. Bowden / 1st Platoon

(As recounted to Brian Flora)

1. I am happily retired and living with my lovely wife of almost fifty years in Rochelle in southwestern Georgia where I grew up. Barbara Sue and I have two children, a son Will in Texas, and a daughter Tanya who lives in Arkansas with her husband and our grandchildren.
2. Three days before graduation I was sent to panel with two other members of the company. They were "recycled" into other companies. I was turned out of the OCS program, which left me hugely disappointed, bitter even. The resentment has remained with me all my life. I needed my Commission to fulfill my dream of Flight School, for which I had already qualified. After 30 days of leave (the most they would allow me), I was on a plane to Vietnam. I had a Signals MOS, so I wound up doing my year up north with the 37th Signal Battalion out of Danang.
3. I came back to CONUS in September 1970, received an early out, and returned to my home state of Georgia. I started working for the Georgia Road Railroad (now part of the CSX Transportation system), worked my way up the ladder, and spent my last twenty years as an engineer.
4. My last minute paneling-out experience was a bitter pill for me to swallow and still leaves me with a bad taste. But I remember many of the wonderful comrades in the company. The bonds we forged through hardship and common experiences really meant a lot to me. My most vivid memory was the stream-crossing drill where pairs of us had to build a raft out of two tree branches, our boots, and our ponchos to ferry our clothes and equipment across some creek. We stripped down to our u-trou, loaded up, and waded through the chest-deep water to the other side. Fine in August, but this must have been February because the temperature was 38 degrees.

Bruce F. Braden / 3d Platoon

1. I'm living in Kentfield, California (Marin County, north of San Francisco). I am still active in the oil and gas business. In addition, I currently serve on the board of trustees of Golden Gate University (where I got my MBA in tax and which now has the Bruce F. Braden School of Taxation) and the Marin General Hospital Foundation (which now operates the Braden Diabetes Center, started with my endocrinologist). I also chair their investment and finance committees. I am a trustee and President of the Smuin Ballet, a ballet company based in San Francisco. I am also active at

Stanford University through the Braden Stanford Storytelling Fund. So I'm keeping busy. In my free time I enjoy golf and fly fishing, which is what I'll be doing during the 50th Company reunion. These are long standing trips scheduled with the same guys for years: Golf in Austin, Texas and fly fishing in Idaho. I also got engaged to Cindy Mercer in January. (This will be my third try, but I figure you should keep trying until you get it right.)

2. After OCS, from which I graduated as a signal officer, my trajectory was to Ft. Gordon, Ft. Sill, Ft. Riley and then off to Vietnam. In Vietnam I was assigned to Headquarters Company of the First Signal Group. I spent some six months or so (can't remember) in a major's slot primarily managing and "visiting" our 14-16 sites. (I can't really remember them all, although I do remember Chi Lang) in the III and IV Corps areas. I was replaced by a captain and informed that it wouldn't look right for a captain to report to a LT. So I continued doing pretty much the same job, and the new captain, as I recall, primarily chain-smoked Camels and used language not entirely consistent with those of us who went to OCS.

3. After the Army I worked as a tax accountant for twelve years, ending up as a tax partner at Grant Thornton. In 1985 I resigned, took some time off, and got into the oil & gas business. The timing was not particularly good. I have, so far, co-founded and sold three E&P (energy and production) companies and one service company. I currently have two active E&P companies. The latest I started in January 2017. I also have one service company. They are located in Ft. Worth, Texas.

4. Memories of OCS? My best is graduating and leaving Ft. Benning (after spending hours trying to get the rifle assigned to us clean enough). And I remember putting on a Mickey Mouse watch with a red wrist band, which I was allowed to wear, provided I did the requisite number of push-ups every evening in study hall. I recall that Bardsley tried the same thing, but apparently the quota was only one Mickey Mouse watch per company.

William (Bob) R. Brown / 4th Platoon

1. I'm still resisting retirement. I have a CFO practice for companies without a corporate financial officer. I married above my pay grade, and Evelyn has been my joy for over 40 years. We have two sons who attended the US Military Academy at West Point and served courageously in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are now out, and we have four grandchildren. I'm engaged in our church and encouraging working men to live out their lives faithfully to Jesus Christ in the marketplace. Evelyn and I will launch with a cruise from Sydney, Australia this April and will enjoy the South Pacific Islands for a few weeks. See you in October, God willing.

2. Graduating from OCS at noon, I reported in immediately at Ft. Benning's Airborne School. Thanks to Captain Smith and his emphasis on running and PT, the morning runs and other physical demands of Airborne School were no problem for me. I had a

"blast." After Special Forces training, I received orders for an A-Team with the 10th Special Forces Group at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. Covered with snow from skiing and mountain training, the US Army thought I was ready for the Southeast Asian jungles, but I didn't. So I wrangled a couple of schools learning Vietnamese and attending the Jungle Warfare School in Panama. Then it was onto Vietnam for back-to-back tours with the Special Forces. [*Editor's Note: for a description of Bob's assignment see Part Three, Section Five, "Vignettes from Vietnam."*] After this I served on a general's staff in Europe. I left the Army as a Captain after five years and one day.

3. After leaving the Army (with no assimilation into normal society like today's Army), I graduated from Florida State University using the GI Bill. I began employment with PricewaterhouseCoopers as a CPA. From public accounting, I made a career move to corporate finance, eventually serving as the Chief Financial Officer for a couple of companies.

4. OCS? I don't know if I could have performed any better than I did there. I was a country boy from a poor family without a lot of social skills, but I was just determined to make it. I wrestled with the era's tumult – dealing with the whole Simon and Garfunkel stuff and the sounds of our rebellious generation's attempt to piece life and a senseless war together with resentful, bitter silence – and also not so silently. Knowing no one, I heartily embraced 50th Company's camaraderie. As I review the Blue Book I remember that we had a good Platoon with good guys. That's my memory. I enjoy hearing from guys who have stories to tell; they're all great. "50th Company, Second to None. One for All, All for One."

Douglas (Doug) Cannon/ 6th Platoon

1. My wife Sally and I are now retired and living in Kaysville, Utah. We have been here for the past thirty-seven years. We have five kids, four boys and one girl, 18 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Our time is spent being with them and their activities, and doing some traveling. Crazy as it sounds, after retirement we bought a second home in Mesquite, Nevada and spend as much time there as we can. It is a great year-round golf mecca. Last year our lives changed as our oldest son's wife passed away. She was only 39. He lives with us now along with his 13 year-old son. We do carpooling and homework all over again. We have been blessed to be able to help as needed. Retirement has multiple meanings.

2. After OCS I was sent to Fort Hood, Texas. I got married during this time period. I was assigned to oversee the sports programs for the battalion or brigade (I can't remember which). It was a lot of fun. Rarely did I have to stay out in the field

overnight. I was hoping I could do this for the remainder of my service time, but this was obviously not to be. Like most of us I received orders to Viet Nam. I reported in July 1970, and was assigned to a MAT southwest of DaNang in a place called Dien Ban. We were a very active MAT, with ambushes set up almost nightly. Sometimes the VC got caught in them and sometimes we did. Our support from the TOC (Tactical Operations Center) was limited. The area was heavily mined, so we had more casualties from mines than actual exchanges of gunfire. On April 2, 1971 our RF unit went on an operation near Hue. It was a daytime op, unlike the usual nighttime ops. We were after an NVA platoon. One of my sergeants was with me. I was seriously wounded in the chest by a sniper. After spending time at the DaNang hospital, and then at Clarke Air Force Base in the Philippines, I was flown to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver, Colorado. Two months after being shot, I was declared physically fit to go back on active duty, but I could hardly climb a flight of stairs. At that time I was given an option to get out and I took it. Today, I am okay and able to do most things.

3. My career path was in public education. I earned a Master's in English and an Education Specialist degree in secondary administration. I spent 15 years teaching junior high and high school English and 19 years as a school administrator. My wife was a junior high counselor but not at the same school. I retired in 2006 and Sally six years later.

4. My OCS memories have mostly faded away. Perhaps I just allowed that to happen. On one occasion, we were wallowing our way through the swamp waters, watching the snakes swim by. I was assigned to carry the radio. My back started breaking out in hives and could hardly stand to carry it. Someone in my 6th Platoon took over and carried that for me. I do not remember who it was but I am still grateful for that moment. On another occasion, after the softball season was over, we were marched to the playing field for a competitive game with the cadre. However, since I was the pitcher, Captain Smith thought it would be appropriate for me to carry a bat held high above my head for the however many mile march to the field. I started with the bat above my head but soon the bat was being passed among fellow members of my platoon. The bat was never lowered and always visible to the Captain. The crowning moment was then crushing the cadre in the game. And they thought they could beat an undefeated team!

Wilton (Sandy) E. Carter JR / 5th Platoon

1. I'm retired and now living now in Hickory, North Carolina with my wife Barbara. We had lived for over 35 years in Charlotte, North Carolina where my three children were born. We picked Hickory because the cost of living is much lower than Charlotte. There is less traffic and congestion and it is a central location for the children and grandchildren. We are active in our local St Albans Church and participate in a lot of volunteer work for the church as well as local charities. We live on a golf course which has allowed me to renew that sport. I play with an old-fart group about my age. My

handicap is about 16-18, but somewhat better than five years ago. I have also joined the American Legion Post 544 in Hickory and am assistant adjutant as well as member of the post Honor Guard. The WWII M1 Garand we use for the Honor Guard is about twice as heavy as the M16 we carried in Vietnam.

2. After OCS in August 1969 I was assigned to Ft. Carson, CO, as were a number of others from 50th Company. My roommate there was Dennis Wolfard. On the way from North Carolina to Colorado I visited Dennis O'Brien and Cos Westrich. At Carson I was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division until about February 1970, and then went to Ft. Bragg for Vietnamese language school prior to being assigned to MACV in South Vietnam. I left for Vietnam in May 1970, about two weeks after the Kent State protests and shootings. Everyone was protesting the US incursion into Cambodia aimed at destroying the NVA supply depots. (One point about that incursion into Cambodia in May 1970 that needs mentioning is that there were no more major offensives by the NVA for about 22-months, until the Battle of Kontum in March 1972.) I was assigned to a MAT team in the Central Highlands that advised forces protecting the Montagnard villages in the area. [*Editor's Note: for Sandy's account of this assignment please see Part Three, Section Five, "Vignettes from Vietnam."*] I left Vietnam in May 1971 and was discharged at Oakland on return to the U.S.

3. I returned to North Carolina and resumed work in the textile industry in the southeastern United States, working for a manufacturer of textiles, a fiber producer, and lastly with a German company in Charlotte that made capital machinery for the textile mills. I stayed with them selling equipment in the US from 1973 until 2007. It gave me the opportunity to travel to Europe with customers at trade shows as well as trade shows in Japan and Hong Kong. The US textile industry was hit by imports from the Far East and from NAFTA competition and 50-60% of the industry had disappeared by 2010.

4. Ah yes, OCS at Fort Benning. Memories include low-crawling 50-yards on the fields near barracks where the TAC officer would make you return to the starting point if you raised your backside off the ground just a little. This little exercise got a few to drop out. I remember marches at night in areas near Fort Benning where on one occasion one of the point men fell about 12-14 feet into a ravine that could not be seen in the darkness. There were the wake-up calls at 3:00 AM with the TAC officers yelling and screaming at us to get out of bed and get dressed for duty, immediately! This got some to drop out; it's now called hazing by the PC crowd. The chin-ups at the entrance to the mess hall were probably a good idea, and still are, but the years have taken a toll on my bicep strength. Lastly, I remember spending a night at Martin Army Hospital on July 20, 1969 after injuring my right calf during a night mission to Upatoi Creek. One consolation is that I got to watch Neal Armstrong land on the moon from the TV in the hospital ward that day.

Gordon W. Cho / 4th Platoon

Donald C. Cramer / 3d Platoon

1. Sharron, my wife of 47 years, and I are currently retired and living in Edmonds, Washington, a northern suburb of Seattle. We have two adult sons both living in the Seattle area and two grandchildren, identical 26-month-old twin girls. My main recreational activity is long-distance bike riding where I usually average 50-75 miles per week.

2. I left Ft. Benning and was assigned to Ft. Lewis, Washington, which was near my Seattle home. The Army assigned me to the Reception Station where I supervised a bunch of clerk typists preparing military records for incoming troops. I got married approximately four months after leaving Ft. Benning. I received orders for Vietnam in the summer of 1970 where I served as infantry platoon leader in the 4/3 Battalion of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade that was assigned to the Americal Division. We were "up country" opposite the Laotian/Cambodian border at Chu Lai and Duc Pho. I became the Company Commander after four months when my company commander was injured. Two days later I took a grenade blast in my left shoulder and had a night Medevac. I was eventually flown across the Pacific on a stretcher and sent to Madigan Army Hospital at Ft. Lewis for surgery and rehab. When I arrived at Ft. Lewis, I had malaria. I was at Madigan for five months. I turned down a medical discharge and went back on active duty with my old Ft. Lewis unit, receiving an Honorable Discharge two months later. The Army graciously moved my wife and me down to Eugene, Oregon for the next chapter in my life.

3. I had been at the University of Oregon Law School in Eugene prior to joining the Army. I returned to law school in the fall of 1971, graduated in 1973, and returned to the Seattle area. I passed the Washington State Bar exam and then worked at a big downtown Seattle law firm for four years. I then worked at a small electronics company as General Counsel. I left that job about 18 months later to become General Counsel for a fiberglass boat builder based in Arlington, Washington called Bayliner Marine. I stayed with Bayliner for 22 years during which time the company was purchased by the Brunswick Corporation. I travelled extensively, doing mostly litigation defense. I left Bayliner in 2000 and eventually retired.

4. My memories of OCS are both good and bad. I remember the many early morning laps around the Airborne track, and when we did push-ups some of the tar on the track stuck to our hands. We then returned to the barracks to "break starch" for the day. I remember that we were required to frame a picture of our girlfriend in our room at the barracks, which I did. My roommate, Gary Foster, framed a picture of a Cocker Spaniel dog that I think he cut out of a magazine. Harassing upper-classmen saw the framed dog picture and made Gary do extra push-ups.

Frank E. Coy / 3d Platoon

John P. Curley / 3d Platoon

Scott O. Davis / 5th Platoon

1. I retired for the first time in 1999 after a career as Chief Financial Officer for a number of successful startup companies here in California. After too many leisure activities I supplemented my time by consulting/investing in small companies which kept me busy on a part-time basis. I have been married to my wife Liz for 38 years and have a son Sean and a grandson Connor, all good Irish names. We live at the beach in Laguna in the same neighborhood I grew up in. When not working part time, I have generally stayed active playing golf, hiking, skiing, mountain biking, and surfing. I didn't start surfing until I was 55, but it has turned into a passion. There are three of us in our seventies who go out every weekend. We have also surfed together in exotic places around the world.

2. The day we graduated, timing seemed to be on my side. I remember some personnel officer approaching me and asking if I wanted to attend any schools before going to my next duty assignment. He offered Psyop training, which was big in Vietnam at the time. Then he said that if I signed up for Voluntary Indefinite Status (they could keep me for as long as they needed), they would send me to Germany for a year before going the Vietnam. I figured the war had to be over some day, so off I went to Fort Bragg for seven months of school, then on to Germany with onward orders to Berlin. Not having traveled much, I asked "where's Berlin?" There I was assigned as a platoon leader in the infantry battalion where we were defending (tongue in cheek) the Eastern Front against the Red Army. Over time I worked my way up to Brigade HQ as a Captain in G3 Training. I saw most of my friends who took the same route go off to Vietnam after a year. I kept waiting for my orders but none came. Finally after 2 years, as Vietnam was drawing down, they announced a RIF and asked all officers who wanted an early out to submit paperwork. I was back in the US in March, 1972.

3. I returned to graduate school at UCLA to finish my MBA, which had been interrupted when I had to join the army. I worked for a public accounting firm to get my CPA and then went to work for a number of technology companies, working my way up the finance ranks. I ultimately became Chief Financial Officer in a number of private and public companies.

4. A number of OCS memories come to mind: Having to keep from smiling when your TAC officer was screaming at you, three inches from your face. It was hard not for me to laugh, and it cost me a lot of pushups. And then there was the Company detail to wash all the rocks in the drainage ditches around the building with our toothbrushes; the Blue Mondays; company PT where the only way to get through was to stop when the TAC officers weren't looking; the Airborne track at 5:00 AM; and finally, the Gold Club and our first drink.

Dean A Derthick / 6th Platoon - Deceased

Dean passed away on October 13, 1974 in Salem, Oregon. No obituary has been found.

David A. Doe / 1st Platoon

1. My wife Peggy and I live in Westfield, Massachusetts. I've been a biology professor at Westfield State University since 1979 and am not sure when I'll retire. I am the chairman of the city's Conservation Commission and prior to that I was elected to the School Committee for 12 years (1992-2004). My wife and I have two lovely daughters, both successful businesswomen. After hearing all the horror stories about the VA, I have been pleasantly surprised dealing with them for the past few years concerning an Agent Orange related disorder.

2. After OCS Frank Doherty and I were assigned to Ft. Knox, Kentucky. I still remember the Personnel Officer telling us, "You're not Armor, what are you doing here?" I was assigned to the Committee Group, the unit that ran all of the Basic Training ranges. I was in charge of two rifle ranges; each day a training company would use one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Junior officers also served as the Officer of the Day for the entire post, and I remember feeling a bit strange posting armed sentries at the road leading up to the Gold Depository. I returned to Ft. Benning for Airborne School and reconnected with Mike Thornton, Ken Knudsen and Jim DuPont. It was great seeing friendly faces again. We jumped out of C130 prop planes and C141 jets. It was quite different coming out of the door in the two plane types. I was first in the door once and it was quite a sight seeing the drop zone coming into view and knowing the instructor sergeant standing next me was going to make sure I exited the plane as soon as the green light came on. I also went to Jungle School in Panama with Ken, Jim and Mike. We spent an interesting weekend taking a train that parallels the canal to Panama City on the Pacific side. I lived in the Canal Zone when my father was an Army doctor at the Ft. Clayton and Gorgas Hospitals from 1948-1950, and I visited some family friends who still lived in the Zone. I went to Vietnam in early July 1970 with Jim and Mike. Once "in country" I served as a rifle platoon leader and later battalion staff officer (S-5) with the First Cavalry Division (D Co. 2/12 Cavalry). Mike and I were in the same battalion but different companies. I also spent time with a small group of sergeants living in villages and hamlets training the local forces "Ruff Puffs" (part of Nixon's Vietnamization). I was even in a photo in the 1st Cav Newspaper supervising rifle training. When the First Cav was redeployed to the U.S., I accepted an early out and was discharged in April 1971.

3. After relaxing for a couple of months, I went through SCUBA training and then started graduate school in a biology Master's program at Northeastern University in Boston. I spent most of my time at the university marine science lab north of the city. I finished my degree there in 1973 and started a PhD program in the Zoology Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I received my degree in 1978, and after briefly working at the Dental Research Center at UNC, I became a professor at

Westfield State University in Massachusetts. I've taught many different courses in my years here and was Chairman of the Biology Department for nine of those years. I married Peggy in 1973 after meeting her during the preparations for the wedding of mutual friends in 1971. I was an usher and she was a bridesmaid.

4. Rooming with Frank Funderburk and Bill Pascual made the OCS experience more bearable. Jim DuPont's wife was our conduit to the outside world. Joining the softball team was a great perk because we didn't have to do as much PT. A friend of mine from college was at the NCO school at Benning during our time there. He came to our graduation and luckily I had someone take a photo of us in front of the infantry statue.

He went to Nam before I did and was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry. Unfortunately, he was killed in May of 1970.

Francis (Frank) J. Doherty, JR / 4th Platoon

Frank continues to practice law in Connecticut.

Brooks S. Doyle, Jr / 4th Platoon

1. My wife Louann and I are healthy and happy and living in Torrance, California close to our two kids and grandson. I retired from the Raytheon Company (formerly Hughes Aircraft) law department in 2003 and then, after a brief hiatus (for pension reasons) returned to Raytheon's law department as a contractor until the summer of 2009. I'm now fully retired, doing some travelling, home improvement projects for our house as well as for some friends, trying to stay in reasonably good health, and playing as much golf as possible. Unfortunately, the game has taken its toll on my back. Louann is still working as a United Airlines flight attendant.

2. About two days before OCS graduation, some officer (presumably, LT Toolson) approached me and asked if I was interested in staying at Ft. Benning and being assigned to a Special Courts Martial office instead of going to Ft. Rucker, Alabama. I chose the Special Courts Martial assignment since I had spent seven years training to become a North Carolina attorney and only ten months to become an Infantry officer. It was the right choice. After about a year in that assignment I transferred to the Judge Advocate General's Corps as a Captain and only because of the old adages, "timing is everything" and "location, location, location," I was assigned to the defense team of LT William Calley (as in, the My Lai massacre Calley). [*Editor's note: Brooks' account of the Calley trial is contained in Part Three, Section Two, "Branch Options other than Infantry."*] After that case finished, it was off to Vietnam for an "exciting" assignment at USARV HQ. I returned to Fort McPherson in Atlanta for a three-year assignment in that legal office. While there, I got a temporary assignment to West Point to defend Cadets in the 1976 cheating scandal. I then got into the legal side of Government Contracting issues at the Pentagon from 1977 to 1979. After that, I was an Army trial attorney at the Chief Trial Attorney's office in Falls Church, Virginia, defending the

Army with respect to claims filed by government contractors asking for additional monies for extra/different work done. I did this until 1982 when I got a job offer from Hughes Aircraft Company. I separated from the Army in July 1982 as an O-4 just on the plus side of 13 years when you count Basic, AIT and OCS training. Why, one might ask, didn't I take a direct commission into JAGC immediately after law school/BAR exam time? Because, I didn't want to be in the Army for the required 4 year pay-back obligation. That's right, my "sound" logic didn't work out.

3. My career path, of course, was a legal one in the Corporate Law Department of Hughes Aircraft Co., which in November of 1997 was acquired by Raytheon from which, as stated above, I retired in 2003 and again in 2009.

4. Memory, as they say, is the second thing to go. I can't remember what the first is. So, specific favorite memories of the "interesting" six months of OCS are long gone. I just vaguely recall the mess hall scenes of "put it in your mouth and chew it later;" cleaning the rocks along the sidewalks with a vacuum cleaner; and playing racket ball with CPT Smith one time and getting hit with the ball – I can still feel it. And there was some semi-formal event later in the six-month training cycle where a group of us were allowed to perform songs for the attendees. The handful of us that made up the singing group prepared about five songs (I think someone got a guitar) and midway through the second song CPT Smith gave us the hand signal to cut it short. Talk about disappointment. Killjoy! But the "attention to detail" and "keep it organized and properly aligned" training throughout the program has stuck with me. That has come in handy throughout the years.

Donald (Don) A. Driftmier / 5th Platoon

1. I am currently the Chief Financial Officer for Noble House Entertainment Pictures, Inc., an independent producer of motion pictures based in Ontario, California. My wife Marilyn and I live in West Covina. Our two adult children also live in Southern California. We have one grandson just over a year old who is the apple of our eyes. Marilyn and I are both accounting grads from Cal Poly, Pomona just down the road. We have been active in a car club for over 20 years (Inland Valley Street Rod Club). Our club produces a big fund-raising car show for my Ontario Rotary Club Foundation. 2017 will be our 23rd year for this show. We are a Mopar (vintage Chrysler) family with my daily driver being a 1972 Barracuda. We are active with our service clubs: Marilyn is a Soroptimist and I am in the Ontario Rotary Club. The car club and Rotary club have a number of Vietnam veterans, I enjoy the company of the local American Legion post, and I am a check-writing member of the VFW. (I enjoy the well written VFW Magazine.) The film business has me traveling, as our locations are not usually in California. I did a film in Cape Town, South Africa, which turned out to be an interesting place.

2. My duty post after OCS was Fort Polk, Louisiana. I arrived on August 16, 1969 in a pouring rain. I asked the motel clerk about the weather and she said Hurricane

Camille was due to hit the Gulf Coast the next day. Great! From California earthquakes to hurricanes! I reported to a Basic Training company and was the usual “everything officer” that a 2LT could be. During my Ft. Polk days Marilyn and I were married; our honeymoon was the drive from Covina, California to DeRidder, Louisiana. The Company Commander, CPT Peters left the Army during my time there and I was the highest ranking officer, so I became a 2LT Company Commander of a Basic Training company. Thank goodness I had excellent, supportive senior NCOs who got me through that experience. My Dad, a WWII Infantry Officer (OCS) gave me the best 2LT advice: “Shut up and listen to your Sergeant.” I did and it worked. While at Ft. Polk, we remained friends with fellow OCS grad Bill Vermillion and his wife. We also became lifelong friends with our Pastor Walter and Diane Clarke and their family. We get together most every year. Then it was on to Vietnam. [*Editor’s note: Don Driftmier’s account of his MAT team’s experiences in Vietnam is contained in Part Three, Section Five, “Vignettes from Vietnam.”*] After Vietnam I returned home, got out, and was put in the “inactive” Reserves. A year or so later I received a letter of promotion to Captain and that was it for the Army.

3. When I came home I went to work for a CPA firm in Ontario, CA. I passed the CPA exam and spent 37 years in public accounting, 30 years as a partner. It was a very enjoyable career. I spent my last years in the tax department. Our firm partnership agreement had a clause that when you turned 62 you had to leave. I was not ready to stop working, so I joined a longtime friend and client in the film business. I have enjoyed Ontario and the opportunities my career offered. In 2004, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed me to the California Board of Accountancy that oversees the licensed CPA's in the state. I termed out nine years later and served as Board President in 2008. I continue to serve on a number of non-profit boards and enjoy being of service with my accounting background. I played softball for over 30 years and still go to the batting cages for exercise. The OCS/Army experience served me well in civilian life. I coached our son’s and daughter's soccer and baseball teams.

4. I think most everyone's favorite memory of OCS was graduation day! I had a good time with Burl Wyatt and our short-lived music group. Although we were not married, I did enjoy Marilyn coming out for the two formal parties we had. The trip we took to Atlanta to watch the Braves baseball game was fun. And yes, with all the crap that came with it, to know I was part of the 50th Company, “First and Best,” brings a smile of accomplishment that only we can feel.

Richard L. Dunbar / 4th Platoon

1. I’m getting ready to retire for the second time later this year (2017). I believe I will still be working when the reunion rolls around, but maybe we can make the next one if there is one. I hope there is. Cathy and I have blended families. Together we have five children in FL and MN along with 13 grandchildren and one great grandson. When I retired six years ago I quickly realized that it was a huge mistake. I didn’t like

retirement at all. After four months I had the opportunity to get the same job back, as my replacement didn't work out. Cathy and I talked it over and she said, "Go back to work." So I did. The rest of the story is that nine years ago we bought a home in Florida while we were working in Ohio, and Cathy moved down and I made long commutes. It wasn't supposed to last for nine years, but she has put up with a lot to keep me happy. Life is good.

AAfter OCS we were stationed at Ft. Riley, KS until I received orders for Viet Nam. I believe I flew over on the 4th of July 1970 and ended up in the Delta on a MAT in Tien Giang Province; My Tho was capital where Headquarters were. Our team CPT was transferred after a month to another team, so I and three SFCs were attached to several PF companies until my replacement arrived in April of 1971. I hung around the Provincial HQ for about a month until they sent me home and discharged me in Oakland.

2. When I got back home in June of '71 I told my wife that I was going to play golf for about three months and then look for a job. Well during that first week on the golf course I meet the CEO of a local Farmer's Cooperative who told me I should come to work for him. So now, 46 years later, I'm still working for Farmer's Cooperatives, but it's time to give it up. This fall will be the last harvest. It's been a great time. We have worked in MN, SD, PA, and OH. Farmers are great people. Some years they make money and some years they don't, but they go right back out there and continue to feed the world.

3. OCS? I wasn't very good at it. My wife and baby were staying off base with three other wives from another company, the 54th or 56th. I forget. Their candidates received off-base weekend privileges from the 12th week forward, and I'm sure they turned out just as good as we did. I didn't care for CPT Smith, and I certainly didn't care for all of the BS. I especially didn't like having to rate my peers so they could get kicked out. Hopefully they all came back from Nam.

Michael (Mike) W. Dunn / 4th Platoon

1. Married (Barbara). Have four kids-all grown, none in jail, and a couple grandkids. St. Anthony, Iowa (center of the state) is home. "Is this Heaven?" "NO, this is Iowa!" (Field of Dreams). The family farm is a "hobby" farm (don't need to show a profit). I don't golf, fish or collect stamps or butterflies. With a small (22-25) herd of shorthorn cows (breed like hereford or angus), I bale hay, etc. and can still throw bales six high, though not as many or as fast. It is peaceful in the pasture! Bucolic bovine therapy! (Until something goes wrong!)

2. After OCS, I got married, went to Ft. Riley, KS and then to Viet Nam with the 101st. I stayed in the Army. For 24 years, to LTC. I enjoyed the challenges, having FUN is not always HA HA FUN.

3. After the Army it was this and that, then back to the farm. Now mine, it has been in the family since 1869. I get my mail at the local bar. If asked, I say I'm in the witness protection program – some even believe it!

4. Memories of OCS? Many!!! The best is "Cooperate and Graduate!" I've tried to use that and tried to teach others! Platoon mate Brian Flora says that he kept a low profile and stayed in the back. Well I was hiding behind Flora and staying even lower. [Note to Brian Flora: "You are a hard man Brian! (in rounding up bio stories). I'm waiting for Pulitzer(sp) Prize – send money! In spite of everything you are doing good work!"]

James C. DuPont / 1st Platoon - Deceased

Jim DuPont was assigned to Ft. Lewis, Washington and later to Vietnam where he served with Charlie Company, 1/5 Cavalry, First Cavalry Division. His tour began on June 13, 1970 and he was killed in action on September 18, 1970. Mike Thornton served as Jim's body escort. [*Editor's Note: For details, please read Ken Knudsen's and Mike's accounts in Part Three, Section One, "Remembering Fallen Comrades."*]

James P. Durkin / 2d Platoon

Joseph M. Dzurenko / 6th Platoon

David (Mike) M. Eberhardt / 2nd Platoon

1. My wife, Robin, and I retired in 2013 and moved to Alabama from New Mexico to be closer to our son David and his family. We have two grandsons (age 16 and 14) and really enjoy our time with family. After 45 years in ministry, we enjoy simply serving in our local church as members. We both teach ESL in a Birmingham church once a week. Robin does a lot of sub-teaching in the local schools. (She was an education counselor over the years.) I enjoy golf, cooking, and reading. I have written two novels:

Westward

Bound and Westward Home (awaiting copyright), and I'm working on *Westward Heart*. I work out regularly, trying to keep in shape, and I really enjoy being retired.

After OCS, along with others from our company, I was stationed with the 5th Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado. After the usual temporary assignments, I arrived in Vietnam on July 6, 1970 along with a bunch from 50th Company. I was assigned to a MAT in Ham Loung District, Ben Tre Province, in the Delta. I was wounded on Oct. 7, 1970. [*Editor's Note: For Mike's personal account of his wounding, see Part Three, Section one, "Remembering Missing Comrades."*] After several surgeries and a week or so in a hospital in Ben Hoa, I was shipped back to Ft. Gordon, Georgia for more surgery and a bit of time for recovery. I was eventually assigned as the Admin Officer for Headquarters/Headquarters Command. I separated from the Army from there in June 1971.

2. I became a Baptist minister. I had been called to ministry earlier but Uncle Sam had other ideas. After the Army, I attended seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas and served as a missionary in Georgia (the country), Grenada, and the West Indies. Back in the States I served as a pastor, returning to seminary for a couple more degrees. I eventually went to Clovis, New Mexico as a spiritual development pastor and a marriage and family counselor. Prior to my final retirement I was certified and became an “Intentional Interim Pastor,” serving for seven years as a trouble-shooting consultant for various churches in the Southwest, helping them through their times of crisis.

3. Memories of OCS? Other than cutting grass with manicuring scissors and washing rocks with a tooth brush, I suppose the more pleasant memories come from the times in the barracks, getting to know my fellow candidates. Being yelled at, having to call each other worms, and shock reveilles are some of my less favorite memories. I enjoyed putting a candy bar on Lt. Travline’s desk following a “pogey” run, which my wife provided as the “laundry lady” along with George Hatfield’s wife, Beverly. Looking back on those months, I realize that we looked after each other, cared for each other, encouraged each other, laughed with each other, sweated with each other, sang cadence with each other, and became what we never could have become without each other. This is my favorite remembrance of OCS.

Thomas G. Edgren / 2nd Platoon - Deceased

Tom was assigned to the 198th Light Infantry Brigade in Quang Tin Vietnam on June 4, 1970. He was killed in action on August 8, 1970. [*Editor’s Note: for more information see Brian Walrath’s item in Part Three, Section One, “Remembering Fallen Comrades.”*]

James W. Ellis / 5th Platoon

Joel G. Erkenwick / 2d Platoon

Joel passed away August 30, 2019. Please find his obit in the “In Memoriam” section of this website