

Aubrey R. (Randy) Kimler / 4th Platoon

1. I have been retired since 2008 and live with Janice, my wife of 32 years, in Port Neches, Texas. 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.
2. I dropped out of OCS after week 14 and along with some others from the 50th and went to Scout Dog School at Ft. Benning. It was a three-month class, including 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.
3. When I returned home I went back to graduate school under the GI Bill. I earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration and worked as a city manager for Port Neches, Texas for 31 years. Think Hurricane Harvey. Thank God I'm retired and don't have to deal with it.
4. Have any TAC officers been located? I would really like to talk with LT Toolson, 4th Platoon, if he has been found. I thought he was a good one.

Lawrence A. Kirkland III / 2d Platoon

1. For the last 14 years I have been wrestling 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 Carrollton, Georgia, about 20 miles west of Atlanta.

How ironic it is for a guy who spent 20 years managing nursing homes and rehabilitation services for Medicare recipients!

2. After OCS I was assigned to Ft. 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. I completed a Master's in 1979 while managing a Honda dealership in Aiken, SC.
3. I spent 20 years managing nursing homes and rehabilitation services.
4. My fondest memory of OCS is signing out for church on Sunday morning and instead of attending services, going to the Airborne drop zone and making love to my wife in our '64 Chevy. 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 him and 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 and had contacted Strom on my behalf, calling into question the Army's wisdom in assigning me to the infantry.

Gary M. Knight / 5th Platoon

Gary is believed to be living in Belle Haven, North Carolina.

Kenneth (Ken) R. Knudsen / 2d Platoon

1. I have been married 42 years and have four children and seven grandchildren. To better understand how I now spend my time now, it would be helpful to know how I spent the last 50 rollercoaster years. In 1972, I spotted my wife Janet on a crowded dance floor, introduced myself, and married her three weeks later. We then moved 16 times with 12 different career changes over 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 three 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. We live in Macungie, Pennsylvania (near Allentown in the east central part of the state.) I enjoy working out, reading and walking our three rescued Cocker Spaniels, Chloe, Emma and Bruno.

2. I was assigned to Ft. Jackson and then went to Jump 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. [*Editor's Note: Please see Ken's account of Jim Dupont's death in Part Three, Section One, "Remembering Our Fallen Comrades."*] After Vietnam, I remained in the Army as a Company Commander and General Staff officer at Ft. Ord, 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.

3. In 1976 Procter & Gamble hired me for their management-training program. I climbed the corporate ladder, first at Procter and then I became a Vice President of Sales at Frito-Lay and held similar positions at Ocean Spray, Nabisco, and finally I ended as Senior Vice President for RCN, a national Telecommunications company. I left the corporate life and started my own coaching and consulting business in 2002. I

am now semi-retired and continue to help companies in Leadership, Strategic Planning and Sales execution.

4. My memories of OCS are fuzzy but I do remember all of the PT; making great friends; the leadership course; and our first weekend pass when the instructors told us NOT to go see Donna at the Starlite Lounge. (I made both names up, but used to remember her name.) When Paul Kochis, Pete Golka and I showed up, it seemed like every guy who was single in our company was there. I remember wondering how much kickback the instructors were getting from the lounge. I remember turning Blue with the party; I had a blind date with a girl from Atlanta named Cherry Star. And I remember the field exercises and especially graduation.

Paul M. Kochis / 2nd Platoon

1. I am delightfully retired and living with my wife, Amy, in Herndon (since April 2017), Virginia. Since graduation, I have lived in MO for law school, and worked in CT, MA, MI and PA. 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 a “senior” daughter who is a homemaker with three children by her husband, an assistant football coach for the University of MD. Immediately after retiring, I commenced 2.5 years of research and another 4 years writing and promoting a two-volume historical novel entitled *God, Glory and Gold: Journey to the Conquest of the Incas*. I am now working on a geopolitical thriller set in the year 2025. I have also devoted considerable time working for non-profit literacy organizations in FL and CA while serving on the Board of the San Francisco YMCA. During our stay in Tiburon, CA, we bought, gutted and completely rebuilt our home, a project which finished over budget and not on time! But, it all worked out just fine and dandy. Amy and I enjoy golf, sailing and traveling.

2. I was assigned to the 5th Division Mechanized Infantry at Fort Carson, then fortuitously to Redeye Missile School at Fort Bliss, followed by four months with the Combat Development Command, Hunter Liggett, CA to test the vulnerability of the new, then secret, Huey Cobra helicopter to surface-to-air missiles. I joined the 7th Infantry Division at Camp Casey, Korea as the Division Redeye Missile Officer. [Editor's Note: see Paul's' account of his Korean tour in Part Three, Section Six, "The Other Front Lines: Germany and Korea."] When the Division was deactivated, I finished up at 8th Army Headquarters in procurement before an early out in May, 1971.

3. I secured a J.D. from Washington University, St. Louis in 1974, and passed the bar in Connecticut and practiced tax and probate law for five years, while also being admitted to the Massachusetts Bar and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. I 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. I dabbled in Republican politics in Connecticut in the 1970's and have served on 18 non-profit Boards as well.

4. OCS memories: The horror of the morning runs on the Airborne track, exhaustion, the wonderful firing range sessions, and the unique comradeship of wonderful men hoping to receive a commission in the US Army.

Dale G. Kratsch / 1st Platoon - Deceased

Dale Kratsch apparently passed away on 4/6/2013.

Clarence B. Kugler IV / 2d Platoon

1. I completed over 46 years of federal service, including 40 years with OSHA (Department of Labor), investigating employee complaints involving 22 different legislative acts protecting whistleblowers. Business was good. I retired on July 3, 2017 after 46 years and seven months of combined federal and military service. The entire Federal nation was given the day off the following day to celebrate my no longer being able to wreck government cars. I have my wife (Alice, Ali or Allie) of 32 years, two sons under 30, and a trusty dog (going on 14 years). I enjoy running and now compete in race walking half marathons with Allie. I'm now asked to provide support to my sons who have become endurance athletes. Frankly, it is more fun doing than watching.

2. After Infantry OCS, I signed up for a new Army program entitled "Volunteer Indefinite" (one year anywhere in the world) and was sent off to the Signal Basic Officer School at Ft. Gordon with my first duty location in New York City with the MOS "Motion Picture Producer." I was assigned to the Army Pictorial Center in Queens where I was one of the producers of the Army's TV show, "The Big Picture." The Center closed after nine months (I did not get my promised one year) so I was sent off to the Pentagon for a full year where I was assigned to the Army Material Command and to the Office of the Chief Scientist of the U.S. We conducted inspections of all Army Research Centers (for example, I taste tested freeze-dried strawberries at Natick Labs) across the country. I arrived in Chu Lai, Vietnam in July 1971 with the Americal Division and served as a supply depot commander, truck company commander, battalion adjutant, and ran weekly resupply convoys to the bush. When the Americal departed Vietnam I was sent up to DaNang and became the DaNang Support Command Information Officer which gave me an opportunity to put out a monthly magazine requiring regular work in Saigon. I left Vietnam in 1972 and got out of the Army and into the Reserves.

3. While working, I stayed in the Reserves as a Captain, but never finished the required education coursework. So I had to get out in 1983. I rejoined the Reserves in 1989 as an NCO in the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Miami. I guess that makes me an "AssBackward Mustang." [For an explanation, see his account of service in the Reserves in

Part Three, Section Three, "Stateside Duty."] I was activated as an E-7 and sent to Hungary to train the Iraqi Free Forces. I got back into combat again in 2004 when my Army Reserve Unit was activated again and sent to Iraq for a year. We were assigned to

the 1st Cav Division in Baghdad and did mostly public affairs work on missions. CNN called me, at 59, the oldest soldier in Iraq. Believe it or not, while there, the Army even paid me to go on a lion hunt. (Well, it was an escaped zoo lion, and we brought her back alive.) I retired from the Reserves in 2005.

4. At OCS, I fell in love with running and made it my life-long hobby. I've completed in 30 some marathons, 40 some triathlons of different dimensions, two Hawaiian Ironman and one Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run and many ultra runs. I still do race walking. Also, I remember going to the base movie theatre with members of the 50th Company and watching a movie that I had a speaking part in, "Three in the Attic." LT Dent yelled, "Is that Kugler!?" and then for the next few weeks I was required 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 (Lou) A. Lallo / 3d Platoon

1. 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 the "life of leisure" by keeping busy playing golf, being a docent at the Oakland Zoo, exercising a lot, and baking (no laughing allowed). The bottom line is that I am at a good place in life and feel very fortunate.

2. 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 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 were too. 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 in rice paddies for a year. After I grew older and wiser I realized that as an advisor, I had much better insight into Vietnam and the war.

3. 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. [Editor's Note: See Lou's accounts of PSYOPS and Civil

Affairs duty in Part Three, Section Three, “Stateside Duty.”] 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).

4. This OCS question is hard to answer. Looking back on the experience, all my memories are my favorites. Most of all was the teamwork and the 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, it was 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 (Tom) M. Lankford / 3d Platoon

1. I married Carolyn, my wife of 48 years, less than three months before going into the service. We are happily retired (since 2005) in Scottsdale, Arizona. 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, summering at our lake cottage in upstate NY, and spending fall through the holidays in Ohio. We can now enjoy family from June through December.

2. 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 and headed for Vietnam 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. [*Editor's Note: See Tom's account of his tour as a Finance Officer in Part Three, Section Two, “Branches Other than Infantry.”*]

Yes, I was a REMF (Rear Echelon MF). It was generally pretty good duty for my year in Nam. Having fulfilled my duty, I returned to my life.

3. After discharge in July, 1971, I went to the Harvard Business School and earned an MBA which led to 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.

4. My OCS memories are dim. I recall playing some volleyball and basketball on CPT

Smith's 50th Company teams, and I remember spending a weekend in a motel with Dick Bardsley and our wives to watch the first moon landing. 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 branch. That led to General Berry (Assistant Commandant of the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning) telling me, "You can't make a career in this man's army without a CIB," to which I replied "Yes, Sir!"

Stephan (Steve) R. Layton / 3d Platoon

1. 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 are blessed to have two daughters and three grandchildren who live in the area. We see our family often and are involved with the United Methodist Church (UMC). We recently co-led a fund raiser to buy mosquito nets for the *Imagine No Malaria* project for children in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through the UMC we have been leaders on mission trips to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand. 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.

2. 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 MAT 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's capital. Our primary responsibility was the training of PF units. When the MAT teams were eliminated, I spent my last month as the Night Ambush Team Coordinator.

3. 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 also working and we both retired on the same day in 1997.

4. 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

1. What is my life like today? Pretty darned good is the short answer! I survived Vietnam, 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 an active pilot and own two airplanes and a helicopter. I reside in Palmer Alaska, northeast of Anchorage. 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. I still fly, but not as much as I used to.
2. When drafted, I was working in Alaska as a structural engineer for an oil company and moonlighting as a charter pilot and flight instructor. I had a degree in Civil Engineering, and I had taken many electrical engineering courses. On OCS graduation day, I was summoned to the 50th Company Orderly Room for an interview. The suspense was chilling, but as it turned out, they had checked my background and wanted to know if would consider exchanging my new crossed rifles for crossed semaphores and accept an immediate commission into the Signal Corps. I tried hard to add helicopter flight school but couldn't get it because I wear glasses. 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. An interesting aside: At Jump School in Benning, as a recent OCS graduate, the Cadre treated me well and with considerable respect. They "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 also went to Fort Bragg 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. 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. Then it was on to Vietnam with 37th Signal

Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade in Da Nang. [Editor's Note: For John's story of his tour in Vietnam as a Signal Officer, see Part Three, Section Two, "Branch Options Other than Infantry."]

3. Then it was back to the U.S. 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. 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 taught flying for a while 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 Vietnam. I settled there for several years before testing for the Alaska Professional Engineer Exam and was able to found 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.

4. 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 and took on a firm and positive direction.

Gary C. List / 1st Platoon

1. My wife Jill and I live in St. Augustine, Florida, 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.

2. 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-expenses 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 Communications 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. I had various assignments, including Fort Drum, Fort Meade, Fort Monroe, and Camp David.

3. After completing my Master's at St. Francis College in Pennsylvania, 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.

4. 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 the 9th Battalion, 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 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. Lorenson / 1st Platoon – Presumed Deceased

[Editor's Note: Sandy Carter found this obituary for Ronald W. Lorenson (spelled with an "e"). The date of military service and the date of death match, so it appears to be the story of our 50th Company fellow graduate.]

Juneau, Alaska resident Ronald Walter Lorenson died March 29, 2007 at home with his wife Bernadette by his side. He was 61. He was preceded in death by his father, Walter Max Lorenson; and his only son, Brian Ronald Lorenson. He is survived by his wife of nearly 17 years, Bernadette (Campbell) Lorenson; his mother, Inge Lorenson; three daughters; a sister; and three grandchildren. Mr. Lorenson attended Dartmouth College, receiving a BA in 1967 and a MBA in 1968. From 1968 to 1971, he served in the U.S. Army as an officer. After the Army, he entered Albany Law School and received his Juris Doctor in 1974.

Born Sept. 16, 1945, in Hamburg, Germany, he moved to Juneau in 1974 to practice law. He spent ten years as Alaska's Deputy Attorney General. Prior to this appointment in 1980, he was a partner in the Juneau office of Josephson, Trickey and Lorenson. Before private practice, he was assistant Attorney General for Alaska, serving as counsel for the Departments of Education and Labor. While with the Department of Law, he argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

His parents, Inge (Giese) and Walter Max Lorenson, met and married in Germany, where his mother served as a translator for the Nuremberg war crime trials. The

Lorensen family later moved to Rochester, N.Y. His family remembers him as a valued and well-respected member of the Juneau community, serving on multiple boards, including the Bartlett Hospital Board, the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association, and the Governor's Executive Clemency Review Board. He was a former director of Juneau Teen Homes, Inc., and a contract attorney with the State Capital Law Firm Group. He was counsel to the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp., assisted the State of Alaska in a variety of matters, and represented the municipalities of Haines and Klawock in litigation. His family writes: "Ron was a quiet, kind, intelligent man. He was generous to a fault with family, friends and any and all charitable organizations. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Hospice of Juneau or the charity of your choice."

John D. Lynch / 3d Platoon

1. Well, my dear wife Sue (of 44 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 December. 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.
2. 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 I 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 who 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 (Jeff) J. MacLeod / 6th Platoon

1. 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.

2. I went to Fort Sill as a Signal Corps 2nd LT for further training. I was assigned to the 14th MI Battalion as communications platoon leader. My daughter Skye was born there. Then it was off to Vietnam as Headquarters Company Commander of 160th Signal Group. I then rotated with an early out back to States. I 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.

3. I practiced law in Rome, Georgia for about 35 years.

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

Henry P. Mansky / 6th Platoon

Joe S. Marbury, JR / 2d Platoon

[Editor's Note: This account is taken from a phone conversation Brian Walrath had with Joe Marbury on March 13, 2017.]

1. Joe now lives in Sparta, GA, where he plays a lot of golf.
2. Joe went into the Navy right out of high school and took up flying as a hobby. He was told he needed to complete at least two years of college to be accepted into Navy flight school. He completed these, and was then told that he could either attend flight school or resign from the Navy. At this point, he chose the latter, then decided to join the Army with the specific goal of going to OCS, followed by flight school. After graduating, he reported to flight school with four or five 50th Company classmates. After arriving, he was told that he was now too old for flight school! At that point, Joe decided that he might as well volunteer for Vietnam, since he was bound to go there anyway. He was sent to Recondo School then to Jungle School. On the way to Panama, he ran into former TAC Dick Dent in the Officers Club at the Charleston Air Base. They went to Jungle School together. The first or second day started with a morning run. After they had gone about 100 yards, Dent said to Joe, "This is ridiculous." They dropped out and did not go on any more runs. After Jungle School, Joe served in a recon platoon with the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He was there from 1969 to 1971, including one extension. His duties

sometimes took him into Cambodia before we were supposed to be there. He left the Army in 1971.

3. After the army Joe worked for the Department of Defense until his retirement.
4. Joe was over 30 years old when he attended OCS, and he was there specifically so he could go on to flight school, so his view of OCS is a little different than many of us.

Charles (Chuck) L. Martin / 3d Platoon

Michael T. Matthies / 1st Platoon

1. 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!

2. 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

3. 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.

4. 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

Malcolm (Mickey) M. Metzler / 6th Platoon

1. 1. 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.

2. 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: His service in Vietnam is recounted in Part Three, Section Five, "Vignettes from Vietnam."*]

3. 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).

4. 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 in the eye 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

1. I am currently living with my wife Susan in Fayetteville, New York, 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. We're still looking for a Marine to round things out. I turned 71 last week and my 50th college reunion (graduated from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y.) will take place next spring.
2. 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. I 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 I'll never forget 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 in all, I enjoyed the experience and challenge of OCS.

Ronald P. Michael / 6th Platoon

Robert G. Miller / 5th Platoon - Deceased

Robert Miller is believed to have passed away in 2016.

William R. Miller - Deceased

William R. "Bill" Miller died in 2010 in Springfield, IL. He was born December 24, 1944 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the son of William Robert and Thelma L. Sims Miller. He married Constance A. "Connie" Woodward on December 23, 1968. Bill graduated from Mendel Catholic Boys School and Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He was a member of the Elks and Delta Chi Fraternity and enjoyed a good game of golf. Bill is survived by his wife, Connie of Springfield; a son, Tripp (Cary) Miller of Fairway, KS; a daughter, Abbey (Zac) Sigler of St. Louis; and two grandsons, Chase and Cooper Miller.

John (Darrell) D. Moore / 1st Platoon

1. My wife Esther of 50 years and I are Wyoming natives, but the winter of 2015 was a nasty one in Cheyenne and we decided to make a major change and move to Melbourne, Florida. We already had friends in the area, so the transition was easier. As of November, 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, including Hawaii twice, and most of the States of the continental U.S. My favorite destination 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.

2. As I was about to graduate from the University 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 and may have been the oldest candidate in the company. I struggled with the physical demands of the program. 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 (It wasn't my 2LT rank that did it!). This lasted until a more experienced officer became 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 came up and I took it. 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 me. While in Washington D. C., I visited the Memorial Wall and cried at seeing his name.

3. Upon returning to Wyoming I was only 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 weekend warrior, retiring in 1996 as a LTC. 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. I retired in 2001, four years ahead of my wife the school teacher. I had only been retired for 6 months when my wife told me, "You have to do something instead of playing on the computer and letting the dog out." Friends of hers were employed as staffers for the Wyoming House of Representatives. Without my knowledge she contacted them about the possibility of my joining the staff of the House. Much to my displeasure, I received a call for an interview. I was hired as the Sergeantof-Arms. I loved that part-time job and stayed for 14 years.

4. OCS Memories: 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 six month struggle was on mind and body. I am proud that I graduated but would not want to do it again.

Timothy F. Moriarty III / 3d Platoon

(As told to Brian Flora)

1. 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 among the "rich and famous." They lived for many years in Santa Monica but have recently downsized to an apartment in LA. His computer is on 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.

2. 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 come to watch him give his class and learn about his teaching techniques. Then in June 1971 he happily bade farewell to things military.

3. 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.

4. 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 – through the program. “More PT, Captain Smith!”

John E. Morrissey, III / 4th Platoon

1. I'm enjoying retirement with Cyndy, my wife of 48 years. We have one son living in Gainesville, VA with his wife and two beautiful granddaughters. We live in Manlius, New York, a suburb of Syracuse. We do plenty of golf in the good weather and vacation in the South in the bad.

2. After OCS I was assigned to a mechanized infantry company attached to the 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood. Doug Cannon and I were platoon leaders in the same company. In January 1970 I was at Ft. Wolters, TX for Primary Flight School, then went in May to Ft. Rucker, AL for Advanced Flight School. From November 1970 to November 1971 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

ARVN Division. My personal favorite mission was flying the “Nighthawk,” a souped-up Huey gunship with a search light. The 335th AHC and I received orders to Ft. Riley, KS at about the same time. After taking leave, I rejoined the company until my discharge in March 1972.

3. After the Army I worked as a commercial credit analyst for 2 1/2 years before joining Bache & Company as a stock broker. I remained with the same company as a financial advisor for 39 years, but by the time I retired it had become Wells Fargo Advisors.

4. My Favorite OCS memories were great classmates, turning blue, and graduating!!!

Michael E. Myers/ 6th Platoon

Email: mikeemyers@sbcglobal.net

Richard R. Myers / 5th Platoon

Robert J Myers / 6th Platoon

1. Life Now. It was quite a surprise to stumble onto a notice of a reunion for the 50th OC Class of 1969. I had looked for fellow class members on occasion but had not been successful in finding anyone. That is in the past. I now make my home in Phoenix, AZ where I moved to take a position in 2005. I had never experienced a summer in Arizona before and now have 14 of them under my belt. Let's see how many days in a row we can hover over 110 degrees this summer.

I am active in Toastmasters International and am currently my club's president. This has been fun, as I used to HATE public speaking. I have picked up pickle ball and continue to head to Colorado for skiing with my significant other, Marie, every winter. Occasionally, virus permitting, I travel to Noblesville, IN to see my daughter's family and my six-year old granddaughter. The latter is as tall as most eight-year olds. We are all counting on her to make it in the WNBA to provide for us in our old age. Oops, I am almost there! The rest of my time is spent reading, working out and shaping up a company I started last year. More on that in a bit.

2. After OCS. Now the saga begins. About a month before graduation, Jeff MacLeod told me that the battalion S-1 was looking for some candidates to commission in other branches. Ever since watching a show called The Big Picture on early TV in the 50s, I envisioned jumping out of airplanes and riding in tanks. So I asked Jeff if he thought I could go armor. And there I was, with tanks on my lapel at graduation (CPT Smith told me he was not amused). After Armor Officer Basic, it was off to the 3d Infantry Division in Kitzingen Germany. I quickly learned how important tank gunnery is and went off to Grafenwöhr for annual qualification four years in a row. While there, I was a company commander and battalion S-3. The hardest part of this tour was that these were the VOLAR army days. Our Kaserne was rife with racial dissent and drugs. A week before DROS, I was the Duty Officer and was strolling through my own company, only to find my own jeep driver trying to hide a syringe of heroin. Then it was t was off to jump

school after Germany (I needed my little badge of courage) and then on to Korea to the 2nd Infantry Division. I walked right into my second company command. I was fortunate to have the very best, flamboyant battalion commander, Clyde Sedgwick, who encouraged us to wear black berets (to the chagrin of the brigade commander). Black berets were strictly verboten and nonstandard issue, just like our tankers jackets. If race relations were bad in Germany, they were nearly out of control in Korea in '74. One of the best parts of this tour, though, was that Colin Powell was a battalion commander in the same brigade as my tank battalion. I got to salute, nod my head and greet LTC Powell at the O club for most of a year. He was and is the real deal.

After Korea I was sent back to Benning for the Infantry Officers Advanced Course (you can take the officer out of the infantry, but you can't take the infantry out of the officer). It was a good nine months or so, then off to Utah State University for grad school and a ROTC assignment. All of the military skills from OCS came in handy as I had to prepare the cadets for summer camp. I also organized an orienteering club, taught orienteering for Utah State and led a team in competitions around the Pacific Northwest.

After Utah it was off to the Big Red One at Ft. Riley. I had three positions there, brigade S-3 and then on to the Inspector General's Office where I was the lead investigator for a year and then chief of the inspection team for a year. Then I was selected for CGSC. That turned into four years as the army elected to put me in a specialty 53 (Information Technology) position. I happened to run into then BG Powell at Ft. Leavenworth where we exchanged shared memories of Camp Casey.

If you are still reading, after Ft Riley the 53 folks wanted me to move to Virginia for three more years of an IT assignment. This turned out to be interesting in that I worked on projects in the Pentagon while stationed in Radford, VA. After three years I had the opportunity to move to Stuttgart. O-6 was looming but I elected to retire and go to grad school for a PhD at Virginia Tech.

Looking back, I was in over my head with many assignments, but grew into them as the situation dictated. But the bottom line is that I found so much opportunity because I joined the army in 1968. I am not sure what path I would have followed had I not done so.

3. After the Army. After three years of grad school at Virginia Tech I became a dyed in the wool Hokie fan. I left Blacksburg, accepting a position as a Senior Instructional Designer at the NASA Classroom of the Future. This began my career in education. Most noteworthy is that we created instructional materials for K-16, provided professional development for university faculty and K-12 teachers and traveled worldwide to share what we were doing. The legacy of all this was a rather large library of units on climate change. I wrote and implemented grants for NASA, NOAA, the NSF, the NIH and the US Department of Education.

I am in the second year of developing an online marketplace for veterans and spouses so they can get freelancing or gig work. There are quite a few sites providing freelancing jobs but we feel the public will be happy to support veterans and their families. Our GettaVet.com site should launch during the summer of 2020.

4. OCS Memory. Ok, the bad things first. One of the most memorable was Lt Hook telling me I was in the bottom four. That was quite a motivator as I sucked it up and became determined to do whatever it took. Next, CPT Smith led us in PT and put us in the ‘dying cockroach position’ (lying on back with legs separated in the air). I loathed that position; it pains me to even think about it. Now the good. Bob Winship coached me to run the final PT test mile in 6:02. Until that day I didn’t know I could do that. Don Huskins and I had set out to score 500 on that day. I didn’t quite make it, scoring 498. Don had a 500 and got his name read out by CPT Smith. Finally, I think about the friendship we formed with our classmates as we went through that grueling six months.

Kevin M. Myles / Platoon Unknown

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 visit as often as we can, 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.

2. 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.

3. 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. 4. OCS? Lovin’ the PT! (Not!!!)

Peter M. Nowlan / 2d Platoon

1. On June 30, 2015 I closed my Vermont law practice and retired. Our home is in Randolph, Vermont. I am a Director and Vice Chair of the Board for Gifford Health Care (GHC). GHC 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 supposed to provide me. Kathy and I have two children, both married and living in Vermont. Our son Jeff is the Director of Counseling for Spectrum Youth Services, a nonprofit in Burlington. Our daughter Kim currently cares for her two children. We are blessed to have three grandchildren. We also have a third “daughter,” Roza. She lived with us as an exchange student and returned to Vermont in 1997 to attend Middlebury College. She is currently living in Chicago and works as the Midwest correspondent and producer for CCTV news. Roza's parents have died and she has become part of our family. Kathy and I golf, bike and kayak in the summer. We snowshoe and cross country ski in the winter, and I still venture downhill skiing from time to time.

2. 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. I was first a platoon leader, then the Executive Officer. The following year I went through the Jungle School in Panama and headed to Vietnam. I was assigned to a Mobile Advisory team working with Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) in Pham Thiet in southeastern II Corps. During November 1970 I became quite sick and was taken by helicopter to the American firebase in the area and then was transferred to the hospital at Cam Ranh Bay with a severe case of hepatitis. (Contaminated food!) I was returned to Ft. Devens, MA and was in the hospital or on

convalescent leave 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 medical treatment. The following year I was transferred to Ft. Bragg, NC. After a year at Bragg I resigned from active duty on July 7, 1973.

3. I started one week later at Vermont Law School. 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. We bought a house in Randolph as a place to live "for the three years of law school." We grew to love the town and have been here ever 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 general practice law office in Randolph. I have been active in the community: town council, the Union High School Board of Directors, the Regional Vocational Center, and served as Moderator for the town of Randolph for over 20 years. I was an active member and 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, civil, and family divisions.

4. OCS Memory? Cooperate and graduate. At about the sixth week of OCS we were required to rotate rooms. I recall the order to rotate was given late in the day. Each of us had to collect our belongings, move to the newly assigned rooms, and be STRAC within a short period. I moved in with Brian Walrath, a candidate whom I had not yet gotten to know. At the time I was doing my duty as Company XO. After moving, I reported back to the student officer headquarters on the first floor and did whatever it was that student leadership was supposed to do. After lights out, I returned to my room and gathered my boots, brass and polish and headed to the latrine to prepare for the next day. Inside the latrine I discovered that the boots and brass had a shine better than I could ever give. Brian had given true meaning to "cooperate and graduate." And did we really practice our "command voice" in the shower?

Dennis C. O'Brien / 1st Platoon

1. I am still practicing law in Georgia. 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.

2. 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 I was 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 then it was 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 the 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.

3. 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.

4. 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 reunion.

Thomas J. O'Brien / 6th Platoon

Email: tomj_obrien@msn.com>

[Editor's Note: when Jim Fields located Tom, he (Tom) wrote the following message to Jim.] "My apologies Jim. I do not remember you at all. However, in 1969 I was in the 50th OCS Company at Fort Benning. I graduated in August 1969. If this is real, put me on the list. I have not met or communicated with any member from my OCS class since June 1971. My life has been unspectacular. I have three kids, nine grandkids, am a widower, remarried, and worked for a food company for 40 years. I am now retired. I will say that since I got this note from you a flood of memories have resurfaced. As of now I would like to reconnect with the guys from the Benning School of Boys. I hope to encounter further correspondence from the past and maybe meet in the future.

Leslie F. Ojala / 3d Platoon

1. I am currently living with my beloved Kerry in Ajo, Arizona (near Yuma). She has two daughters and many grandchildren; I have two married sons and a couple of grandkids. Visiting our children and relatives takes us to several places in Montana and Gold Beach, Oregon and gives us both extended families. Kerry and I are both voracious readers and are consumed by spirituality. We are also both involved in a

hands-on effort to transform our second house (next door) into a B&B. Ajo is 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. Housing is inexpensive and we do not miss Montana's long winters. 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. We would be happy to link up with classmates who brave southern AZ, and who might be looking for an affordable and somewhat remote place to live.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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 - Deceased

Wayne Onken, born October 12, 1946 in Murray County, Minnesota, passed away on May 30, 1984 in Slayton Minnesota, his home town. We have been unable to obtain an obituary.

John O'Shea / 2d Platoon

1. I live in Burke, Virginia with my wife of 40 years, Mary Ellen. My wife just recently retired as a high school English teacher for Fairfax County. Our daughter, Allison, also teaches high school English for Fairfax County and lives near our home as does our son, Stephen. Stephen is fluent in Mandarin and works as a Ranger for the Park Service where his language skills are used assisting international visitors. I retired from the Federal Government in September where I held the position of Chief Air Operations and Congressional Actions for the Secretary of the Air Force. With our new status as retirees, my wife and I plan to travel extensively throughout Eastern and Western Europe.
2. After OCS, I was assigned as a training officer at Ft. Benning, then completed Jump School and assigned as Platoon Leader/XO for the Honor Guard at Benning. My overseas tour was in Korea. After I returned to the U.S., I left active duty and entered grad school at the University of New Hampshire earning an M.S. in Marine Science. I joined the Army Reserve where I held command and staff positions as a drilling reservist for eleven years while working as a marine biologist in New England. I earned an MBA and returned to active duty where I held a number of Pentagon assignments including Legislative Liaison for the Secretary of the Army and as faculty of the Army War College at Carlisle PA where I directed the Chief of Staff's Strategic Outreach Program. I retired as a Colonel in 1999.
3. After retiring from the Army, I worked as Director of Defense Education/Public Affairs for the Reserve Officers Association and then entered the Federal Civil Service as Director of OPM's (Office of Personnel Management) Eastern Management Development Center with a subsequent position as Chief, Strategic Communications for NASA's Flight Research Center in California. After working at NASA, I was selected as Chief Air Operations and Congressional Actions for the Secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon, from which I retired. [*Editor's Note: See John's commentary on his Congressional Relations assignments in Section Three, Part Two, "Branch Options other than Infantry."*]

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