

NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER REUNION RECAP & NEWS

NDQSA 34rd ANNUAL REUNION NASHVILLE, TN T.B.D. ~June 2016

Help us with a name for the 2016 reunion and maybe a design for the reunion t-shirts.

MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM

Remember, do not use out of date forms from past newsletters. The multipurpose form has been updated again for 2015. This is the form to use to pay your annual dues, make donations to projects and to order products. **DO NOT USE OLD MEMBERSHIP FORMS WITH THE OLD FAIRFAX VA ADDRESS!!!!**

NDQSA MAILING ADDRESS

NDQSA, PO Box 890130, Oklahoma City, OK 73189

SUMMARY OF LAST FEW BOARD MEETINGS

Board members participated in several conference calls to go over the activities and plans for the 2015 reunion.

Association finances are strong, restoration projects are continuing, and Active membership is at our all time highest number, 594 Active Members! Thank You!!

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear brothers and their families,

First of all I would like to thank everyone that came to Colorado Springs for the reunion in June. It was our second largest attended reunion to date. I hope you had a great time meeting old friends and making new ones.

There are some special people I would like to thank: Luke and Lynette Clark and Dave and Vicky McCray for all their knowledge, dedication, and years of service on the NDQSA Executive Board. Similarly, I would like to welcome Ron Almon and Alphonza Martin that were elected to serve on the Executive Board.

I would also like to thank all the women and men that worked the Reunion sign-in table and the product sales table, the 50/50 drawings, the auction and the pizza party. THANK YOU it was all a big success.

The 2016 reunion will be in NASHVILLE TN. The date hasn't been set but the committee is looking at all options. If there are any suggestions for special activities please feel free to contact me.

In closing WELCOME HOME BROTHERS

Hope to see all in Nashville.

[John F. Huelsenbeck](#)

President NDQSA

2016 NOMINATIONS

The election committee consisting of; Al Martin, Ron Almon and Joe Belardo have the following members who want to run for the executive office positions. As of this date we have no other members running but nominations will remain open thru February 2016. Ballots will be developed and sent out with 2016 Membership Rosters in March/April 2016.

President: John Huelsenbeck (incumbent)

1st Vice President: Robert Cuce (incumbent)

2nd Vice President: Paul Kopsick (incumbent)

2nd Vice President: James Smith (nominated)

Secretary: Garry Severin (incumbent)

Treasurer: Allan Penwell (incumbent)

Respectfully,

Election Committee

Joseph Belardo josephbelardo@yahoo.com

Contact Joe if you want to nominate someone.

Summary of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meetings

June 11 and July 31, 2015

Amended with subsequent information as needed.

Reports of Officers:

President, John Huelsenbeck; The President's first request was to read the BOD minutes from the April 24, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Bob Lauer to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Dave McCray. No dissention was noted and the motion passed unanimously. John Huelsenbeck made a motion that the association reimburses Historian Paul Kopsick and Quartermaster Duane Gettler mileage for gas and tolls for their reunion transport of NDQSA materials. The motion was seconded by Joe Belardo. The motion passed without dissention.

First Vice President, Bob Cuce: Bob Cuce reported that the school expressed their willingness to participate in the T--shirt design project for next year's reunion, given a longer time frame.

Second Vice-President, Paul Kopsick: There was nothing new to report. BOD members requested their version be printed in alphabetical order with membership numbers also added.

Secretary, Garry Severin: There was discussion on BOD members accepting surplus free rooms that are raffled off on Saturday night. A vote was called for, and the outcome was 5 not accepting and 7 accepting with majority ruling. Regarding the question of rooms eligible for the free room drawing, all member paid rooms are eligible for the drawing.

Treasurer, Allan Penwell - Allan stated that the latest financial statement was sent out to BOD members and we are on par with last year's numbers. A motion was made by Joe Belardo to accept the financial report, it was seconded by Bruce Geiger and no dissention by BOD members was noted.

Next are discussions to *Standing Committee Reports* (note they are not necessarily in order of discussion):

Nominating Committee (Paul Hanson, Bob Cuce, Garry Severin):

Paul Hanson, Pete Labarre, and Garry Severin are to count the election ballots.

Good Works Committee (Sam Hopkins, Bob Cuce & Bruce Geiger):

Bruce Geiger noted that the closest Fisher House to Colorado Springs is in Aurora, Colorado and he will contact the director there about our donation to their organization. The organization will donate thirty five hundred dollars toward this cause. Bruce Geiger will convert this amount into Target gift cards in fifty dollar amounts. The director will be invited to the banquet to accept this donation.

Reunion Committee (Bob Lauer, Bruce Geiger, Mary Severin, Paul Hanson)

The President thanked Luke Clark and Dave McCray for their service on the Board and their other contributions to the organization. John raised the issue of winners at the 50-50 drawings

donating their winnings back to NDQSA. If this is done then other winners may feel obligated to donate rather than keep the money. The decision was made that all winners should accept their winnings. If they desire to donate them to the organization then they should do this at a later time.

Products Committee (Duane & Mary Gettler, Bruce Geiger, Paul Kopsick & Bob Lauer):

Duane Gettler brought in a new window decal for BOD approval. The board will vote on whether to accept this item and order it if accepted. The BOD authorized the reordering of challenge coins. Luke Clark brought in a 50.cal. key ring for product consideration.

Special Committee Reports:

Special Projects – Restoration Notes -- Other:

Luke Clark made a motion to cancel the \$5,000.00 check which was previously ear marked for the Quad 50 restoration project. The motion was seconded by Paul Hanson and the motion passed. A new motion was made by Luke Clark to replace the donation to the Quad 50 restoration project and was seconded by Paul Hanson. The proceeds from the Quad 50 print to be raffled off at the reunion will be donated to the Quad 50 restoration project. NDQSA donations to Robert Ratliff/History Fanatics are subject to an agreement that any transfer of title for the Quad 50 truck, the gun mount, the trailer, and related accessories are exclusively to be made to another military related 501(c) (3) organization. It is expected that an agreement to this effect will be executed by NDQSA.

Statement of clarification: At the September 13, 2013 board meeting there was approved a total of \$5,000 for the Quad 50 project by Robert Ratliff/History Fanatics. Of this total, \$1,782.50 was to be released immediately (actual amount was \$1,700), and the balance would be released if matching funds could be found with the total amount to reduce any debt on the quad gun mount. For various reasons it is no longer necessary to fund the \$3,000 balance and Luke Clark made a motion to withdraw the final commitment. The motion was seconded by Paul Hanson and the motion passed. Luke Clark also reported that a trailer has been purchased to haul the Quad 50 truck.

Luke Clark stated that a Quad 50 print and a custom made knife will be raffled off at the reunion with proceeds donated to History Fanatics. Luke Clark also announced that tickets to win a custom made knife with a scabbard will be available to purchase at the reunion, the final raffle to be held later this year in Houston Texas. A second knife is being raffled off in Houston, Texas at a benefit for the National United States Armed Forces Museum. According to Luke, the NUSAFM is the beneficiary of the assets of History Fanatics in the case that it would dissolve. Also note that History Fanatics is an active nonprofit corporation that is registered in Texas. Kelly E Crager, PhD, a representative from Texas Tech Vietnam Project, will speak at our Business meeting on the Vietnam Center and Archive living history project.

Additional note: The quad 50 gun mount is currently on loan to History Fanatics, they have get to raise the roughly \$20,000 needed to retire that loan and to take full ownership of the gun mount for use on the 2.5-ton truck previously purchased with NDQSA funds.

Next Board of Directors meeting to be on July 31 2015 .at 11:00 EST

2015 NDQSA Officer Elections

The Nominating Committee had presented the slate of names for the seven (7) open directorships for 2015-2017. This was the first time in a while that there were more nominees than open positions. As voted on by the Active Membership, the following men are Board Members – Directors for 2015- 2017:

Ron Almon Joseph Belardo (*)
Bruce Geiger (*) Duane Gettler (*)
Robert Lauver (*) **Al Martin**
G. Nagelschmidt (*)
Incumbent officers (*)

The newest officers are Ron Almon and Alphonse Martin. Welcome and thank you for volunteering to serve your fellow veterans.

MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

Carl Ozanich B-1/44 '67 OH 24Apr15
Estel Ray Spradlin, I-29 67-68 KY 3Mar15
Jerry W. Fritz, MD
Larry D Souther, D-4/60 67-68 NC 14Jul13
Donald Hedgpath, C-4/60 69-69 12Jul15
Maj. James Patterson, H-5/2 67-68 VA Oct14

They will be missed and we give honor to their service, their lives and their families.

NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

Richard Chilewski, 5/2 -67-68
[Donnie Bevenue 5/56-C HAWK 65-66](#)
[Robert Free, B-1/44 68-69](#)
[Anthony Smolinski, C-4/60 69-70](#)
[David Polcyn, E-41 Quads 70-71](#)
[Frances Palmer, C-1/44 68-69](#)
[David Doyle, Historian](#)
Kenneth Skinner, 66-67
[Robert Brice, G-65 Quads 67-70](#)
David Creekmoore, B-1/44 69-70
[William Moore, H-4/60 67-68](#)
[Keith Hinzmann, C-1/44 68-69](#)
Bernard Bergarde, C-1/44 68-69
[David Matthews, D-1/44 67-70](#)
Bobby Beard, C-1/44 68-69
[Earl Dunnington, B-5/2 '70-71](#)
[Gary Garber, C-4/60 '67-68](#)
[Lenny Yanchar, B-29, '65-66](#)
[Jack McGrath, 1/44 67-68](#)
[Harry Wilson, C-1/44 '69-70](#)

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

There were a lot of returned newsletter last time around. A number were due to guys with split mailing addresses or 'snowbirds'.

It costs the Association over a dollar for each returned newsletter, and if we need to mail them out again to another address, that is another \$0.70.

If you have multiple addresses and your listed address does not save or forward bulk mailed items, please contact the Historian to make other arrangements for receiving your newsletters.

CELL PHONE NUMBER UPDATES

We have a lot of families that routinely change cell phones or move away from land-line phone to only cell phones. Also many inactive members have not had any contact with the historian in many years and we do not know if your addresses and phone numbers are correct. Soooo...please take a moment and email the historian with your current contact info. If you do not have a computer, use the muntipurpose form and just fill out the personal info side of the form and mail it in. PLEASE!!!

2015 Membership Rosters

The 2015 Membership rosters were printed and mailed out in February so people will have time to send in their 2015 dues (if necessary) with updated contact information. When you get your roster there will also be your 2015 membership card.

Look through the first few pages of your roster and see if you recognize any of the names there. We do not know which units they were in or we lost contact with them. Contact the Historian if you have any info on them.

REMEMBER

SECURE YOUR NDQSA ROSTERS!!

When you are ready to discard your old NDQSA Members Roster, please handle it as CONFIDENTIAL information. Please shred it or otherwise destroy it so it can not end up in the hands of an identity thief. A copy of our 2007 Roster was utilized by an identify thief according to Lifeloc™.

2015 REUNION PHOTO RECAP

The NDQSA membership again stepped up to the plate and made the 2015 Reunion in Colorado Springs one of the best ever. While the altitude did become a factor for several guys, it did not stop us from enjoying the majesty that is Pike's Peak and the star-filled nights of Colorado Springs.



The hotel was a perfect avenue for our group. We had a very nice meeting/hospitality room right off the main lobby but off to our own. They had set up a large tent in the rear parking lot that was used for our Saturday banquet.



The views from most of the rooms highlighted the inspiring vistas. Side trips to snow-covered Pike's Peak and the "Valley of the Gods" park and the local casinos kept everyone entertained.



The official attendance count was 147 members and the accompanying family members brought us well over 300 participating in the events.



We were unsure at first whether we would be able to have our Memorial Service at Fort Carson due to heightened security concerns. It was fortuitous that a “Travelling Wall” was actually being presented on base so for the second year in a row, we held our Memorial Service at a version of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial.



It was an impressive sight to see over 100 NDQSA members solemnly march down the walkway and stand as a human chain of honor in front of the engraved stone panels. The reflection of their faces on the polished stone surfaces intertwined with the honored names of the fallen. Truly inspiring. On cue, their hands would make physical contact with the wall to complete the connection. After a moment of silence, a congratulatory hand shake and the words “Welcome Home” was passed down the entire line of men. Well Done!



Another side trip was to Space Command where NORAD and USNORTHCOM explained how air defense has changed to defending our countries assets far above the planet. The motto *Coleus Imperamus* still holds, “We Rule the Heavens”.



This year's President's Award was presented to Bruce Geiger who along with Robert Lauver have been so instrumental with making the arrangements for our reunions. Bravo!!



This year's Molly Pitcher awards were presented to Mary Harvey, Sue Thurnherr and Mary Severin.



Bruce later made a presentation to Melanie Starkman, Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors of the Denver Fisher House Foundation. She is the daughter of a deceased WW2, Korean War & Vietnam War veteran and she is a disabled Marine Corps veteran herself. NDQSA 2015 Good Works program donated \$3500 (70 ea. x \$50 Target gift cards).



This year was the first President's Pizza Party Night. On Friday we cleared off some tables and had a great spread of pizza, wraps and salad and liquid refreshments.

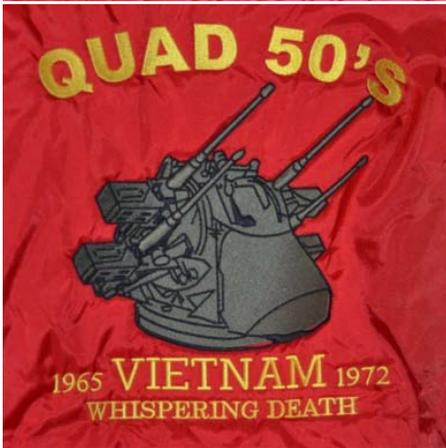
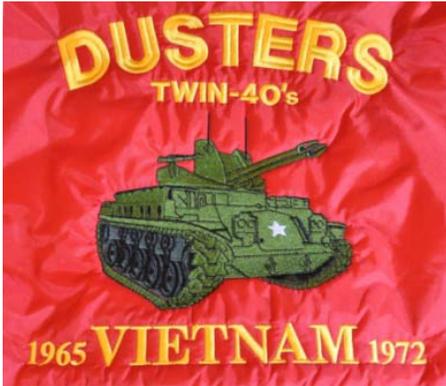
The post-banquet fund raising activities were another great success and we thank all those that brought items for the raffles and auctions. And congratulations to all those that went home with a treasured item.

The Santa Barbara Medals were presented this year to Director Duane Harvey, Mark Jourdain and Past President Robert Lauver.



NDQSA PRODUCT ITEMS 2015

Duster, Quad & SLT
Embroidered Jacket Artwork
HAWK can be made also



Searchlight Print (\$60 min)



Logo Patch \$5



Logo Decal \$5



NDQSA Challenge Coin \$10 @
NDQSA Pin Set \$8 @



50-cal bottle opener \$12



NEW NDQSA Cap \$15 Made in the USA



NDQSA BUMPER STICKERS
\$10 each

New Products Size Chart Subject to stock on hand

Give 1st & 2nd choice on color

T-shirt: Medium
Black Large
Green/Khaki XL
Gray XXL
\$15 XXXL
XXXXL

Mens Polo: Small
Black Medium
Tan Large
White XL
Green/Khaki XXL
\$30 XXXL
XXXXL
XL Tall
XXL Tall

Light printed NDQSA Jacket: no longer carried

SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

Embroidered Jacket:

Medium
Large
\$140+ XL
XXL
XXXXL

(Duster) (Quad 50)
(Searchlight) (HAWK) (Vulcan)

You can have your name, unit, years of service added at no extra cost.

You can have it made as either a light or heavy weight jacket model. Use the multipurpose form in the newsletter to order these items.

NDQSA HISTORY BOOKS ARE
SOLD OUT

Contact Paul Kopsick if you want one of the Lego Searchlights or Dusters

D-

/ /14 # \$

Q- S- E- P6

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape to envelope

NDQSA

PO Box 890130

Oklahoma City, OK 73189

2015 MEMBERSHIP INVOICE / ROSTER UPDATE / PRODUCT ORDER FORM

(Tear off this page and mail it in with your up to date contact information and unit history)

This version supersedes any previous forms as certain options are not available.

Roster Contact Information (Please Print)

Are you a new or existing contact (New) (Existing) circle one

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email(s): _____

Home Phone: () -

Cell Phone: () -

Service Information (Vietnam) (fill out even if on file)

Dates of 1st tour (m/yr): ___/___ to ___/___

Addtn'l tour (m/yr): ___/___ to ___/___

Primary MOS: _____

Primary Battery/Unit: _____

Attached To: _____

Names of bases:

Names/hometowns of buddies you knew:

Rank (highest grade while in Vietnam)

Grade: Officer: _____ NCO: _____ EM: _____

Valor Awards

PH () DSC () SS () BS/V () ACM/V ()

If you want to get the newsletter only by email and forego the paper mailed copy, please check this box. ()

If you want to switch back from email to paper mail, please check this box. ()

DUES - DONATIONS – PRODUCT ORDERS

Make check/MO payable to NDQSA

Shipping is included in the price of all items.

Dues: circle payment(s) for (2015) (2016) (2017) (2018)

DUES ARE \$25 PER YEAR \$ _____

Donations: Operation Eagle \$ _____

Quad 50 restoration \$ _____

Searchlight restoration \$ _____

Searchlight Print (\$60 min) \$ _____

NEW! Quad-50 Print (\$60 min) \$ _____

Product: NDQSA Emb. Patch _____ @ \$5 = \$ _____

NDQSA Logo Decal _____ @ \$5 = \$ _____

Bumper Sticker _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____

Circle (Duster)(Quad)(SLT)(HAWK)(Vulcan)

Challenge Coin: _____ coin @ \$10 = \$ _____

NDQSA Pin Set: _____ sets @ \$8 = \$ _____

.50-cal bottle opener _____ @ \$12 = \$ _____

NEW NDQSA HAT _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____

NDQSA T-shirt (black)(grey)(green)

Size: _____ # _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____

NDQSA Polo Shirt (black)(white)(green)

Size: _____ # _____ @ \$30 = \$ _____

(regular) (tall)

NDQSA Custom Embroidered Jacket

Size: _____ # _____ @ 145 = \$ _____

Circle (Duster)(Quad)(SLT) (HAWK)(Vulcan)

Allow 60 days for delivery.

[] Light weight [] Heavy weight

TOTAL \$ _____

If paying dues presents a hardship for you but you still want to be an Active Member, check this box []. Some members have made donations to assist you.

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED



Good morning NDQSA Members!

Hope things are well with you! You'd asked about the museum's volunteer program. I can certainly use the help, particularly with our Duster. Army museum volunteers need to contact me either by phone or email. In order to gain access to post without a retiree or current CAC card, they will have to fill out the FS118a form and get a visitor pass. Volunteer passes are good for one year. I can send it to them electronically after speaking with them.

They also need to register in VMIS (<https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogram/sandservices/volunteering/vmis/vmishome.aspx>) as a museum volunteer.

The big project I really need DQS vet support on is getting one of our Dusters running again. 12H382 was running up at Ft. Snelling. It has relatively new batteries in it, but we can't get her started. We can get the APU to start, but it won't run once you let go of the starter. It looks like both a starter and a fuel issue for the main engine and a fuel issue for the APU. I need a crew with the knowhow to help us get the old girl running again.

Did get some slightly annoying news on Thursday though. The building design meeting has been pushed back until after the FY change because the Corps of Engineers does not have any Planning & Design funding right now. So we're basically three months behind the power curve already. Fortunately I've talked to the environmental guys and they don't think the setback will delay Section 106 consultation too badly and we should be able to maintain the schedule for opening in October 2017. I'll keep you in the loop as things develop.

Jonathan A. Bernstein
Director

US Army Air Defense Artillery Museum
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503
(580) 442-0424 (O)
(580) 917-1787 (C)

Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Air-Defense-Artillery-Museum/157069701016015>

New Searchlight Jeep at Ft. Sill



Jon Bernstein has posted photos of new acquisitions and ongoing restoration projects on the ADA Museum's Facebook pages. Use the above link to keep up to date.



QUAD-50 PRINT NOW AVAILABLE

A limited number of signed and numbered copies of Jim Schuman's (B-29th FA SLT) line drawing of the M55 Quad-50 mount at a firebase are in hand and ready to ship. \$60 minimum donation per sheet, use the multipurpose form to order. Benefits the NDQSA Quad-50 Restoration Fund.



We also have copies of Jim's 2013 Searchlight Jeep print available. Again a \$60 minimum donation requested with the proceeds going to the NDQSA Searchlight Restoration Fund.



Size: 19" x 13"

To order use the newest NDQSA multipurpose form.

Makes a great Christmas gift!

CUSTOMIZED DUSTER MODEL

Hello Paul

Back some time there was discussion of the “Duster modeling kit” that was available – I was able to find one here. I have a friend I noted that is an amazing modeler – having won national modeling championship last year – I asked and he agreed to build “The Tin Rabbit” and it came out amazing! Here are a couple of photos of the finished model. The detail is better than my eyes – an amazing job is what he’s done.

Regards Bill Baker, B212, 1/44th Tin Rabbit



TANK FARM OPEN HOUSE OCT 3-4, 2015

If you live on the east coast, note that the annual Open House at the Tank Farm is Oct 3-4. Near Quantico, VA. Marc says that one of the Dusters will be running and available for rides. Go to their web site to register. It is a two-day event and there are lots of historical activities planned. Bring the kids and the grandkids and show them a Duster in action.

Click here for online [REGISTRATION FORM.](#)

HISTORY FANATICS QUAD 50 RESTORATION PROJECT

[Robert Ratliff](#) of History Fanatics attended the 2015 Reunion in Colorado Springs but it was not practical to transport the Quad-50 gun truck. He hopes to be able to transport it to Nashville in 2016 but will need our continued support.

Visit his website for updates on all his activities in support of preserving the history of Quad-50s in Vietnam [HISTORY FANATICS](#)

At the reunion, Robert brought a beautiful custom made Bowie style knife and sheath that was donated by our own **Luke Clark**. Luke has donated two custom knives to HF to help raise funds for the retirement of the loan on the M55 mount currently on the truck. Robert had raffle tickets made and we were able to sell all 500 tickets to reunion attendees. On Saturday night the drawing was held for the large of the knives which was being laser etched with one of the ADA weapons. The winner of the knife was [David Creekmore Jr.](#), of B-1/44, '69-70 in Chaparral NM. Congratulations!



The HF vehicles are on display at the National U.S. Armed Forces Museum located at 8611 Wallisville Road, Houston, Texas. Robert is also working on a jeep restoration to be based on a E-41st command jeep.





**SGT Joseph E. Carr,
G-29th '71 / H-29th '72**

81736 Camino El Triunfo,
Indio, CA 92203 732 213 0856

Hi Paul, Thank you for doing what you do as historian. I am a new member and have not attended a reunion yet. As I age, it seems more of my thoughts return to my time in the US Army 1970-1972. I wanted to share some memories and pose a few questions to you if I may.

I was a high school graduate with # 24 in the military draft lottery. Really had no future plans in particular except hanging out at the beach, girls, and my car. College was a thought, but I had no money.

I was drafted, passed the physical in Newark NJ, and was led down the hall to a bus which drove us to Ft. Dix for basic training. I naively told my mother I would be home the night of the physical. Had no idea how it all worked. I needed to call my mom the next day after waiting in line for 2 hours at a Ft Dix pay phone. Told her I was a soldier now for two years. She cried.

I was sent to Ft Sill for basic artillery training. The barracks had no bathrooms as they were the old two story wooden model. We had to cross a large outdoor assembling area to reach the bathrooms. No stalls, open toilets lined each side of the room. The concrete floor was always wet. It was December and really, really cold with incessant wind. I remember standing somewhere out on the artillery range, and although hard to believe, my eye lids were lightly freezing shut it seemed from wind and 12 degree temperatures. I learned how to fire the 105 howitzer and others, but forget nearly all of it today. In the cold and wind, standing in the middle of nowhere, the very first time I was handed a shell to load, I dropped it. Guard duty was a rotating assignment. We were given M-16 rifles to carry on guard, but no bullets? I was sent out to the range once to guard, well, the range I guess? It was 5 or 6 AM and no sign of civilization in any direction. I was walking along near a mountainous area, turned a corner, and standing no more than 30 feet in front of me was a mountain lion. We stared at each other for a while, I had no bullets, the mountain lion ran way. Thank God.

On artillery school graduation day, everyone received orders during assembly. About one half or more were sent to Vietnam, some to Germany and other locations. Three of us out the entire company were left standing at the end with no orders, including me. The Captain called us into his office. He said we were going to the Artillery Officer Candidate School at Ft Sill. Still the naive kid, I had no idea what that really meant and just said okay. At least I was not going to Vietnam. Little did I know what lay ahead?

At OCS the barracks were much nicer and had bathrooms, so that was a move up. The three of us were in limbo for a week and did basically nothing. There was a ridiculous amount of activity in the OCS battalion area. PT (physical training) at 4:30AM with lots of screaming. No one walked anywhere, they all ran. We dined at a mess hall where OCS candidates ate something called "square meals" while usually getting berated. I was so happy that was not me.

One day the Captain called me in to his office and said congratulations, welcome to OCS. He told me it was an honor and how special a US Army Artillery Officer position was. I still did not understand what was happening. The Captain said, "We only need you to sign a few papers and your class starts next Monday." He actually wanted me to lean over the desk and just sign on the line, serious. **In a moment it hit me.** The other two guys who came here with me were not drafted, they volunteered. They had three year service obligations and I had two years. I asked to sit down and read the papers and the Captain obliged. It was then clear I was signing to extend my service to three years. The Captain just routinely expected me to read, sign and return the papers, I could feel that pressure. Sheepishly, I told him I did not want to serve for three years. Wow, did he get angry. After a stern lecture he told me to think about it for a day and ordered me back the next morning. During the next 24 hours at least two junior officers spoke to me privately attempting to change my mind. They said I scored very high on military entry testing in particular math related areas needed for artillery officers. One young officer said I had "exceptional analytic perceptual motor skills" whatever the heck that meant. I was so stressed.

The next day I said no to the Captain. The Captain was super unhappy with me. For the next few days, I was ordered to report to his office at 6AM and make a pot of coffee. I was instructed to stand at attention until the coffee pot stopped perking, and then announce loudly, "coffee ready sir." The Captain gave me another chance to sign and extend. I said no thank you sir again.

There was another training group located within the OCS battalion for searchlights and target acquisition. This group included draftees. Actually, a near identical training schedule as OCS, but about 4 weeks shorter overall, as I recall. It was called NCOCS or shake and bake. Enter as a private and graduate a sergeant in 4 1/2 months. The Captain sent me there. That is how I came to join our group.

Of the about 20 others in my shake and bake class, only 15 graduated. Very strenuous training alongside the OCS guys. When OCS was firing cannons, we were working with the searchlights. Obviously, lots of night exercises out on the range. Every graduating member of my class was sent to Vietnam. Turned out, I was awarded "Most Outstanding Graduate" at commencement. Not sure how that happened really.

I was sent to G Battery 29th Arty assigned to the 1/44th Arty. Headquarters was north of DaNang near the coast. Upon arrival there, the Lt Col. called me in for an initial meeting. He asked me if I wanted to go further north near the DMZ where it was much more dangerous or stay at Headquarters. I told him I wanted to stay at headquarters. As he spoke, he was glancing at my file stating I was outstanding graduate at Ft Sill. The next day I was sent north and looking out at the DMZ on a fire-base. Holy cow.

Not really a whole lot of war story stuff occurred during my tour. We would get incoming every couple days or so on the fire base. Never got attacked at night while I was there, but several attempts occurred shortly before I arrived and everyone was on edge. My job there was to provide "light for the fight" when it did occur and to periodically scan the perimeter with invisible and white light overnight. I stayed at the fire base or near Phu Bai for my first 5 months. Upon returning to headquarters near DaNang the base there actually got attacked one night which surprised everyone. I was "charge of

quarters" that night and some perimeter guards actually captured a bad guy. In the darkness, I see our Major leading an obviously bound and gagged bad guy down the way in my direction. Said to myself, wonder where they are taking him. Turned out they were taking him to me. My job was to guard the prisoner until things got sorted out. For some reason, the prisoner would not remain seated on the ground and kept getting up on his feet. I would knock him down and he would get right back up. I was screaming at him and he was mumbling at me. I did not want to shoot him dead and was so scared. It took several hits to finally get him down. He was motionless and bleeding badly in my bunker when someone eventually came to take him away. I am really not sure he was alive and I have wondered for years if he lived. Feel bad about that, but he was the enemy.

After 5 months in I Corp, I was transferred to the opposite end of the country to Can Tho. H-Battery 29th Arty was my new home. My primary job was to guard the airbase there at night. It was much much safer duty than I was accustomed. I stayed there until H-29 "stood down" in April 1972. I was sent home and got an early out by several months. End of my military career.

Must say Paul I never realized during training at Ft Sill that searchlights were part of ADA. Not once did we train towards air defense. I saw a few dusters and many many quad 50's in Vietnam but had no idea we were somehow joined together. The quad 50's were positively devastating as you know. If the operators could keep it firing without jamming or overheating it could really hurt the enemy big time. I saw quads both on the back of a 2 1/2 ton truck and dropped down on fire base perimeters by a Chinook.

I have looked through the membership materials you sent and cannot find another person I remember. They may be out there, but I do not recall their names. Do you know of any other searchlight shake and bake members?



I would be interested in contacting them if possible.

Best Regards—Joe Carr RVN 6/71 4/72.



INTERNET BLOG pays tribute to DQS Units at LZ Sherry 1970 - 71

Friends of the Bravo
Bulls,

This notice is going to
56 guys who served with

B Battery 27th FA over the course of its time in Vietnam. It includes men organic to the unit as well as battalion staff, guys on the Quads and Dusters, our medic, radar crew and a few 101st Airborne Curahees.

I am writing a history of B Battery 27th Artillery through the stories of the guys who were there. The range goes from John Santini, who came over with the battery out of Ft. Lewis in late 1965, to Bob Christenson, our last battery commander who saw the unit deactivated in 1971, and Steve Bell who pulled the guns and loaded up the ammo.

The purpose of this email is to give you access to the parts of the history that are complete. You will find them at: <http://seveninajeep.com/oped/category/book-news/>

This is a blog and I am attempting to post a completed chapter every Wednesday. So far I have interviewed 17 people. Another 15 or so guys have expressed a willingness to tell their stories. If you are among them please be patient, I have not forgotten you. If you and I have not talked, please contact me at this email address or call me at one of my numbers below.

Eventually *The Boys of Battery B* will be a book. Proceeds from sales will go to the 27th Field Artillery Regiment Association. Likewise, any profits that come from my recently published Vietnam memoir *Seven in a Jeep* will go to the association.

Conjuncti Stamus, "United We Stand"

[Ed Gaydos](mailto:edgaydos@gmail.com) [edgaydos@gmail.com]

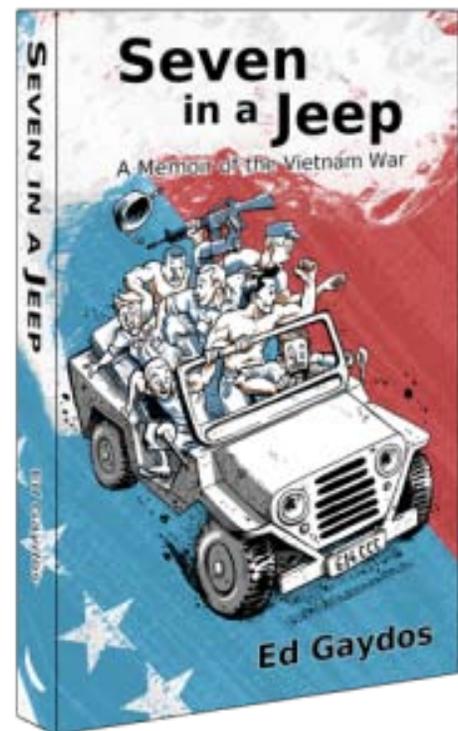
LZ Sherry FDC 4/70 - 3/71

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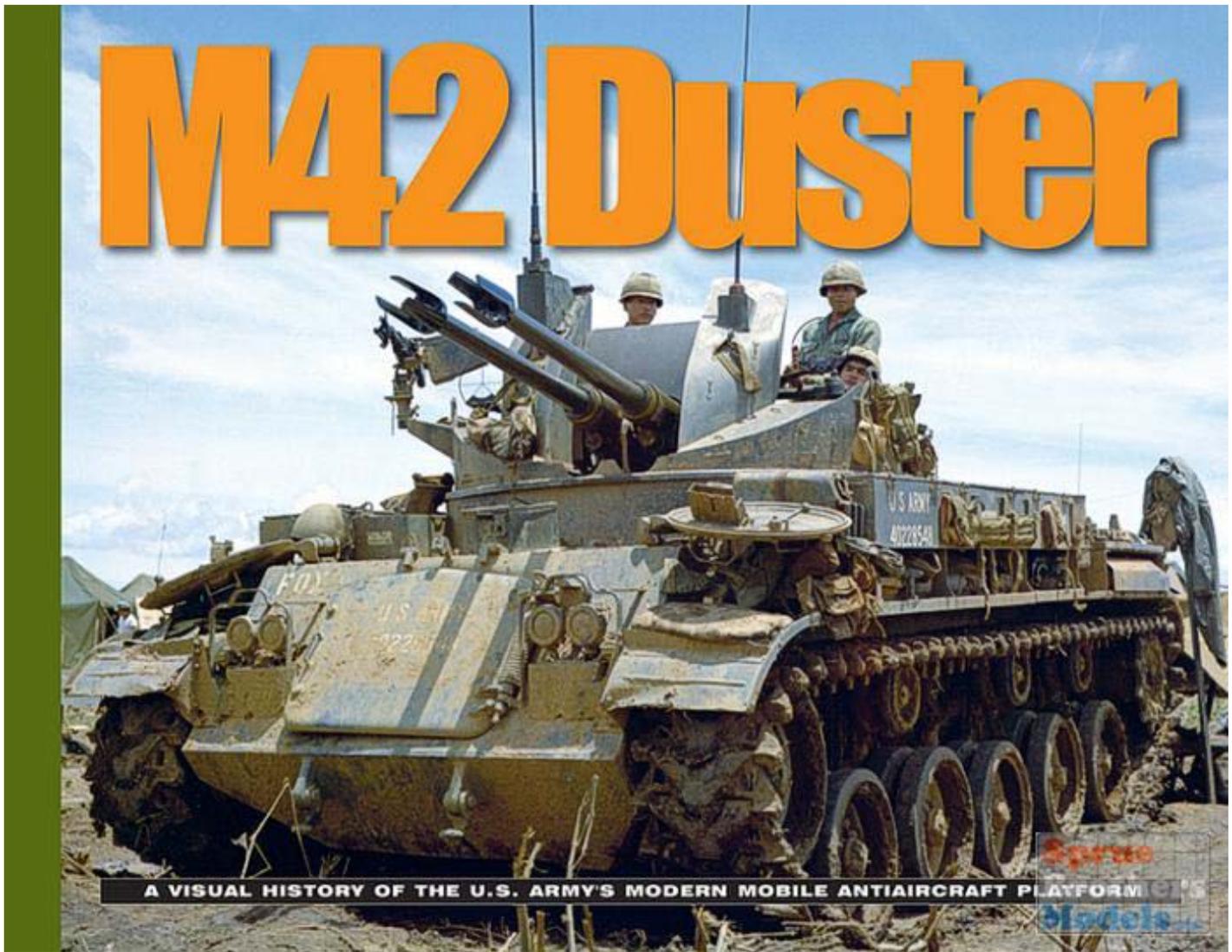
***Seven in a Jeep: A Memoir of the Vietnam War* is now available!**

The paperback is available from [Amazon.com \(click\)](#) and [BarnesandNoble.com \(click\)](#), and available by request at all brick and mortar bookstores.

Find the e-book on [Amazon Kindle \(click\)](#). More e-book markets coming soon!

After you pick up a copy, don't forget to leave a review at [GoodReads.com!](#)

Congratulations to Ed Gaydos! You've written a fantastic memoir, and now the world will have a chance to read it.



[New Duster Photo Book available](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVtHCxb-D-Q>
Finally a photo book for actual Vietnam Veterans

By [Paul Kopsick](#) on June 24, 2015

Greetings, finally a photo book that actually shows operational practices of the M42A1 'Twin Forty' 40MM "Duster" in action, IN VIETNAM!

If you served on this crew served weapon in Vietnam and do not have many surviving photos from Nam, this is the book you need to have. Each photo has been carefully researched and edited and annotated with specific names and locations. The first third is largely historical (Pre-Vietnam) and the last third is a detailed walk-around of the fully restored Dusters at the Tank Farm in Nokesville, VA. The middle third is chock full of actual photos shot by members of the three Duster

Battalions that served in Vietnam from 1967 - 1971.

You might even find a picture of your own 'track' (as we called them, it is not a tank!). Each photo was selected to show some pertinent aspect of how the weapon was used in Vietnam. Get this book! **Take it to the VA and show them what you did and how it was used.**

There were only about 200 Dusters in Vietnam at the same time.

People, historians, administrators do not know anything about this weapon or the hardship and sacrifices of the crews that served on them and the men that supported them in the field. These WERE COMBAT SOLDIERS!!

Fighting alongside the Marines, the Infantry and the Artillery. They protected them on the road during the day and at the firebases at night. A truly unsung branch of the military service in Vietnam, overlooked and unheralded...UNTIL NOW!!! **Copies available from [Paul the Historian](#) for \$25 each shipping included + a bonus Duster patch. **Christmas Gift!!****

**National Dusters, Quads &
Searchlights Association
PO Box 890130
Oklahoma City, OK 73189**

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“First To Fire...Last To Leave”**

34rd Annual Reunion

June 2016 date TBD

NASHVILLE, TENN

WWW.NDQSA.COM

Many of you have already paid for multiple years, so look carefully at the mailing label for the year which shows when you are paid up through. (2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018)

However, if you see the number 0000 or 2014 and below, we have not seen a dues payment from you in a while. If you can't afford the dues, we fully understand so do not worry about it. We only ask that you update your status and verify your contact information, **phone numbers and email address**. Just mail in the info using the multipurpose form or send an email.

2015 Rosters are printed out when your form is submitted and will contain the most up to date information. So please make any updates or changes ASAP!

If you have changed your phone number or email address recently, send an email to dqshistorian@cox.net or leave a message on (202) 262-9560.

To be sure you get the newsletter via email, tell your email program to accept emails from dqshistorian@cox.net.

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association[™] (NDQSA[™]) is the original, official representative for ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam. NDQSA was founded in 1981 by John Huelsenbeck et al, holds annual reunions and has grown to over 570 active members with a directory of over 2200 ADA Vietnam Veterans and supporters.

NDQSA is an IRS 501(c) (19) non-profit veteran's organization and is incorporated in the State of Indiana.

We welcome and encourage all ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam to join NDQSA and to share the fellowship, mutual support, and continued service to our nation on behalf of all military veterans and active duty personnel.