

# NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION

## MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

### 2016 REUNION NEWS

**NDQSA 34<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL REUNION  
NASHVILLE, TN  
May 31 – June 5<sup>th</sup> 2016**

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear NDQSA families  
I would like to take this opportunity to invite all to the upcoming 2016 reunion in Nashville TN May 31 thru June 5. The committees have lined up a lot of good activities for your enjoyment. There are many things to visit In the Music City

area. There will be a trip to Fort Campbell on Thursday June 2 for the memorial ceremony. Check the newsletter for the other day's schedule. I hope everyone had a good winter; this will start the summer off right with old friends reunited and hoping to see many new faces. Nearly 120 guys have already signed up!

I sure hope the fellows that had health issues this winter are on the mend. As we all reach our golden years we will see more challenges, but remember we are survivors and never give up.

[John F. Huelsenbeck](#)  
President NDQSA

## SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Board members participated in one conference call to go over the activities and plans for the 2016 reunion. Association finances are strong, restoration projects are

continuing, and Active membership is at our all time highest number, 605 Active Members! Thank You!!

## 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.

**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](mailto:josephbelardo@yahoo.com)  
Contact Joe if you want to nominate someone.

## FEATURED STORIES:

**Cambodia: 1970**  
Reunion Guest Speaker – **Chris Noel**

### DQS Historian recovering



Following the Colorado Springs reunion, Paul Kopsick was diagnosed with stage 4 CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia). After successful chemotherapy he caught pneumonia. The good news is that he is recovering well, catching up on his backlog of photos and slides and plans to attend the Nashville Reunion.

# Summary of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meetings

December 17, 2015

Amended with subsequent information as needed.

## Reports of Officers:

*President*, John Huelsenbeck; A motion was made by Joe Belardo to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Paul Hanson. No dissention was noted and the motion passed unanimously.

*First Vice President*, Bob Cuce: No comment.

*Second Vice-President*, Paul Kopsick: No comment.

*Secretary*, Garry Severin: Requested that Dave McCray be reinstated as secretary's assistant. This request was approved. A request was made to ask Vince Tedesco to rejoin the meetings also as his insight and contacts will be useful.

*Treasurer*, Allan Penwell - Allan read the financial report and 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 Paul Hanson to accept the financial report; it was seconded by Bruce Geiger and passed without descent.

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

### Membership Committee (Joe Belardo, Paul Kopsick):

Paul Kopsick noted that we have 603 active members of which 300 are ahead on their membership dues for 2016. According to Paul Kopsick, the Organization is "Healthy and Growing"

### Nominating Committee (Paul Hanson, Bob Cuce, and

Garry Severin): The only position which is being contested is the second vice president's position.

### Publications/Historian Committee (Paul Kopsick):

Another newsletter is planned before the reunion; this will include the registration sheet for the hotel and your purchased activities agenda.

### Reunion Committee (Bob Lauer, Bruce Geiger, Mary

Severin, Paul Hanson) : Bruce Geiger reports that the Hotel has been secured for the next reunion in Nashville Tn. The Sheraton Music City Hotel will be the site of the reunion .The Dates are Tuesday May 31, 2016 to Sunday June 05, 2016 .The room rate is 129.00 plus tax per night. The reunion rate is available three nights before and three days after the reunion

on an "As Available "basis. Shuttle service is available from the airport; contact the hotel if you need this service. Parking is free for Hotel guests. The internet address of the hotel is [www.Starwoodmeeting.com/book/NDQSA](http://www.Starwoodmeeting.com/book/NDQSA) Activities: Tuesday is sign in day. Wednesday 11:00 am. Until 2:30 pm. the General Jackson river boat luncheon and show cruise is planned as a group event. The cost for this attraction is sixty dollars per person. Thursday a trip to Ft. Campbell in Ky. is planned from 8 am to 4 pm. Upon return from Ft. Campbell the board meeting will take place. Friday a shuttle service to the Hermitage Mansion will be available for 25.00 per person, ( admission to the Mansion is not included ).Later on Friday is a group tour of the Grand Old Opry at 4:30 pm, followed by the President's reception at 5:00 until 6:45 and the Grand Old Opry Show from 7:00 until 9:00. Total cost is 85.00 per person. Saturday is the men's Annual Association Business Meeting, The Ladies auxiliary meeting and breakfast, in the Hospitality room, both starting at 9:00 am followed at 12:00 noon by the Luncheon Banquet and awards presentations and guest speakers. The evening's activities will be the auction and 50-50 drawings. Sunday morning services and tear down will end this year's reunion. The Board has five choices for the 2017 reunion and they are Albuquerque, New Mexico, Phoenix Arizona, Salt Lake City Utah, San Antonio Texas, or San Diego California. The last would require a non peak date to get reasonable rates.

### Products Committee (Duane & Mary Gettler, Bruce

Geiger, Paul Kopsick & Bob Lauer): Paul Kopsick has ordered additional bumper stickers; he also has the lanyards in but hasn't sent them out for lettering as no theme has been chosen to date. Additional challenge coins and pins have been ordered and will be delivered soon.

### Website Committee (Bob Lauer, Paul Kopsick, Allan Penwell, Bob Cuce, Bruce Geiger, Robert Schmeisser):

Paul Kopsick reported the old website server we were using is no longer in use and all our information has being moved to another server. The committee is in the process of getting the new site on line.

### Special Projects – Restoration Notes -- Other:

NDQSA was well represented at a recent Purple Heart Gathering. Vince Tedesco, Bob Lauer, and Joe Belardo spoke to the gathering of their experience's in Vietnam and were well received.

### Next Board of Directors meeting has not been set.

Motion to close meeting was made by Paul Hanson and seconded by Bob Lauer.

## MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

Robert C. Wehrs, D-5/2d '66-67 6Jan16 IL

He will be missed and we give honor to his service, his life and his family.

## NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

[Wayne Bill, C-1/44 '69-70](#)  
[James Beegle, G-65 1969](#)  
[Leo Scheetz, 6/71 HAWKS '66-67](#)  
[Danny Webb, 4/60 '69-70](#)  
[Charles Williams Jr., 4/60 '68-69](#)  
[Lance Trice, E-41 '67-68](#)  
[Herbert Holthoff Jr., D-1/44 '69-70](#)  
[Larry Yarger, B-4/60 '69-70](#)  
[Jimmy Barber, D-4/60 '70-71](#)  
[Jim Penvose, G-65 '69-70](#)  
[Don Pryor, B-29 SLT '67-68](#)  
[Chris Baird, E-41 '69-70](#)  
[Thomas Leick, G-65 '69-70](#)  
[George Skirka, MACV '70-71](#)  
[Walter Whittenberg, H-4/60 1971](#)  
[Jimmie Larmeu, B-4/60 '70-71](#)  
Marvin Fiddie, 1/44 '69-71  
[Felix Gonzalez, B-1/44 '67-68](#)  
[David Olson, G-29 '67-68](#)  
[Charles Chandler, G-55 '68-69](#)

If the name is underlined, you can click on it and send a message to the new member. Maybe he knows someone you served with? **Send him an email!!**

### DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

**NOTE:** For some reason I cannot email to anyone with an [embarqmail.com](#) account! Two pieces of contact information that frequently change are cell phone numbers and email addresses. Typically there are about a half dozen emails sent out each year to every member with a valid (current) email address on record with the Historian. If you (or a spouse) have an email address and you have not received and emails from the Historian, it is time for you to record your email address with him. Simply [click here](#) and identify yourself clearly (full name). You might as well confirm your telephone numbers in the same email. When an email is sent to a bad email address, the Historian tries to contact the member by phone to determine their status. This is a time consuming effort, but it does give him a chance to talk to members.

## 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!!!

## 2016 Membership Rosters

The 2016 Membership rosters will be printed and mailed out in February so people will have time to send in their 2016 dues (if necessary) with updated contact information. When you get your roster there will also be your 2016 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™.

## ONLINE NEW ARTICLE OF NOTE

### Decades Later, Agent Orange Catches Up with Vietnam Veterans

By Don Wilkins, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY  
Feb 28, 2016

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/02/28/decades-later-agent-orange-catches-up-with-vietnam-veterans.html>

# ADA Association Report

The 44<sup>th</sup> ADA has been deployed once again to Afghanistan. There is a call for support for the troops in the form of "goodie bags" and letters. Show your support if you can by arranging a gift box of supplies.

## “Call to arms”

The Strike Fear colors are uncased. If any organizations would like to send care packages to our troops, I have placed some POCs and their deployed addresses below.

Honestly, the troops in Afghanistan are sitting pretty good. Our guys in Iraq are austere. Below are the addresses for our guys in Iraq. After the addresses are a list of things that we are mustering for the troops. PX facilities are EXTREMELY limited in Iraq and will be for the foreseeable future (reminds me of Iraq 2003/2004 when I was there!)

1SG Robert Osterman  
2-44 ADA C-RAM Al Asad  
Unit 3101  
APO, AE 09333-9997

1LT Norris Potter  
OIR-ADV Team Det. 1 A/2-44 ADA  
Unit 14061 (TF TQ)  
FPO, AE 09510-4061

-Food/Snacks: these items need to be sealed in their original package and non-perishable (ex, beef jerky, sunflower seeds, nuts, hot sauce, candy, canned foods)

-DVDs

-Books

-Moisturizers

-Hand sanitizer

-Lip balm

-Body wash / Baby wipes

-Icy Hot pain relieving ointment

-Sunscreen (this is a biggy for us as we enter the hot season here)

-Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

-Batteries (AA, AAA, 9-Volt)

-Bug spray/lotion

-Foot spray/powder

-Laundry detergent (preferably "pods" instead of powder)

-Socks (black or white)

-Screws, nails, bolts, etc. Surprisingly, these items are hard to come by for our construction projects

-Command strips for hanging items

-Board games and cards

-Footballs, baseball gloves & balls, any type of small sports or game equipment for the Soldiers in their off-time.

Hope all is well and take care Sir! See you in November!

"STRIKE FEAR!"

James C. Reese

LTC, AD

Commander 2-44 ADAADA WALK OF FAME



Remember. You can sponsor a brick at the new memorial at Ft. Sill. [adaassoc@hotmail.com](mailto:adaassoc@hotmail.com)

ADA Association  
Brick Order Form

Purchaser's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Red brick \$60.00 Stone (White) Brick \$100.00 Stone (Black) Brick \$100.00  
(Acceptable forms of payment: Cash/Check/Money Order)

INSCRIPTION/DEDICATION  
(Restricted to 4 lines with 21 spaces per line)

Mail to:  
ADA Association  
P.O. Box 88797, Fort Sill, OK 73083

## REUNION UPDATE



**Ms Chris Noel** has been invited to be one of the guest speakers at this year's Reunion Banquet. If you served in Vietnam, you should know Chris Noel. She was a N.Y. Giants cheerleader, model, cover girl, radio personality, and entertainer. She is an actress, Vietnam Veteran, author, singer and 'the girl next door' to countless servicemen.

She was in Vietnam with Armed Forces Radio for the years 1965- 1971, just as long as we (the ADA units) served in Vietnam.

In addition to all of this, Chris co-founded [\*\*Vetsville Cease Fire House\*\*](#) in Palm Beach, Florida providing shelter and services to homeless vets. NDQSA will be raising funds for her charity as part of the reunion activities. So be sure to bring an item for the auction. If you

cannot attend and wish to support her cause, send in a donation to this year's Good Works Project using the Membership form. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

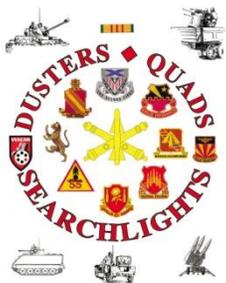
If you still have to make hotel reservations and you have any trouble with the online reservation process please contact directly: **Christina Michael, Group Rooms Coordinator at (615) 231-1284**. She can assist you with any issues that might arise. Do make your reservations ASAP as we are having a very large turnout and rooms are scarce for certain nights. Close to 120 guys have already made reservations so we are anticipating a near record turnout. Bravo!

## FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

**From:** Bob Parks [<mailto:bparks@baybroadband.net>]

In the "for what it's worth department" I just returned from a trip to Vietnam. I was delighted to see skyscrapers in Saigon, car dealerships and shopping malls in Binh Duong Province where I was stationed (Phu Loi, Tan Binh, DiAn). There was even a new industrial site at Tan Binh almost on the spot where the night defensive perimeter (affectionately called Claymore Corner) where I spent half my tour. I visited the Phu Loi Vietnamese Army base camp (they took over our base camp for their own use) and explained to the guard (I wasn't allowed in, of course) that I was a dau from the American Army. We actually exchanged salutes! I also visited Vung Tau the R&R center on the beach and stayed in the Grand Hotel (like last time, but much more upscale now). In 1968 it was fairly deserted except for us, some Navy guys and Aussies plus a few Vietnamese civilians. Now it's like Ocean City: glittery hotels and families. A picture I took on the beach in 1968 showed two people on the beach. This time I found the same spot and this day (a Saturday) the beach was teeming with Vietnamese families. In Saigon I visited the city museum. There was a display of NVA hardware. If you looked out the window next to the RPG display you could see the 68 story Bitexco Financial Tower in the distance in down town Saigon. **Capitalism works better than armies.**

I felt really good seeing Vietnam as it is now.



# 34<sup>th</sup> Annual NDQSA Reunion

## “Operation Music City”

### Nashville, TN

### May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016



NDQSA is pleased to announce that our 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion will be in Nashville, TN. Bruce Geiger and Bob Lauver have done it again and have made the best deal possible with the Sheraton Music City Hotel.

**Sheraton Music City Hotel**  
**777 McGavock Pike**  
**Nashville, TN 37214**



Phone Reservations: 1(615)885-2200

Use Group Code: *NDQSA Reunion*

Room Rate: \$129 + tax single/double

Room Rate includes: Free Airport Shuttle & Free Parking!

For Online Hotel Reservations Use Link at < [NDQSA 2016](https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/NDQSA)>  
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/NDQSA>

Sheraton Music City Hotel shuttle will pick up group members from Nashville Airport:

Call Hotel (615)885-2200 to request pick up.



#### Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

Registration opens in Hospitality Suite.  
You are on your own to explore around the city.  
Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight.

#### Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

Registration in Hospitality Suite.  
**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**General Jackson Lunch Cruise/Show**  
**Cost \$60 per person round trip**  
Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight

#### Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**  
**Bus trip to Ft. Campbell**  
**Memorial Ceremony, Lunch on base**  
**Cost \$ 45 per person round trip**  
Hospitality room in evening  
Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight.

#### Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Shuttle Svc. 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
**Downtown & Hermitage Museum**  
**Cost (max) \$ 25 per person round trip**  
**4:30 PM – 10:00 PM**  
**Grand Ole Opry President's Reception & Show**  
**Includes Hors d'Oeuvres, Beer, Wine**  
**& Softdrinks**  
**Cost \$ 85 per person round trip**

#### Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**(Member Attendance Required)**

**9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**  
**Ladies Continental Breakfast**  
**In Hospitality Room**

**12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM**  
**Annual NDQSA Banquet**  
**Cost: \$40 per person**  
**Guest Speakers, Awards, and Presentations**  
**Evening Hospitality Room**  
**Activities, Auctions & Raffles**

#### Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>

Chaplain's Service in Hospitality Room followed by cleanup and out by noon.

## REUNION ACTIVITIES AND OPTIONS

Nashville presents a lot of wonderful options for NDQSA Members in 2016. First of all it is a beautiful city and is one of the top five 'destination' tourism cities in the nation. This is largely due to its musical heritage and the 'Grand Ole Opry' organization. In addition the extraordinarily popular 'Nashville' television series has made it virtually impossible to negotiate reasonable hotel rates in the downtown area. The committee has however negotiated a great deal with the Sheraton Music City Hotel, a beautiful property near the airport and the Grand Ole Opry. The committee has made every effort to make this a memorable reunion and to give you options for both pre- and post-reunion family activities.

Since Memorial Day is the weekend before our reunion, you can make individual plans to come in early and participate in the city's Memorial Day parades, etc. If you are considering this we highly recommend that you preregister with the hotel ASAP since our NDQSA Reunion rate while offered from May 28<sup>th</sup> thru June 8<sup>th</sup>, is 'based on availability'. So the sooner you try to get pre and post reunion rooms, the better.



On Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup>, the group activity will be a lunch and cruise aboard the [General Jackson](#), one of the country's largest authentic paddle-wheel boats, for a spectacular luncheon cruise down Nashville's Cumberland River! Relax and admire views of the city skyline from the showboat decks, indulge in a 3-course Southern meal on board, and enjoy live

entertainment including talented musical performers, dancers and comedians.

The cost for transportation and cruise is \$60 per person which is below published rates.

Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a bus trip to Fort Campbell for memorial activities and there will be a lunch on the base. Cost for the busses and lunch is \$45 per person.



Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> is the BIG ONE! Morning activities include busses to the Andrew Jackson Hermitage Museum and downtown Nashville (\$25 per person).



In the afternoon (4:30 PM) we have arranged for a trip to the "Grand Ole Opry" where NDQSA will have private reception with light food and drink just off stage at the Opry. You will then be in the audience for the evening musical show. The cost for the reception and show is \$85 per person and this being partially subsidized by authorization of President John Huelsenbeck and NDQSA BOD. What a great way to cross off the Opry from your 'Bucket List!'"

Saturday's luncheon and awards ceremonies will be held at noon after the morning's annual business meeting. While the men are meeting, the ladies will be indulged with a continental breakfast in the hospitality room, compliments of NDQSA!

The cost of the buffet luncheon is \$40 per person.

# 2016 NDQSA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY AND MAIL THIS FORM TO THE TREASURER – SEE ADDRESS LABEL BELOW

## 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NDQSA REUNION, NASHVILLE, TN MAY 31<sup>st</sup> - JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

<p><b>Sheraton Music City Hotel</b> 777 McGavock Pike Nashville, TN 37214</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Phone Reservations: 1-615-885-2200 Use Group Code: <i>NDQSA Reunion</i> Room Rate: \$129 + tax single/double For Online Hotel Reservations Use Link at &lt; <a href="#">NDQSA 2016</a>&gt; Room Rate includes Airport Shuttle &amp; Free Parking!</p>
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Which days are you planning to attend the reunion? (circle)  
**May 28 29 30 31 June 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8**  
 S Su M Tu W Th F S Su M Tu W

Remember to make your hotel reservations ASAP to insure room availability.

If you have already made your reservations, check this box [  ].  
 If you are local or not staying at the reunion hotel, check this box [  ].

Operation  
Music  
City

**To help planning reunion activities including buses & meals, please pre-register now and send fees for the following activities.**  
 As always, should unforeseen circumstances occur and you are unable to attend the reunion, you will receive a full refund.  
 Activity times are tentative and subject to change as plans are finalized.

### ACTIVITIES

<p><b>Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup></b> Setup &amp; Registration in Hospitality Suite  <b>Open Day for Sightseeing</b>  Hospitality Room closes ~12:00 midnight.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup></b> Registration in Hospitality Suite  11:00 AM – 2:00 PM <b>General Jackson Lunch Cruise/Show</b> <b>Cost \$ 60 per person</b></p> <p>Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight</p>	<p><b>Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM <b>Bus trip to Ft. Campbell Memorial Ceremony Lunch on base</b> <b>Cost \$ 45 per person</b>  3:30 PM board buses return to Hotel  Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight</p>	<p><b>Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup></b> 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM <b>Shuttle Service Hermitage Museum &amp; Downtown</b> <b>Cost \$25 per person</b>  4:30 PM - 10:00 PM <b>Grand Ole Opry President's Reception &amp; Show</b> <b>Cost \$ 85 per person</b>  Hospitality Room ?</p>	<p><b>Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM <b>Annual Business Meeting</b> (Members required to attend) 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM <b>Ladies Continental Breakfast in Hospitality Room</b> 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM <b>Annual NDQSA Banquet Guest Speakers, Awards &amp; Presentations</b> <b>Cost: \$40 per person</b> Evening Hospitality Room</p>
<p><b>Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Chaplain's Farewell</b></p>				

<u>Select &amp; Pay for Activities</u>	<u>No. of Persons</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Tuesday, May 31 <sup>st</sup> Registration - Sightseeing on your own – Hospitality room open.		
Wednesday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM General Jackson Lunch Cruise & Show.	(\$60) x _____ = \$ _____	
Thursday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9:00 AM Bus Trip to Ft. Campbell, Memorial Ceremony, Lunch on base	(\$45) x _____ = \$ _____	
Friday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 9:00AM–3:00PM Shuttle Svc. to Hermitage Museum & Downtown 4:30–10:00PM Grand Ole Opry, President's Reception & Show	(\$25) x _____ = \$ _____ (\$85) x _____ = \$ _____	
Saturday June 4 <sup>th</sup> : Luncheon Banquet with Guest Speakers and Awards	(\$40 per person) x _____ = \$ _____	
Voluntary donation to 2016 NDQSA Reunion Good Works Service Project Fund	(any amount welcome) \$ _____	
<b>Reunion Registration Fee: <span style="background-color: yellow;">Make sure you add it into your total!</span></b>	(\$20 per individual / \$25 per family) \$ _____	
<b>Total &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>		

**Allan Penwell, NDQSA**  
1501A Theodore Drive  
Champaign, IL 61821

Make your pre-registration check payable to **NDQSA** and mail to NDQSA Treasurer:  
← Cut out this address label and tape it to your envelope.

Tear off this page, fill it out and mail it in.

D-

/ /14 # \$

Q- S- E- P6

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape to envelope

NDQSA  
PO Box 890130  
Oklahoma City, OK 73189

**2016 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (2016) (2017) (2018) (2019)

**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)

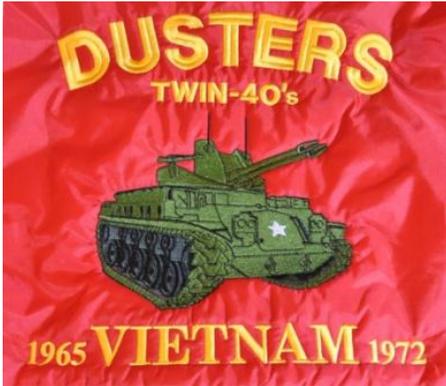
NDQSA Custom Embroidered Jacket  
Size: \_\_\_ # \_\_\_ @145 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle (Duster)(Quad)(SLT) (HAWK)(Vulcan)  
Allow 60 days for delivery.  
[ ] Light weight [ ] Heavy weight  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.

# NDQSA PRODUCT ITEMS 2016

## Duster, Quad & SLT Embroidered Jacket Artwork

HAWK artwork now available!



Quad 50 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

## TANK FARM OPEN HOUSE 2016

The dates have been set for the 2016 Open House at the Tank Farm near Quantico, VA. Plan on **September 24-25** (weather permitting)!

### SOUI TRE UPDATE

I received new information and photos from [Willie Brown](#) of Shreveport LA who was with D-5/2d and was sent out to Soui Tre the day after the battle. He recounted the collecting of enemy bodies from the fields of fire and their burial in big trenches.

He also provided photos and information on the two D-71<sup>st</sup> quads that were brought back from the battle, including the one reportedly hit with a HE round from the artillery position nearby when they saw NVA/VC trying to commandeer it. For the first time I can confirm that the quad shown in the earlier article was most probably the one “hit” by the HE artillery round.



You can see that the gun side shielding “Bat-wings” are forced forward, indicating a force from behind. The UR barrel is melted.

This next photo shows the same quad from the rear and you can see impacts on the ammo cans again indicating trauma from the rear.



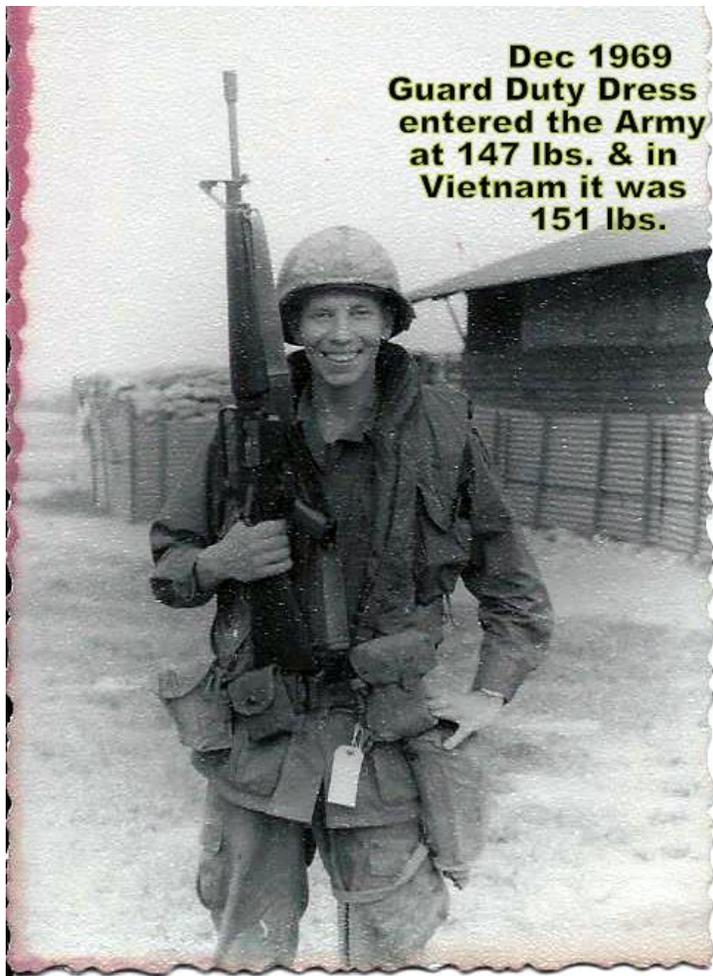
The next photo is of the second quad, the one where Jessie Rose was killed. It does not show any side shields and impacts from shrapnel pepper the gunner’s shield where the wounded SP4 George DeMott was sitting.



Thanks Willie for the photos and memories.

# Cambodia:1970

Written 46 years later by Jim Varcho  
63C30 Mechanic in HQ 5th Battalion  
2d Artillery (AW)(SP)



**Cambodia, the other Southeast Asia country we fought in.** While there may have been a few guys up north that might have made a quick run into Laos west of Lang Vie, or some dusters and quads from 4/60<sup>th</sup> and E-41 that operated into Cambodia around Ben Het or west of LZ Oasis, the ADA guys that were part of the coordinated excursions into Cambodia were the 5/2d Dusters and the D-71<sup>st</sup> Quads. Jim Varcho was with the 5/2d as a mechanic and here are his memories of those harrowing times.

**Jim Varcho:** Don't remember much in detail! I do know that we were told not to take pictures, and apparently I did what I was asked. I did manage to save the Sept 1970 issue of the Hurricane (a publication of

the II Field Force Vietnam); it was a Cambodia Special. Reading it brought back a few memories and details.

In a tape I sent home on 10 May 1970 (Mother's Day) I indicated the following:

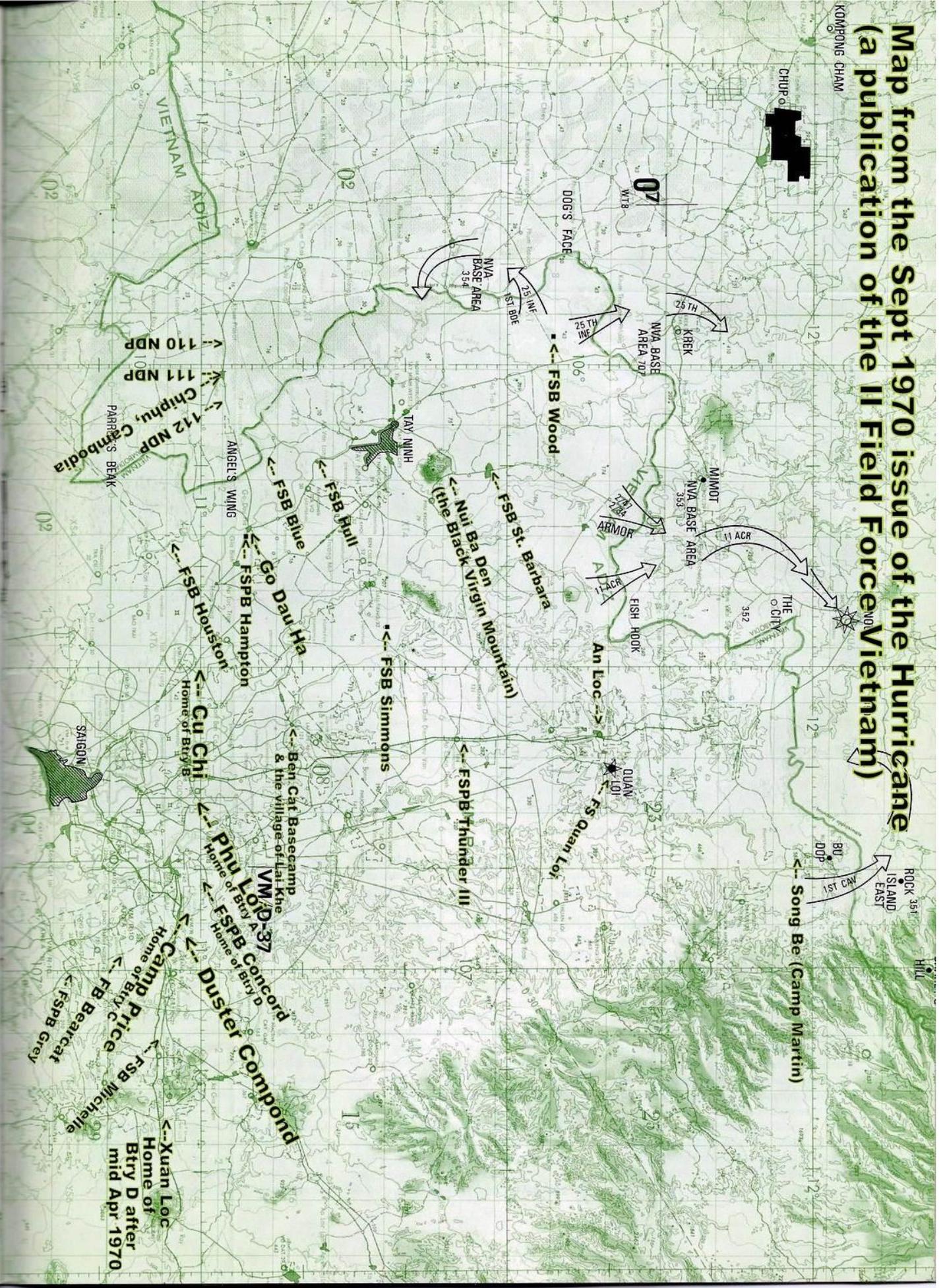
At the end of Apr 1970, we heard that the U.S. was going into Cambodia to attack the supply lanes, depots, troop concentration, and their sanctuaries that were VC established. We understood that there was new leadership in Cambodia and they wanted the VC out. A U.S. Task Force was being established along the Cambodia border and the 5th Battalion, 2nd Artillery would be part of that contingency.

On the 26th of April three of us from the HQ motor pool (SSgt. Randal Knotts, Randy Higgins and I) left Duster Compound in a 2 ½ truck to deliver a power pack (Duster engine and transmission assembly) to Cu Chi for any vehicles that had problems on their way to the Cambodia Border. At **Cu Chi** we learned that there was no lift capability to remove the power pack but there was no real need for the power pack, because the tracks already moved on. We were ordered to catch the convoy at **Tay Ninh**. Apparently of the group of 4 Dusters and 2 Quad 50s that were in route to the border, one of the Dusters caught fire and another needed a transmission. At **Tay Ninh** we elected to replace the complete power pack rather than split the power pack. We worked from our time of arrival into the night and the consensus was that the track was running better than it ever had. We missed the mess hall and had our 1st introduction to Long Range Patrol or "LRP ration" (U.S. Army freeze-dried dehydrated field ration). The others around me said I was the lucky one because I had spaghetti with meat sauce. We had water but not hot water so it wasn't as good as it could have been. Through the night we got word that there was a Duster at **FSB Hull** that needed an engine and that they would have lift capability. The power pack we just replaced and had in our truck had a good engine. When we arrived at **FSB Hull** we were surprised to see 155MM & 8 inch Self Propelled Howitzers and 175 MM Self Propelled Guns all at one location. The engine replacement must have been uneventful but we needed to spend the night there. I mentioned in the tape home, that the artillery was fired through the night and that I and Sgt. Knotts slept on cots that were under an ammo shelter and Randy slept on the canvas top of the deuce and a half. We returned to Duster Compound on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.

# Map from the Sept 1970 issue of the Hurricane (a publication of the II Field Force Vietnam)

KOMPONG CHAM

CHUPH



Again from the tape to my family: On 1 May 1970 I got the order (in the morning 5th Battalion, 2nd Artillery motor pool) to pack my duffel bag with things I would need out in the field for an undetermined time and to take the helmet, flak jacket, tool box, and rifle and be ready in ½ hour to move out! Drove a jeep (with the canvas top and supports removed and lined the floor with sand bags for protection from mines, taking the canvas off was so we could be blown away from the vehicle) from Charlie Company (Have Guns, Will Travel) with the Charlie Battery Commander and a Lieutenant and we drove to Go Dau Ha. There we met up with 6 M42 Dusters (Cambodia is approximately 12 km West on Highway #1). I was told then “we are going into Cambodia in the morning”. In the first hour at Go Dau Ha, (and I can only guess we were at the Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB)) I saw a U.S. three-star, a two-star, 2 one-star, as well as ARVN three-star, and 2 two-star Generals. I do not know what happened to the officers that were in our jeep, I stayed with the vehicle that night (it rained for the first two days). It appears that Go Dau Ha was the headquarters for the ARVN operation into Cambodia through the Angel’s Wing and the Parrot’s Beak while the U.S. was supplying artillery & aircraft support. That 1<sup>st</sup> day I saw ARVN & VC wounded as well as VC prisoners.

I don’t know what happened to the Dusters because the next day I was flown to **FSB Blue** to replace a generator. I probably had to wait there a day or so for the parts! I did not sleep in **FSB Blue** but just outside with 4 Dusters and a few M548 tracked ammo carriers. The Duster Crews said that the artillery would be firing all night and that it is better out here! We talked about how bad the mosquitoes were. I had only been taking the big orange malaria pills once a week and not the white every day pill. Seemed I was wondering about what the mosquitoes were carrying, just idle thoughts.

When the generator was changed out I was flown to **Tay Ninh** and joined the Ready Reaction Force which was commanded by B Battery. Made a trip to **FSB Houston** to replace a generator (guess I should mention we replaced a lot of generators and starters, they were held in with 6 self-locking nuts that needed to be turned off/on with a wrench the whole time – no room for a long wrench either, we shortened a wrench, then it

require a small movement -, turn the wrench over and so on until they were all off -- to gain access to the generator/starter the crew would remove the stored ammo and we needed to crawl back to an engine access -- whenever we replace a power pack we would always take 3 of the 6 nuts off while the pack was out) (don’t know now many days) and returned to **Tay Ninh**. I talked about going to **FSB Wood** near the Dog Face on the Cambodian Border where there were 4 Dusters and 2 Quad 50s but don’t know the outcome. I ended up back at Duster Compound on 10 May (Mother’s Day) and sent home a tape with the above information in it.

I have no tapes (we sent tapes back and forth and in some cases, we taped over previous conversations), letters, or pictures that directly refer to my trip into Cambodia. This is from memory and writings to include the classified (now declassified) US Army Operational Report of the 5th Battalion (A.A)(SP) 2d Artillery for various months (here is one site <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/508665.pdf> ). I also acquired additional information on locations from the historian of the NDQSA. The publicized incursion of Cambodia, by US forces was by way of the North in the area of the Fish Hook and I was South by the Angel’s Wing and the Parrot’s Beak which is where the Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (ARVN) went in. I now think we were with U.S. Artillery units that we were supporting the ARVN. I had no idea where we were, I didn’t have a map or a plan, and I just followed the convoy in a jeep or on top of a Duster. We ended up at or near **Chiphu, Cambodia**. There were three locations, not named Fire Support Bases but rather night defensive positions (NDP). Probably they were NDP 110, NDP 111, and NDP 112 (see map). We may have moved from one to the others. I do remember: that one was full of M107 SPHs (175 mm gun that could shoot 32 KM/20 miles) and M109 SPHs (155 mm howitzer that could shoot 18 KM/11.2 miles).

This is what I remember in note form:

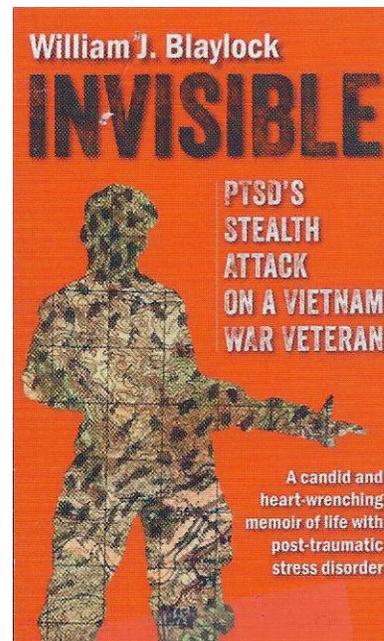
- We ate from a mess with hot food while at FSBs/NDPs and C rations or LRP ration if on the road.
- There were toilet facilities, if only a half barrel with a seat on it!

- In the morning the M109 SPHs were moving out and I asked “where are we going? (I was on a Duster, not as a crew but mechanic)” The reply was “we are going down the road about 10 miles because we are shooting at the same targets as the M107 SPHs which are staying here!”
- I remember being with ARVN infantry in a Cambodian hooch with a thatched roof and it was raining hard. We could see holes in the thatching but no rain came through. The ARVN soldiers had a live duck and were saying to me, “chop, chop” as they were boiling water.
- For some reason, I was to meet a pair of Dusters on the other side of a rice paddy. So I had to walk through the water in a rice paddy, and I was thinking the whole time, “I am in the open with no place to go carrying my tool box in one hand and a rifle in the other.” At least I was being watched or guarded by the ARVN and those who dropped me off on the side I had left and the Duster crew on the other side. This was the 1st and last time I was in a rice paddy.
- Driving into Cambodia, it seemed to me that the country was much clearer, greener, no trace of Agent Orange, with no bomb craters, and friendlier: the children were not standing beside the roads with their hands out looking for a hand out!
- I don’t ever remember fueling up any of the vehicles
- On one of the Dusters the wire going to the starter relay was dead, so I took the wire off a claymore mine and hot-wired it with the wire running on the outside of the track (used tape to hold it in place) and then to get it started; made jumper cables using Como wire (about 20 stands on each side) -- it started and I said "you know, when you get back to your unit you got to get this fixed" -- he replied, "can we keep the jumper cables?"
- Don’t know the dates of when I was there (had to be May or June of 1970). In one of the tapes I sent my parents, I indicated I had just gotten back from 10 days in Cambodia and that my duffel bag was still in a vehicle coming into our base and I had no Army issued clothes other than what I was wearing & a very clean pair that was used only for guard duty formation, trying to make the man. As far as I know I was the only EM from 5th Bn (A-)(SP) 2d Arty Headquarters Battery in Cambodia that was a mechanic, given that I was asked all kinds of questions on what it was like on my return.

If you were part of the teams that went into Cambodia, I and the Historian would love to hear from you. Add your stories to the archives and share any photos you have.

Jim Varcho [jvarcho@hotmail.com](mailto:jvarcho@hotmail.com)

Paul Kopsick [dqshistorian@cox.net](mailto:dqshistorian@cox.net)



## **INVISIBLE: PTSD's Stealth Attack on a Vietnam War Veteran.**

Leonard Bruski, Lou Block, Norman Oss, Joe Belardo, and others in our organization have read it, and have given positive feedback.

I believe that many others will appreciate, and even enjoy reading Invisible. It includes stories about my time in Vietnam 1968 – 69 on C-121, with C Btry, 1st/44th.

Invisible: is available in paperback and Ebook from Amazon.

<http://www.amazon.com/Invisible-Stealth-Heart-Wrenching-Post-Traumatic-Disorder/dp/0982601468>

If someone wants an autographed copy, I will be happy to sell them the copy and make arrangements to ship. I can be reached at [funfly20032003@att.net](mailto:funfly20032003@att.net) or 530-409-0203.

U-Tube: <http://youtu.be/xJW6TwwmIcA>

Facebook: [william.blaylock.167](https://www.facebook.com/william.blaylock.167)

Twitter: [@WilliamBlaylock](https://twitter.com/WilliamBlaylock)

Website: [www.invisibleptsd.com](http://www.invisibleptsd.com)

[http://www.ndqsa.com/invisible\\_PTSD.pdf](http://www.ndqsa.com/invisible_PTSD.pdf)

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

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Dusters, Quads, Searchlights, Vulcans & HAWKS  
Air Defense Artillery  
“First To Fire...Last To Leave”

34<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
Operation Music City  
May 31<sup>st</sup> -June 5<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Chris Noel, Guest Speaker  
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. (2016, 2017 or beyond)

However, if you see the number 0000 or 2015 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 Paul Kopsick at [dqshistorian@cox.net](mailto: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<sup>™</sup> (NDQSA<sup>™</sup>) 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 605 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.