

NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER # 2 – JULY 2019



2020 NDQSA 38th

ANNUAL REUNION OKLAHOMA & FT. SILL Dates: To Be Determined



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

To all of my brothers and sisters of the NDQSA. I hope you all had a safe and sober July 4th weekend. Looking back on a great reunion, from a moving ceremony on the USS Alabama to the festivities of the Mardi Gras

celebration to the banquet, I want to thank the reunion committee and the rest of the board on a job well done.

I also want to congratulate all of the board on their election and welcome two new members, Luke Clark and Paul Hansen. Their experience and wisdom will add to an already well rounded board of directors.

As has been the case for a number of years our organization is very sound and in good shape. I am looking forward to the opening of the ADA Museum at Ft. Sill and our return to Oklahoma City next year.

We are looking into developing a Disaster Recovery committee to ensure the NDQSA survives in the many years to come. If any of our members has experience in this area and would like to help, please contact us.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer and hope to see you all in Oklahoma next year.

Robert "Bob" Cuce President NDQSA

FEATURED STORIES:

2019 Reunion Recap

OP: "Western Pistol" HAWKS vs USSR

Lost Photo Album Story

Volleyball DEROS

Hue City Tet Photos

NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

David Haught, H-29 '68-69

[Kay Freet, D-5/2 '67-68 MN](#)

Ernest Florio, B1/44 '69-70

Max Yates, Al Nat'l Gd, '56-59

Thomas Marynak, B-29 '68-69

[James Ward, G-29 '70-71, OH](#)

[William Trecker, B-29, AZ](#)

Robert Yri, '68-69, GA

[Paul Buffington, B-1/44 '67-68](#)

John Padgett, G-65 '69-70 MD

[James Hubbard, I-29 '69-70, TX](#)

[John Walraven, B-4/60 '70-71, GA](#)

[Thomas Pence, 4/60 '71 FL](#)

Fay Burrell, C-6/71 '67-68, NE

Larr Lockard, B-1/44 '68-69 AR

Harry Waits, D-71 '69-70 TN

Stephney, G-65 '66-67 MN

[John Ribanic Jr. '70-71 NY](#)

[John Olighers, H-5/2 '67-68 WA](#)

[Michael Smith, A-5/2 '67-68 GA](#)

[Dave Siefkes, A-1/44 '67-68 TX](#)

[David Borlik, E-41 '68-69 FL](#)

[Richard Fox, H-4/60 '70-71, MI](#)

If the name is blue or 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!!

MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

Steve Belt, NCOCS D-71 '71

Jimmie "Mac" McDermott, I-29 '68-70

Gene 'Henny' Henstock, 5/2-B '66-67 PA.

Jerome Lutzenberger, B-1/44 '66-69 1 Sep 18,
OK

Troy Helt, A-5/2, '67-68. 30 Oct 18, OK.

Joseph Maka, B-1/44th '66-67 Aug 18 MI

Clarence 'John' Powell, B-4/60 '71 Feb19, MD
 Leon Johnson, C-1/44 '66-68 2Jul18, CA
 Don Marley, E-41 '70-71 9Feb15, TX
Joseph Murphy, C-1/44 '66-67 9Jul18, IL
One of the original six NDQSA members
 and



Emogene Cupp, GSM'02, 1Jul19, VA

It is with a sad broken heart that I have to tell all of you that a very Special - Dear Woman and Friend - Gold Star Mother Emogene Cupp passed away on July 1st. If you remember I had asked all of you back in January to send her birthday wishes - she was 99. Her daughter Sue Rampey notified me today.

My Duster, Quad and Searchlight brothers this is the first Mom I asked you all to dance with many years ago at the first DC DMZ to Delta Dance. Her and her daughter came to our NDQSA reunions. Every year on Veterans Day a NDQSA brother would walk her to her son's panel on the WALL along with the other Gold Star Moms.

I remember all the years we would drag the Veteran Day guest speakers and singers off the platform to meet the Moms. How we marched with them down Constitution Avenue and at the Dedication of the Woman's Memorial and bringing them to the WALL at midnight after the Dance to light a candle at the WALL and say a prayer. Going with them for pizza and beer. Helping her and the other Mothers to the podium on the years when they would read all the names on the WALL. Emogene is the reason we have the WALL. We will all miss her dearly,
 -Joe Belardo

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

DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

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 any emails from the dqshistorian@cox.net, 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.

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Unofficial excerpts of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meeting May, 15 2019, Mobile AL.

Reports of Officers:

President, Bob Cuce: Bob opened the meeting. A suggestion was made by the President to reward the BOCES Class that designed the Reunion's annual venue specific shirt with a pizza party at the organization's expense. A motion was made by Allan Penwell and seconded by Joe Belardo to carry this out, no dissention was noted. The organization would also like to recognize the student that produced the winning design. A suitable form of recognition was not discussed.

First Vice President, Paul Kopsick; Paul spoke on the increasing spending on the president's reception and related activities and awards. This affair is a drain on the organization's funds and alternatives to this function should be discussed. Paul requested additional funding to cover the postal costs for extra rosters that are being sent out.

Second Vice-President, Dave McCray: No Comment

Secretary, Garry Severin: A Motion to accept the meeting minutes as written from the April 24, 2019 was made by John Huelsenbeck and Seconded by Joe Belardo, no dissention was noted.

Treasurer, Allan Penwell: Allan stated that there are no changes in the Group's finances since the last report. A motion was made to accept the report as written by Dave McCray and seconded by Paul Kopsick and there was no dissention. Allan also spoke on the organization's possible donations to the Army Museum and will this be a one-time donation or spread over multiple years to cover the initial costs. Allan to investigate financial obligations related to this donation. Vince Tedesco will also investigate the Army Museum donation program.

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

Heritage Committee: No comment

Membership Committee (Joe Belardo, Paul Kopsick): No comment

Nominating Committee (John Huelsenbeck, Garry Severin, Bob Cuce and Paul Hanson): Bob Cuce, John Huelsenbeck, Pete Labarre and Garry Severin to count votes this election.

Legislative Committee (Bruce Geiger, Bob Lauver): No comment

Good Works Committee (Sam Hopkins, Bob Cuce & Bruce Geiger): The Eagle repairs have been completed at a cost of fourteen hundred dollars. Allan Penwell will investigate a method to finance ongoing maintenance costs in the future, and a Motion was made by Joe Belardo and seconded by Dave McCray with no dissenting votes noted that one thousand dollars a year be set aside until Allan Penwell formulates a financial solution. A suggestion that members could remember the organization in their will; by reserving a monetary donation in the NDQSA 'S name was also made and should be presented to the membership.

Publications/Historian Committee (Paul Kopsick): A Motion was made to subsidize the rental of a van to transport Paul Kopsick and his displays to the reunion was made by John Huelsenbeck and Seconded by Joe Belardo, no dissention was noted.

Reunion Committee (Bob Lauver, Bruce Geiger, Mary Severin, Paul Hanson): The Board of Directors wishes to Thank Mr. Bruce Geiger and Mr. Bob Lauver for their time and expertise in organizing the venue and related activities.

Products Committee Duane & Mary Gettler, Bruce Geiger, Paul Kopsick & Bob Lauver: No comment

Website Committee Bob Lauver, Paul Kopsick, Allan Penwell, Bob Cuce, Bruce Geiger: No comment

St. Barbara & Molly Pitcher Committee Vince & Suzanne Tedesco, John Huelsenbeck: No Comment

Special Projects – Restoration Notes – Other: No comment

Next Board of Directors Meeting: A BOD meeting date and time has not been set.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Dave McCray and seconded by Paul Hanson.

Minutes compiled by Garry Severin Secretary, NDQSA
Bob Cuce President, NDQSA

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2019 ELECTION RESULTS

Board of Directors (7): (*elected at reunion 2019 for two years until reunion 2020*)

Director: Joseph Belardo 527 O'Donahue Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 (908) 510-4349
josephbelardo@yahoo.com

Director: Bruce Geiger 46 Mohegan Place, New Rochelle, NY 10804 (914) 576-1050 cell : (914) 924-3224 bmgeiger@aol.com

Director: Duane Gettler 806 Stuart St., Adair, IA 50002 (641) 742-3630 dumagettler@gmail.com

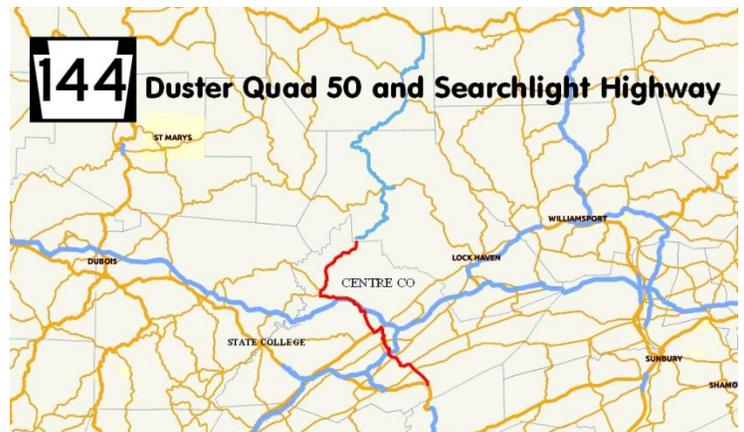
Director: Bob Lauver P.O. Box 276, Selinsgrove, PA 17870 (570) 374-1699 rhlauver@juno.com

Director: George Nagelschmidt 10 W 4th. St. Oswego, NY 13126 (315) 343-1528 **No Email**

Director: Paul Hanson 1795 Hillcrest Ln. Aston PA.19014 (610)909-0632 pdhanson1@comcast.net

Director: Luke Clark 12727 Arcola Valley CT., Houston Texas 77404-1770 (337) 424-5109
lukeclark@yahoo.com

NDQSA to be honored by State of Pennsylvania



Col. Tedesco (1/44th) has been working with the Pennsylvania state legislature to designate a portion of Pennsylvania Route 144 beginning at the intersection of Pennsylvania Route 64 in Pleasant Gap and ending at the intersection of Pennsylvania Route 45 in Centre Hall, Centre County, as the **Duster-Quad 50-Searchlight Highway**; (HAWKs and Vulcans too, but the sign wasn't big enough LOL).

Here is the official letter of notification:

"I am pleased to inform you that the legislation to rename portions of SR 144 in Centre County as the **Duster-Quad 50-Searchlight Highway** has been unanimously approved by both the Senate and the House. The legislation has been presented to the Governor for his signature and enactment, which he did yesterday. Ironically, this legislation becomes Act # 44. The [original bill](#) was amended into House Bill 65 and includes several road naming bills across the Commonwealth.

The next step is to work at doing a commemorative event that names the road. Perhaps we can meet to discuss how you think that such an event might look. Please let me know what time(s) might be convenient for you throughout the rest of this month. Again, thank you for bringing this request to Senator Corman. Looking forward to hearing from you."

Matthew J. Wise | Field Representative
Office of the Majority Leader
State Senator Jake Corman

The event will likely be held on a Thur/Fri sometime in October 2019. As we get more information we will try to get the word out to interested members.

TANK FARM OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2019



Our good friends at the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles and Allan Cors of the Americans in Wartime Museum ([NMAW](#)) have announced that their 2019 "Open House" in Nokesville, VA near the Quantico Marine Base will be September 7-8. Make your plans.

NDQSA Members perform services on Memorial Day 2019 at Ft. Sill



Attendees: Patrick McLaughlin, Richard Russell, Dave McCray, John Lewis and Luke Clark.

From my Facebook Page: [Dqs Historian](#)



Posted: 27Jun19 - Wounded American soldiers lie on the back of an M42 Duster in Hue waiting to be medevaced to the battalion aid station.

*Photo by Art Greenspoon via Manhhai Flickr
Enhanced by erikthehistorian (erik villard) CMH*

From the photo we can fortunately see that this was Duster D-132 SN# 12G206. That means Delta battery 1st Platoon 3rd Section. Note: There is no exhaust coming out of the mufflers so the engine is not running. If it was, the rear deck of the duster would have been very hot as well. Dusters from several batteries were in action around Hue city during Tet. Others were fighting to get into town to support operations. I found another photo of D-132 12G206 and in the driver's seat is Willie Wong, who is of Asian descent. Curiously the soldier on the back of the track in the news photo is also Asian. He does not appear to be wounded so I might be Willie in that photo to? Floyd "Red" Seratte was also on this track.



Keith Goudy has asked if we can track down who were the two tracked vehicles that were on the first convoy of Marines and the two Army Quad 50 gun trucks when they left Phu Bai. We still are not sure if the two tracks were Dusters or APCs. Any help would be appreciated. Keith. Admin Team. (contact [Paul](#) with any info)

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A CALL FOR HISTORY!!

If you were a member of any battery of the 1/44th Dusters, G-54th Quad 50s or G-29th SLTs and were involved in TET'68 it is time for you to tell your story. And not just those that were in the battles and street fighting in and around Hue city. I want to hear from you. I want to get your stories and memories on paper (via emails and letters) as part of our collective archives of ADA service in Vietnam.

You may not remember it all, or remember the names of crewmen; still you have a partial ownership of the events. Please share it before we are all gone.

Start chronologically. Begin with the days before Tet, where were you? What was your unit and the name on your Duster Quad or SLT? Who was there with you? What was your responsibility? What happen? What happened afterwards?



Above is Floyd Seratte also of D-132 like Willie Wong. Each picture is a time capsule but if the context is not explained, like the first photo in this article, it is only a picture without the story behind it.

Start writing down your thoughts. Contact your buddies and get in touch with the historian. Do it now!

**When it's time to go home,
IT'S TIME TO GO HOME!
Don Pryor, B-29th SLT '67-68**

Let's see if there is anyone on here who remembers this incident if you do, you then you just met that guy. It begins early one Nov 68 morning on the radio.

"Inlaid Speeder 32 Go"

"Roger, you have missed your DEROS you need to report to HQ immediately you are going home..."

(steps off a helicopter, thumbs ride to HQ of the 4/60th at Camp Townes)

"Hey man, where is HQ, I'm going home, need orders."
Reply: "That building over there the far corner of the quadrangle."

The building closed, guess its lunchtime, I go eat lunch, come back still not open. A soldier walks by:

"Hey man when do they open up here, I need orders, going home."

"Oh they are closed on Wed afternoon for Volleyball games. Is that them there in the Quadrangle? Yea!"



I get up; walk into the Quad with volleyball nets to my left and right, front and rear. I "LOCK AND LOAD", as the volleyball goes high over the net; I shoot it out of the air. Bam!

People are hitting the ground, running, you name it. Some Officer runs up to me, *"Who the hell are you, what are you doing?"*

"Somebody better get that f-ing PERSONNEL building open and get me some orders, I am going home NOW!"

Officer tells someone to open up and type up orders. He tells me to go turn in my gear. I tell him "NO", I'm keeping my steel pot and flak jacket, it's all I have. He asks where is my shirt? I tell him "I don't have any f-ing shirt it's HOT up on the DMZ."

He then asks where all my stuff is, I tell him I don't have any STUFF. He looks around and says does anyone know this soldier? Reply: "NO SIR!"

So you are assigned to us? YES! What unit? B-Btry 29th Artillery - SLT!

How long have you been here? Over 12 months and I have been the f-ing Boonies the whole time; I am "Inlaid Speeder 32".

The officer yells to the 1st SGT *"I want this man out of here ASAP!"*

I go to personnel, get my orders and head to Cam Rah Bay to fly home.

Epilog: I get to Cam Rah, turn in my flak jacket and steel pot and am sent to the tarmac to await my flight. I am standing there and this 1st Sgt behind me says: "Soldier, where is your shirt and headgear?" I tell him I'm just a boonie rat and I don't have a shirt or headgear. He digs in his duffel and pulls out one of his uniform shirts and gives it to me. Then tells me: "Just don't pull rank on anyone."

Historian's comments: So you know, when Don deployed with B-29th, they were not yet attached to the 4/60th. That did not happen until January 1968. During 1968/69: four C-4/60th dusters, four E-41st quads and four B-29th searchlights were attached to the 1st Cav and deployed all around Quang Tri Province, Camp Evans and the DMZ. Don never saw the 4/60th HQ base at Camp Townes until called to DEROS.

Volleyball photo is from B-4/60th Arty Hill 1971, for reference only. Note: playing sports at the HQ areas was an important component in keeping base camp men fit, active and sane.

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REUNION RECAP 2019

OPERATION



GULF COAST

Well the 2019 Reunion in Mobile, AL was another great reunion, well attended and well received. Roughly 117 members and their families attended and were treated to a number of special activities. Activities included: a tour of historic Mobile; a bus trip to Pensacola, FL and the Naval Air Station and museums; Mardi Gras night; USS Alabama; annual banquet and fund raiser/auction.

The annual memorial service was held aboard the USS Alabama and a wreath was launched into the water as part of the ceremony.



This year's President's Reception was with a Mardi Gras theme and was completely 'over the top'. The band was fantastic and the food was free. President Bob Cuce and his wife Diane were sufficiently embarrassed while serving as King and Queen of the festivities. Still, it was a crazy fantastic evening that everyone enjoyed.



The hospitality room was kept open every night, but the closing time seems to get earlier and earlier each year as we get older and older. No more 1:00AM revelers.

There was a special memorial service held for NDQSA member and reunion parton Steven Belt who passed recently. For many reunions Steve has donated a special saber engraved to commemorate that years reunion. There were a number of noteworthy passing this year including Joseph Murphy, C-1/44 '66-67 9Jul18, IL one of the original six NDQSA members and Jimmie McDermott a reunion regular.

Brothers then...Brothers Forever!



The historian brought enough stuff to cover all the walls and table spaces. The NDQSA Ladies Auxillary again manned the registration table and the product sales.

The guest speaker this year was Brigadier General Brian Gibson, Commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School and Chief of Air Defense Artillery at Ft. Sill, OK. He is excited that NDQSA is looking to have their 2020 reunion in Oklahoma and participate in special opening ceremonies of the new ADA museum.



Five members of the NDQSA family were presented with special citations and membership in the [Four Captains Foundation](#). This year's awardees were (L to R) Mary Severin, Vicky McCray, Allan Penwell, Diane Cuce and George Nagelschmidt. Congratulations.



The Saturday awards banquet was again at capacity and the food and service was top rate.



Paul Hanson did his typical OUTSTANDING emceeing of the fund raiser and auctions. A number of quilts were donated: Hearts and Hands Quilt Guild, O'Fallon, IL, Joe Belardo, Mrs. Clemons and Puvalowski and were warmly received by the bidders and winners. Thank you!



Following the Chaplain's Sunday service, the tired and grateful members headed home to plan for next year!

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/ /19 # \$
Q- S- E- P

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape
to envelope

NDQSA
PO Box 890130
Oklahoma City, OK 73189

2019 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 NDQSA 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 ____/____

Addn'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 (2019) (2020) (2021) (2022)

DUES ARE \$25 PER YEAR \$ _____

Donations: Quad 50 restoration \$ _____

Searchlight restoration \$ _____

Searchlight Print (\$60 min) \$ _____

Operation Eagle Repair \$ _____

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

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

Bumper Sticker ____ @ \$10 = \$ _____

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

Challenge Coin: ____ coin @ \$12 = \$ _____

Lucite Challenge Coin: ____ @ \$25 = \$ _____

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

.50-cal bottle opener ____ @ \$14 = \$ _____

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

NDQSA T-shirt (black)(grey)

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

NDQSA Polo Shirt (black)(tan)

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

(regular) (tall)

No more jackets being produced

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 2019



Logo Patch \$5



Logo Decal \$5



NDQSA Challenge Coin \$12 @
NDQSA Pin Set \$8 @



Lucite Coin \$25 50-cal bottle opener \$14



NDQSA Cap \$15 Made in the USA

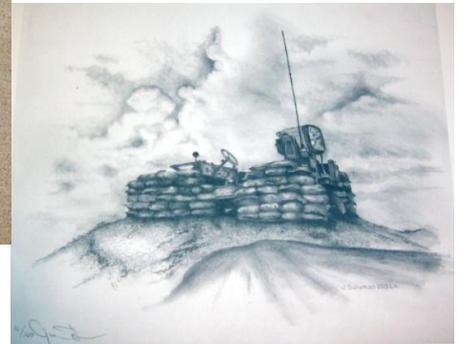


New Products Size Chart Subject to stock on hand

Give 1st & 2nd choice on color

T-shirt: Medium
Black Large
Gray XL
\$15 XXL (Tall)
XXXL (Tall)
XXXXL

Mens Polo: Small
Black Medium
Tan Large
XL
\$30 XXL (Tall)
XXXL (Tall)
XXXXL
XL Tall
XXL Tall



Searchlight 50 Print (\$60 min)
Quad .50 print Sold Out



Brickmania Lego kits are sold out pending orders already received.



NDQSA BUMPER STICKERS
Duster- Quad-50-SLT-HAWK-Vulcan
\$10 each

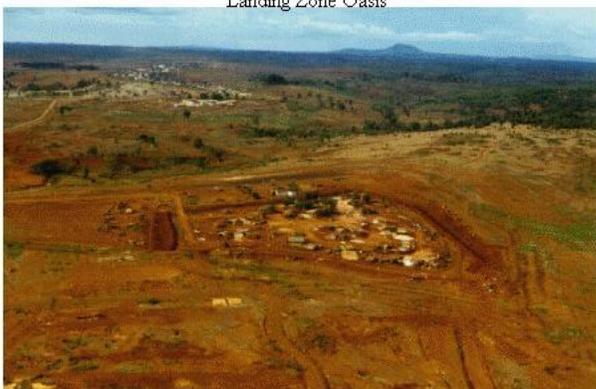
SECRET OPERATION “WESTERN PISTOL”
HAWKS vs USSR

-[Jon M Corey](#), PH.D. (PH, SS, BS-V, ACM-V, DFC)
with additions from [Ed Donato](#), [C-6/56th HAWKS](#)
adapted from various resources – P. Kopsick



In February 1969, “Western Pistol” was a joint Army-Air Force SECRET program to attempt identification and possible interdiction of Soviet helicopters manned by mercenary Soviet and French pilots, operating out of Cambodia, just to the west of Pleiku in South Vietnam. Landing Zone (LZ) Oasis was extremely small, only being additionally manned by an 8” Howitzer field artillery battery and an infantry detachment from the 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division.

Landing Zone Oasis



LZ Oasis

“Western Pistol” established a nightly prohibited flying area and assigned a special detachment from C Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery (HAWK) with an array of acquisition and tracking radars to LZ Oasis, but without their HAWK missiles, which normally were key to an air defense artillery battery’s mission.

The Air Force and Army additionally employed a wide variety of aircraft to investigate the hostile tracking of the enemy aircraft. The HAWK detachment was manned

by all volunteers, three Air Defense Artillery (ADA) officers—a Detachment Commander, a Tactical Control Officer, a Ground Defense/ Back-up Tactical Control Officer—and 23 enlisted specialists in radars, generators, and communications. Their mission was to record the several HAWK radars’ Doppler audio returns from enemy aircraft track detections for comparison with cataloged recordings of foreign nations’ helicopters — all such data to be forwarded to The White House.

As of 30 April 1969, over 365 unidentified tracks were received since the operation began, the majority of which were detected by the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery pulse acquisition radar. However, positive identification of the aircraft was not established. A study of track data by the 7th Air Force and battalion personnel indicated that the vast majority of tracks occurred between 2300 and 0200 hours. Tracks were consistently observed following stream beds, valleys and appeared to terminate in areas displaying characteristics of natural or prepared landing zones. Track characteristics showed speeds from a normal 60 knots to in excess of 150 knots. Doppler returns associated with the HAWK tracking radar indicted aircraft of a rotary wing design.



Mi-4 “Hound”



Mi-6 “Hook”

On several occasions when being directed to the vicinity of UFO's, friendly air crews had observed airborne red lights. However, the UFO's consistently out maneuvered the friendly aircraft resulting in the aircrew's inability to make a positive identification.

On 9 March 1969, representatives from the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery coordinated with the Combined Intelligence Center, Vietnam (CICV). CICV provided information on enemy ground activity within the Western II Corps area of interest, in the form of a pattern analysis from 1 January to 31 March 1969. Analysis of all available CICV intelligence for possible correlation with UFO track data indicates that UFO's appeared to originate in known enemy base camps in Cambodia and on numerous occasions, terminated in the vicinity of known or suspected enemy concentrations and supply points in the 4th Infantry Division area of operation.

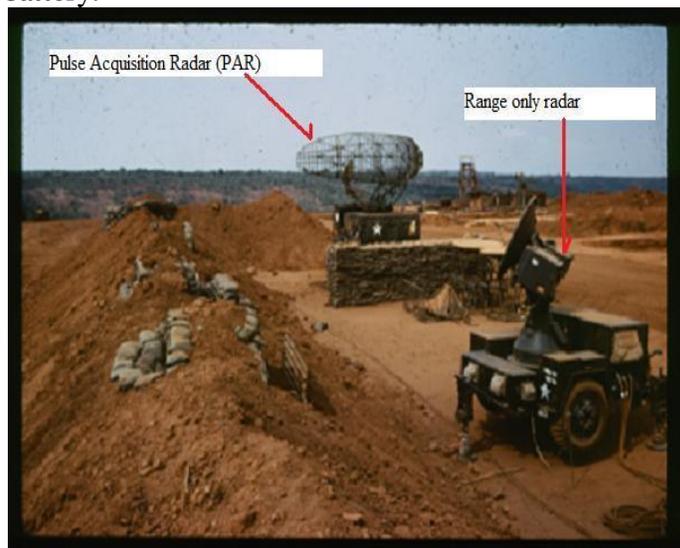
In early April 1969, a free fire zone for ground targets was established by the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. The zone was located in an area of high density UFO track activity and probable landing zones. Within this area, any target on the ground, to include UFO tracks appearing to land, may be fired upon.

I was a Ranger, Jungle Warfare, Airborne, Special Forces (RECONDO), and Air Defense Artillery-trained officer at that time, and I had been selected and afforded a unique opportunity by my Battalion Commander to volunteer as one of the two "Western Pistol" Tactical Control Officers. The prime mission of the secret HAWK unit was to electronically acquire, record, and verify enemy aircraft operating out of Cambodia, but one night while the Detachment Commander and the other Tactical Control Officer were in Pleiku, I modified the mission to use HAWK radars to adjust artillery fire—a wholly independent and unauthorized operating change.

I found 8" Howitzer shells (*i.e.*, very large metal objects moving through the air) generated radar returns and their radar tracks—or the abrupt lack of them—could identify locations where the hostile helicopters set down on their re-supply and re-enforcement missions. Hence, I discerned it was possible to remotely direct and adjust heavy artillery fire on the stationary enemy helicopters!

Consequently, as I was the highly "temporary" HAWK detachment commander and out of communications with my detachment leader, I coordinated with the adjacent Field Artillery battery commander—a former classmate of mine from the 5th Special Forces RECONDO School in Nha Trang ("*The Deadliest School in the World*"). Using a very make-shift communications hook-up between the gun battery and my HAWK detachment

(including a grease pencil and a simple acetate overlay to mark basic grid coordinates on my radar target tracking scope), I had created a wholly unauthorized "seat-of-the-pants" idea to target Soviet Mi-4 and Mi-6 aircraft with air burst detonations from the Howitzer battery.



IC Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery, Landing Zone Oasis, March thru April 1969, Operation Western Pistol, Photo by Cliff Wippel

Additionally, had the 8" Howitzer detachment commander not been a personal friend of mine, most likely my plans would have been aborted by anyone else for fear of dire consequences in taking the steps we did!



"8" Howitzer Artillery Gun

I had initially been briefed that no HAWK missiles were authorized to be co-located with the "Western Pistol" HAWK detachment because I was advised all hostile helicopters were "Air Force" priorities, "...*given their airborne status.*"—a clear directive that precluded U.S. Army fire power from engaging any Soviet aircraft. So, as long as they were in the air, they were U.S. Air Force targets. Period.

As I and the Howitzer battery commander planned and coordinated, in the Western Pistol Operations Center (essentially an ADA command and control module

mounted on the bed of a 2 ½ ton truck), all enemy helicopter track data were converted to polar coordinates and it was passed to the howitzer battery Fire Direction Center in an extremely rapid manner.



Command post C/6th Artillery March 1969 Photo. Eddie Donato

The heavy artillery M110 guns (7/15th SP) immediately responded and adjusted to fire missions initiated by the HAWK radars based on the radar returns of fired, impacted shells as soon Soviet helicopters temporarily landed in South Viet Nam. They were “fair game”—once they were on the ground—based on my company-grade officer rationale!

The result of this first “unauthorized” mission was: (a) the hitting of two Russian helicopters; (b) the subsequent retrieval of several of their damaged parts by recon infantry of the 3rd Brigade 4th Infantry Division; (c) my getting an initial admonishment with a threat of court-martial by my returning Detachment Commander, as he asserted my actions “...could have started a war with the Russians...”; (d) my not receiving a court martial because of my unorthodox defense rejoinder the enemy helicopters were “...on the ground, temporarily landed, and not USAF priorities...” when they were engaged—based on (e) the gleeful interdiction of my Battalion Commander; and (f) subsequently being awarded an “Army Commendation Medal” by my Battalion Commander—with no specifics or narrative in the citation for my two-month deployment to the HAWK detachment!

In sum, my actions turned out to be an amalgam of:

“THE RIGHT WAY, THE WRONG WAY, AND THE ARMY WAY!”

So, now you know how U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery ‘shot down’ (destroyed) Russian helicopters operating in South Vietnam using HAWK Radars and 8” Field Artillery Howitzers!

NOTE: This incident did not stop the enemy from still using Russian choppers inside South Vietnam. Radar contacts continued almost nightly and US choppers continued to chase them.

RETALIATION: Given the unexpected and unanticipated effectiveness of the unauthorized joint Air Defense Artillery-Field Artillery measure and the potential the NVA saw for the radar deployment in thwarting future use of Soviet helicopters in the area—as well as the NVA’s obvious motive for revenge, **on the night of 11 May 1969**, LZ Oasis came under heavy ground/sapper attack and C Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery had its prime radars destroyed by rockets and it also sustained major damage to other key equipment. Eddie Donato has shared several photos of the damaged HAWK radar equipment and a SLT from B-29th.

PFC John McLaughlin of D-221 was killed and three others wounded, while manning their duster when the turret was hit with a B-40 rocket. See photo below!



Duster stationed at Landing Zone Oasis, Photo by Cliff Wippel

Ed Donato, C-6-56 radar mechanic, credits the Duster crews with providing the initial defense of the base and alerting the rest of the defenders. Still 14 GI’s died in the battle. SLT “Flick It” was also there.

Oasis Defenders Kill 45 NVA



Vol. 1, No. 3 June 1, 1969

Enemy In Retreat, 57 Die

OASIS — Through the use of every weapon in their vast arsenal, units located at the (LZ)

By 1LT Jim Hughes
OASIS — The night was typical of Vietnam, so dark you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. It was as quiet as it was dark. Only the drone of generators filled the void.
The Oasis, headquarters of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 3rd Brigade was at rest. Only the night people and the guards in the bunkers were awake.
At 2:00 a.m. the stillness was shattered and was not to return for the remainder of that night.
The first round impacted no one knows where. But those who heard it knew it was "incoming."
The alert was sounded and the scramble had begun. In the brigade headquarters company area a B40 rocket screamed wildly overhead and detonated harmlessly at the end of its aimless flight. To those who had the same experience before, it was like an announcement: "sappers!"
Facing the night, 367 rounds of incoming 82mm mortar, 82mm mortar, 82mm rocket, 122mm rocket and 160mm rocket fire was directed at the Oasis.
The brigade commander, Colonel Richard L. Greenther, took personal command of the...
On the western side of the perimeter a sapper squad was spotted as they ran across the field. The machine gun in Bunker 25 manned by the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, opened in on the first burst killing five NVA. A similar squad crossing the resupply pad met the same fate at the hands of a sharp-shooting M79 grenadier.

NOTE: An after-action report later confirmed the count of enemy KIAs to be 103.

After the attack, all previously recovered items from the damaged Russian helicopters were confiscated by U.S. authorities and the SECRET “Western Pistol” project was terminated—only to be hidden within the annals of history. Until now.

BRICKMANIA NEWS



NDQSA Historian Paul Kopsick travelled to Minneapolis MN in May to show our support of the Brickmania group for the many years of support. Seen here with Dan Siskind at the Grand Opening of their flagship store by the Vietnam diorama. Paul met with visitors to the opening to discuss his Vietnam experiences. Lynn Woods of NDQSA dropped by.

Dan Siskind, the owner of Brickmania and a good friend to NDQSA, continues to support NDQSA and the special ADA weapon systems used during the Vietnam War. Brickmania has already made special NDQSA versions of their Lego brick kits like the Quad 50-cal gun truck, M42A1 Duster, the M-151 Mutt jeep with a searchlight and most recently, the M163 Vulcan APC.



I told you last newsletter that I had hoped they would soon work on a HAWK missile system kit. Well I can now confirm that he is working on that very kit. Here is a photo of his first attempt at the missiles.



Unfortunately it is impossible to find precisely the right shape Lego bricks to properly render the missile's fins, but the launcher is already in production based on the prototype seen above. The radar platforms should be no problem. Dan has indicated to me that they are already in production for an initial 50 kit run to be available sometime in August. These kits are in demand worldwide and will sell out quickly. I will try to acquire several of the kits so if there is a NDQSA HAWK member that really wants one, I will have secured a few. More as things develop.

NEW IN THE ARCHIVES



I found this photo and it looked like an early version of a .50-cal gun truck. I posed the question on my FaceBook page and the Director of the new ADA 'Learning Center' at Ft. Sill came up with the following...
Jon Bernstein
Army Air

Force turret gunnery trainers. Those are early B-17 top turrets mounted on 1.5 ton trucks in order to get gunners used to shooting while on the move.

Vietnam Photo Album Lost and Found

I get a lot of weird things sent to me as NDQSA Historian. I get things in the mail, by email and over the phone. Earlier this year I get a package in the mail and it contains a photo album with pictures of Dusters. Cool.

It came from Paige Lanier of Colorado Springs. He is a historian too and was given the album from a Mr. Gustafson who received the album from a SFC Larry Jester way back in 2006.

In that letter we get some more information about where and when it was found. Larry says, "I found this photo album in an old cabinet, at an auction in Hampton Roads, VA. I don't remember if it was Williamsburg, Yorktown or Newport News, but I'm pretty sure it was in 1992.

I attempted to buy the album outright, but I was told I would have to bid on the "lot." I won the ugly old cabinet and left it in the building. I was afraid that the album would be lost or destroyed if some other bidder had won.

I have kept the album in exactly the same condition as I found it. I used to show it off to anyone that cared to see it. I kept it secured in my old footlocker from around 1997 until last week (Dec 2006).

I truly hope that the contents will be a treasure to some of the guys in these photos. I hope we can learn as much as possible about the unit as well as the men in the book.

Thank you and Triple Deuce for your service. L. Jester"



Well, it took me some time, weeks NOT decades, and I have identified the original owner of the album. His name was Sgt Kelly F. Coleman (d. '81). He was a squad leader on B-222 with 5/2 during '69-70 which had the name "My Girl" on the front door hatch. The name on the driver's hatch is SP4 Polestra.

Kelly was awarded a Purple Heart around March 1970 and there are a few photos of damaged dusters in the album. Did you serve with him?



There are also a few photos with faces of other men so I hope the guys from B-5/2 can help identify some of them. Contact me if you recognise anyone.



Do not let your precious photo album get lost to history, get digital copys made of them or contact your historian ASAP, he will not be around forever. Please!

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Dusters, Quads, Searchlights, Vulcans & HAWKS
Air Defense Artillery in Vietnam

“First To Fire...Last To Leave”

38th Annual Reunion 2020
Oklahoma & Ft. Sill
Date: To Be Determined
<http://www.ndqsa.com/>

Issue #2 July 2019

Face Book : [Dqs historian](#)

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. (2018 or beyond)

However, if you see the number 0000 or 2018 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.

Current 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 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 is the **only** organization of Vietnam ADA Veterans officially recognized by the Air Defense Artillery Association headquarters in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. As a tribute to the memory of over 211 ADA Warriors who lost their lives during the war in Vietnam, NDQSA members have funded, constructed and dedicated a magnificent monument in the Memorial Park at Ft. Sill.

NDQSA was founded in 1981 by John Huelsenbeck et al, holds annual reunions and has grown to about 600 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. Brothers then...Brothers Forever!