

NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER # 1 –MAR/APR 2020

2020 NDQSA 38th ANNUAL REUNION HAS BEEN CANCELLED

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



To My NDQSA family:

Because of the uncertain future of the COVID-19 virus, the board of directors has decided to cancel the reunion for the year 2020.

We put the health and safety of our members and their families before any other consideration.

I want to personally thank the effort put into the reunion by Bruce Geiger and Bob Lauver. They put together, what would have been, another memorable gathering of our fine organization.

We have received word that the ADA Museum at FT Sill is on schedule to open this September. Therefore, an active effort will be done to bring the Reunion back to Oklahoma in 2021. We can maybe address Norfolk in 2022.

In closing, I want to wish well to you and your families. Stay healthy and safe until we gather again in 2021.

Robert “Bob” Cuce President NDQSA

FEATURED STORIES:

The first battle of Tet '68 thwarted by the
Dusters of Camp JJ Carroll;
Tribute to Lt. Moore'
Ft. Bliss Wedding & Sam Hopkins

NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

Lionel Del Bosque, H-5/2 '67-71 TX

David Haught, H-29 '68-69 WV

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

Ernest Florio, B-1/44 '69-70 NJ/FL

Max Yates, '56-59 Quad NG MS

Ron Gibson, A-6/65

* [Russia Holley, C-1/44 '67-68 MD](#) *

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!!

*- indicates a lost member returning

MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

[Leo Jezierski, B-5/2, D-71 '66-67 15Jan20 NH](#)

[Steven Moore, C-1/44, '67-68 1Mar20 PA](#)

[Michael Cichy, B-5/2 '68-69 13Feb20 IN](#)

Charles 'Bob' Staples, H-5/2 '68-69 Jun19 TX

[Robert Coll, C-4/60 '70-71 Jan20 KY](#)

[Sidney Babcock, G-65 '66-67 11Feb20](#)

They will be missed and we give honor to their service and their families. Online obits in hyperlinks.

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). Please 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.

+ + + + + + + + +

Minutes of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meeting Oct. 30, 2019 (For the record only many items no longer apply)

Reports of Officers:

President, Bob Cuce: Bob Cuce stated that the gun club he belongs to has raised over eight hundred dollars along with his former BOCES co-workers who raised one thousand five hundred dollars and the students who have provided the custom graphics for our annual t-shirts, raised another three hundred dollars, all to be donated to the local Fisher House.

First Vice President, Paul Kopsick; No reports

Second Vice-President, Dave McCray: No Comment

Secretary, Garry Severin: a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written from the May 15, 2019 was made by Joe Belardo and was seconded by Paul Hanson; no dissention was noted.

Treasurer, Allan Penwell: Allan was not available to attend today's meeting but sent a third quarter financial report to BOD members which stated that there are no changes in the group's finances since the last report. The association's finances are in good shape. A motion was made to accept the report as written by Paul Hanson and seconded by Joe Belardo and there was no dissention noted.

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): Paul stated that rosters were sent to inactive members and he received a twenty percent return, this could result in more members coming to our reunions.

Nominating Committee (John Huelsenbeck, Garry Severin, Bob Cuce and Paul Hanson): Joe Belardo will set up a nominating committee consisting of Paul Hanson, John Huelsenbeck, and himself to contact BOD members slated for reelection or new candidate's seeking a board position to update their bio or submit a bio.

Legislative Committee (Bruce Geiger, Bob Lauver): Trademark fees used for the organization's logos and

graphics have been paid up. John Huelsenbeck to call the person requesting permission to use our graphics, and explain the legalities involved.

Good Works Committee (Sam Hopkins, Bob Cuce & Bruce Geiger): The museum at FT. SILL OK will not be ready for our 2020 reunion, but should be completed late 2020. The reunion date for Oklahoma is now moved to 2021.

Publications/Historian Committee (Paul Kopsick): Paul stated he is working on the December newsletter. When a contract for the venue is signed an update will be published

Reunion Committee (Bob Lauver, Bruce Geiger, Mary Severin, Paul Hanson): Bruce Geiger stated that three venues are under consideration. The three venues are all located in the downtown area of Norfolk Virginia and a possible venue in Virginia Beach will be considered when the proposal arrives. The Board of Directors wishes to thank Bruce Geiger and 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: Duane Gettler stated that a woman's light weight grey jacket has been purchased as a product proposal to show prospective buyers what is available.

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: Vince Tedesco Jr. informed the Board, of ongoing talks with Senator Jake Corman (Pennsylvania) on the proposal to name a section of state route 144 to The Duster, Quad 50 and Searchlight Highway.

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

A motion to close the meeting was made by Bruce Geiger and seconded by Paul Hanson.

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

+ + + + + + + + +

NDQSA 2020 Officer Elections

Administered as Closed

The 2020 Nominating Committee consisting of Joseph Belardo, John Huelsenbeck and Paul Hanson have indicated that the nomination period is now closed (29Feb20) and there are no new nominations for any of the five Executive Board Member positions for the 2020-2022 term. The existing five board members have indicated their willingness to run for their current offices. They are:

- President: Incumbent - Robert Cuce
- 1st vice President: Incumbent - Paul Kopsick
- 2nd vice President: Incumbent - David McCray
- Secretary: Incumbent - Garry Severin
- Treasurer: Incumbent - Allan Penwell

Whereas there are no nominations and the current board has agreed to serve again, and because there will be no annual business meeting (reunion) this year, the entire Board discussed and the Nomination Committee concluded that under the circumstances; it is prudent to “call the election” in favor of the incumbent officers.

This means that at the next Board of Directors conference call, the Chairman of the Nomination Committee (Joseph Belardo) will make a motion to elect the five incumbent executive officers for another 2-year term. The vote on the motion will be called, and the seven directors, not running for these offices, will vote for the membership. Their votes will be tallied and the results taken as fulfillment of the election process.

While this is a departure from our normal process, it will save administrative work (preparing ballots and mailing them out, etc and will save the association several hundred dollars in postage and mailing costs.

Certified by: Joseph Belardo, John Huelsenbeck, Paul Hanson, NDQSA Nomination Committee.

TANK FARM OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 29-30, 2020

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days

“Tank Farm” in Nokesville, VA

13906 Aden Road

Nokesville, VA 20181



There are plans again made this year to hold an open house at the famous “Tank Farm” in Nokesville, VA. As in the past, we will showcase 50 vehicles on display with an additional dozen that are demonstrated throughout the weekend. Among the vehicles on display are over a hundred living historians who bring the event to life.

We invite all veterans and support organizations to put on displays each year. They, along with many historical authorities, will be in our main building and the outdoor parade areas surrounding it. We will again have food trucks so our visitors will have diverse choices for lunch. Please come out and support the NMAW!

For more information, click on our events tab.

Marc Sehring
Operations Manager
National Museum of Americans in Wartime
NMAW.ORG

+ + + + + + + +

REMEMBER

NDQSA is an IRS 501(c) (19) non-profit veteran’s organization so if you are of means and in a giving state of mind, know that you can put NDQSA in your estate plans for when you leave this mortal plane. Also, NDQSA has several vehicle restoration projects we are still trying to complete: the Widomaker gun-truck still needs to payoff the loan of the gun mount (20K) and we are still looking for an appropriate Mutt M151 jeep (10K) for the Xenon SLT we have at the Tank Farm.

+ + + + + + + +



I have been talking to a number of guys lately and what I hear makes me anxious for many of them. They (we) are all near 70 & + years old and dealing with a litany of medical issues that make my Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) issue small in comparison. My meds are working now but I could have died at least three times in the last 10 years.

I am not an overly religious person, but when I hear what some of you and many of our brothers are going through I do stop and say a prayer of hope for them and their families.

If you are among the lucky and have not shown any medical issues so far, great, but you are not out of the woods by any means.

Even if you do not want to have anything to do with the VA I urge you to go online and check out the approved procedures for getting scanned for Agent Orange exposure. If you do turn out to get some sort of cancer going forward, the date that you file a claim will impact when you start to receive compensation.

Any cancer may already be or could eventually be tied to AO exposure. Prostate, lymphoma, etc. even heart issues may be covered.

When I think of all the widows out there who lost their husbands to cancer that are not getting survivor benefits it makes me sick. Many passed even before the impacts of AO were even being talked about.

Again I urge every NDQSA member that has not already, to take the first step and get a AO screening.

<https://www.va.gov/.../haz.../agent-orange/registry-health-exam/>

I never thought I was exposed to AO but I was and one day my CLL will kill me. Even if you were never in the field, you still drank the water there. Your clothes were washed in the same untreated water. Your hooches and work places were there for several years in some cases concentrating contaminated dust where you ate and slept and on the fields you played.

If you were in Vietnam...you were exposed.

If you know how to instruct fellow vets during this process, please add to this post and I will expand on it and get it out to the rest of the membership in the next newsletter.

DO IT!

+ + + + + + + + +

From the email inbox

2/10/20 ::: One other thing, one one of the presumed diseases caused by agent orange includes ischemic heart disease - I only learned about that last year although it was added in 2011. I had a quadruple by-pass as well as now a pacemaker which after applying to the VA contributed to an assessment of 100% disability. You might consider a small article to tell all NDQSA vets that if they have symptoms of ischemic heart disease to apply to the VA for compensation. Additionally, if retired, you are also eligible for [Combat Related Special Compensation](#) through the Army. The amount of compensation depends on the percent disability awarded. Let me know if you have any questions.

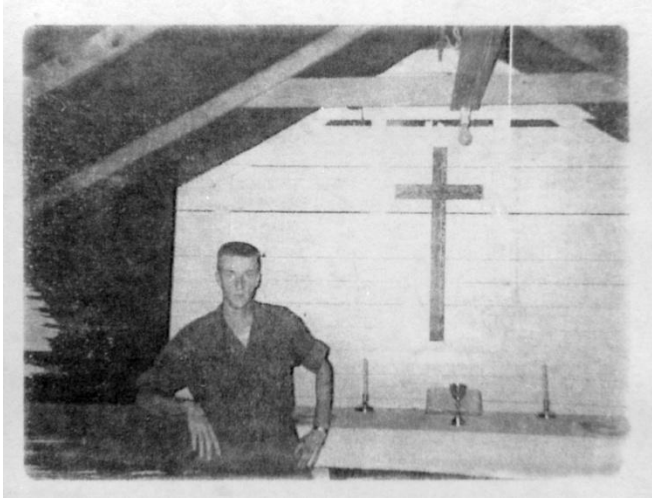
Steve H. Denney sdenneysr1@me.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I am looking to put together a list of guys, clergymen, service providers that I can call upon to make calls with fellow members dealing with dire health issues. If you can be available to call guys I identify as welcoming a call from a fellow ADA serviceman, [contact me](#). It could mean a lot to a number of guys out there.

A Chaplain's Assistant Remembers Vietnam

Rev Ronald A. Sparks



You asked for stories... well, back in 1967-68, when Chaplain Sam Hopkins was away in the field, he would sometimes ask me to hold down the fort (the chapel at An Khe for the 4/60th ADA). On one occasion, he asked me to cover the Thanksgiving Service at the base chapel at Qui Nhon. Everything went well for the service and just before I was to deliver my message the generators went out. It was so dark I couldn't read my notes so I "winged it" – 'flying blind' so to speak. I guess it went over well as the CO and XO said that I did a good job.

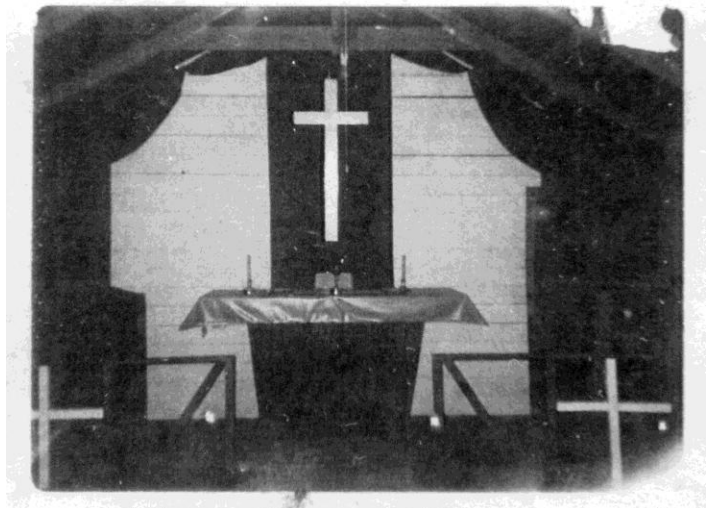
I have been a minister for over 50 years now and with over 20 years serving as an Army Reserve Chaplain. I hope this skill has improved?



Sam Hopkins was my inspiration for coming back after an 18 year break in service after graduating from seminary school. I retired nine years ago at the age of 63

(they extended me beyond age 60). Most of my chaplaincy was spent in Army General Hospitals, Combat Support Hospitals and MASH. My last active duty assignment was aboard the Navy Hospital Ship USNS Comfort on a humanitarian mission to seven countries. A great way to end my service. Ironically the USNS Comfort is now being deployed to New York City to help in their dire need for hospital services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another time when Sam was away and I was at the chapel, a Jewish EM came in and asked if I had any Jewish iconography that he might have. I saw a Jewish flag and gave it to him. When Sam returned, he asked where the flag was. I told him what I did and he made me go and retrieve it as it was not an 'expendable item'. Sam did absolve me of any guilt and I promised to never do that again. When Sam wrote his book "A Chaplain Remembers Vietnam" he immortalized my infraction by including this story.



There is another untold story about how we 'secured' the material to build our chapel. Suffice it to say the 'statue of limitations' has run out on earth but there may still be hell to pay up in heaven.

In service to God...

[Rev. Dr. Ronald . Sparks](#)

Community Church of California City

+++++

Marryin' Sam and the Johnsons 25Dec66

Hello my ADA family, I am Lea Taylor and I was married to Major Jesse G. Johnson, who was the S3 of the 4th/60th in 1966. The Battalion Commander was LTC William Brant.

Jess and I were married on Christmas Day of 1966 at the Center Chapel at Ft. Bliss



Gee, I was holding my skirt up pretty high! (nice garter)



Unbeknownst to us, several of the young LTs went to the Motor Pool Co to get a "Duster" for us to ride on but they were turned down. On Friday evening before the wedding, COL Brant was at a Christmas reception. COL Witt, Dep Post CO of Ft Bliss asked him what he was doing Christmas Day. Brant told him that we (the Taylors) were getting married and that they could not get permission to use the Duster after the ceremony. COL Witt asked him "where do you want it and when?" When I arrived for the wedding that morning, it was decorated with Christmas decorations.

I rode in my Uncle's car to the wedding. We had to drive in from Fabens, (SE of El Paso) where we all gathered. We got on the Duster after the wedding but it didn't start. We got off and into COL Brant's car and started off and then the MP's caught up with us and told us they got it started so we held up the parade while we got back on the track. We rode on that Duster from the Chapel to what at that time was the Officers' Club at Biggs AF Base. (photos from Bill Law H-4/60 67-68)

Yes, it was on Christmas Day. And yes, Chaplain "Marryin' Sam" Hopkins, came off of leave to help us tie the knot. I have kept in contact with COL Sam Hopkins, the Chaplain of the 4th/60th for all these years.

Jess died in 1975, while stationed with NORAD in Cheyenne Mt. in Colorado Springs. I went back to College, finished my BSN and started my MSN, when I was commissioned as a CPT in the Army Nurse Corps in 1981 and stationed at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. Years later COL Witt was a patient of mine and I reminded him of our *wild ride*. He said he didn't know of anyone else who had ridden on a Duster after their wedding. I would like to reach out to others from 1966-67. If you knew us please contact me.

- [Lea Taylor](#)

D-

/ /20 # \$

Q- S- E- GW- P

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape to envelope

NDQSA

PO Box 890130

Oklahoma City, OK 73189

2020 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 ____/____

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 (2020) (2021) (2022) (2023)

DUES ARE \$25 PER YEAR \$ _____

Donations: Quad 50 restoration \$ _____

Searchlight restoration \$ _____

Searchlight Print (\$60 min) \$ _____

Operation Eagle Repair \$ _____

Good Works \$ _____

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 2020



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
XXL (Tall)
\$15 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's NDQSA Lego kits are sold out.



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

Dusters at Camp J.J. Carroll

thwart the first battle of TET 1968

Fellow ADA Brothers and friends,

It is amazing how things sometimes just happen. In January I received an email from Lea Taylor, the wife of a deceased 4/60th officer (Maj Jessie Johnson). You should have already seen Lea's story about riding on a Duster from the Chapel at Ft. Bliss following her wedding, which was performed by "Marryin' Sam" Hopkins, earlier in this newsletter.

In the ensuing email thread I asked her about the mascot for the 4/60th a black dog named Duster. She knew of him and yesterday (Jan 23) I sent out her comments to some of the early officers of 4/60th to see if they had anything else to add to that story. One of those men was LT Steve Moore who was originally with the 4/60th but was infused into the 1/44th in 1967. He replied enthusiastically with some more info about Duster and I asked him to continue to contribute to the dialogue. Steve actually carried the mascot "Duster" off the landing craft and onto the beach at Qui Nhon.

Surprisingly (to me), the following is the first thing LT Steve Moore sent me. I did not realize this day was the eve before the anniversary of the January 24th battle on Rt 9. It was a seminal day for Steve and many members of our organization as you will see from his text. I share his telling of his recollection of the account of the day as written and it was obvious to me that he wanted to share them with some of the principles of that battle.

Ironically, I am saddened to report, that during production of this newsletter, Steve passed away on March 1 2020. Here are his final words to the group.

To my friends and brothers,

To some this is just a recap of Jan 24, and is no more than a brief statement of a very trying day.

But to those who were with me, were in battle along with me, this writing is many, many years too late. It is written maybe just to let my feelings out, and will allow me some comfort from many years of stress, always happening on the 24th of January. Feel free to comment,

yell at me, tell me where I'm wrong and maybe even walk with me.

Thank you all for putting up with a frustrated old Nam Vet. I love each and every one of you.



Steve writes....

My Dear Brothers,

January 24, 1968, a day that we will never forget as it is etched in our minds and hearts forever

After 30 years had gone by, I had the privilege of meeting Joe and Tank for the first time, actually my meeting anyone for the first time since leaving Vietnam. Then after another 3 to 4 years I began to hear what the outcome was for many battles we had been in. The events of the heavy fighting for the ambushed convoy were now being shared with me. For the last 15 years I have read and re-read the trials of Jan 24 and my heart sinks deeper into isolation as I relive the battle again and again. It was a day that has surfaced so many times, waking me at night and then memories hit me hard as the video turns on in my mind and I cannot stop it. I have never shared what I am about to, the trials that took place at the base camp of J.J Carroll. The story involving all the men at camp needs to be told as their combat action really saved J.J from being over-run. I do

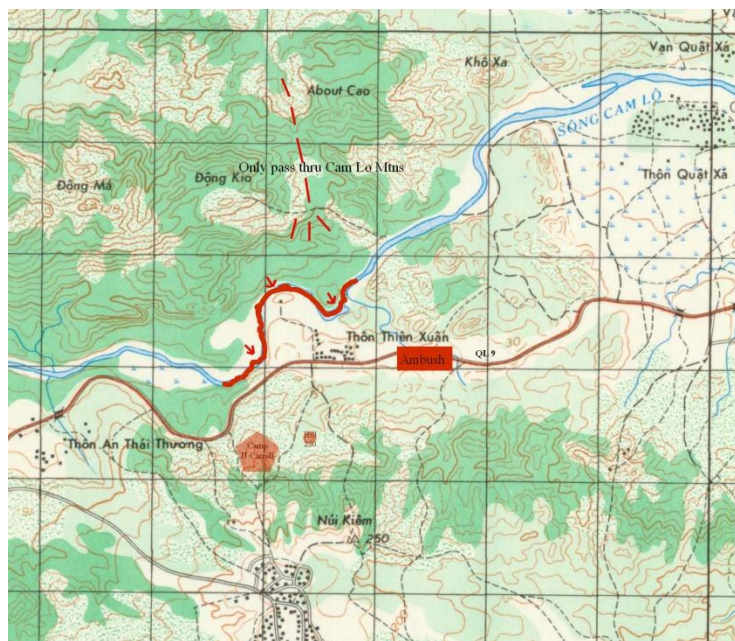
not want to diminish all that took place below J.J as it is very well documented within Joe Belardo's writing in his book and at the home of the ADA now at Fort Sill, OK. I only want to expand the story of the action taken by everyone at the base camp of J.J. Carroll. I will share my memories as best as possible following the after action report of the battle.

At 1440, (2:40) there was a Marine 2½ ton truck and an Army vehicle that was making a normal run from J.J. to Dong Ha. As they passed through the location where the ambush would take place, they received mortar and small arms fire. This slowed them down but they were able to clear the area and head toward Cam Lo. The Marine HQ notified us to look the area over to see if we could see what was happening. I called the Duster on Hill 250 (below) and advised them of the minor skirmish.



As Lou Block scanned the area, he called me to tell me about the heavy number of NVA Troops crossing the river and wanted me to go up to check it out. Wow! It was amazing to watch dozens and dozens of boats filled with NVA men crossing over and assembling on the field between the river and RT9. We could not see the road, only the river and field. Had the small mortar fire not taken place, our attention to this matter would probably not have happened. The concern quickly came that if the NVA were doing this all night, I wondered how many were already on the slopes to the North and East of J.J. Carroll. It could easily have been in the high hundreds. It seemed evident that they were setting up for a major push to try and over-run J.J. Carroll. As this was the beginning of the '68 TET Offensive, this could have been

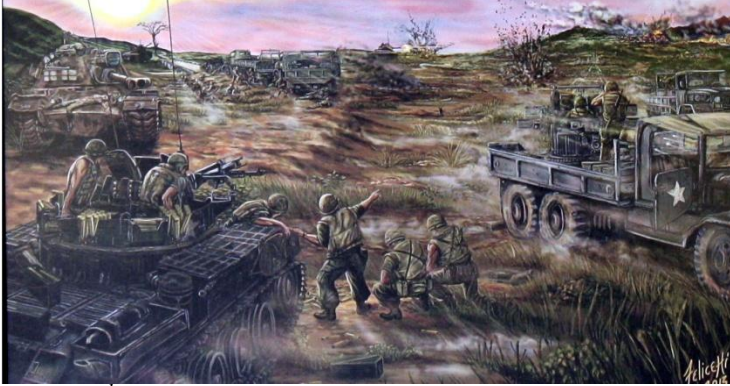
a vast advantage for the NVA in defeating a major stronghold.



As we watched the boats cross, I called in to the Marine HQ to ask them for permission to fire and sink the boats. Permission was granted so I had Lou Brock systematically sink as many as he could. Because of the great mass of boats, I knew one Duster was not enough to continue for very long, I called the front Duster on the North to get them to fire also. Then I called for four more Dusters to join them on the North side of J.J. I spoke with each Squad Leader and asked them to begin talking with each other to coordinate their firing pattern. These men were good leaders and I felt confident of their capability of stopping the NVA from further crossing. If this was all that was happening, we could easily have stopped them and actually start to push them back and then begin to hit the slopes hard with Artillery.

But, when the first convoy reached Cam Lo they met another convoy that was heading from Dong Ha to J.J. Carroll. This convoy was being headed up by a Marine Captain. He was advised of the situation and told that it would be best to turn around and head back to Dong Ha. Well, I guess he thought that he could easily push through and disregarded the warning which ended up to placing his men in great danger. As they reached the location of the soon to be ambush, they were hit with intense mortar, RPG's and small arms fire. The vehicles were hit hard and could no longer move so the Marines took cover, staying close to the vehicles and began

fighting for their lives. We were advised of this but were unable to see them because of the deep slope at the front of J.J. Carroll. We could hear the firing from both sides and watch the smoke that was a result of the mortars. All we could do was to continue to spray the river and way beyond into the hill side of the mountain.



The 4th Marines were now organizing a reactionary force to go to the embattled convoy. They had gathered two M48 Marine Tanks, one USMC platoon and had asked us to send two Dusters to help support them. Joe, you were again the closest crew and I began to choose the second Duster. Out of the blue, Johnie Towns showed up stating that he was ready. Wait, Towns, I had you at the South side of J.J. since you were so short that I did not want to place you in harm's way. But here you were, offering to go and help your brothers, Well, I figured that now I had two good crews and was making plans to pull out. Then, Lt Harden approached to say that he was going to lead the Dusters. I said no, that he was not seasoned in this type of combat just yet and I would go. He then said, "But they are not your men any longer, you turned the platoon over to me. I am their platoon leader and I am going to take them down to the ambush". We argued together until Capt. Easter came by and asked what was going on. I explained the situation, stating that Harden was not seasoned and I was going to lead them to the ambush. Capt. Easter then said that Harden was to go and that I was to stay at J.J. and oversee all the operations. My anger grew as I was told to let go but we needed to get the reactionary force ready to move out so I went back to the CP. I called all the crews who were firing and sinking boats to see how they were doing and felt very confident that all was working well.

I did call Col House to advise him of all that was going on both at the ambush site and on J.J. Carroll its-

self. I shared my concern about having so many of the NVA all along the North and East side of our location as I wanted to keep everyone ready for a possible ground assault. He said "Good, keep on your toes and let me know of the progress of all our activity".

The events that were taking place at the ambush area are very well documented in the writings of Joe Belardo's book so I will not even try to add to that. I would like to share though my thoughts about something that has been a burden to me, something that makes my heart hurt each time I read of the events and contemplate that day. After some time into the battle, I could hear the calls for help from Joe and Chester Sines, that they needed more ammo and supplies. It was really getting desperate for the need to get the supplies to them. I then spoke with two more Dusters, advising them that I may be taking them down along with Tank's 2½ ton truck with the ammo. Tank was filling up his truck and I had the Dusters resupply with as much ammo as they could carry.

I finally found Captain Easter to tell him of my plans. My goal was to take the two Dusters to RT 9 just East of the road that lead to J.J Carroll, stay back around 1,000 yards from the ambush and spray both sides of the road to pave the way for the ammo truck to advance. He then told me that I would not take two more Dusters out and that the crews at the ambush were doing OK and would soon be able to withdraw. Now here was a man who never had been in this type of combat, who probably never even fired his rifle, telling me that I should stand down and only continue to oversee the operations at J.J. Carroll.

So I stepped back, letting that idea go and went to the CP to check on the crews to hear of their progress. They were still sinking boats but informed me that the NVA had actually stopped crossing toward the south and began to stand fast and hold their position. Now they said that some of the enemy were actually trying to get away and were trying to go back to the mountains. Now our men were sinking boats as the enemy was retreating. Outstanding news I said. I then quickly called Col House to let him know about the progress and how we were sinking boats as they tried to retreat.

Somewhere during this time, I believe I sent SSGT Noel Brown to the Rockpile to bring back some needed equipment. Noel, if you could expand on this I would love to know why this took place and how it turned out. My mind remembers some but also has forgotten the need to send you there. Also Noel, You were at the front line most of the time, could you brief me a little more as to how the crews were doing.

The calls were getting more desperate as those in the ambush were now yelling that they needed more ammo and other help. So once again I found Capt. Easter and tried to get permission to move out with two more Dusters and the ammo. He said to forget it and that I could not go. We argued, I began yelling at him, yelling that our men needed help and that I was going to take the crews down to help. He quickly put a stop to this by saying something that rings again and again in my head and especially my heart. "LT Moore, if you even try to leave camp with two Dusters and a supply truck, I will have the Marine MP's hold you and I will start the paperwork to Court Martial you for disobeying a direct order while in a combat operation". Wow! I could not believe my ears. I walked away trying to process what just happened. This would now become the very first and only time that I placed myself before my men. What was I going to do? My men needed help and I was strongly ordered to let them take care of themselves. Joe, that is the main reason I could not get to you.

Now here is a little side note with some humor sharing as to how I operated when in the field. Some years ago I began to email the Marine Battalion Surgeon at The Rockpile. I wrote him saying "You probably don't remember me and that I was the 1st platoon leader of the Dusters, C-1/44". He then said "Oh yes we remember you, we talk about you and even laugh about you". So I questioned what he meant and was told the following. "You were the Young Arrogant Army Officer who took no grief or crap from the upper Marine officers, telling them what you were going to do and where they could go". Wow, what a way to be remembered.

The difference was that we were attached to them, not under their command. Since I was the only Army Officer in the field, I did this often whenever I felt it was needed

in order to save my men's lives. Now though, I was being challenged by my commanding officer. A Court Martial became a nerve racking event. What was I to do? - - Not being able to go to the ambush, my anger grew as I heard the calls for help. Nothing was being done so I got on the horn with Col House to tell him that we really needed help and could he send some Dusters up from Dong Ha. I actually was yelling as my anger was at an all-time high. I could hear his concern as he tried to calm me down and then let me know that they were putting together a new reactionary force. Capt. Tedesco was leading the first group so I informed the Marine HQ that help was soon on the way. I tried to calm down but was really unable to do so just yet.

In an amazing way of supporting the men, Tank got his 2½ ton truck, filled it full with ammo, and organized a relief group to truly help. I believe Don Wolfe, John Rowe and some Marines gathered with him to move down the hill towards our men, striving to get the needed supplies to them. John, the reason I could not ask you to do this was that if I told you to go, I would be responsible for it and it could have been held against you. Your leadership did not surprise me as knew you were always looking for ways to care for our men when required. Again, this action is documented in Joe's book. Tank, my pride for you has no boundaries and even grows more each day as I hear of how you continue to help anyone in need.

Then Capt. Easter pulled me aside to tell me what I had already assumed was the case. He said that they were afraid that the NVA were going to make a huge push and try to over-run J.J. Carroll. Because of this, he said that I was not to try and leave, but to prepare for an all-out assault. Again, knowing of the hundreds of NVA that were on the North and East side of J.J. Carroll, down low enough where we could not see them, we had no idea as to how many were still there. They were probably waiting for their command to initiate a strong attack to breach the wire and have hundreds advance with the possibility of defeating us. The Quad 50 at the East side of camp would take out any NVA trying to break through the wire. This added to the support already in progress and helped save the day. I'm sure the remaining NVA were changing their minds and were giving up on the plan to defeat us.



I went back to Hill 250 to see how well we were doing. At this time there were no more of the enemy advancing South towards J.J, but they all seemed to be trying to get back across the river and head north into the mountains. So now we were sinking boats as the enemy began to withdraw and retreat. The 5 crews on the north side of J.J. and the one on Hill 250 began to push hard against the very large enemy forces gathered on the slopes around J.J. Carroll. - - - The '68 TET Offensive that could have been a major victory for the NVA now became a major defeat for them. I watched with pride as I saw just how the men, (my men) were in full operation to push and push and push the enemy away. I don't believe anyone knew of this part of the day and how the crews protected J.J. Carroll. What joy it was to be their leader.

Finally, at 1900 (7:00pm), the M/3/4 from J.J Carroll secured the ambush site and equipment. As they returned to J.J., darkness began to set in and it was hard for us to see where the NVA were how many may still be in the area. From our CP, I called the Marine HQ and asked for them to put flares in the sky so we could make a better push against the enemy. They said that there was no need since they had cleared the site. I asked again to inform them that there was still a small amount of activity by the river and we needed to see and confirm that the NVA had in fact left the field. They began to argue with me so I yelled at them again to get some

flares up. They finally did fire some flares up over the river bed. I went back to Hill 250, climbed the tower and observed the enemies retreat. The NVA seemed to finally have given up, knowing they were not able to accomplish their mission.

Now I was able to calm down a little. I was looking for Capt. Easter so that I could meet my men and congratulate them for an outstanding and successful battle. He said that this was not possible and informed me that the men were directed not to share any information about the ambush with those at J.J. and that the Dusters were taken to several locations. I just wanted to know. Easter also told me to keep everything under wrap and not to share any details with anyone. At day—break, a Marine Chopper flew in and I was ordered to go to 1/44th HQ to meet with Col House. Upon my arrival, Col House asked “What the Hell went on at J.J. Carroll”? I told him of my frustration, my anger, and was really looking for Easter, not sure why, but can speculate about what my anger was pushing for.

John, along with anyone else who knows who these men are, could you please fill me in on who was on each Duster. It would make my day to be able to write each one.

HQ patched me up because of some minor injuries and then I was to spend much time with Col House. We talked for over an hour with my anger being some of what was driving the conversation. I was preparing myself to gather up my belongings as my DROS was present and I was to go home. At that time, Col House asked me to extend my tour. I was due for promotion to Capt. in April, but he told me that if I extended my time, he would give me my Capt. bars early February and he wanted me to become the Battery Commander of C-1/44. Oh, I wanted that so bad that I could taste it. I then said that I was tighter than a banjo string as I had not taken any R&R in my year there and did not want to go back right then as I did not want to place my men in danger because of my mind-set. I told him that if I could go home for 2 weeks to settle my mind, then I could be back for my new job, CO C-Btry so please hold it open.

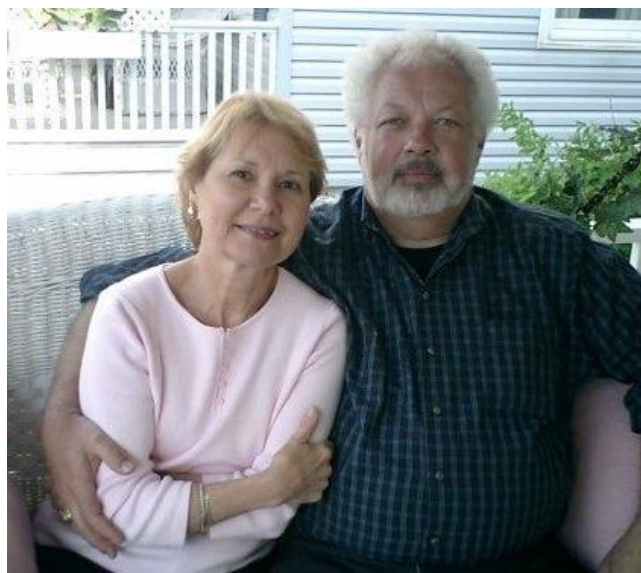
Now that 50+ years have passed, the events on Jan 24 linger very deeply in each of our minds. For those that were right in the ambush and received the Bronze

Star/V, you should really have received the Silver Star. Tank, even more so, you advanced for one purpose, that of getting the needed ammo to the men. You did not regard the safety for yourself but stepped way out into the line of fire and succeeded with flying colors, helping to save many lives.

Again, my pride for each one is through the roof. Joe - your book, your Purple Heart mission, your speaking engagements – Wow! Tank-your beginning NDQSA, your work at the cemeteries, your reaching out to so many, Wow! I remember that one time s we spoke about the past, you challenged me when you said that we don't move backwards, only looking to the future. We need to knock the rear-view-mirrors off and move forward. I could go on and on about the accomplishments of each one and really need a book written with a chapter dedicated to each of you.

I hope this won't be taken the wrong way, but as we approach each anniversary of Jan 24, my mind does step back into time and the stress of that time reappears and seems to hit me harder than any other of our combat missions. Do I need to let some of it go? Yes I should. I don't know anything about Easter right now but if I were ever to meet him and a few others, I would just ask, "Why"? Why did we not rescue our men?

*Soooo, will sign off for now. -Steve,
(LT for those who were in the field with me)*



+ + Beverly and Steve + +

RIP March 1, 2020

There will be a well deserved memorial service for Steve in June. His daughter informed me that his ashes will be encased in a 40mm round. Way to go Steve!



Internment service will be at Washington Crossing National Cemetery on Friday June 19, at 9:00 a.m. The address is:

[Washington Crossing National Cemetery](#)
830 Highland Road
Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940.

The Memorial Service will be on Saturday June 20; at 10:00 a.m. Visitation with the family will be from 9-10:00 a.m. It will be held at [Church of the Savior](#) 651 North Wayne Avenue Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087.

Historian's Perspective

Think about this...this WAS the first major incursion/attack of North Vietnam's '68 Tet offensive. All those NVA forces were coming across the river in boats, hundreds of them!! In broad daylight!! They were not there to attack the convoy on Rt 9, they were there to take out Camp J.J. Carroll and kill everyone in there. It would have been an incredible blow to US and ARVN forces and a major psychological blow to the conscious of the American's war efforts if Camp Carroll had fallen. It would have been the NVA's 'glorious' prelude to their all out attack on the rest of South Vietnam. It would have been the American "Dien Bien Phu" right at the start of Tet. IT DID NOT HAPPEN!

LT Steve Moore and the men under his command deserve a full historical reassessment of their actions that day. To borrow from Winston Churchill, "**Never was so much owed by so many to so few**"- the men of C-1/44 and the rest of the defenders of Camp Carroll.

Rest in peace LT, you served your men, your country, your family and your brothers well.

Paul R. Kopsick, NDQSA Historian

From the Archives:

I thought you guys would enjoy this. It is a bit dated but what other ideas could you come up with?

Custom Duster

31March/30April 1968 The Triumvirate 5/2d

Alpha Battery in its constant striving for perfection humbly submits the following suggestions for improvement of our beloved M42A1 "Duster". In addition, suggest nomenclature of innovated vehicle be "Improved M-42 ½ A1-GTO-R/T Duster".

The money won as part of the Suggestion Incentive Program should be sent to Alpha Battery to purchase used track pads.

Proposed accessories and options:

1. Chrome mufflers and exhaust pipes.
2. 4-speed trans-axle
3. Air conditioner
4. Leather interior
5. Musical air horns
6. Wolf-whistle
7. Racing option for engine
8. Tinted periscopes
9. Choice of exterior colors
10. Lowering blocks
11. Adjustable air suspension
12. Power operation for guns (workable)
13. Smokeless center-fire 40mm cartridges
14. Chrome air cleaners
15. Cigarette lighter
16. Hydraulic hatches & front door
17. Quad retractable headlights
18. Sequential turn signals
19. Better trunk for valuables
20. Outlet for TV, fridge, etc
21. Padded dash
22. Quick change rear end
23. Cooler for 40mm barrels
24. Self-adjusting –tightening track pads
25. Hard top model option
26. Custom seat for Platoon Leader
27. C-ration can heater
28. Automatic range card maker

29. Automatic sandbag filler
30. Duster comes when whistled for
31. Handheld ammo cleaner
32. Answering machine with set call signs
33. Officer warning system alerts
34. Remote control firing
35. Sonar for the wet season
36. Tree/Branch deflector
37. Remote control for radio
38. Mini-computer for logbooks
39. Emergency destruct radio operated from TOC by Cos in anguish

I'll add my suggestion now,

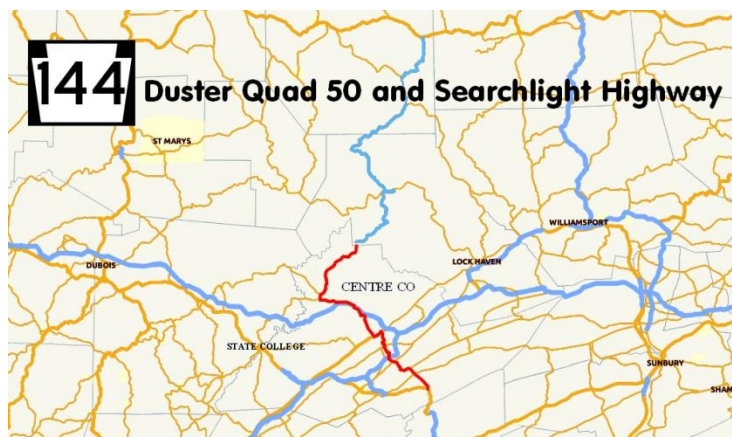
40. Mine detector (actually it WAS a mine detector!)

Shades of "Nightrider" "Pimp My Ride"



:::UPDATE:::

**1/44th Highway Naming in Penn. Postponed
To Be Rescheduled for later in 2020**



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

Forward Service Requested



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

38th Annual Reunion
CANCELLED

<http://www.ndqsa.com/>

Issue 1 Spring 2020

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. (2020 or beyond)

However, if you see the number 0000 or 2019 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 200 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.