

2014 ALL AVEL REUNION CONTINUED

We presented Major Ruiz, CSM Duchatelier and Sgt Thiebault with pocket patches of all four AVEL Companies.

Thursday ended in the Hospitality Room meeting old and new friends. The slide was played featuring over 3,000 photos of AVEL Far North, North, Central and South.

Friday, 8 August 2014

We planned a special outing for the ladies on Friday. A trip up Pike's Peak on the Cog Railway and lunch paid for by the AVEL Reunion Committee and the donations we received. The men were invited to join but they had to pay \$40.00 per person which covered the bus and the Cog Railway. The guys had to buy their own lunch!

The group formed up in the lobby at 08:00 and the bus left at 08:30. The day was clear and scenery beautiful. The temperature at the top was a cool 33 degrees with a wind chill!



Lunch was served at The Loop Restaurant in Manitou Springs. Despite the very short notice they were able to seat all 43 of us! We enjoyed a great lunch then headed back to the hotel for a quick rest before heading out to McCabe's Tavern for dinner, drinks and music! Everyone was in a very festive mood and a good time was had by all!



2014 ALL AVEL REUNION CONTINUED

Saturday, 9 August 2014

Saturday was a day of sight seeing and golf. Those who were not golfing saw the Colorado Springs area sights on their own.

The 4th Annual John Veers Martini Golf Outing was held at Ft. Carson at the Cheyenne Shadows Golf Course. John Veers was not present but he was with us in spirit! The day started with Martinis at the course out of the back of Jack McCabe's car. Jack took John's place as bartender this year. The Martinis were great and so was the golf.

Once again the unbeatable team of Aaron Bass, Bill Biggs, Orbin Hall and Marvin York won the Captains Choice competition. We have to switch around the teams next year!



While we were golfing Kelly Crager of the Oral History Project at Texas Tech University's Vietnam Center and Archive visited the Hospitality Room to talk with our vets about their preservation of Vietnam history project.

The nights festivities began at 17:00 with a cash bar in the Atrium. Late arrivals were able to talk and mingle. We were honored to have the family of Harry Lance (AVEL Central 1967-1968) who passed away last year. His daughter Judy and her husband Michael Thomas and their daughter Samantha attended in Harry's honor.

The program began at 18:00. Pete Poirier gave the opening remarks. Our guest speaker was Angel Medina, Readjustment Counselor for the Department of Veteran's Affairs. She gave a great talk and was given a standing ovation.

We then played the In Memorium video which is getting longer and longer. We then played a video of Marcus Guy playing his song "Soldier's Song". The acoustics were not very good for a live performance.

Jack McCabe and Jerry Mahanay folded the Reunion Flag and Jack presented it to Pete Poirier. Dinner was then served. During dinner a few words were said by Neil and Tom McCabe.

When dinner was finished we adjourned to the Hospitality Room where a group photo was taken by Tom McCabe. In the room we enjoyed songs played by Jerry Mahanay and Marcus Guy.

Sunday, 10 August 2014

It was time to say goodbye to old and new friends for most. Some stayed on a couple days to sight see some more. As most of us headed home we reflected on our time in Vietnam and all the friends we made and renewed at this years reunion.

REUNION 2015: OCTOBER IN CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



NEW AVEL REGISTRIES

LOVING, Walt, SP/4

124 Woodgate Place
Brandon, MS 39042
601-825-1083

614th Maintenance Co. (Pleiku) July 1971-Jan. 1972 &
AVEL Central (Phu Loi): January - March 1972

wloving@acosta.com

MOS: 35K20

AGENT ORANGE

Questions / Comments: I HAD PROSTATE CANCER & SURGERY IN JANUARY OF 2007 AND I GOT INTO THE V.A. SYSTEM IN 2008. I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT EVERYONE "LOOK" INOT THE V.A. THEY HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO ME.

Hayes, Joseph Maxwell (SP/5)

3089 Main St.
Cottdonale, FL 32431
850-276-3593

AVEL Far North, Chu Lai: January 1970 - December 1970

bonsaibytori@embarqmail.com

MOS: 35L2H

AGENT ORANGE

Questions / Comments: I ETS'd the same rank I went in - E1. FTA.

Dienhart, John (SP/4)

P.O. Box 6
Menomonee Falls, WI 53052-0006
B Co., 158th Aviation Bn (Phu Bai), F Battery 79th Aerial
Field Artillery (Long Thanh North), 604th Trans Co, (Nha
Trang): 1971 - 1972

jdienhart01@earthlink.net

MOS: 35M20

AGENT ORANGE

Elvin L. Wilkerson, ElvinL. (PFC)

1159 Shoemaker Drive
Westland, MI 48185
734-757-0579
263rd Maintenance Co., HQ & 1st Plt., Red Beach: April
1971 - February 1972

leewilkerson77@gmail.com

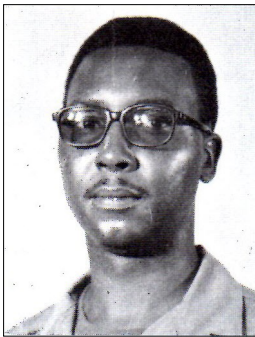
MOS: 35L20

AGENT ORANGE

Questions / Comments: I remember the names of some of the people in the pictures.

TAPS

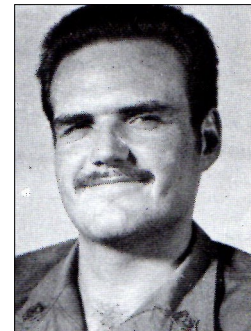
At the Reunion in Colorado Springs Manny Ramos (AVEL Central, Phu Loi) gave me copies of some orders he had. There were some more names on there of men I haven't found. Unfortunately I found two that have since passed.



Jimmy Thorne

Jimmy was a Staff Sergeant when he was in AVEL Central at Phu loi in 1971. He was known as *Hoss Man*.

Jimmy was born in 1943 and entered the Army in 1961. He retired in 1983. Jimmy died in 2003 at the age of 59.



Thomas Gilbert

Tom served in AVEL Central, Phu Loi in 1970-1971.

Tom was born in 1946 and he died in 2001. He was 54 years old. He is buried in Lewis Clark Memorial Gardens, Lewiston, Idaho.

PHOTOS

I posted a couple photos of Phu Loi and the 520th Trans Bn. In the Avel Central 1971 section.

Reunion photos will be posted as people send them to me. Stay tuned and watch the web site www.avelvietnam.com



Customized Vietnam Maps

I brought this map to the reunion and there was some interest in purchasing them. The map comes with the usual shoulder patches but you can add patches, photos, graphics and text. It is very easy to do.

Log onto <http://www.a2zgraphicsworks.com/>

Click on the link for Vietnam Map and you can then customize it and order it.



AVEL 2013 Reunion Photo Book

Gale York put this magnificent book together using photos from the reunion last year in Washington D.C.

It really is a beautiful book and is available for purchase through Shutter Fly.

To order your book please email Jack McCabe and he will send you information on how to proceed. jmccabe51@gmail.com.

If you don't have email call Jack at 847-778-3473

Prayers go out to Gale as she lost her Mom while we were at the reunion.



AVEL Vietnam Website

Be sure to visit our website at www.avelvietnam.com. The website is full of useful information such as rosters of those we have found, photographs, Agent Orange information, etc