

AVEL VIETNAM NEWSLETTER

February 2015

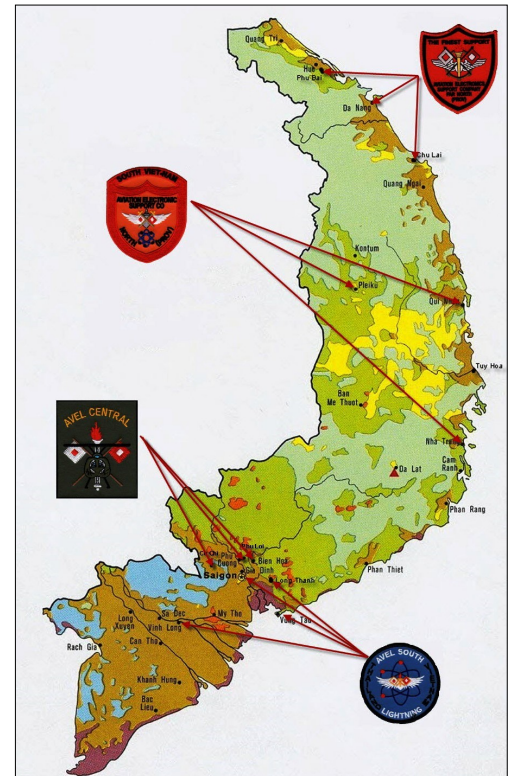
IN MEMORIAM

Joseph (Jay) Tirre, LTC Retired

1935 - 2014

I am sad to report that we have lost one of our registered AVEL Veterans. Jay was the commanding officer of AVEL North in 1968. He had been suffering the effects of Agent Orange.

Jay had prostate cancer for about 7 years but it had been under control with hormone therapy until just before Christmas when his midriff became painful to the touch. Tests revealed the cancer had spread into his liver and had done so very rapidly. He received the first chemo treatment the week of Christmas and by Sunday the reaction had caused severe diarrhea and dehydration. He was admitted that night to ICU when his blood pressure tanked and he passed away Monday, December 29th.



Jay was born on 12 February 1935, the son of Joseph & Florence Cutler Tirre. He is survived by his wife Lois Fichter Tirre and five sons: Conrad, William, Scott, Steve and Michael. He had seven grandchildren.

He had a long and distinguished Army career.

Jay attended the United States Military Academy at West Point graduation in 1958. He was a helicopter pilot and was Airborne qualified.

His first assignment after graduation was with the 34th Signal Bn. Where he served from 1959 - 1963.

In 1963 he was assigned to the Army Training & Support System and then to Army Aviation School where he remained until 1965. His next assignment was in the Republic of Vietnam.

Don't forget to join us on facebook. Search for the group: AVEL Vietnam.



Jay's first tour of duty in Vietnam was with Headquarters, 13th Aviation Bn. In the Delta. He served there from 1965 and 1966. For his service there he was awarded a **Bronze Star Medal and 3 Air Medals**. Upon his return from Vietnam he was assigned to the Aviation Electronics Agency.

His second Vietnam tour began in 1968 where he served as the Commanding Officer of **AVEL North**. He was then sent to the 34th General Support Group in Saigon. For his service in this tour he was awarded a **Bronze Star Medal and 6 Air Medals**.

When he returned to the States he was again assigned to the Aviation Electronics Agency where he was awarded the **Army Commendation Medal**.

He attended Command and General Staff College in 1972. He received his MBA in 1973 then was assigned to the Joint Military Advisory Group in Iran where he served from 1972-1973. He then served at Headquarters, Army Training and Doctrine Command from 1975 until his retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1978. For his service there he was awarded the **Meritorious Service Medal**.

After his retirement from the Army he worked for Rockwell International until his retirement in 1993.

His family will bury his ashes at West Point on 17 April 2014.

NEW AVEL & AVIONICS VETERANS FOUND

McClure, Don (SP/4)

20822 W. Arlington Rd.

Buckeye, AZ, 85326

263rd Maintenance Co. (LEM), Red Beach: Sept. 1970-Sept. 1971

donandkaren@hughes.net

MOS: 35M20

Comments: He was promoted to E-5 prior to discharge.

Lauber, Jack (SP/5)

1841 N. Ridge Rd.605

Wichita, KS 67212

B Battery 4/77 ARA, Camp Eagle Phu Bai: 4 Jan. 1970-10 Dec. 1970

jackstandgarage@gmail.com

MOS: 35L20

Muth, Eric A. (SP/5)

40 Buttonwood Lane.

Doylestown, PA 18901

Avionics Section, HHQ, 34th Gen Spt. Grp., Tan Son Nhut: 30 Aug. 1969-29 Aug. 1970

ericmuth@verizon.net

MOS: 35L20

TAPS

Mercier, Dennis F. (SP/5)

Avel Central, Cu Chi

Died 2 July 1983

Collins, Michael D. (SP/5)

Avel Central, Cu Chi

Died 28 October 2004

Smith, Phillip (SP/5)

Avel Central, Cu Chi

Died 10 November 2010

Christy, Anthony W. (SP/4)

Avel Central, Phu Loi

Died 27 April 2007

Smith, Robald (SSG)

Avel Central, Cu Chi

Died 13 October 2008

Farnell, Lenwood T. (SP/5)

Avel Central, Phu Loi

Died 10 February 2006

PHOTOS

No photos submitted



Agent Orange and AVEL

Over the years I have heard AVEL Veterans say "I was never in the field, I wasn't exposed" or "they didn't spray that near us". Well, you are wrong. You were exposed and they did spray by you.

Let's look at exposure. You worked in a trailer. Never left the post for your entire year. How could you be exposed? Think about it. Every piece of equipment that came in for repair was off a helicopter or aircraft that was in Agent Orange territory. The equipment came in with dust. Dust that contained Agent Orange. The first thing you did was clean the equipment, usually with an air hose. EXPOSURE!



Spraying – were you sprayed? In Phu Loi they had a Huey that was equipped with a sprayer and sprayed insect killer over the base to keep Malaria down. It flew either early in the morning or late in the evening. During the day it sprayed Agent Orange. They didn't clean the equipment between missions. I know this was done over most bases besides Phu Loi. SPRAYED

Anything else? Well at Phu Loi (and I am sure most other bases) we had a ¾ ton truck with a 55 gallon drum of Agent Orange on it. Some of our troops would spray our sector of the perimeter with it so we had a clear field of fire. These troops were exposed. Those who served on the bunker line were exposed.

Let's look at the statistics. I examined the rosters of registered AVEL Veterans and those veterans that have died since their tour whose cause of death is known. The statistics of those with Agent Orange related illnesses are shown below.

AVEL Far North/ 263rd LEM: 32.2%

AVEL North/614th LEM: 23.4%

AVEL Central: 25.9%

AVEL South/317th LEM: 37.8%

What is the upshot of this? Have you gone to the VA for your Agent Orange Assessment? If not, you need to. Get it on record.

Is this about filing a claim? Getting a check? No. It is about YOUR health. And, the health of your family. Take care of yourself men. Take care of your family. If you are sick from Agent Orange, file a claim. It is owed to you and your family.

So many men were killed in Vietnam but just haven't died yet.

AVEL REUNION 2015

Reunion plans are moving along. It will be a great reunion so register early. We need a preliminary count. As of right now we have 14 Vets and 13 Guests registered. We expect to have a great turn out. **Register Early!**

Wednesday, 14 October 2015

This is a day for early arrivals. Check into your room and enjoy Charleston on your own.

Thursday, 15 October 2015

Open Registration in the Hospitality Room

Explore Charleston on your own

Friday, 16 October 2015

Attendees are invited to a Marine Corps Boot Camp Graduation at Parris Island

The group is invited to attend a Oyster Roast and Pig Picking at Salty Mike's

Saturday, 17 October 2015

Annual John Veers Martini Golf Outing

Annual AVEL Banquet

Sunday, 18 October 2015

Final goodbyes and head home

If you wish to donate to the Reunion, you can send your check payable to **"AVEL Reunion"** to:

Russ Mason

1083 Renwood Dr.

Charleston, SC 29412



AVEL VIETNAM



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AVEL Vietnam
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Arlington Hts., IL 60004

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mail To: