

AVEL VIETNAM NEWSLETTER

March 2015

MARCH 8TH, 1965

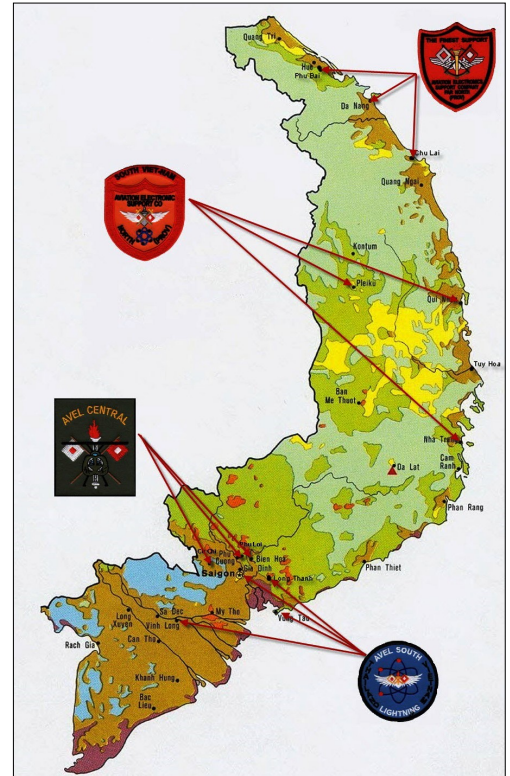
U.S Marines land in Vietnam

March 8, 2015 marked 50 years since the first brigade-strength U.S. Marine unit arrived in Vietnam.

On March 8, 1965, nearly 5,000 Marines from the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed to defend the American air base at Da Nang. It's an anniversary that will be met with little fanfare. However, the impact of that day and the years that followed during the Vietnam War, still affect our country in ways large and small.

The Vietnam War was arguably the most divisive event in our nation during the 20th Century. When 9 million Americans served, and more than 58,000 made the ultimate sacrifice, not just those service members were forever changed. Their families, their buddies, and the country as a whole also were impacted socially, politically, and militarily.

What Vietnam veterans faced when they came back home, a divided America and at times little to no respect for their service, has now generated a new legacy – a proud legacy of service in America in which people stand and shake the hands of service members and say, "Thank you and welcome home." It was Vietnam veterans who vowed to never again let a generation of Americans go to war without the support and respect they deserve.



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



NEW AVEL & AVIONICS VETERANS FOUND

Engels, William L. (CWO2)

91 Rotunda Circle
Asheville, NC 28806
828-505-7418

317th Maintenance Co. (LEM), Vung Tau: Jan. 1971-May 1971

wlengels@gmail.com

MOS: Aircraft Maintenance Officer

Also served with the 1st Signal Bn., Nha Trang 1968-1969

AGENT ORANGE

Reiswig, Kenneth R. Sr. (SP/5)

412 NE Alpenview Lane
Bend, OR 97701
541-350-2254

335th Signal Det. (AVEL Central), Phu Loi: Sept. 1966-Aug. 1967

Ken.reiswig@hotmail.com

MOS: 31Q30

Also assigned to the 1st Cavalry for about a month

TAPS

None submitted

PHOTOS

No photos submitted

Reuter Article - 1989

I never saw this article in 1989. I have heard stories from infantry types claiming they found Chinese dead and Chinese uniform insignia.

While I am sure that China did supply troops, equipment and money to North Vietnam I find it hard to believe that they supplied 320,000 troops and had only 4,000 killed. But, maybe most were support personnel in the north.

Next months Newsletter will contain statistics on the various participants in the War in Vietnam.

China has admitted that it contributed more than 20 billion dollars in aid to the North Vietnamese. When you add the amount supplied by Russia and North Korea you have a very tidy sum.

I guess we cost them a whole lot of money.

China admits 320,000 troops fought in Vietnam

HONG KONG (Reuters) — China has admitted for the first time that it sent more than 300,000 combat troops to Vietnam to fight against U.S. forces and their South Vietnamese allies.

The semi-official China News Service said today that China sent 320,000 soldiers to Vietnam during the 1960s. It also spent over \$20 billion to support Hanoi's regular North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong guerrilla units.

The agency report cited "The History of the People's Republic of China," published by the official State Archives Publishing House, as saying that more than 4,000 Chinese soldiers were killed during the war.

Fighting ended when victorious North Vietnamese tanks battered their way into the grounds of Doc Lap Palace in Saigon on April 30, 1975.

During the war China denied U.S. allegations that its soldiers were operating in Vietnam.

U.S. intelligence reports at the time spoke of U.S. combat units finding soldiers dressed in Chinese combat gear and wearing Chinese

insignia.

Presidents Johnson and Nixon were wary of allowing U.S. aircraft to bomb too close to the Chinese border with North Vietnam for fear of involving the Chinese on a larger scale.

During the 10 years of direct U.S. involvement, American troop levels reached over 500,000. Estimates of North Vietnamese Army units varied, but Hanoi maintained throughout the war its soldiers went only as volunteers to help the southern Viet Cong guerrilla movement.

Units from South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand fought alongside U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers, with logistical support from Thailand and the Philippines.

Correction

The source given for a map accompanying an article yesterday on a proposed high-speed rail system was incorrect. The map, similar to one from the Chicago Tribune that that newspaper credited to Argonne National Laboratory, was not furnished by the laboratory.

North Korea admits having fighters in North Vietnam

7 July 2001: North Korea officially admitted for the first time sending pilots to North Vietnam to fight against U.S. air attacks. They did not specify how many pilots were sent or how many were lost.

AVEL REUNION UPDATES

HOTEL:

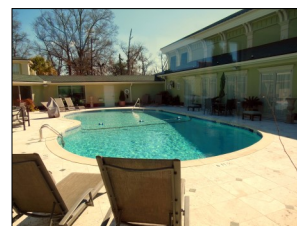
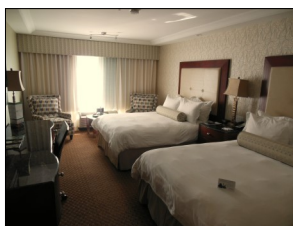
The hotel has been chosen and I know you will be very happy with the accommodations and amenities.

Town & Country Inn & Suites
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407

Room Rates: \$105.00/night Thursday-Friday, \$130.00/night Saturday & Sunday.

Rooms: The hotel was completely renovated and the rooms are beautiful. Rooms are available with King Beds, 2 Queens and Handicap Rooms.

Reservation details will be posted in the next Newsletter.



GUEST SPEAKER:

We have invited Major General James Livingston (MOH), USMC Retired to speak at our Saturday Banquet. Right now it is looking good and we are awaiting confirmation.

General Livingston was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1968.



PLANNED ITINERARY:

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

Registered attendees will be bused 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

We have 21 Vets and 18 Guests registered. We expect to have a great turn out.

If you think you might come, please Register Early! We need approximate counts for the trip to Parris Island, Pig Picking and Banquet.

REGISTER NOW! GO TO THE WEBSITE AND REGISTER EARLY!

www.avelvietnam.com



AVEL VIETNAM



March 2015 Newsletter



AVEL Vietnam
2103 E. Robinhood Lane
Arlington Hts., IL 60004

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mail To: