

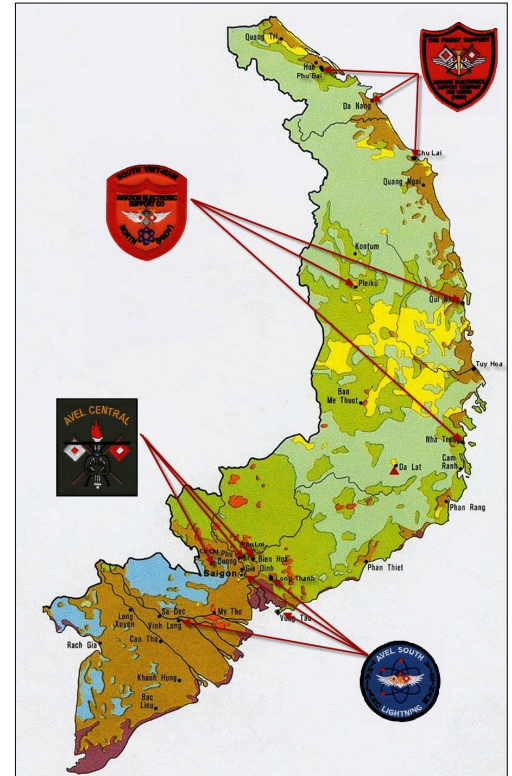
AVEL VIETNAM NEWSLETTER

September 2014

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL DAVID PETRAEUS (RET)



This is an excellent article by General Petraeus. He captured the essence of veterans, their families and our nation in a very concise and accurate manner.



I remember the day I found out I got into West Point. My mom actually showed up in the hallway of my high school and waited for me to get out of class. She was bawling her eyes out and apologizing that she had opened up my admission letter. She wasn't crying because it had been her dream for me to go there. She was crying because she knew how hard I'd worked to get in, how much I wanted to attend, and how much I wanted to be an infantry officer.

I was going to get that opportunity. That same day two of my teachers took me aside and essentially told me the following: "David, you're a smart guy. You don't have to join the military. You should go to college, instead."

I could easily write a theme defending West Point and the military as I did that day, explaining that USMA is an elite institution, that separate from that it is actually statistically much harder to enlist in the military than it is to get admitted to college, that serving the nation is a challenge that all able-bodied men should at least consider for a host of reasons, but I won't.

What I will say is that when a 16 year-old kid is being told that attending West Point is going to be bad for his future then there is a dangerous disconnect in America, and entirely too many Americans have no idea what kind of burdens our military is bearing.

In World War II, 11.2% of the nation served in four (4) years.

During the Vietnam era, 4.3% served in twelve (12) years.

Since 2001, only 0.45% of our population has served in the Global War on Terror.

These are unbelievable statistics. Over time, fewer and fewer people have shouldered more and more of the burden and it is only getting worse.

Our troops were sent to war in Iraq by a Congress consisting of 10% veterans with only one person having a child in the military. Taxes did not increase to pay for the war. War bonds were not sold. Gas was not regulated. In fact, the average citizen was asked to sacrifice nothing, and has sacrificed nothing unless they have chosen to out of the goodness of their hearts.

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



The only people who have sacrificed are the veterans and their families The volunteers. The people who swore an oath to defend this nation. You stand there, deployment after deployment and fight on. You've lost relationships, spent years of your lives in extreme conditions, years apart from kids you'll never get back, and beaten your body in a way that even professional athletes don't understand.

Then you come home to a nation that doesn't understand. They don't understand suffering. They don't understand sacrifice. They don't understand why we fight for them. They don't understand that bad people exist. They look at you like you're a machine - like something is wrong with you. You are the misguided one - not them. When you get out, you sit in the college classrooms with political science teachers that discount your opinions on Iraq and Afghanistan because YOU WERE THERE and can't understand the macro issues they gathered from books, because of your bias.

You watch TV shows where every vet has PTSD and the violent strain at that. Your Congress is debating your benefits, your retirement, and your pay, while they ask you to do more. But the amazing thing about you is that you all know this. You know your country will never pay back what you've given up.

You know the populace at large will never truly understand or appreciate what you have done for them. Hell, you know that in some circles you will be thought of as less than normal for having worn the uniform. But, you do it anyway.

You do what the greatest men and women of this country have done since 1775. YOU SERVED. Just that decision alone makes you part of an elite group .

"Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few." -Winston Churchill-

Thank you to the 11.2% and 4.3% who have served and thanks to the 0.45% who continue to serve our Nation.

General David Patraeus West Point Class 1974

Seen at the Lovell VA Hospital, North Chicago

"THIS WAR"

It asks nothing, but takes everything
It knows no bounds, but it encompasses all
It's a day by day, week by week and also a month by month thing
For some it's an experience; for others it's hell on earth
It hurts, but some day the hurt will be gone
It's knowing, yet not knowing a damn thing
It's self-assurance with really no assurance of anything
It's a second; it's twice a life time
It's time spent and for most, an eternity wasted
It's pain often eased by no feeling at all
It's feeling, but who knows what it is all about
It's energy spent and thank God it's only once
It's relief gained, because it had to be earned
It's many dark hours followed by few dawns
It's now, but it will be later also
It speaks to you, but you don't want to listen
It's around you, it's near you, it's part of you
It's got its own life and it's a bad animal
Yes, it breathes, but why should it live
It's the real thing, because the script can't be changed
It's all these things and at times it's none of these things at all
That's what it is all about

SP/5 Thomas Trousch
Chu Lai, Vietnam 1969



TAPS



LTC EDWARD V. LYMAN (Ret)

NEWPORT NEWS - Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Edward Vance Lyman, 58, died Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1997, at Mary Immaculate Hospital after a brief illness. He was a resident of Hampton for 16 years.

LTC Lyman commanded the 317th Maintenance Co. (LEM) 1971-1972

Mr. Lyman was the owner of Edward V. Lyman Realty Inc. He served for 17 years active duty in the U.S. Army and retired from the reserves in 1987. He was a senior Army aviator and served two tours in Vietnam. He received the Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal (second through seventh award), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one silver and two bronze stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Civil Action Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm (two unit awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Meritorious Service Medal and Senior Army Aviator Badge.

A graveside service was held and LTC Lyman was buried in Peninsula Memorial Park with full military honors.

His son Scott would like to speak with anyone who served with his Dad as he doesn't know very much about his father's service in Vietnam. rlyman@vt.edu

NEW AVEL VETERANS FOUND

Langlois, Roland (SP/5)

1291 N. Brookfield Rd.
Oakham, MA 01068
508-882-1034
317th Maintenance Co. (LEM), Vung Tau: 21 July 1969-1 April 1970
langloisroland@hotmail.com
MOS: 35B20
Comments: Served in the Army from 1966-1977. Discharged as a Staff Sergeant.

Allen, Bruce (SP/5)

55 Savannah Dr.
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
Avel South, Vung Tau: March 1966-Jan. 1967
bpallen61@hotmail.com
MOS: 26D20
Comments: Left Ft. Lewis with the 335th but remained at Vung Tau

Brooks, Linwood (SP/45)

Bronx, NY
Avel Central, Cu-Chi: 1968-1969
brookslinwood@gmail.com

Meyer, Doug (SP/5)

P.O. Box 434
Falls City, NE 68355
951-282-5415
B Company, 1st Aviation Bn., 1st Division, Phu Loi: March 1968-March 1969
dugmire@gmail.com
MOS: 35K20
AGENT ORANGE

Ramirez, Hector (SP/5)

Florida
813-220-9020
Avel Central, Phu Loi: 1967-1968
hndc4ever@aol.com

PHOTOS

I received a few pictures from Roland Langlois and posted them in the 317th Maintenance Co. (LEM) page.

Greg Garrison sent some pictures from the 2014 Reunion. They are now posted in chronological order with the rest.

Terry Beal sent in his graduation photo of his 35L20 MOS class from 1967.

I also posted an aerial photo of Nha Trang on the Avel North, Nha Trang page. A photo of Camp Holloway main gate on the Avel North Pleiku page and a photo of Vung Tau on the Avel South Vung Tau page.

Bob Cancialosi sent me a couple pictures of Avel Far North, Red Beach. They are posted in the Far North, Red Beach page.

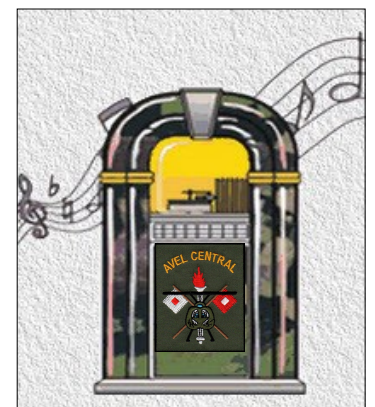
Vietnam Music - What brings you back?

I received the following from Jerry Mahanay: So many of my memories of my time in Vietnam revolve around music. American Pie by Don McClean, Heart of Gold by Neil Young, John Denver, Cat Stevens. I remember reading about Duane Allman dying in a motorcycle accident. First time I heard Wolfman Jack I just knew he was a black disc jockey. Going into the EM Club with Gary Clark drunk singing "Up in the Air Junior Birdmen" to everybody in the club. The John Phillip Sousa Society started by Bill Fesus which consisted of sitting around listening to John Phillip Sousa music while drinking pretty heavily. Mike Piotrasch and myself playing guitar at night on the bunker next to the hootch and just waiting for SSG Bloom to come by in a drunken stupor and mess with him. Watching a movie in the Avel Cinema and during the changing of the reel start singing some current song on AFVN.

When we got orders to close down Avel Central Mike Piotrasch and I smashed our guitars like Pete Townsend because we didn't have cases to put them in and just thought it would be a cool thing to do. Sitting in the EM club listening to a reel to reel tape that Larry Holder had sent over from Atlanta of a local radio station and the disc jockey saying "this next song is dedicated to all the boys at the Avel Central EM Club in Phu Loi, Vietnam." I heard some really good Vietnamese and Filipino cover bands but the one band I was looking forward to hearing was an Australian Band and I had to pull guard duty that night with Gary Clark. Turns out I missed out on what turned out to be one of the epic party nights in Avel Central History and of course Jack McCabe has put pictures on the Avel Website to torture me.

WHAT BRINGS IT BACK FOR YOU? Everyone has certain songs that when they hear them they are transported in an instant to Vietnam. WHAT DOES IT FOR YOU?

Go to the avelvietnam.com website Guest Book/Blog page and post your songs and memories. Take a ride back in time!





AVEL VIETNAM



September 2014 Newsletter



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mail To: