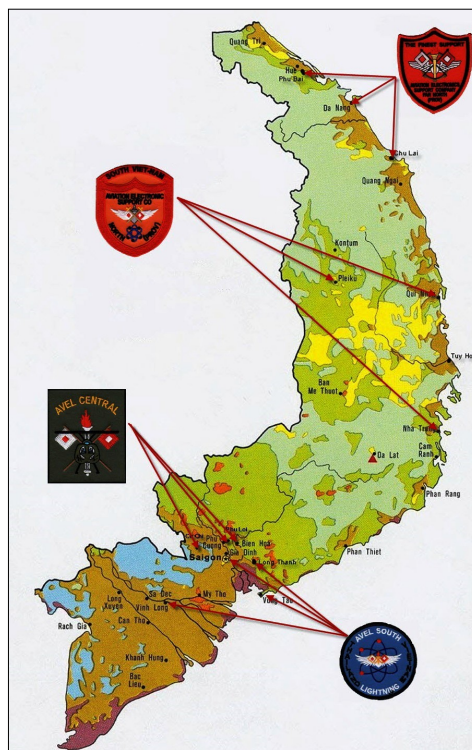


AVEL VIETNAM

Newsletter - September/October 2019

Top Hits Of 1971



At the start of 1971 there were 334,600 American troops serving in Vietnam. The draft lottery was still running but slowing down. There were 94,092 men drafted in 1971.

1971 started with a bang! Operation Lam Son 719 (Vietnamese: Chiến dịch Lam Sơn 719 or Chiến dịch đường 9 – Nam Lào) was an invasion by 20,000 soldiers of the armed forces of South Vietnam into southeastern Laos. The objective of the operation was the disruption of the Ho Chi Minh Trail (the Truong Son Road to North Vietnam) which supplied communist armed forces in South Vietnam. Although claiming victory, the South Vietnamese army (ARVN) withdrew from Laos in disorder and suffered 9,000 casualties. The U.S. supported the operation and had 253 soldiers killed and many helicopters destroyed.

29 March: The jury at a military courts-martial convicted Lt. William Calley of the premeditated murder of 22 Vietnamese civilians during the My Lai massacre of 1968. Calley was the only soldier convicted for his role in the massacre. He was sentenced to life in prison and hard labor at Fort Leavenworth. On April 3rd, President Nixon ordered Calley to be removed from Leavenworth to house arrest. Calley served only three and a half years of house arrest in his quarters at Fort Benning. He petitioned the federal district court for habeas corpus on February 11, 1974, which was granted on September 25, 1974, along with his immediate release, by federal judge J. Robert Elliott.

3 May: 15,000 soldiers and police arrested more than 7,000 persons protesting the Vietnam War in Washington. On 5 May, 1146 protesters against the Vietnam War were arrested on the U.S. Capitol grounds in Washington trying to shut down the U.S. Congress. This brought the total arrested during the 1971 May Day Protests to over 12,000.

And in Vietnam for the average troop fought on. It was obvious the end was in sight.

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



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Troop strengths in 1971 shrunk to 156,800 by years end. In 1971 there were 2,414 deaths and 9,096 troops wounded that required medical attention at a hospital.

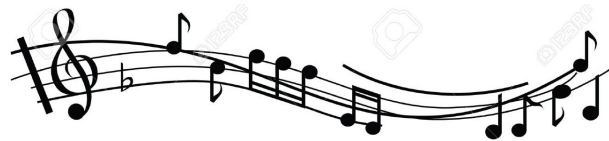
Check out the Top Ten songs of 1971!

- #1 Three Dog Night "Joy to the World"
- #2 Rod Stewart "Maggie May/Reason to Believe"
- #3 Carole King "It's Too Late/I Feel the Earth Move"
- #4 The Osmonds "One Bad Apple"
- #5 Bee Gees "How Can You Mend A Broken Heart"
- #6 Paul Revere & the Raiders "Indian Reservation"
- #7 Donny Osmond "Go Away Little Girl"
- #8 John Denver "Take Me Home, Country Roads"
- #9 The Temptations "Just My Imagination"
- #10 Tony Orlando and Dawn "Knock Three Times"

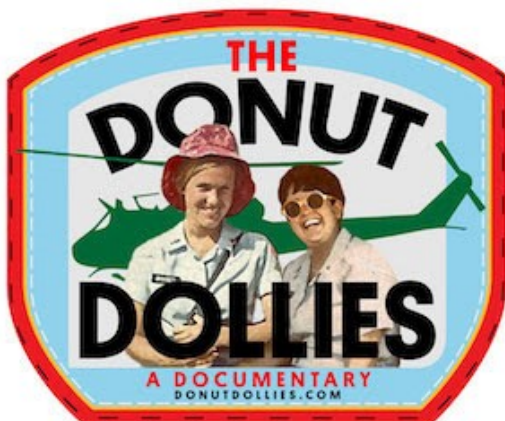


Top Ten Albums of 1970

- #1 Led Zeppelin "Led Zeppelin IV"
- #2 Rolling Stones "Sticky Fingers"
- #3 The Who "Who's Next"
- #4 Joni Mitchell "Blue"
- #5 John Lennon "Imagine"
- #6 Black Sabbath "Master of Reality"
- #7 David Bowie "Hunky Dory"
- #8 The Doors "L.A. Woman"
- #9 Sly and the Family Stone "There's a Riot Going On"
- #10 Faces "A Nod is as Good as a Wink ... to a Blind Horse"



What songs do you immediately associate with Vietnam? Send them to me so I can put them in the next newsletter. Email me at jmccabe51@gmail.com



The Donut Dollies Documentary

The Donut Dollies, won Best Documentary Feature at the GI Film Festival San Diego! The documentary follows two Donut Dollies who reunite in Vietnam to retrace their steps; ask why they went; ask whether they made a difference; unlock buried memories; and share their stories for the first time.

The film is making the rounds at select screenings. I will post when it is readily available.





JP-4 and VA Service Connected Neurological Disorders

The prevalence of JP-4 in the military and the exposure servicemembers had to it can lead to significant disabilities. Veterans need to be aware of these disabilities and how they are related to service. JP-4 causes service connected disabilities.

JP-4 is comprised of many neurotoxic and carcinogenic substances, and it is likely that chronic exposure to JP-4 can lead to severe neurological problems.

The brain and peripheral nervous system is particularly vulnerable to damage from chemical exposure, as “aromatic” hydrocarbons and “volatile” organic compounds are often absorbed through the nose, which has fewer barriers between the outside world and the brain. This is compounded by the fact that many of these chemicals are lipid-soluble chemicals that are able to cross the blood-brain barrier easily. Often, relatively small losses of neurons that utilize neurotransmitters can have great repercussions. It’s sort of like how a paper cut on your finger isn’t too bad, but the thought of getting one on your eye makes your heart race. The neurological system is delicate, vulnerable, and damage is often permanent, as brain cells do not regenerate.

Parkinson’s Disease

Parkinson’s Disease and its related syndromes are typically caused by damage or dysfunction of dopamine-secreting cells in an area of the brain called the substantia nigra. Several components of JP-4 can cause either direct damage to these cells, or cause mutations in specific genes. In fact, 20% of Parkinson patients have been found to have chronic exposure to hydrocarbons. Exposure to hydrocarbons can not only cause Parkinson’s, but often cause an earlier onset, speed up the progression of the disease, and increase the severity of symptoms.

Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia

While there seems to be at least a small genetic component of Alzheimer’s Disease and other dementias, there has been a great deal of research that shows occupational exposure to certain chemicals can cause, worsen, or accelerate dementia. Exposure to solvents such as benzene and toluene has been shown to correlate with an increased risk of Alzheimer’s Disease, and recently, there has been much research that is implicating exposure to metals such as lead (which is found in JP-4) have also been implicated in dementia.

Peripheral Neuropathy

As mentioned above, the n-hexane found in JP-4 has been shown to cause peripheral neuropathy, and distal nerve fiber degeneration throughout the nervous system. In some cases, the peripheral neurodegeneration caused by chronic exposure to n-hexane and its metabolites can lead to atrophy of the skeletal muscles.

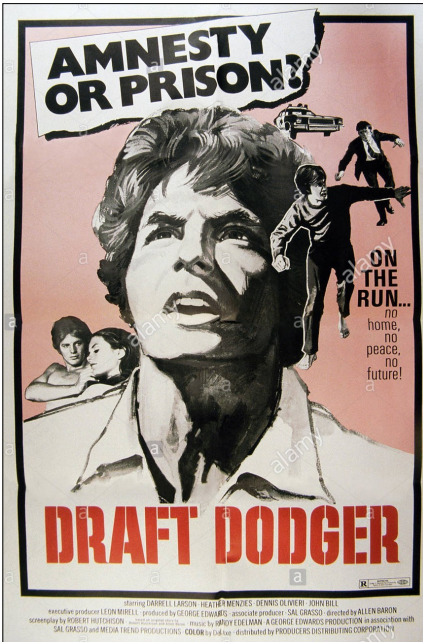
“Operation Flyswatter” was a mosquito eradication program in which 1.76 million gallons of malathion pesticide was dusted over the heads of troops, typically right around dusk, when the mosquitos were active, and the men were eating chow below. Many veterans who worked with the project claim that JP-4 or diesel fuel was also often mixed with the pesticides. This makes sense, as pesticides had been routinely mixed with kerosene for a half-century before Vietnam.

Every veteran who set foot in Vietnam is presumed to have Agent Orange exposure, but shouldn’t they be presumed to have JP-4 exposure as well?

It would appear that JP-4 was so ubiquitous in Vietnam-era military operations that nearly every veteran had some exposure. It would even appear that modern-day soldiers, sailors and airmen are still being exposed from JP-4 environmental contamination on military bases, years after the military moved on from JP-4 in 1995 to JP-5, JP-7, and JP-8.

AND THE HITS JUST KEEP ON COMING

DRAFT DODGER



Has anyone heard of this film? Obviously not a big grossing production! "DRAFT DODGER" was a movie about a young man who fled to Canada to avoid being drafted into the army prepares to come home for his father's funeral. It was released in 1972.

Obviously it didn't do too well so it was re-released in 1973 as "OUTSIDE IN." Third time wasn't the charm for this stinker. It was released again in 1975 as "RED, WHITE and BUSTED."

It starred Darrell Larson, Heather Menzies-Urich, Dennis Olivieri. Maybe Jane Fonda should have been in it.

No Academy Awards for this stinker!

Brigadier General Connie L. Slewitzke Vietnam Veteran 17th Chief, Army Nurse Corps 1931-2019

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Brigadier General Connie L. Slewitzke, 17th Chief of the Army Nurse Corps. General Slewitzke's Vietnam service in the summer of 1967 was with the 36th Evacuation Hospital in Vung Tau. Six months later she served as chief nurse of the 6th Convalescent Center in Cam Ranh Bay. As recorded by Mary T. Sarnecky for the Army Nurse Corps Association, Slewitzke shouldered arduous responsibilities leading ten Army nurses and less than 100 enlisted medics who cared for a staggering census that often numbered 1,500 patients, many afflicted with malaria and hepatitis.



IN-COUNTRY VET



FAMILY REUNIONS CAN BE VERY STRESSFUL!

IN-COUNTRY



**THE BLACK MARKET
VIETNAM'S ANSWER TO ONE-STOP SHOPPING!**

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

Bovermann, Bill (SP/5)

191 Craftsman Ct
Sequim, WA. 98382
Avel North, Nha Trang: July 1967 - July 1968
bbover@msn.com
MOS: 26C3L29

DiReeno, Walter (SP/4)

51 Parkview Road
Reading MA, 01867
Avel Central, Bien Hoa: July 13th 1969--July 13th 1970
wallydireeno@comcast.net
MOS: 35M
AGENT ORANGE

O'Guin, Philip (SP/5)

1015 Brown Mill Rd
McEwen Tennessee 37101
931-264-0106
*A Co, 4th Avn, 4th Inf. Div, Camp Enari , Pleiku:
4/25/67 - 4/25/70*
oguinphilip@gmail.com
MOS: 35K20
Comments: In a recent post in FB Robert Smith turned me on to this site, I loved our Huey's and Avionics. 35K20 I wanted to be a part of this site. I am Admin for the "4th Avn" group page on Facebook. Till yesterday I had only found 2 other Avionics guys in 10 years,

TAPS

T.J. Moody

Avel Central, Cu Chi

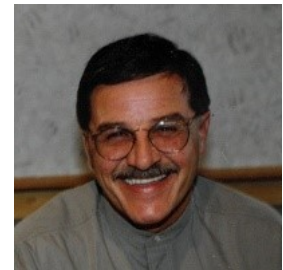
Terry James Moody, Jr passed away on March 17th, 2015. He was 67 years old.



Dan Harmon

Avel North, Pleiku

Dan was fighting cancer due to Agent Orange. He lost that battle on June 24th, 2019. He was 69 years old.



Norman Fox

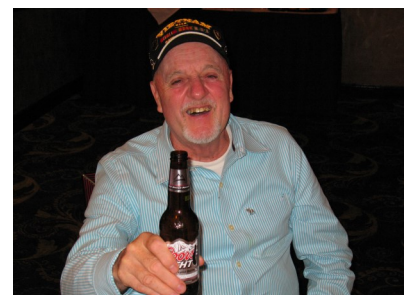
Avel Far North, Red Beach

Norman died of cancer on May 2nd, 2019

Lynn "Rock" Rothrock

Avel Central, Phu Loi

Rock died on October 7th, 2019 of Pulmonary Fibrosis. Rock was a two tour Vietnam vet, having been awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was 70 years old.



PHOTOS

Photos of the 2019 Reunion have been posted on the website www.avelvietnam.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL/PHONE

None Submitted



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