

GOLF TOURNAMENT

"Scouts Scramble"

The 2nd/47th would like to have a "Scouts Scramble" golf tournament on Friday, June 29, 2001 at a local course in Ft. Mitchell, KY, during the 2001 reunion. All MRFA members and their spouses are welcome. POC for this outing is: Russell Vibberts, 1 Standish Dr., Stafford, CT 06076-3607, 860-684-2072, or e-mail vibberr@nationwide.com. Sponsoring this event is William McCaskill "Scouts" 67-68.

Baseball: Cincinnati Reds In Town

June 28	Reds & Chicago Cubs	7:05
June 29	Reds & Chicago Cubs	7:05
June 30	Reds & Chicago Cubs	3:15
July 1	Reds & Chicago Cubs	1:15

Need Help With Your Travel Arrangements?

The Association recommends Bonnie White of Encore Travel for your travel needs.

You can contact Bonnie at 1-800-234-3989 / 828-465-1494. You can also reach her via e-mail at encore@tntie.com or madison1201@aol.com.

Be sure to mention you're with the Mobile Riverine Force Association.

Strike Assault Boats

The Naval Historical Center will have an oral history of the Strike Assault Boats sometime in March. These boats were part of the Brown Water Navy and operated near the Cambodian border in 1970. These boats were commanded by MRFA member, Commander John Kirk Ferguson. Check it out on www.history.navy.mil.

9th MPs By the "Bac Si"

Hi Al,

It's your old ex-medic buddy in LA. I was just on the MRFA web site and read an article pertaining to the work the 9th DIV MPs did in regard to bridge detail, POWS etc., and taking fire, written by 1st Lt. David H. Furse.

I can only speak to the one thing I saw and did in 66-68, (in and out of Dong Tam), but I sure would like to mention one of the light platoons who were 9th MPs, but not like any MPs you or I ever saw before. These guys pulled security in and around Dong Tam all the time. Ambush, intel, scrubbing for likely rocket and mortar sites and cross trails to keep Charlie from getting too comfortable to hug in tight to Dong Tam.

They wound up on operations as far away as Go Gong, toward the ocean, and the "Pink Palace" ex-



plantation there. And plenty of canal wading and mud like everybody else on that river.

They went in by PBR—sometime the heavies (Armored Troop Carriers) would put us in before dark—or sometimes just vehicles on Highway 1 and 4 and stop for a "walk in the sun"; or they'd skirt villes and generally check and sniff out the locals and try to determine who was getting close enough to mortar Charlie Pad etc. In other words who were the bad guy's and how did they always seem to find those sweet spots to throw mortars or 122s at the base.

Usually there would be no more than two M-60s, with everybody else with 16s and an M79 whenever they could scare one up, and we had a real good dog handler. These guy's were grunts flat out. There was zero spit and polish.

I know this for a fact as being a medic on loan to them I went out with them on quite a few ops, and

they moved as well and did their job as well as any of the other grunts I worked with.

In fact we were the folks who walked into a major nest of what we were later told was main force who had the audacity and insanity to put up a VC flag in broad daylight from the tree line. The LT spread everybody out fast, took a hard look around and then just said 'get em', and several of our guy's booked toward the trees and popped 2 or 3 VC still busy messing with their flags. Killed them and brought the flag back and their big white "Americans Must Die" banner.

Anyway we got out of their as fast as possible – in two deuce-and-a-halves- as it had started to get very unpleasant, you could see the movement getting heavier in the tree line. Hard to describe. I don't know why they didn't just drop mortars on us. It's not like we hadn't gotten on the radio already, but then maybe the Ville they were in was their people. But we booked back toward the trucks.

9th Div HQ was real happy about the find and I guess poured a lot of people and firepower on the area. While we got to drink cold beer and play the heroes of the moment.

It's one of those stories nobody would ever believe, but please find attached to the photo sent with article taken after we got home and nobody the worse for wear.

If you'll look real close you'll see that's an MP Guidon flag. Which is a rare photo in deed.

I hope this gives those guys some credit for sucking it up just like everybody else. They always did pretty well in the field, but the barracks they stayed in diagonal to the 9th Med. took a direct 122 mm and some of the guy's in the photo didn't make it.

Note: The platoon leader was a "Ranger" 1st Lt. (also unusual for the MPs) whose last name I do not remember. He was a very careful and capable leader and well liked by his men. I have no idea where their orders came from. And I was the guy who most often got their support on MedCaps I threw together... a little medicine from the "bac si" I just wanted to let the members know that these 9th MPs pulled leeches and sucked mud like everyone else.

Patric McMenamin, McM ARTS, 5220 Sale Ave., Woodland Hills, CA. Phone 818-223-9031, e-mail paintertermcm@earthlink.net.

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