



Society of the Vietnamese Airborne Team 162



Quarterly Report
December 19, 2012

Fellow Red Hats and Red Markers,

As we approach 2013, I wish you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. We have several items to report that will be of interest.

Veterans Day –

Paul DeVries led our observance on 10 November 2013 of the annual Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Paul laid a wreath at the stone and tree in Section 47 of the Cemetery commemorating the Vietnamese Airborne Division and its advisors.

Annual Airborne Awards in Atlanta –

The 36th Annual Airborne Awards will be held 3-6 April 2013 in Atlanta at the Airport Marriott on Best Road. This may be the last year that the host organization is able to stage this event. A number of us are planning to attend. In case you missed the information Mike Flynn sent on making reservations, you can access the schedule and reservation forms at www.82nd-atl.com. Mick Cole is slated to be recognized as our Airborne Man of the Year at this ceremony.

2014 Reunion –

Our 2014 Reunion is scheduled for 5-7 June in Tampa. Bill Ball and Mick Cole are making preliminary arrangements. Bill reports that the Doubletree Hyatt Airport Westshore Hotel is working on cost estimates. The hotel offers free parking, a free shuttle from the airport and a free shuttle service within a 2-mile radius of the hotel, an area that includes over 100 restaurants plus two large shopping malls. Bill is investigating activities that could include a trip to McDill Air Force Base for a tour and Command Briefing by the US Special Operations Command Headquarters and a visit to the local Armed Forces Military Museum.

Family of the Red Beret –

The Mu Do are arranging their 2013 reunion in Atlanta in July and their 2014 reunion in Austin. The Atlanta reunion is expected to include a dedication of a paver at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum commemorating the three commanders of the Airborne. This will involve travel from Atlanta to Fayetteville and back.

Membership –

Mike Flynn sent reminder notices to members about paying dues and got 42 positive responses. I sent 50 letters to Red Markers inviting them to join the Society. We have

at least one new member from that group. Mike reports that his database includes 456 names. Of those, 131 are paid-up members. Of the remainder, 210 do not have email addresses. He intends to telephone contact those after the first of the year. Mike Anderson and Bob LeClerc have volunteered to help with those calls and Mike Roy will try to track down another 41 whose mailing addresses are incorrect. I know additional assistance would be welcome in those efforts, so let Mike Flynn know if you can help.

Airborne and Special Operations Museum Exhibit –

John Martin is spearheading communication with the Museum on the possibility of modifying our exhibit featuring Covan and Mu Do mannequins to add a third figure representing a Red Marker. The museum is working on a cost estimate and has stated they can schedule such a modification for calendar year 2014.

Other Actions –

Tim Thames has pointed out that the DOD is organizing a national program to commemorate the Vietnam War and is soliciting participation by organizations as a “Commemorative Partners.” Such Partners would be required to host at least two events annually during 2015, 2016 and 2017 honoring those who served. This may be too large an undertaking for our organization. We will investigate participating, possible in conjunction with another group.

Jim Yeonopolus learned that the State of Texas is constructing a memorial to those served in Vietnam. We have not yet learned any details.

That’s all to report at present. The next eighteen months will be full of activities. Your officers and Board will be busy working on your behalf and invite you to join in the effort. Merry Christmas!

Nhay Du,

Gary N. Willis
President