

July 2016

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment
"The Old China Hands"



www.15thinfantry.org

See enclosed registration form (page 7) for the Regimental Dinner on 23 Sep 2016 in Harrisburg, PA during the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Reunion

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Old China Hands,

We would like to welcome aboard LTC LaFran Marks, the new commander of 3-15 Infantry, who assumed command in Ukraine. We look forward to working with him and his command team in building a strong partnership with our only remaining active duty battalion! The main body of the battalion returned to Fort Stewart on 10 July and Mike Horn, Monika, and I were present to greet our Can Do Soldiers and leaders upon their arrival in the battalion area. Mike has posted pictures on the website and the battalion also posted pictures on its Facebook page. B CO, currently in Africa, will return end of September. A CO is currently attached to 1-30 IN at Fort Stewart and in April won the 1-30th's coveted "War Flag" in its' PT competition! Can Do!

Membership chairman John Campbell's energetic and innovative efforts to enlist new members are paying dividends as 14 new members have joined the Association since he volunteered to fill our most important position. Let's give him some support; each of us needs to actively recruit our friends and comrades from our period of service in the Regiment.

Thanks to the dedication and quick reaction of Association members Steve Miller and Mark Baker, our Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major, the China Room display cases which had been languishing at Fort Benning were finally delivered to 3-15 IN at Fort Stewart! We know the China Battalion will be great custodians of our priceless Regimental heritage! Mark Baker is securing the Sadaam Hussein mural from the former 1-15 IN Commander's front office spaces— this mural holds special meaning for our Soldiers who went into Baghdad in 2003 and will be held in trust until 1-15 IN is activated once again.

Monika and I spent two weeks in Korea the first half of June where we visited the ROK Army's 3d Armored Brigade in Hongcheon, among other locations. The 3d Infantry Division and 15th Infantry fought in the vicinity of Hongcheon in May 1951. The terrain is very mountainous. We also visited the Imjin River sector where our men fought in March/April 1951. I am deeply impressed by our Korean War veterans' outstanding combat achievements!

This issue includes interesting articles— an analysis of our Regiment's POW/MIAs from the Korean War, Captain Lochert's overview of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and Mike Horn's report on his visit to Marneland in Germany. Tad Davis's tribute to John Burke is very touching. Our Regiment and Association have been particularly blessed with outstanding Soldiers and members. We need to use John Burke's life and service as an inspiration to all of us to work harder on behalf of the Association and Regiment.

The Regimental Dinner in Harrisburg on 23 September will be an excellent opportunity to meet your old service friends and celebrate the Can Do Regiment. Please get your reservations and payment in to Bart Viruso early so we can plan accordingly.

We have received no commitments from the membership to run for any of our elected positions within the Association, nor for the position of nominations/election chairman. Current leadership will therefore remain in place, for now, but I ask you once again to take an active part in your Association, volunteer for one of positions, and prove we remain the Can Do Regiment. **Can Do! Tim**

Association Officers and Staff		
President Timothy R. Stoy 6531 Milva Lane Springfield, VA 22150 (703) 912-4218 timmoni15@yahoo.com	Commander, 3rd Battalion LTC LaFran D. Marks 594 Vanguard Road Ste 3071 Ft. Stewart, GA 31314 (912) 435-7697 lafran.d.marks.mil@mail.mil	Editor, The Dragon Andrew G. Lerch 15302 Iris Lane Montclair, VA 22025 (706) 325-3705 andrew.g.lerch.mil@mail.mil
Vice President Addison D. (Tad) Davis IV 78 Spring Pond Lane Spring Lake, NC 28390 (703) 772-4558 tad.davis117@gmail.com	CSM, 3rd Battalion CSM Tom A. Dow Jr. 594 Vanguard Road Ste 3071 Ft. Stewart, GA 31314 (912) 435-7698 tom.a.dow.mil@mail.mil	Trustee Richard N. McKiddy 12105 East Court Kansas City, MO 64133 (816) 509-7633
Secretary Sam Aarons 3966 Thompson Lake Buford, GA 30519 (678) 687-9189 saarons47@gmail.com	Chaplain Charles C. Trout 10191 Birchwood Drive Huntington Beach, CA 92646 (714) 836-4981 chaptrout33@gmail.com	Trustee Leonard L. Lessor 690 Salman Fall Road Rochester, NH 03868 (603) 335-3554 lenlassor@myfairpoint.net
Treasurer Bart Viruso 116 Harriett Road North Babylon, NY 11703 (631) 587-0587 viruso8@verizon.net	China Room Custodian CPT Dennis K. Helms 1110 E Victory Drive Apt 2 Savannah, GA 31404 (706) 559-5535 dennis.k.helms4.mil@mail.mil	Trustee Warren E. Sessler PO Box 938 Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473 (626) 617-1185 sessler1@aol.com
Membership Chairman John C. Campbell 716 Flatwood Drive Clarksville, IN 47129 (812) 949-2549 campbell-j@twc.com	Webmaster Michael J. Horn 1833 Walker Ridge Drive Marietta GA 30064 (678) 581-0392 sessler1@aol.com	Trustee
HSGMOR Mark T. Baker 5415 Roaring Branch Road Columbus, GA 31904 (706) 566-5165 ultimabake47@gmail.com	Historian Timothy R. Stoy 6531 Milva Lane Springfield, VA 22150 (703) 912-4218 timmoni15@yahoo.com	Database Administrator Tom R. Heitzer 231 Normandie Drive Bonne Terre, MO 63628 (314) 650-4692 theitzer001@charter.net
HCOR Jerry Bates 3017 Margaret Jones Lane Williamsburg VA 23185 (757) 645-4765 jerrybates41@cox.net	Public Relations Chairman John C. Campbell 716 Flatwood Drive Clarksville, IN 47129 (812) 949-2549 campbell-j@twc.com	C & BL Chairman John C. Campbell 716 Flatwood Drive Clarksville, IN 47129 (812) 949-2549 campbell-j@twc.com

The Dragon is the quarterly publication of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association. It is published in January, April, July, and October. Neither its editorial nor article content carries official endorsement of the Association. Input for the Dragon is due the 15th of each month prior to publishing to andrew.g.lerch.mil@mail.mil.

Taps



<p>Roy Spanower (LM/CM) Lakewood, NJ SFC, G CO, 2 BN, KW, Jan 51-Oct 51 DOD 04/12/2016 Reported by Rich Heller</p>	<p>Rodolfo Martinez Temecula, CA SGT, SVC CO, REGT, KW, Oct 51-Sep 52 DOD 01/18/2016 Reported by Sonya Frickey</p>	<p>Joseph E Spencer (LM) Whitewater, CO SSG, E CO, 2 BN, KW, Oct 51-Oct 52 DOD 2015 Reported by grandson Jared Spencer to Sonya Frickey</p>
<p>Charles R. Sample (LM) Prosser, WA SGT, F CO, 2 BN, II, Nov 38-Nov 41 DOD 02/23/2016 Reported by Sonya Frickey</p>	<p>Kenneth A. Merritts Spring Lake, NC CPT, MORT BTRY, REGT, CW, Oct 57-Dec 60 DOD 09/16/2006 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p>Bill B. Buemi (LM) Cleveland, OH SGT, F CO, 2 BN, II, Jan 42-Dec 44 DOD 08/10/2014 Reported by Sonya Frickey</p>
<p>Howard C. Alphson(LM) Santa Monica, CA MAJ, HHC, 2 BN, KW, May 51-Oct 52 DOD 08/12/2015 Reported by Sonya Frickey</p>	<p>Jerre F. Swink (Non-Member) Rockford, CO SSG, MED & L CO, II, Oct 42-Aug 45 DOD 01/15/2015 Report by Sonya Frickey</p>	<p>Gerald F. Lang (Non-Member) Everett, MA PFC, Korea, 1952-1954 DOD 04/23/2014 Reported by Sonya Frickey</p>
<p>Jim O. Reed Spanaway, WA SFC, L CO, 3 BN, KW, 1949-1951 DOD 02/26/2014 Reported by John Campbell</p>	<p>James J. O'Donnell Freehold, NJ SGT, G CO, 2 BN, KW, 1953-1954 DOD 05/15/2016 Reported by wife Grace to Tom Heitzer</p>	<p>Leroy E. Bunders (LM) Poquoson, VA LTC, A & C CO, 1 BN, KW, Aug 51-Feb 52 DOD 05/01/2015 Reported by nephew Greg Johnson</p>

NOTICE

We have two AWOL Members that we cannot locate to send them the DRAGON. We received their DRAGON back undeliverable and cannot find a forwarding address. If any of our members know of their whereabouts, please let the Database Administrator know by contacting Tom Heitzer at (314) 650-4692 or theitzer001@charter.net.

Alexander Carabarin: Last known address was Ft. Benning, GA. He was a PVT in A CO, 1 BN in 2014.

Robert H. Reavis: He was a SPC in HHC, 1 BN from July 2004-?

New Members

Ben T. Carrick (LM-Reinstated) Provo, UT CPT, B CO, 1 BN, RF, Jun 2013-Mar 2016	Iler D. Denmark (LM-POW) Jacksonville, FL 2LT, F CO, 2 BN, KW, Oct 52-Oct 53	George F. Burke Salisbury, NC Associate Member
Don R. Patton (Reinstated) Meridan, TX COL, I CO, 3 BN, KW, Mar 53-Feb 57	James S. Blackwell (Reinstated) Plymouth, MA SSG, HHC, 1 BN, CW, 1983-1986	Robert L. Yancy (Reinstated) Laurel, NC SFC, 2 BN, CW, 1970-1973
Orlando Aguinagalde (LM) Hialeah, FL SPC, HHC, 3 BN, OIF, Jan 00-Feb 02	Freeman H. Bradford (LM) Palo Alto, CA 1LT, HHC, 3 BN, KW, 1952-1953	Joseph R. Dickey (Reinstated) Oxford, MS 1LT, B,C,HHC, 1 BN, CW, Aug 86-Sep 89
Tim Feeney Avon, NJ 1LT, C & D CO, 1 BN, CW, Nov 86-1989	Joe Possey (Reinstated) Allardt, TN PFC, G CO, 2 BN, KW, Jun 51-Sep 51	James J. Davis (Reinstated) Mason, OH SGT, MED CO, REGT, KW, Apr 52-Mar 53
Joseph M. Poggi (CM-Reinstated) Rivervale, NJ SSG, HHC, 2 BN, KW, Jul 51-Aug 52	Dale L. Geise (Reinstated) Boone, IA SSG, K CO, 3 BN, KW, Apr 52-Oct 53	Joseph J. McRoberts (Reinstated) Winter Springs, FL 1LT, A, B CO, 1 BN, KW, Aug 52-Dec 52
Tommy R. Sutton (LM-Reinstated) Theodore, AL SGT, E CO, 2 BN, KW, Sep 50-Aug 51	Ryan C. Boggs (LM) Brighton, CO SPC, F CO, 1 BN, OIF, Apr 04-May 06	Charles F. Jackson (Reinstated) Clarksville, TN SSG, C CO, 2 BN, KW, Apr 50-Aug 51
Daniel M. Ortiz (Reinstated) Los Angeles, CA SPC, B CO, 1 BN, CW, May 90-May 93	William K. Gilkison Richmond Hill, GA CPT, HHC, 3 BN, RF, Jan 16-	Hinton J. Skipper Jr. (Reinstated) Greenville, NC SP/4, HHC, 2 BN, CW, 1964-1966
Patrick B. Tabin Hinesville, GA MAJ, HHC, 3 BN, RF, Apr 16-	Leslie A. McBride Richmond Hill, GA CPT, G CO, 3 BN, RF Apr 15-Apr 17	

NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PERIOD

NUMBER OF CHINA HANDS	0
NUMBER OF WWII MEMBERS	41
NUMBER OF KOREA MEMBERS	142
NUMBER OF COLD WAR MEMBERS	83
NUMBER OF OPERATION IRAQ FORCES	28
NUMBER OF REGULAR FORCES	38
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>	<u>16</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS	348

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE

REGULAR LIFE	244
REGULAR ANNUAL	88
ASSOCIATE LIFE	12
<u>ASSOCIATE ANNUAL</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	348

July 2016

Upcoming Events



**97TH ANNUAL REUNION
SOCIETY OF THE 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2016**



To be held at The Best Western Hotel located at 800 East Park Drive Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112. Room rates are \$119.95 per night, plus tax. The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the Harrisburg International Airport and Harrisburg Train and Bus Stations. Parking at the hotel is complimentary.

Thursday September 22nd

2:00pm Registration and Hospitality Room Opens
6:00pm-7:00pm ~ No Host Social Hour ~ 7:00pm-10:00pm President's Reception Dinner and Program

Friday September 23rd

9:00am-5:00pm ~ Optional Gettysburg National Park Tour
6:00pm-9:00pm ~ 15th Regimental Dinner Buffet

Saturday September 24th

8:30am-10:30am ~ General Membership Meeting
9:00am-11:00am ~ Ladies Brunch and Program
10:30am-12:00pm ~ Executive Committee Meeting
12:00pm-3:00pm ~ Optional Hershey Chocolate Tour
6:00pm-7:00pm ~ No Host Social Hour ~ 7:00pm-10:00pm ~ Reunion Banquet, Program, and Awards

Sunday September 25th

8:00am-10:00am ~ Memorial Breakfast and Reunion Farewell

★ Call the Best Western at 717-561-2800 no later than August 22, 2016 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the 3rd Infantry Division to receive the group rate of \$119.95 plus tax per night.

Optional Tours

Gettysburg National Park Tour

Friday September 23rd 9:00am - 5:00pm Price \$55.00

We will arrive at Gettysburg visitor center and watch the movie "A New Birth of Freedom" narrated by Morgan Freeman, and featuring the voices of Sam Waterston and Marcia Gay Harden, the film "A New Birth of Freedom" places the monumental events of the Battle of Gettysburg into the larger context of the Civil War and American history. After the movie you will learn about Gettysburg and a Divided Nation at War in the Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War. The museum offers visitors an experience that tells the story of the Battle of Gettysburg and its significance to our nation's history. Lunch will be on your own at the visitor center café. Next we will take a guided tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield with a Licensed Battlefield Guide who will give you a unique perspective of the battle fought at Gettysburg. Monuments to both Union and Confederate troops are visible on the battlefield. Gettysburg National Military Park preserves one of the world's largest collections of outdoor sculptures. Nearly 1,400 statues, sculptures, markers and tablets commemorate the men who fought at Gettysburg.

Hershey Chocolate World Tour & Tasting

Saturday September 24th 12:00pm-3:00pm Price \$33.00

See, feel, hear and smell the delicious transformation from bean to Hershey's famous chocolate on the Hershey World Chocolate tour. After viewing the factory, there will be time for lunch on your own at the food court on site. Then you can immerse yourself in the flavorful world of chocolate in Hershey's tasting experience. Hershey tasting experts show you how to engage all senses to taste chocolates from milk to dark and varieties in between.

For More Information Contact

**Leonard Collins 912-863-3633
leonardcollins@planters.net**

**The Reunion BRAT 360-663-2521
thereunionbrat@hotmail.com**

COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!



97TH ANNUAL REUNION
SOCIETY OF THE 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2016



★ **IF YOU SERVED IN THE 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION FILL OUT THIS SECTION** ★

NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE _____

UNIT SERVED IN _____ OUTPOST _____ PLEASE CHECK ONE OR MORE: WWII _____ KOREA _____
COLD WAR _____ GULF WAR _____ IRAQ WAR _____ AFGHANISTAN _____ PEACE TIME _____ ACTIVE DUTY _____

★ **IF YOU ARE AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER FILL OUT THIS SECTION** ★
FOR ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PLEASE USE A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: YES _____ OUTPOST _____

NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: YES _____ OUTPOST _____

★ **IF YOU ARE A GUEST FILL OUT THIS SECTION** ★
FOR ADDITIONAL GUEST PLEASE USE A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE _____

NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE _____

MEMBER ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY: _____

REQUIRED REGISTRATION FEE (PER PERSON) _____ X \$39.00 = _____

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND ~ PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION BUFFET DINNER _____ X \$47.00 = _____

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH ~ LADIES BREAKFAST _____ X \$21.00 = _____

LADIES BREAKFAST-SCRAMBLED EGGS WITH DICED HAM, PEPPERS, ONIONS & CHEESE - BREAKFAST POTATOES, BACON AND FRUIT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH ~ BANQUET DINNER _____ X \$49.00 = _____

★ BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ SALMON _____

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH ~ MEMORIAL BREAKFAST _____ X \$24.00 = _____

OPTIONAL TOURS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD ~ GETTYSBURG NATIONAL PARK TOUR _____ X \$55.00 = _____

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH ~ HERSHEY CHOCOLATE WORLD TOUR & TASTING _____ X \$33.00 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 22, 2016

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE REUNION BRAT
16817 MOUNTAINSIDE DRIVE EAST
GREENWATER, WA 98022

- Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by August 26, 2016
- A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable.
- Call the Best Western at 717-561-2800 no later than August 22, 2016 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the 3rd Infantry Division to receive your group rate of \$119.95 plus tax per night, including double occupancy. Based on availability the group rate is available 3 days before and after the reunion.

July 2016

**15TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL DINNER AT THE SOCIETY OF THE 3RD
INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION, HARRISBURG, PA, 23 SEPTEMBER 2016**

The 15th Infantry Regiment Association will once again host their annual Regimental Dinner on 23 Sep 2016 in conjunction with the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Reunion at the Best Western Center City in Harrisburg, PA. The dinner is open to anyone and will provide a great evening of reflection on our history, entertainment, and reminiscences. Dinner will consist of a "Tour of Italy" buffet. The cost is \$35.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity).

6:00 - 6:30 PM: Cocktails (cash bar)

6:30 - 9:00 PM: Dinner & Program

Go to our website <http://www.15thinfantry.org> and fill out the online reservation and pay for attending the dinner or fill out and mail in the form below and pay via check.

Reservations

Name: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Mail check with total amount to:

Bart Viruso, 116 Harriett Road, North Babylon, NY 11703

Phone: (631) 587-0587; Cell (631) 338-1400; Email: viruso8@verizon.net

Reservations and payment must be made by September 16, 2016

July 2016

Active Battalion Update

3-15 Infantry Battalion Conducts Operations on Three Continents and Prepares to Redeploy

I'm truly honored to be the newest Battalion Commander of 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment. On behalf of all the CAN DO Soldiers we would like to thank LTC Nathan Minami for his outstanding leadership over the past 28 months and wish him the best of luck in his next assignment. This historic Battalion continues to live up to its motto by operating on three separate continents: North America, Europe, and Africa in support of our nation's strategic objectives.

The Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Charlie Company, Delta Company, and Golf Company continue to support the Joint Multinational Training Group - Ukraine (JMTG-U) mission by personally training, mentoring, and assisting the Ukrainian Army and improving their readiness.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company's efforts to support the establishment of the Combat Training Center (CTC) at the International Peacekeeping and Security Center (IPSC) has proven to be a major enhancement in the Ukrainian Army's ability to defend their borders. Our Soldiers have displayed exceptional professionalism in their ability to train and work side by side with their counterparts and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies.

The Battalion Staff, assisted by our Lithuanian allies, jointly trained the Ukrainian battalion staffs on how to use the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP). They also taught their counterparts how to conduct mission analysis, course of action development, and publish a tactical mission order using NATO doctrine and standards. The successes from the staff developmental events greatly enhanced each Ukrainian battalion's ability to conduct mission command on the battlefield. To validate and show their operational readiness, 1st Battalion, 72nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion participated in Operation Rapid Trident. Operation Rapid Trident is a regional command post and field training exercise focused on peacekeeping and stability operations to ensure a safe and secure environment within their borders. I must say, 1st Battalion, 72nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion performed exceptionally well.

Alpha Company completed their deployment in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in March. Upon redeploying to Fort Stewart, Georgia Alpha Company was attached to our sister battalion (1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment) and participated in multiple training events to maintain a high level of readiness. Since redeploying from Djibouti, the company also executed a Company Change of Command in May, countless small arms marksmanship ranges, plus team and squad live fires, and an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise. These events confirmed and continue to validate their ability to deploy on short notice.

Since our last report, Charlie and Delta Companies, with support from our Lithuanian and Canadian allies, provided critical training and hands on instruction to hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers. They taught, evaluated, and certified Ukrainian soldiers on ten different training modules, which created a lasting impression on their counterparts. They personally constructed modules covering everything from how to execute individual, crew, and, collective Soldier tasks to teaching units how to negotiate complex training lanes. In addition, they trained companies on how to develop deliberate defensive positions and engage targets during hours of limited visibility.

Bravo Company continues to serve forward in Djibouti attached to Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). Their mission, as the East Africa Response Force (EARF), is to respond with short notification to protect US Government Facilities and personnel to enable US diplomatic missions to continue under duress. Bravo Company energetically assumed the EARF

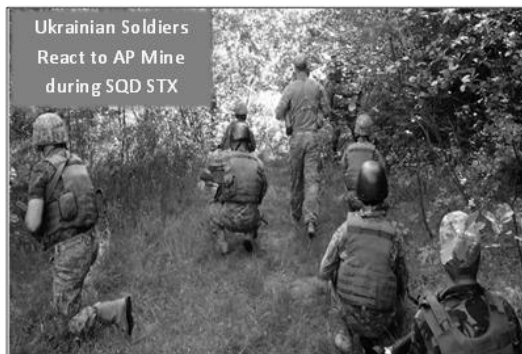
mission and greatly optimized synchronization between the various enablers from the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. They continue to hone their skills as a rifle company by executing multiple complex live fire ranges in the austere environment of Djibouti. They continue to strengthen ties within the coalition by assisting and participating in the French Desert Commando Course and conducting joint fire exercises.

In the coming weeks the Battalion Headquarters and companies supporting the training mission in the Ukraine will redeploy to Fort Stewart. As we continue to finalize our planning efforts we will surely keep everyone abreast of our transition.

The professionalism and expertise demonstrated by our Soldiers continues to amaze us. We are truly proud and utterly humbled to be a part of this historic organization.

CAN DO!

Fran and Tom



July 2016

Historian's Corner

The Regiment's Korean War Missing in Action and POW Personnel

By Tim Stoy

The Association was recently contacted by a member of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency with the request for our Regiment's Korean War history, which webmaster Mike Horn promptly provided him. He is researching a Can Do Soldier who served in M/3/15 IN – and my scrub of the Regiment's MIAs shows only one man from M Company MIA – CPL Melvin Fain Hanson, who went MIA on 2 June 1953. Let's hope this query indicates there will be a notification and return of the remains to the family soon!

I have researched the POW/MIA Agency's Korean War POW/MIA listing and the Regiment has 53 names on this list. As long as I can remember none of our MIAs has been identified in any remains recovered from North Korea. In analyzing the list, I found numerous items of interest.

The remains of five men from B/1/15 IN who were KIA on 21 November 1950 were not recovered at that time. After checking our history, these men were killed in an ambush on the road between Majong-ni and Tongyang while on patrol to reach the 3d Battalion of Korean Marines in Tongyang. The history, published in 1952, also states 28 men never returned from that mission, so it is apparent that 23 men were later accounted for. These five men are: PVT David G. Apt, CPL Clarence A. Matson, CPL William L. Meckley, CPL Charles L. Reece, and SGT Jone Rogers. It is striking that four of the five men are non-commissioned officers.

On 23 November the Regiment's first reported POW was taken, CPL John W. Pitts, from B/1/15 IN. The history indicates he was likely taken during another relief mission on the Majong-ni – Tongyang Road.

Less than a week later, on 27 November, seven L/3/15 IN men went MIA. The history indicates these men were in another patrol dispatched on the same road to link up with the still isolated 3rd KMC in Tongyang, from a platoon escorting four ammo trucks, three ambulances, two jeeps, an M-39 personnel carrier, and two Quad 50s. These men are: PFC John C. Blount, CPL Patrick Cornelius, PFC Samuel L. Crawford, SGT Edwin Gentry, PFC Carnese Glover, PFC Lawrence Harris, Jr., and PFC Willie Watts, Jr.

On 1 December LT Carl E. Craig of L/3/15 IN was KIA, but his remains were not recovered. I cannot determine what specific action he may have been participating in at the time as the Division history, the Regimental history, or the Regiment's Operations Reports from Dec 1950 do not indicate L/3/15 IN being involved in action that day.

PFC John Lawrence of A/1/15 IN was KIA on 5 Dec 1950, but his remains were not recovered. No specific combat action is reported on that date, but it is the date all division elements had closed on their positions on the Hungnam Perimeter.

The Regiment's second recorded POW was PFC Philipp F. Alcorn from G/2/15 IN on 18 February 1951. The Operations Report states 2nd BN was conducting patrols along the south bank of the Han River across from Seoul. There is a journal entry of a 7-man patrol encountering an enemy observation post that night.

CPT Harry S. Everett, Jr., C/1/15 IN was KIA with remains unrecovered on 18 March 1951. Per the Division history, 1st Battalion was preparing to cross the Han River into Seoul on that date

so it is not clear in what action CPT Everett was KIA. There is no further detail in the Operations Reports or unit journal.

CPL Andrew R. Tischler of F/2/15 IN went missing in fighting on 25 May 1951 while the Regiment was under X Corps control and attached to the 2nd Infantry Division in the area of Pungamni on the 3rd Infantry Division's left flank.

CPL Robert E. Roberts of B/1/15 IN went MIA on 24 June 1951. This would be during the 1st Battalion's very heavy fighting to defend recently seized Hill 717 in the Sobang mountains near Pyonggang at the northern apex of the Iron Triangle against a heavy enemy counterattack. Four B/1/15 IN received the Distinguished Service Cross for that particular action, as well as another man from C/1/15 IN, in what was some of the hottest fighting the Regiment experienced during the entire war.

The Regiment lost another KIA unrecovered on 1 July 1951 when PFC Freeman C. Waller of K/3/15 IN fell during Operation Donut to clear enemy from hills within the Iron Triangle in the area of the Sobang Mountains. He would have been part of Task Force Knapp, which consisted of C/64th HVY Tank; K/3/15 IN, and a detachment from the 10th Engineers that attacked along the road from Kumwha to Pyonggang.

On 8 August 1951, 13 men were KIA and unrecovered and one reported MIA, but nothing about a heavy battle is mentioned in the Division history. While I do not have the Operations Report for August 1951, patrol activity was intense during that month. The Regimental history from 1953 also does not cover any event in this time frame. It is likely most of them were either on a squad patrol and were ambushed or on an outpost and were overrun. These men came from F, H, and I Companies. The KIA are: PFC Robert L. Bonner, PFC Jackie P. Bynum, PVT Bobby Davis, PVT James A. Dilver, CPL Henry E. Dowling, PFC Manual Harris, PVT Lonnie Hockaday, CPL Thaddeus J. Jerz, CPL Jefferson Johnson, MSG Bennie Z. Lemons, PVT Robert V. Martin, PVT Alfred L. Salter, and 1LT Douglas C. Wilson. MIA is CPL Maxine Tyler.

The Regiment also has KATUSAs who are still considered MIA. Corporal Bae, Yun Ko; PFC Hong, Kun Sun; PFC Lee, Won Har; CPL Seo, Hang Soo; and CPL Yoon, Jong Won are listed as MIA in the Regimental History for the period after 1 January 1953. The Division's 1952 history does not list any KATUSAs as MIA in 1950-1952, but this cannot be correct. I plan to conduct more research to verify there are no other MIA/POW among the thousands of KATUSAs who served in the Division and Regiment in the Korean War.

There are no further MIA/POWs listed for the remainder of 1951, thank goodness! These men must be remembered, and no effort spared in the recovery of their remains and final status determination.

I will conclude my analysis of the Regiment's MIA/POWs for the fighting in 1952 and 1953 in the next issue of The Dragon.

Featured Article

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency

Received from Capt David Lochart, USMC
Deputy Director, Expeditionary Support Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

About

The mission of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from our nation's past conflicts to their families and our nation. Under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, the agency was established on Jan. 30, 2015, to consolidate all aspects of the defense department's accounting community (policy, research, investigations, operations, identifications, and family communications) into a single, accountable defense agency with a vision of increasing the number of missing personnel accounted for from our nation's past conflicts, while ensuring timely and accurate information is communicated to their families.

DPAA combined the functions of the former Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command, and the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory. DPAA today is comprised of more than 600 highly skilled and talented civilians and military from each of our services (Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force), and include historians, research analysts, policy experts, anthropologists, archivists, archaeologists, odontologists, linguists, logisticians, communication experts, field operators, material evidence experts, strategists and planners, as well as numerous additional support personnel. These professionals with a wide variety of backgrounds and specialties are integral to the successful day-to-day operations of our important mission.

Personnel from DPAA, along with other U.S. and foreign specialists, research, investigate, recover and identify remains of Americans unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Iraq and Persian Gulf Wars. When recovery operations are unsuccessful, DPAA professionals work hand-in-hand with Service Casualty Officials (SCOs) to provide answers to family members on the fate of their loved ones.

Research & Analysis

The search for unaccounted for Americans starts with in-depth research by DPAA historians and analysts. Often, the search for a missing person involves collecting information from outside researchers, archives, and record depositories in both the U.S. and in foreign nations. Veterans, historians, private citizens, foreign witnesses to the events, and families of the missing also routinely provide information critical to locating our missing personnel.

Researchers compile this information into a case file for each missing individual. This case file includes historical background, military medical and personnel records, unit histories, official correspondence, maps, photographs and other evidence. This groundwork lays the foundation to determine possible sites where missing Americans may be located. DPAA researchers then analyze all available information to inform the next steps to be taken in advancing a particular case to a research conclusion, a disinterment of unknown remains, or further work in a field setting.

For those cases that require follow up in the field, DPAA assigns and deploys investigation teams to interview witnesses and survey potential recovery sites so that recovery teams have the

most up-to-date information. Each investigation team consists of four to nine people, including a team leader, analyst, linguist, communication technician and medic. In some instances, a forensic anthropologist or archaeologist, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, a forensic photographer, and/or a life support technician may augment the team. The analysis and investigation sections also provide historical analysis to help with the identification of recovered remains. At any given time, there are more than 1,000 active cases under analysis.

Recovery Operations

Once field investigations are complete, and a decision has been made to excavate a site, a recovery team is activated. A recovery team consists of 10 to 14 people including a team leader, a recovery leader (a forensic anthropologist or an archaeological anthropologist), a team sergeant, a linguist, a medic, a life support technician, a communications technician, a forensic photographer, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, and several mortuary affairs specialists. Standard recovery missions last 35 to 60 days depending on the location, terrain, and recovery methods required.

Excavation sites are often in very remote places. Teams routinely travel through and work in dense jungles, on mountains and glaciers, even sometimes rappelling down cliffs to reach sites. Adding to the difficulty, teams travel with up to 10,000 pounds of survival and excavation equipment. Sites can be as small as a few meters for individual burial sites, to areas exceeding the size of several football fields for aircraft crashes with large debris fields.

Recovery teams use standard archaeology methods in the excavation to ensure maximum preservation of remains and evidence. These methods include the systematic hand or mechanical excavation of the site, site mapping, photography, and complete documentation. To help with what can be a massive soil removal and screening effort, DPAA may hire as many as 100 local workers. All recovered material evidence and possible human remains are secured at all times and are transported back to DPAA laboratories via a well-established and disciplined chain of custody protocol.

Identification

DPAA's laboratory in Hawaii is the largest and most scientifically diverse forensic skeletal laboratory in the world. Upon arrival at our laboratories in Hawaii (or Nebraska), all possible remains and material evidence recovered from a field recovery site are transferred to an evidence coordinator and stored in a secure area. Possible human remains and material evidence -- such as military uniforms, personal effects, and identification tags -- are analyzed by one of DPAA's talented forensic anthropologists. Life support equipment is analyzed by in-house life support technicians prior to being sent for more detailed analyses at our material science analysis facility in Dayton, Ohio.

DPAA scientists use all available lines of evidence to establish the identification of unaccounted-for individuals; these include the recovery location, skeletal biology, odontology, chest radiographic comparisons, histology, material evidence, life support materials, and all possible types of DNA. When these lines of evidence converge on a single casualty, the DPAA scientific director evaluates the strength of the evidence in order to make an identification.

Once an identification is complete, the information is transferred to the appropriate service casualty office, which personally informs the family of the identification.

Family Events

In addition to providing detailed written responses to questions from family members about their missing loved ones, DPAA personnel travel each year to seven cities across the country to host one-day meetings with families of missing personnel from World War II to the present.

These meetings are a way for families to learn about the overall accounting community mission and, more importantly, to discuss their loved one's case with the DPAA analyst directly responsible for coordinating it over the years. Equally important, these periodic meetings provide a forum for the families of our missing/unaccounted for to meet one another and share experiences with those that best understand their loss. The Department of Defense has conducted these Family Member Update meetings since 1995, and each year the number of families that attend increases significantly.

Finally, DPAA meets and provides updates to families of personnel missing from the Vietnam War at the annual meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families, and at the annual Korean/Cold War meeting here in Washington, DC. Both forums allow DPAA to share targeted information specific to those conflicts to large gatherings, as well as conduct individual family updates as done at the regular Family Member updates across the country.

Tribute

Remembering John Burke Distinguished Member of the 15th Infantry Regiment

By COL (Ret) Addison D. "Tad" Davis, IV (former Commander, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry)

We always knew he would leave us one day for greener pastures and the peaceful serenity of life ever after, but somewhere deep inside we never really thought he would go. It seems like only yesterday when I first met John on a blazing hot Georgia day shortly after assuming command of the 1st Battalion there at Fort Benning. While the colors had arrived back at Benning a couple months before, it marked the first change of command of the battalion on U.S soil for quite some time and, for John, it seemed like the best early Christmas present ever. To have the 1st Battalion and the Regimental Colors of his beloved Regiment so close to home seemed like an unbelievable dream come true for John. Carson Field (named in honor of the Regiment's first Medal of Honor recipient during the Civil War), our battalion physical training and parade field, became his personal "Field of Dreams." While the 3rd Battalion was by then well-established at Fort Stewart, having us in his Phenix City backyard was truly something special for John.

For the better part of two plus decades John was the heart and soul of the Association, serving as President, Trustee, and Membership Chair. It was during his tenure as Membership Chair that the ranks of our Association swelled to over 900 strong and came very close to our goal of exceeding 1,000 members. During my tenure in command and for the tenure of those to follow, John was a permanent fixture in the battalion area. Working membership, recognizing our Soldier and NCO of the Year annually with beautiful plaques provided by the Association, and looking out for the needs of our single Soldiers as well as those with young families. It was also during this time that the battalion began a series of deployments that continue apace today. Whether it was our return from JRTC or the NTC or our many month deployment to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, John was there, saying farewell to every departing plane and welcoming every arriving flight back home. On our return from Jordan, just before Thanksgiving, I remember getting a big hug from John even before getting one from my wife. This herculean effort continued for well over

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two decades as he farewelled and greeted all planes carrying the “Can Dos” to and from wherever the Air Force or the Civilian Reserve Air Fleet aircraft carried them.

John was a true family man, husband, brother, uncle, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He was a dedicated civil servant at Fort Benning following his retirement. His numerous contributions to the legendary U.S Army Marksmanship Unit are still recognized today. Retired as a Major of Infantry, he was a highly decorated veteran of the Korean War where he served with distinction as a member of the 15th Infantry Regiment. He earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Korean Distinguished Service Medal, and numerous other decorations for valor and exceptional service, as well as the highly coveted Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

John was laid to rest March 28, 2016 at the Fort Benning Main Post Cemetery. He touched the lives of us all and literally the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of Can Do Soldiers over the years.

In closing, I wanted to share this simple piece that reminds of John.....be thou at peace faithful friend and comrade!

A Certain Aura

I love to see him walk. He never saunters,

For there is always purpose in his stride,

A buoyant job of living there—a firmness.

A faith in life that gives him strength and pride.

He wears a cloak of confidence about him

As dashing as a cape on a knight of old.

And yet his gentle smile belies his vigor—

It is his faith alone that makes him bold.

I love to watch him walk, for there is something

About his stride—his smile—his gentle nod

That lends a certain aura to his passing—

You know you’ve seen a man who walks with God.



John Burke in Korea

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From the Foxhole

Thoughts on Leadership

By Mike Horn

Promotions are an important part of Army life. Soldiers are promoted based on their patriotism, valor, fidelity, and professional excellence. These qualities and their demonstrated potential for increased advancement allow Soldiers to move up the leadership ladder. When you think about it, leadership is the essence of soldiering. In order for our Army to accomplish its assigned missions, we need great leaders. Soldiers begin to learn the art, science, and skills of leadership very early in their career. Our goal as an Army and a nation is to continue to hone those leadership abilities throughout a Soldier's military career. Once Soldiers return to civilian life, the nation continues to benefit from those leadership skills.

To me the real leaders are at the company level and below. Let's face it— This is where the real work gets done. When I was a Platoon Leader in Bravo Company, I was very fortunate to have great NCO's. I know it's easy to say that retrospectively, but I felt the same way almost 30 years ago. My squad leaders and Platoon Sergeant were all Vietnam vets. They wore Americal, MACV, and 101st SSIs on their right sleeve. I was damn lucky to have those sergeants. The SSGs and SFCs were almost all Vietnam vets. The SGTs were peacetime Soldiers like me. I think the combat vets looked down in disdain on us, but they knew we had a mission and the combat vets worked with us to accomplish that mission.

The Global War on Terror or whatever they call it now continues to produce a new breed of leaders. As time goes by, these Iraq and Afghanistan leaders will be the SSGs and SFCs that I mentioned above. They, too, will become the civilian leaders of tomorrow that we so desperately need. It's a great cycle we have. Our Army develops and improves great leaders who in turn develop and improve other great leaders. Eventually, some of those great leaders return to civilian life and put all that leadership knowledge, skill, and ability to use all over again.

In this and many other respects, our Army never changes. Many things are going on related to the transformation of our Army. One thing that can't change is that leadership is the essence of soldiering.

Kitzingen

By Mike Horn

In April/May I returned to Germany again. As usual I drove by Harvey Barracks. Luckily, the post was open and busy. The last time that I was there in 2013, the place was chained up tight. Businesses have moved in and some of the old barracks buildings are now offices. They are laying fiber optic cable all over post. The old 1st BN area is abandoned. I posted pictures to the website at <http://www.15thinfantry.org/photogallery.html>. Select the Cold War link. I will add better captions for the pages as I have time. I tried to take a pic from each company area since I served in each company except Charlie. It's sad to see the Post in disrepair, but at least it is open for business. The airfield is covered with solar panels, which is a sad state for such a historical airfield. As you may know, this was one of the first airfields in the world with operational jet aircraft. The Officers Club, BEQ/BOQ, and accompanied quarters across the street and on Richtofen Circle are converted to a Restaurant/BnB, apartments, and an equestrian center. This area looks great. I spent time with the new manager of the converted Officers Club. The remodel looks great. They are seeking any memorabilia to display in the bar area. There are a few pics of this on our

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website. Please contact me at mhorn@15thInfantry.org if you have anything that you'd like to donate. Kitzingen has changed a little. It's still a great town.

I drove by Conn and Ledward Barracks in Schweinfurt, also. Both of these posts are full of refugees. Germany, Bayern, and Schweinfurt have their hands full there. I also drove up to the Eastern side of the Fulda Gap. Little is left of the old DDR/GDR border. It's just like crossing any other state border right now. There are a few of the larger guard towers remaining but that's all. It was amazing to look west and see the area from the Ruskies perspective.

A FIFTY YEAR FRIENDSHIP

By Don Carlson

I was drafted in November 1966, took basic, wheel school at Aberdeen Proving Ground and lastly track school at Fort Knox. I was shipped to Wurzburg (Kitzingen), Germany and was stationed at Harvey barracks with Company A, 1/15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division.

After being there for 3 months, one of my friends, Gene Charbonneau, a wheat farmer from Concordia, Kansas told me about a large farm show in downtown Wurzburg. I decided to check it out. The show was located on the grounds of the in-famous 40 mark park. While walking around the show I spotted a combine that looked familiar. It was sold in the US by Ford. I started chatting about the combine to a German, but his English was not very good. The man told me he would be right back and shortly thereafter introduced me to Wendelin Uhl, who I would become and stay friends with for 50 years. Wendelin informed me the combine was built in Germany by Class but was sold in the US by Ford. Wendelin and I spent the rest of the afternoon walking the show and talking.

After the show we decided to meet again so he could practice his English and I could learn more about German agriculture. Since I was going to be stationed in Germany for 18 months we would have many opportunities to meet and talk. We met about every 2 weeks and I attended farmer meetings and visited with farmers in the field. I learned the history of Southern Germany as far back as the Roman Empire. I also was fortunate enough to meet German families, who during WW II had hidden Jews and whom I was able to meet them as well. We traveled to many wine vineyards. One of those vineyards was very close to my heart. I love to ball room dance to Johann Strauss's Waltz's, the Blue Danube is my favorite. Strauss bought his wine from this vineyard located just north of Wurzburg and shipped it back to Vienna. I got to know the family that owned the vineyard, which has been in their family for 500 years.

Wendelin worked for John Deere in Mannheim. When we met, he was working for BAYWA the largest farm retailer in Europe selling fertilizer, chemicals, feed and farm buildings for dairy, hogs and cattle and farm equipment. He was collaged in Ag. business the same as me, we both where raised on a farm. We have built a strong friendship and learned from each other and to this day we talk every week about farming in Germany and the US and our families. Wendelin was a good friend of Manfred Rommel, son of General Erwin Rommel (The Dessert Fox). Wendelin has been to my home three times and I have been back to Wurzburg twice!! I remember when I got to Wurzburg in 1967 we had an in-country orientation, and at that meeting we were told we were there as nation builder's and not conquerors!!!! I think my friendship with Wendelin has done just that.

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Morale

The Dog Face Soldier Returns

Submitted by John C. Campbell

*I wouldn't give a bean
To be a fancy pants marine.
I'd rather be a dog face soldier like I am*

*I wouldn't trade my old fatigues
For all the Navy's dungarees
For I'm in the 15th
The walking pride of Uncle Sam*

*Army posters that I read
Tell me to be all I can
So they're tearing me down
To build me up again*

*I'm just a dog face soldier
With a rifle on my shoulder
And I eat raw meat for breakfast ev'r'y day*

*So feed me ammunition
And keep me in the Third Division
Your dog face soldier leads the way*

*We fought thru Shiloh
And won the nuts at Chickamauga
Slogged thru Europe in biggie-biggie two*

*Survived the frozen chosen
Gave all for Harry, too
I'm just a dog face soldier
With a rifle on my shoulder
As the 15th leads the way*

Admin Notes

Association Staff Vacancies

The Association Staff has several vacancies. These can be found at <http://www.15thinfantry.org/staff.html>. Volunteers are needed to fill these important positions, which are appointed positions on the Association staff. Active Duty Soldiers are encouraged to apply. Each position listed below shows the anticipated time commitment. Contact the Association Vice President, Tad Davis, as indicated on page 2 for further details or information on how to apply. Full job descriptions are found in the SOP on our website at <http://www.15thinfantry.org/documents.html>.

Public Relations Chairman – 1 hour per month

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Constitution & By Laws Committee Chairman – 1 hour per month

Website

We are always seeking old photos to add to the website. Please contact Mike Horn at mhorn@15thInfantry.org if you have any pictures to add to the website. The Association is seeking any photos from any era of the history of the Regiment. High quality scanned images will be accepted. Any actual photos you are willing to share for digitization will be returned.

**Application For Membership In The
15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

Please Print Clearly

New Member _____ Renew Membership _____
(Today's Date)

NAME: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

Street Address: _____

City-State-Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Spouse Name: (optional) _____

Rank: _____ Unit (Co & BN): _____

Dates Served: _____ Birth Date: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Affinity if applying for Associate Membership: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED

Regular Annual \$10.00 Associate Annual \$10.00
 On Active Duty Annual \$5.00 Life (see dues rates below)

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ARE BASED ON YOUR AGE AT YOUR LAST BIRTHDAY
Up to Age 60 = \$150.00; Age 60 – 69 = \$120.00; Age 70 – 79 = \$100.00; Age 80 and over = \$50.00

You can sign up and pay online by going to www.15thinfantry.org and clicking on the "Pay Dues" tab or
Make check payable to "15th Infantry Regiment Association" and mail to either of the following:

John C. Campbell	Bartolo Viruso
760 Flatwood Drive	116 Harriet Road
Clarksville, IN 47129	North Babylon, NY 11703
☎(812-949-2549)	☎(631) 587-0587

Editor's Note

We have been receiving a lot of great content for the newsletter. I highly encourage members to contribute articles and photos for upcoming editions. Please feel free to send material via email to andrew.g.lerch.mil@mail.mil. If you cannot digitize an item, please send through the ordinary mail to the below address:

Andrew Lerch
15302 Iris Ln
Montclair, VA 22025-1015

I will return any item upon request (i.e. photo). If you have any questions or concerns, please email me or call (703) 767-2780.

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