



AFTER ACTION REPORT
328th Radio Research Reunion 2007
Washington DC June 1—June 3, 2007

ROLL CALL

Tommy & Christine Adkins
Gilbert and Rose Arias, Genesis Arias Aguliar
Ralph and Mary Benjamin
Jerry and Karlie Everett
Al and Kien Ferguson
Gary and Tia Gustafson
Steve and Kathy Henley
Tom and Sue Heiser
Alan and Joann Kershner
Bill and Sharon Martindale
Bruce Miner
Chuck Mettille
Keith and Bitzey Mosier
Gary Nason and Amy Halsted
James and Kathleen Leddy
Paul and DK Nett
Jim and Cindy Parks, James, Bristen and Joseph
Jeff Peterson
Mike and Celeste Schmidt
Steven Summers
William and Elvia Tarn
Lauren (Red) Taylor
Herbert and Joanne Tuttle (**Hosts**)
Dallas and Ann Vibbert
Norman and Karen Waterman
Walter and Beverly Glover-Wood

REPORTING DATE: **Thursday, June 1, 2007**

Members of the 328th Radio Research Company began reporting to their Base Camp, of Crowne Plaza, Washington DC, final destination, O'Hare/LaGuardia hospitality room. Refreshments in the room went over well, a large thank you go out to all these people for their "above and beyond the call of duty actions" for procuring more refreshments when they were needed.

Day 2 **Friday, June 2, 2007**

The hotel provided a free, breakfast to start the day and many members were seen together again enjoying good fellowship. The day consisted of a bus trip to Fort Meade for a guided tour of the National Security Agency (NSA) Center for Cryptologic History. We were able to see Top Secret projects and equipment from as far back as the 19th and early 20th Centuries, as well as Allied and captured Axis material. Yes there was even an area dedicated to Viet Nam. For lunch a local mall food court was our "mess hall". It was again interesting to see the different era of 328th vets spending quality time together. In the afternoon we went to the Udvar-Hazey Air/Space Museum. There were aircraft from all eras of flight to include early planes, satellites, a Huey and F-4 from the Viet Nam era. We saw the Gemini VII space capsule and the Enterprise Space Shuttle. The planes included the Enola Gay from WW II, Concord and the SR 7 Blackbird, the fastest jet in the world. After the tour we returned to the hotel for more fellowship and reminiscing.

DAY 3 **Saturday, June 3, 2005**

After the breakfast at the hotel, this day also consisted of touring some of the sites, monuments, and memorials of the Washington DC area. Our tour bus took us to Arlington Cemetery for the always touching changing of the guard and visits to grave sites and other memorials in Arlington. We then went past the Pentagon where our driver explained the route the 9/11 plane took that did strike the Pentagon. We also drove past the Air Force Memorial that is in the vicinity of the Pentagon. Then it was off to lunch in an area known as Pentagon City. After lunch it was time to walk off the calories and visit some memorials. The first was "The Wall" a very touching time for many vets as there were names of friends and relatives inscribed on "The Wall". Pictures were taken of the group at "The Wall". It was interesting to see other visitors and tourists were courteous enough to let us gather together for our group picture. We then began our walk past and through the Lincoln, Korean War, Nurses and the World War II Memorials. Then it was back onto the bus to the FDR and Jefferson Memorials. After this long walk it was time to tour past several of the Federal Buildings in the Washington DC area with our final stop at the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial. Then it was back to the hotel for a short break before the banquet meal at Bertucci's Restaurant. Unbeknown by the majority of the group, we were advised that the entire meal and drinks were paid for; THANK YOU from all of us that attended. A moment of silence was held and a roll call read by Sue Heiser of the 328th vets that have passed on (this list grows longer at each reunion). I did not hear of anybody that left hungry. Dallas Vibbert again reiterated on the importance of contacting your County Veterans Service Officer on programs that are available including the Agent Orange physical. Regulations have been made that state we were all in contact with Agent Orange and thus we are all qualified to have the free Agent Orange physical as well as an annual follow-up free physical. Vets **PLEASE** get this free physical for your family if not yourself. Jeff Peterson (69-70) made an offer to any 328th vet that would like to have the 2009 reunion in Chu Lai Viet Nam; he would pay for the trip for the vet. We will be working out dates in the future and hope to get them out so that vacations or time off can be scheduled in an appropriate time frame. After returning to the hotel again, group photographs were taken in our hospitality room at the hotel. There were pictures of the guys as well as the ladies that attended. Once I figure out how to send pictures that are not many Megs in size, I will send some out or forward any requests that I receive. I am also requesting any copies of military records that you may have from your time with the

328th as this is where I get the names from that help “find” other 328th vets. If you need the form to request your records this can be done via this web site, http://www.archives.gov/research_room/obtain_copies/standard_form_180.pdf

DAY 4 Sunday, June 5, 2005

This is departure day. Many members were seen having breakfast together again and good-byes were commonplace. It was good to see the many new faces at this reunion as well as the people that have been at one or more of the previous reunions. It was also great to see the increased number of the many family members that attended.

- ❖ Susan and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody that participated in the reunion in one-way or another, especially Herb and Joanne Tuttle. Without their work and dedication, this reunion would not have been as great as it was. It was interesting to see how people have changed since our time with the 328th but yet they remained the same. When assistance was needed for anything at the reunion, people stepped up. Even the vets who could not make it to this reunion sent emails encouraging the reunions to continue and these are appreciated. This was again a unique reunion where we had the first commanding officer of the 328th in Viet Nam and the commanding officer when the unit was deactivated in 1972. There were more officers at this reunion than any other reunion. It was hoped that at a future reunion all the commanding officers of the 328th from Viet Nam would be able to attend. This would be something that would be extremely memorable. So from Susan and I, a heartfelt thank you and hope to see you at future reunions.
- ❖ I am attaching a very meaningful letter I received from Jim Parks (71-72) on what this reunion meant to him. Jim put into words on why we have 328th reunions.

Tom and Susan Heiser

(Reunion Co-Chairs)

We Gathered At The Wall

June 2, 2007

Appropriate that it was a particularly warm day as we gathered at The Wall. Vietnam was always so stifling hot and humid. There were 27 of us in unison to pay homage and respect to our fallen friends. The sunshine glistened off the black monster and there, at the base, we gathered for a quiet moment and prayer. There, at The Wall, emoting our feelings and fears, perhaps we found some solace.

Being lead by our first and last commanding officers we bonded again for a brief moment and remembrance. Fortunately, the casualties for the 328 Radio and Research Battalion were few, but even one was too great a price to pay. The Wall reminded us though how costly Vietnam was for many. Its rows of names, east and west, north and south, numbered in the tens of thousands. Although we returned, we left behind thousands that shared dreams similar to ours.

We are now old men, with Vietnam 35 to 40 years gone past. The bond that we share, however, is deeper and more difficult to explain than one can imagine. We were there, young boys and men, half way around the world. How fragile, how perilously our plight was, yet it's taken years for most of us to gain a deep and meaningful perspective of how precious our time was.

Tom, we owe you more than words can express. You stated it so elegantly at the banquet when you noted how meaningful our gathering was to you. How you could go to school with someone 12 years and not have those years mean as much as the time you spent with some of us for a few months. I think those words say it all for me as well.

Captain Vibbert, thank you for being there for us. Also, thank you for the kind words. Just knowing someone remembered and appreciated our efforts means so very much. The sincere caring you showed will stay with me forever.

Friends, no one knows exactly what tomorrow may bring, but we made June 2, 2007 count for us and others.

As Steve Henley pointed out, it all seemed to happen at Glidden Hall, a far away home for a few of us. There at Glidden Hall we frequently gathered for fellowship and for sharing our fears and dreams. We gathered at times for what was seemingly Company strong. Therein, we bonded as one.

To the residents of Glidden Hall; Tom, Buddy, Will, B.J., and Mac, thank you for making this part of my life count so much. Our union is brotherly deep.

How does one explain a soldier's dark thoughts? A few words are simply not sufficient. In fact, a lot of words aren't sufficient as no one can adequately capture those emotionally latent feelings.

Before The Wall visit, I knelt at the grave of Captain Scott Dyer, Halo Airborne. He was laid to rest at Arlington in October of 2006, lost in Afghanistan. Most soldiers feel a duty greater than themselves. That's what makes a soldier's life so perilous, the willingness to give the highest price. From what I understand about Captain Dyer, he was an extraordinary man doing what his inner purpose called him to do. Somehow, I believe Captain Dyer accepted his fate with honor and glory. I will always cherish the visit to Section 60 at Arlington. The recent graves, pictures and families at prayer were more endearing than a visit to a former President's tomb.

My words don't adequately depict my feelings, but it's the best I've got. If I were to never see any of you again, please recognize the brotherly love I have for you. I'm as close as I can be. Jim Parks

P.S. On the final leg of our journal I noted five soldiers from Desert Storm traveling home to San Jose. I couldn't help but notice (and feel) the watchful eye they had over one another.