



Jacksonville Fla 2014 Reunion

Battalion

Scuttlebutt

May 2014

Capt Bouldin Says:

At an April 30 hearing, the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee revealed its version of the FY 2015 defense authorization bill (H.R. 4435).

The Military Personnel Subcommittee's mark differs significantly from the administration's FY 2015 defense budget proposal, and provides some early optimism on TRICARE fees, the commissary benefit, and the housing allowance. Here's how the bill addresses key MOAA concerns:

TRICARE Fees: rejects the administration's proposals to hike TRICARE fees for beneficiaries of all ages, eliminate TRICARE Prime, and consolidate health care options for beneficiaries under age 65.

Housing: rejects the administration's proposal to increase service-members' out-of-pocket housing costs.

Pay: remains silent on the administration's proposal to cap the 2015 active duty pay raise at 1 percent. Current law ties the annual military pay raise to rate of private sector pay growth (1.8 percent). However, the law also allows the President to implement an alternative pay raise, an authority he exercised last year.

Commissary: The subcommittee rejected the reduction in the commissary benefit this year but indicated that it could support future changes by directing the SecDef to conduct a review of the commissary system.

Other key personnel-related provisions include:

- continued force reductions within established drawdown plans
- report on the Defense Health Agency's structure
- protection of child custody arrangements for deployed service-members
- additional study and reporting of servicemember and family member suicide

The subcommittee draft is the first step in the annual defense bill process.

Heard From:

*John J Sheenan, Bravo Company Marine
wounded at Liberty Bridge on 23 August 1968
If anyone wants to contact him, here is his
address:*

*John J. Sheenan
P.O. Box 370
Hollowoods Rd.
Peacham Vt. 05862
802-592-3369*

Edwin Kirby 2nd Plat Alpha Company

Carl Crites 2nd Plat. Alpha Company





Our Jacksonville Reunion Coordinator



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Richard A. Hunt, member of Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart (Citrus County, FL), was re-elected as the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Florida State Commander for 2013-14 during the Department's 68th Annual State Convention.

In his capacity as the State Commander, Hunt is the Department of Florida Chief Executive Officer responsible for providing leadership and direction for the Department's approximately 3,000 members and 28 chapters located throughout the state from West Palm Beach to Pensacola. As the State Commander, Hunt also is responsible for the accountability of all monies and property of the Department and for faithfully carrying out the policies and orders from the National Headquarters of the Order.

Hunt was born into a Navy family. His grandfather served in Hawaii during WWII and his father served in the Korean War.

At the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. After initial training, he was assigned duty at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii with the 1st Battalion 27th Marine Regiment as a Battalion Scout. Sniper School and Vietnamese language schools, amongst others, followed.

In 1968, the battalion was sent to Vietnam as reinforcements for TET. He saw heavy combat in multiple operations.

After recovering from wounds, 19 year old Sergeant Hunt completed Marine Security Guard School for Embassy Duty and the Foreign Service Institute in the German language and was assigned to the Consulate in Hamburg, Germany.

Following the completion of his enlistment, he took advantage of the GI Bill by attending college, majoring in business and minoring in accounting and German.

He is Chairman, Citrus County Veterans Advisory Board; Founder, Nature Coast All Veterans Reunion; Senior Vice Commander and Adjutant, American Legion Post 225; and Alternate Department Executive Committee Member and Purple Heart Ceremony Project Officer, Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776.

Hunt is retired from the US Postal Service and lives with his wife Mickey in Floral City.

Jacksonville Marriott

4670 Salisbury Road Jacksonville Florida 32256 USA



Marriott Hotel Reservations Jacksonville Fla.

For telephone reservations, Call **1-904-296-2222** or **800-228-9290** and ask for the group reservations **Marine Reunion**

For online website reservations, do the following: enter the website location at:
<http://www.marriott.com/jaxfla>

In the hotel website main page do the following:

1. On the check room rates and availability gray area select room
2. Enter the dates
3. Enter the Number of rooms
4. Select the Special Rates and Awards
5. Select group code and enter MBRMBRA
6. Select Continue and enter the rest of the information.

We have a special rate of \$90.00 a day to include a full breakfast for two (2)
Normal rates at this hotel is \$199.00 a night.

Reservation cutoff date for the rates is 10 September 2014

- Jacksonville International Airport - JAX

Hotel distance: 25 mile(s) South

- This hotel does not provide shuttle service.

LOCAL JAX RESERVATIONS

[\(904\) 765-9999](tel:9047659999)

[\(800\) BLUE VAN \(800-258-3826\)](tel:8002583826)

NOTE: Transportation to the hotel will be between 60 to 70 dollars and it would be best to rent a car while there and share the cost with someone

The screenshot shows a 'Check Room Rates & Availability' form. It includes radio buttons for 'Room', 'Room + Flight', and 'Room + Car'. There are checkboxes for 'My dates are flexible', 'Check nearby locations', and 'Use Rewards points'. It features input fields for 'Check-in date (mm/dd/yy)' (09/19/14) and 'Check-out date (mm/dd/yy)' (09/21/14). There are dropdown menus for 'No. of rooms' (1) and 'Guests/room' (1). A 'Special Rates & Awards' section is active, with a 'Marriott Rewards number' field. Below it are radio buttons for 'None', 'AAA/CAA', 'Senior Discount', 'Government & Military', and 'Corporate/promotional code'. There is also a 'Group code' field. A blue 'Continue' button with a right arrow is at the bottom.

Battalion Banquet Jacksonville Florida



Listed below are the choices for the Banquet Meal at our next reunion in September. Select your choice and total the amounts in the areas provided. Send the form and a check to **Felix Salmeron 1406 Nighthawk Dr. Little Elm, TX. 75068** (Note Cut off date for the Per Person Price is: 1 August 2014)

*All Entrees include House Salad, Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Iced and Hot Tea Service
Rice Pilaf, and Green Beans,
Dessert: , Chocolate Mousse,*

Chicken Monterey

Grilled Chicken with Sautéed Mushrooms and Melted Monterey Jack Cheese Starch & Vegetable

\$42.00 Per Person

X ____ = \$

Parmesan, Herb & Bread Crumb Coated Tilapia

Lemon Butter Sauce Starch & Vegetable

\$42.00 Per Person

X ____ = \$

******Beef Option:***

***Sliced London Broil
Mushroom Au Jus***

\$42.00 Per Person

X ____ = \$

Donation

Total

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____ Company/Unit _____

Battalion Video

Grady Birdsong is producing a Video to be shown at the Reunion Banquet this September 2014. He would like to include as many Marines/Corpsman as possible who have not already participated. If you wish to participate, please contact him to arrange either sending him photos which he can scan (and send back to you) or send them in high resolution TIFF, JPEG, BITMAP formats via email...Please no Xerox copies of photos...(they do not show well in Video).

This is what he is looking for:

1) A couple/three photos of you as a youth, child or teen.

2) A couple of photos of you as a Marine/Corpsman in Vietnam with any of the units you served. Your favorite Marine/Corpsman photo.

3) A couple photos of you now, either of your family or yourself (whichever photograph you prefer to show of you, present day).

Contact Grady with a response or questions @ email: GradyTBirdsong@aol.com _ or write/call to:

10659 Union Way
Broomfield, CO 80021
Phn: 303-466-6491

1/27 PHOTO HISTORY BOOK by G. Birdsong

A note to let everyone know I am still researching and working on the writing and compiling of a photo history book of our time in Vietnam and still need input from anyone that wants to contribute to the record about our time in Vietnam. I have already received some great photos but can always use more.

Additionally, I need **quotes/stories/experiences** from those who would want to contribute to the book. They can be humorous or serious. They could be a short paragraph or a couple of pages on an email. I am presently engaged in writing the Chapter I have temporarily titled "Tools of the Trade." I am looking for inputs/stories/experiences on the following subjects and will welcome supporting inputs from any of you:

M-16 A1 Rifle & Ammo & Cleaning - M-60 Machine Gun

K-Bar knife

M-79 Blooper

106 Recoilless Rifles – 3.5 /Rocket Launcher

C-4

PRC-25 Radio

M-72 LAW

Grenades M-26 & M-33 – Pop Up Flares

AN/PVS-2 Night Vision Starlight Scope

CH-46 Choppers (extractions & landings)

C-Rations & P-38s

Spooky aka "Puff the Magic Dragon"

105 & 155 Arty

Canteens, Halazone Tabs & water

Salt Tabs & Malaria pills

Semper Fi, **Grady Birdsong**
303-466-6491

email: GradyTBirdsong@aol.com



Donations

We once again ask for donations for the Banquet Raffle. This year we have some different goodies, but anything else will help. We are pleased to let everyone know that our raffle from two years ago allows us to get items that we will give to the attendees.

Vintage Photos:

<http://www.mission4today.com/index.php?name=ForumsPro&file=viewtopic&t=14428&finish=15&start=15>

Vietnam Topo Maps:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/vietnam/>

House Clears Vet Spending Bill

House lawmakers passed the first of 12 federal agency funding measures on April 30 for the VA and military construction programs.

Under two-year funding rules, the bill provides \$64.7 billion in discretionary spending for the VA in FY 2015 and another \$58.7 billion in advance funding for 2016. Most of the funding supports veterans' health care needs. Military construction programs were cut \$1.8 billion compared to current funding levels.

Appropriators on both sides of the aisle agreed that more needs to be done to eliminate the disability claims backlog in 2015 while sustaining high quality ratings. The bill fully funds the administration's request of \$173 million for the VA's paperless claims management system and another \$20 million to convert old paper records into a digital format.

At this time last year, the backlog – initial disability claims awaiting decision for more than 125 days – was over 600,000. As of April 26, there were 319,363 initial claims undecided within 125 days. Total first-time claims were 596,061.

Amendments approved during consideration of the spending bill would:

- Ban bonuses for VA senior executives (some executives received bonuses in recent years despite a 'systemic lack of accountability' for poor performance)
- Transfer \$1 million from the VA administrative account to the VA Inspector General to investigate alleged misconduct at the Phoenix, VA hospital. A former staff physician alleges the existence of a secret waiting list to bypass access standards for veterans seeking care.
- Add \$10 million for VA disability claims
- Prohibit funding for a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
- Deny funding to DoD to close any military commissary

The Senate still needs to pass its version of this important spending bill.

Tricare for Life, Medicare and VA fact information.....

Below is a link to information that pertains to how this new Obama Healthcare effects some of your benefits.

The link posted will remain for a while on this page so that the information can be readily available.



Supports us every Reunion



<http://www.grunt.com/corps/about-sgt-grit/contact-us/>

