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12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:
From President Graham “Flood” Floyd

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 3 8th September 2012

1. Next reunion 2014:

Thanks to everyone who responded to our survey regarding the time and place of our next reunion. It appears from the opinions of those who responded that the overwhelming majority prefer the Brisbane/ Gold Coast/ Sunshine Coast option for location, with Perth as second preference. The preferred time of year due to weather is May, with ANZAC Day coming in as second preference. The Committee will now take this feedback into consideration as much as possible before making our decision. Wherever and whenever it ends up being, it will be another terrific experience for attendees.

2. Change of membership name:

Just a bit of “housekeeping”..... Those wives, partners and family who are members of the Association have traditionally been listed on our Register as “Associate Members”. Under the definition of members as described both in the old Rules, and in the new Rules applying since July, the correct classification should be “Social Member”, and the Register has now been changed to reflect this.

3. New members:

There have been three new members since my last Information Bulletin, and on your behalf I welcome Rick Polley ex-104 Battery and Rod Beasley ex- 131Div Loc Battery as Ordinary Members, and Judy Floyd as Social Member. Welcome to the Association.

4. VVEC request re NOK:

We have been made aware of an exciting project taking place in Washington, DC. They are establishing a major facility to be called “Vietnam Veterans Education Centre” which, among other things, will include a Wall of Honour featuring a photograph and brief details of each soldier killed in action. They are making a great effort to ensure that Australia’s story is properly told in conjunction with that of the USA, and that our own KIA get equal recognition – a very welcome attitude!

Australia's involvement in the project is being coordinated by Brig (Rtrd) Chris Appleton from the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) in Canberra. His office is desperately trying to locate photographs of all Australians who died in Vietnam, but they are having a difficult time locating next-of-kin to ask for photos. They are calling on members of Associations like ours to help wherever possible.

I have attached their memos and a list of all the Aussie KIA for whom OAWAG do not have NOK details. IF YOU KNOW HOW TO CONTACT THE NOK OF ANY OF THESE MEN, PLEASE SEND THE DETAILS BY EMAIL TO: VVEC@dva.gov.au. (NOTE: We have already advised them regarding NOK of Chris Sawtell, so please don't action that one.)

(Note to all members who are not on Email: Unfortunately there are too many pages in the lists, so we are unable to include hard copies with the Info Bulletin mailed to you. If you believe you know the contact details for the NOK of any Aussie KIA, please let Trev Bryant know and he will check the lists and pass on the info if it is one of the "missing" ones.)

5. Honour Roll:

For those of you who haven't already heard via e-mail, I'm saddened to advise the following deaths of members:

- Barry West died of cancer on 9th August, 2012. Barry served in Vietnam from 20/11/67 to 15/10/68 and was a Gunner with 104 Battery. He lived in Giralong, ACT and is survived by his wife, Susan to whom we extend our condolences. "We will remember them."
- Julie Dwyer died of cancer on 1st September, 2012. Julie was the wife of Jeff Dwyer who was a Gunner with 102 Battery and served in Vietnam from March 1968 to January 1969. She is survived by son Ben and daughter Rebecca who have our sincerest sympathy. "Rest in Peace".

6. Association Memorabilia Retail Promotion:

A reminder from Laurie Bird.....

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the current opportunity to obtain high quality shirts at very reasonable prices. These shirts have been sourced from a professional manufacturer with clients from various veteran bodies such as Ingleburn RSL Club, and the design of these shirts depicts our Association in the form of appropriate colour & embroidered Artillery badge and name of our Association.

The short sleeved polo shirt is Navy Blue/Red in a lightweight & breathable Biz Cool fabric & is priced at just \$26 plus postage, and the other shirt is obtainable in both short/long sleeve highest of quality Chambray light blue cotton . The price is \$27.50 (short/sleeve) & \$28.50(long/sleeve) plus postage. Members are able to view these items on our website or orders can be taken with a direct contact with Laurie Bird by email at birds_12@optusnet.com.au or phone (02) 49548248. Please provide your size/s.

All income from these purchases go into our Association funds.

12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association is a Branch of RAA (NSW) Association Inc
The Association ABN is 90 248 586 329. However, the Association is not registered for GST and is Tax-exempt