

USMC Class 38th OCC/BC 3-66 Alumni Profiles



David G. Rogers

Date: March 1, 2011
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Co. & Platoon OCS: A2
Co. & Platoon TBS: E4
MOS: 0802 (Artillery)
Rank: Captain

After leaving Quantico: Graduated August 26, 1966 from the U.S. Army Artillery and Missile School at Fort Sill, OK, Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Class 12-66

Vietnam Tour: September 10, 1966 – October 18, 1967

Attached To: 1st 155 Gun Battery, C/1/12, M/3/3, A/1/13

Jobs in Nam: Artillery Forward Observer, Motor Transport Officer, Tracked Vehicle Maintenance Officer, Safety Officer, Battalion Liaison Officer

Locations in Nam: I Corps: Phu Bai, Gio Linh, Rockpile, Razorback, Mutter's Ridge, Camp JJ Carroll, Ca Lu, Khe Sanh

Operations in Nam: Prairie III, Prairie IV, Ardmore, "Battle of Khe Sanh, Search & Destroy"

Experiences to Share:

Best:
R&R in Bangkok & Singapore; Seeing and sometimes meeting celebrities (Martha Raye, Nancy Sinatra, Harmon Killebrew, Frank Torres)

Worst:
"The Hill Fights of 1967"; in particular, the battle of Hill 881 South on April 30, 1967. Note: Our OCS/TBS class lost three class members (Philip Howard Sauer, John Braxton Woodall and David Spencer Hackett) during the Hill Fights.

Favorite Memories:

After Service:

- 1) Meeting and eventually marrying a wonderful and intelligent lady on October 14, 1972. During a 32-year career as a high school math teacher she was selected twice for "Who's Who Among America's Teachers". We will be celebrating our 39th anniversary this year.
- 2) Becoming the father of our daughter, Tiffany, on June 24, 1976.
- 3) The wedding of our daughter on June 26, 2004.
- 4) Becoming a grandfather on May 16, 2007.
- 5) Watching our daughter grow up and graduate from Texas A&M with undergraduate and master degrees (civil engineering and environmental engineering).
- 6) Obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems at the U. of TX at Arlington in 1995 (second BS degree).
- 7) Developing software applications for the National Airspace System, some of which are still in use.
- 8) Having the poem "Death at My Door" inscribed on the base of the Vietnam War Memorial in San Antonio, TX. The poem was dedicated to those who were KIA on Hill 881 South. In 2010 a long-time friend set the lyrics to music.

9) Participating in the 20th, 30th and 40th anniversary reunions of the Battle of Hill 881 South. At the 40th I was asked to assist in placing the wreath in front of the statue.

10) Singing lead with the "Goodtimes Chorus," Arlington Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society. Quotable: "Life is a pitch, and then you sing" & "Keep the whole world singing"

Medals Received:

Presidential Unit Citation (Third Marine Division)

Jobs:

After Service:

1969-Attended flight school in Tulsa, OK with classmate Don Ivy (deceased). Obtained commercial, instrument, certified flight instructor, instrument flight instructor, and multi-engine ratings using the GI Bill. Spent almost all \$4,680 of education entitlement benefits for flight training. During this time Don and I were in the active reserves acting as CO's for two motor transport companies.

1969-1970 Flight Instructor, Raburn Aviation, Waco, TX

1970-1976 FAA Air Traffic Controller (En Route option) at the Fort Worth Air Route Traffic Control Center, Full Performance Level

1976-1986 FAA Data Systems Specialist

1986-1999 Software Engineer, Diversified International Sciences Corporation, Site Technical Lead from 1996-1999

1999-2008 FAA Automation Specialist - Air Traffic Control HOST Computer System (Adaptation, Program Maintenance, Testing) - User Request Evaluation Tool, (Adaptation, Testing), Testing Coordinator - Interface testing with peripheral computer systems used in air traffic control (CTAS/URET/DSR/HNL/NOP), Technical writing

2008-2011 FAA Program Operations Field Manager

Other Comments:

The following poem is inscribed on the base of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Veteran's Plaza in San Antonio, Texas. The title of the statue, designed and sculpted by former Marine combat artist Austin Deuel based on an eye-witness event, is "Hill 881 South." For more information, click <http://www.virtualwall.org/dr/RandallJA01a.htm>

On 30 April 1967, U. S. Marines assaulted Hill 881 South. At the end of a day of bitter fighting, 44 Marines lay dead and over 100 wounded. As the sun began to set, emergency MedEvacs were still being made to save the dying lives of young Marines. Perimeter defenses were being set up for any possible counter-attack from enemy forces still occupying Hill 881 South and surrounding areas. And an air of uncertainty preoccupied the thoughts of those still living as a first quarter moon began to rise over a bloody battlefield. This poem is dedicated to those who fought and fell on that wretched hill in a far off country where a battle for freedom was fought and won.

Death at My Door

Day is over as danger hastens,
Young Marines at their battle stations.
Instruments of war outline the sky,
Means of death are standing by.

Can it be on this high hill
Forces will clash only to kill?
Silence fills the near moonless night,
Restless thoughts of a bloody fight.

Endless memories for those awake,
Meaningful discussion experience would make.
Though silent world in which we live,
Permits only God's comfort to give.

Somewhere through the darkness creeping,
A date with death is in the keeping.
Alone I sit and question why,
Life itself, to be born to merely die?

David G. Rogers
1st Lt. USMC
April 30, 1967
Hill 881 South Republic of Vietnam