

[REDACTED]
O'Fallon, Illinois 62269-3640
12 December 1997 - Friday nite

Dick,

I sure was glad to get the card from you and Karma. It reminds me that it's that time of year again, and I'd better be getting my cards in the mail. Also, I haven't even finished putting up my Christmas decorations yet. So, I'd better get with it!

I just made my contribution to the VVMF (Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund). I also requested name rubbings on the wall for three members of B-2/12 who were KIA when I was in the unit. One of them was Jimmy Earl Carter. He was killed on 17 June 67 as we were moving through a rubber forest near Tay Ninh; an AK-47 killed him. He was the first man I saw killed in country. The thing about it was that he was one of the ones from our unit interviewed by Major Runge, and he was supposed to go to the 188th too. His position on the Wall is Panel 22E, Row 068. I requested a name rubbing for him. It made me ~~MAD~~ when he got killed that day! I was mad about the way things happened, and -even more so- the way Charlie got away so cunningly and with impunity. "That's about the size of it," I was told afterward.

Speaking of being ~~MAD~~, I was ~~angered beyond description~~ when we got cut out of going to the 188th!! Furthermore, I hated the unit I was in, and -even far more- I hated what I was doing in that unit. By the way, I deliberately cut myself out of promotion to Sergeant E-5 so that I could get to an aviation unit as a gunner. When I finally got to the Little Bears at Cu Chi, I told the first sergeant how I had cut myself out of promotion to E-5 so that I

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could be in aviation and be a gunner. He then told me: "You must have wanted it bad then." He was right. I did. That was the best move I ever made in the Army. In fact, I ~~SHOULD~~ have been in aviation from the very beginning; I wish now I had skipped that infantry bit. When I finally made it out of the infantry, I had one of the company clerks in my former line unit tell me that he had never seen anybody who hated it as badly and wanted out as badly as I did. He was right; I won't deny what he said.

The other two members of B-2/12 for whom I requested name rubbings for were Davies Jones and Stephen Ford, both of whom were KIA on 11 September 67. If you have any information on 3rd Brigade, 25th Division operations that were conducted then, please let me know. By the way, as I remember, it was the 116th Assault Helicopter Company who flew us into the area where we went then. I'd like any information you might be able to find on what took place then. That operation also resulted in an MIA - a Vietnamese national policeman who was with us and wounded that day too.

I really ought to write more than what's in this letter, but I've got to start getting ready to go to work tonight. I'm still working contract security, but I hope this year makes for a different story. I hope this year coming up will find me with a real job and one where I can make something.

~~THANK YOU~~ for the card. I'll write again soon. Take care now.

Clear Right,

