

JUNE 4th, 1989

KANSAS CITY, MO.

Dear Charley,

Hope this letter finds you well. I was really surprised to receive your letter with a different address. I wasn't aware that you moved but nevertheless happy to have your new address. Man, we gotta keep in touch!

This new kid Greg Vandergriff sure is something else. Guess he's also determined to have a reunion of the Bravo vets. I got a letter from him but still have write to him still. You know Charley, even if we can only get 12 or so guys together we still could have a decent reunion and after the reunion maybe we could put out more 'feelers' through advertisement to locate other members. At least we would have a nucleus started from the first reunion. Hell, I'm for a back yard bar-b-q ~~to~~ just to see who shows up for starters.

I wrote to Jimmy Upslaw but from what I got of our visit from last year he's not much on writing letters. He told me that and now I believe him. I'll still pester him by writing maybe he'll answer one of these days.

Are you still working as a historian in Washington? If so, what are you writing on now. Also are you still doing any research for the possibility of another book?

The tempo of police work here in Kansas City hasn't slackened off any. Homicides are up and are mainly drug related killings. The police dept. here are thinking

of switching to 9mm semi auto pistols instead of keeping the six shot 38 cal. revolvers. I hope they do. We're so outgunned now, it's pathetic.

I 'BORROWED' some polaroid pictures of some drug raids we handled last year and this year to give you some insight of what we're going through. I'd appreciate it if you could return the pictures when you can if you know what I mean.

I'm not lying to you when I'm saying there is money to be made here. At \$20⁰⁰ a bag a person will not sit idle if he's a drug addict in need of a shot or a dealer making a sale, either person will get what he wants. The scary point is that an honest person could be easily drawn into this life of crime for the sake of an easy buck but the law enforcement has to deal with its attributes and in most ends suffer the consequences.

These pictures will show you an insight of the minor amounts of drugs that are lucky to be confiscated, the money involved (at \$20⁰⁰ a bag - 'CRACK' THE POOR MAN'S HEROIN) and types of weapons associated with the criminal drug element versus police involved.

CRACK is a crystal rock like substance and therefore commonly referred to as 'ROCK' in police terminology.

Tell you what, I've been carrying a gun since Vietnam. I'm in a mood right now to hang up those guns. But like the advertisement goes It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it.

Before I forget, I don't remember if I sent you this name yet. I saw it in the 3rd MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATED NEWSLETTER and looked the name up in the platoon roster you sent ~~me~~ ^{me} a while back. This name is listed in the 3rd PLATOON ROSTER:

DANIEL D'ACQUA

WEST DEPTFORD, N.J.

This is his address as listed in the association. Damn it Charley, you're going to have to help me. I'm losing my memory. I was in the 3rd Platoon gun squad and I don't even remember this kid from 3rd platoon. Hell, while on the Virginia Ridge Operation I knew everyone in the 3rd platoon, or I thought.

This is going to be another short letter. I haven't written to D'ACQUA yet. Let me know if you hear from him. Keep in touch! Best wishes.

Your buddy,

Mike

MIKE RODRIGUEZ

KANSAS CITY, MO. 64119



MR. CHARLES ANDERSON

SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22152