



TROPIC LIGHTNING FLASHES



Support our Soldiers!

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MAIL CALL

To Butch Sincok:

Writing to thank you so much for reprinting the letter of my speech to the **12 Evac. Hospital** at their San Antonio reunion. I was really surprised to open the latest issue and see my name and words staring back at me. Spoke today with **Col. Richard Harder** and he explained that you had been responsible for the publication. I was happy, not for myself, but in the hope it may trigger others to recall the wonderful, caring work performed by all the people at the 12th Evac.

You could not have timed things better. Today, March 14, marks exactly 39 years to the day I was shot and then saved at the 12 Evac. Each March 14, I try to do something special in a quiet way to observe the anniversary. Today, it was easy, speaking with the Colonel, and now having the chance to thank you.

The years do not diminish all the memories of the service and sacrifice of the exceptional people who served out of Cu Chi in the 25th.

If I can ever be of any service to the association in any way, please do not hesitate to call upon me. I feel I was privileged to have served with the best America ever produced.

Many many thanks,
Thomas "Tim" Manigan
Townsend, MA

Patient '04

He will return for '08

Butch,

Read the two great articles about **Nui Ba Den** and the **12th Evac** in the *Winter Flashes*. I was on top of Nui Ba Den from April to October 1969. The Muleskinners were the unsung heroes of the Vietnam War. If it wasn't for those guys re-supplying us, we would have starved. I guided them in many a time. My call sign was "Control".

It was an experience being inside the pagoda and not seeing what was going on. I suggested that someone should be with a radio outside guiding them in and they finally implemented my idea shortly before I went back to Cu Chi. I figured this out and I didn't go to West Point!

In August 1968, I was going through AIT but in June 1969, we had some unexpected guests drop in at about 1 AM. I was the one who alerted Cu Chi as to what was happening.

I think Gary Roush and his crew should have been decorated for what they did. Somewhere in the country, there are 23 guys who are still breathing because of what he and his crew did. If he did report it, what could they do - send him to Nam?

I was deeply moved about the article on the 12th Evac. Those people were the best. Many a time after a firefight the troops stationed at Cu Chi would go there and donate blood. We never thought of the nurses as officers but as our big sisters.

Jim Murphy
Clinton, NJ
Vietnam Class of '69