

Doug Young

From: Al Hembd [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 9:00 PM
To: 'Doug Young'
Cc: Al Hembd
Subject: Echo 2/5
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Sunday, November 05, 2006 8:00 AM
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: A 2 Cavalair.jpg; B 16 Cavalair.jpg; C 2-5 A with pics & names.jpg; Plotting Circle on Mooney.jpg; Mike Hernacki, Al Hembd,Pete Gemar on Rita.jpg

I'm not sure. When we arrived in country we were assigned to Echo but told that there was no company and no one know when there would be an Echo. We were delivered (E-3 draftees) to Charlie Company and worked with the finest group of guys anyone could be fortunate enough to work with. The time came when we were stolen from our family and corralled up with guys from other companies. We spent about 3 weeks in a GP tent on LZ Nancy doing nothing. Echo Company was pretty informal at the beginning. I think we were pretty good with the mortars and when we walked the boonies without the mortars we were okay too. Only two platoons; first and fourth. At one point, I was the only mortar man (On LZ Odessa), everyone else on the perimeter. For a while, when I was still with Charlie I think, I carried a 60 mm mortar. I usually wound up working as FDC (Fire Direction Control) as you can see by my plotting circle on LZ Mooney. On LZ Rita I worked FDC with Chris Gral and one other guy and we worked split shifts. We had 2 PRC 77 radios and 6 land lines, one for each of the 6 mortar pits. There was Red 1,2, & 3 & Blue 1,2, & 3. Like the newspaper article says, Sgt Cook came in and made us work a lot more formal. He had 6 brand new mortar tubes given to us to replace the old worn out ones that we had ever since I landed in country. I wish I knew more about Echo's history but I don't think that any of us were told much more that I have shared with you.

Al

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 7:10 PM
To: 'Al Hembd'
Subject: RE: I spoke with Pete Gemar last night

Ah - so Echo Company was formed a long time before 1968, but most of the troops were attached out to the loine companies. Is that right?

Doug

From: Al Hembd [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 6:55 PM
To: 'Doug Young'
Cc: [REDACTED]; Pete Gemar; Pat & Deby Shirling; LINDA HERNACKI; Mike & Marcella Barnett; [REDACTED] Michael DeHart; Mike Evans
Subject: RE: I spoke with Pete Gemar last night

Hi Doug,

My primary MOS was 11C (Indirect fire crewman), Pete Gemar [REDACTED] & I both went through basic training at Fort Leonard Wood and AIT at Fort Polk. Echo Company soldiers were attached

11/25/2006

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to the other line companies from June of 68 until October or November 1968. We came together at LZ Nancy, which was up north. If you go to <http://www.ranger25.com> Memorial E 2/5 they list the dates of our KIAs.

I phoned another E 2/5 vet today, a guy I got from Tree's data base. I spoke with Pat Shirling [REDACTED] today for the first time in over 35 years. He lives in Houston and he retired from the Army after 24 years of service as an E-7. After Vietnam, Pat was one of the guys that went to Ft. Benning with me. We were both E-5s and brought our wives. He was married to Cheryl at the time. Today he told me, after I asked, that they divorced. I think Pat was attached to Alpha Company before uniting with Echo. I shared with him the success we had at the reunion. I need to describe to Pat & Pete your websites (Doug Young

Blog: www.virtual-doug.com

Pictures: www.pbase.com/doug_young

and the year & a half the you spent returning to Vietnam.

What a wonderful day today was!

AI

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 2:29 PM
To: 'AI Hembd'
Cc: 'James Machin'
Subject: RE: I spoke with Pete Gemar last night

Hi AI - -

Oooh - thanx for the photos.

But, unknowingly, you answered a big puzzle for me. I have wondered for a long time when Echo Company was created. Each of the battalions added one company, which if you add in to the whole division, effectively added two more battalions - all without having to say more troops had been deployed. I didn't know it was added as late as 1968 - I thought it was earlier

Were you a mortar MOS?

Doug

From: AI Hembd [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 5:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Pete Gemar; Mike Evans; Mike & Marcella Barnett; Michael DeHart; LINDA HERNACKI; [REDACTED] Doug Young; [REDACTED]
Subject: I spoke with Pete Gemar last night

Pete Gemar [REDACTED], like me, was attached to Charlie Company from early June 1968 until October or November (LZ Nancy time) when Echo Company was activated, then we both were sent to Echo. We both DEROSed from LZ Ike late in May of 1969.

He's living in Tucson, AZ with his wife, Carol.

We had a nice long phone conversation and I e-mailed him the tallcomanche website address along with the ranger25 address and I shared with him the great time we had at the reunion. He was interested.

Have a nice day,

Al Fleming's pix of
Kit Carson scouts, email of
10/19/2006