



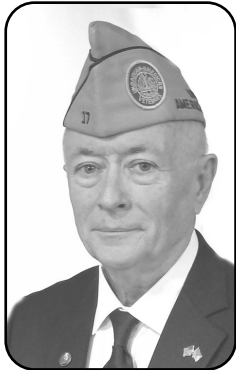
UAV TRIBUNE

8433 N. Clifton Ave.
Niles, IL 60714



uav_tribune@att.net

www.uavets.org



Ihor B. Rudko UAV NC

Dear Fellow Ukrainian American Veterans,

As we conclude our Memorial Day observances I am reminded of our brave American heroes, especially those who carried the scars of wounds derived in battle. I am particularly drawn to embattled Vietnam veterans suffering from mental impairments triggered by maladies such as PTSD. Today we see a parallel with our brothers in Ukraine who share the identical impairments that torment frontline soldiers.

The ruthless and ungodly Russians have attacked Ukraine and for sixteen months Ukrainians have endured an onslaught that had not been seen in seven decades. This inhuman cruelty is nothing new to Russians who have been a cancer on the world since 1917. The destruction of America has always been their ambition and today they continue to threaten our national interest through their ruthless genocidal assault on Ukraine.

The ongoing war in Ukraine brings growing casualties each day. Thousands have been killed or wounded, civilian infrastructure decimated, millions of Ukrainians displaced, schools and hospitals destroyed.

With increasing casualties and reduced capacity to provide needed care, the treatment and rehabilitation of severely wounded soldiers should be of great concern to us. These brave warriors, having fought valiantly to repulse Russians, deserve good medical care, and at times they are not able to obtain it.

As the war between Russia and the free world rages on, our prayers go out for the defeat of Ukraine's mortal enemy. When Russia is defeated the world will benefit but Ukraine will face the overwhelming task of rebuilding not only its infrastructure but also the immense damage to civil society. Efforts to mitigate both medical and mental trauma are currently being reviewed by both Houses of the Armed Service Committees (ASC). We are encouraging inclusion of the following language for in the FY24 NDAA. Our submission includes 3 new initiatives:

“The partnership program between the United States and Ukraine for military trauma care and research established in Section 736 of the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act is hereby amended as follows:

At the appropriate place add the following:

The Director of the Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence and the appropriate counterpoint from the Government of Ukraine shall collaborate on the provision of support for the purpose of facilitating the establishment in Ukraine of a center of excellence in the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations in Ukraine suffered because of Russian aggression.

The Director of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence and the appropriate counterpoint from the Government of Ukraine shall collaborate on the provision of support for the purpose of facilitating the establishment in Ukraine of a center of excellence dedicated to improving the lives of patients and families affected by traumatic brain injury (TBI) suffered because of Russian aggression through collaborative efforts with patients, families, referring providers, and researchers.

And consider adding a section on mental health and including the National Center for PTSD.”

I call upon all of you to get engaged with your respective Congressional Representatives to encourage the passage of this vital action. Our combined efforts can make the difference. The Ukrainian Wounded Warrior Project team stands ready to provide you with guidance.

God Bless America!

God Protect Ukraine!

Ihor Rudko
National Commander





Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

44 Jurach Road
Colchester, CT 06415-2106



Ihor Rudko National Commander

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SAVE-A-DATE

The 76th National Convention will be held in the Soyuzivka Heritage Center, September 21-23. During the convention we will hold Elections for positions in the National Executive Board.

1. All UAV members who are in good standing, can vote.
2. Members must be delegates at the convention and must vote in person.
3. Nominations must go through the Nominating Committee .
4. All election questions are directed to the chairman of the nominating committee: Commander Ed Zetick at 215-885-2826, ezetick@gmail.com



THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS

A History

Submitted by: BGen Len Kondratiuk, PNC

The UAV was founded after World War II when Ukrainian American veterans realized that they shared a special bond; their service to the nation and their Ukrainian heritage. However, the service of Ukrainian Americans veterans began much earlier than 1941.

A few Ukrainians served in the Civil War. Several dozen served in the Spanish American War in 1898. Some 30,000 to 40,000 Ukrainian Americans served in World War I. All were born in Ukraine with the Army classifying them as Ukrainians, Ruthenians and Russians. Ukrainian American soldiers fought and died for their adopted country. Several hundred were killed in action or died from disease. I have seen their gravestones in France. At least 24 Ukrainian American soldiers were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award for gallantry in action.

The US Army also made plans to recruit Ukrainian Americans to serve in Ukrainian units of the Slavic Legion. The Ukrainian units were composed of Ukrainian Americans who were barred from enlistment as they were born in Western Ukraine then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, an ally of Germany. However, the war ended before the Slavic Legion was fully organized.

50 or more Ukrainian Americans from Detroit were assigned to the 339th Infantry Regiment. The 339th was selected to deploy to Northern Russia ostensibly to guard Allied war stocks originally destined for delivery to the Russian Army. Instead, the 339th Infantry fought the Bolsheviks for eight months in a brutal and forgotten campaign.

After World War I, Michael Darmopray and others organized the first Ukrainian American veterans post here in Philadelphia. They initiated the idea that Ukrainian American veterans should continue the bond of military service within the Ukrainian community. However, it took the second and third generation of Ukrainian Americans to form a national organization.

During World War II, over 250,000 Ukrainian American men and women served in the US Armed Forces. Ukrainian Americans served in every theater of the war as both enlisted and, for the first time, as officers. If you visit the *USS Arizona Memorial*, you will see the names of Ukrainian American sailors who died on December 7. Several thousand Ukrainian Americans died in the war in the Philippines, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima in the Pacific Theater and North Africa, Italy, France and Germany in the European Theater.

Lt. Col. Theodore Kalakuka, the first Ukrainian American graduate of West Point, negotiated the U.S. surrender to the Japanese at Bataan. No Japanese officer spoke English, however one officer spoke Russian. Lt. Col. Kalakuka negotiated the surrender in Ukrainian. Unfortunately, he died as a prisoner of war.

Sgt. Michael Strank, US Marine Corps, and his squad raised the American flag over Iwo Jima. Sgt. Strank who had already seen a great deal of combat died days later. John Wayne portrayed Sgt. Strank in the movie *Sands of Iwo Jima*.

Four Ukrainian Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award. The Huban family of Monessen, Pennsylvania sent all eight sons to serve in the war. Among the first US Army soldier to fight the Japanese were 50 to 60 Ukrainian Americans of the 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota National Guard. They were sons of Ukrainian American farmers who had settled in North Dakota. The 164th Infantry landed on Guadalcanal in October 1942 and fought shoulder to shoulder with the 1st Marine Division. These are only a few stories of Ukrainian Americans in World War II.

After the war, Ukrainian American veterans realized that they shared a special common experience. They established stand-alone local posts in Philadelphia, Germantown, Nicetown and Clifton Heights all in Pennsylvania and in New York, NY, Passaic, NJ and New Britain, CT.

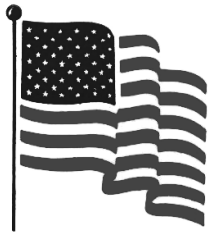
In 1947, a group of veterans met to discuss the possibility of establishing a national Ukrainian veterans organization. Several hundred veterans from all over the country came to Philadelphia in May 1948 and established the Ukrainian Americans Veterans, Inc. The UAV Constitution was drafted and adopted: We the Americans of Ukrainian descent, who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, in order that we may be united by a spirit of comradeship, fidelity and patriotism, to better ourselves and our country, do ordain and establish the Ukrainian American Veterans.

New UAV posts were immediately established in Newark, Bridgeport and other cities. A new cohort of veterans who served in the Korean War also joined the new posts. Thousands of Ukrainian Americans served on active duty during the Cold War and Vietnam War. When you visit the Vietnam Wall, look for Ukrainian names, you will find them. Even Hollywood acknowledged Ukrainian American servicemen in the movies *We Were Soldiers* and the *Deerhunter*.

The UAV continued to expand in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s with posts in New Haven, Boston, Rochester, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Akron, Washington, Lehigh Valley, Northport, Brooklyn, Freehold and Johnson City. Two Ukrainian Americans reached the highest rank of four star general and four star admiral. Dozens and dozens have been promoted to general officer and flag rank. Several hundred colonels, lieutenant colonels, sergeants major, thousands of sergeants and men and women who served as privates, marines, sailors and airmen who served with honor and pride.

The UAV serves our communities, our nation and our Ukrainian homeland. We have been doing this for 76 years.





Ukrainian American Veterans

76th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 21 - 23, 2023

Hosted by

New York State Department

Posts 19, 23, 27, 43, 301

New York State Commander Peter Polnyj



New York State Commander’s Welcome to Delegates and Guests

On behalf of the NY State Department and Posts 19 (Spring Valley), 23 (Buffalo), 27 (Brooklyn), 43 (Johnson City) and 302 (Yonkers), and the Convention Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Ukrainian American Veterans Seventy-Sixth National Convention.

The cover of this year’s Journal was compiled with photos of valiant Ukrainian heroes. The theme of this year’s convention is honoring the brave men and women who are fighting for their (and our ancestral) homeland. Let us not forget the daily trials and hardships they are going through.

As U.S. veterans, many UAV members harbor memories of similar ordeals we endured in other wars. We share a brotherhood with these intrepid warriors and give a salute to honor them not only today but throughout the hardships they are enduring until this war concludes with a victory.

A special thanks to Bohdan Dudycz, our Publications officer, who has worked diligently to have this journal ready for publication. Thank you all for joining us today and we hope you enjoy your stay in Soyuzivka.

СЛАВА УКРАЇНИ!

ГЕРОЯМ СЛАВА!

HOTEL RESERVATION

Soyuzivka Heritage Center

216 Foordmore Road

Kerhonkson, NY 12446-2920

RESERVATION PHONE: 1-845-626-5641

**Reserve room by telephone only and use group code “UAV”
in order to receive the group rate.**

COST: \$125 (Tax included) per night. Breakfast is included

RESERVATION DEADLINE

RESERVE ROOMS BY SEPTEMBER 9, 2023.

QUESTIONS CALL: HOTEL RESERVATION PHONE: 1-845-626-5641



Ukrainian American Veterans

76th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 21 - 23, 2023



Hosted by
New York State Department
Posts 19, 23, 27, 43, 301
New York State Commander Peter Polnyj

UAV BANQUET RESERVATION Due by September 9, 2023

Please reserve _____ tickets, at **\$125.00 per person**, for the **UAV 76th Convention Banquet**

DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
TIME: COCKTAIL HOUR AT 6:00 PM - DINNER AT 7:00 PM
PLACE: Soyuzivka Heritage Center
216 Foordmore Rd. Kerhonkson, NY 12446-2920

Enclosed is my check, made payable to: **UAV 76th CONVENTION BANQUET** in the amount of
\$ _____ for _____ tickets.

Name: _____ UAV Post _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

If your group or Post wishes to reserve its own table, or sit with another group or Post, please indicate:

DINNER CHOICES: (select one)	
<u>ENTRÈ</u>	
1. Prime Rib _____	
2. Breaded Salmon _____	
3. Chicken Cutlet _____	
<u>SIDES</u>	<u>DESSERT</u>
• Mashed Potatoes	Viennese Table
• Rice	Coffee or tea
• Seasonal Vegetable	(served at table)

Please send your check together with this form to:

UAV 76th CONVENTION BANQUET
Wasył Szozda
66 North William St.
Pearl River, NY 10965-1820

Questions: Please Call:

Wasył Szozda
845-661-3064
wandajsz0@optimum.net



Kindly keep a copy of this agreement for your records. 3 (2023)



Ukrainian American Veterans

76th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 21 - 23, 2023



Hosted by
New York State Department
Posts 19, 23, 27, 43, 301
New York State Commander Peter Polnyj

UAV 76th NATIONAL CONVENTION JOURNAL

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to: UAV 76th CONVENTION JOURNAL for the attached advertisement. All pages will be printed in black & white. Covers and center pages will be color.

\$500 _____	Front Inside Cover (color)	\$75.00 _____	Half Page
\$500 _____	Back Inside Cover (color)	\$40.00 _____	Quarter Page
\$500 _____	Back Page Cover (color)	\$25.00 _____	1/8 Page or Business Card
\$300 _____	Center Gold Page (color)	\$10.00 _____	One Line Booster
\$150 _____		Full Page.	

All advertising orders must be received **no later than September 1, 2023**. All delegates and Convention attendees will receive a copy of the commemorative journal. Advertisers who have paid for a full page or greater and do not attend the convention will have the journal mailed to them upon request.

Please make checks payable to:

76th UAV CONVENTION JOURNAL

MAIL YOUR PAYMENT
AND AD COPY TO:

**Ukrainian American Veterans
Bohdan Dudycz - Publications Officer
8433 N. Clifton Ave.
Niles, IL 60714-1803**

EMAIL AD TO:

uavpublicity@gmail.com

Ad copy should be sent electronically as an ATTACHMENT to your email message, **DO NOT INCLUDE IT AS A TEXT**. It must be in jpg, bmp, png, tif or pdf format.

If you cannot send it electronically, include the ad with your payment in camera ready format. Photos must be high quality suitable for print reproduction.

QUESTIONS:

Bohdan Dudycz: 224-456-8944

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UAV Post _____, UAV Member or organization soliciting ad _____

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Ukrainian American Veterans

76th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 21 - 23, 2023



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ALL JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ CHECK NO. _____

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SUBMITTED BY: UAV POST _____ UAV MEMBER _____

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Or visit our website: <http://www.uavets.org> to donate online.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Bohdan Dudycz 224-456-8944

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POST 40 PLEDGES SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

Bohdan P Hirniak - PR Officer, Post 40

Post #40, like all of our UAV units as well as the rest of our Ukrainian people, ache for the successful end of Russia's totally unwarranted and brutal invasion of our ancestral homeland. Ukrainian people, including relatives of many of our members, are suffering and dying in defense of their and our homeland. But all are assuring us and the world that Ukraine will prevail and wrest all its land from this barbaric invader. Of this there can be no doubt! Our comrades in arms have made us and our brethren proud of their valor and bravery. They have amazed the world, but the world, and particularly Russia, should have known better. Don't f... with Ukraine.

Recent attacks by Russia have concentrated solely on civilian targets. This is an obvious war crime, but consistent with the mentality of the Muscovite attacker. Not only is there much suffering, but many towns will have to be rebuilt and restored after this savagery. But again, Ukrainians are resolute and very capable of this rebuilding. After all, this is not Ukraine's first war that she had recovered from. We have done so successfully before and will do so again. The world will help.

Post #40, headquartered in North Port Florida, had just recently some of its own grief to overcome, in the form of hurricane Ian. However damaging it was, its inconsequential when compared to what our brethren are currently suffering from. Be that as it may, it was something we could have done without. Our two main facilities for gatherings and such are St. Andrews Community Center and St. Mary's Community Center. Both suffered structural damage which prevents current use. We had our own room in the St. Andrews center, but that is not available until required repairs are done to the entire building. But we abide and make do elsewhere. All our members have been contributing their time and efforts to repairs and rebuilding. Many members are using their pre-retirement skills to aid in dealing with insurance companies, contractors, FEMA, etc. Certain members have also had damage to their own homes and properties. But again, a small burden to carry when compared to global tragedies.

Our focus continues to be our beloved homeland, and we will do all that we can to assure that she's successful in repelling the brutal Russians and restoring peace.



UAV BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ELECTIONS

The UAV organization is bound to our By-Laws which guides us with basic rules that guide us on the proper way to conduct UAV business. One of the most important components of the By-Laws is the election of officers who work within a Board of Directors. We hold elections every two years. This practice was disrupted by the Covid pandemic where we deferred the process for 2 years.

This year, at the 76th convention we will hold elections as directed by our rules (Sept 21-23). The elected National Executive Board shall consist of a Commander, Vice-Commander, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Welfare Officer, Scholarship Officer, Service Officer/Chaplain, Historian and Public Relations/ Publications Officer, Webmaster, Registration Officer and National Monument Officer.

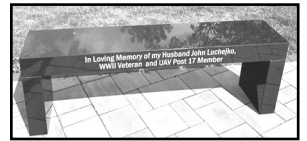
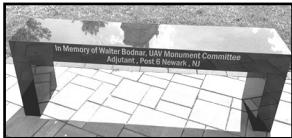
The head of our Nominations Committee is Commander Ed Zetick. Anyone interested in being a candidate for any of the above listed Board positions should contact Ed at **215-885-2826**, ezetick@gmail.com.

Please note that our Vice Commander position will be vacant. Only delegates in good standing who are physically at the convention will be allowed to vote. Please refer to our web site for more detailed information about candidate eligibility and election procedures.



BENCHES INSTALLED AT UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT

Submitted by: PNC Len Kondratiuk, Monument Officer



On Sunday, 23 April 2023, UAV members from active posts in Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC took part in services and ceremonies at the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery, South Bound Brook, NJ.

monument. PNC Ed Zetick presented a wreath composed of blue and yellow flowers. The beautiful wreath was made by PNC Matt Koziak and National Auxiliary President Oksana Koziak. Judge Advocate Michael Hrycak made brief remarks.

The UAV provided a color guard and marching unit for the St. Thomas Sunday service and at the UAV National Monument. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and their Graces Archbishops Daniel and Jeremiah conducted a panyhyda for all the Ukrainian Americans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. During his remarks, Metropolitan Antony noted the newly installed benches on the sides of the

The benches are dedicated to the memory of former National Adjutant Walter Bodnar, long-time NEB member Michael Demchuk, John Luchejko and Major Myron Diduryk. Posts 40 and 101 have benches in honor of their members.

We thank the monument officer and his associates for their diligent work in this installation.

In Memory of Stephen Michael Rudyk April 17, 1946 – January 21, 2023

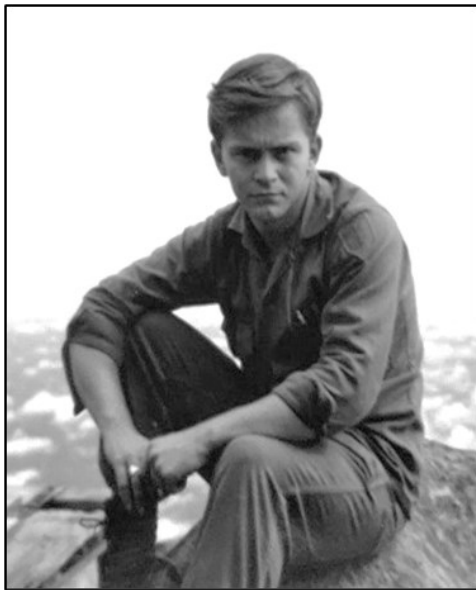
By *Adrianna & Robert Odomirok*
And *Colonel (Ret.) Priscilla H. Hamilton*



Rudyk, Stephen Michael of Yorktown Heights, NY, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on January 21, 2023, at the age of 76, from complications after battling Multiple Sclerosis for over 40 years.

Stephen was born on April 17, 1946, to Michael and Stephania (nee Harapcio) Rudyk in a Displaced Person's camp in Schweinfurt, Germany. On March 24, 1949, at the age of 3, Stephen and his family boarded the ship "Marine Tiger" and sailed to Boston and were taken in by his Uncle Myxailo Lulka in Sykesville, Pennsylvania. Eventually, Stephen and his family moved to and settled in New York City.

He attended St. George Academy and was a long-time parishioner of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, where he served as an altar boy and attended Ukrainian Saturday school. He enjoyed many hobbies, including being an avid skier and tennis player, playing the violin, and collecting stamps and coins. One of his first jobs was as a waiter at the Ukrainian restaurant/bar Orchidea, a well-known hangout for Ukrainians on the Lower East Side.



Stephen atop Black Virgin Mountain.

On May 5, 1966, Stephen Michael Rudyk, Service Number: US 51 606 395, entered the U. S. Army from New York City as a Private (E-1) – he was 20 years old.

After completing Basic Training, he did his 12-week Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, from May 16 through July 8, 1966, becoming a 31"Mike" – Radio Relay & Carrier Operator. From December 1966 to December 1967, Steve was assigned to "Charlie" Company, 121st Signal Battalion in Viet Nam, supporting the 1st Infantry Division – "The Big Red One" – one of the most storied divisions in the Army's history.

In Viet Nam, the 1st Infantry Division had a huge territory of operations, extending from the South China Sea westward to the border of Cambodia, and southward including the capital of South Viet Nam, Saigon. Those who study history or are Viet Nam veterans may recall names like Iron Triangle, Rocket City and Highway 13. This was the Big Red One's footprint. Within the flat region of the Mekong Delta lies Black Virgin Mountain. This was a strategic location and in May 1964 the mountain was assaulted by the Mobile Strike Force Command and then held by American forces. The 121 Signal Battalion established a radio relay station, call sign Granite Romeo Tango helping command everything in its sight, and this is where Stephen played a major role as a radio operator. The 121 Signal Battalion was the longest serving Signal unit in the Army, having been formed in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

A signal unit provides communication links between Army units in an area of operation, and connects with other signal units. An Army can't conduct effective combat operations unless it can communicate. Soldiers like Stephen operated the equipment that enabled that communication. Often, they were placed on hilltops to increase the range of the radios. This placed them squarely in range of defoliants and bombs and were always considered high-value targets by the enemy – it was dangerous and vital work. During Stephen's year of Viet Nam service, he earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Viet Nam Service Medal with 2 stars, indicating his participation in



Stephen at a radio relay station, 121st Signal Battalion

2 of the named 17 campaigns of the Viet Nam war - Counteroffensives II and III, the Viet Nam Campaign Medal and the Meritorious Unit Commendation by being part of the 121 Signal Battalion. He was promoted to Specialist 4 (T) – meaning Technician – on June 21, 1967, while still in Viet Nam.



A real American Hero

Steve returned to Fort Riley, KS after his tour in Viet Nam, and was discharged to the U.S. Army Reserves on May 3, 1968, finishing his active term of service after 1 year, 11 months and 29 days. He completed his obligation to the Army and was honorably discharged on May 4, 1972. Later he would serve for twenty years as a New York Selective Service Board member. Stephen did his duty to his country and its ideals. The motto of the 121 Signal Battalion is “Do Well the Duty That Lies Before You.” Stephen did just that - diligently, honorably, and bore the burden of that duty for the rest of his life.

Upon discharge, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and earned a BA in Computer Science. While studying, he was a Ukrainian school history and geography teacher in Passaic, NJ.

While the Rudyk and Szkafarowsky families knew each other for many years, Stephen reunited with Olga Szkafarowsky at her parents’ 25th wedding anniversary, marrying just six months later on November 11, 1978, at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, NY. After their daughter Adrianna was born, they bought a home and settled in Yorktown Heights, NY. He began his career at Atlantic Richfield as a computer programmer, then became Manager of the traveler’s cheque department at American Express and eventually moved to Nestle Foods, where his family always enjoyed the free chocolate and Cup-o-Soup he’d bring home. Once his Multiple Sclerosis made it too difficult to work in the corporate world, he and his wife opened a shipping center, The PostAll Center, where he worked until his retirement.

A true patriot, his love for Ukraine ran deep, having visited twice. When the unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine by Russia began, he was outraged and devastated. Unable to help physically, he did not hesitate to contribute to various foundations that support the Ukrainian Armed Forces. He enjoyed Ukrainian culture, collected art from famous Ukrainian artists, downloaded many Ukrainian cartoons for his grandchildren to watch, and was his family’s source for grammar questions in Ukrainian. An active member of the Ukrainian community, he belonged to Plast Ukrainian Scouts. Beyond attending weekly meetings and special events, he spent many wonderful summers at Plast’s Vovcha Tropa in East Chatham, NY, as a camper and counselor. As a young adult, he joined Chervona Kalyna Kurin/Fraternity, serving for many years as the president of the committee which organizes the annual Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball. Stephen was also one of the founding members of the Ukrainian Veterans Association Branch Post 301 in Yonkers, NY, where over the years; he played an active role in planning many events and functions, including a zabava to ring in the new century.

Despite many challenges he faced due to his illness, he and his wife had a passion for travel. He visited 49 states and 90 countries over his lifetime via road trips and cruises, even enjoying a wheel-chair accessible hot air balloon ride in Albuquerque, NM, and a most recent cruise down the Amazon River in Brazil. Stephen will always be remembered for his knack for storytelling and his love of politics. As a staunch Republican, Stephen worked on Richard Nixon’s presidential campaign and attended his inaugural ball in Washington, DC. He loved watching the news, especially 60 Minutes each Sunday, calling his father after each episode to discuss the stories reported on the show. He read the newspaper religiously, including The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, staying abreast of events worldwide, and was always ready to help his children with current events homework. He had a good sense of humor, beautiful blue eyes, and a loving smile. He was his wife’s best friend, and nothing made him happier than being surrounded by his grandchildren.



L/R State Commander Peter Polny, Stephen Rudyk wife Olga at the 75th UAV Convention Philadelphia, PA 2022

Left to mourn his passing are: Beloved Wife Olga Szkafarowsky Rudyk, Daughter Adrianna Odomirok (Robert), Son Nicholas Rudyk (Kelly), Grandchildren: Yarema and Stefan Odomirok, Melanie, Natalie, Nicholas Jr and Michaela Rudyk, Brother-in-Law Stefan Szkafarowsky (Stefania), Sister-in-Law Lillianna Chudolij (Alexander), Nieces and Nephews: Alexandra Szkafarowsky (Scott Bernitt), Petro Chudolij, Danylo Szkafarowsky, Cousins: Nadia Fanik, Priscilla Hamilton (Gary), Heidi Florczak (Richard), Kimberly Hamilton, Orysia Komarynsky, Myron Rudyk (Rosemary), Nusia Ross. As well as additional family members and friends in the United States, Canada and Ukraine.

WWII - RARE GERMAN WEAPONS

Submitted by: Bohdan Dudycz, PR Officer

The Krummlauf (English: "curved barrel") is a bent barrel attachment for the Sturmgewehr 44 (StG 44) rifle developed by Germany in World War II. The curved barrel included a periscope sighting device for shooting around corners from a safe position.

The bent barrel attachments had very short lifespans - approximately 300 rounds for the 30° version, and 160 rounds for the 45° variant - as the barrel and bullets fired were put under great stress. Another problem besides the short life-span was that the bending caused the bullets to shatter and exit the barrel in multiple fragments, producing an unintended shotgun effect.



During WWII, the Germans produced a variant of their Sturmgewehr 44 - the world's first mass-produced assault rifle - with a curved barrel so that it could be fired from cover or concealment, particularly to hose down "cling-on" enemy infantry swarming on the outside of a tank. Dubbed the "Krummlauf" after the German term for "curved barrel," these guns are rare today and fetch over \$60,000 at auction.

RARE WWII 30 CALIBER LUGER

The personal "Führer Escort Command" was called the FBK. It was originally an eight-man SS squad formed from a twelve-man security squad (known as the SS-Begleitkommando) tasked with protecting the life of Adolf Hitler during the early 1930s. Another bodyguard unit, the Reichssicherheitsdienst (Reich Security Service; RSD) was formed in 1933, and by the following year replaced the FBK in providing Hitler's overall security throughout Germany. The FBK continued under separate command from the RSD and provided close, personal security for Hitler.

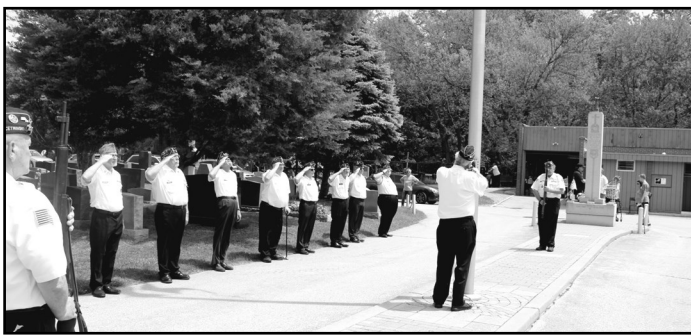
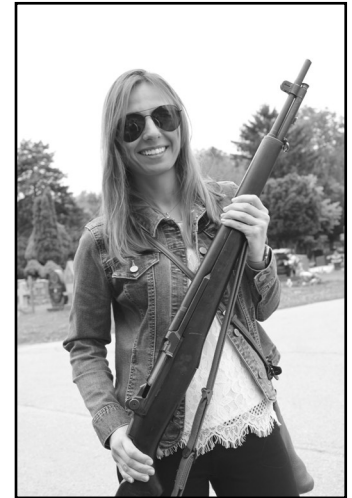
In Peter Hoffman's book "Hitler's Personal Security" he mentions the existence of these 30 cal. Night pistols with tracer ammunition and flashlight used by an RSD officer in constant patrol around the Fuehrer's bunker.



The P08 Luger "Night Pistol" [DWM 06/34, .30 Luger] was issued to Hitler's personal guard. Only two are known to exist. One sold on a Rock Island auction in 2012 for \$184,000.



Post 32 Chicago Memorial Day 2023

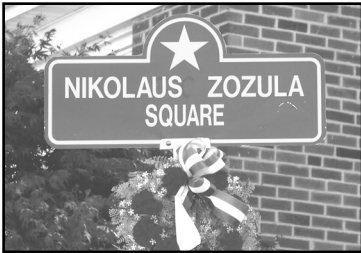


A VIETNAM STORY

Post 31 - Boston, MA

Submitted by: BGen Len Kondratiuk, PNC

This is a story about two Boston Ukrainian Americans best friends, who served in Vietnam at the same time, and became casualties of the war. John Baryski and Nick Zozula lived in the same Jamaica Plain neighborhood in Boston. Both were altar boys at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church. John and Nick were also members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association and its dance troupe. John and Nick even attended Boston English High School together. They were inseparable said Olya, John's wife. John was the jokester and Nick was the serious one.



It was 1969 and both had finished college. Just as they had done everything together as boys, now as men, both volunteered for the draft with the expectation of going to Vietnam, John and Nick stood together when they took the oath on 20 September 1968 at the Boston Army Base. They both took basic training at Fort Dix, NJ. At the end of basic training, Nick who was strong in math, was given a Signal Corps MOS and sent to communications school. John was sent to infantry AIT.

John deployed to Vietnam in March 1969 and was assigned to Company B, 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). The division was called the 1st Air Cav because it was the only division in the U.S. Army that relied on helicopters as its primary mode of transportation. Nick arrived in Vietnam in April 1969 and was assigned to Battery C, 1st Battalion, 17th Artillery Regiment. The battery was positioned by itself on a lonely firing point far from reinforcements.

John and Nick wrote letters to each other as that was their only means of communication. Both saw extensive combat. John was an outstanding infantryman and quickly rose through the ranks from PFC to Sergeant squad leader. John volunteered for a dangerous mission to locate a missing ammo container mistakenly dropped in the jungle. John rappelled from a helicopter, hooked the container and was hoisted back on. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his exploit.

Nick's unit often came under fire from the NVA. On 2 November 1969, Battery C came under a heavy attack. The artillerymen switched to firing M16s and M60s. Many GIs were wounded with shouts of medic. Nick heard the calls for help and left the protected commo bunker to engage the enemy. While firing his M16, Nick was hit by enemy fire and died within minutes.



SGT John Barski Vietnam 1970

John kept sending letters to Nick that went unanswered. John asked his company commander to contact Nick's unit. Days later, John was summoned to the commander's hootch where he was told that his best friend had been killed in action. John was crushed, however, he had a job to do. His squad relied on him and John had to lead through several months of combat. John was wounded twice but refused the award of the Purple Heart since he did not want his family to worry about him. John also extended his service in Vietnam in order to get an early release from active duty. His company commander had him transferred to battalion headquarters which took him out of combat. John had served his time on the frontline.

When he arrived at Fort Dix, NJ for discharge at the end of April 1970, he was wearing the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, two Army Commendation Medals with Valor devices, the Good Conduct Medal, the Air Medal, two Vietnam Campaign Medals and the National Defense Service Medal. This was an impressive rack of ribbons.

John had a hard time dealing with Nick's death. When John returned home, he had to see Nick's mother. It was a difficult visit. John organized a Cossack dance group which raised funds in Nick's memory.

John married Olya and they raised their sons Paul and Andrew. He had a very successful career in sales with Sherwin-Williams and was consistently one of the top salesman in the company.

(continued on Page 15)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14) **A VIETNAM STORY...**

In May 1999, John complained to Olya that he was not feeling well. His health deteriorated while his doctors tried to figure out the cause of his illness. It turned out John was suffering from the effects of Agent Orange.

Despite his health condition, John continued to live his life as best as possible. He was one of the original members of Post 31. In 2001, he was hospitalized for four months. He had to wear leg braces. In 2008, his health worsened. Olya took him to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. John was hospitalized with renal failure but rallied and was released after nine days. John fought for another four years.

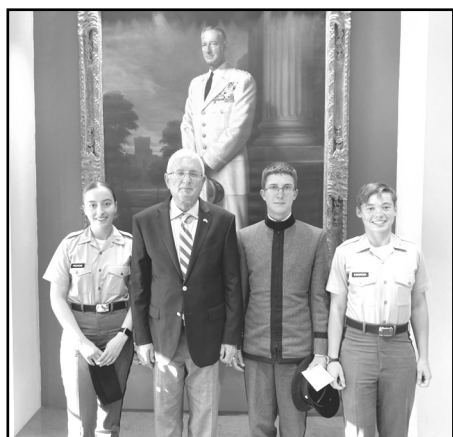


John was too sick to attend the ceremony in April 2012 when Boston Mayor Tom Menino dedicated Zozula Square. Finally, on 7 August 2012, John passed away. A large portion of the Boston Ukrainian community attended John's funeral and burial. I noticed many moist eyes when the Massachusetts Army National Guard honors detail fired three volleys followed by Taps. John and Nick, life-long friends, were now together again.

John Barski 2nd from left & Nick Zozula 3rd from right



UKRAINIAN CADETS MEET OUR GENERAL



In Feb 2023, PNC Len Kondratiuk visited his alma mater The Citadel Military College. He met with three Ukrainian cadets who received full four-year scholarships. He also met MAJ Serhiy Ponomorov, a Ukrainian immigrant, now teaching supply chain management at the college. (L/R) are Cadet Katerina Govorova, PNC Kondratiuk, Cadet Olena Fedinova, Cadet Oleksii Syniushyn. The cadets received the UAV challenge coin and copies of the UAV TRIBUNE. The photo was taken in front of the portrait of GEN Mark Clark who was president of The Citadel where he served for twelve years.



MESSAGE FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

Welcome to our convention. This is the time when all delegates can stock up on UAV memorabilia and UAV uniform patches, hats, ties, pins, coins and more. I have a request for those who plan to order stock items.

If you will be a delegate and come to the convention, see me and I will work with you to supply all of your needs. If you can't come to Suzy Q but wish to acquire UAV products, call or email me with your requests. The Quartermaster's contact information is found on page 23 of this issue. I need your cooperation to reduce shipping and handling costs.

- A. If your post has several members who wish to purchase items from me then would you please place one order for all items and I will ship them to a contact person in your post. Shipping in bulk saves us money.**
- B. If items are needed for the convention, please, please, please place your orders by August 15, 2023. and I will have them ready for you on September 21st.**
- C. If you plan to attend the festival at Soyuzivka - at Kerhonkson, NY on July 14 & 15, 2023, stop by at the Quartermaster's table and support our UAV efforts.**

THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



I am a fellow veteran interested in becoming a member of the UAV.

I was honorably discharged.

I am still serving honorably.



PLEASE PRINT

BRANCH OF SERVICE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE CELL

EMAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Merch. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. National Guard
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Reserves
<u>DATES OF SERVICE</u>	

I affirm that I have served honorably and have a DD214 showing an Honorable Discharge

My check for \$25.00 is enclosed (waived for 1st year)

Please return this application and payment to the selected Post Commander

Select Post	Commander							
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Edward A. Zetick	740 Dale Rd.	Huntingdon Valley	PA	19006-8319	215-885-2826		
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Michael P. Hrycak	805 Weat End Place	Cranford	NJ	07016	980-272-1716		
<input type="checkbox"/>	14 Ihor B. Rudko	44 Jurach Road	Colchester	CT	06415-2106	860-705-1849		
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Michael Wowk	187 Butternut Lane	Kensington	CT	06030-1204	860-827-8600		
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Michael Fedorko	84 Van Ness	Rutherford	NJ	07070	551-238-9590		
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 William Szozda	66 North William Street	Pearl River	NY	10965-1820	845-920-8325		
<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Markian Slabyk	25 Stearns St	Lackawanna	NY	14218-2703	716-481-0543		
<input type="checkbox"/>	24 Roman Rakowsky	1881 Jacqueline Dr.	Parma	OH	44134-6849	440-476-1188		
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 Gregory Posewa	5 Aqua Terrace	Hamilton Twp.	NJ	08620-9738	609-259-2763		
<input type="checkbox"/>	26 Yaromyr Oryshkewych	430 Randolph Rd.	Silver Springs	MD	20904-3538	301-646-4222		
<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Peter Polnyj	225 High Road	Glen Spey	NY	12737-8002	718-869-3634		
<input type="checkbox"/>	28 Roman Kostiuk	3966 April Drive	Uniontown	OH	44685-9358	330-896-4166		
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Anna Krawczuk	18 Telegraph Hill Road	Holmdel	NJ	07733-1431	773-888-0494		
<input type="checkbox"/>	31 Stephen J. Kostecki	34 West Britannia St. #2	Taunton	MA	02780-1853	508-245-1890		
<input type="checkbox"/>	32 Peter Bencak	2135 W. Potomac Ave.	Chicago	IL	60622-8270	773-489-2757		
<input type="checkbox"/>	33 Carl Harvey	841 Alling Road	Orange	CT	06477-1352	203-848-4860		
<input type="checkbox"/>	40 Ihor Hron	201 Osprey Point Drive	Osprey	FL	34229-9234	941-270-2413		
<input type="checkbox"/>	42 Bohdan Zelechiwsky	403 4th Street	West Easton	PA	18042-6115	610-972-3712		
<input type="checkbox"/>	43 Michael J. Dobransky	17 Miriam Street	Johnson City	NY	13790-6658	607-729-0334		
<input type="checkbox"/>	101 Matthew Wroblewski	25195 Pine View Ave.	Warren	MI	48091-1564	586-755-9575		
<input type="checkbox"/>	301 Nicholas Skirka	109 Windsor Terrace	Yonkers	NY	10701-1512	914-965-3707		

Any person of Ukrainian descent shall be eligible for membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. if such person has served in the Armed Forces of the United States and has been honorably discharged.

Any person who is not of Ukrainian descent, but who meets other requirements of Section 1 and is married to a person of Ukrainian descent will be eligible for full membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc.

Any person who meets the eligibility for membership in the Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. but who resides in a locality where there is no established Post may apply as a Member-at-Large. An application will be submitted to the National Executive Board for final approval. A Member-at-Large shall be entitled to all rights and privileges. Members-at-Large should join a member Post in their location. Individuals who want to join a local post should contact that post directly.



**Individuals wishing to become Members at Large should contact
Matthew Wroblewski, National Vice Commander,**

For more information please visit our web site at: <http://www.uavets.org>



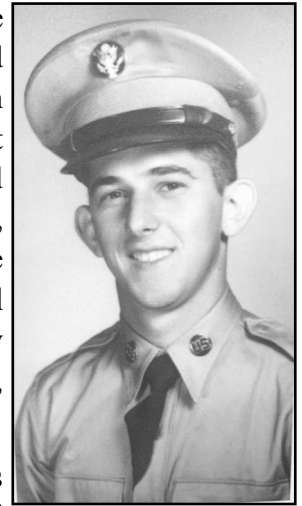
Effective 4/1/2023

BERNARD KRAWCZUK 1935-2023

Co-Founder Post 30

Submitted by: LTC Michael P. Hrycak, USA, Ret.

Bernard Krawczuk, Army Veteran, entered into Eternal Life on May 20, 2023. He was born on August 28, 1935, in Drahovo, Zakarpatska Oblast, Ukraine. He and Anna Krawczuk, Past National Commander, were founding members of the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 30, Freehold, New Jersey. Bernard became second Post Commander. Eventually they were both elected to the UAV National Board, Bernard as Public Relations Officer, editor of the organization's newsletter, the UAV Tribune, which he edited for 16 years. From 2004 Bernard and Anna were also members of the UAV National Monument Committee and participated in the UAV National Monument Dedication Ceremony, which was held on October 3, 2015, at St. Andrew



Pvt. Bernard Krawczuk 1957



1/r Mathew Koziak, PNC, Anna Krawczuk, PNC, Michael Hrycak, National Judge Advocate

Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Bernard was a World War II refugee, whose family was in Austria until his aunt sponsored them and they arrived in the United States on April 17, 1948, living in New Jersey. Bernard enlisted in the New Jersey Army National Guard, and was mobilized for Active Duty September 1, 1955, and demobilized and discharged September 16, 1961. That same year Bernard met his future wife Anna Osinska, who was also a US Army veteran. They were married on June 9, 1962, at the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church. They welcomed their son Myron Bohdan Krawczuk, and later the family moved to Holmdel, New Jersey.

Bernard's funeral mass was on May 27, 2023, at the same church where he was married, followed by a burial, with full military honors, at St. Andrew's Cemetery in S. Bound Brook, New Jersey.

He has left us, but his memory will remain eternal.

UAV IN ACTION AT OUR UAV NATIONAL MONUMENT ST. THOMAS SUNDAY 2023

Submitted by: LTC Michael P. Hrycak, USA, Ret.

Once again, the Ukrainian American Veterans participated in the St. Thomas Sunday service celebrated on April 23, 2023, by Metropolitan Antony and Member at Large Archbishop Daniel and Post 6, Newark, New Jersey, member, Father James Cairns.



Our members included three Past National Commanders, Leonid Kondratiuk (Massachusetts), Matt Koziak (Pennsylvania), Ed Zettick (Pennsylvania), as well as State Commanders Peter Polny, New York, and Michael Hrycak, New Jersey. Post 17, New Jersey, was represented by Zenko Halkowycz and Andrew Hadzewycz, and Post 19, Spring Valley, New York, Commander, William Szozda, Post 301, Yonkers, New York, Commander, Nicholas Skirka.

Brutal New Rifle Design Literally Doubles Firepower, Drops Bad Guys “Like Flies”

Jack Davis, The Western Journal



Everyone knows about the double-barrel shotgun, a standby on farms across America for generations. The Gilboa Snake is a very advanced upgrade of the two-muzzle concept that can fire 1,000 shots per minute, according to the U.K.'s Daily Star. It reported that two SAS soldiers used the Snake when they killed up to 12 Islamic State fighters in less than a minute in northern Syria. No names were used in this report, but the tale was told this way by its source.

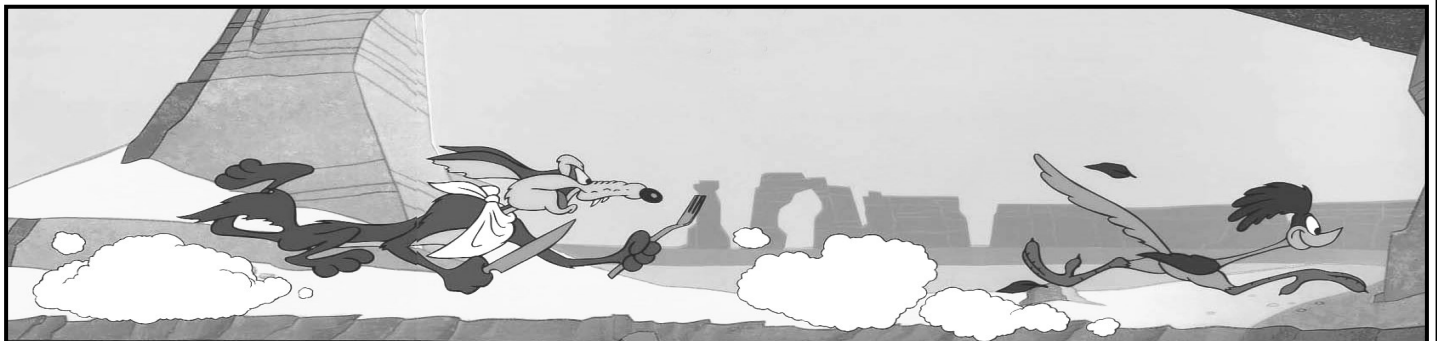
“The troops opened fire on a group of men loading explosives into a car. The six-man SAS team opened up but most of the fire came from two guys armed with the Gilboa,” the source said.

“The two soldiers fired burst after burst and the insurgents dropped like flies - the weapon really is a force multiplier.”

“The great thing about the weapon is that if one side of it jams the other will still fire - and every time you pull the trigger you are hitting the target with a double burst,” the source said. Lasers can be added to the rifle, allowing it to have precision at 800 meters. Shots fired at a range of 100m in a 20-round burst can accurately hit a target, the report said.

The rifle was designed by the Israel company Silver Shadow and Gilboa USA, according to [Spec-Ops](#) magazine, and comes in a civilian semi-automatic version.

The gun does have one downside - given its rate of fire, it burns through ammunition.



Muscovite Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

VIETNAM CHRONICLES I

(a collaborative reflection)

Submitted by: State Commander Peter Polny & Clif Schans

ALONG THE DMZ – 1967-1968

DONG HA COMBAT BASE

Đông Hà Combat Base (also known as Camp Spillman or simply Đông Hà) is a former U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army base northwest of Quảng Trị in central Vietnam. The base was in Đông Hà, 13 km northwest of Quảng Trị on Highway 9 near the intersection with Highway 1 and approximately 10 km south of the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The base was first used by the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines in late April 1966. 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines was deployed by air to the base on 29 May in Operation Reno to support the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces in sweeps around Đông Hà. During this period the U.S. Air Force (USAF) installed a Combat Skyspot radar system at the airfield where 6 USAF radar technicians were killed in an ambush on 5 June 6 km south of the base. The Marines departed Đông Hà on 8 June. On 22 June the Marines' "Task Force Charlie" comprising two Force Reconnaissance Companies, Companies from 2nd Battalion 1st Marines and 3/4 Marines and Battery H 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines deployed to Đông Hà and Cam Lộ. Numerous US marine and army units rotated through the base, and several artillery units were based there.

In mid-July Đông Hà was used by the Marines as a helicopter base and logistics area in support of Operation Hastings and Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) established a forward base at this time. Following the completion of Operation Hastings on 3 August, the Marines kept a force at Đông Hà comprising 2/4 Marines, elements of the 3rd Engineer Battalion, Marine logistics troops, MAG-16 and the Army's 220th Assault Helicopter Company and these forces were immediately used to launch Operation Prairie.

On 10 October the 3rd Marine Division established a forward headquarters at Đông Hà to counter an expected People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) attack through the DMZ. Đông Hà became an increasingly important forward base supporting USMC operations along the DMZ and its airfield was lengthened to accommodate C-130 transports. In addition a LCU/YFU offloading facility operated by the Naval Support Activity Detachment, Dong Ha was developed to receive supplies ferried from the Cửa Việt Base.

On 12 April 1967 the 9th Marines moved their headquarters to Đông Hà. On the night of 27/8 April the base was hit by more than 50 PAVN 140mm rockets.[3]:21 On the early morning of 18 May more than 150 140mm rockets hit the base killing 11 Marines and wounding 91. In mid-May BLT 3/4 Marines was landed by air at Đông Hà to participate in Operation Hickory. Đông Hà was intended to form a supporting base for the McNamara Line and supported USMC forces engaged at Con Thien. On 26 August the base was hit by 150 PAVN artillery and rockets in 3 separate attacks destroying 2 helicopters and damaging 24 others. On 3 September PAVN rockets hit the ammunition dump and fuel storage facility causing a huge explosion that damaged 17 helicopters of HMM-361 and wounded 77 Marines. 3 September 1967 attack convinced the Marines that Đông Hà was too vulnerable to PAVN artillery and rocket attack to continue to be used as a helicopter facility and the Marines moved their units back to Phu Bai and Marble Mountain while the logistics base was moved to the new Quảng Trị Combat Base.

On 15 January 3 Marine Division moved its headquarters from Phu Bai to Đông Hà. On 26 February the base hit by more than 400 PAVN artillery and mortar rounds resulting in 1 Marine killed and several wounded, two Army observation aircraft were destroyed as well as ammunition and diesel storage facilities. On 29 April the PAVN 320th Division attacked An Binh, north of Đông Hà, this drew two Battalions of the ARVN 2nd Regiment into a running battle and the 1st Battalion 9th Marines was sent into support the ARVN resulting in a 7-hour long battle that left 11 Marines, 17 ARVN and over 150 PAVN dead. The following day the 3rd Battalion 9th Marines arrived to support the Marine/ARVN force and was ambushed north of Cam Vu, 20 Marines and 41 NVA were killed. Also on 30 April, a PAVN unit opened fire on a US Navy Clearwater patrol from entrenched positions near Dai Do, 2.5 km northeast of Đông Hà. . It was later discovered that four PAVN Battalions including the 48th and 56th from the 320th had established themselves at Dai Do.

(Continued on page 20)

The Battle of Dai Do lasted until 3 May and resulted in 81 Marines and over 600 PAVN killed. The PAVN engaged US and ARVN forces elsewhere around Đông Hà from 4–6 April, on the evening of 6 April the 2nd Brigade 1st Cavalry Division was deployed into Tru Kinh and on 9 April was ambushed by a PAVN force resulting in 16 U.S. dead for the loss of 80 PAVN. On 10 April a night attack north of Nhi Ha was broken up by air, artillery and naval support, 159 NVA were killed. After this the 320th had broken into small groups and was moving back towards the DMZ, from 9–17 May the 2nd Brigade reported killing 349 PAVN for the loss of 28 killed.

While it seemed that the 320th had abandoned their attempts to take Đông Hà this was just a temporary lull. On 22 May a unit from the 320th ran into a Company from 3rd Battalion 3rd Marines between Con Thien and Gio Linh and was caught in the open by Marine artillery and air support. East of Con Thien the 1st Battalion 4th Marines encountered another PAVN unit setting off a two-day battle as the PAVN tried to escape through the DMZ resulting in 23 Marines and 225 PAVN killed. On 25 May in actions at Dai Do and Nhi Ha 350 PAVN were killed. In two actions at Tru Kinh on 26 May over 56 PAVN were killed for the loss of 10 Marines, while the ARVN killed 110 PAVN north of Thuong Nghia. On 27 April the Marines killed 28 PAVN and by 30 May the 320th was attempting to escape through the Marine and ARVN cordon. Total PAVN losses in the second Battle of Đông Hà were over 1000 killed.

During 1968 units of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) made repeated attacks on the base, on one occasion destroying its ammunition dump. During these attacks, and in other actions in the general area, the PAVN suffered heavy casualties. On 14 May PAVN artillery destroyed 150 tons of munitions in the base's ammunition dump. On 20 June the base's ammunition dump was destroyed by PAVN artillery fire, closing the entire logistics facility for 6 days. In August another artillery attack killed 2 Marines and wounded 3 others and destroyed 6 vehicles. On 30 October 48 artillery rounds hit the base killing 1 Marine.

In September 1969 as part of Operation Keystone Cardinal the 3rd Marine Division began its withdrawal from Vietnam and by early October the Marines had handed over control of their tactical area of operations (including the Đông Hà base) to the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division and the ARVN 1st Division. In 1970 the Marines 5th 175mm Gun Battery kept its command post at Đông Hà under the operational control of the 108th Artillery Group with its 175mm guns at Camp Carroll and 8in guns at FSB A-2. A small number of Marines remained at Đông Hà as part of the ANGLICO unit supporting the ARVN 1st Division.

By January 1972 the ARVN 3rd Division had assumed responsibility for the defense of Đông Hà and the area north of Highway 9. At the start of the Easter Offensive on 30 March 1972 the 25th Marine Brigade was deployed to Đông Hà to support the 3rd Division. By 1 April the PAVN had broken through the ARVN defensive positions along the DMZ and north of the Cam Lo River and fragmented ARVN units and terrified civilians began withdrawing to Đông Hà. By 11:00 on 2 April the ARVN 20th Tank Battalion moved forward to Đông Hà to support the 3rd Marine Battalion and 25th Marine Brigade in and around the town and defend the crucial road and rail bridges across the Cua Viet River. Marine ANGLICO units called in naval gunfire to hit PAVN forces near the bridges on the north bank of the river and destroyed 4 PT-76 amphibious tanks east of Đông Hà. More tanks were hit by a Republic of Vietnam Air Force A-1 Skyraider before it was shot down. At midday PAVN tanks attempted to force the road bridge but 6 tanks were destroyed by fire from the ARVN 20th Tank's M48s. At approximately 1 pm Captain John Ripley, an adviser to the Vietnamese Marines, swung under the road bridge and spent 3 hours installing demolition charges to destroy the bridge. The bridge was blown up at 16:30 and the damaged railway bridge was destroyed around the same time temporarily halting the PAVN advance. Naval gunfire and a B-52 strike were soon directed at PAVN forces gathered on the northern bank. At 18:00 a USAF EB-66 was shot down west of Đông Hà and a no fire zone was imposed around the area allowing the PAVN to capture the Cam Lo Bridge intact.

Over the next two weeks PAVN forces kept up a barrage of artillery, mortar and small arms fire on the ARVN positions and infiltrated small units across the river in boats. On 7 April the Marines withdrew from Đông Hà leaving the defense to the 1st ARVN Armored Brigade, 20th Tank Battalion, the 4th and 5th Ranger Groups and the 57th Regiment.

(continued on page 21)

On 18 April the PAVN 308th Division attacking from the southwest attempted to outflank Đông Hà but were repulsed. On 28 April the commander of the 20th Tank Battalion withdrew from Đông Hà to deal with a PAVN force threatening the Ái Tử Combat Base, seeing the tanks leaving the soldiers of the 57th Regiment panicked and abandoned their positions leading to the collapse of the ARVN defensive line.

In late October the ARVN began attacks north of Quảng Trị to try to regain positions along the south bank of the Cua Viet River. The attacks were met with a stiff PAVN response and were stopped at the Thạch Hãn River. A further attack from the coast by the Vietnamese Marines in November made limited gains. As the ongoing peace negotiations would soon lead to a ceasefire, the South Vietnamese Joint General Staff sought the most advantageous battlefield positions possible and so ordered a further effort to regain the south bank of the Cua Viet River. In mid-January 1973 an attack by the Marines succeeded in recapturing the Cua Viet Base but was stopped some 5 km east of Đông Hà. On 27 January in accordance with the provisions of the Paris Peace Accords a ceasefire in place took effect across South Vietnam.

CAM LO

Cam Lộ Combat Base (also known as Hill 37 or simply Cam Lộ) is a former U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army, and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) base northwest of Quảng Trị in central Vietnam. 1966–67 The base was established in the town of Cam Lộ 15 km west of Đông Hà and 20 km northwest of Quảng Trị between Highway 9 and the Miêu Giang or Cam Lộ River only approximately 7 km south of the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

On 22 June the Marines' "Task Force Charlie" comprising two Force Reconnaissance Companies, Companies from 2nd Battalion 1st Marines and 3/4 Marines and Battery H 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines deployed to Đông Hà Combat Base and Cam Lộ. On 28 June a People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) mortar attack on Cam Lộ killed 2 Marines and wounded 5. On 14 July in preparation for Operation Hastings, General Lowell English established his command post at Cam Lộ with security provided by 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines and artillery support from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines.[2]:161–4 Following the completion of Operation Hastings, the artillery and tanks from the 3rd Tank Battalion remained at Cam Lộ with security provided by 2 Companies from 2/4 Marines. The artillery and tanks were used to support Marine patrols into the DMZ as part of Operation Prairie.

On the early morning of 26 August, the 812th Regiment of the PAVN 324B Division attacked Cam Lộ resulting in 9 Marines killed and 20 wounded. From February–March 1967 the Marines launched Operation Prairie II a series of sweeps from Cam Lộ to Con Thien resulting in 93 Marines and 694 PAVN killed. In March 1967 Route 9 west of Cam Lộ was reopened to Khe Sanh for the first time since 1964. The road would suffer numerous ambushes making it dangerous if not altogether unusable.

Cam Lộ was intended to form a supporting base for the McNamara Line and provided artillery support USMC forces engaged at Con Thien. Route 561 which ran from Cam Lộ was the main supply route to Con Thien, Cam Lộ formed one corner of what became known as Leatherneck Square, with the other corners being Con Thien, Firebase Gio Linh and Đông Hà Combat Base 1968–69. In January 1968 Cam Lộ was occupied by artillery of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines with security provided by the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines.

Cam Lo battle 1968 - At approximately 020215H At 02:15 on 2 February the Vietcong 27th Independent Battalion attacked the Cam Lộ district headquarters resulting in 3 U.S. and 111 Vietcong killed. CPL Larry L. Maxam would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the engagement. CAC Hq. started receiving incoming 82mm mortars (initial volley of about 100-150 rounds). This was followed by a ground attack utilizing RPG's, RR, and small arms. The initial RPG rounds penetrated the main CAC, COC area killing the sub-sector advisor (Major Payne), two ARVN personnel, wounding two other USMC personnel, and destroying all radios except one. Capt. R. L. McMaken USA assumed command of the compound and adjusted artillery to box the position in. The 1/40th then provided immediate support. A call then by Capt. McMaken at approximately 0220 notified Quang Tri that they were under heavy ground attack and that a Spooky was needed.

(continued on page 22)

The attack seemed to come from three directions - mainly from the south, west and northeast. The Spooky arrived in the general vicinity in good time but could not get orientated to the position until about 0430H.

In the interim period artillery illumination was adjusted from Cam Lo (4.2") and Dong Ha (155mm), there were approximately three rows of wire around the compound and in two areas there were enemy personnel who made it into the third row of wire but were cut down before they could penetrate the burn that surrounded the compound. 25 NVA bodies were counted at the in front of my bunker to the right northwest corner and approximately 15 bodies at the northeast corner. Also of interest was the fact that the NVA had dug prone positions about one foot in depth at the northeast salient, the two quad .50's present at the compound were hit by RPG's or RR within 20 minutes of the first incoming. We found only pools of blood, remnants of the men manning the quad 50's. Enemy contact was furious until approximately 020615H at which time the contact was limited to scattered small arms fire. Due to the furious fighting at the compound and the extreme accuracy of the friendly artillery the enemy was forced to withdraw.

A reaction force composed of two platoons and two dusters from 2/9 was dispatched to aid the CAC Hqtrs and arrived at approx. 020630H. The reaction force then swept to the north of the CAC Hqtrs position, but south of the Song Cam Lo River. This succeeded in trapping some of the enemy as they were making their escape across the river. Captain McKight in charge of 2/9 reaction force claimed that 8 confirmed and 2 prisoners from this separate action. A reaction force from Don Ha consisting of 3 tanks, two Dusters, two Quad 50's and approx. 100 troops left Dong Ha at 020600H and arrived in the CAC Hqtrs at approx. 0730H. Upon moving in the compound, it was learned that a bulk of the enemy forces withdrew to the southeast and northwest, the reaction force from Dong Ha was quickly organized and swept around the perimeter to the south and north of the perimeter. The quick aggressive, follow-up action accounted for the collection of the large number of POW's and prevented the enemy from reacting in the immediate vicinity. A list of the cumulative losses as of 021500H included the following: 2 USMC KIA, 1 USA KIA, 81 NVA (conf), 22 Detainees, 42 IWC, 13 CSWC, 18 USMC WIA (Medevac).

The 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry was based at Cam Lộ from July to October 1968,[5] being replaced by the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines. In July 1969 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines assumed responsibility for the Cam Lộ area. In September 1969 as part of Operation Keystone Cardinal the 3rd Marine Division began its withdrawal from Vietnam and by early October the Marines had handed over control of their tactical area of operations (including the Cam Lộ base) to the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division.

1970–72: By January 1972 the ARVN 3rd Division had assumed responsibility for the area north of Highway 9. The PAVN launched their Easter Offensive on 30 March 1972 and by 1 April the PAVN had broken through the ARVN defensive positions along the DMZ and north of the Cam Lo River. On the afternoon of 2 April, the road and rail bridges at Đông Hà were destroyed temporarily halting the advance of PAVN armor down Route 1, however at 18:00 a USAF EB-66 was shot down west of Đông Hà and a no fire zone was imposed around the area allowing the PAVN to capture the Cam Lo Bridge intact. PAVN forces moved across the bridge rolling up ARVN defensive positions south of the river before finally being halted south of Quảng Trị. Cam Lộ would remain in North Vietnamese hands for the rest of the war.

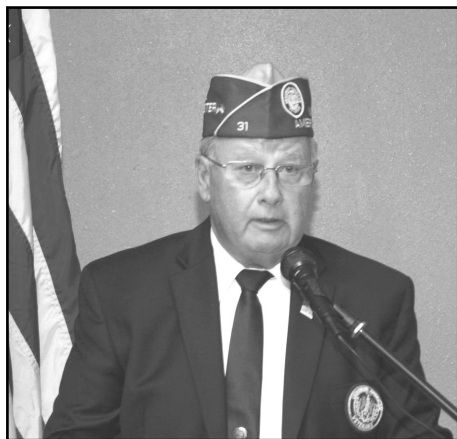


Peter Polny Camp Carroll, VN. DMZ. 1967

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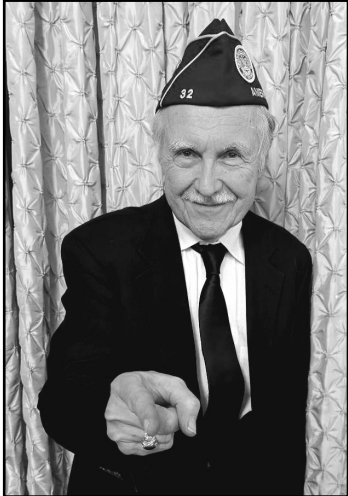


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