

My name is Daniel C. Davenport. I was a SP-4 in HHC, 589th Engr. Bn. from late Jan or early Feb 66 to Nov 67. I was drafted in Nov 65, I went to basic training at Ft. Gordon, GA, and AIT at Ft. Jackson, and was given orders (after leave) to report to the 589th Engr. Bn at Ft. Hood, Texas.

I arrived at Ft. Hood (I forget if it was late Jan or early Feb) and tried to locate the unit. The 589th was nowhere to be found, nobody had ever heard of it before on base. I went to the Ft. Hood headquarters with my orders, and about 4 hours later they told me I was the very first to arrive for a new battalion that was being formed. I was taken to an old set of barracks that they called the "Old Hospital Area". I was given a bunk, and bedding and directed to the nearest mess hall. They told me to just hang out, others will be along shortly. Two days later they started filtering in. The Sergeant Major was one of the first to arrive after me. My MOS was COMMO (field wireman) but he looked at me and said Davenport you are going to be my message runner. This job required a Secret clearance so I was given a clearance, and I picked up and delivered correspondence from the 589th to base Headquarters. Our training at Ft. Hood was quite intense. We qualified with the M-14, M-60, and of course I'll never forget the gas chamber. Message runner was really a great job. I even had my own jeep driver (His name was George Grills). One day I delivered a message to the C.O.'S office and it was our deployment orders.

We traveled by train from Ft. Hood to Oakland, Ca through some very beautiful mountain ranges; it was a long train ride. When we arrived in Oakland we boarded the troop carrier "The General John Pope". The boat ride to Qui-Nhon took 18 days in a very overcrowded troop ship. I heard it was built to accommodate 3000 troops and we had 5000 on board. We stopped in Okinawa, and Subic Bay on the way over.

When we arrived in Vietnam we boarded LST's to go to shore. We got on 2 1/2's and went by convoy to our new temporary home on QL-19 at Cu Lam Nam. When we arrived there, it was nothing but sand and small hills. The dozer operators immediately went to work leveling ground for our new home. Soon carpenters began building the framework for our hooches and we, being HHC got the wonderful job of filling hundreds of sandbags. I was never so sick of shoveling in my life. I worked in the first tent to the left behind the red and white HQ sign. The C.O.'s office was the one to the right. The medical tent was just to the left as you approach the sign.

We were very fortunate while I was there. We had several "Red Alerts" but that was all. Because I was a short timer I remained as the message runner, and made many trips to Qui-Nhon, and An Khe, but luckily never had any trouble. I think the VC activity in our area was mainly due to the presence of the Korean ROK Tigers that were just down the road from our compound. They were some really bad Asses. That also reminds me of a very sad incident. A road grader operator from Co, D named David Enmon (from Texas) was working one night near a ROK bunker at a river crossing. David had become friends with one of the guards, and he was somewhere behind the bunker taking a nap. When that guard went off duty he forgot to tell his relief that David was back there. When David awoke he got on his hands and knees. The Korean guard saw him and thought he was the enemy, and beat him to death with his weapon before he realized he was an American. They brought him into our medical tent where he was DOA. We later heard the Korean was kicked out of the army, and that is very disgraceful to them. Another incident a group of small children were herding cattle or sheep near the ROK headquarters when one of them stepped on a mine. Several were killed and several were seriously injured. They brought them into our medical tent also. I got as far away as I could when they brought them in.

During my time there I served under Lt. Col. Snoke. Just before I left he was replaced by Lt. Col. Grum. I worked directly for Capt. Lawrence Doff. He was a great guy to work for. I went home in Nov 67, started a new job on Nov 27th 67 at Teledyne Continental Motors in Toledo Ohio. Ironically we build turbojet engines for the Harpoon Missile that is on nearly every warship in the world. I retired on Dec 31st 2009 after 42 years working at the same place. I was in supervision for all of those years at Teledyne. I also have a set of photos on our website showing our early days. God Bless you, and

Welcome Home Brother.

P.S

Thanks for Dan Davenport's write-up. He was, indeed a major player at Fort Hood, keeping us 'plugged-in" with the Fort Hood hierarchy as we busted our backs bringing the 589th up to strength; moving from Advance Individual training to Advanced Unit training; receiving and preparing brand new equipment, coping with every visitor imaginable, from the Secretary of the Army on down, all of whom wanted to see how a newly organized unit was preparing for deployment; then loading up and moving out. Once we were in RVN, COL Snoke relied on Dan heavily and all of us in HHC did also.

I remember Dan well and figured that he would be successful where ever he would end up.

His perspective certainly adds another chapter to the 589th history that doesn't show up in the official records.

Regards,

Larry Doff