

**From:** Richard Holmes  
**To:** Harris,Roswell A.  
**Cc:** Norm Hahn  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020, 04:35:52 PM CST  
**Subject:** Dick Holmes MCB 62

Al,

Thanks for the note. So Buford was 1970 deployment. I remember Hill 55. I was on detachment the entire tour working on the SF camp airstrips. There were 9 or 10 of us. Do you remember an NC State flag flying at Hill 55? It was mine. I still have it. Paul was in H Company with me in the 69 tour as well as 70. He moved to Whiteville, NC which is where my mother's family is from. He married a girl from there. I did email him once years ago but no longer have his email. I think I got it from Norm's list. When I heard from him he did not seem to be doing well. I think he said he has PTSD. I feel guilty for not stopping by to see him.

I just got out the 70 cruise book. Believe it or not I do remember you. I was an EA3 too. A lot of the 69 crowd went in 70. Cheek Cataldo was a friend of Paul's and he was with me at the SF camps. Most of our team were from A Company being equipment operators and mechanics. Chief Hotopp wrote me up in Gulfport one time. Did not like him. Ed Sugg and I were both from NC so I was a good friend of his. He's had a hard time. Tim Day was a good friend as well as Frank McCoy and Jim Vest. All these folks were H Company. I only keep up with one fellow from MCB 62 days. He is Barry Condon and was in A Company but did not have a Seabee rate.

Where do you live?

Here's some 69 and 70 H Company tour photos. You should remember a lot of them.

Dick

Warren Wilson in middle. He was a smart fellow. 69 tour



Jim Vest in the EA hut. 70 tour



All the folks in MCB 62 from NC. That's the flag that flew at Hill 55. Back row is Ed Sugg and me from left. 70 tour





Frank McCoy in passenger seat 69 tour



Tim Day during 69 tour





Frank "Cheek" Cataldo. 69 tour. He and I were on the 70 SF detachment



David "Spider" Evans. I was in a card game when he won \$5800. Chief Ed Juchartz. I really liked him but he drank a lot. Good fellow.  
69 tour





H Company fellows I think waiting to deploy in 69. You should recognize several that did go in 70.  
 from left is Randie Butler, Carl Hix, Ed Sugg, Warren Wilson, Frank McCoy, John Collum, Jim Evans, Frank Guitierrez, ?,  
 Dan Witmer,  
 and ?.





Chief Hotopp 69 tour



Ed Sugg, 69 tour





Me and Ed Sugg. 69



Frank Cataldo 69 tour





Frank McCoy and me at my bunk in 69. Tim Day made me the CN Holmes sign. I was field promoted to EA3 during tour. I was happy being a CN so our Battalion Captain, John Paul Jones, Jr, promoted me.



?, Don Grubb, Jim Vest 70



On Jan 17, 2020, at 2:43 PM, Harris,Roswell A. wrote:

Hello Dick,

I'm forwarding you the email that I sent Norm earlier. I should have sent it to you as well as Norm originally, but pushed the wrong button. I was not on the 69 deployment, but was on the 70 and 71 deployments. I spent the 70 deployment on Detail Buford (Hill 55) with Paul Wollenhaupt, and then Detail Solomon on the 71 deployment.

Take care,  
AI

*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.* Edmund Burke

**From:** Harris,Roswell A.

**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 1:37 PM

**To:** Norm Hahn

**Subject:** RE: A special email about the 2020 reunion

Hello Norm!

Thank you for your letter of 16 January. You have been busy, and I very much appreciate what you do on behalf of the NMCB 62 Alumni Group.



My wife and I don't travel very far any more so unfortunately we will not be able to make the Gulfport reunion. However, I have gone back through some old boxes and come up with a few things that might be of interest.

1. A listing of all the incidents and casualties along LTL-4 while we were there. I got the list from Paul Wollenhaupt, who kept a journal during the deployment. On a side note, I lost contact with Paul a couple of years ago. I've emailed and called him with no response. I've also spoken to Ron Barker, who visited Paul and few years ago, but has also lost contact. Perhaps you could put out an inquiry to see if anyone knows anything about his condition. I know he was having some health issues the last time I had contact with him.
2. The most current roster of the Hill 55 group available. It was compiled by EOMC Wood, and supersedes the one on the 62 web page.
3. Two letters from MC Wood transmitting his efforts in keeping the Hill 55 roster current. I included these just to have a record of MC Wood's efforts.
4. The Hill 55 Group photo with the only names I can remember. I'm not sure about Sam Bass and John Tye. I am sure about me and Ron Roth though. I have not been able to locate the original photo, but am still looking. I have a clean digital copy if you need it.
5. You have a copy of the September 1970 Seabeacon on the 62 web page. There's a write-up on the LTL-4 detail on pages 8 and 9. Also there's a photo of a 14<sup>th</sup> century watch tower on the last page. This same structure withstood a nearby blast from the line charges used to detonate mines. It's shown during and after the blast on pictures 94,95, and 96 of the batch I sent you a while back.
6. The November 1970 Seabeacon has a nice piece written by LCDR Gerdel where he mentions the Hill 55 project. Page 7 of that publication has a picture of me operating a TD-20 dozer on LTL-4.
7. Although not related to Hill 55, I've attached a photo of the Operations group. I don't remember whether it was taken at Camp Haskins or Red Beach (it had to be either the beginning or the end of the deployment), but do remember a lot of the names (I wrote them down many years ago). The names are included with the photo. I thought this would add to the documentation of the 1970 deployment even if it's not tied directly to Hill 55.

I will continue to look for anything relevant in my stuff, and let you know if I find anything that might be of interest.

Thanks Norm!  
Al

*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.* Edmund Burke

**From:** Norm Hahn  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** Dick 62 F. Holmes ; Harris,Roswell A. ; Al 62 Harris  
**Cc:** Norm Hahn  
**Subject:** A special email about the 2020 reunion

Hi Dick and Al,

I wanted to email you specifically because at this reunion, at our Sunday morning NMCB 62 meeting, we are going to talk about Dets Buford and Barracuda and a few more lesser known Dets. Why? Because we don't have enough written about them (that is on our website) by the guys who were actually there.

And, Al, you have a photo that we need to get the names of the guys identified and recorded. Again why? Because we have had lots of guys pass away last year and their stories are lost forever. Have a few copies of the photo made and even blown up to larger size if you can.

If you both can come to the reunion, good. But if you can't then it's time to sit down at your computer and tell your story about Buford & Barracuda (and any other Det or event) from your personal perspective. A no BS story told by you. Al, if you can't make it, send me copies of the photo and I'll try to get the guys IDed.

----- end of Norm's edited email -----

Richard Holmes  
To:Norm Hahn  
Cc:Roswell A. Harris,Al 62 Harris  
Jan 17 at 1:13 PM  
Norm,

I looked in the 69 cruise book for a Roswell or Al Harris but did not find anything. Thought I might remember their faces.

If Buford is the detachment at The Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Cam Lo etc areas I think I sent you photos that I had taken in 1969. Chief Jacobs, who you may know became the "head" enlisted Seabee, kept a log. I actually got a call years ago from the family of the fellow who burned to death at The Rockpile in an accident involving gas fumes. You may remember that. I contacted Chief Jacobs who was living in Florida and he had it all written down in his log book. If he's still around, a copy of that log book would be good to have.

A friend of mine in England is a member of a Vietnam reenactment group. They are real serious about it. They are on Facebook at Rolling Thunder, The Vietnam Experience. Anyway, this friend did a website on Special Forces at Gia Vuc camp. He added other camps that included one I was at called Ha Thanh, A104. He asked me to write up my experiences at the camp. There about 10 of us Seabees that worked on SF camp airstrips during MCB62's 1970 deployment. You can print screen what I wrote and also the photos. The web site is Gia Vuc. Look for Ha thanh in the top bar and side bar. If you had rather, I can email you what I had added.

I won't be going to the reunion. Did go to one time years ago at Fayetteville, NC. I live close by.

Thanks for all the work you do which I know is a lot.

Dick Holmes  
Raleigh, NC