



2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association

271 Shady Oak Drive
New Market, AL 35761
<<http://www.2-71adataiwan.com>>



Volume 5

Newsletter 2

May 2001

Taiwan Trip

The Taiwan trip by 22 of our members was completed on 28 April 2001. Details are fully described in the next newsletter.



Taiwan Visitors at A Battery Entrance, 4/26/01

L to R: Two R.O.C. Retirees, Col. Lee, Dr. Linda Wilson Bell, Bob Mackintosh, Gladys Wilson, R.O.C. Retiree



U.S./R.O.C. Lapel Pin

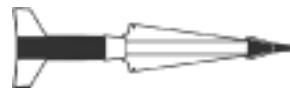
In preparation for the trip to Taiwan in April 2001, the Washington Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office was asked if they could provide U.S./R.O.C. lapel pins for our group to wear in Taiwan. They were kind enough to send the lapel pins, and we have a few extra. If you would wear this pin (see graphic), then send a letter, or e-mail, to **Bob Mackintosh** at the 2/71 Association Headquarters. If there are more than 20 requests, then names will be drawn out of a hat. This offer is open to active Association members. So the guys with e-mail do not have the advantage, we will wait until 15 June 2001 before we send the pins out.

If you would like a pin, and are not a current member (check the mailing label for your membership expiration date), then please send in your \$15 dues.



Membership Renewals

- Al Lisiewski**, Aston, PA (D Btry)
- Wayne Sterk**, Grinnell, IA (B Btry)
- Vic Evans**, Colmesneil, TX (C Btry)
- Fran Nezelek**, Endicott, NY (A Btry)
- Johnnie Nale**, McAlester, OK (B Btry)
- Frank Rivers**, Sunset, SC (C, A Btry)
- Don Melvin**, Superior, CO (Hq Btry)
- Lee Early**, Monterey, CA (Hq, C Btry)
- Fred Clark**, Stanton, MI (178 Ord Det)
- Howard Brelje**, Glencoe, MN (D Btry)
- James Norby**, Eleva, WI (B Btry)
- Harry Thompkins**, Poughkeepsie, NY (178 Ord Det)
- James Nelson**, Troy, MI (A Btry)
- Ron Morgan**, Sandpoint, ID (C Btry)
- Filimon Martinez**, Denver, CO (C Btry)



New Members

Oliver Baxter, Huntsville, AL (178 Ord Det)
Fred Churchill, Janesville, WI (178 Ord Det)
Neil Keegan, Fair Oaks, CA (554 Ord Co)
Richard Gamble, Lafayette, CO (A Btry)
Kermit Boner, Highspire, PA (A Btry)
Lloyd Wheeler, Indianapolis, IN (1st Signal Det)
Stephen Woomer, Perry Point, MD (168 Ord Det)



In Memoriam

It is my sad duty to report that **Jim Bannan** has passed away in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Jim had been the Fire Control Warrant Office in Bn Headquarters of 2/71. **Max Squire**, El Paso, TX, first reported that he had heard of Jim's death ; it was then confirmed by **Jim Wrench** who also lives in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. **Jim Wrench** sent the following obituary from his local paper, Northwest Florida Daily News, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, which appeared on 7 February 2001:

JAMES F. BANNAN

James F. Bannan (CWO, U.S. Army, Retired), born May 2, 1920, passed away suddenly on February 2, 2001, at the Westwood Retirement Center.

Jim was a well-known gun expert on the Thompson Sub Machine Gun, and on various Colt handguns.

He is survived by a stepson, Richard Strength of North Carolina; and a stepdaughter, Nancy Barrington of Colorado.

There will be no services.



Update on the MUC

The following correspondence has been received regarding the Meritorious Unit Commendation recommendation:

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
May 8, 2001

Lt. Col. John Spegele, Ret.

Dear John:

Enclosed please find a letter that I have received from U.S. Total Army Personnel Command regarding your request for award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery (Nike Hercules) and its support units for service in Taiwan from September 1958 to August 1959.

I truly regret that the decision by the Chief of Staff of the Army could not be more favorable.

If I may be of additional assistance to you in this or any other matter, do not hesitate to let me know.

With kind regards,
Very truly yours,
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Department of the Army
U.S. Total Army Personnel Command
Alexandria, VA
April 26, 2001

Military Awards Branch

Honorable Bob Goodlatte

Dear Mr. Goodlatte:

This is in response to your letter of February 22, 2001, on behalf of your constituent, **Lieutenant Colonel John A. Spegele**, U.S. Army, Retired, concerning his desire to have the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery (Nike Hercules) and its supporting units awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for superior performance from September 1958 to August 1959.

The recommendation was forwarded to the Army Unit Awards Board for consideration. The Army Unit Awards Board determined that the degree of action displayed by the unit did not meet the criteria for the proposed award. On April 23, 2001, the Chief of Staff of the Army disapproved award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery (Nike Hercules).

Although my reply is not favorable, members of the 2nd Missile Battalion should be extremely proud of their dedicated service to our nation during a time of great need. We appreciate your support of our veterans and the men and women serving in our Army today.

Sincerely,

Laurel D. Cunnane
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Military Awards Branch

To the Members of the 2/71 Arty Bn & Support Units

I just received a letter from Bob Goodlatte, congressman from Virginia, about our request to award the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the members of the Battalion and its Supporting Units. He attached a letter from the Department of the Army – Army Unit Awards Branch stating that “the degree of action displayed by the unit does not meet the criteria for the proposed award.” It goes on to say “Although my reply is not favorable, members of the 2nd Missile Battalion should be extremely proud of their dedicated service to our nation during a time of great need.”

My initial reaction was pure anger. How could a board of officers deny our award? They just didn’t understand what we did; how we did it and under the primitive living conditions that existed in Taiwan at the time. Then, I realized that the Army just didn’t give us the recognition we felt we deserved – but that doesn’t diminish what we accomplished in Taiwan – successfully defending a free country from aggression. It doesn’t take away the memories we have about our year together. But most importantly, it doesn’t and can never detract from what we are – a great group of guys who are proud of what they did 40+ years ago and enjoy sharing our stories via the Newsletter and at the reunions.

We didn’t lose anything – we have it all – by being members of the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn.

See you at the next reunion

John Spegele
D Btry

Ed. We all need to thank **John Spegele** for the great job he has done in preparing a recommendation that the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery, and Supporting Units, be awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. Maybe our historical search will provide more ammunition that may one day support this justified Commendation.



Notes from the Troops

1/30/01

From **Oliver Baxter** (178 Ord Det)

Hi Bob

Thanks for continuing to provide me with the newsletter, it has been interesting. I have finally decided to officially join the association. My check will be put in the mail today.

Unfortunately, as much as I would like to, I will not be able to go on the trip to Taiwan. I am sure that will be an exciting trip.

I read the information on **Jim Bannon** and called him yesterday. He was in good spirits. After Taiwan, Jim and I served together in Korea and Tunisia as Government Civil Service employees.

Thanks again, **Oliver Baxter**

1/30/01

From: **Herb Terbille** (B Btry)

Subject: B Btry nose cone

Bob, in the January 2001 newsletter **Mel Schuchardt** wanted to know if anyone in B Btry remembered the “nose cone incident.” I remember it because I was on guard that night in B launching section. I think it was B section — it was the left most section facing the launchers.

As a result of the incident I was selected to learn how to operate a .50 cal machine gun and was trucked to a firing range for instruction. I don’t remember where the range was. It was a short range, maybe 50 yards with a berm to stop the rounds. We were met at the range by an officer and the gun which was set up on its tripod. We were given a lengthy schooling on how the weapon operated, how to disassemble and clean, etc. and above all, the importance of safety.

When it came time for the weapon to be demonstrated (we got a chance to fire it eventually) the officer loaded the monster and for reasons I do not know to this day, maybe because he did not want to get his pants dirty by sitting behind it in the conventional shooting position, just bent over and pressed the butterfly trigger. The gun barrel took only a split second to align itself with the heavens and bullets were flying off of and over the top of the berm. We looked on in awe at this fine demonstration of safety and marksmanship. Of course the shooting stopped very quickly. The officer, a little red in the face but seemingly unshaken, pointed at me and said OK your first. While I took my proper shooting position behind the gun he cautioned me to make sure I aimed at the center of the berm. To this day I can envision those errant bullets skipping across Formosa.

Herb Terbille

2/5/2001

From: **Herb Terbill**
Subject: B Btry nose cone

Bob;

We had one exercise with the .50 in the launcher area that I can remember, no shooting, just sighting and set up. After that I never saw it again.

Herb

2/6/01

From: **Neil Keegan** (554th Ord Co)

Neil has suffered a massive stroke - but enjoys reading the newsletter.

Eleanor Keegan

2/2/01

From **Max Squire** (Hq Btry)

Although the VA only rates me as 30%, I retired from Civil Service (Technical Training Instructor at the Air Defense School at Ft. Bliss) on account of total disability, in 1974. Arthritis, broken arches, throat cancer and other problems have taken their toll. And I will turn 85, in April of this year.

In Taiwan, I was Senior Radar NCO, under **Jim Bannan** (sorry to learn, just today, that he is dead). At night, I moonlighted by teaching English to Chinese at the American School, in Taipei, for 800 Yen per month. The night before I left for the US, they gave me a real Chinese Testimonial. There were 10 tables, with 10 people at each table - and custom required that I "Gambei" each table, and eat the eyes of the barbequed fish at my table! (Good thing I went back to my room by pedicab.)

Yes, I enjoy reading your newsletter, but I wasn't able to visit with you, even when you met in El Paso.

My regards to all

Max E. Squire

2/6/2001

From: **Lee Early**

Bob-

I get the point. Two copies of this most recent newsletter (Vol 5, Nr 1) pointed out that my membership had expired. I cannot stand such bad publicity so I hasten to clear my name. I trust the enclosed check will return me to good standing.

Have a great time in Taiwan.

Lee

2/9/2001

From: **John Branson** (C Btry)
Subject: Death of **Jim Bannan**

I remember **Mr. Bannan**. He was one of the good ones.

John B (Branson).

2/9/2001

From: **Carl Paparazo** (C Btry)
Subject: Death of **Jim Bannan**

I thank you for sending me that notice.... we are all approaching that time .. and its sad to hear of any of our group going down and.. out..

Carl Paparazo..

2/11/2001

From: **Harry Thompkins**, Poughkeepsie, NY
(178th Ord Det)

Note on Survey for non-members:

Provide current address and phone #. so we can contact each other.

2/11/2001

From: **Richard Gamble** (A Btry)

Hope you people are fine. We're good here. Was neat and enjoyable to be contacted and to talk with **Rich Croft**. He mailed me newsletters. I recall some of the names but, don't know the faces as we have all changed in this amount of time.

Thanks for all your work with the newsletters and etc. Will write again later. Maybe I can help out a little.

Richard L. Gamble

2/7/2001

From: **John Mayer** (D Btry)

Dear Bob and all ex-missilemen,

I know I'm way over due, and I don't mean just on membership dues. My wife and I haven't made either reunion due to health problems, but I'm now on the mend.

I had been waiting for a new heart about 2 years when I got my call on June 12. There have been some setbacks but things continue to improve now. We return to the hospital and clinic quite often yet for tests.

I'm sure we won't plan on making this years reunion but maybe in 2002.

I thoroughly enjoy every newsletter and read them cover to cover as soon as they come. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

John H. Mayer (D Btry)
Osage, Iowa 50461

2/21/2001

From: **Lloyd Wheeler** (1st Signal Det)

I am writing this short note to send along with the survey you have asked for. I have been putting off writing this letter for over a year, so I think it is time I got it written.

I want to start by thanking you for taking it upon yourself to find the members of the 2nd Missile Bn. and the supporting units. I was very surprised when I first received your letter asking if I had been deployed with the 2nd Missile Bn. to Taiwan. The letter brought back many memories, good and bad. Your newsletters have given me information about our mission that I never knew before.

My tour in Taiwan, short as it was, was one of my most memorable assignments while serving in the Army. I was with the Signal detachment that was stationed just outside of Taipei, so I didn't go through all the rough times the guys did at the missile sites. My duty was to repair Teletypewriters that were never used during the time I was there, so I mainly drove a truck, and being only 19 at the time and not a very good driver, I was lucky to not ever have any accidents.

I would have to say the most memorable items of my tour in Taiwan, which there are many, is of the troop train to Seattle, the storm we encountered while crossing the Pacific and how hot that water was after the Chinese soldier got that heater really fired up. I could not stand under the shower the water was so hot. I would just hold my washcloth under it, wave it around to cool it down then wash myself off.

I was shipped out to Okinawa in April '59 where they had no idea what to do with me and the other Teletypewriter repairman who had served with me in Taiwan. We had been sent there by mistake, so it took two weeks before we were shipped on to the Philippines. After a month in the Philippines I was attached to a detachment on civilian status in Bangkok, Thailand in support of JUSMAG.

I got out of the Army in 1960, and re-entered in late 1961. I re-enlisted in the Army Security Agency where I served in Korea, Japan, 2 tours in Germany and a tour in Udorn, Thailand before I retired in 1978. Out of all my duty stations while serving, I will always remember my assignment with the 2nd Missile Bn. as being one of my best assignments.

I did not attend either of the reunions, and most likely will not be attending any. I feel I would not know anyone in attendance; I have a terrible memory for remembering people. I do not plan to become a member and because of

this, I feel that sending the newsletter to me can be stopped.

I cannot put into words what your locating me means to me, and I will always be grateful that you did such a thing. I am enclosing \$10.00 to help in your future mailing in hopes of finding others who served with the 2nd Missile Bn. in Taiwan.

God bless you and all that served!

Cordially,

Lloyd Wayne Wheeler

3/21/2001

Lloyd Wheeler's response to a note from **Bob Mackintosh**

Thank you for the membership. You do have a good point in just being with people who shared my experience. If a reunion should again be reasonably close for me to drive to, I may attend.

3/1/2001

From **Dave Diedrich** (D Btry)

The years go by so fast I can't keep up. So here is (dues) for two years.

Always look forward to the next newsletter.

Dave

3/9/2001

From **Tom France**, 178 Ord Det (Smithfield, IL)

Please take my name off the mailing list. I am not interested in the military. I am not interested in the past, yet. I am still interested in the present and future.

It looks like most of the 178th Ord Det. isn't interested either. Most of us were drafted and not enlisted. We didn't make a career of the military. We have another life. I think that is the difference. (If any of you 178 Ord Det troops would like to talk to Tom, his telephone number is 309-547-3173. [Ed])

3/11/01

From **Carl Paparazo**, (C Btry)

Hello Bob,

Just a note to say hello and for you to have a safe trip to Taiwan.

Will hopefully be seeing some pictures of my old site "C" Battery if possible — when you get back.

Thank you, and I will be thinking of you all over there (way over there).

Best to you and your wife,

Carl Paparazo, C Battery – Launcher Trooper

3/25/2001

From **Gilberto Garcia** (A Btry)

I served in Taiwan in 1958, and was told I had an award or decoration coming. How do I apply? Where? With what? I already signed up with the Taiwan vets. And they seem to believe me, but in case, for your information: I am retired E7, Army, was in the 2nd of the 71st arty, I believe "A" Btry, Name: Gilberto Garcia, SER. No. RA 18504947,

I was a launcher Crewman, and Instructor, on the Engineer portion for underground sites in Fort Bliss, Texas, and was sent from Taiwan to Naha Air Base, where I helped to man the Herc site there. We had a tragic Accident where we lost almost all my Crew due to a failure of the equipment used to check for static electricity. The Panel Operator, myself, and Billy Williams were the only survivors.

4/19/01

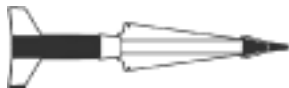
From **Harold "Dick" Dickerson** (C Btry)

Bob,

Tried to send you a message about the trip. Sure wish I could have gone but due to the way things are it was just impossible, My wife is blind and it sure has taken its toll on our bank account. My surgery back in 1989 also took its share. Hope you Guys have wonderful time.

Dick Dickerson

PS Hope I got the right E address this time DD



Faulty E-mail Addresses

The following e-mail addresses are no longer good. Please send your current e-mail address to <bmack@hiwaay.net>:

Glen Ramsey (A Btry)

Ollie Baxter (178 Ord)

Al Havard (A Btry)



Letter from ROC Officer

In 1998, I received a letter from Wu, Chieh-chiung who was the ROC Army Liaison Officer to the 178th Ordnance Detachment in Taipei. Since we are going back to Taiwan this month, it is appropriate that his letter be reprinted, as many of you have been added to our roles since 1998.

Mr. Robert H. Mackintosh

July 4th, 1998

271 Shady Oak Drive

New Market AL 35761

Dear Mr. Mackintosh

On December 20, 1997 I received a letter from my old friend Mr. R.E. Earnest who informed me in a letter that August last year he received a letter from you. In the letter you mentioned that the members of the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery are planning a 40th anniversary reunion in El Paso, Texas and intending to invite all of the American and Chinese officers who were together in the Unit 40 years ago in Taiwan to attend the Reunion so that all the attendance can recall the happy times when worked together and talk about the life since leaving one another. This is really a good idea. I believe all those informed of the great occasion would be very glad to learn this good news and look forward to attending the Reunion. Unfortunately for some personal reasons I am not able to attend. However I do hope the Reunion will be a success.

40 years ago I was an Ordnance officer (major in rank). In October 1958 I was assigned to the 178th Ordnance Detachment, acting as the liaison officer to do the liaison work between American and Chinese military officers and in the meantime to interpret the lectures given by American officers to the Chinese military personnel for about a year. That was really a challenging job, busy but interesting and informative. During that period I not only acquired a lot of knowledge on electronics and missiles, but also learned how to associate and make friends with people. Those practical knowledge and experiences had helped me a lot when working in private sectors after my retirement from the Army. To me those days were the happiest times in my life and full of interesting things that I never forget. And, it was also the most meaningful part of my life which I often mention to my old friends with enjoyment. Whenever recalling those happy times I would think of your government and your colleagues. In order to prevent our common enemy - Chinese Communists from invading Taiwan, your government dispatched some military forces and military advisors to Taiwan. Your battalion was one of the units dispatched with the mission of training the Chinese forces to operate and maintain the missiles so that Taiwan's air defense system can be strengthened.

Your efforts and contributions are really part of the cause which has brought a stable, peaceful and prosperous

life for our people to enjoy. So I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to you and your government.

Sincerely,
Chieh-Chung wu
Ordnance Officer (retired)
Major, Chinese Army

(Ed. We tried to locate Maj. Wu for our visit to Taipei. He has been on the newsletter mailing list, and he was sent a letter about our visit before we went to Taiwan. We had no response and the Department of Veterans Affairs in Taiwan was not able to locate him at the address we provided. Maybe he has moved, or maybe he is no longer with us. If any of you are in correspondence with Maj. Wu, please let us know.)



Web Site Award from "Military.com"

28 Mar 2001
SUBJECT: Congratulations on Your Military Site!

Congratulations on being selected as a top military site!

Our editors have selected your site as one of the best military sites on the Web. Military.com recognizes your website as a valued resource for the military community. We salute you and your efforts. In appreciation, we would like to present you with our Distinguished Military Site Award.

Earning this award entitles you to display the award on your site for the remainder of 2001.

(Be sure and check out our Web site <<http://www.2-71adataiwan.com>>. **Dave O'Connell** has done a great job and was justifiably recognized by "Military.com".)



2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association Officers:

- President/Treasurer **Bob Mackintosh**
- Vice President **John Spegele**
- Secretary **Dave O'Connell**
- Asst. Secretary **Charlie Trost**
- Board Member **Walt Lapsley**
- Board Member **Frank Serpico**
- Board Member **Sam Grant**



2/71 Assn. Country Store

I would like to order:

- Taiwan Medal (823 Campaign Badge of Honor) exact replica* \$20 ea. _____
- Taiwan Medal Lapel Pin* \$10 ea. _____
- * *We will order these for you*
- Memory Book \$15 ea. _____
- After Action Report \$20 ea. _____
- 2/71 Taiwan Keychain \$4 ea. _____
- ADA Magazine w/2/71 article \$1 ea. _____
- VFW Mag. Cold War article \$1 ea. _____

I would like to join the 2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association

Enclosed is \$15 for annual dues. _____

Total enclosed (Dues and stuff above) : _____

Name: _____
 Address (If changed recently): _____
 E-mail address : _____
 Telephone Number: _____



2/71 Group at Lungshan Temple, Taipei

L-R: Herb Terbille, Lurye Phillips, Brian & Lois Mackintosh, Harry Phillips, Carole Nelson, and guide, Paul.



2/71 Group at Chiang Kai-shek Memorial

L-R: Pohlmanns, Terbilles, Mackintoshs, Phillips', Telfords, C. Nelson, Funamuras, Havards (back), J. Nelson, C. Morin

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CKS

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Martyr's Shrine



Milo Morin & Korean Cadets at Shrine