



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PHILLIPS

JAMES

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 90 HARLEM ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

88TH ARTILLERY GROUP (NIKE MISSILES)

1ST AIR CAVALRY

Medals / Citations:

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

UNIT CITATION

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (VIETNAM)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (RESERVES)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class James F. Phillips was stationed with the 1st Air Cavalry at Camp Radcliff in the district of An Khê, South Vietnam / SP4 Phillips fought and survived a surprise attack on his base during the Tet Offensive / On January 1968, 84,000 communist soldiers of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam launched coordinated attacks against the forces of the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the United States, and their allies / This, the largest battle of the Vietnam War, became known as the Tet Offensive

Base Assignments:

Ft. Lewis, Washington - Established in 1917 and named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Fort Lewis was one of the largest and most modern military reservations in the United States / Ft. Lewis was the home to the 4th Infantry Division until their departure for Vietnam in 1966, leaving the fort as a personnel transfer and training center / Fort Lewis was deactivated in 1991.

Ft. Dix, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established on 16 July 1917 as Camp Dix, named in honor of Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War, and a former United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of New York / Ft. Dix was used for the mobilization, training and demobilization of soldiers from World War I through April 2015 / On 1 October 2009, Fort Dix was consolidated with an adjoining U.S. Air Force and Navy facility to become part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL)

Ft. Knox, Kentucky - Named after Henry Knox, the Continental Army's chief of artillery during the Revolutionary



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War and the country's first Secretary of War, Ft. Knox is located south of Louisville / Ft. Knox holds the Army human resources Center of Excellence (includes the Army Human Resources Command, United States Army Cadet Command and the United States Army Accessions Command / For 60 years, Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and the U.S. Army Armor School (moved to Fort Benning), and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the M1 Abrams main battle tank

Ft. Devens, Massachusetts - Located in the counties of Middlesex and Worcester, the fort was named after jurist and Civil War general Charles Devens / The 2nd Infantry Brigade was inactivated on 19 February 1963 at Fort Devens; in 1962 when it was reflagged as 2nd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. It was reactivated on 23 October 1963 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and moved (with the rest of the Division) to Fort Riley, Kansas in January 1964 / Fort Devens was also the home of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 1968 until the Group's move to Fort Carson, Colorado in 1995 / It was also the home of the 39th Engineer Battalion (CBT) until the 39th was deactivated in 1992 / Fort Devens was officially closed in 1996 after 79 years of service

Ft. Lee, Virginia - Opened in 1918, the fort is named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee / Fort Lee was the headquarters for the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM)/ Sustainment Center of Excellence (SCoE), the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, the U.S. Army Ordnance School, The U.S. Army Transportation School, the Army Logistics University (ALU), Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), and the U.S. Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA)

Nike Base (CD27), Wilmington, Ohio - Located between Dayton and Cincinnati, the site became operational in 1960 to defend the industrial centers of the upper Ohio River Valley / Nike, named for the mythical Greek goddess of victory, was the name given to a program that deployed a guided surface-to-air missile defense system / The base was closed in 1970 with the termination of the Nike Missile System

Camp Radcliff, South Vietnam - Camp Radcliff (also known as An Khê Army Airfield, An Khê Base or the Golfcourse) is a former U.S. Army base in the An Khê District in central Vietnam / Camp Radcliff was established in late August 1965 by the 70th Engineer Battalion as the base camp for the 1st Cavalry Division / The camp was named after Cavalry Major Donald Radcliff, the 1st Cavalry's first combat death, who was killed on 18 August 1965 while supporting U.S. Marines in his helicopter gunship during Operation Starlite

Miscellaneous:

James Phillips graduated from West Seneca West High School in 1966 / After graduation, James worked at Costas Pizza Lounge as a pizza maker until he received his draft notification papers / James served in the Army from 1966 through 1970 / After his Honorable Discharge, James Phillips became a press operator for the F. N. Burt Company until 1983 / Between 1983 and 2008, James worked at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the Wende Correctional Facility

James Phillips joined the U. S. Army Reserve in 1980 and retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class in 2007

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army, as well as the other four branches of the U.S. military / The division was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization



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Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, and in the War in Afghanistan / When the 1st Cavalry Division was deployed in the Vietnam War, the division become an air assault division as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), commonly referred to as the 1st Air Cavalry Division / The use of helicopters on such large scale as troop carriers, cargo lift ships, medevacs, and as aerial rocket artillery, was never before implemented, but by doing so it freed the infantry from the tyranny of terrain to attack the enemy at the time and place of its choosing / Deployed to Camp Radcliff, An Khe, Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was equipped with the new M16 rifle, the UH-1 troop carrier helicopter, UH-1-C gunships, the CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter, and the massive CH-54 Skycrane cargo helicopter / In the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action



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Name: **POLILLA**

JOHN

C.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: INDIAN CHURCH ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

1967 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

KOREA DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Polilla saw temporary duty assignments in Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Wake Island, Guam, and Okinawa / Sergeant John C. Polilla was also assigned to the USAF Security Service where he served as a security courier

Base Assignments:

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas - Construction on Lackland Air Force Base began on 15 Jun, 1941, and it was originally part of Kelly Field / On 3 Feb 1948, the facility was named Lackland AFB after Brigadier General Frank Lackland, who was commissioned into the regular Army after serving in the National Guard, District of Columbia / Lackland is best known for its role in being the sole location for U.S. Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) for the active duty Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

Sheppard AFB, Texas - The base, located near Wichita Falls, was is named in honor of Senator John Morris Sheppard of Texas (1875–1941), chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee from 1933 until his death on 9 April 1941. Senator Sheppard helped lead the fight for military preparedness before the attack on Pearl Harbor / It was officially opened as a United States Army Air Corps training center on 17 October 1941, following the arrival of the first military members on 14 June. As the Army Air Corps became the Army Air Forces, facilities were completed sufficiently to allow the first class of 22 aviation mechanics to enter training that October; the class graduated 23 February 1942 / Sheppard Field reached its peak strength of 46,340 people while serving as a separation center for troops being discharged following World War II from September through November 1945 / Communications, refrigeration, air conditioning, and power production operator and repairman training were transferred to Sheppard in 1959



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Camp Drake, Asaka City, Saitama, Japan - Located northwest of Tokyo, Camp Drake was one of many former American bases around Tokyo / Originally a golf club, it became the site of an army uniform factory during World War II, and was subsequently used as a training camp by the US army / During the Vietnam War, Camp Drake served as a joint US Army/Air Force base, active until the 1970's / Camp Drake contained the 249th General Hospital, which handled troops coming out of Vietnam and also housed the communication center for Far East military operations

Miscellaneous:

John C. Polilla graduated from Bishop Timon High School / Polilla attended Erie Community College before entering military service / After his Honorable Discharge from the Air Force, Polilla found employment with the Bethlehem Steel Corp until the giant steelmaker finally shut down / Polilla went to work for the Erie County Highway Department, retiring after 35 years of service

A temporary duty assignment (TDY) refers to a United States military personnel travel assignment at a location other than the personnel's permanent duty station / This type of secondary assignment is usually of relatively short duration, typically from two days to 179 days in length
