



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2021 – Issue 13

Wednesday, December 1

Dear Commemorative Partners,

With a history that reaches back to **December 13, 1636**, our **National Guard** was born out of the Massachusetts colonial legislature’s direction that their existing militia companies be organized into three regiments. According to **Guard history**, four units—descendants of these regiments—share the distinction of being the **oldest units in our military**. The Guard’s inspiring motto **“Always Ready, Always There”** reflects this rich history. In fact, the 29th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, **Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson**, emphasized that this phrase is **“more than a motto ... it’s a promise.”** On **December 13**, as we celebrate the Guard’s **385 years of service**, we invite you to enjoy our **National Guard Birthday Tribute** video found on our **homepage!**



Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson (left), receives the VWC Commemorative Flag from our Director, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Peter M. Aylward.

Notably, Guardsmen have held significant roles in conflicts throughout, and even prior to, the history of this great Nation; Vietnam, however, was the exception.



Of **76 Army Guard units called to active duty** during the Vietnam War, just **eight**, comprised of 2,729 soldiers, **served in country**, including Indiana’s storied **Company D (Ranger), 151st Infantry Regiment (D-151 IN)**.¹ From December 1968 to November 1969, D-151 IN soldiers **distinguished themselves in combat** –

- Medals for valor: 19 Silver Stars, one Soldiers Medal, 88 Bronze Stars with “V” device, 101 Purple Hearts, and 29 Army Commendation Medals with “V” device.
- Sadly, **six** patriots from this unit are among the **58,281** listed on the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**.

Company D also was uniquely welcomed home! Indiana’s governor declared November 26, 1969 “Unity Day” and ordered all state and county offices to close. A celebration for D-151 IN was held at the Tyndall Armory that evening, and the Company was awarded a key to the city by the Indianapolis mayor.¹

Moving from this heralded past to a crucial **history in the making**, we note **December 20** as the **2nd Birthday** of our newest Service ... the **U.S. Space Force**. To our **Guardians**, on **December 20** we will post a **birthday video tribute** and echo **Semper Supra!** (Always Above!)

To the patriots who served—and continue to sacrifice—as Guardsmen and Guardians to our Nation ... thank you!

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~



Gen. John W. Raymond, Chief of Space Operations (center) and his Senior Enlisted Advisor, CMSgt. Roger A. Toberman (right), receive the VWC Commemorative Flag from our Director, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Pete Aylward.

¹ Army Historical Foundation / National Museum of the United States Army: “Company D, 151st Infantry (The Indiana Rangers),” Megan Johnson, unknown publication date, <https://armyhistory.org/company-d-151st-infantry-the-indiana-rangers-vietnam/>, (accessed November 29, 2021).

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!