“50th Anniversary Battle of Dai Do”
“2/4 The Magnificent Bastards Return”
21 Apr - 3 May 2018

Tour Co-Hosts: BGen Bill Weise, USMC Bn CO - 2/4 - Dai Do
& MajGen Jim Livingston, USMC Medal of Honor, Dai Do - May, 1968
Tour Leader: SgtMaj Pete Ross, USMC(Ret)
In May of 1968, the North Vietnamese launched what has been called their "Tet II" or "Mini Tet" offensive, striking 119 provincial and district capitals, military installations, and major cities. Most of the attacks were limited to mortar and rocket fire, but a major battle developed along the DMZ as the NVA attempted to do what they failed to do at Khe Sanh to open an invasion corridor into the South. The first step was to defeat the 3rd Marine Division defenses and overrun the Marines Headquarters and Logistics Base at Dong Ha.

The battle began on April 30, with the ambush of a US Navy utility boat by elements of the 320th NVA Division at the junction of the Bo Dieu and Cua Viet rivers. These rivers were vital logistics links for Marine forces deployed along the DMZ. From the Gulf of Tonkin, supplies flowed up the Cua Viet to its junction with the Bo Dieu to the Marine outposts at Khe Sanh, Camp Carroll, the Rockpile, and to numerous fire support bases, including Con Thien.

Since Battalion Landing Team 2/4 was in the area, it was ordered to eliminate the threat to this crucial waterway. Nicknamed the "Magnificent Bastards," the battalion was commanded by then Lieutenant Colonel William Weise. At the abandoned villages of Dong Huan and Dai Do on the bank of the Bo Dieu, the Marines encountered heavy enemy fire. Reinforced by B CO, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, and supported by the boats of a Navy Assault Group, Weise launched an attack to clear the area. Faced by 48th and 52nd Regiments of the 320th NVA Division, Weise was heavily outnumbered and took up defensive positions north of the river. Having blunted the enemy attack and with NVA reinforcements turned back by the "Gimlets" of the Army's 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, who occupied blocking positions at Nhi Ha to the northeast the NVA were forced to flee. This bitter struggle in which then Capt “Jim” Livingston as CO E/2/4 was awarded the Medal of Honor denied the NVA an invasion corridor to the South had there plan to overrun the major supply bases at Dong Ha and Quang Tri to undermine the entire DMZ defenses. It would be four years before the NVA tried again with the Easter Offensive in 1972, and seven years before it succeeded with its 1975 Spring Offensive.

The highly experienced, Vietnam-Veteran Tour Leaders of MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS have walked them all. Vietnam is eager to welcome the returning American veterans. The Vietnamese people are gracious and sincerely happy to have us with them again. The scenery is great, the food is delicious and plentiful, and the hotels in which we stay are beautiful and very comfortable. Your spouse and children would love it, too. And now the best part...at only $2,495 per person, this tour is an outstanding value, making it not only affordable for you to travel, but also to bring other family members. Together we will visit the sites at which we fought and which are written in our collective history. The price includes everything you see except your airfare, drinks, and souvenirs. The single supplement is only $695. If you need to visit any place in Vietnam that is not on the itinerary, please contact us and we will see if we can get you there! We are always prepared to customize this itinerary.

Below: LtGen Livingston & BGen Weise on the 40th Anniversary Tour share a moment.
Daily Itinerary

23-24 Apr Mon/Tue - (Day One & Two) Depart Los Angeles in the afternoon on a flight to Vietnam—Cross International Dateline, lose a day transfer in Inchon. Arrive Da Nang.

25 Apr Wed - (Day Three) This day will be devoted to touring of Da Nang, Red Beach, Marble Mountain, China Beach, the old Air Facility and the very interesting Hoi An shopping city. **Hotel: Almanity (B-Breakfast/L-Lunch/D-Dinner)**

26 Apr Thur - (Day Four) This morning we get an early start for a full day of touring along the Tu Bon – Vu Gia River basin, including the western edge of the “Rocket Belt.” Our emphasis includes Hill 55, 65, 37, An Hoa Combat Base, Liberty Bridge, the Arizona Territory, Go Noi Island, & other sites. **Hotel: Almanity (B/L/D on own)**

27 Apr Fri - (Day Five) A full day tour of all of the military interest sites as we proceed through the Chu Lai area with stops at LZ Baldy, Hill 69 and 43. We head into the Que Son Valley to reach all the sites required inicuding LZ Ross, Dong Son and Death Valley. **Hotel: Almanity Hotel (B/L/D)**

28 Apr Sat - (Day Six) Our day begins with a drive north to Hue City, passing over the top of the Hai Van Pass, and down through Lang Co and the Phu Loc Region - one of the prettiest and most photogenic in all of Viet Nam. We'll have plenty of time to stop along the way for any special requests. Upon entering Hue, we proceed to our hotel and check in and have lunch at a local restaurant. The remainder of the day will be devoted to personal exploration of the city. **Hotel: Imperial (B/L/D)**

29 Apr Sun – (Day Seven) Today we begin our exploration of the start of the Tet Offensive in the Phu Bai area of operations as 1st Battalion (Bn), 1st Marines (1/1) and the 1st & 2nd Bns of the 5th Marines react to the attack including the relief of the CAP position and the movement to Hue to defend the MACV compound and the assault across the Nguyen Hoang bridge. In the afternoon there will be a walking tour, in the footsteps of the original participants in January -February of 1968. Key objectives will be the treasury and postal buildings as well as the pivotal provincial capital building. **Hotel: Imperial (B/L/D)**

1 May Tue – (Day Nine) In the morning we continue to explore the battle sites in and around Dong Xuan, An Lac, the Cemetery, Dinh To, Dai Do, and Thuong Do. Today we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Dai Do with a wreath laying. **Hotel: Saigon Tourist (B/Box L/D)**

2 May Wed – (Day Ten) We check out of the Truong Son and Quang Tri Province. Along the way we will pass the Ai Tu Airstrip (Quang Tri City) and sites important to the 1972 Easter Offensive. We proceed west on Route 9 to Camp Carroll, The Rock Pile, Razor Back, Khe Gia Bridge, Khe Sanh. We return late in the evening to Hue. Dinner at the hotel. **Hotel: Imperial (B/L/D on your own)**

3 May Thur – (Day Eleven) Morning flight to Hanoi and sites to include the National Army Museum, John McCain Monument and other sites as time permits. We check into our hotel with a chance to enjoy Hanoi’s nightlife. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D on your own)**

4 May Fri – (Day Twelve) We finish our visit to Hanoi with a walking tour of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Presidential Palace plus a trip to the Hoa Lo Prison (“The Hanoi Hilton”). Remainder of the day for preparation for evening flight home. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D)**

5 May Sat – (Day Thirteen) We cross the International Dateline (gain a day) and arrive back at LAX in the evening on the same day.
Siege of Dien Bien Phu Post-Tour Available 5-8 May for only $895. Ask for more info.