

KIA 20 July 1969

SFC James R "Pappy" Couch

Pappy Couch walked into a rotor blade when Hodges, the TC Detachment Commander, was recovering another aircraft. Pappy had been on a Presidential flight detachment in Washington DC.

From "History of Company"
Gary Earls beegee@abraxis.com

From: jjenkins3254@aol.com
Date sent: Tue, 9 Apr 2002 21:59:56 EDT
Subject: Re: Couch
To: phoenix50@neb.rr.com

Sgt Couch was a good man--his son was in nam with a marine unit-and they decided that the son should bail out and go home since being in a marine infantry unit was considered more dangerous than a lift company. But then we never know----John J

From: "idajewell" <idajewell@msn.com>
To: <phoenix50@neb.rr.com>
Subject: Re: Couch
Date sent: Tue, 9 Apr 2002 23:13:15 -0500

Here we go on this one, my recollections on SFC Robert Couch (Pappy). I can't back any of this up, Ken, but hopefully someone else can.

When we left Riley for Camp Evans Pappy was over 20 years in service, meaning all he had to do was submit a letter for retirement and go home. He didn't have to go back to Nam. Pappy had a son who was in the Marine Corps, at the time somewhere in Viet Nam. At the time, brothers or Father and son could not be compelled to serve concurrently in a combat zone. Pappy went with us as an SFC Flt Plt Sgt figuring his odds of survival were better than his son's as a grunt with the MC. Soon as we got there Pap took off to wherever the son was with the intention of making the MC send his kid home. The kid told the old man to go home. Short months later Pap walks into a rotor blade.

Us young pup enlisted types drew much from the old second tour guys.....SFC Robert Couch was the latter.....he was damned near 47 years old when the rest of us weren't old enough to shave on a regular basis.....looking at his birth date, he had to have been WWII.....Korea.....and two trips to The Nam.....wish we knew more about him.

Dick Jewell

From: "Robert Boyer" <101stbn@ameritech.net>
To: <phoenixvb@aol.com>
Subject: Pop Couch
Date sent: Sat, 13 Apr 2002 11:08:42 -0500

Pop and I were great friends, I spent the last Christmas he would ever see with him and his daughter at Ft Riley, before we left for Viet Nam. He was a crewchief for President Johnson in Texas. We were on the advance party for C/158. He was killed while I was on R&R in Thailand.

Bob