



***CSM Clarence Donald Broadhead , 22 June 1931 – 24 March 2012**

- On 22 December 1948 @ 17 years old, Enlisted in Service Company, 137th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, Wichita, KS and at that time worked for the Santa Fe Railroad as a Carman
- In 1957 he began full-time employment with the Army National Guard as an Organizational Maintenance Shop Mechanic and attended the Infantry Mechanics Course. Concurrently he transferred to HHC, 1st Battle Group, 137th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division

- Later transferred to Company B, 1st Battalion, 137th Infantry and began as the full-time administrator. While assigned to Co B, was promoted to PSG and then 1SG.

(During this time, the Army didn't require NCO Education Courses for promotion; however, Don helping CSM (then PSG) Howard McCoy and CSM Clayton Cornett recommended to the battalion commander that the battalion start one to help Jr NCO's learn their roles. Thus, establishing the 1st NCO academy in Kansas)

- May 68 as a part of the 69th Infantry Brigade 1SG Broadhead was called to active duty at Fort Carson, CO.

(At Ft Carson a Soldier complained that the 1SG was not allowing mustaches – the LTC IG said “1SG I've had complaints you are exercising undue influence to prohibit mustaches. Is that true? 1SG: “Yes Sir”)

- He continued to serve as 1SG for Co B until Co B and the battalion had completed their Army Training Tests. Then he volunteered for Vietnam.

(After completion of the Army Training Tests, levees for Vietnam started to come weekly. For infantrymen, this was a serious matter and as it meant they would shortly be in close combat in Vietnam. Generally this news was delivered seriously in a grave tone. One Sunday afternoon soldiers were in the Co B orderly room signing in from leave when one of them asked “1SG are there any new names on levy list? Glancing up and gesturing to a bulletin board, 1SG Broadhead said “Everybody from your name down.”)

- Once in Vietnam, rejecting staff assignments, 1SG Broadhead insisted on being assigned as an infantry rifle company 1SG.
- He was assigned as 1SG of Co B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade.
- As a result of his superior performance, when the 2-3 Inf CSM rotated, 1SG Broadhead was selected to serve as the acting CSM for 2-3 infantry.
- 13 Dec 69 the 1st Bn, 137th Inf was released from active duty and he was assigned again as 1SG, Co B, 1st Bn, 137th Inf and as the full-time unit administrator.
- From Apr 75 to Aug 77, he served in assignments as Intelligence Sergeant and later Operations Sergeant for 1st Bn, 137th Inf.

- In Sep 77, MSG Broadhead was promoted to Command Sergeant Major for 1st Bn, 137th Inf where he served over 9 years until May 87 when he reverted to 75Z40 PAC Supervisor for 30 days so the new Battalion CSM Howard McCoy could be in place for Annual Training at Ft Riley.

(During annual training 83 with temperatures over 100 degrees every day at Ft Riley, followed in 84 by winter training at Camp Ripley, Minnesota while deployed in the field during a blizzard where native Minnesotans died and the wind chill got to minus 80 degrees the battalion had no heat casualty evacuations nor frost bite during Annual Training. Our evaluator in both cases noted the extremely strong NCO corps headed by great Command Sergeant Major Broadhead.

- CSM Broadhead retired 22 Jun 1987 with over 38 years service to Kansas and the United States Army.

His extensive schooling included:

- Infantry Mechanics Course
- Instructor Course
- Jungle Operations Course, Panama Canal Zone.
- Baccalaureate Degree, Wichita State University

(CSM Broadhead said later “I got good grades but I didn’t graduate- Sigmund Cum Laude (loudmouth))

Awards & Decorations:

- Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Purple Heart
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Air Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two Hour Glasses
- Vietnam Service Medal with 3 campaign stars
- Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon w/ number “2”

➤ *one with 1st ID on Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER) brought back a lot of tips on how to and not do things*

➤ *one Arctic training with the Norwegian Army at age 52!*

- Kansas National Guard Service Ribbon with 3 sunflowers
- Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (unit award) with 2 Palms
- **And the coveted – Combat Infantry Badge**

After serving in Vietnam, CSM Broadhead completed law enforcement training, and was a “sworn law enforcement officer” serving as reserve officer with Wichita Police Department.

If being fulltime guardsman and reserve police officer wasn't enough, for approximately 20 years, Don was involved with officiating high school basketball, high school softball and summer league softball.

The following part of CSM Broadhead's life that wife EJ knows & his fellow soldiers don't has been provided by Teresa Rupp, Executive Director, Child Start

Don Broadhead began work at Child Start (then Child Care Association) in August 1988 and retired (again) in 1999. First he worked as a data manager or internal auditor or something like that with the Child and Adult Care Food Program for 2 or 3 years, then he became the executive assistant for Teresa for a year or a year-and-a-half until the position of Human Resources Manager was created. He was the first Human Resource Manager they had and he laid the foundation for everyone who came after him.

As Teresa's assistant, one of the important things he did was research telephone systems, because theirs was antiquated. He did a features and costs comparison that served them well – they are still using that phone system, although have updated it a couple of times.

Teresa Rupp said: “One of the key things Don did as the first HR Manager was create a complete (and military-style) handbook of all our policies. It was a significant departure from the fly-by-the-seat-of-our-pants random collection of policies we had had before that, and it showed that CSM Broadhead could think and organize circles around the rest of us. We've updated it, but nearly 20 years later we are still using parts of his manual.”

“Another of his military-taught skills he used particularly on my behalf. I came in to work one day and got a call from my mother, who was upset that my sister (who had said she was driving from Colorado to Texas for a conference) was somewhere on the road with bad weather in her path. I don't know why Mother called me; I certainly didn't know how to find my sister Kathy on the road somewhere between Colorado and Texas. I didn't know whether she was driving south and then east or east and then south, and I thought at 40+ years old she was plenty old enough to know she should get off the road if the weather turned bad, but you have to do something when your mother calls you in a panic. What I did was ask Don what he would do first to find somebody in this kind of situation. I figured my day was shot, but he was the HR guy, he might have an idea where to start. What he said was, Go to your appointment, I'll take care of it.”

“And he did. He said he had found soldiers he needed to find, on leave and in the jungle and everywhere in between, and he could certainly find one woman driving from Colorado to Texas. I said, “Good,” and went off to my appointment, and by the time I got back two hours later he had found my sister and got her to call home. Another triumph for the former Command Sergeant Major. He could certainly do whatever needed to be done, including dealing with anybody's mother.”

Don retired from Child Start in 1999 to travel and enjoy retirement, but retirement didn't seem to work for him.

Don liked to tell the story when he was shopping for a mobile home – went to AZ to shop, saw one for \$25,000 Really didn't want it so out of courtesy, offered \$15,000 much to Don's regret, the guy took it.

As soon as he and EJ had traveled enough around the country, he took another part-time job at the Ace Hardware around the corner from Child Start's offices. Every time somebody went over there for a battery or a picture hanger, we would get the update on what he and EJ were up to.

Teresa said "He was a fun guy with a great sense of humor, and he was good at every job he did for Child Start."

All his Army buddies would say: "Of course he was good. He was a smart, motivated, experienced ISG and CSM."

CSM Broadhead was preceded in death by his young son Donald from childhood leukemia
He is survived by

- His wife Edwina known as "EJ"
- Son: Ronald of Dallas, Texas
- Daughter: Connie
- His younger brother Senior Master Sergeant (ret) James Broadhead

.....And all his fellow soldiers here today.

May God bless Don's family, his fellow soldiers and may God bless America.
Thank You.

Major General L.Gene Krase USA-RET

*The above was delivered to the family and to the patriots of the 1st Bn, 137th Inf and others at CSM Broadhead's Memorial service held at Winfield, KS - 12 Apr 12