

Ladies and Gentlemen

8<sup>th</sup> Feb'18

Welcome to today's ceremony and thank you for your attendance. I'm honoured to be speaking with you today on such an important occasion!!!

We're here today to honour our 11<sup>th</sup> Intake National Service members and to remember their achievements, their courage and their dedication and to say "Thank You" for their service, and for some, who are no longer with us, their "SACRIFICE".

Most 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries are important, but for those who were called up in the 11<sup>th</sup> National Service Intake of Feb '68, this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is singularly very important whereby this is the very first time, a lot of the young men then, are here together again this very day, .(pause)

It was early last year when reading the "Vet Affairs" notice board, that I read about the 10<sup>th</sup> Intake 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion, coming up in October 2017 and wondered if there was anything planned for an 11<sup>th</sup> reunion. I had often thought about a reunion event for us 11<sup>th</sup>"Nasho's", but it never eventuated.

So after reading about the 10<sup>th</sup> reunion, I decided to contact Vet Affairs Notice Board publication and requested if anyone knew of an upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> reunion, or if not, if they were interested in having one (pause) I received several replies which encouraged me, including a complimentary email from the 10<sup>th</sup> Intake chairman Richard Barry, being very supportive and passing on some good advice.

He gave me the impetus to continue and in April 2017 I revisited Vietnam for the first time in 48years, with my very close veteran 5RAR friend Luke Doc Mosterd, and our sons Anthony and Luke Jnr,(pause) visiting our ex Nui Dat base as well as Long Tan and other memorable places. All this gave me more impetus to keep going and organize a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion.

On our return I met up with "The General" Doc Lloyd at a D company 5RAR, historic battle of Binh Bah, reunion here at Kingscliff and we put together a format to follow. We continued running "Wanted" ads in various publications looking for our missing mates. I also made contact with my former 3RTB Singleton hut mates, Dan Penman, our MC today, and Keith Spence and found more victims(ha ha) who are here today! I must thank Dan for setting up our informative website which made our job a lot easier as well as a lot of behind the scenes tasks, Thank You Dan!! And John!!

So today, we have guys here with their wives and or partners from all over Australia, wanting to commemorate all who served in the 11<sup>th</sup> Intake and reacquaint with the incredible camaraderie we enjoyed as young NASHOS 50 years ago. (pause)

A lot of us here today, saw active service and have lost mates either in Vietnam or here at home, however EVERYONE in our 11<sup>th</sup> Intake whether they served here in Australia, or in Vietnam, we were "Brothers in Arms" and served with PRIDE. LEST WE FORGET!!