



1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1ST BATTALION 50TH
INFANTRY

2ND PLATOON



"B" COMPANY



SPECIALIST 4TH
CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

JESUS J. "JIM" MEZA

"B" Company, 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, RA570765159, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: San Bernadino, CA

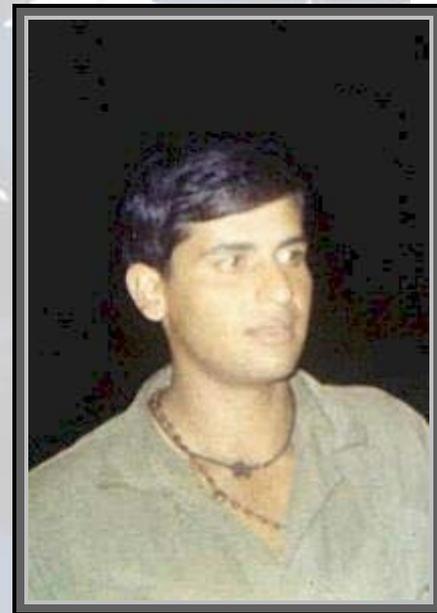
Date of Birth: October 5, 1948, Age at time of loss: 21, Single

I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam

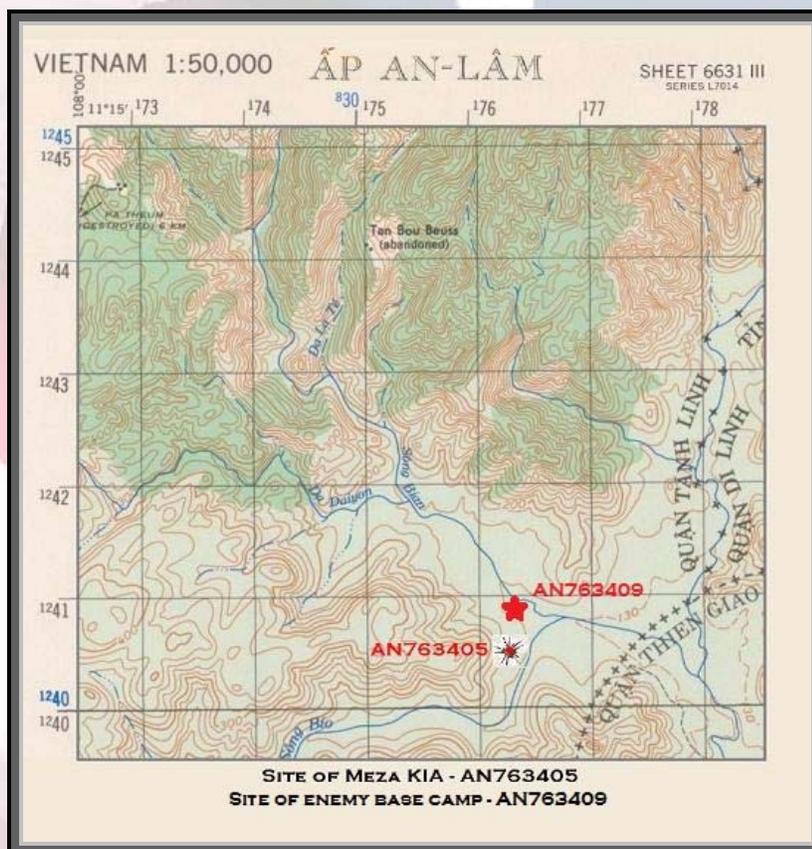
Start of Tour: July 21, 1969, Date of Casualty: February 13, 1970, Days in Country: 207

Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 13W - Row 006

Jesus "Jimmie" Meza participated in an operation which lasted a total of 52 days and resulted in the destruction of a VC Province headquarters complete with typewriter, documents and East German binoculars by an ambush patrol led by SSG Darwin Stamper from the 2nd Platoon. Unfortunately, machine gunner Sp4 Meza (Picture on the right), whose grazing fire accounted for most of the enemy dead, was killed during the ambush. Six enemy bodies were found as well as the items mentioned above. Also captured were a 9mm Pistol, a .45 Caliber Pistol, an AK-47 Assault Rifle, an M-1 Carbine, an M-16 Rifle, a .38 Special, 10 rucksacks and a bag of documents. 45 minutes after the initial contact, a second contact was made from 400 meters to the North, resulting in no casualties, but revealing the huge enemy base camp where an additional 4 rucksacks were found.



A map of the locations (AN763405 and AN 673409) is shown below:



Continued...

The picture below, taken by SGT Bill Summers in February 1970, and shows the command group of "B" Company in final preparations for an Airmobile Combat Assault into the mountains north of Phan Thiet and LZ Betty.



CPT Bob Camors is facing the camera (wearing glasses). 1LT Mike Chisam (1st Plt) has his back to the camera and the man to the left is B Co. XO, Lt Terry Carter. The other person facing the camera is not identified. Full rucksacks, one with a PRC-77 with folded long antenna, can be seen laying on top of the bunker.

Mike Chisam, a former Officer with Meza's "B" Company, has written an account of the events of the night when Jim Meza was killed. The story may be viewed by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/MezaAccount.pdf>

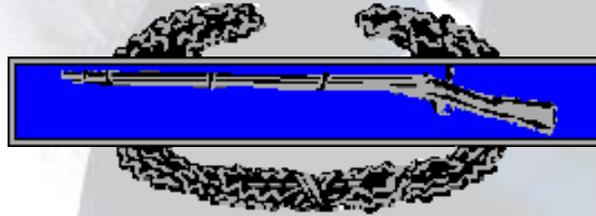
The Picture below was taken by former 2nd Platoon Squad Leader SGT Ronnie Scott and posted on the [VVMF Memorial Web Site](#) page for Meza. (Meza is standing on the Armored Personnel Carrier in the Motor Pool at LZ Betty).



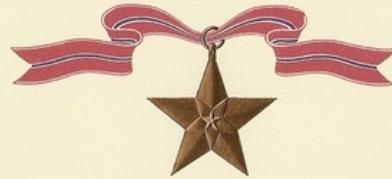
Former "B" Company, 2nd Platoon Leader Terry Carter remembers: *"Jesus 'Jimmie' Meza is one whose memory sticks with me. He used to cut our hair for us. He was the nicest guy you could ever hope to meet. He was in my old Platoon (I was platoon leader before this happened) and I was proud of how well the platoon did under the circumstances...yet really sad about Meza.*

Continued...

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF JIM MEZA:



Combat Infantry Badge



**THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR**

HQ 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM,

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 237

9 MARCH 1970

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: SPECIALIST. FOUR MEZA DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF WHILE SERVING AS A MEMBER OF AN AMBUSH PATROL SITUATED IN A DENSE BAMBOO THICKET OVERLOOKING A TRAIL NEAR A RECENTLY ABANDONED ENEMY BASE CAMP AREA. BEFORE DAWN ON 13 FEBRUARY 1970, AN ENEMY ELEMENT ESTIMATED AT COMPANY SIZE WAS SIGHTED APPROACHING ALONG THE TRAIL. BEFORE REACHING THE AMBUSH SITE, THE VIET CONG COMPANY LEFT THE TRAIL AND HEADED DIRECTLY FOR THE REAR SECURITY MEN OF THE SQUAD SIZED AMBUSH, PASSING ANOTHER AMBUSH WHICH DID NOT OPEN FIRE BECAUSE THEY WERE GREATLY OUTNUMBERED. WHEN THE ENEMY WAS WITHIN TEN METERS OF THE REAR SECURITY MEN, THEY OPENED FIRE. SINCE THE PATROL LEADER WAS ON THE RADIO TRYING TO COORDINATE RELIEF, SPECIALIST MEZA TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO RALLY HIS SECTOR TO THE OPPOSITE FLANK SO THAT HE AND THE OTHER MEN COULD DIRECT MAXIMUM FIRE AGAINST THE ENEMY. AS A RESULT OF SPECIALIST MEZA RALLYING HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS, THE ENEMY WAS BEATEN BACK TWICE AND COMPLETELY ROUTED. SPECIALIST MEZA WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED BY THE INTENSE HAIL OF ENEMY FIRE WHILE LEADING HIS MEN AS THEY INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES ON THE VIET CONG COMPANY. SPECIALIST FOUR MEZA'S HEROIC ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze
Star



Purple
Heart



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign