

## GEORGE L. LOPEZ

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, "C" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Private First Class, E3, US553662452, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: Banning, CA

Date of Birth: September 1, 1949, Age at time of loss: 21, Single  
I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: March 5, 1970, Date of Casualty: September 10, 1970, Days in Country: 189  
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 07W – Row 053



1<sup>ST</sup>  
FIELD FORCE  
VIETNAM



MACV



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY



"C" COMPANY  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLATOON



PRIVATE  
FIRST CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

George Lopez (Photo at right) was killed in action as a member of MACV Stag Team 37. The team consisted of "unassigned" volunteers from various locally based US Infantry units and was tasked with training ARVN and Regional Force units. The IFFV Intelligence Summary for the event reads:

*"At about 8:25 PM, in the vicinity of AN785098, Stag teams, operating with a Platoon from Vietnamese Regional Force #175, initiated contact with an estimated 30 VC...utilizing Claymore antipersonnel mines, M-79 Grenade Launchers and small arms. Also available were U.S. Artillery, Vietnamese Mortars, Gunship and Flare ship support. The enemy returned fire with small arms and B-40 Rockets. Contact was broken at about 9:10 PM and the enemy withdrew towards the South. U.S. forces reorganized and swept the area, finding blood trails and drag marks, but no enemy bodies were left behind. Killed were PFC Lopez and a member of the RF 175 unit. 3 others were wounded."*



**Fellow Stag Team member Dave Parker remembers the events differently:**

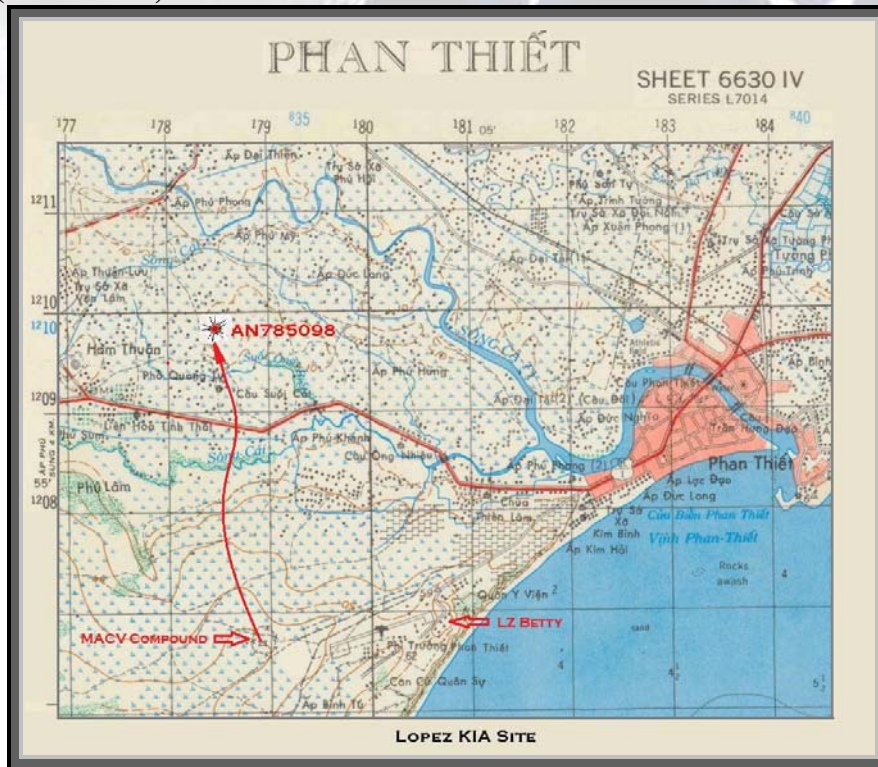
*"The ambush was a very personal event for me and the others from the team. I helped put George on the Med-Evac chopper. He was still conscious...and I told him I would see him tomorrow...never dreaming he would die from his wounds."*

*When the Stag Team arrived at the compound for Regional Force #175, we gathered together with the Vietnamese Captain in charge of the RFs as well as his four squad leaders. As we went over locations and plans for a night ambush set-up, it became obvious to us that this Captain was intoxicated. We were concerned and called our MACV Compound and spoke with Major Wells, who told us the mission was too important to cancel and we needed to proceed with caution. When we arrived at our pre-arranged ambush site, this drunk Captain insisted the site was dangerous and that we move to a different location. Again we contacted MACV with our concerns and, again we were told to oblige the Vietnamese Officer. Almost immediately after arriving at the different location, all hell broke loose. Many had not even had time to set up their positions nor set up fields of fire for an ambush. The hunters became the prey as we took casualties.*

*The next day, we flew over the contact area with the MACV Commanding Officer. We showed the Colonel the spot from his Command Helicopter and we could clearly see where the enemy had cooked meals and moved through the rice paddies to perfect ambush positions. We believed we were betrayed by the intoxicated Vietnamese Captain."*

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A map of the location (AN 785098) is shown below:

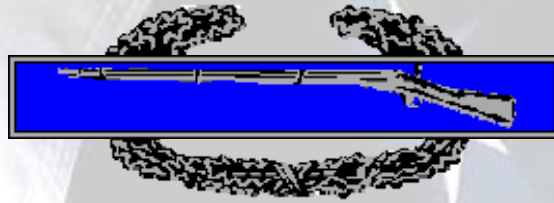


Pictured below (Left) are the men of Charlie Company, 2nd Platoon, waiting to head out on a mission. Gary Cokley, [06W - 034](#), killed in action on November 2, 1979, is located on the far left with his back to the camera. Facing the camera next to Cokley is George Lopez. Below right are (Left to right) Robert Carney and George Lopez. Photos used provided by Association Members Jim Dacus and Dave Parker



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## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF GEORGE LOPEZ:



Combat Infantry Badge



Purple Heart



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign