



17th Cavalry



23rd Infantry



M113 Armored Personnel Carrier
With .50 Caliber Machine Gun

Dennis William Hein
Specialist 4/C U.S. Army
2 March 1971 – 4 April 1972

Dennis was born on 4 July 1951 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He attended elementary schools in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, and at Troxell and Parkway Manor schools in South Whitehall Township. In 1965, he entered Parkland High School in Orefield, Pennsylvania, while his family was living in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school in 1969, he began working for Bethlehem Steel Company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. About two years later, on 2 March 1971, Dennis was drafted and inducted into the Army as a Private in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He underwent two weeks basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and then nine weeks advanced infantry training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He completed advanced training on 9 July 1971 and was classified as a Light Weapons Infantryman. He left the States on 12 August 1971 for Vietnam, where he was assigned to F Troop, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division, as an M113 Armored Personnel Carrier Driver. His unit was based in the Danang area, from where it conducted ground assault operations. While in Vietnam, Dennis was promoted to Specialist 4/C. He was released from active duty in Oakland, California, as part of the Army's Phasedown Release Program on 4 April 1972, the same day he left Vietnam. He was then assigned to the Army Reserve until the end of his service obligation on 1 March 1977. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and the National Defense, Army Commendation, Vietnam Service, and Vietnam Campaign Medals. He returned home to his family, who had since moved to Wescosville, Pennsylvania. He resumed working for Bethlehem Steel for another 26 years, performing many types of jobs including operating a crane and a hot saw. He retired from Bethlehem Steel in 1998. Dennis married **JoAnn Dorothy Prokopovich** (born 24 July 1952) on 27 March 1976 in St. Paul's United Church of Christ (UCC) in Trexlertown, where he is a member. They established their home in Upper Macungie Township. They have three children, **Kathleen Rebecca (Mendez), Gregory John, and Derek William**, and seven grandchildren, **Noah, Jonah, Ava, Evan, Samantha, Owen, and Melanie**. JoAnn is a member of St. Joseph the Worker Church in Orefield. Dennis has joined his church bowling league and softball team. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and participating in family activities. He became a member of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., Post 75 in September 1993, for which is serving as Commander. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9264, Macungie, Pennsylvania. Dennis's parents are **William Leroy Hein** (22 December 1929 – 28 March 1981) and **Gloria Elenore Bieber** (11 October 1931 – 31 December 2000).