



27th Engineer Battalion



Dale Robert Heist
Specialist 5 U.S. Army
30 December 1969 – 11 November 1976

Dale was born on 2 August 1951 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township. He attended Central Elementary School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, from 1956 to 1960. In 1960, Dale and family moved from Wescosville to Santa Monica, California, where Dale attended John Muir Elementary School from 1960 to 1964. They moved back to Wescosville in 1964, and Dale then attended Emmaus High School from 1964 to 1967. The following year, Dale moved to Macungie, Pennsylvania, and went to work as a Mechanic at McNabb's Service Station in Wescosville until 1969, when he was hired by Tyler Pipe Foundry in Macungie as a Fork Lift Operator. On 30 December 1969, Dale enlisted in the Army as a Private at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he underwent basic training for three months. After Fort Dix, he received advanced infantry training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from April 1970 to July 1970. He then left for overseas in August 1970 for a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam, where he served as a Heavy Equipment Operator and Truck Driver with the 27th Combat Engineer Battalion, 45th Engineer Group based at Camp Eagle, in support of the 101st Airborne Division. In August 1971, Dale was assigned to the 13th Engineer Company, initially at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, as a Bulldozer Operator and Truck Driver until August 1973, when the Company relocated to Fort Knox, Kentucky. While stationed at Fort Meade, Dale earned his high-school diploma through the General Educational Development Program in 1971, and married **Janice Ann Schmoyer** (born 5 October 1951) in Laurel, Maryland, on 26 June 1972. At Fort Knox, Dale served as a Truck Driver and as an Operations Non-commissioned Officer and Project Manager until he was discharged there on 11 November 1976. Dale was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (with 60 Device), M-16 Rifle Expert Badge, Driver Mechanics Badge, and two Overseas Service Bars. Right after his discharge, Dale and Janice went to live in Allentown where Dale worked as a Truck Assembler for Mack Trucks from 1977 to 1986, initially in Allentown and later in Macungie. He then went to work for Heist's Auto Center in Old Zionsville, Pennsylvania, from 1986 to 1990, followed by employment as a Parts Manager for Koehler Brothers Auto Body in Northampton, Pennsylvania, from 1990 to 1996, and then as a Forklift Operator for both DCS Logistics in Breinigsville, Pennsylvania, from 1996 to 1999 and AIWA Electronics in Breinigsville from 1999 to 2002. In 2002, Dale went to work as a Maintenance Technician for Liberty Property Trust in Breinigsville, where he remains employed today. Dale and Janice had a daughter, **Melissa Jo**. Dale's parents were **Earl Oliver Heist** (19 July 1920 – 2 August 2005), who served in World War II, and **Loretta L. Koeler** (30 December 1925 – 8 August 1982).



Camp Eagle near Hue, South Vietnam