



**Joseph Paul Russo    Co H-1**

*Paisano was a true friend of the goats, as evidenced by his having been here on the Five Year Plan. A fervent believer in hot sports cars, good food (Italian, that is), and rickin' music, Joe has won the friendship of those around him with his unselfishness, cooperation, and genuine interest in others.*

**Born** – 3 Oct 1938, Bronx, New York City.

**To USMA** – Came from New York City. Appointed by New York 11<sup>th</sup>. Nickname – “Paisano”.

**Died** – 8 June 1995 (age 54) at Point Pleasant, NJ. Buried at West Point.

**Military Awards** – National Defense Service Medal.

**Schooling** – Unknown.

**Family** – Joe never married.

**Contact** – Unknown.

Joe served on active duty in the Army (Signal Corps) for 7 years, resigning in 1968, with the rank of Captain. He served in Germany, Utah, and Vietnam.

After leaving the Army, Joe joined his family's business, a company performing engineering and architectural work. But this “man of action” soon felt caged with his 9-to-5 office job. He became a high school physical education teacher. Unfortunately, Jersey schools paid less than handsomely. Self-reliance prevailed. In 1981, Joe established his own house painting business. He could set his own hours and work along with his employees as he pleased. Dealing well with the challenges of running a business, Joe found his place in the economy. He passed away on 8 June 1995, from colon cancer.

Footnote - Joe never found his dream girl to become a wife and have children.