

PATROLLING

June 1997

75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 11 Issue 2

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA VIETNAM IRAN GRENADA PANAMA IRAQ SOMALIA



RANGER: TIMOTHY C. WALSH
9073-97
5550 CARLETON ROCKWOOD DR.
SOUTH ROCKWOOD, MI 48179-9761





Allow 4 to 6 weeks delivery on all items.



**By Rick Ehrler-
E/50th LRP,
President**

At the time I am writing this article, it is the end of April and I am about to leave to attend the Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning with Terry Roderick, Roy Boatman, Duke Dushane, and several other association members. We usually don't have much membership participation at this function but we do make good contacts with other associations, the RTB, and the Regiment whenever we show the colors there. We will attempt to set up an appointment for a sit down meeting with the powers that be for the time period of the Rendezvous, June 17-20, to once again push for the TAB recognition that officers of this association have been fighting for during the last nine years or so. We now have some very able assistance from Robert Black, mentioned in Terry's April newsletter supplement. While we still have the political door open for a non-partisan shot at getting the TAB, we really would prefer that it come from the Department of the Army as recognition for our service in combat with the 75th Inf. Ranger units and their predecessor LRRP and LRP units.

I just finished reading Rey Martinez's book "SIX SILENT MEN" and discovered some more additions for the KIA file in his story of the early times of the First Brigade LRRP detachment of the 101st Airborne Division. I also received some other names to add from F/50 and E/20 so our roster of KIAs is still slowly growing. I may print the entire list again in the September newsletter so you all can have an up to date copy and maybe spot other omissions.

Steve Crabtree mentioned today that the donations for the brick project have slowed down drastically. My unit, E/50 LRP and E/75 Ranger, has recently completed its brick purchase for all of our KIAs and a few other units

are moving in that direction but we still have about 2/3 of our list to purchase bricks for. If you have a friend or teammate whose name is on the KIA roster, please consider making a contribution towards getting his name on a brick at the Ranger Memorial. Even if you don't, please send whatever you can to Steve Crabtree, 2823 E. Norwood St., Mesa, AZ 85213. Make checks payable to Ranger Memorial c/o Steve Crabtree.

I received several good comments from people who were able to attend the special ceremony for Joseph Fitzgerald, John Jakovac, and Brian McGar earlier this spring. I wanted to make the trip to Arlington National Cemetery for the April 9-10 service but was not able to go. It is still great to know that these remaining men from a team that was wiped out in May of 1967 have returned home to their families after all of these years.

While moving publication of this newsletter to Gary Linderer's operation, we fell about two and a half months behind schedule but feel we can now get the newsletter out in early March, June, September, and December, as in the past. Gary had to rebuild much from scratch and has also made many improvements. We now have the room to make it interesting but need your letters, stories, and pictures to make this opportunity a reality. This is not just a newsletter for Vietnam vets. We also have unit reps for Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and about 100 members of the active duty Regiment. If you guys want to show the full range of this association, please put the stories together and submit them to Gary for publication. We are experimenting with

different ways of mailing out the newsletter and have noticed that some copies are very slow in being delivered. Please bear with us during this transition period.

Several of the individual units are having reunions this summer. If you can make it to yours, be sure to go. Some men are concerned about attending

their first reunion but I can tell you that it is almost always a great time visiting with old friends at these functions and there are as many funny stories told as sad ones. If you are in the area of Fort Benning during June 17-20, be sure to stop by the Sheraton Airport Hotel and visit our hospitality room and check out some of the Rendezvous and Hall of Fame activity on the Fort.

The Chief of Staff of the Army has directed that COL William J. Leszczynski, Jr. change command with COL Stanley McChrystal earlier than expected. This has forced the Ranger Rendezvous to change from July to June. Below is a short timeline that should assist in planning of Ranger Rendezvous activities. Due to this late breaking change, some events may shift slightly.

17 JUNE

1600-Abn Assault on Fryar DZ

18 JUNE

0600 Regimental PT on Watson Field
0900-Ranger Stakes/Boxing on SGM Field

1300- Ranger Stakes/Boxing on SGM Field

1800-TRRA Membership Meeting
1900-Infomal Banquet and Boxing Finals at the Airfield Hangar

19 JUNE

1030-Rangers in Action Demo at Victory Pond-RTB

1330-Distinguished Members of the Regiment Ceremony at Marshall Auditorium (BLDG 4)

1600-1800-Hall of Fame Ceremony at the Ranger Memorial

20 JUNE

0900-Regimental Change of Command at York Field

1030-1130-RCO+S Reception

1300-1400 Hall of Fame Unveiling at RTB Headquarters

From the XO's Bunker



By Terry B. Roderick
P/75th Ranger
Vice President

I'm just getting back from the 1997 Best Ranger Competition at Ft. Benning and rushing to get my column ready for this issue of *Patrolling*. Rick Ehrler, our "Grand Poobah", and I arrived together and linked up with Rangers Roy Boatman, Patrick Tadina, Noble Cox, Art Silsby, John Burns and Duke Dushane. Rick flew down from Boise, Idaho and we drove up together. The trip was uneventful until I let Rick drive from Cussetta into the Sheraton Hotel parking lot. At some point, he must have run my car off the road and knocked the muffler loose from the header pipe. We had a great time together and really enjoyed the competition of the 31 two-man Ranger teams from all over the world that competed in this grueling test of Ranger skill, stamina, and intestinal fortitude. Two Rangers from the 101st Airmobile Assault Division won this year's competition. Ranger Second Lieutenants Jay Hansen and Christopher Robishaw outlasted and outscored 30 other teams to win the 15th Annual David E. Grange, Jr. Best Ranger Competition, May 2-5. The winners happened to be the runners-up last year, and they came back to give it another shot this year. They narrowly won over some very tough competition. That goes to show you the caliber of the teams who compete on this rugged course put together by the RTB.

Duke Dushane and I were somewhat humiliated while following the teams around the "Darby Queen" Obstacle Course. We were passed up by a lady carrying a baby halfway through the course, then came in behind a female photographer from the *Columbus Ledger*. It was a very humbling experience.

All of us who attended spent a lot of time eating, drinking Miller Genuine Draft—the "Official Beer of the Rangers"—and mixing with other Rangers and guests. The RTB once again did an outstanding job organizing the competition and hosting those in attendance. "A job

well done" to Colonel Dorian Anderson and the men from his command!

In my brief supplemental newsletter to the general membership sent out in April, I mentioned Ranger Bob Black's role in getting the Ranger Tab for the Korean Rangers. Bob was quick to correct me, stating that he assisted the 8th Army Ranger Company in being awarded the "tab". The remainder of the Korean War Ranger companies got their "tabs" on their own. Sorry about the miscue, Ranger Black!

Bob has been very busy lately working with our former President, Roy Barley, preparing a presentation to be given to MG Carl F. Ernst, the Commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School and the Ft. Benning Post Commander. We are still in the process of setting up a meeting with MG Ernst to present our case for the award of the Ranger Tab to the LRRPs, LRP's, and Rangers who served in the Vietnam War. Another option is for the Army to authorize the "unauthorized scrolls" that we wore while serving in our various units. To this day, the Vietnam era Lurps and Rangers have no official recognized insignia. Of course, we all still wear them, just as proudly and just as openly as we did in-country so many years ago. But those who remained in the Army quickly discovered that wearing them stateside as a combat patch opened them up for possible disciplinary action. Last year at Tacoma, our Officers and Board of Directors have authorized Roy Barley to pursue this action via Congress, but now with the added expertise of Ranger Bob Black, we have decided to attempt once more to push for authorization through the Army. We all realize that this effort has been going on for years, and many of our brothers are getting tired of it altogether. But we were known for our perseverance in Vietnam and I guess that we haven't lost any of it. As I've said before, some may not agree with this course of action, but our membership has shown an overwhelming affirmation to the pursuit of this goal, so we will continue trying. We are only seeking equal

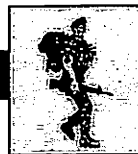
treatment already afforded to those who preceded us as Rangers. I believe it is a just and noble cause. It's not just the gold and black tab—it's the principle. Personally, I have never looked down my nose at any Ranger, whether he served in combat or not. The times and circumstances dictate who serves in combat. It is seldom a matter of choice. Anyone who has worn the "scroll" or the "tab" has put himself in the position of being a member of one of the units we served in. Being a Ranger, or a Lurp, means being one in your heart, your mind, and your soul. This will never change, regardless of who authorizes what, or who can wear what. So bear with us, and support us in our just crusade. Hopefully, we will have some positive feedback for you by the next issue of *Patrolling*.

Our work on the revisions of the Constitution and By-laws is still in progress, and after things slow down a bit after summer we'll get more accomplished in this area. We have a couple of new ideas and will be presenting them to you as soon as we can. There has been a lot going on lately and more to come in the next couple of months with the Ranger Rendezvous, Ranger Hall of Fame, and the various company reunions planned for the summer.

Congratulations are in order for two of our members, Rangers Duke Dushane and Col. John Lawton (ret.). They have been officially notified that their nominations to the Ranger Hall of Fame have been accepted and they will be inducted on June 19, 1997. I urge all of you who are able to try to attend to support both of these fine Rangers who will represent our Association.

Ranger Roy Boatman will have been honored as our "Airborne Man of the Year" by Static Line publication by the time you read this, and it is most richly deserved.

The 75th Ranger Regiment has contacted me to let us know that they wish to make Richard Ehrler and Duke Dushane "Honorary Members of the Regiment" at ceremonies to be conducted during the Ranger Rendezvous. This is something the Regiment does on its own,



and we are honored to have two such fine members represent us. Both are very deserving of the award.

John Burns is our newest Unit Director representing the Somalia era Rangers. He is currently in the process of relocating to Columbus, Georgia. If anyone has need to reach John before he gets settled in, contact me and I'll be happy to relay

your message. You can also reach him at his new address posted on the back cover.

Congratulations are also in order for one of our newest members, Ranger Bobby "Sergeant Chief" Pyatskowit and his wife, Katie, on the arrival of their new daughter, Nicole Dawn. Nicole was born on May 6, 1997. Bobby is a former member of B/3/75 and is a

veteran of Somalia. He separated from the Regiment last year and is currently attending school in Wisconsin, preparing for a career in law enforcement. He reports that mother and daughter are both doing fine—as is the father.

'Til next time, out here!

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association Welcomes Miller Genuine Draft Beer

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is proud to welcome the Miller Genuine Draft brand manager, his staff, and product, into an alliance with our Association. The Miller Genuine Draft folks have made us the most generous offer to be the "Official Beer of the Rangers". They have generously promised to provide their product for our enjoyment and consumption at all future Association musters. We wholeheartedly welcome their participation and deeply appreciate their generosity. Being Rangers and Lurps, we take our beer drinking seriously, and at times have been known to consume copious quantities at one setting. Since we have always looked out for our Ranger brothers currently defending our nation's honor, this ample supply of premium beer will guarantee that we will not thirst while sharing lessons learned with our younger brothers.

Miller Genuine Draft has also offered to provide our Association with 144 golf shirts displaying our Ranger logo and theirs (a marriage made in heaven, no doubt!) to help raise funds to defray some of the administrative expenses incurred in running our organization. These will be made available to the general membership at a date to be announced, and at a reasonable price. In exchange for a full page color ad in each issue of *Patrolling* they have also offered to pick up the additional expense incurred in providing full color on the four cover pages. Our publication will now be even more attractive and professional looking than before.

In return for Miller Genuine Draft's magnanimous donation, we have decided to offer them the back cover of our magazine *Patrolling*, in order to extol the virtues of their product and let all know of our alliance with them. Honorary memberships will be extended to the brand manager and a couple of his associates to show our gratitude. We welcome them aboard and look forward to their attendance at our Association functions. Rangers and Millers Genuine Draft Lead the Way!



By Tom Sove
K/75th Ranger
Secretary

My favorite subject is mailing labels. We intentionally screwed up the last effort just so I could have something to write about. But Linderer said I can't do that anymore, so here's the real story on your mailing labels. They're current as of 1 June 1997; that is, as current as the information I've received from various sources: e-mail, direct mail, Treasurer reports, etc. This time the labels will have your name on the top line, and your membership status on the second line. The first three digits are reserved for your membership number. If you are an honorary or complimentary member, three "0"s will show up there. The next two digit code signifies the date to which you are paid up to, or a special designation that indicates you do not have to pay because you are a Life or Honorary member. Here are a few examples:

* A "-95" means you haven't paid anything since 1995! You're delinquent. Pay up now, and don't argue about it.

* A "-97" means you are paid up to the end of June, 1997, and you should pay your next annual dues now for the July 1997 to June 1998 period.

* A "-98", "-99", etc. means you are paid up until June of that respective year. Nothing is due from you until that year.

* An "-LM" means you are a paid up Life Member and owe nothing.

* An "-HM" means you are an Honorary Member, which indicates your dues are gratuitous. We have very few of those.

The problem we ran into last issue came from sending the mailing label data base via floppy disk to our printer. They said that they would be able to extract everything exactly as we had it, but it didn't work out that way. So this time I'm doing the labels by hand. Please do not bother anyone else with any questions or complaints about your labels. Contact me directly.

It seems that e-mail has become our association's communication media of choice, especially among the officers and other active folk. I have been having nothing but problems with my provider the past year and have been AWOL from the net on numerous occasions. The result has been a little frustrating. My solution is to get a new provider, and that will be consummated on 1 June. As a result of my problems I have also become a little suspicious of the reliability of e-mail, and urge anyone who can't get through to me to please pick up the phone and call me. My home number is (209)575-2758, and work is (209)579-0914. I'm well known at both places, and messages left will get to me.

The "Phony of the Month" award goes to an inquiry from someone who was looking for background information on a Ranger who served in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment in 1970. They just keep on coming!

The status of our Association

appears to be quite healthy, but it could get better with your direct action. For those of you who have made address changes and have notified me directly, thank you very much. I have processed over a hundred new members in the past nine months, which includes "rejoiners" from the past and newly located veterans. Something most encouraging is the flow of new members from the Ranger Regiment. Remember, these are the guys who are going to carry on and keep this association alive. But, there are still hundreds of old Lurp's out there who either don't know we exist, or need the prodding to join up. If you know someone in either category, it's your duty to encourage membership in our organization. If you can't do it, ask someone else to help. If your Unit Director won't, or can't, spend any time in this endeavor, think about getting your guys to appoint someone who can. Strength comes from numbers and activity. We need your help.

We have a great thing going here. I'm reminded just how fulfilling this Association is each time I talk with one of you about something, and especially at the reunions where I see faces full of anxieties and worries dissipate into complete relaxation after just a few hours of comradeship. It is our duty to share this with those who are us. RECRUIT!

NOTICE: WAR STORIES WANTED!

Author Gary Linderer, 101st Airborne Division Lurp/Ranger is currently looking for Vietnam era LRRP - LRP - Ranger mission stories for a new book titled Phantom Warriors—Lurp/Rangers of the Vietnam War, coming out in early 1998 under a Random House label. Stories must be factual, substantiated and detailed. Linderer wishes to recognize all Lurp/Rangers by including a chapter on each of the 37 LRRP-LRP-Ranger units that served in Vietnam theater, in addition to chapters on the BDQ and B-36 Lurps. *Time is of the essence! Don't delay.* Contact Gary Linderer for more information and an interview:

201 N. Adams
Festus, MO 63028
(314)937-7204

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO GET SOME LONG DESERVED RECOGNITION FOR YOUR UNIT!!!!

Commo Check



By Gary Linderer
F/58th (LRP), L/75th Ranger
Editor

The "shake down" cruise is over, and if we were being graded by anybody but you guys we'd probably be out of a job already. Our first effort at putting out a new *Patrolling* had more screw ups than a cherry team led by a shiny new shake 'n' bake fresh from the States. God, we sure don't work under pressure like we used to! For those of you who picked up on the "old" address on the association application—that was a real boner on my part. And for those of you who were offended by my offhand remarks about some rear echelon O-6 getting people killed because of his misplaced lust for war in the *Ambush!* - L Co/75th Inf. *Rangers in Action* article—well, Christ, do you really think that never happened? If you subscribe to that theory you must have been in a different conflict than the rest of us.

But that's really not the issue here. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is our association, founded by us to foster and promote the friendships and bonds we forged serving together as Lurps and Rangers during the past thirty years or so. We have a proud and illustrious heritage to uphold that predates the founding of our country. It's a heritage that we have sustained with our blood and the blood of fallen brothers, a heritage we currently foster and promote with our continued camaraderie. Our independence, our esprit, our loyalty, and...yes, even our arrogance is what makes us Rangers in the first place. This is our publication, and it should be available for any member in good standing to speak his mind, albeit without spite for spite's sake alone. As your editor it is my mission to insure that the publication's staff provides our membership with an open forum, timely communication, entertainment, and general information. To accomplish this mission we need your support, your input, your feedback and your participation. Pressure your unit reps to submit a column each issue, so that you can stay on top of what's happening. If they don't want to do their jobs, ask them to step down and turn it over to

someone who will. Keep in mind, many of our unit reps took the job because no one else wanted it. By now we've matured enough as an association that we ought to be able to find someone who "wants" to do the job. We all know the importance of "good commo". Without it, it's tough to function—and even tougher to ask for help.

I'd like to invite any of you who feel the need to get something off your chest, share your thoughts, tell a war story (only if it's true), or even if you just want to make an ass out of yourself, put it on paper and send it in. Let us know what you're doing, how life is treating you, or what you've accomplished. Here's an example for you:

Steve Mead, D/75th, I Field Force, called to say that he and his 12 year old son Jed are leaving June 5th for Hanoi. After three weeks in country, the two Kentuckians are heading to Hong Kong to be on hand for the Red Chinese takeover in July. Steve said that they're expecting such a crowd that his hotel room in Hong Kong for five nights set him back over \$2,200 US—a final lesson in pure capitalism. Have a great trip, Steve.

That was a real tough one, wasn't it? Drop us a line. Give us your coordinates and call signs, and maybe we can hook up some of you guys who share an AO. What's wrong with a Lurp/Ranger beer party, barbeque, fishing trip, or a ball game? You don't have to be from the same unit or the same generation to be friends, you know!

How about some photographs from the old days? Send them in complete with captions and we'll run

them. You old Nam vets, show your buddies and our younger Ranger brothers from Grenada, Panama, Iraq and Somalia just what studs we were—you know, back when we were in shape, and were young and pretty. You young guys—well, okay, go ahead and show us that you're still studs! We can't help it we're old.

We can really make *Patrolling* something special, but you've got to pitch in and do your part. We've got 32 pages to fill each and every issue, and the three of us can't fill them without your help. Besides, in spite of all our combat experience, Miller, Jorgenson and I will be out of personal war stories in 30 or 40 issues. And if we can't get any from you guys, we'll have to start making them up—or, heaven forbid, we might even have to start running some Navy SEAL stories!

One final thought! I'd like to challenge each and every one of you to go out and recruit a new member by the end of the summer. Growth brings progress. We've lost a lot of past members for a number of reasons, and we need to get them back again. Our association is in the best shape financially and physically that it's been in a long time. But too many of our lost brothers are unaware of this. Since they're not receiving *Patrolling* they're not going to find out what they're missing by not belonging, unless you tell them. Sponsor them it that's what it takes. It's only twenty bucks. Get it done.

Well, that's Commo Check for this time. Hope you're reading me Lima Charlie. Linderer, Out!



"Specializing in Military Jewelry"

RANGER JEWELRY OF DISTINCTION

Custom jewelry in gold and silver, Ranger Tab/School pendant or pins, custom work a specialty, *if you can imagine it, I can make it!* For further information:

P.O. Box 320534 • Tampa, Florida 33679 • 1-800-739-0671

**Ten percent of all profits donated to the
75th Ranger Regiment Memorial Brick Fund**



Smokey Does Panama

By Smokey Wells

I recently went down to Panama to visit my Ranger buddy SFC Rick Merritt of B/3/75 (Just Cause and Somalia). He's stationed at Ft. Sherman for a year as a senior Infantry Training NCO. His roommate is SFC Dave Wilson, also from B/3/75 and one of the heroes of the battle in Somalia.

I arrived at the beginning of the dry season so the weather was near perfect. Let me say that Ft. Sherman is the most beautiful military installation I've ever seen. Since I was there to see what Rick was doing I stayed busy attending land mine warfare, booby trap, and infantry training classes. I even dressed up in BDU's and cammy paint. It sure brought back some old memories! There was even an infantry company from the 82nd Airborne Division there. They allowed me to helo-cast from a Chinook into Gatun Lake with them.

There was a field dedication ceremony scheduled on January 14 to honor Major Dick Meadows. Gen. Wayne Downing was there to give the dedication speech. As it turned out, the ceremony was postponed until the 21st and BG Wagner ended up making the speech.

I met with Gen. Downing at the Tarpon Club dinner house at Gatun Lake near the dam. We had a nice talk during which he enlightened me on some of the history of the Canal and the surrounding area. Gen. Downing is a very brilliant man. I drove him back to his quarters and wished him well on his trip (I don't think he will ever retire.).

Well, my three weeks had come and gone. It seemed as though I couldn't get out of Panama as there was always something else to do. Rangers Rick Merritt, Dave Wilson, Wilfred



L to R—Smokey Wells, 1SGT Mike Stangle, SFC Dave Wilson on MK-4 during submarine escort duty at Gatun locks at the entrance to the Panama Canal. Note the S.S. *Grayling* in the background. (Author's photo)

Gienger and I went to Rio Hato where B/3/75 jumped in during Just Cause and captured the airfield. Rick related all that happened that night and pointed out the spots where the firefights took place.

We went into Noriega's home on the beach. It's a beautiful 3-story house, but everything is gone, looted. Even the electrical outlets were hanging out of the walls. You could see bullet holes in the walls of the 2nd floor bedroom where shots were fired up from the courtyard below.

When we checked back in at Ft. Sherman General Wagner suggested that I be picked up by an MK-4 gunboat early the next morning. I told him "okay" and asked if I could take along my Ranger buddies.

The next morning was like a movie. Under cover of darkness we left the lagoon at Ft. Sherman on one of a pair of small gunboats. Everyone was heavily armed. At the break of dawn a large shape rose up from the ocean depths

and surfaced right in front of us. Suddenly it hit me what we were out there for. We were to escort the U.S. Navy submarine S.S. *Grayling* through the Panama Canal.

We took the *Grayling* through each of the locks until she got inside the canal. That's when things got interesting. I got to take my party aboard the sub. The crew is composed of highly trained and skilled technicians. They gave us the grand tour of the boat. We ate in the galley, did the periscope thing (just like in the movies), and shot water "slugs" from the torpedo tubes. I never realized just how intricate and downright massive a nuclear sub is. What a boat! I want one.

Well, the crew chief finally told us we would have to reboard the MK-4. But when I took a final look up at the conning tower and saw "Old Glory" waving so majestically, I couldn't resist asking the chief if I could ride up there. He quickly told me "no way." I begged him to ask the Captain for permission.

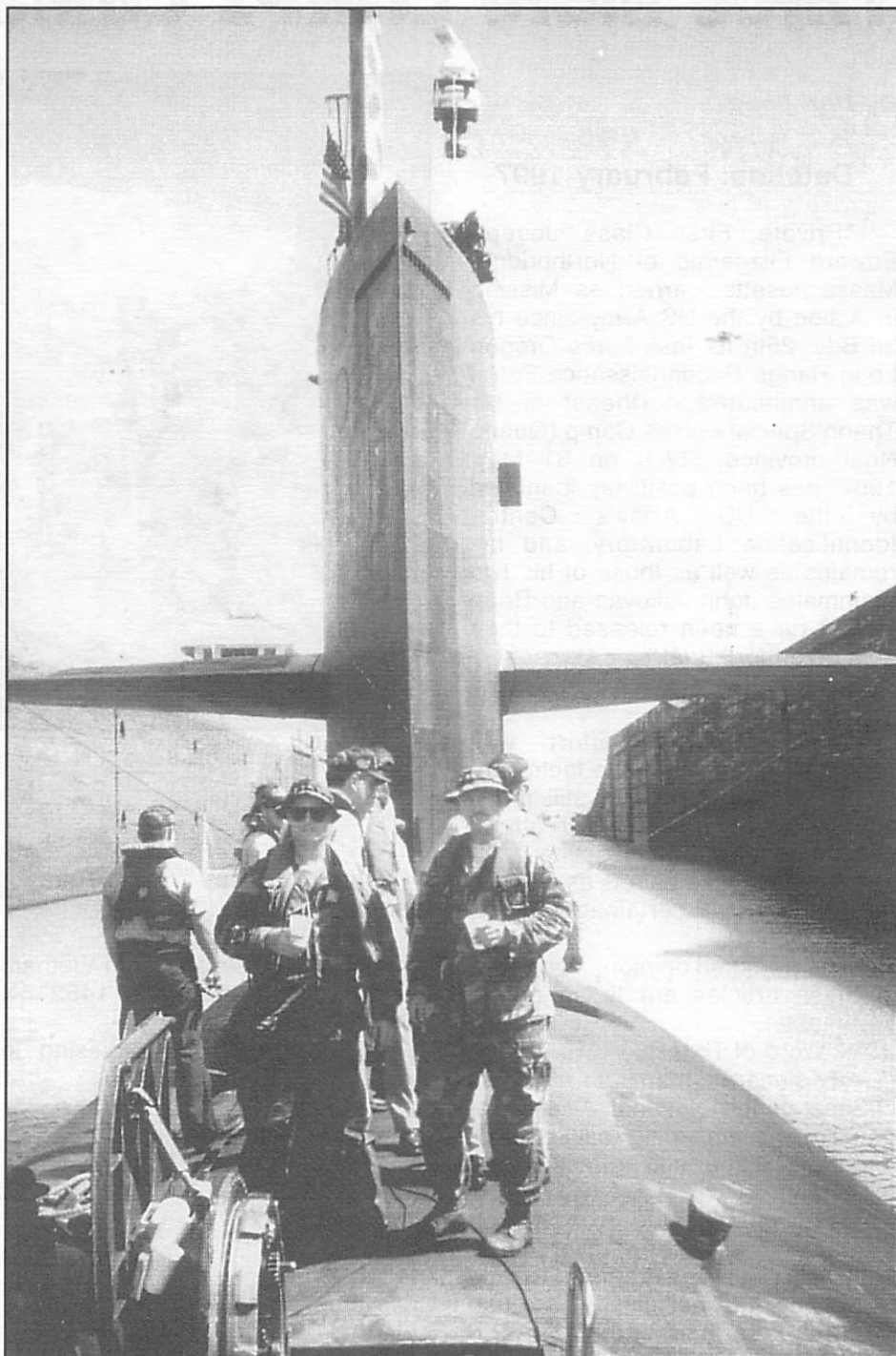


When he finally relented and did so, the Captain looked down and said, "Smokey, come on up." He didn't have to ask me twice.

We docked at Rodman Naval Base at 1530 hours, where Gen. Wagner kindly provided us with transportation back to Ft. Sherman. All of us were overwhelmed by the experience. All the money in the world couldn't have bought us a trip like that one. Like me, Mike and Dave had never been through the Canal. It had been our lucky day. I want to say, "Thanks again, General Wagner."

I had been in Panama six weeks and two days, during which I had met some of the finest hard-charging military personnel I had seen in a long time, but when you're dealing with SOCOM you know you're dealing with America's finest.

Col. Harrison, CSM Tudor, Maj. Doug Smith, 1SGT Frank Flores, SFC Frank O'Connell, Gen. Wagner, Gen. Downing, God bless you all for your service to our country, and thank you for an unforgettable experience. It put a smile in my heart and brought back a lot of memories of times gone by. It also gave me new memories of new friends and a lot of very special people.



L to R—1SGT Mike Stangle and Smokey Wells on the deck of the nuclear sub *S.S. Grayling* at the Mira Flora locks in the Panama Canal. (Author's photo)

Rangers Lead The Way !



Three More LURPS Come Home!

By Dan Pope

Dateline: February 1997

"Private First Class Joseph Edward Fitzgerald of Northbridge, Massachusetts, carried as Missing in Action by the US Army since his 3d Bde, 25th ID Task Force Oregon Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol was annihilated northeast of Ha Thanh Special Forces Camp (Quang Ngai province, RVN) on 31 May, 1967, has been positively identified by the US Army's Central Identification Laboratory, and his remains as well as those of his two teammates John Jakovac and Brian McGar have been released to their next of kin for burial."

Disclaimer:

Although great effort was expended in obtaining the facts contained herein, there are still many ambiguities due to lack of official documentation and conflicting opinion. The enclosed data is as close to the truth as is ascertainable at this time.

The personal opinions contained in these articles are those of the Webmaster.

A Word of Thanks:

My sincerest thanks to Ms. Lynn O'Shea of the National Alliance of Families for providing background, information and editing assistance for this report.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Worcester, Massachusetts Telegram & Gazette for giving us permission to use excerpts from their March 13th article.

Board of Inquiry Report

Name: Joseph Edward Fitzgerald
Rank/Branch: E3/US Army
Unit: LRRP, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (See note in text)
Date of Birth: 25 November 1948 (St. Johnsbury, VT)



Firing squad from the Old Guard at Ft. Meyers "stand to" prior to the burial ceremony. (Steve Crabtree photo)

Home City of Record:
Northbridge, MA

Loss Date: 31 May 1967

Country of Loss: South Vietnam

Loss Coordinates: 145215N
1085242E (BS718450)

Status (in 1973): Missing in Action

Category: 2

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: Ground

Other Personnel In Incident:
Brian K. McGar; John A. Jakovac
(both missing)

Name: John Andrew Jakovac
Rank/Branch: E5/US Army
Unit: HHC, 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division (See note in text)

Date of Birth: 10 April 1947
(Ontonogan, MI)

Home City of Record: Detroit, MI

Loss Date: 31 May 1967
Country of Loss: South Vietnam
Loss Coordinates: 145215N
1085242E (BS718450)

Status (in 1973): Missing in

Action

Category: 2

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: Ground

Other Personnel In Incident:
Joseph E. Fitzgerald; Brian K. McGar (both missing)

Name: Brian Kent McGar
Rank/Branch: E-3/US Army
Unit: LRRP, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (See note in text)
Date of Birth: 17 August 1947
(Turlock, CA)
Home City of Record: Ceres, CA

Loss Date: 31 May 1967
Status (in 1973): Missing in Action

Category: 2

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: Ground

Other Personnel In Incident:
Joseph E. Fitzgerald; John A. Jakovac (both missing)

Synopsis

On May 31, 1967, PFC Brian K.



Military pallbearers carry the casket to the gravesite. (Steve Crabtree photo)

McGar, PFC Joseph E. Fitzgerald; Sgt. John A. Jakovac; Cpl. Charles G. Rogerson, and SP4 Carl D. Flower were members of a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) deployed in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam. The LRRP unit was inserted to move to the base of Hill 310 and to check out an area along a hedge row where several Viet Cong had been seen and fired upon by gunships earlier that day. Then, at night, the patrol was to move to the top of Hill 310 to establish an observation point.

Early that afternoon, a report was received that the patrol had established a position and reported everything was normal. At 2030 hours, the patrol reported that they were going to proceed to the top of the hill to establish the observation point as briefed. Radio contact with the patrol was lost after that, as the patrol failed to make a scheduled report at 2145 hours.

On the morning of June 1, search elements began sweeping the area. During the search, bodies of Rogerson and Flower were discovered in fresh graves. The search element also found an expended AK-47, 5.56 and 7.62 millimeter brass as well as hand grenade fragments. Blood trails were discovered

leading from the area. Searches conducted from June 2 through July 12 proved unsuccessful.

NOTE:

In April 1967 elements of the 196th Infantry Brigade, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division were selected to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and then moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone where it operated in Quang Ngai and the southern part of Quang Tin Provinces. When OREGON was replaced by 23rd Division (AMERICAN) on 25 September 1967 only the 196th remained in its descendant division. The other units were returned.

While US Army records place Fitzgerald, Jakovac and McGar in the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, this unit was operating in the other end of the country. The three therefore, must have been among the element chosen to comprise Task Force OREGON.

NOTE:

This is believed to be the Board of Inquiry Report. It is believed there is no After Action Report on the incident due to the fact there was no surviving team member to make one. A Board of Inquiry

Report would have been held to determine status of the men, after the incident.

The Teams Fate According to Recent Reports

According to an article published on March 13, 1997 by the Worcester, Massachusetts *Telegram & Gazette*, a home town newspaper in Fitzgerald's area,

"Army field reports following the squad's disappearance have led Army investigators to reconstruct what they believe to be an accurate portrait of Fitzgerald's last day of life."

In the article written by George B. Griffin, himself a Vietnam veteran, Mr. Griffin says that according to the reconstruction,

"The helicopter and the insertion of the five men had been spotted by the enemy. As Fitzgerald's patrol was working its way toward the ridge, Viet Cong and NVA regulars were taking positions on the high ground. When the Americans were within range, about 50 yards away, the Vietnamese opened fire."

The Search

The article continues to say that,

"The hard packed ground below the ridge was littered with rifle shell casings and other debris of war. The firefight had been brief, but intense. Nearby, the searchers found a shallow grave with two of the American bodies. They had been stripped of their gear and weapons before being hastily buried."

NOTE:

The two bodies were identified as Cpl. Charles G. Rogerson and SP4 Carl D. Flower.

"Trails of blood led away from the firefight scene, leading the search team to conclude that the three other members of the LRRPs, including Fitzgerald, were taken away by the Vietnamese."

"But the team ended the search without finding their common grave."

The Final Identification

In 1994 the remains excavated from the potato field were shipped to



US Army Central Identification Lab in Hawaii where they remained until January of 1997.

According to the *Telegram & Gazette* article,

"Because dental records for the three men could not be found, Army personnel were unsure whether the remains were those of Fitzgerald and the other members of the LRRP.

It was not until after Fitzgerald's sister and relatives of the other two dead soldiers had supplied blood and tissue samples for DNA typing that positive identification was made.

And even though forensic experts were 99 percent sure that the remains found in that grave were those of Fitzgerald, it is only now that they are being shipped home.

In January, Army personnel brought the final report of the excavation and forensic results to Fitzgerald's sister at her Northbridge home. At last, the remains were positively identified as those of the three missing soldiers."

Remains Finally Recovered

"US investigators were led to the exact gravesite by a Vietnamese local."

The first field activity by JTF-FA (Joint Task Force Full Accounting) was in 1992 when the remains were deemed "unrecoverable". It is believed that there were two field activities in 1994, the first of which included an excavation. At the second it was determined there was no indication of a grave and no excavation was conducted.

It was during this second field activity in 1994 that a local came forward and led US investigators to the site. The site was excavated in January 1994 and the remains were recovered.

The remains of Charles Rogerson and Carl Flower were recovered on June 1, 1967, the day after the May 31 incident. The grave containing Jakovac, McGar and Fitzgerald was about 80 meters away from the first grave.



The folding of the flag. (Steve Crabtree photo)

This raises a very relative question. How could the search teams miss the second grave in 1967? The search operation was described as very "detailed", operating continuously for several days then intermittently until July 12th, 1967.

According to George B. Griffin

"Fitzgerald, McGar, and Jakovac buried in what would later become a Vietnamese family's potato field."

In the *Telegram & Gazette* article Mr. Griffin says that,

"In January 1994 an Army team, with Vietnamese assistance, began excavating the potato field where the missing soldiers were believed to have been buried. A photograph of that excavation shows trenches dug like a grid into the rich, dark soil.

In the picture behind the field, the lush subtropical forest marches up a hillside. The photograph shows the hill where the Vietnamese launched their ambush 30 years ago.

The excavators found the common grave of the three soldiers in the middle of the field. But their

remains were poorly preserved and jumbled.

Most of what was found consisted of skull fragments, long-bone segments and 89 teeth, including 30 with dental work. There was part of one shoe and a fragment of a belt.

Because dental records for the three men could not be found, Army personnel were unsure whether the remains were those of Fitzgerald and the other members of the LRRP.

Burial Ceremonies

Saturday 15 March, 1997 Sgt. Joseph Edward Fitzgerald was laid to rest next to his mother, who died in the 1980's never knowing the fate of her son, in the family burial plot in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Northbridge/Whitinsville, Massachusetts.

Members of the Blackstone Valley Veterans' Association formed the Color and Honor Guard for the ceremony and the veterans and civilians who wore Fitzgerald's MIA bracelet put them in an ammo box which was interred with him.

According to Phil Downey,



Presentation of the flag as fellow veterans look on. (Steve Crabtree photo)

F/52nd & I/75th,

"600-700 people attended the ceremony," and in Phil's words, "it was incredible!" "Veterans groups came from all over New England to participate; over 300 veterans marched in formation to the ceremonial site. Bagpipes, helicopter fly-over, US Army participation, and a great eulogy by a family friend who was a Vietnam veteran topped off a fine ceremony. Heartfelt thanks in behalf of all members of 25th LRRP, F/50th & F/75th to all who participated in this effort. We are very grateful."

9 April 1997 Ceremony At Arlington National Cemetery

A group burial for all three; Fitzgerald, Jakovac, and McGar took place at 1100 hours 9 April 1997 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Two services were conducted. The burial of group remains were on the 9th of April, and the burial of the individually identifiable remains of PFC Brian McGar took place on the 10th.

A reception was held at Fort Meyers NCO Club before the ceremony on the 9th. Families, friends and fellow Lurp/Rangers gathered to

pay their respects. Services began promptly at 1100 hours at the Fort Meyers Chapel. Graveside services followed. The funeral was conducted with full military honors.

NOTE OF CLARIFICATION

The US Army Central Identification Lab in Hawaii was only

able to make a positive identification of Fitzgerald's leg bones. These were interred in the ceremony in Northbridge/Whitinsville, Massachusetts on March 15th. Other remains not positively identified, but believed to be those of Fitzgerald, were interred along with those of Jakovac and McGar at Arlington on 9 April.

"MAY THESE MEN ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED WITH HONOR AND DIGNITY"

"Incredible"

It is indeed incredible that just three days before their remains were returned to the families, memorial bricks were purchased for Fitzgerald, Jakovac and McGar by their comrades to be placed in the walk to the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning, Georgia. They did not know at the time that the remains of their fellow Lurp/Rangers had been recovered.



Joe Fitzgerald's sister "touches" her brother a final time. (Steve Crabtree photo)



The Alamo Scouts - World War II's LURPS

By Michael F. Dilley

In late November, 1943, Lieutenant General Walter Krueger, Commander of the Sixth Army, created a special reconnaissance unit to be at his disposal for scouting and raiding missions. The impetus for this move lies in two separate actions. First was MacArthur's refusal to allow the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to operate in the Southwest Pacific area, but instead organizing an agency, the Allied Intelligence Bureau, to conduct the same missions as the OSS. Second was the disastrous invasion of Kiska Island in the Aleutians. Intelligence in the latter operation was so bad that the invading force did not know that the Japanese had departed the target islands. Krueger did not want this to happen to him.

Krueger's order established the Alamo Scouts Training Center (ASTC) under the direction of the Sixth Army G-2. Colonel Horton V. White. At the time, Alamo Force was the code-name for Sixth Army. The order called for a six week training course, to begin before the end of the year, and for all divisions in Sixth Army to supply soldiers to attend the training. Krueger picked Lieutenant Colonel Frederick W. Bradshaw to be the director of the ASTC. From among the graduates of the training course, Bradshaw was to select teams that would conduct the missions; those graduates not selected for the teams would return to their parent units to pass on the benefits of their training and to conduct similar missions.

During the course of the next two years as Sixth Army Headquarters moved forward, so did the ASTC. In all, eight classes were conducted at five different training locations (see Figure 1). These eight classes included two hundred fifty enlisted men



This photo was taken at Finschhafen, New Guinea, on June 22, 1944, the day Class #3 graduated. Those pictured include staff and graduates. Front row, from left: LT John M. Dove, LT Milton B. Beckworth, LT Donald P. Hart, LT Gene H. Reynolds, LT William B. Lutz, LT Arpad Farkas. Back row, from left: LT Lewis B. Hochstrasser, CPT Richard G. Canfield, MAJ Homer A. Williams, CPT Gibson Niles, LT Gus Watson (Australian Army), and LT Robert A. Sumner. (Photo courtesy of Lewis B. Hochstrasser)

and seventy-five officers in their graduates. Not all of these graduates, however, served on active Alamo Scouts teams. Some of the graduates remained as instructors or staff members at ASTC. Twenty-one officers and one hundred seventeen enlisted men comprised the various teams.

Training was divided into two phases. Phase 1 lasted four weeks and consisted of classroom and hands-on refresher training in a variety of subjects. "Refresher" is the proper word because this training was never intended to be any kind of basic course, rather it was to rely on all training the soldiers had received to that time and to concentrate on those subjects that would be needed for their duties on Alamo Scouts teams. Throughout the training cycle each student had a chance to work with and evaluate

all the others.

Phase 2 lasted two weeks and consisted of practical application of the previous training woven into strenuous field problems, each lasting three to four days. These patrols required the teams to plan, brief, and execute the mission assigned. Support included U.S. Navy PT boats for approaches and small rubber boats for landings. Another team assisted with the infiltration and exfiltration phases of the patrol; this team was called the "contact team."

As subsequent classes were conducted and as the type of missions given to the operational teams changed over time, training was evaluated based on how beneficial it was to the operational teams. There were minor changes in the curriculum, the biggest of which was to extend Phase 2 for an additional half



Colonel Horton V. White, G-2 of Sixth Army, presents awards to four Alamo Scouts following a mission by Dove Team from 8-11 June 1944, to conduct a reconnaissance of the Toarum River area between Wadke and Hollandia in New Guinea. Those receiving awards are, from left: T/5 Irvin Ray (Dove Team), SSG Vern Miller (Hobbs Team), SSG John Fisher (Dove Team), and LT John Dove (leader, Dove Team). (Photo courtesy of Lewis B. Hochstrasser)

week and cut out some of the classroom training. Over the course of the two years that the ASTC existed, the training schedule changed very little.

The Alamo Scouts teams formed from the graduates consisted of a lieutenant and five or six scouts. Generally, each team operated alone unless a mission called for additional scouts to go along or for more than one team to operate together or in the same nearby area. The teams were named after the officer who led them rather than by any numerical designation. The most interesting thing about the teams was how they were chosen. At the end of training, each enlisted man was asked to name three other men with whom he would go on a four-man patrol and explain why. The officers were asked to pick five men they wanted on their team. By this time, everyone in the class had worked with everyone else and was fairly familiar with who was compatible with them. The ASTC faculty had

the final say on who made an operational team, but their lists were very similar to those of the students. From the first day of training to the last, the concept of the team was drilled into the students.

Once they were operational, this concept became a reality for the Alamo Scouts. Every member of the team made a contribution to every mission. Just because the lieutenant was in charge did not mean he had the only ideas or the final say-so. Every man was expected to speak up when he had something to say.

The Alamo Scouts operated behind Japanese lines during the two years they existed. In many cases, behind the lines consisted of a series of islands, all held by the Japanese, which would be invaded by Sixth Army units in a series of amphibious attacks during 1944. Sixth Army G-2 needed to know not only about unit dispositions on these islands but also beach conditions, such as

gradient angle, sand composition, water depth, obstacles, etc.

Most of the Alamo Scouts' missions were to conduct reconnaissance and gather intelligence, foreshadowing the LRRP patrols of the Vietnam war. Mission insert (and later extract) was by rubber boats launched from Catalina (PBY) aircraft, submarine, or PT boat. Later, following the invasion of Luzon in the Philippines, Alamo Scouts teams worked closely with Philippine guerrilla units, much like some modern day Special Forces operations. At least six of their mis-

Just because the lieutenant was in charge did not mean he had the only ideas or the final say-so.

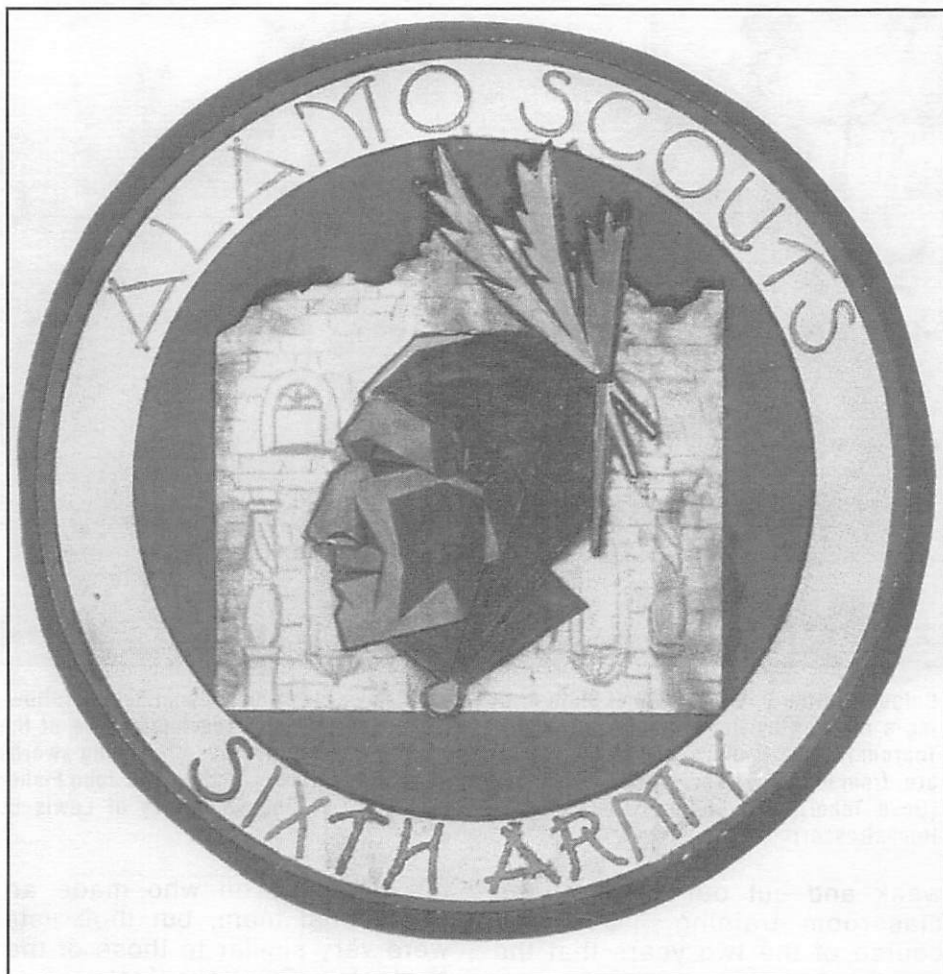
sions were planned to capture Japanese prisoners, two were to liberate prisoners of war held by the Japanese, and several were to recover downed U.S. pilots, air crews, or sensitive equipment and code books. When not on missions behind the lines, the Alamo Scouts pulled personal security duty for General Krueger as he visited units at or near the front. After the Japanese surrender two teams of Alamo Scouts accompanied Sixth Army headquarters to Japan. There they conducted missions to identify and secure weapons caches and to continue personal security duty for General Krueger. In November 1945, the last of the Alamo Scouts teams were disbanded. During the more than one hundred Alamo Scouts missions, not one of the Scouts was killed or captured—an incredibly impressive achievement.

The Alamo Scouts served as the pattern for similar units in later wars. The Vietnam war's



Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols (LRRPs), Long Range Patrols (LRPs), and 75th Ranger companies, and today's Long Range Surveillance units have many of their aspects drawn directly from the Alamo Scouts. The training schedule for the MACV Recondo School was very similar in composition to that used by the ASTC. As a result, Special Forces considers the Alamo Scouts as part of their heritage. In addition, the U.S. Army Ranger School adopted the ASTC principle of sending graduates back to their parent units to pass on the benefits of their training to others.

Of all the stories from all the missions, probably the one which best demonstrates the close relationship between the Alamo Scouts and General Krueger, their founder, is from a mission that was canceled. In June 1944, Lieutenant Woodrow H. Hobbs and his team were told to plan the kidnapping of two Japanese generals. A Japanese prisoner, who had worked at the camp where the generals lived, had provided very detailed information about the camp layout and the daily routine of the generals, such as when they ate, when one of them went horseback riding, and so forth. The Hobbs Team, working with training center operations officer, Lieutenant John R. C. McGowen, who had led the very first Alamo Scouts mission, briefed Krueger on their plan. It could be done but it would be extremely dangerous. There were limited ways in and these were always under observation. The generals were well guarded, and there was every likelihood the team would take serious casualties. Krueger canceled the operation with a terse statement: "I wouldn't take the whole damn Jap army for one Alamo Scout."



An artist's rendition of the Alamo Scouts shoulder patch. Although never officially approved, it was worn by former members on their uniforms. (Sound familiar!) It is still used by the Alamo Scouts Association.

ALAMO SCOUTS TRAINING CENTER LOCATIONS

1. Kalo Kalo, Fergusson Island, New Guinea
Director: LTC Frederick W. Bradshaw
Class 1: 27 December 1943 - 5 February 1944
Class 2: 21 February 1944 - 31 March 1944
2. Mangee Point, Finschhafen, New Guinea
Director: LTC Frederick W. Bradshaw
Class 3: 15 May 1944 - 22 June 1944
3. Cape Kassoe, Hollandia, New Guinea
Director: MAJ Homer A. Williams
Class 4: 31 July 1944 - 9 September 1944
Class 5: 18 September 1944 - 28 October 1944
4. Abuyog, Leyte, Philippine Islands
Director: MAJ Homer A. Williams
Class 6: 26 December 1944 - 1 February 1945
5. Mabayo, Bataan, Luzon, Philippine Islands
Director: MAJ Gibson Niles
Class 7: 23 April 1945 - 1 June 1945
Class 8: 6 August 1945 - 2 September 1945
(interrupted by end of war)

Fig. 1



The Hackworth Disconnection!

**By Terry B. Roderick, Vice President
75th Ranger Regiment Association**

You may have seen the recent reports concerning Col. David Hackworth's unauthorized wearing of the Ranger Tab. By way of self-defense he claims that he wore it due to incorrect bookkeeping by the Army, since it is listed in his U.S. Army Form 66. Hackworth's Form 66 (a copy of which was provided to me by Col. Hackworth) shows the award of the Ranger Tab under AR 672-5-1, but there is no date listed. This is definitely wrong, and this AR does not pertain to the Korean era Rangers in any way.

I noticed that under the "Ratings, Specialties and Designations" Section in Block 15, it also lists Parachutist, Senior Parachutist and Master Parachutist, but these have an award date posted with them, unlike the entry on Hackworth's Form 66 which has the award date blank where the listing for the Ranger Tab appears. In addition, there are Award Authorities listed for each of the aforementioned awards, but the copy I have is not legible.

I admit to being the "point-man" or the "culprit" (depending on your point of view) behind this potential scandal. What began as an innocent inquiry quickly turned into national news when on May 15th, CBS ran a story with Dan Rather on national TV involving an interview with yours truly. I had been told the story would air on May 16th, the anniversary of Admiral Michael Boorda's suicide. CBS jumped the gun by a day because of their fear of being scooped by another news organization. I'm writing this as an introduction to a message I released to the Ranger List Server on the Internet on May 15th. CNN News has requested an interview with me on May 16th, which is tomorrow

as I write this. I tried to briefly describe the past six weeks as clearly as possible. The following is what has transpired to date:

I'm writing this to dispel any rumors or untrue gossip going on in the Ranger community concerning Col. David Hackworth and his Ranger Tab. My name is Terry B. Roderick and I am the current Vice President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. I would like to start out by saying I had no personal agenda, no ax to grind, and this was no witch hunt. It was merely a fact finding mission and nothing else. There was no preconceptions or prior knowledge in the beginning.

Initially, I was contacted by a friend who is on the Ranger List Server. He inquired about DH's Ranger Tab and how he might have gotten it. It was determined that he never attended the U.S. Army Ranger School while on active duty. So, then the question was 'how did he obtain the award?'

I personally contacted DH through his Website and he related to me that he was awarded the Ranger Tab for his service with the 27th Wolfhound Raiders in Korea. I knew that to be untrue and related this to him. He then offered that it was awarded for his service with the 8th Army Ranger Company, not to be confused with the 8th Airborne Ranger Company in Korea. Since I have been involved in a limited way with our Association's efforts to have the award of the Ranger Tab or official authorization of the combat scrolls we wore in Vietnam for the Vietnam era Rangers, I had some knowledge of the history of the Ranger Tab and related issues thanks to Ranger Robert Black, a Ranger historian, author, and Korean War Ranger. I'd like to thank Ranger Black for his sharing with myself and other members of this Association in our quest for recognition by the U.S. Army after

our service to our country in Vietnam many years ago. Some of our other members have been involved in this quest for several years, but that is not the purpose of this message.

Before continuing, I'd like to acknowledge the efforts and contributions to this endeavor of Ranger Steve Jaeger of the USARA. It has been a joint effort between two Rangers from different Ranger organizations to establish the truth, and we have accomplished this by using the facts, not opinion or innuendo. Further research revealed that DH had not appeared in any official documentation in possession of the 8th Army Ranger Company, which I personally related to Hackworth. Some members of the 8th Army Ranger Company had extensive documentation that covers their service in Korea and disputes the fact the DH had ever served in their company. He still insists that he spent a short time there. In order for him to have been awarded the Ranger Tab with the 8th Army Ranger Company, he would have had to have been carried in their official records. And even given this the members of the 8th Army Ranger Company were not officially authorized the Ranger Tab until 1985, after a prolonged battle with the Department of the Army to recognize their service. This authorization was finally accomplished by a special letter from the Department of the Army and stipulated that the awardees must have earned the CIB during a specified period of service with the company. Obviously, since there was no official mention of DH in their records, he could not have been awarded the Ranger Tab serving with them.

These were the indisputable facts, and upon learning them, DH removed his award of the Ranger Tab from his list of entitlements on his Webpage. At this time there is not much more he



can do other than what he has already done. He may or may not decide to do anything further, but that will be his decision.

CBS News, CNN News, and possibly a few other news organizations, got wind of this investigation, and they contacted me personally concerning the issue, asking for an interview. I participated in two interviews on Wednesday, May 14th and tried to convey the facts and the truth as I knew it. Coincidentally, this revelation has come at nearly the same time as the anniversary of former CNO Admiral Boorda's suicide on May 16, 1996. It has somehow become a very hot item in many circles. The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather will air a segment I'm told on Friday night, May 16th, concerning this latest revelation. I suspect DH is probably a bit embarrassed by this whole affair, and I would like to offer that he has been totally forthcoming, informative, and seemingly honest and open with this writer concerning this issue. This is not to say that there are not still some unresolved issues or recollections concerning some of the people contacted during the entire affair. I would like to say that during this investigation of his credentials, I have not found anything to detract from his combat service and prowess during his service in the various units he was assigned to. He was obviously a brave and ass kicking soldier during his active duty career. No one disputes that. Most people seem to love him, or hate him, for a variety of reasons. He is most definitely outspoken and controversial, and admits it. He has his own ideas on many subjects, and though I don't agree with all of it, I do agree with much of it. Hackworth has written and said things that have pissed off a lot of people, and many of his recollections and some of the incidents he relates are disputed by others. However, his ability as a writer and his opinionated discourse on the military and world

affairs has given him a large following. Many who read his writings take what he says as gospel, and sometimes this creates problems for those of his detractors and those he has blasted and pissed off for a variety of reasons. He does seem honest and genuine to me personally, but I have been fooled before. My service in Co P (Ranger) near the DMZ where they frequently dropped my ass off 20 clicks from the nearest friendly fire support along with five other Ranger brothers and said, "Keep in touch and we'll see you in five days or so,"—well, that's proof enough that I'll believe anything.

I'm not writing this to idolize David Hackworth, but merely to inform those of you who have questioned his Ranger Tab and how he got it. I'm not kissing his ass, nor do I believe that is what he wanted me to do. Love him or hate him, these are the facts concerning this issue as best I can relate them.

Initially, when I started this project, and he offered his service in the 27th Wolfhound Raiders and/or the 8th Army Ranger Company as the source of his Ranger Tab, I knew he was mistaken and thought, "Let's bust his ass good!" I'm now convinced that a man with his combat record has no need to glorify himself or embellish his entitlements, but only he really knows that for certain. He has also convinced me that he has worn the Ranger Tab and/or combat scroll mistakenly at some periods of his active duty service. When and where he wore them have been called into question by some, as different people have offered testimony that they witnessed him at various times and places wearing the different insignia previously mentioned. That will be for someone else to deal with, that is if they have an interest in pursuing this further. I am content that he has done the proper thing by removing the Ranger Tab from his list of enti-

tlements, and I hope that at some time in the near future he might take the public forum once again and publicly admit his mistake. I believe that this would be the proper thing for him to do, and suspect that this sort of response would do more for his reputation than if he were to ignore it altogether and just allow the revelation to filter its way through the public venue.

Let's face it, he is a very visible and a very colorful personality, and he has a lot to be proud of. It takes a bigger man to admit he has erred than it does to back off and hope a mistake goes unnoticed. I know there are those who will still want their pound of flesh for his mistake. To them I would offer that the coveted Ranger Tab is not the same animal as a combat award for "valor". There is a huge difference in this, but the lesson here might be similar to an old Davy Crockett saying..."Be sure you're right, then go ahead!!

ASSOCIATION TREASURE'S INTERIM REPORT

From Larry Rhodes

July 1996 thru April 1997

Total Income	\$22,480.38
Total Expenses and Cost of Goods Sold	\$22,941.35
Net Income	-460.97
Total Assets	\$48,289.72
Total Liabilities	\$49.95



Can We Trust Our Media?

By David Hackworth

I was stunned by the CBS TV onslaught about me wearing unauthorized awards. It supports my view of some reporters—the one's who never let facts get in the way of a good story.

So let's examine CBS's charges versus the facts. CBS said I had "worn" two medals which I had never been awarded. In disgust from the Vietnam War, I gave my awards away to a group of Australian kids in 1973. The U.S. Army reissued these awards in 1988. In the new set which included such major awards as two Distinguished Service Crosses, nine Silver Stars, eight Bronze Stars for Valor, and eight Purple Hearts, along with 76 other awards, was a Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster (2nd award) and a letter of transmittal summarizing the awards.

Eight years later, in response to numerous requests, I slapped this letter on my web site. A week before David Martin of CBS started his story, I compared this web site with my actual citations. When I discovered I didn't have a written citation for one of the Flying Crosses, I took it off until I could get this mismatch straightened out by Army personnel.

David Martin then interviewed retired Brig. General John Howard who confirmed that he personally examined the medals before they were shipped from the Pentagon to me. Howard thinks it is probable that I do have the second DFC because the guy who put the package together, Warrant Officer Thayer, was known to be the Army's top expert on awards and "a stickler for details."

Not only did Martin fail to mention Howard's testimony on TV or track down Thayer, when I told him after the story aired that I'd never "worn" that medal he said, "You know, Television."

You bet, I do know television, and I well understand that I am responsible for what is on my web site, and if it was screwed up it was my fault, but there is

a big difference between "displayed on the web site" and "worn on the uniform." And reporter Martin could have mentioned that I took the second DFC from my web page a week before he kicked off his story—a story which was quite "coincidentally" timed for exactly one year after Admiral Boorda shot himself for allegedly being caught by me and Newsweek for wearing two valor awards he was never issued.

The other "award" CBS accused me of wearing without authority was the Army Ranger tab which is not an award at all, but a skill qualification badge. To mistake it for a valor award is like confusing a medical doctor for a clerk in a health food store.

The facts are, the Army put the tab on my records in 1968 for Korean combat service and I proudly wore the tab until 1971, when I hung up my soldier suit.

Martin interviewed former 8th Ranger Co. 1st Sgt. Charley Pitts who said on the tube that I'd never been in the Ranger Company. Pitts told me a month before he spoke to Martin that I "could have been hanging around," but I was "never on the unit's official records."

Although I gave Martin two eyewitnesses who saw me with the company, both say he never even contacted them. More recently while I was doing a radio show in Palm Beach, another 8th Ranger Co. Sgt. (Jim Kohlbecker) called in and told the audience I was with the company in January 1951.

Several months ago Terry Roderick—an expert on Ranger tab entitlement and the Executive Vice President of the 75th Ranger Association—asked me about my justification of the Ranger tab for my Korean War service. (Roderick is leading the fight to get Vietnam-era LRRPs and Rangers the Ranger tab for their combat service in Vietnam as the WWII and Korean-era Rangers have received the tab.)

Roderick's detailed research convinced me the 27th Raiders (even though several Raiders say the unit was awarded the tab for behind the lines operations by Colonel George Sloan in 1951) were not authorized

the tab and since I was assigned to the 25th Recon Company while I was "hanging around" the 8th Ranger Company I was also not entitled to it for that duty. (Please read *About Face* to see why I went AWOL from the Recon Co.)

So even though Colonel Sloan is reported to have presented the tab to his Raiders (I was reportedly there, but have zilch recall of this event that happened 46 years ago) the Army had authorized the tab since 1968 and reissued it to me through the offices of General Howard in 1988. I also removed the tab from my web site in respect for Roderick's expertise and as a gesture of solidarity for the Vietnam-era Rangers who are justly fighting for the tab a week before Martin started his story.

After CBS's story broke Roderick told reporter Dana Priest and she wrote in the 17 May edition of the *Washington Post* that he "discovered that the Army had given me the right to wear the Ranger tab inappropriately..."

Early on Priest was the only reporter in America to interview me. Unfortunately, no one else bothered to talk to me, General Howard or the guys who witnessed me in the Ranger Company—or to figure out that if I had 102 medals why would I need to add one more.

Apparently, interviewing the accused might just get in the way of a juicy story.

Thank God, soon after the CBS led media explosion, truth tellers like radio/TV giant Don Imus and scores of other radio and TV shows across the nation let me tell my side of the story to set the record straight.

The bottom line is: I have never worn, nor claimed to have earned any award or tab I didn't think in good faith had been awarded to me by the Department of the Army.

Was David Martin fair, objective or did he have an agenda, an ax to grind? Terry Roderick said it best in an interview to a veteran straight shooting reporter:

1. "You would almost think David Martin was from the Boorda family. He was trying to lead me into saying stuff

Can We Trust Our Media? Continued

I didn't believe and wasn't going to say. It was obvious they were out to bust Hack's chops."

2. "I pointed out to David Martin that Admiral Boorda was sitting safe out in the Gulf of Tonkin eating warm meals, sleeping in an air conditioned bunk, and that's a lot different from a guy on the ground getting shot at. To compare that case to the Ranger tab was not fair in any way."

3. "He tried to lead me into saying things. I said I really didn't feel that way. David Martin's whole idea was to hold Hackworth up for ridicule..."

Remember, Terry Roderick was David Martin's source, not mine.

What can you do about this attempted lynching by CBS?

*** Write to the President of CBS (Mel Karmazin at CBS Inc./Blackrock, 51 W. 52nd St., NYC, NY 10019, and also the editors of your local newspapers and the *Army, Navy and Air Force Times* and ask them to look into a mirror and ask themselves what have they become and because of them what is America becoming. Ask them why didn't they have a fair reporter interview me before they allowed Martin's slime to fill the news.

*** Write your congress persons and ask that they pass a bill to have the Army award the Vietnam-era Rangers and LRRPs the Ranger tab just as it did for the Rangers of WWII and the Korean War.

Thanks, too, for the thousands of you who wrote/called/faxed/parachuted in support. I have tried to reply to every letter—the haters and the supporters—and if I have missed anyone, just blame it on this old two finger lap-top commando.

Hack

Note: Dana Priest's *Washington Post* piece is on my web site. It's linked to our "Hot Info" page.

The big news for Company F is, of course, the 30th anniversary reunion to be held in Lancaster, PA, September 23-27. Joe Havrilla, who lives in Lancaster, and Dave Hilliard have been working diligently on the logistics including the "all important" hospitality suite and the charter bus. Plan on checking in at the Comfort Inn, 500 Centerville Road, on Tuesday, September 23, and prepare to spend the rest of the day catching up on the past 30 years.

A trip to Gettysburg National Memorial Park is scheduled for the following day by POV, and even if you aren't a Civil War buff, don't miss this opportunity to set foot on one of the most famous battlefields in American history.

On Thursday a charter bus will take us to Washington, D.C. for a visit to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Here we will have the opportunity on the 30th anniversary of the formation of Company F to pay our respects to our fallen brothers and perhaps put to rest some of our own personal ghosts. I've visited the Wall many times since its dedication and I'm always moved by the experience. I urge all to participate in this healing experience..

The annual business meeting is scheduled for Friday with a BarBQ dinner that evening. I have been in touch with some of the Lurps in F/51st LRSC at Ft. Bragg and several of them are planning to attend, provided they are not in Bosnia.

Don Hall and Ed Emanuel are currently working on a documentary film project on the company and need vintage photos. Anyone with some good shots should send copies or originals to Don or Ed so they can be scanned into a computer. This would be a great way to share your photos by putting them on CD ROM format and having the disks available for distribution at reunions. Ed will be video taping interviews at the reunion, so bring a few war stories and any memorabilia you may have.

For those of you who didn't know, Mike Frazier (Team 2-3) suffered a heart attack about two months ago. He informs me that he is recovering and back at work but still has some arrhythmia problems. Hopefully, those can be taken care of by some electro-cautery procedure in the near future. You can reach Mike at his e-mail address: mfrazier@pacific.net. We all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

I have new e-mail addresses for:

Don Hall—DonCHall@msm.com

Bill Houser—Teacup17@juno.com

Steven Miles—Smiles9822@aol.com

I would like to thank Al Wondra for his piece in the last issue of *Patrolling*, 'Recollections of Tet, 1968', in which he recalls standing Lurp radio watch during Tet. Al sent a copy of our Valorous Unit Award Citation, DAGO No. 48, to me in which CO F (LRP) 51st Inf (Abn) and the 71st Inf Detachment (LRP) are cited for extraordinary heroism during the period 31 Jan 68 to 19 Feb 68. If anyone would like a copy of the citation, let me know and I'll send one out. I will bring copies to the reunion as well.

I stopped by Fayetteville when passing through NC a couple of months ago and dropped in on 1SG Butts. All is well with him and he remains cancer free. He was busy cleaning up the place, and rumor has it he may sell and move to Florida in the near future. He is expecting everyone to show up in Lancaster, so be there.

Dave Peace

ARVN Ranger Advisors—BDQ Unit Director: Roy Lombardo

A big greeting to all our brothers-in-arms who served the "Black Tiger" units. For your information, many of the Vietnamese Ranger units—and their advisors—are finally receiving the recognition they so rightly deserve. The mettle of the Vietnamese Rangers (BDQs) was tested in countless battles. They shed their blood, and many gave their lives, from the rice fields of the south to the highlands of the north. Their indomitable warrior spirit always prevailed. Many of our fellow Ranger advisors lost their own lives fighting alongside them.

This past year I have made visits to several cities in Texas and California to meet with former Vietnamese Rangers (Mu Nau) living here in the States. In April, I attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Dallas held in memory of the fall of South Vietnam. The Vietnamese Rangers from these areas provide color teams and march in the parades for US military events and on Memorial Day with members of the VFW and the American Legion.

Recently, I made contact with Col. Rod Wigas (USMC) who served as an Army Ranger advisor to the 43rd BDQ in the mid '60s. He was awarded the first DSC presented in Nam, as a sergeant, while fighting alongside the rangers. I'm not sure, but I'm pretty sure that Rod has a Ranger tattoo on his body. Maybe the Marines can confirm this!

I met Ranger Doug Perry in Dahlonaga, Georgia a few weeks ago. Doug told me he was planning on settling in my AO in about five years. Good, that gives me time to relocate (ha ha). Doug spent half his life as an instructor at the Mountain Ranger Camp, and also served in Vietnam as an advisor to the BDQs.

For the past couple of years, I have corresponded with two fine young men who I finally had a chance to meet. Mike McCoy is the son of SFC John McCoy who was killed in 1964 while leading an attack with the 43rd BDQs (see Nov/Dec '95 issue of Behind The Lines). Rob Celeste's father, Captain Ray Celeste, was killed in 1965 while fighting alongside the 37th Ranger Battalion. CSM(R) Ranger Henry McNeal has provided facts of the battle so that I can also do a story on Celeste.

Both Mike and Rob are strong supporters of the Biet Dong Quan and their U.S. advisors. They're also very active in programs supporting sons and daughters who lost their fathers in the war. To their personal credit and to the strength of their family blood lines, both Mike and Rob, without the support of fathers, achieved their goals of higher education and positions of responsibility in the community and business—no whining or complaining from these two!!!

Congratulations to Col. Lewis Millet (MOH)

and Colonel John Lawton for their nominations into this year's Ranger Hall of Fame. As most advisors know, Lew was instrumental in setting up the ranger training programs for the Vietnamese in 1960. Col. Lawton was an advisor to the 41st Ranger Battalion, as well as the commander of N/75th.

Several of our former Ranger advisors were ultimately promoted to the rank of general, to include: LTG Robert Kingston, LTG Robert L. Ord III, LTG Freddy McFarren, LTG Burton D. Patrick, MG George A. Crocker, MG William Steele, MG Jared L. Bates, MG Dave Grange (81st ABN RGR), MG Jack Woodall, MG Edison E. Scholes, BG John Zierdt, BG Huba Wass de Czege, and BG Hoseph Hurteau. While many retired as general officers and command sergeant majors, all are part of our lineage.

For those of you attending the Ranger Reunion and the Hall of Fame induction, you'll have a chance to meet a very good friend and fellow ranger advisor, Robbie Robinson from Australia. A highly decorated soldier of the "old breed" who was assigned to the Ranger Training Center at Duc My. Robbie, also received the U.S. Silver Star. He was one of the original SAS and jump school instructors—a fine mate! Robbie has a desirable streak of obstinacy when it comes to standards of soldiering.

To all BDQs and Ranger advisors, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association (all members) and to individuals like Roy Boatman, Duke Dushane, and Terry Roderick who worked to make us a part of the "team" and for the monetary support for the Vietnamese Ranger/Advisor memorials at Arlington and Fort Benning.

Thanks! "Biet Dong Quan SAT! Xung Phong!"

Ranger Mike Martin



It's my unfortunate task to inform my Ranger brothers from Papa Company of the death of one of our own—Darrell Brent Sangouard. Darrell died on May 1, 1997. He served in Company P (RANGER) 75th Inf. in 1971, and was in the company during Lam Son 719. Darrell served his country well and made many new friends during the occasions we came together in brotherhood over the past few years. Darrell's wife, Joy, has asked me to let you all know she is holding up as well as can be expected and hopes to remain a member of our Papa Company family. She would welcome hearing from any of you who knew Darrell, and I hope we can all let her know that she will always be a part of our extended family. Joy and Darrell were both accomplished skydivers and took the time and effort to entertain us all during the times we spent together. We will miss Darrell, and we hope that Joy will rejoin us at future reunions and other Ranger musters. Our hearts and prayers go out to Joy and the families over the loss of an outstanding Ranger brother.

I had planned to "ghost write" this article for my Ranger buddy, Mike Rossi, the P/75th Unit Director, but knew my own unmistakable writing style would give me away. Mike and Mary Rossi have been very busy trying to get our Company reunion organized for June 26-29 in Arlington, Virginia, just a few minutes from the Washington, D.C. area and all of the various tourist attractions in the vicinity. Many of us have never been to the Vietnam Memorial Wall and that's one of the events they've lined up for us. It will be much easier for us to attend this as a group, and we're all looking forward to seeing each other again. Word has it that we will have our largest gathering together since the war. Our sincere thanks go out to Mike and Mary for putting this together for us. If any of you have any questions or need any information concerning this event, please call or write them at home. Mike's address and phone number if you don't have it already is: 110 N. Crandon, Niles, OH 44446—330-544-6342.

Now for some Papa Company news and tidbits... We are "bursting out" proud that one of our own, Ranger Duke Dushane, is being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on June 19, 1997. Anyone who has any knowledge of Duke's contributions to the Ranger community, in addition to his service in our Company during 1969-70, will know that he is very deserving of this notable honor. Duke was known as our "Ranger Daddy" during his time in the Company, since he was a few years older than most of us kids then and had been in the Army for about 14 years at that time. He was serving his third tour in Vietnam and had a calming influence on us during some very difficult times. He always had time to listen to a young soldier's problems and generally gave good advice in turn.

Congratulations are also in order for Scott Whaley and his family. The grapevine is singing about the new addition to his family. I don't have the details, but I do know that his pipes are still working and the Whaley family has been blessed by the arrival of a new baby.

CSM George "Dave" Gates is retiring from the Army after 30 glorious years of service to our country on May 30 in Germany. George (he is Dave to many who know him now) is the current CSM of the 1st Inf. Division in Wuerzburg, Germany, and was the Division CSM of the 3rd Infantry Division prior to this assignment. I've said before, "we never did think he would amount to anything", but he's fooled us all.

In reality, he was one of our TL's in Papa Company during my tour, did an extraordinary job while with us, and many of us owe him a debt of gratitude for helping make sure we got home alive and in one piece.

Another of our former P/75th guys, Riley Miller, is the current CSM of the U.S. Army—Europe (USAEUR) and the reports I get from some of his subordinates is he's doing a great job and is well respected by his peers. He has had the opportunity to "crack the whip" on George, but I believe their P/75th ties have kept George out of "Riley's doghouse". We are quite proud of both these fine Papa Company Rangers. We hope George and his wife, Linda, along with their daughter, Mande, will be back in the states in time to attend our reunion in D.C. in June. George was a company favorite, and we would all like to see him again. We'd also like to extend our best wishes to them in their new life away from the military.

We've raised the funds necessary to buy memorial bricks for six of our P/75th brothers who have died since they left the Company in Vietnam, and we're waiting for the word from Ranger Steve Crabtree, G/75th, before sending the funds his way. Steve obtains matching funds from his employer, McDonnell/Douglas Corp., to buy the memorial bricks for our fallen brothers. We are also honored to submit funds to purchase bricks for six fallen Rangers from a sister unit to be selected by Ranger Crabtree.

In closing, we are all getting anxious for our reunion dates to roll around. We're hoping that any of you who are able, will try to attend the induction of Duke into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Duke will also be honored by the active duty 75th Ranger Regiment during the annual Ranger Rendezvous, June 17-20, by being designated a "Distinguished Honorary Member of the Regiment".

In Ranger brotherhood....

"Rock" Roderick

I'm going to follow Papa Company's "Rock" Roderick's lead and jump in here with an unauthorized unit column. There wasn't enough time before the deadline to contact our unit director, John Looney, for a column, so you're going to have to accept a quickie from me—but don't let it get habit forming.

Most of you should have gotten the word on our reunion June 26-29 at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. So far, it looks like a good turnout. Several new faces have already confirmed. If you can make it, we'd love to see you. Bring your families and come up and join us. \$48 a night for a room is a bargain. \$13 a head for the banquet and \$7 for the Friday BBQ with the LURSU detachment joining us. Plenty of beer, soda and that stronger stuff. General Buck Kernan, 101st Airborne Division Commander, will be our guest speaker.

We're going to be sharing facilities and activities with our brother I Corps Lurp/Rangers from the Americal Division who are joining us in our festivities. These are a great bunch of guys, and were kind enough to host a few of us at their reunion in Nashville three years ago.

Contact me at: 201 N Adams, Festus, MO 63028, or call 314-937-7204 for reunion information. It's never too late to make arrangements. We got some financial help if things are tight.

For those of you who haven't kept up with your reading, two more 101st Lurp/Ranger books are on the shelves at your friendly neighborhood bookstores. Rey Martinez's Six Silent Men—Book One, and Kenn Miller's Six Silent Men—Book Two, are dynamite reads. Covering the history of 1/101 LRRP and F/58th LRP, respectively, the two works are the result of three years of dedication from two guys who gave up a lot of time and effort to record our history. If you haven't gotten them yet, do it. If you don't see your name in the books. . . well, where were you when they were trying to gather the info? Blame yourselves, not the authors. Two great books, about two great units.

Jim "Limey" Walker's book is finished and will be out in time for the '98 reunion. Ken Eklund, Larry Chambers, Al Cornett and I are all in the process of finishing books. I got to toot my own root and let you know that I've got the Book Three sequel to Kenn's and Rey's Six Silent Men works coming out in September, dealing with the history of L Co, 75th (RANGER). I don't know if it's as good as their's, but you've got to buy it anyway or you won't have a complete set.

Chuck Reilly, another Lima Company Ranger has had a novel published and will be bringing some copies to our reunion at Fort Campbell in June.

For those of you who don't yet know, one of our brothers, Ranger Don Harris, is very sick. He's too proud to let anyone but a few of us know, and he asked me not to tell, but dammit, that's not the way we do things. Don't bother him with a bunch of long-winded phone calls, but let him know with a card or

letter that you're thinking about him and that he's in your prayers.

Many of you also know Richie Burns. Richie served with the 101st as a Pathfinder in '68-'69. Lost his best friend, SSG Ron Reynolds, a team leader with L/75th in May, 1969. Richie was on Mystery Mountain on November 20, 1968 with our radio relay team when our heavy team got hit and we suffered four KIA, eight WIA. Richie and the Pathfinder detachment volunteered to come in as a reaction force but were turned down. Richie also writes the Burn's Ointment column in Behind The Lines. The bad news is that in early May he was diagnosed with Colon/Rectal cancer. The surgery two days later was successful but the cancer had spread to his lymph nodes. Hopefully, with six months of chemotherapy he will defeat this devastating disease. Say a Ranger prayer for brothers Don Harris and Richie Burns.

I would like to ask all of you who are active members in the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to participate in a recruiting campaign to get some of our comrades back into the organization. In going over the Association roster I was shocked by the number of Screaming Eagle Lurp/Rangers who had fallen away. We lead the pack! This is heresy of the worst kind. We were the very group that got the ball rolling back in '86. Let's get these guys back in the Association this year.

Ranger Steve Crabtree, G/75th, has been promoting the acquisition of memorial bricks at the Ranger Memorial at Ft. Benning to honor all Lurp/Rangers who were killed during the Vietnam War. Several companies have already completed the purchase of memorial bricks for their dead. We have not. With 48 KIA, we have the largest task of all, but it's not a task we cannot accomplish. To date, we've purchased bricks for nearly 40% of our dead, but we need your help to finish the project. The normal cost of a memorial brick is \$240. Thanks to Steve Crabtree's employer, McDonnell/Douglas Corp., which has so generously offered to match funds, we have the opportunity to purchase the remainder of the bricks for our fallen comrades at \$120 each. If you can help with a donation, or if you would like to purchase an entire brick for a lost buddy, send your donation to Linda Cox, 111 Smokey Rock Rd., Bailey, CO 80421. Make the check payable to: Ranger Memorial Fund

If you can't make it to the reunion in June, but would like one or more of the 101st Lurp/Ranger T-shirts, send \$15 plus \$3 shipping and handling to: Gary Linderer, 201 N. Adams, Festus, MO 63028. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL. Profits will go toward the 101st Lurp/Ranger Memorial Brick Fund. The shirts are gray Hanes Beefy T's with the three unit scrolls, CIB, jump wings, 101st and MACV Recondo patches, and the Screaming Eagle patch across the chest—all in full color. A stud shirt!

Gary Linderer

Can you believe the reunion was a year ago already? Or how about this...Can you believe the reunion is only a year away? It goes back to that proverbial glass—Is it half full or half empty?

For those of you who didn't go to Seattle last year, you missed out. Every reunion's attendance is greater and every time we get together, we get to know each other a little better. For those of you who have never been to one of the reunions, you really need to set your sites on Georgia for next year.

REUNION TIDBITS: Dave Flannery won the "free trip" to Vietnam. He made plans to go in April/May and paid for an upgrade, then the agency that promoted the trip canceled it without refunding Dave's upgrade. I hope the money that was made on all of those raffle tickets went to our Association and not the travel agency! Ray and Janice Allen stopped in Las Vegas on the way home and it's rumored that Janice was a big winner. Maybe she could send Dave to 'Nam!

Our unit has voted in the past not to hold an off year reunion so that our members could save their money for the Association reunions. However, after reading about some of the other unit reunions going on this summer, we may need to rethink it. There has even been talk about "mini-reunions" in areas where a lot of guys live...i.e. California. What do you think?

We aren't getting any younger. At least three of our members have children graduating from high school this year. Tom Sove's daughter Erika, Dave Bristol's daughter Paige, and Les Williams' son Steven. We wish them all much success in spite of their parents. You know, we probably even have some "Grandpas" lurking in our ranks. Any of you want to step up and admit it.

Tom did a fantastic job as our unit leader. We will never know what all he did and how much time he put into our unit. The Association doesn't know how much we miss him and how lucky they are to have him as one of the national officers. One of his biggest accomplishments was in locating so many of our members. One of the major undone tasks is to properly remember our KIAs with a memorial brick. Watch for some correspondence in the near future.

Several of you responded to Ky's last newsletter request for donations to offset expenses. Thanks to all of you. If you have any news you want to share, drop Wayne Mitsch a note or email him at: wmitsch@worldnet.att.net.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Wayne Mitsch—Treasurer



E/50th (LRP) & E/75th Ranger

August 7-10, 1997
Columbia, SC
POC—Edwin Garrison
207 Lake Ashley Dr.
Blythwood, SC 29016
(803)786-4979

Company F (LRP) 51st Inf - REUNION '97

The 30th anniversary of the formation of Company F (LRP) 51st Inf. will be held Sept. 23-27, 1997 in Lancaster, PA. Plans are in the works for trips to Gettysburg (POV) and The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, DC (charter bus).

Location: Comfort Inn
500 Centerville Rd.
Lancaster, PA
(707)898-2431

POC: David Peace		Joe Havarilla
8502 SW 4th Pl	or	217 E Clay St
Gainesville, FL		Lancaster, PA
(352)332-6892		(717)392-5113

Company D/151st Rangers Reunion

Tentatively scheduled August 15-17, 1997. Indianapolis Holiday Inn SE, 465 Emmerson Ave. Rooms are available at \$60 per day. Hospitality room will open on Friday, August 15. Saturday morning there will be a golf outing with a dinner scheduled for Saturday night at \$17 per person. Confirm your attendance by July 16 by writing or calling Sue or Phil Cravens at 1061 W. Maple, Greenwood, Indiana 46142 or (317)888-9069.

5th Special Forces Group

September 17-21, 1997—Ft. Campbell & Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

POC: Joe Montoya
62 W Belair Blvd
Clarksville, TN 37042-4061
PH. 615-552-0741 (evenings)

FNGs

Jerry Arnold	D/151	Kenneth Kovac	Rgr. Rgmt.
Warren Barfield	P/75	Chip Loring	N/75
Paul Beckwith	N/75	William David Mathiak	B/75
Paul Baker	M/75	Kevin Matthews	B/3/75
Kenneth Bosley	E/58	Ronald McDuffy	Rgr. Rgmt.
David Breuggemann	N/75	James McReynolds	D/151
David Buffamoyer	Rgr. Rgmt.	John Morton	E/58
Michael Clark	Rgr. Rgmt.	Gerard Nery	N/75
Joseph Connolly II	BDQ	Wilbur Palmer III	N/75
Richard Corkan	G/75	Tom Pease	F/75
Marvin Davis	Assoc.	Thomas Perry	P/75
Tony Davis	A/1/75	Robert Pyatskowit	Rgr. Rgmt.
Richard Dirlam	G/75	Gary Porter	D/151
Richard Edgell	D/151	Gonzalo Santiago	O/75
Jon Ellis	D/151	Van Schmoll	Rgr. Rgmt.
William Faulkner	F/52	William Shanaman	BDQ
James Fowler	74th LRRP	David Sloan	1/101
Bill Goshen	I/75	David Smith	C/1/75
Mario Guerra	C/75	Ray Sonnier	E/75
Terry Hall	D/151	Albert Suto	G/75
Brett Hartman	B/2/75	Michael Tietjen	A/1/75
Charles Hunt	N/75	John Tunnell	A/2/75
Michael Jaussaud	D/151	John Whitburn	HHC/2/75
Frank Johnson	L/75	Bruce Whitworth	B/1/75
Stephen Justus	D/151	Paul Wisniewski	Assoc.
William Keliikuli	Assoc.	Alan Wondra	Assoc.
John Kirk	N/75	Kenneth York	C/1/75
William Koutrouba	BDQ		



Bad APOs

Kevin Henry
Larry Pickle
Eric Spaulding
Jerry Stone
Roger Barbe
Tony Jordan
Patrick Brennan

Retreads

Stephen Crabtree
James E. Cherico, Jr.
Van Kominitsky
Charles Kuryla
Sandy Weisberger
Millard Newcombe

New Lifers

Richard Barela
Walter Buchanan
John J. Kiefel
Paul Krakow
Mark Alan Miller
Jerry Renz
Dennis Warwick

Final Roll Call

Never again will they patrol with us, but they shall not be forgotten!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Tom Dial	L/75 101st Airborne Division	Unknown
John F. Hochtritt	L/75 101st Airborne Division	996
James L. Moran	L/75 101st Airborne Division	13 December 1996
David F. Harris	E/50 E/75 9th Infantry Division	1 February 1997
Darrell B. Sangouard	P/75 5th Infantry Division (Mech)	1 May 1997

Rest in Peace!

New Recruits

Pending acceptance
(If any member can substantiate an applicant's qualifying service, please notify Association secretary)

Robert C Edwards
F/51
Ron Kaplan
F/51



SIX SILENT MEN-Book Two

By Kenn Miller, 1997, Ivy Books, non-fiction, paperback, 293 pages, \$5.99.

Reviewed by Kregg P.J. Jorgenson

Kenn Miller is to the military book genre what Oscar de La Hoya is to boxing. He's a seasoned fighter who can go the distance with the kind of style and flair that often leaves his competitors begrudgingly admiring his ability. *Six Silent Men—Book Two* comes at you straight and fast with enough quick jabs and interesting combinations to let you know you've been in a fight between chapters. With his latest release Miller picks up where *Rey Martinez* left off in this trilogy effort by three former Lurp/Rangers; Rey Martinez, Kenn Miller and Gary Linderer covering the summer of 1967 to the 1st Brigade LRRP's transition into F Company, 58th Infantry LRP's and later when they were redesignated as L Company, 75th Rangers.

In *Book Two* Miller follows the Screaming Eagle Lurps from Bien Hoa to Song Be and up north to the infamous Ashau Valley. Along the way he introduces us to soldiers like Nick Caberra, a former Marine who had fought in World War II and Korea before joining the Army to fight in this latest war, this time as a 101st Lurp. Caberra, an on-again off-again PFC, is an old war horse who's hard to rein in but is always ready for the next mission, even if it's against the Division Commander himself who managed to piss off Caberra and the Brigade Lurps! While some authors seem to gloss over or sugar coat the Vietnam process Miller doesn't dance around the issue but instead shows the many ground level wars and realities the 101st Lurp/Rangers had to face. Those who believe that every friendly soldier is always bold, faithful and true may not like Miller's point of view, but anyone who has "been there" will know that his words ring true, even if they are

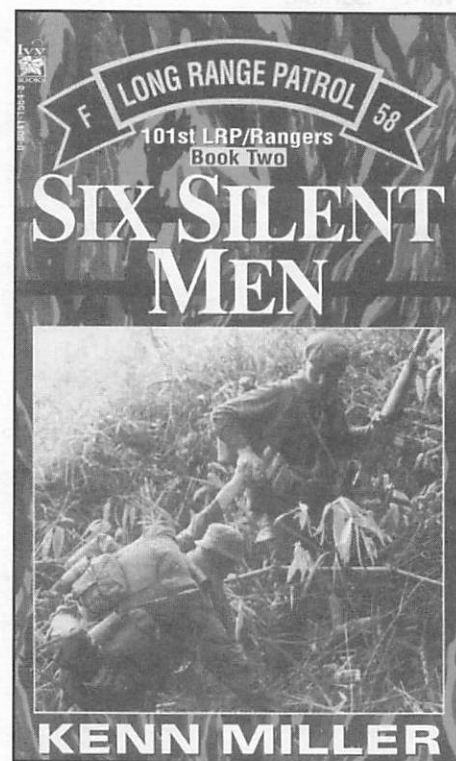
painful.

And speaking of painful, on a mission just out of Camp Eagle Miller describes a patrol's encounter with a water buffalo that wreaks havoc on the team and more specifically the team's medic, Doug "Doc" Norton, who finds himself impaled and...well, let's just say that after reading the account you'll likely have a new perspective of your next barbecue beef or tasty cheeseburger. If it doesn't make you cringe in horror you'll at least want to go to your neighborhood market and beat the hell out of a rib roast or two, just out of spite!

As the story and the unit progresses we're introduced to others like Riley "Bulldozer" Cox who redefines heroism when his heavy team is surrounded by an overwhelming NVA force then mowed down by a 40 pound Chicom claymore mine. The handful of survivors have to scramble to stay alive as the enemy tries to overrun their fragile position.

Cox, who is seriously injured by the initial blast, springs back on line. Jamming a towel into the gaping wound in his stomach to prevent his intestines from falling out, and taping back the dangling right arm so that it won't get in his way, the burly Lurp uses his one good hand to methodically load, fire, then reload his CAR-15 and Ithaca pump shotgun. His supreme effort helps to keep the enemy at bay until a reaction force arrives hours later. Throughout the desperate struggle the Arizona native painfully keeps up a heavy volume of fire to help convince the enemy that the trapped patrol is still able to defend itself.

At one point in the action he kills five or six NVA soldier and drives back others who had charged out of the jungle to finish off a fallen comrade. The enemy assault failed and the NVA fell back primarily because of his tenacity and courage. Cox performs this same feat not once, nor twice, but time



after time in an heroic display of bravery that Hollywood would love to depict on the big screen for one of its own make believe heroes.

When a medevac helicopter finally arrives hours later, Cox refuses to be lifted out until he is certain there are enough reinforcements on the ground to secure the team's position and protect the remaining wounded.

Only later do we discover that Cox isn't expected to survive, that his wounds are far more grievous than he lets on. Medevacked back to the States where he undergoes numerous operations, "Bulldozer" Cox survives, and after a lengthy recovery returns to Vietnam a year later to rejoin the company. Sadly, we also learn from Miller's book that Cox's heroic actions are rightfully nominated for a Distinguished Service Cross, but even though they are well documented and witnessed by many the award is downgraded to a Silver Star.

If there is any justice it comes



from Miller's account of this action which the readers and the mission's survivors share alike.

Finally, in *Six Silent Men—Book Two* Miller takes his parting shot at the modern Army's brass with a "Lessons Learned" segment in his book that points fingers and scores a knockout punch and

shows that Miller is an extra heavy hitter when it comes to LRRP/LRP/Ranger strategy.

Knowing Kenn Miller personally, I'm certain he'll say that this book is not his best work., but what the scrappy two and a half year combat Lurp/Ranger veteran doesn't seem to understand or accept is that his

"less than best work" most always far exceeds anything else on the market. *Six Silent Men—Book Two* is well worth the read and even more worth noting. Miller is still the champ!



"ANNOUNCEMENT"

RANGER ADVOCATE

The creation of the position of Ranger Advocate was approved by the Board of Directors at the 1996 Ranger Reunion in Tacoma, Washington. This post is a voluntary position and Ranger Speedy Gonzalez has offered his services and expertise in this area to help veteran's of our 75th Ranger Regiment

Association. He is available to assist members with their VA claims and/or obtaining information to argue a veteran's case if he feels his case was not correctly adjudicated. Training, conducted by the Texas Veteran's Commission included: Service and Non-Service Connected Claims, Powers of Attorney, and Medical Claims, to name a few, are the focus of brother Speedy's expertise. Special classes were conducted in the areas of Agent Orange, PTSD, Radiation, Appeals, and Benefits Available.

Working closely with the Commission and other veteran organizations, the Ranger Advocate will present information and cooperate with all government bodies to secure services and benefits for the veteran.

Rangers leaving active duty are encouraged to contact him prior to separation if you have any questions.

You may contact the Ranger Advocate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays he will be researching pending cases and will be less available, though you may still attempt to contact him on those days also. His address and phone/FAX follows:

**Ranger Speedy Gonzalez
Ranger Advocate
PO Box 14303
Austin, TX 78761
Tel/FAX: (512)899-0227**



FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

By Kenn Miller

I didn't vote for President last year. None of the candidates was going to appoint me Secretary of Defense, or Secretary of the Army—despite the fact no one in America needs a good job more desperately than me, and despite the fact that I have a hot plan to reorganize the Ranger Regiment.

Don't get me wrong. I love the 75th Rangers, and when it comes to the three current battalions, I wouldn't go interfering and mucking around with them much. But I would expand the Regiment itself. The first thing I'd do is take the Ranger School away from the Infantry School, and turn it over to the Ranger Regiment. Ever since the end of the Korean War, the first priority of the Ranger School has been training Rangers for the Ranger units. During the Vietnam War, it was common to see Transportation Corps and Finance Corps officers running around with Ranger tabs on their shoulders, but until about 1970, it was very rare to see a Long Range Patrol or Ranger team member with the tab. They were doing the job, but being denied the school. Even today, a young enlisted Ranger in the battalions or Long Range Surveillance units might serve a year or more on the job—and maybe even die in combat or training—before he gets a chance to attend Ranger School.

Last year, there was a slight tightening of eligibility requirements, but junior enlisted men in Ranger units are still having to wait until officers and NCOs from other units get first shot at the school. The idea is apparently to spread Ranger skills around the rest of the Army, and this idea is not entirely without merit. But it is also not entirely without deleterious effect on the standards and training content of the school.

It seems that the most common complaints I hear from Ranger

instructors are of the "They won't let us smoke them no more" variety—almost always due to some new plan the Army comes up with to cut the attrition rate, and satisfy quotas set by bean counters and number crunchers who dream of an Army in which every infantry squad leader wears that nice little black and yellow tab. Standards suffer, and so does the content of the course.

The first thing I'd do is take the Ranger School away from the Infantry School, and turn it over to the Ranger Regiment.

The Ranger School should primarily be a training course for Rangers, not a finishing school for conventional combat arms officers and NCOs. If I was Secretary of the Army, I'd take the so-called "Ranger Training Brigade"—which never has been a real brigade—away from the Infantry School, and make it a Ranger Training Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment. That doesn't mean that personnel from other units would not be eligible to attend. They would—but only after the Ranger Regiment's personnel have had first shot at all the available school slots. It only makes sense. Other special operations formations run their own primary qualification courses. Why not the Rangers?

The next reform I'd make would be to restore to the Ranger Regiment the full range of traditional Ranger missions. American Ranger history goes back more than a century before the War of Independence, and during that long period, there have been three traditional Ranger missions. One of

them is spearheading conventional assaults and invasions, and today's 75th Rangers still have this mission. Another traditional Ranger mission is raiding, and today's Ranger Regiment is well prepared to carry out this task. But the third, and historically perhaps the most important Ranger mission, is reconnaissance. It can be argued that the Regiment still has this mission. The regimental reconnaissance element is certainly one of the most high-speed, elite military formations in the world today. But from what I've been able to pick up talking to regimental recon Rangers, its task is primarily to perform recon for the Ranger battalions. Now, I rather doubt that this is all that Regimental Recon actually does, but since I'm very careful never to put anyone on the spot asking about classified matters, I don't know much about anything other than recon missions in support of the battalions. I do remember hearing that the individual Ranger battalions also have recon elements of their own, and I'm sure it's not unheard of for others in the battalions to occasionally practice a little low-grade sneaking and peeking. But as things stand today, reconnaissance is not a high priority. Today's Ranger battalions are primarily shock troops, not sneaky petes, and one of the most common bitchies I hear from members of the Ranger battalions is that there is a little too much concentration on being "the world's finest light infantry," as envisioned by the late Tanker Joe Abrams, and too little concentration on stealth, silent movement and the other covert military arts, as envisioned and practiced by the ten or twelve previous generations of American Rangers.

Having been a Ranger in one of those previous generations, one of the original 75th Rangers, I find this somewhat troublesome. The 75th Ranger Regiment was initially formed out of the Vietnam War Long Range Patrol units, and while raids and other such activities were always part of the show, the con-



centration back then was on long range reconnaissance. Whenever I visit one of the battalions, I can't help being a little saddened to see that, operationally speaking, the Regiment has been forced to abandon its roots. Sure, the men in the battalions look to us old farts from the Vietnam War as their immediate ancestors. But the Army seems to want to skip over the Rangers' Vietnam and Korean War heritage, in preference for the overt, big unit mission heritage of the World War Two Ranger battalions.

That's fine—for the Ranger battalions. But there are still Ranger units in the Army today that are not battalions, are not currently part of the Ranger Regiment, and are not officially considered Ranger units. I'm talking about the Long Range Surveillance units.

The men in these LRS units are most definitely Rangers.

The men in these LRS units are most definitely Rangers. Individually, they rotate in and out of the battalions or in a LRS detachment, but they consider themselves Rangers. Sure, sometimes the LRS soldiers refer to themselves as "Lurps," but like their Vietnam era predecessors, they still tend to use the terms "Lurp" and "Ranger" almost interchangeably.

When he was alive and in power, the late Tanker Joe Abrams, who is unfortunately officially deified as the founding spirit behind the 75th Ranger Regiment, wasn't much fonder of Lurps than he was of Special Forces—which is to say he despised them to the depths of his straightleg heart. I am convinced that his primary motivation in ordering the establishment of overt and conventional Ranger battalions was to take the wind out of the sails of the Special Forces, Lurps, and other such Airborne "freebooters." Of course, what he ended up giving us was about the

finest battalion-sized strike forces the world has ever seen, so some good came of it.

But some bad came of it, too. Most of those Rangers who specialize in long range reconnaissance are right back where they were before the 75th was activated as a parent regiment for the LRP units—at the mercy of conventional division and corps commanders who may delight in having their own little commando units, but have little concern or understanding for their proper training, handling, and employment.

As things stand today, the LRS detachments do not have access to the training and support their real world missions require. During the Gulf War recon teams from the 101st Airborne Division were sent into some of the same areas, with the same general missions, as recon teams from the 5th SFGA, but without the support and equipment 5th Group teams were provided. Because it was determined that their missions were "passive" surveillance, 101st LRS teams were not even allowed to carry M-203s into Iraq. It takes an extremely conventional and dangerous mindset to send six-man recon teams man miles behind enemy lines, across forbidden borders, without providing them the minimal means to defend themselves if compromised—purely because their mission is supposed to be "passive." Anyone who has ever gone behind enemy lines with a small team knows that there is nothing "passive" about it. And anyone who has ever been in a long range recon unit in a ground war that lasted longer than a week knows that sooner or later these "recon" teams are going to have the "passive" nature of their missions altered, both by the enemy and by their own higher command.

The Long Range Surveillance detachments are special operations troops, and it is vitally necessary that they be brought under the Special Operations Command. Despite the current U.S. Army Order of Battle, the Long Range Surveillance troops are members

of the Ranger family, and if someone bold and disreputable enough to appoint me Secretary of the Army was elected president, I would step on all the toes necessary to give America a five battalion 75th Ranger Regiment. We'd still have the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Ranger Battalions, specializing in all the things they specialize in today. But

Anyone who has ever gone behind enemy lines with a small team knows that there is nothing "passive" about it.

we'd also have a Ranger Training Battalion running the RIP program and Ranger School, and a 5th Ranger Battalion made up of independently detached Ranger companies, specializing in long range reconnaissance, and all the old covert and semi-covert small unit sneak and peek activities that had been part of the American Ranger repertoire more than three hundred years before a certain cigar-chomping, straightleg, armor officer came along and set himself up as the father of modern American Rangers.

This is the way it ought to be. But since no one is ever going to give me the job of Secretary of the Army, I guess my words will fall on deaf ears, and no one is likely to do anything for the Rangers except send them off on more bloody humbugs.





MAIL CALL

Dear Editor;

When I received the Dec 1996 issue of *Patrolling*, it jogged my memory a bit and I remembered that last year in Tacoma I had pledged \$250 for a brick. I would like a brick for a 4th Division LRRP. My first choice is 2nd Brigade of the 4th Division (LRRP). My second choice is any 4th Division LRRP who was killed in 1967. My third choice is any 4th Division LRRP.

The December '96 *Patrolling* was my first issue, and I enjoyed it. I would really like to find some LRRPs from 2nd Brigade of the 4th Division, but they seem to be gone with the wind.

We are now on line. Our address is: yellowb@farg.uswest.net.

Please see that my checks are forwarded and a brick gets ordered from me.

Thanks for the great publication.

SGT Robert (Bob) C. Crawford
2nd Bde LRRP, 4th Division 1967

Hey Bob,

Thank you, brother! If we all had your generosity there wouldn't be any bricks left to purchase and all of our dead would have already been memorialized.

Hey you old Ivy Lurps, get off your duffs and let Bob know your around. It means a lot to each of us to reestablish ties with old teammates. That's what this association is all about.

Don't worry, Bob. Lurps can hide, but they can't hide from other Lurps. We'll find them.

G.L.

* * *

Dear Rangers;

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the members who put together the new format of *Patrolling*, December 1996, Volume 10, Issue 4; Great Job!

I do, however, take exception to the gentlemen on the cover; are you sure he was a Ranger? If he was, he had to be a Cherry when that photo was taken and his team leader's head had to be on his 4th point of contact. Metal frame rucks were not allowed on

my team as well as most other teams on the Hill at LZ English, N 75th Rangers, as were ornaments/armaments hanging off the outside of rucksacks. I will give the gentlemen this much, he is well camouflaged and very photogenic.

I guess I'll be the first sucker to respond to SSG Chuck Vaughn and Gary Linderer's article regarding authorization to wear the tab. First, I would like to clarify the misconception of many regarding Army Regulation 600-8-22 Military Awards, 25 February 1995, which, I believe, is the most current version of the document. Section V Tabs, para 8-46 Ranger Tab, b.2, "Any person who was awarded the CIB while serving during WW2 as a member of a Ranger Battalion (1st-6th inclusive) or in the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) (Merrill's Marauders)." These are the only non-school graduates who are presently authorized to wear the tab based on this Reg.

I do believe para 8-46 Ranger Tab, b.2, does set a precedent for awarding the tab, as well as 8-47 Special Forces Tab, b.4 and b.6. Rangers and Special Forces come under The United States Army Special Operations Command, unifying all special ops units under one command. Section V Tabs, para 8-47 Special Forces Tab, b.4 states, "Subsequent to 1955. Reserve Component personnel must have successfully served for 120 consecutive days, or more as a company grade officer or enlisted member of a Special Forces Operational Detachment (A-Team), Mobile Strike Force, Special Forces Reconnaissance Team or SF Special Projects Unit and must have been awarded the CIB or CMB for such service," are authorized to wear the SF Tab. In addition, para 8-47 SF Tab, b.6 states, "Former wartime service. The SF Tab may be awarded retroactively to those personnel who served with Special Forces units during wartime and were either unable to or not required to attend a formal program of instruction, but were awarded a SQI "S" or "3" or "56" by competent authority."

Based on the above references, many precedents have already been set regarding the awarding of a particular Special Operations Tab, Ranger

or Special Forces. It seems the special ops community needs to get on the same sheet of music. Oh, and although I will not bore you with more regulations, one does not have to graduate Airborne School to be awarded parachute wings. They can be awarded outside the realm of Airborne School, trust me.

As to who should and shouldn't wear the Ranger Tab, well I think that's up to the individual, once the regulation is changed—if it's changed. Do I think the regulation should be changed? Yes, I do, based on the precedent already set in para 8-46 and 8-47 of AR 600-8-22. Maybe SSG Vaughn should be writing his Congressman asking him to revoke the Ranger Tab awarded to the WW2 vets!

While we are on the subject, let's talk about the unit patches. We plaster the scroll all over our newsletters, but yet it is not an authorized patch as far as I am aware. What happened to the efforts to have the scroll designated our unit patch? By the way, SSG Vaughn, I proudly wear my N/75th scroll and challenge any SOB to tell me I can't.

Lastly, I would like to extend my personal gratitude to Roy Boatman for his tireless and selfless work to keep *Patrolling* alive all these years, and now his efforts in building Teams. I enjoy receiving both immensely and wait with open arms for their arrival. THANKS, ROY, you truly deserve to be in the Ranger Hall of Fame!

Larry Pezza, Jr.
N/Co

Dear Larry;

Your letter is like a breath of fresh air, but I'm certain that the Regs have been checked and rechecked by those intent on obtaining official authorization for VN era Lurp/Rangers receiving official authorization to wear the coveted Ranger Tab. I agree whole heartedly that there is ample precedent set for this authorization. By seeking authorization, we are either compounding a mistake made during WWII authorizing the tab for members of the Ranger Battalions and 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), or we are asking for equal treatment under US Army Regulations.



Your points are well made and well taken, but they still don't solve the problem. Someone doesn't want us to wear a badge of recognition that should be rightfully ours—and the fight goes on!

I think you were a little rough of SSG Vaughn. He earned his tab by completing the course—and as this goes to press, he's authorized to wear his. And as far as your comment about our units scrolls that we "plaster" all over our newsletters not being authorized. C'mon, Larry, they weren't authorized in Vietnam, either, but we wore them proudly. Patrolling is not an official U.S. Army publication. It belongs to us. There's a whole bunch of us who proudly wear our battle scrolls and we challenge any SOB to tell us we can't wear them on our fatigues, T-shirts, or even plastered all over our newsletter.

But perhaps we waste too much time dwelling on this topic. After all, the right to wear the black and gold Ranger Tab was not the reason we formed our association. Whatever happened to brotherhood, fraternity, camaraderie, fellowship? To me that sounds a hell of a lot more important than a little piece of fabric. You guys carry on the battle, as for me, I think I'll just have a good time with my mates.

G.L.

P.S. By the way, Larry, that guy on the cover is an L Company Ranger. He wasn't a cherry when the photo was taken, and his team leader (who was a good one) is presently one of our valued members. Some of us cut down our frames to keep them from rubbing across the top of our buttocks, and found out they worked pretty well. When we got our hands on NVA rucksacks that hadn't been shot full of holes, we would wear them—without the metal frames. The only ornaments I see hanging off the outside of his rucksack are grenades. Up in the A Shau, we used a lot of them and had to be able to get to them real quick. How come nobody picked up on the fact that the Ranger in our cover photo is asleep?

* * *

Dear Gary;

I find it amazing all the discussion about the "Ranger Tab" issue. I'm surprised the Association doesn't realize that our "Ranger" scroll is not an authorized combat patch to be worn on our right shoulder. I'm still in the reserves (and true to form I wear P Co on my right shoulder), however, DA has not authorized its wear. All Rangers, from WWII through Somalia are authorized to wear the scroll on their right shoulder except Vietnam Rangers.

I would first go for approval of the scroll as an authorized combat patch, then worry about the Ranger Tab!!!

Personally, even if the Tab is awarded, I won't wear it. It belongs to those who went through Ranger School.

I'm 100% Ranger (Vietnam trained—12 month school).

Gregg "Spud" Gain
P/CO

OUR CHANGING TIMES

There was The New Action Army.....
Then there was VOLAR.....
Then there was the Army of Excellence.....
And soon.....



© W.T. GRANT
1992



VIETNAM WARRIORS: A STATISTICAL PROFILE (From VFW magazine—April 1997)

In Uniform and in Country

- * Vietnam Vets: 9.7% of their generation.
- * 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (8/5/64—5/7/75).
- * 8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (8/5/64—3/28/73).
- * 3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).
- * 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (1/1/65—3/28/73).
- * Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
- * Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.
- * 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
- * Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (4/30/69)

Casualties

- * Hostile deaths: 47,378
- * Non-hostile deaths: 10,800
- * Total: 58,202 (includes men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total.
- * 8 nurses died—1 was KIA.
- * Married men killed: 17,539
- * 61% of the men killed were 21 or younger.
- * Highest state death rate: West Virginia—84.1 (national average 58.9 for every 100,000 males in 1970).
- * Wounded: 303,704—153,329 hospitalized 150,375 injured requiring no hospital care.
- * Severely disabled: 75,000—23,214 100% disable; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- * Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.
- * Missing in Action: 2,338.
- * POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity).

Draftees vs. Volunteers

- * 25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII)
- * Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.
- * Reservists killed: 5,977
- * National Guard: 6,140 served; 101 died.
- * Total draftees (1965-73): 1,728,344
- * Actually served in Vietnam: 38%
- * Marine Corps draft: 42,633
- * Last man drafted: June 30, 1973

Race and Ethnic Background

- * 88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races.
- * 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races.
- * 170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there.
- * 70% of enlisted men killed were of Northwest European descent.
- * 86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races.
- * 14.6% (1,530) of non-combatant deaths were among blacks.
- * 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms.
- * Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.
- * Religion of Dead: Protestant—64.4%; Catholic—28.9%; other/none—6.7%.

Socio-Economic Status

- * 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds.
- * Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds.
- * Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations.
- * 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service. (63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation).
- * Deaths by geographical region per 100,000 of population: South—31; West—29.9; Midwest—28.4; Northeast—23.5.

Winning & Losing

- * 82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.
- * Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

Honorable Service

- * 97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.
- * 91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country.
- * 66% of Vietnam vets say they would serve again if called upon.
- * 87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.

*The above statistics were compiled by B. G. Burkett and Glenna Whitley who are authors of the forthcoming book, **Stolen Valor: How the Vietnam Generation was Robbed of its Heroes and its History**, due to be published in fall 1997. Burkett served in Vietnam as an ordnance officer with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 1968-69.*



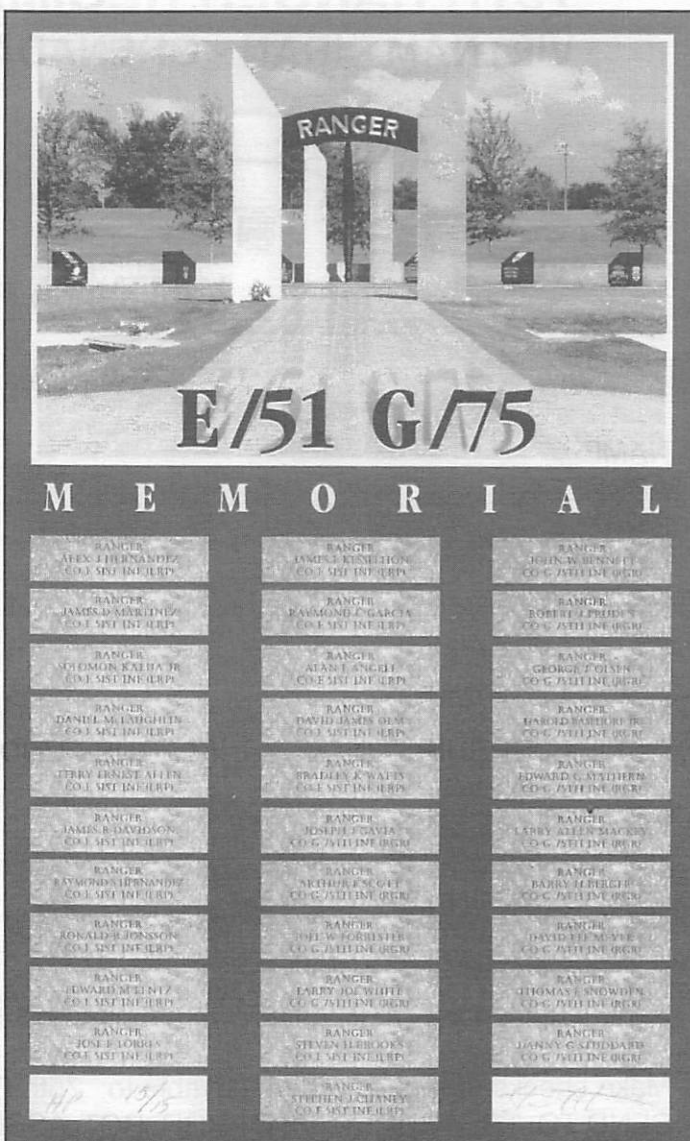
ORDER NOW! ONLY \$20

Five Vietnam Ranger/LRRP units have successfully placed bricks at the Fort Benning Memorial for all of their fallen comrades. 11"x17" memorial posters are now available in color (subdued green) for each of these units.

Help us "brick" the remaining 230 Ranger KIA's by purchasing a memorial poster. As the remaining groups follow our lead, posters will be created for their respective units. Order your poster today by sending your tax deductible donation of \$20 to:

The Ranger Memorial Foundation, Inc.
c/o Ranger Steve Crabtree
2823 East Norwood St.
Mesa, AZ 85213

All proceeds will be matched by the McDonnell-Douglas Foundation and used solely for the purchase of bricks for the remaining Vietnam Ranger/LRRP KIA's.



Here's my \$20 check or money order. Please send me the following poster:

() D/151 LRP/Ranger
() 79th LRP, P/75 Ranger
() E/51 LRP, G/75 Ranger
() 74th LRP, 173rd LRRP, N/75 Ranger
() 9th Div LRRP, E/50 LRP, E/75 Ranger

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

* If you didn't see your unit represented here, get on your unit rep and follow it up with a donation.



75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

VIETNAM - IRAN - GRENADA - PANAMA - IRAQ - SOMALIA



Application For Membership

(please print)

NAME _____ Membership # _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PHONE(Home) _____ (Work) _____
OCCUPATION _____

I WOULD LIKE TO:

MAKE CONTRIBUTION:

MEMBERSHIP FUND _____ PLAQUE FUND _____ MONUMENT FUND _____

PROVIDE NEWS ITEMS _____

WORK ON ASSOC. PROJECTS _____

UPDATE MEMBERSHIP FILE _____

PAY DUES FOR YEAR(S) _____

OTHER _____

Annual dues are \$20- Annual Membershipd ues are due by July 1st.

Make checks or money orders payable to: 75th Ranger Regiment Association

SEND TO: TREASURER, 75TH RGR. RGT. ASSN.

8688 Ruffian Lane

Newburgh, IN 47630-3428

NEW MEMBERS

INDICATE UNIT (S) SERVED IN: _____

DATES FROM -TO: _____

PROVIDE UNIT INFO & DOCUMENTS (Membership contingent upon proof of service-orders, DD-214, names of team mates.)

Comments or Questions: _____

Embroidered Logo on Polo Shirts, Sweatshirts and Caps



Check or money order payable to 75th Ranger Regiment Assn. Inc.
VISA/Master Card (Credit card orders under \$20 not accepted)

Tel. #: _____

<u>Items</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Association Challenge Coins:					
Bronze				\$15.00	
Silver.....				\$50.00	
Association Watch.....				\$25.00	
Black Reunion T-shirts (limited supply).....				\$15.00	
(Add \$2.00 for XXL)					
Polo shirt (embroidered logo)black or red....				\$30.00	
(Add \$2.00 for XXL or XXXL)					
Sweatshirt (embroidered logo)black or ash...				\$30.00	
(Add \$2.00 for XXL or XXXL)					
Baseball cap (embroidered logo).....				\$15.00	
Bumper sticker (vinyl, six colors).....				\$ 1.50	
Inside window decal (six colors).....				\$ 1.50	
Lapel pins (Association colors).....				\$ 3.00	
Table top flags (Association colors).....				\$ 5.00	
Association flags (2' x 3', nylon).....				\$50.00	
Coffee Cups.....				\$ 7.50	
Beer Steins.....				\$25.00	

TOTAL \$

Over \$20.00 = \$5.00

Allow 4 to 6 weeks delivery on all items.



LURP / BDQ / RANGER



75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Richard Ehrler
P.O. Box 1332
Boise, ID 83701-1332
208-343-3047
Internet = ehrler@primenet.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Roderick
6940 Bright Ave.
Cocoa, FL 32927
407-631-1144
Internet = rgrrock@palmnet.net

SECRETARY

Thomas Sove
3008 Highgate Rd.
Modesto, CA 95350
209-575-2758
Internet = e-mail temporarily off-line

TREASURER

C. Larry Rhodes
8688 Ruffian Lane
Newburgh, IN 47630
812-853-7301
Internet = treasure75@aol.com

"PATROLLING" EDITOR

Gary Linderer
201 N. Adams
Festus, MO 63028
314-937-7204
Internet = btl@jcn1.com

COMPANY AND UNIT DIRECTORS

A/75 D/17 LRP V Corps LRRP
Ronald Kiser
1201 Timberwood Drive
Gallatin TN 37066
615-451-3194

B/75 C/58 LRP VII Corps LRRP
William P. Ryan
2251 Blakemore Drive
Clarksville TN 37044
615-645-7100

C/75 E/20 LRP—I Field Force
Lonzo Daniel Pope
2134 Logtown Road
Yatesville GA 31097
706-472-3714
Internet = toc@alltel.net

D/75—II Field Force
John J. Kingeter
526 Lavina Drive
Mechanicsburg PA 17055
717-766-1484

E/75 E/50 LRP 9th Div LRRP—9th Infantry Division
Clancy Matsuda
1517 Custer Parkway
Brandon SD 57005-1533
605-582-7472

F/75 F/50 LRP 25th Div LRRP—25th Infantry Division
Ron Harrison
31216 72nd Avenue South
Roy WA 98580-9743
206-843-1347
Internet: wombat19@juno.com

G/75 E/51 LRP 196th LRRP—Americal Division
Richard Corkan
370 Red Eagle Road
Olathe KS 66061-5397
205-892-1081

H/75 E/52 LRP 1st Cav LRRP—1st Cavalry Division
Robert E. Beal Jr
1727 Farrell Street
Greensboro NC 27405
910-375-6933

I/75 F/52 LRP 1st Div LRRP—1st Infantry Division
Robert Busby
P.O. Box 85
Bristol WI 53104
414-857-7607

K/75 E/58 LRP 4th Div LRRP—4th Infantry Division
Ky S. Azlein
5601 Helmside Drive
Huntington Beach CA 92649
714-840-2334
Internet: kyazlein@aol.com

L/75 F/58 LRP 1/101st LRRP—101st Airborne Division
John W. Looney
No. 2 Leawood Avenue
Wheeling WV 26003
304-232-5244

M/75 71st LRP—199th Infantry Brigade
Jack B. Fuche
Route 2 Box 2553 E M72
Grayling MI 49738
517-348-1220

N/75 74th LRP 173rd LRRP—173rd Airborne Brigade
Roy Boatman
187 Paddlewheel Road
Fayetteville NC 28314
910-864-1787
Internet = roy_boatman@msn.com

O/75 78th LRP—82nd Airborne Division
Bailey Stauffer
175 E. Stauffer Lane
Safford AZ 85546-9565
520-428-0220
Internet: fcolrp@aepnet.com

P/75 79th LRP—5th Infantry Division(Mech)
Mike Rossi
110 N. Crandon
Niles OH 44446
330-544-6342

D/151 LRP/Ranger—II Field Force
Phil Cravens
1061 W. Maple
Greenwood IN 46142
317-888-9069

F/51 LRP—II Field Force
David Peace
8502 S.W. 4th Place
Gainesville FL 32607
352-332-6892
Internet = peace@neocortex.health.ufl.edu

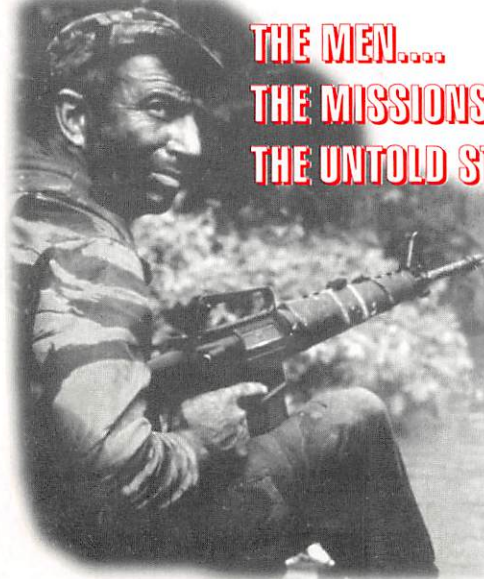
ARVN Ranger Advisors BDQ
Roy S. Lombardo Jr
6824 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore MD 21207
410-298-3516

Grenada
Howard H. Mullen Jr
1571 Creel Circle Apt. H-6
College Park GA 30337
770-991-6823

Panama
Patrick McElrath
7411 112th Street Northeast
Arlington VA 98223
360-653-8988
Internet = Rangermac@aol.com

Somalia
John Burns
7923 Cleo Dr.
Columbus, GA 31909
706-576-6923 / 561-845-9074

*IRS Tax Exemption Status #22-2753787-S



**THE MEN....
THE MISSIONS...
THE UNTOLD STORIES....**



America's Premier Elite Forces Magazine

P.O. Box 456, Festus, MO 63028
Annual Subscription - \$24.00
Canada add \$12.00: All other
countries add \$24.00 (sent air mail)

6 Bi-Monthly Issues
Make check or money order to:
BEHIND THE LINES

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Check One: ☐ Payment Enclosed ☐ Visa/Master Card

Card Number:

Exp. Date:

Signature: