

PATROLLING

WINTER 2002 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 17 ISSUE III



A member of the Army parachute team approaches his landing. Many members of the team previously served in the Ranger Regiment

Photo by: Pat Bissanti

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dana McGrath

RANGERS,

I hope you enjoyed the Fall Edition of *Patrolling* as much as I did. I'm lucky to get two of them, as the first one went on some sort of vacation before I could read it (finally returned after 10 days of travel, looking a bit worn). I thoroughly enjoyed the Unit Articles and stories - keep them coming and THANKS for the time it took to prepare them and get them in on time. John Chester (the guy who actually DID it) got his three weeks after I got mine. 'Tis the way of the Postal Service, but they do get it done.

Updates:

RANGER HALL OF FAME

I attended the Ranger Hall Of Fame meeting in October as your Representative. I can't come close to describing the Honor and humility I felt when sitting in a room with these examples of Ranger History, but I'll try. In that room were:

The General who started the current Ranger Battalions

The Commander of the Regiment

The Regimental Command Sergeant Major

The Commander of the Ranger Training Brigade

The Ranger Training Brigade Sergeant Major

The Representative from the WWII Rangers (a Darby Ranger from PONT du Hoc)

The Representative from Merrill's Marauders Assn (he took that long walk)

The chair for the Korean Ranger Representative (his car broke down and he couldn't make it)

The President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association (AKA The Luckiest PFC LRP/Ranger ever to wear a Beret)

The President of USARA (Another of the fine Ranger Associations)

The SFC who keeps us in touch with each other (no way would I want THAT job)

The Major who was tasked with being the "Recorder" (see SFC note above)

The outcome is an excellent revision for the future of the Ranger Hall Of Fame, and I can tell you there were spirited and passionate debates, out of which came improvements for the RHOF procedures. When I say "spirited", as Rangers you know what level of "spirit" we all bring to a project, and the issues were handled as professionally as any group could ever have done. The outcome is determined the old-fashioned way - by vote, so there was no way it could have failed to reach its objective - the Honoring of the Best of the Best amongst us. The only Ranger missing (aside from the Korean Ranger Rep) from my personal list of revered parties was Ranger Darby, and his Representative did a fine job of filling in. They're all "Good Guys", but I really appreciated the CSMs not dismantling me in place as was constantly promised so long ago.

Thanks for sending me as your Representative - nobody would ever have suggested 30 years ago I'd be in such company without a demotion as the outcome! If you haven't visited the RHOF at the Ranger Training Brigade HQ, you've really missed an opportunity.

By now, your Unit Director has put out the Warning Order for recommendations for induction to the Ranger Hall Of Fame. Our Association has THREE slots available for passing to the RHOF Board, as do the other "parties", from which a total of 15 will be inducted. Emmett Hiltibrand has formed a Team for the

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

75thRRA to work with each UD to refine our submissions, so GET CRACKIN' if you haven't already gotten up to speed. DECEMBER 15 is our absolute deadline AT EMMETT's AO.

RANGER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (RMF):

What if you gave a Scholarship and Nobody Came? Ranger Memorial Scholarship Fund will fund up to 15 this year. Let's get some applications in for these Scholarships, as some still go unfunded due to NO applicants - that can't be because there aren't Rangers/Ranger Wives/Kids/Grandkids in need of Scholarships! As an "aside", a Non-Ranger Citizen contacted me (from our 75thRRA.com WebPage) to fund some Ranger Scholarships with \$20,000 from his will, just because he had known so many fine Rangers and had the utmost respect for the whole Ranger community! Busted the buttons off my shirt that day. I referred him to the Ranger Memorial Foundation and he is sending the paperwork to have that done. Real nice to know somebody's watching and would do such a thing for Rangers and their Families because of what YOU DID in his past. Don't forget to include the RMF in your donation-list - and visit that stunning site when you're in the Columbus, GA / Ft. Benning AO - you won't forget what you feel when you see it for the first time, I assure you.

RANGER FAMILY CHRISTMAS FUND:

This is the fund which is kept by us for Rangers and their Families for Christmas and/or Rangers-in-need use. This has been enormously successful and well-received by the Active-Duty Rangers only because YOU made it happen. Let's see if we can do better each year so this Christmas can be as satisfying for the troops as it has in the past. Many of our Rangers are "away from home" this year and their Families have just got to be in need of some things the budget just won't cover right now.

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GOLD STAR WIVES/MOTHERS:

If you know of a Ranger who was KIA and you don't have a way of finding his Family, let us know and we'll see what we can find across the Ranger spectrum - one never knows what can happen when we work together. Wayne Mitsch (VP) has a Search System set up and is ready to help with these and "Ranger Buddy" searches. PLEASE be sure to route requests through Unit Directors so they have a chance of keeping up with the requests. You won't find more dedicated people than Sandee Rouse and Sandy Harris - let's wear them out if we can (good luck - they're hardy souls).

FINANCIAL ISSUES:

We're doing well, and Joe Niblett's article has Account Balance information in this issue. There is a Financial issue which needs to be addressed. The Bylaws require Life Membership funds to be placed in "investments" with "high interest rates" so the Association can use the interest instead of the principal as the years go by. This portion of the Bylaws has never been "funded", as fund balances simply didn't allow it, nor do they today. Unfortunately, the economy of the moment (and probably the foreseeable future) allows an interest rate of something like 1 - 5 percent on each \$250 "principal", therefore the costs of operating cannot be covered by the \$2.50 to \$12.50 (or less) interest per year per Life Membership. There are CDs for some of the LM dues and we will be adding CDs as possible, but with 300+ Life Members, it's obvious this part of the Bylaws is in need of revision at the next meeting (we'd need \$70,000+ just to fund the LM dues investments). This article of the Bylaws is used in many organizations, borne primarily in the high-interest CD days of the past - a GOOD idea when interest is near 8-10% or so, but impossible in these times. Our Magazine alone costs nearly \$20 of your \$25 annual dues, so it's easy to see where the shortfall would be over time.

RANGER POINT OF CONTACT PROJECT:

Ranger Bullen (UD-K/75th) is getting together a list of "opt-in" Points of Contact for Rangers all over the world. If you'd be available for Rangers in need, Ranger Funerals and just those who are visiting your area, please let Bill Bullen know and he'll put you on the list for your zipcode or city. One approach is the business-card "ad" in Patrolling - whether you

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

have a business or just want Rangers to know where you are. My business-card ads are there not only for business, but as a contact base for all in case a Ranger gets in my AO and wants to visit or needs some help. AT \$100/year for business-card size, it's a great way to advertise, and as a Business Expense, it's tax-deductible by the businesses who advertise. Not bad at all. One Ranger in my City found my info and has been in contact already - we've both been here for over 20 years and had not yet met. IT WORKS. I'm the Southwest Florida Point Of Contact and encourage any who get in the AO to use the contact info in Patrolling or on Bill's list when he gets information from all of us to use for Points Of Contact. Emmett Hiltibrand is one POC in Georgia, and "Ichabod" Bill Bullen is the PA POC - there's room for lots of them in each state, but you have to volunteer to be one first.

MEMBERSHIP:

We've found new Members through the Website, Unit Directors, word-of-mouth and from Members paying for New Members' dues as gifts. I have enjoyed spending \$25 to get another Ranger the "bennies" of Membership and will continue to do so in cases I find worthy. Buy an Active-Duty Ranger a Membership and the Magazine will be read by several Rangers, I'm sure. SOMEBODY FOUND YOU - EACH OF US PROBABLY KNOW AT LEAST ONE "NON-MEMBER".

REUNIONS:

Our Reunion for 2004 is at Ft. Lewis and Buck Anderson is getting the situation under control to have a BLAST there. I've begun to plan for a 2003 Summer Reunion at Ft. Benning during the "Ranger Rendezvous" (Battalions are present for Change Of Command), and will keep you posted on this "off-year" Mini-Reunion. The idea is to try to be at the Bases when the Rangers are already doing a function, so they won't have to make special plans for every Association's scheduled Reunions. I hope to keep in commo with the Ranger Battalions and the other Associations to see how we can lift a bit of the burden from the current-serving Rangers and still have time to watch them do their thing the current Ranger does. They enjoy the heck out of our visits, but their weekends off should be "free time" if we can better coordinate with them.

In closing (Enough, already, eh?):

I've had lots of input from the Unit Directors and am encouraged with the participation and commitment I've seen - keep up the good work and give two breaks of squelch if the rucksack gets a little heavy. We're all in this together and I sure don't mind carrying a couple batteries while you regain your footing. The Association is chock-full of talent and willingness, so don't hesitate to use the "contact point" system to get help where you can use it and give help where you're able. HELP YOUR UNIT DIRECTOR - if you think that job's easy, show up at Ft. Lewis and you're likely to get a job (hey, it happened to lots of us).

Remember:

com•mu•ni•cate

transitive and intransitive verb **exchange information:** to give or exchange information, for example, by speech or writing.

com•mit

intransitive verb **promise devotion:** to pledge devotion or dedication to somebody or something

Did I say "Thanks"? I'm still alive, therefore I've already accomplished more than I thought I would in July. The tough parts of the job are offset by the good parts - GET INVOLVED - you'll only regret it now and then, and those memories will fail pretty quickly. Nobody is going to remember how much money you had except those you leave it to - and they'll think it was too little. Everybody remembers what you DID in life and what you helped others accomplish for themselves.

RLTW & Sua Sponte,

Dana McGrath

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VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

By Wayne Mitsch

By: Wayne Mitsch, Association Vice President

Just incase you noticed in the last issue, I was given credit for writing the Past President Message. I must admit that I wish I could take credit. However, Emmett does a much better job at lengthy message – he wrote it.

A long time ago, I was passed over for a promotion to a new position at my job at that time. Later I asked why I was passed over and was told simply “We didn’t know you wanted it – you never told us”. I have carried this thought nearly 30 years. And you know what? Being passed over for that job was one of the best things that ever happened to me because of that statement. That one statement has been very forceful in making me successful in my life. Have you ever thought how many times you didn’t get what you wanted because you never told someone you wanted it? The same holds true for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. You have to let us know what you want for your Association.

I am writing this article in early November and depending on where you live, you have had your copy of the fall edition of Patrolling for nearly a month now. I hope you have spent as much time as I have going through it. I think that issue is as big as ever has been produced. If it’s not too late for you to go pick up that copy one more time, I’d like you to do that and notice how many times, on how many pages, in how many articles, by how many different authors that the message remains the same: You have to get involved, you have to contribute and you have to volunteer. It was stated over and over. And those of us who are writing the articles don’t have a combined theme; we don’t communicate with each other and discuss what we are going to write about. Gee, maybe it is because your leaders know that contributing and communicating is the lifeline, the future and the success of the association. You have heard it before and you will surely hear it again – It’s your Association. Stated another way, **you are the Association**. Yup – you. In case you haven’t noticed, someone other than you is driving this bus. Four board directors and a handful of unit directors are presently shaping, organizing and running **your Association**. We will run it the way we want to and the way that we think is best unless we have your feedback, your input, and your help. No matter how many articles I write for Patrolling, part of my message will always be the same.

Oh well, enough on that for now. On to a couple of other quick points: An update on the next reunion, Buck Anderson has found what appears to be some excellent help in Seattle in organizing the reunion. She is a fine upstanding fiancée of a 2/75 Ranger, actually a second generation Ranger (if I have my facts correct). This may be the first reunion where a lady is going to have a huge part in the planning and organizing. We still need your input, wishes, needs and feedback. Don’t hesitate to call, write, or email me with your thoughts.

Last, I just told Fran, my wife, that I just spent part of the Christmas budget. When I told her that I was sending it to the Ranger Family Christmas Fund, she said – “Rewrite the check and double it - I want part of my Christmas budget to go to them too.” What a great day to be an American! We sent our check, have you?

I want you to reconsider your donation. Please, please! Send a donation to Ron Edwards for the Ranger Family Christmas Fund, today. Where else could you possibly spend or give money to a better cause. By the time you read this, we probably won’t have a clue as to where the active duty Rangers are or how many are in harms way and how many are not going to be with their families during this holiday season. What better way to show our appreciation for their service to our country. Please send a check today.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By Ron Edwards

It is hard to believe it is that time again, it seems like we just got the fall issue out and now it is time for the winter issue and yes I know I said the same thing in the spring and summer. It was true then and it is true now.

This is a busy season for me. You may have noticed we have tried a new system for mailing the dues invoices. As with many first efforts not all went smoothly. The first order of special envelopes would not seal and we had to reorder resulting in the invoices going out much later than I had envisioned. They are out now though and I am receiving many checks and money orders for dues and donations every day. Another new twist is that we can now accept VISA / MASTERCARD for dues or Life Member payments.

We are also conducting a unit membership drive for the 1st Cav LRRP / RANGERS, and I am hoping to increase our membership with 50 or 60 new members from H/75 – E/52 LRP – & 1st Cav LRRPS. This membership drive would not have been possible with the help of Sam Dixon, president of the LRRP / RANGER Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, who did the actual mailing for us.

The Christmas / Family Fund drive is also off to a good start thanks to Bob Copeland & Hilan Jones of the 9th Infantry Division LRRP/RANGER Association. I don't know how they do it (and I don't know anything about those spurious reports of arm twisting) but they really turn out the troops to support the young Ranger Families. Carl Ostrom (aka "Sunshine") one of my old teammates from Team 1-1, L/75 circa 1970, is also out there beating the bushes around Houston, Texas and rounding up contributors to the Fund. As you may have noticed it is now the Christmas / Family Fund instead of just the Christmas Fund. Once we got the Fund started it did not take long for us to realize that our young Ranger Families often need help at other times of the year besides Christmas. We are not taking the place of the normal military support systems such as AER (Army Emergency Relief) but when the situation needs action and the normal support cannot help, our ranger families have a Pink Team on the pad with blades turning waiting for the call.

One of the "Perks" of being Secretary for this association is having your name & address out there for all to see. A couple weeks ago I received a call from Bob Clark, one of my old Team Leaders in L/75. I had not seen Bob since 1970, but he was passing through Alabama and stopped in to see me. We all change a bit over 32 years and Bob just about had a cup of coffee with a neighbor before he realized it wasn't me, but we had a good visit and I even made him talk about how great a "tailgunner" I was once upon a time. He said I was the only tailgunner he ever had that could put a spider web back together. Well, maybe he didn't exactly say that but you get the drift. Whenever I talk with my friends and teammates from that time, we eventually get around to talking about our friends that did not make it back. Although it was a dreary rainy day, I took Bob to the Centennial Memorial Park in Anniston. The park has several black marble walls that list all of the Alabama casualties of war in WW I, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. There, in a drizzling rain, we looked for and found the name of Jack Moss Jr. a member of L/75 from nearby Talladega, AL. By the way Bob, the reason some of the names were in gold that we puzzled about; those are the names of guys from this county. Jack's name was not in gold because Talladega is just across the county line.

Talking about lost friends always makes me think of one of mine and I guess that there is truth to the old saying that "as long as we remember them they are not lost."

Steven Glenn England was my friend. He was from Pocatello Idaho as I remember and his father was a detective or something on the city police force. Steve and his dad did not get along well, as often is the case in growing up. His dad wanted him to "walk the line" and so, of course that is the one thing Steve would not do. Yet Steve had talked about how much he wanted his father's approval and how much he

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

respected him. Steve had been involved with some drugs at home, how much I do not know, but I do know that if he drank more than a couple of beers he was liable to "flashback" and go completely nuts for a while.

Steve was a medic, he came to the Rangers from a line unit about Aug of 1970 (I'm guessing) and was assigned to Team 1-1. There is no spot for a medic on a 6-man LRRP team. He was a regular rifleman or technically speaking "scout", of course if you happen to have a medic qualified scout on your team he is an obvious choice to carry the aid bag, which usually consists of a claymore bag stuffed with things you are most likely to need. Steve wasn't satisfied with this of course and came up with a modified field medical kit that was more extensive. It also weighed more of course but he carried the extra weight without complaint. Steve went out with Team 1-1 for a couple of months and did as well as anyone else in the field. Sometime in Nov-Dec the company medic position came open and he took over that position. In this job he did not go to the field on a regular basis, but instead took care of everyone while they were between missions, taught classes on giving IV's and other stuff, and would go out on special missions or whenever any team needed help.



Team 1-1 Aug, 1970. L to R ATL Frazier, PSG Kaiama, Uyen
Carl Ostrom, TL Bob Clark, Ron Edwards, Jackson

I remember sitting up with him one night when he was having a "flashback". He talked continuously all night about anything and everything and that's probably when he talked about his father. He went out to take a leak one time and someone brought him back saying he had been trying to walk thorough some triple strand concertina wire. Myself and another guy talked about trying to hit him once to knock him out, but that stuff doesn't usually work like it does in the movies so we just set it out and waited for him finally to wind down.

On 15 February 1970, a team was in trouble. One man wounded and weather conditions so bad they wouldn't even send a medivac out to them. I guess CPT Ohle may have called up B Troop 2/17 Cav and asked for volunteers, at any rate he got a slick to go out with a McGuire Rig to pull the wounded guy on strings. There was no plan to land and picking up the guy (SGT Trujillo) on strings would not require a medic, but someone was hurt and Steve grabbed his aid bag and jumped on the chopper "just in case" he could help. They picked up SGT Trujillo in the McGuire Rig and were headed back when the helicopter suddenly crashed a short way from the Airbase.

No one really knows what happened; tho they think the pilot had "vertigo" and simply flew straight into the ground. B Troop 2/17 Cav lost 4 brave men that had probably volunteered for a mission the Medivac "wouldn't" touch. The Rangers lost 3 men; LT Smith who was bellyman for the strings extraction, SGT Trujillo who was still hanging in the McGuire Rig, and one Steven Glenn England who went along just in case he could help. It was the only time during my tour I cried.

Carl Ostrom accompanied Steve's body back to Pocatello, Idaho. One of these days Carl, when I am traveling between Alabama and Arkansas, I am going to have to take a "short cut" through Idaho, and say my goodbyes to Steve.

TREASURERS MESSAGE

By Joe Niblett

Gentleman our current financial position is \$54,000 in cash in operating funds as well as \$13,700 in CD investments as of October 31, 2002. I know this is not the detail information you were looking for in this article but I have been slipping, so you guys feel free to dx me.

I realize that the Secretary and I need to work out the timing of communication of cash receipts and disbursements. I will say that I have found nothing that would lead me to believe that Association funds have "disappeared". Some prior expense items have been reimbursed due to the diligence of Dana McGrath. I will admit that I did not know what I was getting into when you gentleman elected me to this office. I also realize the need for me to commit more time to the Association and I will do this during this quarter. Dana McGrath and I will also get together in the next few weeks to establish budgets for the year.

One question I have been asked frequently is "Can I pay for a life membership in installments?" Members have done this in the past, contact the Secretary for a payment plan. This should take place in no more than 5 payments on a monthly basis.

We do need to evaluate the lifetime membership investments. The Association can not continue with the present cash flows and continue to be viable in the future years. We have to manage our monies in accordance with the bylaws. This has not happened in the past based on the current CD balances and number of lifetime members.

I will say that I should of stayed in the Army and never entered the accounting profession. I could then just sit back and bitch about the state of the Association. I will say if you are one that sits back takes bitches at the Association, get off your butts and volunteer your time with Association activities.

Take care... and the check is in the mail...

Rangers Lead the Way
Joe Niblett
Treasurer
954-796-7153

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSN INC
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of October 31, 2002

	<u>Oct 31, 02</u>	<u>Oct 31, 01</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
CHECKING	34,531.30	0.00	34,531.30	100.0%
old CHECKING	583.61	24,064.21	-23,480.60	-97.6%
MONEY MARKET	21,415.27	21,404.43	10.84	0.1%
Total Checking/Savings	<u>56,530.18</u>	<u>45,468.64</u>	<u>11,061.54</u>	<u>24.3%</u>
Other Current Assets				
Certificates of Deposit				
CD LIFE FUNDS- 04/29/01	10,670.30	10,025.32	644.98	6.4%
CD LIFE FUNDS- 07/02/01	4,002.05	3,237.60	764.45	23.6%
Certificates of Deposit - Other	446.00	446.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Certificates of Deposit	<u>15,118.35</u>	<u>13,708.92</u>	<u>1,409.43</u>	<u>10.3%</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>15,118.35</u>	<u>13,708.92</u>	<u>1,409.43</u>	<u>10.3%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>71,648.53</u>	<u>59,177.56</u>	<u>12,470.97</u>	<u>21.1%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>71,648.53</u>	<u>59,177.56</u>	<u>12,470.97</u>	<u>21.1%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

If one is a member of a group particularly if that group has been subjected to real (or imagined) discrimination or prejudice, one becomes extremely sensitive to any hints of that prejudice being employed. I was very sensitive to the fact that I was a Vietnam veteran in the 1970's & 80's. I was particularly incensed whenever I would hear news accounts of a particularly violent crime or shooting of more than one person, and the newsperson would state, "The offender was (or was not) a Vietnam vet." For a large part of both those decades we were all judged by the acts of a few. Where did these stereotypes originate? Why with the liberal press to be sure. The used a few violent acts to justify their own stance against the U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

As most of you are probably aware, the Baltimore, Washington, D. C., Northern Virginia area was recently plagued by a sniper who succeeded in killing 12 people and wounding several more. Prior to the arrest of the individuals responsible, the liberal press had a field day. The *Washington Post* ran story after story "profiling" the killer as a middle class, white man between the ages of 20 to 35. When John Muhammad was finally apprehended, he turned out to be black, a failed business man, twice divorced father, Muslim convert and applauded the actions taken by Alqueda on September 11, 2001. Was any of the above information revealed in the headlines? Of course not. Just prior to Muhammad's capture, the headlines read, "Police look for former soldier for questioning in the sniper case." Given all the other information available, the Post chose to highlight the fact that he was a former soldier. Apparently present or former members of the military are a suspect class to Post writers.

The *New York Times* revealed the rather astonishing fact that Mr. Muhammed and Lee Malvo, his 17-year-old accomplice, (both black) were being investigated for ties to "skinhead militia groups." The liberal left does search very hard to prove that our only threat is from white supremacists. In reality, Mr. Muhammed is a member of Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam. Facts never seem to faze the liberal left. They seem to be able to ignore the most obvious facts and proceed on to their illogical conclusion, and facts be damned.

The *Post* also reported that the killers were in a white van or panel truck. The fact is, the police were searching for a white man in a white panel truck or van. Another fact is that police stopped Mr. Muhammed's blue Chevy Caprice on more than one occasion, and its license plate number was entered into the police's computers at least 10 times during the ordeal. Each time Mr. Muhammed was questioned by police, he was sent on his way each time. "We were looking for a white man in a white truck," admitted Washington, DC police chief Charles Ramsey. The real question, of course is how many of the victims of this killer would be alive today had the press and the "experts" who established the killer as a white man, with absolutely no basis for that belief, had kept silent. Another fact, one of the "expert profilers" admitted during the course of an interview, that there is no basis for the belief that most serial killers are white. The truth is that about 55% are white. Another fact, if the police had let slip that they were looking for a black man as the most likely suspect, the liberal left would have raised a howl that would shake the earth.

Since the apprehension of the killers, we have heard much of the killers hard life, the fact that Mr Muhammed is a Gulf War vet, that he was stationed at Ft Lewis, Washington, home of the US Army Sniper School, (it was conclusively established that Mr Muhammed did **not** attend the school), and that his job in the Army was as a **Combat Engineer**, (emphasis on combat). We have not heard much about his conversion to Islam or any suspected links to international terrorists, despite the fact that Mr Muhammed had no means of support, but had no problem traveling back and forth across the country at will, and had in his possession false identity documents and money for foreign travel.

What's the point of this diatribe? I get damned tired of the attitude that holds a veteran's service against him,

EDITOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

and assigns a set of stereotypes to each of us based on our military service. I wrote letters to the offending newspapers. It may be of little value, but I feel better.

Our President, Dana McGrath, authorized the purchase of the *Veterans Benefits Manual* and the *Federal Veteran's Laws and Regulations*. We have both the reference books and the CD'S we also have a CD version of all the Department of Veteran's Affairs forms. Dan Nate, Steve Morey and I will have the information available. Call, e-mail or write us with any inquiries, we can at least point you in the right direction. One thing I learned in law school, you don't need to know all the rules, but you do need to know how to find the rules. We can do that now.

Something that was left out of the ad for coins & Tee shirts in the last issue, the 75th Ranger Regiment Association now can take Visa & Master Card. You can even pay your dues with a credit card! Including life membership! Do not e-mail me any credit card info. I don't have a secure server and I don't want your credit info stolen from me. Call me with the info & I'll be happy take care of it.

In the last issue, I mentioned that I would be able to assist in the upgrade of a discharge that was other than "Honorable". I now have the forms and the means to pursue the process. Each case, of course, will be unique and will need to be handled in its own fashion. There is no formula that will work every time, I need to discuss each case with the individual involved, review the paperwork, and then, with the individual, formulate a plan of action and pursue that plan. If you wish to begin the process, give me a call or drop me an e-mail. (410-426-1391 or macchester@erols.com)

I have a friend that I re-established contact with last summer after a 30+ hiatus. I flatter myself that I sort of talked him into checking out, with a Doctor, the possibility that he might have a touch of PTSD. (He does). The Doc agreed with me & my friend applied for benefits last fall. In its' own ponderous way the VA finally arrived at a determination that he was 10% for PTSD (hasn't had a job since 1975) and 10% for a hand & thumb mangled for shrapnel, (he never even applied for that). Who makes these determinations? It's almost like the person has no connection with reality. There must be a training course for the level of disconnection that they can rise to. Another friend was recently given a prescription for Viagra after a lengthy examination & physical. After many years of enforced abstinence, he & his wife were finally able to enjoy the full spectrum of married life. The catch? They (the VA) gave him two pills a month. That's the max for that office. That's cruel. Imagine crossing the Sahara, running out of water and being rescued, only to be given a shot glass of water. Every 30 days.

You gotta wonder where these rules come from. Are they arbitrary or is there real intent behind them. Last week I tried to attend a group therapy session at the local VA. They called it an intake group. There were ten people, one of whom was a woman. Five Vietnam Vets, one who said he was Gulf War, the other four non-combat. Four of us were already receiving benefits and only wanted help with our symptoms. The other six were trying to get benefits. The whole thing degenerated into a screaming match with the Wantos verses the Alreadyhaves. The woman, who was already getting benefits had PTSD as a result of a rape while on active duty. Understandably, she was reluctant to discuss, with nine men, the event. One Navy type, in during the mid-70's was claiming PTSD as a result of his Senior Chief yelling at him and calling him a faggot. "Were you?" I asked. It went downhill from there.

WEB MASTER

By Emmett W. Hiltibrand



Most of you thought I went away. Actually, most of you wished I had gone away. Well, I'm back. To late to cry over it now. Besides, Dana offered me a great medical plan. Either do this or he would talk me to death. The road to maturity is a long one. One that I have attempted to travel numerous times, with no success. Well, we must move on. Yelpers, I'm the Web Master. A 6 year old knows more about this than I do. So, don't throw rocks. Coin money would be good.

I've made a few changes to the web site. Not much. Just about three total crashes worth. That's how many times I've crashed the web site since I've been playing with that thing. I went on there one day and looked at all that source code spread out all over the place and I just couldn't stand it any more. There was just no rhyme or reason to it what so ever. In Sergeant Major fashion, I called it all to attention and told it to dress right dress and cover down. That was my first crash. That source code does not like to be talked to like that. Now days when I go on there, I'm a 'Kinder and Gentler' person. I know. The vision of that thought scares me too.

Current changes include a more stream lined 'Application' form on the **Home** page with more relevant information added to it. All the classes of membership from the new Bylaws are now reflected with just half the code. See, I found a way to get back at that code after all. Next, I added all the new Officers and Unit Directors to the **Points of Contact** page. I also added the 'Appointed' positions there too. Lastly, I added the newly approved 'Association Bylaws' to the **About Us** page. Interesting! Three changes and three subsequent crashes. Surely this is not coincidence. Now I can measure my accomplishments.

For my next feat, I will tackle the 'Links' on the **Interesting Links** page. As you might have noticed, I've added several new menus on the left side that don't do anything yet. I'm building up my courage for this one. I'm also contemplating hitting the **About Us** page for some fine-tuning. I have Bob Smyers working on 'Tributes' for all of our Fallen Comrades. I have Steve Morey and Dan Nate working on links and VA stuff. And my buddy Dan Pope is about to jump in and wrestle this thing with me. The main thing is that I have people willing to pitch in and I sure appreciate it. Together, we all brought the Patrolling Magazine to a 1st Class publication with John Chester's help. Dana wants us to make the Association web site a portal rather than a destination. I'm still trying to figure out just what that means, so stay tuned.

We have discussed a 'Message Board', 'Ranger Calendar', 'Chat Room' and several more renovations. None of which I know how to do yet. Changes will only occur relevant to the relationship of my learning curve. Go to YOUR web site and visit it often. Make a guest book entry. Read your Unit Directors 'Message' on the **Points of Contact** page (Only if they submitted one). Just go there and see what's new or broken and let us know. I'm having fun. Join me.

Emmett W. Hiltibrand

http://www.75thrra.com/

From the Gold Star Moms desk

Greetings one and all. I hope the holidays have richly blessed each of you and your families.

The holidays can hold different things for different people. This time of year was always the best around our house. My kids used to say our house looked like it came right off a hallmark card. The faith of our family met its most trying test on December 20th, 1989.

Jim was due to arrive home around 5PM that night for the first real leave he had been on since joining the Army in February of that year. We were so excited about him being home for the holidays. He left a 20 year old recruit and was returning a 21 year old US Army Ranger. Something he was most proud of. He even made a special call a few days before to remind me not to bake the cookies until he got home. I promised I would wait for him.

At 5PM on December 20th our family sat in our small living room in Cincinnati Ohio as a Major from the Army Reserve at the University of Cincinnati and a Chaplain read from a telegram, "The Secretary of the Army regrets to inform you that your son James W. Marshall," wait I yelled you've got the wrong family. Our sons name is Markwell!!!! "I am so sorry," the Major said, "James W. Markwell, died of wounds he received during combat in Panama."

I was staring at the Christmas tree trying not to be a part of what was taking place. It is a pretty tree I thought to myself. I remember my eyes fell on a stack of ornaments still waiting to be hung. They were his, ones he had picked out over the years as part of our family tradition. I looked at the clock. He was due home about now. The reality of the moment came back to me suddenly when our minister arrived. He put his arms around me and I took my stand then as I had always done. I told him if someone was trying to test my faith they had failed.

Jim didn't come home to us that Christmas but he did go home for Christmas. When the life I gave him ended on that runway in Panama the life we had always taught him was waiting for him began.

May each of you have a Blessed Holiday and the best New Year ever.

Here is the list of our current Gold Star Mothers and the Units they belong to

Marc Anderson	A/Co	1/75	JudyAnderson	Enduring Freedom	Afghanistan	3/4/02
Richard Bellwood		E/50	Catherine Bellwood/Columbi		Vietnam	1/25/69
Matthew Commons	A/Co	1/75	Patricia Marek	Enduring Freedom	Afghanistan	3/4/02
Bradley Crose	A/Co	1/75	Shelia Maghun	Enduring Freedom	Afghanistan	
Bill Cohen			(awaiting info from Jim Savage)			
Julian Deedman		L/75	Rita Deedman		Vietnam	4/23/69
Jonn Edmunds		3/75	Mary Edmunds	Enduring Freedom	Afghanistan	10/02
Jackie Leisure	1stInf/75LRP		Clare Leisure		Vietnam	5/12/68
contact: Patsy Beauchanmp						
James Loisel			(Waiting on info from Mr. Bolton)			
James Markwell	C/Co	1/75	Sandee Rouse	Operation Just Cause	Panama	12/20/89
Blaine Mishak	C/Co	1/75	MarlysMishak	Operation Embryo	Utah	10/92
Harvey Moore Jr.		1/75	SarahMoore	Operation Embryo	Utah	10/92
John Price		2/75	Diane Price	Operation Just Cause	Panama	12/20/89
Robert Pruden			Maryls Pruden		Vietnam	11/29/69
Raymond S. Reeves	75th Inf. Det LRP		Colleen Brizius		Vietnam	11/19/68
Kristofor Stoneisfer		3/75	Ruth Stoneisfer	Enduring Freedom	Afghanistan	10/01
Mark J Toschik		E/75	CeceliaToschik		N/A Vietnam	8/11/70

They say, "No news is good news." That is not the case with our Gold Star program. No news is sad. That means that since August there have been no new Gold Star finds. How Come??????

Where are the families of: Sgt. Gene Arden Vance Jr. ;SSG Jerry Don Beck, 0/75-78thLRP; Peter Fegatelli, D/151LRP/Ranger; Sgt Charles Jackson Britt, LRRP/LRP/Ranger; Frank William Humes; LRRP?Ranger; William Author Thompson, LRRP/Ranger?

You told me about these ultimate warriors in Patrolling. We need to contact their families. You told me about the treasured coins you collect and the restored Guidon. We need to collect and restore these families. Make it your New Years resolution to bring these families and the others that are out there home to the 75th RRA. We say we will never forget. Let's let their families know we haven't.

Thanks and God Bless
Sandee Rouse

DISCLAIMER

DISCLAIMER: This series of articles entitled 'LEGISLATIVE HELP LINE' is meant to be an informative aid in assisting you in protecting your rights. It is also meant to keep you informed of the ever-changing legislative forum that may affect you. There is a caveat here. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is not allowed to assist you in this effort. Our Constitution has a stipulation that forbids this. I quote: "2. Politics. The Association shall not engage in any political activity. Directors and members are specifically prohibited from engaging in any form of activity that relates the Association to political activity." Therefore, no Officer, Unit Director, Advocate or Member may present himself as a representative speaking for or on the behalf of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Now, this does not prevent you from acting for yourself on your own behalf, I quote: "3. The foregoing does not preclude the Association from being supportive of U.S. policy and objectives nor does it prohibit any member from engaging in the normal rights of any citizen as long as the members do not relate their activities to the Association. Any violation of the foregoing prohibited activities will result in loss of vested right to membership." As I said, this section is provided as a service to inform you. You must act on your own. Do not attempt to act on behalf of the Association. Thank you, Dana McGrath - President

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**CLARIFICATION OF PURPLE HEART CRITERIA**

Submitted by Dan Nate, F Company LRP

In response to those many who asked for a clear and precise definition of today's standards and criteria, the following is taken from AR 600-8-22, Military Awards.

1. There have been instances in the past where the Purple Heart has been awarded for combat-related injuries not relevant to enemy action. In order to clarify the criteria, I have elected to implement the following guidelines immediately. Please ensure that these criteria are passed to all commanders who could be Purple Heart approving authorities at some future date.
2. When contemplating an award of this decoration, the key issue that commanders must take into consideration is the degree to which the enemy caused the injury. The fact that the proposed recipient was participating in direct, or indirect combat operations is a necessary prerequisite, but is not a sole justification for the award.
 - (A) Examples of enemy-related injuries, which clearly justify award of the Purple Heart is:
 - (1) Struck by enemy bullet, shrapnel, or other projectile created by enemy action.
 - (2) Injury caused by enemy placed trap or mine.
 - (3) Injured by enemy released chemical, biological or nuclear agent.
 - (4) Injury as a result of vehicle or aircraft accident caused by enemy fire.
 - (5) Concussion injuries caused as a result of enemy generated explosions.
 - (B) Injuries or wounds which clearly DO NOT qualify for the award of the Purple Heart is:
 - (1) Frostbite or trench foot injuries.
 - (2) Heat stroke.
 - (3) Food poisoning not caused by enemy agents.
 - (4) Chemical, biological, or nuclear agents not released by the enemy.
 - (5) Battle fatigue.
 - (6) Disease not directly caused by enemy agents.
 - (7) Anxiety reactions
 - (8) Accidents, to include explosive, aircraft, vehicular, and other accidental wounding not related to or caused by enemy action.
 - (9) Self-inflicted wounds.
 - (10) Post-traumatic stress disorders.
 - (11) Jump injuries not caused by enemy action.
 - (C) A physical lesion is not required, provided the concussion or other form of injury is directly due to enemy, opposing armed force, or hostile foreign force action. DOUBTFUL cases NOT outlined above will be forwarded to HQDA (TAPC-PDA) for determination. In such cases, all detailed circumstances surrounding the injury/wound will be forwarded with the request for determination.

3. POC is Arlette King of DSN 221-9171.

This does NOT mean you will be turned down, automatically, if you don't meet the (A), 1-5 categories. If you feel you have a case, do as it says in (C). Include each minute detail, date, time and factor. You are most likely the only person with all of the details. Be explicit and polite, but stand firm and resolute in your convictions, for as you see, the award-judgment personnel have standards spelled out to follow, yet they do allow room for doubt, if well documented and properly requested.

Concurrent Receipt Update

By now most of you have heard that the House and Senate passed the NDAA (H.R. 4546) with a very limited Concurrent Receipt Provision. Following is the Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees [USDR] report of what happened. Disabled vets who want to continue the fight for CR should consider checking out the USDR web site www.usdr.org and/or joining this organization whose primary mission is the passage of this legislation.

"House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders, fearful of a veto that could kill the whole FY2003 Defense Authorization Act, convinced the Administration to accept a reduced package focused on retirees with disabilities due to combat, combat-oriented training or certain other hazard-related circumstances. Committee leaders believe they had little choice in taking what they saw as the only possible route to any progress on concurrent receipt THIS YEAR. In essence, the deal establishes a new form of "special compensation" for certain disabled retirees who have at least 20 years of active duty or a combination of active duty time and reserve points comprising the equivalent of 20 years of full-time active duty. Unfortunately, very few Reserve retirees qualify under this strict criterion.

The amount of the special compensation will be the full amount of retired pay forfeited due to receipt of VA compensation for a qualifying disability. Unlike the special compensation already in law (which provides \$50 to \$300 per month for certain severely disabled retirees), the new version will not be capped at a specific dollar amount, and will rise each year as the offset rises. Unlike the current \$50 to \$300 special compensation, which requires that a qualifying disability must have occurred within 4 years after retirement, eligibility for the new version will not be restricted by any time limit. Qualifying members will be eligible to receive either the "new" or the "old" special compensation amount, whichever is higher. The effective date for the new program will be six months from the date the President signs the Defense Authorization Act into law, so the effective date should be sometime in May 2003. The six-month delay will allow the Pentagon time to determine which retirees and which disabilities qualify for the new payments and establish application procedures. The language passed by the House indicates qualifying retirees WILL HAVE TO APPLY for the new special compensation. There will be no phase-in or ramp-up period. Qualifying payments will be paid as of the effective date.

There are two sets of qualifying disabilities, one more complicated than the other. On the simple side, any qualifying retiree with a disability rating of 10% or higher that is associated with award of a Purple Heart will be eligible for the new special compensation. Under this rule, the special compensation amount will be based on the disability rating awarded for the combat wound, rather than any higher rating the retiree may have been awarded for a different reason. The other, more complicated, eligibility rule covers retirees awarded disability ratings of 60% or higher for other illnesses/injuries attributable to combat situations, combat-oriented training, hazardous duty, or instrumentality's of war. The legislators based these categories on the Defense Department's current definition of "combat-related" disabilities, as described in DoD Instruction 1332.38. The following is a summary of the descriptions in that Instruction, which presumably will be used to guide DOD eligibility, decisions for the new program.

** Direct result of armed conflict: including a war, expedition, occupation of an area or territory, battle, skirmish, raid, invasion, rebellion, insurrection, guerrilla action, riot, or any other action in which Service members are engaged with a hostile or belligerent nation, faction, force, or terrorists.

** While engaged in hazardous service: including, but not limited to, aerial flight duty, parachute duty, demolition duty, experimental stress duty, and diving duty.

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**** Under conditions simulating war:** resulting from military training, such as war games, practice alerts, tactical exercises, airborne operations, leadership reaction courses, grenade and live fire weapons practice, bayonet training, hand-to-hand combat training, rappelling, and negotiation of combat confidence and obstacle courses (does not include physical training activities, such as calisthenics and jogging or formation running and supervised sports).

**** Caused by instrumentality of war** (incurrence during a period or war is not required): includes such causes as wounds caused by a military weapon, accidents involving a combat vehicle, injury or sickness caused by fumes, gases, or explosion of military ordinance, vehicles or material. (i.e. DOD example - an injury resulting from a fall on the deck of a ship while participating in sports would not normally be covered, since the sport activity, not the ship, caused the fall. But it would be covered if the operation of the ship caused the fall.)

Clearly, these guidelines allow for some judgment, so it's uncertain how many people may qualify. Different Hill sources have offered estimates ranging from 10,000 to 30,000 eligible retirees, with cost estimates ranging from \$4 billion to \$9 billion over 10 years. The new Defense Authorization Act specifies that the Pentagon will be responsible for applying the above criteria to determine which VA disability awards qualify for the special compensation.

In discussing the issue on the House floor, Reps. John Larson (D-CT) and Gene Taylor (D-MS) expressed their concerns about ensuring that conditions related to Agent Orange and the Gulf War Syndrome would be covered. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), who helped negotiate the provision, expressed his belief that they should be, and expressed his willingness to write a letter to that effect to the Secretary of Defense. USDR and other military organizations agree with the Armed Services Committees that the authority outlines above are preferable, by far, to the alternative of getting nothing. But it falls far short of what most believes is fair, and still leaves many, many thousands of disabled retirees having to pay for their own disability compensation. USDR and others intend to track implementation of the new plan closely to ensure the rules are interpreted reasonably, and will continue the fight to expand eligibility.

USDR as well as other military coalition members are deeply disappointed that the new proposal falls far short of the much broader provisions we have been battling for - and they fully intend to continue that fight. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) gave a speech on the floor of the Senate, which condemned the limited provision. He has stated that he would re-introduce "Concurrent Receipt" at the beginning of the 108th Congress. His entire message to the Senate can be read under USDR Media at www.usdr.org. Vets should be appreciative of those legislators who have been prominent in attempting to obtain CR during this session of congress. They are Concurrent receipt champions Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) and Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), Senate Armed Services Committee leaders Carl Levin (D-MI) and John Warner (R-VA), House Armed Services Committee leaders Bob Stump (R-AZ), Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Ike Skelton (D-MO), and Reps. Jim Nussle (R-IA) and Charles Bass (R-NH) of the House Budget Committee. USDR as well as some other organizations are dropping the term Concurrent Receipt [CR] and will continue to use Restoration of Retired Pay [RRP] for all Military Disabled Retirees beginning in the 108th Congress"[Source: Noel K. Pritzl, 1st Vice President USDR Officer Angler88@aol.com Tel: 931-648-4292 Msg dtd 14 NOV 02] Tricare Dental Program [Reserves]: The TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) offers a wide range of diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services and is available to members and families of the Selected Reserve (SELRES) and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). Enrollment in the TDP is voluntary, and reserve component sponsors do not have to be activated to enroll themselves or their families in the TDP. There are, however, important differences in coverage for family members when their reserve component sponsors are activated versus when they are in a reserve status. Reserve component sponsors who are activated are covered by the same dental

benefits as active duty service members. Sponsors placed on active duty orders for 31 days or more are ineligible for enrollment in the TDP. If previously enrolled in the TDP, they will be automatically disenrolled and automatically re-enrolled upon deactivation. The sponsor should confirm re-enrollment before seeking dental treatment.

For family members, the main difference in TDP is the premium cost. Reserve component family members who enroll in the TDP before their sponsor is called to active duty will enjoy a cost savings when their sponsor is activated. The current premium rate for reserve component family enrollment is \$49.36 per month. When the sponsor is activated, fees decrease to \$19.74 per month. Many families enroll after a sponsor is ordered to active duty. When these families enroll, they pay the active duty family premium rate of \$19.74 per month. When the sponsor is released from active duty, enrollment fees increase to \$49.36 per month. It is also important to remember that premium rates change in January of each year. The TDP requires a 12-month enrollment commitment; however, this commitment is waived for non-TDP-enrolled families whose sponsor is ordered to active duty in support of certain contingency operations, but only if the family is enrolled in the TDP within the first 30 days of activation. If a family enrolls after the initial 30 days of activation, they will be locked in to the TDP for 12 months. Reserve component family members must decide to enroll in the TDP within the first 30 days of their sponsor's activation to take advantage of waiving the 12-month enrollment commitment. This will provide reserve component families the freedom to choose to remain enrolled in the TDP or disenroll if their sponsor is released from active duty before the completion of the 12-month enrollment period.

The TDP is administered by United Concordia Companies Inc. (UCCI). For more information about the TDP, beneficiaries may access the benefit handbook online at www.ucci.com or by calling toll free 1-800-866-8499, 24 hours a day. Members residing outside the continental United States (OCONUS) should call 1-888-418-0466 (toll free). This telephone number is available in the following countries: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Columbia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. At all other locations, members should call 1-717-975-5017. Representatives are available to assist members in English, German and Italian 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday. [Source: TRICARE news release at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>]

Tricare Inpatient Rates: Effective Oct. 1, 2002 fiscal year 2003 inpatient rates increase. The daily cost of inpatient care in civilian hospitals for family members of active duty service members under TRICARE Standard and Extra increased from \$11.90 to \$12.72 per day or \$25, whichever is greater. For example, if a family member of an active duty service member is an inpatient for one day, he or she will pay \$25. For inpatient stays that are two days or more, the cost will be \$12.72 per day.

The TRICARE Standard diagnosis-related group (DRG) daily rate for most civilian non-mental health hospital admissions increased to \$417, up from \$414 last year. The rate increase applies only to retirees, their families and survivors who use TRICARE Standard. These beneficiaries either pay the fixed daily rate of \$417, or a cost share of 25 percent of the hospital's billed charges whichever is less. They also pay 25 percent of the allowable charge for separately billed professional services. There is no DRG rate increase for beneficiaries who use a TRICARE network facility under TRICARE Extra. Rates for inpatient mental health care or a substance-use disorder will increase from \$154 to \$159 per day for retirees, their families and survivors who use TRICARE Standard. They also pay 25 percent of the allowable charge for separately billed professional services. The inpatient mental health rate is unchanged for family members of active duty service members, military retirees, their families and survivors in TRICARE Prime and Extra.

For more information about DRG payments, contact the nearest Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC). A BCAC directory is at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/BCACDirectory.htm> or you see a customer service representative at the nearest TRICARE service center. An online directory is at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare-servicecenters/default.cfm>. [Source: NAUS Update for 8 NOV 2002]

Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret)
Director, Retiree Activities Office & U.S. Embassy Warden Baguio City RP
Ed Note: This article courtesy of Jim Cooke, 35th Inf Assn.

LATEST AGENT ORANGE LAWSUIT NEWS

(UPI) submitted by Dan Nate, F co. LRP

The Supreme Court said Monday (Nov.4, 2002) it would decide this term whether veterans who believed the were injured by Agent Orange in VIETNAM, but did NOT take part in a massive 1984 settlement, can still bring suit. Beginning in 1978, hundreds of individual and class-action lawsuits were filed on behalf of the 2.5 million veterans who served in VIETNAM between 1961 and 1972-and on behalf of survivors-against the manufacturers of Agent Orange; said manufacturers including some of the biggest names in American commerce, such as the Dow Chemical and Monsanto companies.

The suits claimed Agent Orange, a defoliant herbicide used extensively in VIETNAM caused a variety of illnesses or would eventually cause such illnesses. In "Operation Ranch Hand," the U.S. Air Force sprayed 19 million gallons of herbicide on the jungle trails of VIETNAM and LAOS. About 11 million gallons were Agent Orange. (Some of you, most I hope, may recall that I wrote and printed an article several issues back listing the fifteen (15) largest base camps sprayed with same over a four-year period, listing which camp(s) received how many gallons, how many exposure days, and when. The article was entitled "A Woman's Base Camp Study". It was on page #14, spring, 2001's issue. Cu Chi is at the top of the list; as the worst.)

The purpose was to deny the Viet Cong and the NVA of food and cover by removing the jungle canopy, though toward the end of the war many U.S. military officers were convinced it did more harm than good. Many veterans returned from VIETNAM and developed diseases they attributed to Agent Orange exposure.

The Federal courts consolidated the hundreds of cases into one, which was brought before then-Chief Judge Jack Weinstein of the U.S. District Court of New York. The companies maintained there was no evidence Agent Orange caused any disease, and in any case they were entitled to immunity as military contractors. "Despite the weakness in the class members' claims," the companies told the Supreme Court in a petition, they agreed in May 1984, to pay \$180 million dollars to settle those claims." As an explicit condition of the offer, (the companies) insisted that all class members who had been exposed to Agent Orange-specifically those whose injuries had not yet manifested-be covered by the settlement and "forever barred" from bringing Agent Orange claims against them," the petition said. **WEINSTEIN APPROVED THE SETTLEMENT FOLLOWING 11 DAYS OF FAIRNESS HEARINGS AROUND THE**

COUNTRY. Seventy-five percent of the settlement money was allocated to survivors of deceased veterans and to those veterans who became totally disabled before 1995. The remaining 25% was used to set up a foundation for the benefit of all veterans affected by Agent Orange-including those who became sick in the future-to help them 'mobilize' themselves and others to deal with their medical and related problems."

The settlement was approved, except for minor details, by a Federal appeals court. Two years later, two more lawsuits were filed on behalf of veterans who claimed to have discovered Agent Orange injuries after the settlement was reached. **WEINSTEIN DISMISSED THEIR CLAIMS, CITING THE FINALITY OF THE SETTLEMENT AND WAS UPHELD BY THE APPEALS COURT.** However, in 1998, a small group of veterans who had not participated in the 1984 settlement filed individual actions-as opposed to class actions-saying they had recently become ill due to Agent Orange exposure. The Veterans said because they would not receive direct cash payments from the settlement, they could not have been adequately represented in the proceedings that led up to it. **WEINSTEIN REJECTED THEIR ARGUMENT, NOTING THAT THE VETERANS WERE PROBABLY BENEFITING FROM THE 25 PERCENT OF THE SETTLEMENT USED TO SET UP THE FOUNDATION. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE APPEALS COURT REVERSED.** Citing Supreme Court precedent, the appeals court ruled that veterans who had not become ill before 1994 were not adequately represented in the 1984 agreement, and were therefore unconstitutionally denied the due process of law.

THE COMPANIES, LED BY DOW AND MONSANTO, THEN ASKED THE SUPREME COURT FOR REVIEW, WHICH WAS GRANTED MONDAY IN A ONE-LINE ORDER. THE JUSTICES WILL PROBABLY HEAR THE CASE IN THE SPRING OF 2003. (# 02-271, In re AGENT ORANGE PRODUCT LIABILITY

LITIGATION: DOW, MONSANTO et al vs. STEPHENSON et al.)

H E A L T H

MAKING A CLAIM FOR POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

By Bob Smeyers

JOHN CHESTER, EDITOR OF PATROLLING MAGAZINE HAS ASKED ME TO RECORD FOR OTHERS HOW I APPROACHED THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. MY OWN EXPERIENCE IS MY ONLY QUALIFICATION. I WILL ALSO OUTLINE GETTING ORGANIZED AND PRESENTING THE CLAIM. ALTHOUGH IT DEALS MAINLY WITH PTSD ONE CAN GLEAN POINTERS THAT MAY HELP ON THE DIFFERENT CLAIMS.

DID I KNOW I HAD PTSD? NO, I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST THE WAY I WAS AND DID IT EVER COST ME OVER THE YEARS. I SUSPECTED MANY YEARS LATER IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WAR. WHY ELSE WAS I HAVING NIGHTMARES, LOOSING SLEEP, SO ANGRY, ETC.?

ONE OF THE BIGGEST ENEMIES WAS "PRIDE". PRIDE SAID, YOU SERVED WITH A UNIT THAT TOOK COURAGE AND GUTS OF STEEL. THIS BEING SO, HOW COULD WHAT I DID BOTHER ME NOW? WE ALL KNOW THERE IS GOOD PRIDE AND BAD PRIDE. THE BAD PRIDE TELLS US NOT TO REVEAL HOW WE REALLY FEEL, BUT TO MAINTAIN THE TOUGH GUY IMAGE. THIS HAS IN THE PAST AND IN MANY CASES IS STILL COSTING US.

I KEPT IT FROM OTHERS UNTIL ONE DAY BILL BULLEN AND I WERE TALKING ON THE PHONE AND HE ASKED ME TWICE HOW ARE YOU DOING? I FINALLY OPENED UP AND HE LISTENED. AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES, HE TOLD ME I WAS AND HAD BEEN EXPERIENCING PTSD SYMPTOMS. I AM GRATEFUL HE LISTENED.

MARCH 25, 2002, I WENT TO THE VETERAN'S CENTER. THE TEAM LEADER AFTER LISTENING TO ME SAID, YOU NEED HELP. I WAS IMMEDIATELY ASSIGNED TO A COUNCILOR AND STARTED ON MARCH 29, 2002. MANY OF THESE COUNCILORS ARE COMBAT VETS AND THIS MADE IT EASIER TO LET IT OUT. TWO DAYS LATER I ENTERED INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS AT A VA CLINIC. THE TRUTH, I WAS AFRAID OF WHAT I MIGHT RUN INTO HAVING HEARD SO MANY HORROR STORIES ABOUT THE SYSTEM. THUS MY PRAYER WAS LORD, IF I HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS, PUT THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN MY PATH. HE DID, AS YOU WILL SEE.

WHAT WAS MY APPROACH TO THE SYSTEM?

THE APPROACH I USED WAS A SIMPLE ONE, ONE OF HUMILITY AND RESPECT OF THE AGENCY AND EMPLOYEES REGARDLESS OF THEIR TITLE. REALIZE THEY DO THIS DAY IN AND DAY OUT. THUS, AT TIMES THEY MAY SEEM RUDE OR COMPLACENT, EVEN WITHOUT COMPASSION ON OCCASIONS. RATHER THAN RETURN THE RUDENESS, I ELECTED TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING AND KINDNESS. IF YOU ARE KIND TO PEOPLE AND PLEASE THEM, SPEAKING GOOD WORDS TO THEM. THEY WILL GLADLY BECOME YOUR SERVANT.

ONCE REGISTERED I WAS IMMEDIATELY SCREENED AND WITHIN THIRTY MINUTES I

HEALTH

WAS SEEING A MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR. I APPROACHED HIM AS A CLOSE FRIEND, ONE I COULD SPILL MY GUTS TO. TELL HIM/HER LIKE IT IS. IT IS YOUR TIME TO SPEAK, BE HEARD! I HAD ONE MORE VISIT WITH HIM THEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER DOCTOR. IN A SHORT TIME THE DOCTORS AND MY COUNCILOR ASSESSED ME AS HAVING PTSD. I IMMEDIATELY REGISTERED WITH VA MY INTENT TO MAKE A CLAIM. THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE AFTER THE FIRST DOCTOR HAD DIAGNOSED PTSD. NOT HAVING DONE SO EARLIER COST ME. DO NOT WASTE TIME. START GATHERING RECORDS, FORMS, AND DOCUMENTS THOUGH NOT YET DIAGNOSED. ALSO DO SOME READING ON PTSD.

WHAT HAPPENED?

ON MARCH 29, 2002, I STARTED TREATMENT. ALL DURING THE TREATMENT I HAD BEEN DEVELOPING MY CLAIM. THEN ON JUNE 28, I TOOK IT TO ELDERLY AND VETERANS SERVICES. HERE I WOULD COME IN CONTACT WITH THE PERSON THAT WOULD BE MY VSO. HE LOOKED OVER THE CLAIM AND STATED ALL HE NEEDED TO DO WAS TYPE MY ANSWERS ONTO THE REQUIRED FORMS. IN A COUPLE OF HOURS IT WAS HEADED TO REGIONAL OFFICE IN ST. PETE, FLORIDA. THREE WEEKS LATER, JULY 18, I RECEIVED A RATING OF 70% FOR PTSD AND 10% FOR ARTHRITIS. I THEN SUBMITTED FOR ALLOWANCE FOR MY WIFE. IT WAS APPROVED FIVE WEEKS LATER. THE RESPONSE ALSO STATED THEY HAD REVIEWED MY CLAIM AND DECIDED I WAS UNEMPLOYABLE WITHOUT ME APPEALING, THEY GRANTED ME 100% PERMANENT DISABILITY. NEITHER TIME DID I HAVE TO APPEAR BEFORE A BOARD. WHEN ASKED DID I KNOW SOMEONE IN VA? I REPLIED NO, BUT I DID PRAY.

I WANT TO NOTE HERE THAT IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED YOU GET A VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER. CALL YOUR NEAREST VA FACILITY AND THEY WILL PROVIDE NAMES OF ORGANIZATIONS. SERVICE OFFICERS ARE WELL VERSED IN VA PROCEDURES AND WILL NOT CHARGE YOU. THIS HOWEVER SHOULD NOT STOP YOU FROM DEVELOPING HOW YOU FEEL. IT SHOULD BE PRESENTED BEFORE YOU CONTACT ONE, IN MY OPINION.

GET ORGANIZED.... START GATHERING FORMS YOU WILL NEED. YOU CAN OBTAIN THEM FROM ANY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE.

FORMS:

- 21-4138 (COPY OFF AT LEAST NINE)
- 21-4142 (AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF MEDICAL FORMS)
- 21-526 (FILL OUT PARTS A, B, C)

DOCUMENTS:

- DD-214 FORM 20 (THIS WILL HAVE ALL UNITS AND DATES YOU SERVED WITH THEM).
- DIVORCE DECREE (IF NEEDED).
- MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (IF NEEDED)
- BIRTH CERTIFICATE (IF PLANNING TO CLAIM ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD)

HEALTH

RECORDS:
MEDICAL
SERVICE

ORDERS: AWARDS

WHILE WAITING ON THE FORMS, RECORDS, ETC., START A STUDY ON PTSD. SOME SOURCES ARE: LIBRARY, INTERNET, BOOKS, AND ARTICLES BY THOSE HAVING FACED IT. ALSO DO A WORD STUDY OF THE WORDS FOUND IN DAN NATE'S ARTICLE ON SYMPTOMS RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL REGULATION CONCERNING PTSD. DO AS DAN SUGGESTS, CHECK WHAT SYMPTOMS YOU SEE. THEN ASK FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS USING THE SAME TEST, TO GIVE THEIR OPINION. EACH SHOULD BE ALONE TO DO THIS WITHOUT THE INFLUENCE OF OTHERS.

WRITE OUT WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS "STRESSORS", THOSE SITUATIONS THAT REOCCUR FROM TIME SPENT IN VIETNAM. IF YOU HAVE A CIB, PURPLE HEART, OR BRONZE STAR WITH A V-DEVICE, ETC., THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR THIS TO BE DONE. HOWEVER DO A FEW ANYWAY. SOME WILL AND SOME WILL NOT READ THEM, BUT THERE ARE THOSE DRAWN BY CURIOSITY. REMEMBER TOO, MANY MAKING THE DECISIONS KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT WE WENT THROUGH OR ACTUALLY DID.

1. WRITE OUT A COUPLE OF YOUR HAIRY MISSIONS.

2. WRITE OUT HOW YOU FELT WATCHING YOUR BUDDIES DIE OR GET WOUNDED. HOW ANNIVERSARY DATES OF A BUDDY WHO DIED AFFECTS YOUR LIFE NOW.

3. WRITE OUT HOW LIFE WAS FOR YOU BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER VIETNAM.

FORM 21-4138 "STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM" IS USED AS THE COVER SHEET FOR EACH SECTION. THE PURPOSE FOR THIS TYPE COMPOSITION IS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR RATER (S) TO QUICKLY GO TO SPECIFIC INFORMATION. ALSO IT HELPS THEM KNOW WHEN THEY ARE MOVING INTO DIFFERENT SUBJECT MATTER.

OUTLINE THAT WHICH IS OFFERED IN FOLLOWING COMPOSITION ON FORM 21-4138 "STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM (SEE EXAMPLE OUTLINE). SEE EXAMPLES SECTION ONE AND FOUR, DUE TO SPACE I COULD NOT INCLUDE EXAMPLES OF ALL SECTIONS.

I WROTE A CONDENSED ARTICLE ON LRP/RANGERS WHICH QUICKLY PRESENTS OUR PICTURE. PLACE IT BEFORE REOCCURRING MEMORY STRESSORS IN SECTION FOUR. REMEMBER MANY DOING THE RATINGS WERE IN DIAPERS WHILE WE WERE IN THE JUNGLES OF VIETNAM. NO PUN INTENDED! THE WELL INFORMED ARE ENABLED TO DO A BETTER JOB. THESE PEOPLE HAVE LIFE CHANGING POWER WHEN DOING RATINGS, A BIG RESPONSIBILITY .

FOLLOWING IS HOW I PRESENTED THE CLAIM SECTION BY SECTION AND IS OFFERED TO YOUR FOR CONSIDERATION.

ED. Note: This article will be continued next issue. It is suggested that this be saved as a reference for the second part.

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Initial Evaluation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

0910 Worksheet

Name: _____ SSN: _____

Date of Exam: _____ C-number: _____

Place of Exam: _____

A. Identifying Information:

- age
- ethnic background
- era of military service
- reason for referral (original exam to establish PTSD diagnosis and related psychosocial impairment; re-evaluation of status of existing service-connected PTSD condition)

B. Sources of Information:

- records reviewed (C-file, DD-214, medical records, other documentation)
- review of social-industrial survey completed by social worker
- statements from collaterals
- administration of psychometric tests and questionnaires (identify here)

C. Review of Medical Records:

1. Past Medical History:
 - a. Previous hospitalizations and outpatient care.
 - b. Complete medical history is required, including history since discharge from military service.
 - c. Review of Claims Folder is required on initial exams to establish or rule out the diagnosis.
2. Present Medical History - over the past one year.
 - a. Frequency, severity and duration of medical and psychiatric symptoms.
 - b. Length of remissions, to include capacity for adjustment during periods of remissions.

D. Examination (Objective Findings):

Address each of the following and fully describe:

History (Subjective Complaints):

Comment on:

Premilitary History (refer to social-industrial survey if completed)

- describe family structure and environment where raised (identify constellation of family members and quality of relationships)
- quality of peer relationships and social adjustment (e.g., activities, achievements, athletic and/or extracurricular involvement, sexual involvements, etc.)

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- education obtained and performance in school · employment
- legal infractions
- delinquency or behavior conduct disturbances
- substance use patterns
- significant medical problems and treatments obtained
- family psychiatric history
- exposure to traumatic stressors (see CAPS trauma assessment checklist)
- summary assessment of psychosocial adjustment and progression through developmental milestones (performance in employment or schooling, routine responsibilities of self-care, family role functioning, physical health, social/interpersonal relationships, recreation/leisure pursuits).

Military History

- branch of service (enlisted or drafted)
- dates of service
- dates and location of war zone duty and number of months stationed in war zone
- Military Occupational Specialty (describe nature and duration of job(s) in war zone)
- highest rank obtained during service (rank at discharge if different)
- type of discharge from military
- describe routine combat stressors veterans was exposed to (refer to Combat Scale)
- combat wounds sustained (describe)
- clearly describe specific stressor event(s) veteran considered particularly traumatic. Clearly describe the stressor. Particularly if the stressor is a type of personal assault, including sexual assault, provide information, with examples, if possible.
- indicate overall level of traumatic stress exposure (high, moderate, low) based on frequency and severity of incident exposure (refer to trauma assessment scale scores described in Appendix B).
- citations or medals received
- disciplinary infractions or other adjustment problems during military

NOTE: Service connection for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) requires medical evidence establishing a diagnosis of the condition that conforms to the diagnostic criteria of DSM-IV, credible supporting evidence that the claimed in-service stressor actually occurred, and a link, established by medical evidence, between current symptomatology and the claimed in-service stressor. It is the responsibility of the examiner to indicate the traumatic stressor leading to PTSD, if he or she makes the diagnosis of PTSD. *Crucial in this description are specific details of the stressor, with names, dates, and places linked to the stressor, so that the rating specialist can confirm that the cited stressor occurred during active duty.*

A diagnosis of PTSD cannot be adequately documented or ruled out without obtaining a detailed military history and reviewing the claims folder. This means that initial review of the folder prior to examination, the history and examination itself, and the dictation for an examination initially establishing PTSD will often require more time than for examinations of other disorders. Ninety minutes to two hours on an initial exam is normal.

Post-Military Trauma History (refer to social-industrial survey if completed)

- describe post-military traumatic events (see CAPS trauma assessment checklist)
- describe psychosocial consequences of post-military trauma exposure(s) (treatment received, disruption to work, adverse health consequences)

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Post-Military Psychosocial Adjustment (refer to social-industrial survey if completed) · legal history (DWIs, arrests, time spent in jail)

- educational accomplishment
- employment history (describe periods of employment and reasons)
- marital and family relationships (including quality of relationships with children)
- degree and quality of social relationships
- activities and leisure pursuits
- problematic substance abuse (lifetime and current)
- significant medical disorders (resulting pain or disability; current medications)
- treatment history for significant medical conditions, including hospitalizations
- history of inpatient and/or outpatient psychiatric care (dates and conditions treated)
- history of assaultiveness
- history of suicide attempts
- summary statement of current psychosocial functional status (performance in employment or schooling, routine responsibilities of self care, family role functioning, physical health, social/interpersonal relationships, recreation/leisure pursuits)

E. Mental Status Examination

Conduct a brief mental status examination aimed at screening for DSM-IV mental disorders. Describe and fully explain the existence, frequency and extent of the following signs and symptoms, or any others present, and relate how they interfere with employment and social functioning:

- Impairment of thought process or communication.
- Delusions, hallucinations and their persistence.
- Eye Contact, interaction in session, and inappropriate behavior cited with examples.
- Suicidal or homicidal thoughts, ideations or plans or intent.
- Ability to maintain minimal personal hygiene and other basic activities of daily living.
- Orientation to person, place and time.
- Memory loss, or impairment (both short and long-term).
- Obsessive or ritualistic behavior which interferes with routine activities and describe any found.
- Rate and flow of speech and note any irrelevant, illogical, or obscure speech patterns and whether constant or intermittent.
- Panic attacks noting the severity, duration, frequency and effect on independent functioning and whether clinically observed or good evidence of prior clinical or equivalent observation is shown.
- Depression, depressed mood or anxiety.
- Impaired impulse control and its effect on motivation or mood.
- Sleep impairment and describe extent it interferes with daytime activities.
- Other disorders or symptoms and the extent they interfere with activities, particularly:
 - mood disorders (especially major depression and dysthymia)
 - substance use disorders (especially alcohol use disorders)
 - anxiety disorders (especially panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder)
 - somatoform disorders
 - personality disorders (especially antisocial personality disorder and borderline personality disorder)

Specify onset and duration of symptoms as acute, chronic, or with delayed onset.

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F. Assessment of PTSD

- state whether or not the veteran meets the DSM-IV stressor criterion
- identify behavioral, cognitive, social, affective, or somatic change veteran attributes to stress exposure
- describe specific PTSD symptoms present (symptoms of trauma re-experiencing, avoidance/numbing, heightened physiological arousal, and associated features [e.g., disillusionment and demoralization])
- specify onset, duration, typical frequency, and severity of symptoms

G. Psychometric Testing Results

- provide psychological testing if deemed necessary
- provide specific evaluation information required by the rating board or on a BVA Remand.
- comment on validity of psychological test results
- provide scores for PTSD psychometric assessments administered
- state whether PTSD psychometric measures are consistent or inconsistent with a diagnosis of PTSD, based on normative data and established "cutting scores" (cutting scores that are consistent with or supportive of a PTSD diagnosis are as follows: PCL > 50; Mississippi Scale > 107; MMPI PTSD subscale a score > 28; MMPI code type: 2-8 or 2-7-8)
- state degree of severity of PTSD symptoms based on psychometric data (mild, moderate, or severe)
- describe findings from psychological tests measuring problems other than PTSD (MMPI, etc.)

H. Diagnosis:

1. The Diagnosis must conform to DSM-IV and be supported by the findings on the examination report.
2. If there are multiple mental disorders, delineate to the extent possible the symptoms associated with each and a discussion of relationship.
3. Evaluation is based on the effects of the signs and symptoms on occupational and social functioning.

NOTE: VA is prohibited by statute, 38 U.S.C. 1110, from paying compensation for a disability that is a result of the veteran's own ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE. However, when a veteran's alcohol or drug abuse disability is secondary to or is caused or aggravated by a primary service-connected disorder, the veteran may be entitled to compensation. See *Allen v. Principi*, 237 F.3d 1368, 1381 (Fed. Cir. 2001). Therefore, it is important to determine the relationship, if any, between a service-connected disorder and a disability resulting from the veteran's alcohol or drug abuse. Unless alcohol or drug abuse is secondary to or is caused or aggravated by another mental disorder, you should separate, to the extent possible, the effects of the alcohol or drug abuse from the effects of the other mental disorder(s). If it is not possible to separate the effects in such cases, please explain why.

I. Diagnostic Status

- Axis I disorders
- Axis II disorders
- Axis III disorders
- Axis IV (psychosocial and environmental problems)
- Axis V (GAF score - current)

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J. Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF):

NOTE: The complete multi-axial format as specified by DSM-IV may be required by BVA REMAND or specifically requested by the rating specialist. If so, include the GAF score and note whether it refers to current functioning. A BVA REMAND may also request, in addition to an overall GAF score, that a separate GAF score be provided for each mental disorder present when there are multiple Axis I or Axis II diagnoses and not all are service-connected. If separate GAF scores can be given, an explanation and discussion of the rationale is needed. If it is not possible, an explanation as to why not is needed. (See the above note pertaining to alcohol or drug abuse, the effects of which cannot be used to assess the effects of a service-connected condition.)

DSM-IV is only for application from 11/7/96 on. Therefore, when applicable note whether the diagnosis of PTSD was supportable under DSM-III-R prior to that date. The prior criteria under DSM-III-R are provided as an attachment.

K. Capacity to Manage Financial Affairs: Mental competency, for VA benefits purposes, refers only to the ability of the veteran to manage VA benefit payments in his or her own best interest, and not to any other subject. Mental incompetency, for VA benefits purposes, means that the veteran, because of injury or disease, is not capable of managing benefit payments in his or her best interest. In order to assist raters in making a legal determination as to competency, please address the following:

What is the impact of injury or disease on the veteran's ability to manage his or her financial affairs, including consideration of such things as knowing the amount of his or her VA benefit payment, knowing the amounts and types of bills owed monthly, and handling the payment prudently? Does the veteran handle the money and pay the bills himself or herself?

Based on your examination, do you believe that the veteran is capable of managing his or her financial affairs? Please provide examples to support your conclusion.

If you believe a Social Work Service assessment is needed before you can give your opinion on the veteran's ability to manage his or her financial affairs, please explain why.

L. Other Opinion: Furnish any other specific opinion requested by the rating board or BVA remand (furnish the complete rationale and citation of medical texts or treatise supporting opinion, if medical literature review was undertaken). If the requested opinion is medically not ascertainable on exam or testing please state why. If the requested opinion can not be expressed without resorting to speculation or making improbable assumptions say so, and explain why. If the opinion asks " ... is it at least as likely as not ... ", fully explain the clinical findings and rationale for the opinion.

M. Integrated Summary and Conclusions

- Describe changes in psychosocial functional status and quality of life following trauma exposure (performance in employment or schooling, routine responsibilities of self care, family role functioning, physical health, social/interpersonal relationships, recreation/leisure pursuits)
- Describe linkage between PTSD symptoms and aforementioned changes in impairment in functional status and quality of life. Particularly in cases where a veteran is unemployed, specific details about the effects of PTSD and its symptoms on employment are especially important.
- If possible, describe extent to which disorders other than PTSD (e.g., substance use disorders) are independently responsible for impairment in psychosocial adjustment and quality of life. If

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this is not possible, explain why (e.g., substance use had onset after PTSD and clearly is a means of coping with PTSD symptoms).

- If possible, describe pre-trauma risk factors or characteristics than may have rendered the veteran vulnerable to developing PTSD subsequent to trauma exposure.
- If possible, state prognosis for improvement of psychiatric condition and impairments in functional status.
- Comment on whether veteran is capable of managing his or her financial affairs.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return to Disability Exams Index

To inquire concerning the status of your compensation, DIC, pension, burial, accrued, clothing allowance, automobile, specially adapted housing, or spina bifida claim or to ask any general Compensation & Pension (C&P) benefit question, you may call our toll-free number:

1-800-827-1000

Or, you may e-mail a VA Regional Office through the
E-mail Contacts Page.

Drug May Finally End War in Vets' Recurring Nightmares

By Carol Smith / Seattle Post-Intelligencer Reporter / Monday, Sept. 9, 2002

'70s-era blood-pressure pill can curb stress-related nightmares

ED. NOTE: This article taken from the Texas Vietnam Veteran News, Courtesy Jim Boyd.

At night, Johnny Banks Jr. is still an 18-year-old artillery soldier in Vietnam reliving the horror of learning he's just fired on women and children.

"I can't get it out of my mind," said Banks, now a retired longshoreman with six grown children.

Banks fired long-range 105 mm howitzers from a base five miles behind the front lines. Soldiers would radio back the locations of the targets, then report what the shells hit.

"Sometimes they would tell us we'd hit a herd of elephants," he said. "The first time they told me we hit a village with women and children, I started crying."

That memory, one of three recurring combat dreams, still makes him sweat and shake at night.

"Those certain three, I will have until I die," he said.

Banks, 53, is one of thousands of veterans and other trauma survivors who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder-related nightmares -- so vivid and disturbing they can be disabling, even driving some to contemplate suicide.

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An effective treatment, however, may be within reach. A nearly obsolete blood-pressure medication has unlocked Banks and others from the endless rewind of their torment.

For many, nightmares are the worst symptom of PTSD, a psychiatric condition that develops after an intense, terrifying experience. The long-lasting symptoms may include flashbacks, emotional numbing and increased agitation. Between 25 percent and 50 percent of trauma survivors experience such dreams.

Combat veterans are classic victims of post-traumatic stress nightmares, said Dr. Murray Raskind, a psychiatry professor at the University of Washington.

But civilian traumas, ranging from slayings to physical and sexual abuse, also can trigger the nightmares.

Unlike other types of nightmares or night terrors, PTSD dreams have been virtually impossible to treat, said Raskind, who is also head of mental health services at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle.

A serendipitous discovery by Raskind may change all that. Prazosin, a blood-pressure drug introduced in the 1970s, but since superseded by better medications, appears to prevent nightmares, an unexpected side effect that could aid thousands. The drug is no longer under patent protection and costs just pennies a dose.

That's the upside.

The downside is that without a profit potential, no major pharmaceutical firm has stepped forward to fund studies for a new application for the drug.

Raskind has scrounged his own funding to do several small studies already published and a larger one due for publication within a few months. He is relying on word of mouth to get other doctors to use the drug for their patients.

"I'm proselytizing all over the country," he said.

Raskind, whose primary research field is Alzheimer's disease, made the discovery almost by accident. Five years ago, he was recruited to help run a veterans support group and admitted he had no clue how to help them.

"I was used to working with people who can't remember," he said. "Suddenly I had patients who couldn't forget."

The dreams, most of which happened just as the veterans were falling asleep, would leave them anxious and sleep-deprived. They would wake up disoriented, in a "fight-or-flight mode," sometimes lashing out physically at their partners.

Raskind tried all sorts of medications to stop the night torment for his patients, including anti-depressants, anti-anxiety drugs and sleep aids.

"But even if it got them to sleep, it could still be a real mess," he said. "Then they would be stuck in this nightmare without waking up."

The only drug that helped was alcohol -- and then only for a few hours. But alcohol also compounded other problems for many of the veterans.

Frustrated, Raskind went to the literature and learned a distinctive feature of PTSD nightmares is that the body releases adrenaline during the dream.

Regular dreams, including typical nightmares, occur during deep sleep when adrenaline pumps are turned off, and the body is virtually paralyzed, he said.

Clue in hand, he remembered using prazosin as a young medical graduate. He knew it worked to lower blood pressure by blocking the effect of adrenaline on blood vessels. He also

HEALTH

knew it could cross into the brain, something not all drugs can do because of a natural line of defense called the blood-brain barrier.

The pill has meant release from years of torment for Larry Scott, now 55, who endured heavy shelling as a 19-year-old Navy Seabee during the 77-day Keh Sahn siege, one of the most intense battles of the war. Scott has a recurring nightmare that two Viet Cong soldiers are about to burst into his bedroom.

He would sometimes wake in a panic, hitting the floor and going for cover.

"I would have to tell myself, 'You're not in-country,' " he said. The dreams made it hard for him to work as a Boeing Co. welder.

Since starting the drug, he has stopped using alcohol and stopped having nightly dreams. When he does have them, he's better able to control his reaction.

"I can sit at the edge of the bed, and think things out and not be trashing the room," he said.

Banks, too, has seen relief. He used to get only about three hours of sleep a night. "After a nightmare, I'd be anxious and tend to want to be by myself," he said. "My family knew to leave me alone.

"Now I don't have as many," he said. "I'm glad it came along."

The research group at the VA has begun treating veterans and victims of other wars with the drug as well.

An elderly female victim of the Holocaust experienced her first dream-free sleep after more than 50 years of daily nightmares.

A Korean War vet who had been a prisoner of war for four years "finally stopped fighting the war in his sleep," according to his wife.

For Scott, the nightmares are farther apart now.

"The bogeyman is still waiting for me," Scott said. "But now I can slap him back."

Fee Basis Program

The Fee Basis Program is VA funded and is available to the Disabled Veterans that are 50 miles or more from a VA Medical facility.

The VA will actually PAY for a private Doctor (GP), (Of Your Choice) to see you on a regular basis. And any of the perscriptions written from the doctor will be honored by the VA Medical Facility and can be sent to you by mail.

To apply for the program you will have to go to the VA facility nearest you and find the Fee Basis office, there and only there will you be able to apply.

I have found that a large percentage of us DAV do not even know this oppertunity even exists. We of the 75th RRA wish to educate you and yours. I do hope this will help do that.

Steve "Bouncer" Morey

2002 Christmas / Family Fund Drive

It's that time again guys, time to give a little bit to the guys carrying the torch we once carried, time to give to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association's Christmas / Family Fund.

This fund started in 2000 when then president of the 75th RRA Emmett Hiltibrand was at a Ranger Battalion NCO meeting and they "passed the hat" to help some of the young enlisted families with Christmas. We had a late start that year and really just had an email and "word of mouth" collection but were able to get some money to the Battalions before Christmas. Last year we started earlier with the fall issue of Patrolling (like this year) and drew a tremendous response both from corporations and individuals. We have also expanded the fund from just a Christmas fund to a Christmas / Family fund that the battalions can use all year long to help take care of soldier families. Families, that is the key word here, "Families". The only requirement for the use of these funds is that they are used for the families of our soldiers (sorry, no beer bashes for the single guys in the barracks). The donations that come in by early December are split up and sent to the units for use during Christmas. Those donations that come in after that are put in the Christmas / Family Fund account to be used for family needs during the rest of the year.

When you donate to the major charities, a good portion of your donation simply goes to pay the high priced salaries of the leaders of the charity and for the salaries of the workers, the buildings, the equipment, the advertisements to get donations, etc. and what is left goes to those that actually need the help. I cannot say for sure what percentage of donations to these organizations actually reaches those for which it was intended but I think it would be depressing. I can say that 100% of what you donate to THIS fund will go to the families of our soldiers. The officers of the association do not get paid, this space in "Patrolling" is not charged to the fund, if you donate \$25, \$50, \$100 or whatever amount, ***all of it goes into the Fund and you know that 100% of your donation was used for the families of soldiers.***

Send donations to 75th RRA, PO BOX 921, HEFLIN, AL 36264. Mention on the check or money order or on a separate note in the envelope that it is for the Christmas / Family Fund. All contributors will be listed in a future issue of Patrolling.

CHRISTMAS / FAMILY FUND

The Ranger Christmas / Family Fund is off to a great start again this year. We have not had any major corporate donors as we did last year in the fever after 9-11, but the number of individual donors has increased. Last year, the funds were used by one unit to buy gifts for the children at a battalion Christmas party. In another, the First Sergeants selected the families that needed assistance and Gift Certificates for Toy's are Us were provided to them. During the year, funds were used to buy a motor skills program for a young family's son with a brain tumor. The military provided medical care but they did not provide the extra effort every parent wants to provide for their children. The fund also provided the means for the wives & children of deployed units to get together for reassurance and information sharing. However it is done, every single penny that is donated goes to ranger families. There is no skimming off the top for massive administration costs as many major charities are said to do. Every single penny goes to help ranger families.

These are the early contributors to this year's Christmas / Family Fund Drive. I thank each one of you for your concern and assistance to our Ranger Families.

CARNAHAN	DONALD R.	II FFV	NETHKEN	DAVID A.	RANGER REGIMENT
DEARING	ROBERT W.	101ST ABN DIV	THUNANDER	DENNIS H.	4TH INF DIV
HAYES	WILLIAM F.	INDIANA NAT GUARD	BALLARD	ROBBIE	1ST INF DIV
LUCZYNSKI	CHARLES	82ND ABN	DOWNEY	MYLES C.	25TH INF DIV
McDANIEL	WILLIAM M.	RANGER REGIMENT	EVANGELISTA	GEORGE	1ST FFV
MUSCHONG	EDWARD P.	5TH MECH	GREENE	ROBERT M.	II FFV

(Continued from page 75)

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KURLA	CHARLES	4TH INF DIV	WHITE	DARRYL K.	V CORPS
LEE	KEVIN W.	RANGER REGIMENT	ANONYMOUS		9TH INF DIV
MAUSHARDT	ROBERT E.	9TH INF DIV	SCHOFIELD	DAVID G.	BDQ
MCCABE	DOUGLAS	BDQ	ANDREWS	DONALD F.	9TH INF DIV
NEWTSON	ANTHONY J.	RANGER REGIMENT	BERG	JOHN HENRY	9TH INF DIV
POORMAN	GREG	173RD ABN BDE	BERNARD	MEL T.	25TH INF DIV
PRINTZ	STEVE	5TH INF DIV	BISHOP	TERRY W	5TH MECH
RHODES	WAYNE F.	1ST FFV	BLANKENSHIP	JAMES	9TH INF DIV
THOMAS	JOSEPH R.	4TH INF DIV	BRIZENDINE	THOMAS L.	V CORPS
WIEDER	DAVID R.	RANGER REGIMENT	DELANEY	BARB	9TH INF DIV
WINDISCH	JAMES	RANGER REGIMENT	EDGEELL	RICHARD	INDIANA NAT GUARD
KOCH	CHRISTOPHER R.	RANGER REGIMENT	GLAZE	JAMES	9TH INF DIV
INGRAHAM	KEVIN R.	RANGER REGIMENT	MATSUDA	C.G.	9TH INF DIV
JACKSON	DOUGLAS C.	V CORPS	PARKER	S.J."Peter"	RANGER REGIMENT
MONFROOE	MICHAEL	101ST ABN DIV	SELLENS	DAVID W	9TH INF DIV
PUTMAN	LARRY J.	25TH INF DIV	ZELLER	ALBERT F.	
TRUEBLOOD	TED	4TH INF DIV	DAVIS JR.	RAYMOND P.	4TH INF DIV
ALVAREZ	PETER E.		9TH ID LRP ASSOC		
KIVIPALTO	JAMES A.	25TH INF DIV	BARLEY	ROY E.	9TH INF DIV
REILLY	MATTHEW J.	RANGER REGIMENT	BROWN	ROGER B	RANGER REGIMENT
BERG	GILBERT M.	RANGER REGIMENT	CAMP	ROBERT E.	25TH INF DIV
BISTODEAU	DARIN W.	RANGER REGIMENT	CHESTER	JOHN W.	4TH INF DIV
BOOTH	ALAN D.	9TH INF DIV	CLARK	SAMUEL G.	FT. RUCKER
BOOTH	DONALD D.	9TH INF DIV	DINWIDDIE	DALE E.	9TH INF DIV
BRASHEARS	JOHN F.	4TH INF DIV	EHRLER	RICHARD S.	9TH INF DIV
BROWN	WILLIAM A.	9TH INF DIV	GRADY	EVERETT	V CORPS
ELSBERRY	GLENN S.	101ST ABN DIV	KNIGHT CHIROPRACTIC		
FERRARO	DON L.	9TH INF DIV	KORKOWSKI	GREGORY J.	
FLANAGAN	LAWRENCE	4TH INF DIV	OSTROM	CARL J.	101ST ABN DIV
FRIEL	EDWARD T.		PAGAN	ASTOR	9TH INF DIV
JONES	HILAN	9TH INF DIV	SMITH	PRESCOTT L	9TH INF DIV
JONES	THOMAS A.	4TH INF DIV	SPEROFF	THEODORE	9TH INF DIV
KOONTZ	STEWART E.	9TH INF DIV	TRIFARO	FRANK	A/75
LASTINE	DENNIS R.	9TH INF DIV	WEBB	VINCENT C.	9TH INF DIV
LONG	DAVID L.	9TH INF DIV	CHEEK	CHARLES	9TH INF DIV
McMULLAN	GERALD F.		BISSEY	ROY H.	V CORPS
MEDD	DONALD J.	199TH INF BDE	COPELAND	ROBERT S.	9TH INF DIV
PFAFF	JAMES A.	RANGER REGIMENT	DOWNY & family Publishing		
PHILLIPS	DANNY C.	9TH INF DIV	WALLACE	187th Recon Korea	
RUDGE	WILLIAM G.	9TH INF DIV	PONSERELLA	PHILLIP	9TH INF DIV
STANKIEWICZ	JOSEPH M.	173RD ABN BDE	VII CORPS LRRP ASSOC.		
TESSENHORN	RONALD L.	9TH INF DIV	HALL JR	GLYNN J	4TH INF DIV
THOMAS JR.	CHARLES W.	101ST ABN DIV	KAISER, MITSCH & ASSOC.		
WELSH	JOEY	1ST FFV			

Rangers,

Gen Kernan retired Oct 2, another 2/75 standout.

In my archives, I maintain my M16A2 weapons card and a meal card issued by my CO, CPT Kernan. I also have from him a Letter of Reprimand, for having my K-Bar knife discovered during a midnight "health & welfare" inspection (others got reprimands for crossbows, grenades, nunchucks, pyrotechnics, ammo, etc-- lots of which was found in ceiling tiles, mattresses, etc.)

Ranger Anton Jones reports a conversation with him: "I'll never make it past MAJOR, I'm too outspoken for this army!" Buck got to O-10 (4 stars).
Bob Eppens

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

October 2, 2002

Gen. William "Buck" Kernan Retires Today

By Jack Dorsey, The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK -- With a new Persian Gulf conflict looming, battles fought more than a decade ago in the steamy, downtown streets of Panama could serve as a blueprint for U.S. troops. "A lot of what we did in 'Just Cause' is a model for us," Army Gen. William "Buck" Kernan said of the Panamanian operation in December 1989, when U.S. forces invaded to restore democracy by arresting outlaw Gen. Manuel Noriega.

Kernan, 56, steps down today after two years as commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command and as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic -- both among the country's most prestigious military posts. In his 35-year career, which included action in Vietnam, Kernan has witnessed a wide range of change in war fighting. But he says the Panamamodel, in which U.S. troops deployed quickly with overwhelming firepower and brute force, still holds. "We no longer have to go force against force," said Kernan, who was a regimental commander during the Panama operation. "We have to be prepared for that, but we can isolate the enemy and we can attack him across a broad front. "We can interrupt his command and control. We can take away his integrated air defense systems. We can selectively engage."

Just six years earlier, during the Grenada conflict of 1983 -- also a field of fire for Kernan -- American forces showed how inept they were at working together as a joint force. "Our radios wouldn't talk to one another," Kernan said. "Our air-to-ground problems weren't integrated. Very, very quickly we found we had some significant problems as a joint force." By the time Just Cause took place, many of those issues had been resolved. In just 45 minutes, 27 targets were hit in Panama, from the enemy's downtown headquarters to Noriega's hideouts on the isthmus. It's the type of warfare that will be needed if the United States takes on Saddam Hussein again, he said. Kernan is retiring from a career that took him from KP duties at Fort Polk, La., as a private in 1967 -- "I cleaned the grease trap with a spoon and I peeled potatoes" -- to Norfolk, where he led traditionally maritime commands, albeit in Army boots. He is being succeeded in change-of-command ceremonies today by Navy Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr., who is Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's top military assistant. Giambastiani previously headed the Navy's Submarine Force Atlantic in Norfolk. Both of Kernan's posts have changed, or likely will change, significantly. The Joint Forces Command has seen some 21 mission changes since it was first established in 1993 from the Supreme Allied Command Atlantic (SACLANT) and is now concentrating on joint training and transformation. The NATO command also is changing, not only because of an anticipated expansion in November to invite seven more nations to join, but also because NATO is reviewing its force structure, Kernan said. That review may result in SACLANT losing its area of responsibility -- the Atlantic -- and turning it over to the Supreme Allied Command Europe (SACEUR). While both will remain strategic commands, SACLANT mostly likely will become more of a functional command, acting as the transformation catalyst for NATO, much like Joint Forces Command is now for U.S. forces, Kernan said. "I think that is probably prudent," he said. "There are a lot of concerns out there right now as to how fast the U.S. is transforming." Lord George Robertson, NATO secretary-general, has talked repeatedly about the technological and intellectual gap that exists between the United States and the rest of the alliance. He is concerned that the United States is so far ahead of most other alliance nations that the gap is widening, Kernan said. For SACLANT to take that lead is a new way of looking at how the alliance will help close that gap, he said. Kernan is a former Army brat -- his father and grandfather were both colonels. His career as a paratrooper, Ranger and special operations officer has left him not only with "paratroopers knees," but also with a Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with combat "V" and mixed memories from Vietnam. "People talk about that being the dark days of the military," he said. "In some respects that's true. But we were a draft Army and those who didn't want to serve went, and they served very honorably and very nobly. "They knew it was survival. I saw people do extraordinary things. People who probably didn't know what they could do until they got there, in some cases giving up their own life." Years later, as the 75th Ranger regimental commander on his way to Panama, Kernan found himself at one of the most inspirational moments of his life. "As a leader I was thinking about all the things I needed to be prepared to do, but I remember when we got ready to jump, one of the last things we did was read the Ranger's Creed . . . just prior to opening the doors. It was more than rote memory at the time. "People were thinking about what the words meant. I saw those doors open and I knew it was a hot DZ (drop zone) because we heard on the aircraft that the enemy knew we were coming. . . . "I looked around at those kids -- 19, 20, 21, 22 years old -- sheer determination. Scared? Yeah. But every one of them jumped, 500 feet, into tracers in the dead of night. What makes them do that?" "I was proud to be part of it."



Biography

United States Special Operations Command

Public Affairs Office, 7701 Tampa Point Blvd, MacDill AFB, FL 33621-5323

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LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM P. TANGNEY, USA

Lieutenant General William P. Tangney is the Deputy Commander in Chief, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He serves as the principal advisor and assistant to USCINCSOC who is responsible for preparing special operations forces to conduct special operations missions worldwide in support of the geographic CINCs, U.S. Country Teams, and other government agencies.

He was born Oct. 7, 1945, in Worcester, Mass. He graduated from The Citadel in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in political science and was commissioned a second lieutenant in January 1968. Upon completion of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and the Ranger Course, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Vietnam.

In December 1969, following graduation from the Special Forces Officer Course, he was assigned as a company operations officer and later as a detachment commander with the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Devens, Mass.

Lt. Gen. Tangney returned to Vietnam in August 1970 to serve as an Operations Officer and Senior Launch Site Commander, Command and Control Detachment South, 5th SFG (A), U.S. Army Vietnam. In 1971, he served as an instructor at the Ranger Course, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia.

After graduating from the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, he served as an operations officer in the 7th SFG(A) and at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance. Lt. Gen. Tangney served as an instructor and later assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, from 1977 to 1980. He returned to Fort Bragg in 1981 to serve with both the 5th SFG(A) and 1st Special Operations Command. He took command of the 3rd Battalion, 5th SFG(A) in 1985.

In 1987, he transferred to Washington, D.C. and served in various assignments over a three-year period to include Chief of the Special Forces Officer Branch in the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center and Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

He returned to Fort Devens as commander of 10th SFG(A) in 1990 and to Fort Bragg as Deputy Chief of Staff for Force Development and Integration, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, in 1992. Promoted to brigadier general in December 1992, he served as commanding general of the Special Operations Command, U.S. Central Command. In October 1994, he became the Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of U.S. Army Special Operations Command and was promoted to major general on Nov. 1, 1995.

The general assumed command of U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) in May 1995, where he served until assuming the dual appointment as the commander of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, and the commandant of the Joint Special Operations Forces Institute, May 1996. He assumed command of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and was promoted to lieutenant general, March 1998.

He has a master's degree in anthropology from Syracuse University and is a graduate of the Naval Command and Staff College and the Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star with "V" device and two oak leaf clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and the Special Forces Tab.



TFR Mog

"Among Heroes"

13Feb02

I once walked among Heroes
 Of course, I did not realize it at the time
 I just thought of them as Brothers
 No deeper trust could I ever find

We were drawn together by something that comes
 from inside
 A warrior spirit that has spanned the reaches of time
 To become that which others did not want to be, go
 where they feared to go,
 And accomplish what they said could not be done
 A calling to belong to the best, an elite brotherhood set
 aside
 Where the right of passage is earned with heart, mind,
 and soul
 Prestige, Honor, and Esprit de corps were the order of
 each day
 Nothing else mattered, for us there was no other way

We began each day together, formed as one
 Standing in the predawn to welcome the rising sun
 In unison we sealed our covenant, pledging our creed
 The words we did not just say, they came from the
 heart
 Like rolling thunder through the morning air
 It was the one thing, which always set us apart
 Nothing else mattered, just being there

We lived a life on the edge of it all
 We lived it our way
 Training each and every day for war
 Nothing else mattered; we cared for nothing more
 Masters of our craft, our skills sharpened like the
 razor's edge
 Living out the words of our pledge
 We were the tip of the sword
 "Within eighteen hours, any where in the world."
 Jumping into the enemy's back yard
 Leaving death and destruction as our "calling card"
 We were always prepared for the call
 The call that would come, someday

My Brothers answered that call
 In fierce battle they gave their all
 Fighting and dying to uphold our creed
 Keeping the covenant meant most all had to bleed
 Almost unimaginable what they had to endure
 But, the words came from the heart once more
 Like rolling thunder exploding in the night air
 And in the twilight of a new dawn...they were still
 there

As the tide of battle receded and the roar of the beast
 faded away
 All were left with our own scars to bear that day

Except for our fallen comrades, who now lie in gar-
 dens of stone,
 For them, there is peace and eternal rest to call their
 own
 Medals for valor pinned upon a breathless chest
 Their families now missing one from the nest
 Left to live with the immeasurable pain
 And the inevitable question, "Did they die in vain?"
 There is no compensation for their bereavement
 Only time and the grace of God to mend their hearts
 Those who lived can say they passed the warrior's test
 And take pride in knowing they are America's best
 Their actions redefined our creed to this very day
 And certainly showed the world why "Rangers Lead
 the Way!"

As for those of us who were not there to fight
 Along side our Brothers to the left and right
 We will live out our days carrying the burden of our
 contrition
 Never really laying it down, for that has become our
 mission
 To ensure the torch of their memories burns bright,
 To tell the truth of why they fought so valiantly
 through that night,
 And to make an annual toast with our glasses held
 high...
 "Here's to us, those like us, and there's damn few of
 us!"
 Leaving that last drink for the "Rangers in the Sky"

Yes, I once walked among Heroes
 And lived times others would say were best forgotten
 But, the words are still rolling like thunder through the
 predawn air
 They mean as much to me today
 As they did that distant yesterday
 It is my privilege to have served with men of their cal-
 iber
 And an honor to be their Ranger Buddy...another word
 for Brother.

Debeo Semper Memoriam...
 Lo, Dom, Smitty, Casey, and Vaco
 I miss all of you each and every day.
 Rangers Lead the Way!
 Rick "PeeWee" Ayers

ACE HIGH

(This card was no Joker)

By: Charles W. Brown, C/2/35, 1966

ED Note: This article is courtesy of Ben Youmans (editor of the 35TH Inf Assn Magazine) and Charles Brown, the author.

The Ace of Spades, "a symbol of death to the Vietcong", was reported in the *New York Sunday News*, July 10, 1966. In 1966 and 1967 that headline, and many like it, was published in newspapers and magazines all across the country. Over the years many organizations and individuals in the military have taken credit for initiating the use of the Ace of Spades as a psychological warfare weapon. Many did use it, but only one unit started it. Let me take you back to early 1966 to the beginning of the Ace of Spades story.

In Jan. 1966 the "Tropic Lightning's" 3rd Brigade had established a base camp on a hill just outside the town of Pleiku, South Vietnam. The story begins there in the rear of Co. C, 2/35th's orderly room that served as a BOQ for four lieutenants (Davis, Zais, Brown, and Wissinger). Thinking back to that time, I remember that tent looking very much like the "swamp" from the TV show M*A*S*H. Naturally a card table had its place in the center of the room.

While sitting around that table one of the platoon leaders called our attention to an article in the *Stars and Stripes* about remarks made by Congressman Craig Hosmer of California to the House of Representatives in Washington D. C. Those remarks, made on Feb. 7th, pertained to the superstitions of the Vietcong. The article stated that two of their bad luck symbols were pictures of women and the ace of spades. Later that evening, someone in the group noticed that the ace of spades from a deck of "Bicycle" playing cards contained a picture of a woman that just happened to be a representation of the Goddess of Freedom or Liberty on the dome of our nation's capitol building. In her right hand she held a sheathed sword; in her left hand an olive branch.

Before long the groundwork was laid for a plan to use the ace of spades as a calling card when Charlie Company went into the field by leaving them at the entrances and exits to villages we cleared of VC, posting them along trails, and leaving them on VC bodies. As the plan began to take shape, the discussion turned to a way of obtaining large quantities of cards since each deck we had contained only the one special ace. It was quickly pointed out that we needed to keep our "decks" intact and couldn't afford to part with that "ace" from every deck we owned. We had to have some complete decks for poker, Tonk, or Hearts, which helped to pass the time. However, in the months that followed, it was discovered that many decks contained only 51 cards because someone had lifted the ace and used it in the field.

Almost jokingly I volunteered to write a letter to the "The U.S. Playing Card Co." in Cincinnati, Ohio to request the aces we wanted. My theory was.... what's the harm in asking? The worst that they could say would be "NO"! In the initial letter I asked for approximately 1,000 cards, not really expecting a reply, and certainly not expecting to create the commotion that it did. Little did we know the letter would find its way to the desk of the president of the company, Mr. Allison F. Stanley. We had no way of knowing that Mr. Stanley had lost a son in WWII and that he would be eager to supply as many aces as were needed. The same day that Mr. Stanley read our letter 1,000 cards were pulled from the production line, packed, and shipped to us at no cost.

Soon after our first shipment of cards arrived, we received a letter from John B. Powers with J. Walter Thompson, Co., an advertising agency in New York City, asking for permission to use the story stateside. Mr. Powers handled the public relations account for the playing card company. So with our permission in hand, Mr. Powers relayed the story to Bob Considine for his nationally syndicated newspaper column and he also made a press release to United Press International. The playing card company then received so many requests for cards (even from mothers who wanted to send them to their sons) they started packaging them in special marked boxes containing 52 aces. They were always shipped "postage paid".

By this time, Lts. Zais and Wissinger had been reassigned to other units within country and Lt. Davis and I were frequently sent on operations in different directions. Since days or even weeks would go by without me seeing Lt. Davis, I continued to correspond with Mr. Stanley, Mr. Powers, and the Congressman.

Soon the story would be carried in newspapers across the states. Reporters started dropping in for interviews. Some just stopped by to take photos. A few even went to the field with us hoping for "live" action shots. One reporter stayed in the field with my 3rd platoon for six days. During that time, the reporter got everything he needed but the action shots. It was not uncommon to have free-lance photographers and writers hanging around the forward base camps look-

ing for additional material. In the months that followed, I received several letters from Congressman Hosmer, the U.S. Playing Card Company, and J. Walter Thompson Co. I always tried to reply as soon as possible and give them an update on our psychological warfare campaign.

Congressman Hosmer, who in Feb. '66 had been criticized for suggesting that psychological warfare be used in Vietnam, spoke to Congress again on June 14, and read the correspondence he and Mr. Stanley had received from the Lieutenants of Company C. This information can be found on pages 12497-12499 of that day's *Congressional Record - House* (Vol. 112, No. 97).

In a letter I received from Mr. Powers dated May 24, 1966, he stated that he was "presently trying to work out story ideas on your ace of spades use with Life, Look, True, Newsweek, NBC-TV News (Huntley-Brinkley Report), This Week, Argosy, True, Sunday Group Editorial Service (photo stories to 18 major metropolitan newspapers, including NY News, Chicago Tribune, St. Louis Post-Dispatch)." Once the story of the "Ace" was reported and spread across America, I received many personal letters from people I had never met who saw pictures or read stories about the ACE OF SPADES in their local newspaper. All that most of these people knew was my name and our unit's designation (C/2/35, 25th Division) and they just wanted us to know they believed in and supported what we were doing. I have read those letters from time to time and still have a good feeling about what we were trying to do.

One of my letters to Representative Hosmer was published in a book entitled *Letters From Vietnam*. In that letter I wrote, "I cannot give an account of the effectiveness of our campaign. I will say that once we sweep through an area, leave our cards, and then return some weeks later, there has been little or no V.C. activity there. You can arrive at your own conclusions." Did it work? I'm not sure. Did it help our morale? I definitely think so! In our company and others throughout Vietnam, I think the cards did something to encourage the men that were just trying to survive during a difficult time.

I am writing this account some thirty-five years after the fact so I may have left out parts here and there. For some reason I kept most of the letters and mailed them home with the newspaper articles, clippings, and other material people sent to me concerning our psychological warfare action. I really don't know why I kept them and sent them home. More than likely it was just my way of sharing with my wife what was going on in that crazy mixed-up part of the world. She kept everything I sent and put it all together in a scrapbook. It's from that scrapbook I was able to pull together the information for this article. I hope you enjoyed my account of how using the Ace of Spades began.

Note: Recently I had the opportunity to donate several items from Vietnam to the 2/35th museum at Schofield Barracks. Among those items was one of the original decks of 52 aces I received from Mr. Stanley in 1966. The CO of the Battalion sent me a deck of 52 aces, also produced by the U.S. Playing Card Company, for the gulf war. I don't know if the "jinx" worked in the Middle East, but it is nice to know that the tradition lives on! CACTI FOREVER!

UNIT REPORTS



A/75 - D/17 LRP - V CORPS LRRP

Unit Director - Tom Brizendine



By Bob Murphy

Company mascot Ralph the Rattler was one of the more colorful members of this company and impressed a lot of people at Ft Hood in the early 70s.

Tom Brizendine remembers, "We used to use Ralph in some of our public demonstrations and would take balloons filled with hot and cold water on sticks to show

the watchers in the bleachers that a Rattle snake usually strikes at a source of heat. The balloons, one filled with hot water and the other with cold water would be held out in front of Ralph, and he would always strike the one with hot water. Then we would ask them if any of them would like to come down and pet Ralph!

Ralph was the largest of the A/75th mascots, all of whom were

snakes. Fisher had two personal boa constrictors that he generously allowed us to call our own, Roy Bissey had a king snake (the most colorful of them all of course, he says) and there was a sidewinder who accompanied Ralph in the old footlocker he called home when he wasn't roaming freely about the orderly room. Ralph had been fine tuned by Mike Fisher and Christopher Rivers over the course

A/75 - D/17 LRP - V CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)

of several months and no longer gave a shit about striking at anything because he knew it would just be another broom handle or army boot sole.

"At one stage we had a problem with the LEGS from the third floor (3rd Brigade HQ company) breaking into the orderly room and befouling 1SG Carpenter's nice neat desk and files", Roy Bissey remembers. "So we took to allowing Ralph the freedom of the entire orderly room at night and then Fisher would round him up every morning before opening. We only had one incident with the burglars post Ralph Patrol.

"After we had the photo op in the 1SG's office (see pic) Clyde Bayless bet Mike Fisher that he couldn't domesticate Ralph's room mate the sidewinder in two weeks. Clyde won the bet and Fisher got an article 15 or nearly so for trying to pretend that a sidewinder bite is not nearly so dangerous as some would have you think', Roy Bissey.

"Fisher got bit in the orderly room and decided to take care of the bite himself", Tom B remembers. "The bite got infected and he went to the emergency room, told them he had got bit by a rattler. When they asked him when and he said 'about a week ago', they liked to went nuts."

"I believe Ralph had the ability to recognize individuals, most especially Fisher and Rivers. I hear that Fisher is now a dentist somewhere around Chicago, I haven't personally contacted him. Ranger Nate knows". Roy Bissey.

Fisher wasn't the only one to get fanged. Bissey kept his King snake in the room he shared with Drumheller "...until the day we started smelling something more than just Drumheller's usual eau de

Okie after shave. It must have been winter and King went looking for a warm spot. We found him a week or so later when we traced the smell to the cooling coils under the cammied refrigerator. He never seemed to be the same again after we forcibly extracted him, son of a bitch even bit poor ol' Roy about four times on the forearm which prompted Rivers to nickname me "snakebait".

Ralph's social high point, though, took place away from the orderly room.

Here is Big Roy Bissey's account.



The company was "invited" to participate in a retirement or change of command parade for some leg General. Somebody gets the bright idea to attach Ralph to the guideon for the parade. Since most of the people at Ft. Hood thought we were all a bunch of heathens and went out of their way to avoid us, we thought "what the hell?" So we gathered up poor ol' Ralph and with just a minimum of 100 MPH tape (O.D. of course) emblazoned him on the pole so he stood tall. We left enough of his head and shoulders, so to speak, loose at the tip so he could look around a bit. Well now, a guideon mast ain't all that long (tall) and

when Ralph decided to look DOWN, his head and that of the guideon bearer were nigh. I KNOW this because the guideon bearer was me. I think I may have unconsciously hoisted the pole just a little more than normal during the march onto the parade ground. The pass in review was fairly normal as far as I can remember, all the legs swooning at the sight of stars and their commanders pressing close to the general's jeep hoping to get one more whiff of the brown stuff. Then the general came front and center on good old "A 75th". I believe Capt. Nolan was still the commanding officer and he was always a good one for this out of the ordinary display. When we went to present arms old Ralph and the general were, for all practical purposes, fang to face. Not only was Ralph straining to see just who this high mucky muck was, but the top piece of 100 MPH tape had come off and only one little piece still clung to Ralph's scales and to the pole. This let Ralph's head move around quite a bit more than the general wanted to see and he quickly motioned to the major or whatever he was to motion to the driver to MOVE THE HELL ON. It didn't do a whole lot for me either because now we had to go to order arms and believe me that was probably the most gingerly movement I EVER made with that guideon. Part of the problem with the tape had been the strain placed on it when I tried to stop the guideon and four foot Western Diamondback during the presentation of arms. Frickin' snake was HEAVY."

Speaking of Mike Fisher, he Stan Jones, Stan's youngest boy

A/75 - D/17 LRP - V CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)



The year was 1963 and the Army took several official demonstration photos of a V Corps LRRP team posing in the scrub at Wildflecken.

SSG Stanley Harris at the rear. Other guys not identified yet. Bob Murphy swiped several obsolete overhead transparencies on his way home in early 1967 and just had them drum scanned.

Kyle and Bill Bowman went to Carlisle's cabin for a piss-up and shoot fest for a couple of days at the end of October. Carlisle couldn't make it because his wife Marie had just had an operation. Glad to hear she is on the mend.

The attitudes that we polished so well in this company haven't faded. Mark Ross aka Ranger Nate couldn't make it to Carlisle's this time so Stan generously volunteered the use of Mark's rifle. "Since Ross didn't go, I took his .22 and ammo. He is now out of ammo and has a dirty rifle, while I on the other hand have lots of bullets and a clean rifle."

Nice, Stan, nice.

Former CO Lee Kratzer has re-established contact via the Internet. He was in charge during the company move from Gibbs Kaserne in Frankfurt to Kelley Hill at Fort Benning in mid 1968. We're hoping Lee will fill us in on what led up to the move and what happened. Stay tuned.

SGM Red aka Rick Herman is back from Afghanistan where he served with the Rakkasans. He's one of the few A/75 guys still on active duty and will retire next year after 30 years.

Red was presented with one of Dale Hansen's black Patrol Caps with A/75 scroll, wings and miniature CIB after he got back from the 'Stan.

Glad to have you back, Red. Thanks for filling in for us over there, brother.

Former Germany era company members and ex-75th Association Unit Directors Richard D Herman and Ron Kiser finally got on the air via the Internet. Welcome back, jokers. Now sound off! "There we were up to our armpits in grenade pins", etc etc.

Richard has given me Gary Maxson's contact details. If any of his buds want his e-mail address,

let me know.

SICK CALL

Tom Brizendine's doctors are now talking about replacing BOTH hips. It's that or a wheelchair. Hell, Tom, sounds like convincing grounds for a "profile" so you can sit around and supervise while Donna works in the garden.

Retired CSM Everett Grady is just out of hospital again after yet more problems arising from Vietnam War injuries. Chet Smith and Foose Mulloy are rucking up to head over the Donner Pass with a couple of bottles of cognac to welcome Grady home.

Wildflecken era LRRP Roy A. Link has major heart problems and is not fairing well.

Ex 2nd Platoon Howling Dud patrol member Darrel Mourning was recently in hospital for kidney stones and prostate cancer and things are looking good. Darrel still works as a nurse in Kansas City but just got back from New Mexico which he reckons is looking good.

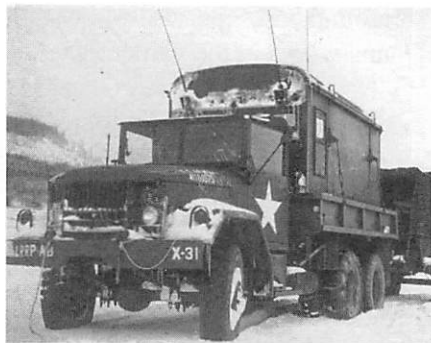
Former Commo Plt Leader Tony Cummings was involved in a car accident recently which set off some old Vietnam War injuries and put him into a wheelchair. He's due for release from hospital soon and has some info on other company personnel he will relay when he gets home.

We've got hold of a lot of new e-mail addresses of ex-company guys. If anyone is looking for buddies, contact me on hobmurphy2@compuserve.com or Tom Brizendine on tdbriz@gulftel.com and we'll get you in contact.

I've also revised the unofficial company roster for the

A/75 - D/17 LRP - V CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)

Wildflecken, Frankfurt and Fort Benning eras which now has 436 people listed, with e-mail addresses where I have them. If anyone wants the latest edition, let me know. The only condition is that the roster stays among the company. No outsiders.



Ron Dahle took this pic of his commo van at Wildflecken in 1962. Note snow chains

As this article closed for the next edition of Patrolling, Roy Bissey had headed off to Greybull, Wyoming to meet up with ex-Vietnamese Ranger adviser Karl Fee aka "Captain McFuton" (don't ask but it arises from another party at Carlisle's cabin) for a "deer welfare check". It's hunting season.

We reported the death of Wildflecken era LRRP Gene A. Vance Sr in the last Patrolling. It happened a couple of years ago. We have since found out that he retired from the Army as a Major and was a serving Magistrate and the Sheriff of Wyoming County when he died. We still haven't located any pics of Gene.

Mike Harding (Wildflecken era) just got back from a trip to

Russia. Reckons that place is wild and woolly. One city where he stayed went without running water for an entire week while he was there.

Bill and Sandy Bohte are still on the road in their big RV/Motorhome and just celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary. They recently worked their way down the Left Coast stopping at lighthouses and generally taking it easy. Last time they checked in was from Lake Minden where they are laying up to get a few things taken care of on their vehicles.

I remembered him from the road march to the compass course. He had to run most of the way to keep up. He was the only one of 4 ARVNs who graduated. He was a graduate of the ARVN Ranger School and was an instructor when he went back. He told me he ran into an American Air Force Sgt he knew as the country was falling. The AF sergeant told him to get on his helicopter and he would get him out of the country. Hai said "no", he didn't believe the country could lose the war. That decision cost him some time in a camp.

We had dinner at a Vietnamese Restaurant named Tu Do. Great chow, interesting conversation. His



Ralph the Rattler on patrol in the A/75 Orderly Room at Ft Hood with snake man Mike Fisher and 1st Sergeant Gary Carpenter.

Last and certainly not least, from Alan Campbell.

Had dinner with a classmate from class 9-74, Hai Cao, and some of his buddies. Just made commo with him recently and it turns out he lives in the same AO.

buddies had all served in the war, one was in the RVN Navy, another was in the RVN Airborne division. One asked me when I got out of the Army. I said 1977. He laughed and said, "we all got out on the same day, 30 April '75."

Alan Campbell
A/75; B-2/75

**B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP**

Unit Director - Kirk Gibson

**ROLL CALL**

It is with deep sorrow that we report the loss of Jerry B. Wood, who died on 1 November.

President Joe Chetwynd had written the following to us when he learned that Jerry had had a setback:

Jerry was the finest and most genuine person you could ever hope to meet in your life. He was a good soldier, too. Jerry always had a ready smile on his face and got along with every body. He was a barrel of laughs at the Rod and Gun Club and many a Gasthaus. Jerry served with us from 1963-1965, as best I recall. Last year Jerry received a heart transplant. He was getting better every month and gaining strength and mobility. He was very enthusiastic about coming to our reunion next year. Jerry will be dearly missed by us all. Please help get the word out to those who do not have e-mail. I am sure that they will also want to know about our dear friend, Jerry B. Wood.

Please address your notes of condolence to

Mrs. Judy Wood and Family
2514 Lantana Rd.
Crossville, TN 38555

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Joe

Jerry B Wood

I have to put on my thinking cap a lot more then I want to these days.

Jerry, along with Mark Whiteside, McDaniels, English, Lewis, Wiseman, Saenz, Luse and all the other brothers that have been reassembled as the greatest LRRP team of all times, will live forever.

Can't you see a Company, with the talent that includes all the names above as well as many more that will follow them and be together forever? How can any one miss any of them? I see them every day.

I see Jerry Wood setting at the bar in the R/G club drinking beer and contorting his face into the likes of Popeye. One eye open and the other one closed. His mouth twisted into a Popeye snarl making sounds that only Popeye could make. I also see him with his Ruck on his back after a quick march out to the alert area. At three a.m. Or maybe on the DZ with a grin from ear to ear and his kit bag full of parachute that had just been used.

I remember Jerry never created any trouble in the company got along with everyone and was always there if you

needed him. He was a solid LRRP and knew his job.

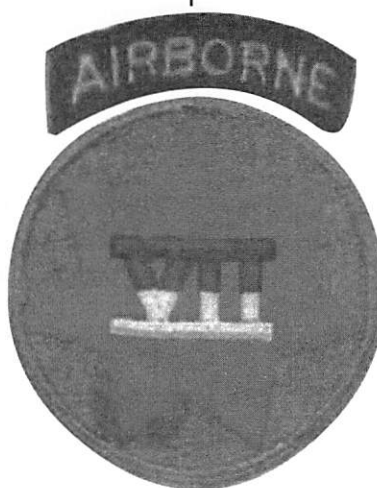
I remember when I went to jail for a vacation. The first person I saw when I got back to the company was Jerry. I still remember what he asked me that day. He grinned and asked "Was it worth it?" Those four words hit home pretty hard.

That is the kind of person Jerry is. I say is because I won't miss him. He is still with me in my mind, forever. Each time I see a picture of Popeye or see a can of spinach or hear a "yuk yuk yuk" I will see Jerry.

The same goes for all the others. I don't miss them either. I see them everyday.

God bless them all

LNLBB
McNasty

***GIVING***

Our unit has shown its generosity through contributions to worthy causes, such as the Rangers' Christmas Fund and several other organizations and individuals worthy of our support.

The following letter exemplifies the importance the recipients place on our support.

This one was the result of an Association expense reimbursement to one of our members, who asked rather that it be donated to the Junior ROTC program. Thanks, Zeke, you make us all proud!

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ARMY JROTC BATTALION
EAST SURRY HIGH SCHOOL
PILOT MOUNTAIN NC 27041

ESHS-JROTC

28 September 2002

Mr. James Handlin
Treasurer, VII Corps LRRP (ABN) Association
185 Hemme Avenue
Alamo, CA 94507

Dear Mr. Handlin,

Please allow me the opportunity to thank you, SGM (Ret) Zeke Evaro, and the VII Corps LRRP (ABN) Association for your most generous donation to the East Surry Junior ROTC Program. It is most welcomed and will be used to fund the many activities that the program affords its cadets.

I am honored and blessed to have worked with Zeke Evaro for almost fifteen

B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)

years at East Surry High School. A finer man I have never met. He was totally dedicated to the program and the many cadets he influenced during his seventeen years as a Junior ROTC instructor. He was an exceptional role model and was a "second father" to many of the cadets. It was most satisfying to watch him positively influence the many hundreds of cadets that passed through the program during his tenure. I consider him a close friend and will never forget his contribution to our program and our country.

As you may know, Junior ROTC is a program that motivates young people to be better Americans. To that end, our program centers on leadership, patriotism, self-discipline, and self-esteem building. I truly think it is the best class that high school students can take to prepare them for life after graduation. Your association's donation will help us meet that challenge.

Thank you again for your support.
May God continue to bless America.

Sincerely,



HARRY O. PATTESON, JR.
LTC, USA, Retired
Senior Army Instructor

75RRA Website

The Webtar of the 75RRA, Emmett Hiltibrand, has issued a direct order to all of us to start populating the B/75, C/58, and VII LRRP portion of the Website, which can be viewed at <http://www.75thrra.org>

And while you are there, reconnoiter it. Deep penetration, like we were taught. You will find some great stuff there, and you can add to it.

Please send your memories, pictures, and other pertinent information so we can all enjoy our common heritage.

OUR WEBSITE

Theo Knaak has plunged once again into unfamiliar terrain, this time into the hi-tech world as our Webmeister! I'm sure he will fare better than he did at Ft. Bragg! Have patience, and encourage him with pictures and stories. You can find neat stuff at <http://www.geocities.com/lrrp7corps>

NEW QUARTERMISTRESS

President Joe Chetwynd has appointed Cheryl Visel, wife of LRRP John Visel, as the official Quartermaster of our Unit. She has a small business that makes embroidered shirts, hats, personalized items, etc. Cheryl will be posting her wares



on our Website and hers. You will all agree that her work is excellent, and I am sure that you will support her efforts.

Cheryl has pledged to keep the prices low, and to return a generous portion of the proceeds to the Association. The LRRP spirit continues.

Thanks, Cheryl!

A Memoir from Patrick Smith

The Hill, Part One

How many of you can remember the first time you went to "the hill?"

I think I can remember going but I don't remember leaving.

As well as I can remember, the pub was about the same size as an average living room. There was one door in and a small door in the back that should have been a lot bigger than it was. There was one ladder out back of the place that one could climb up and hide on top of the building if the wrong people came round looking for you. Like Sgt Ripon, or let's say the Top among others? Sorry Top!

At any given time there were from 10 to 50 people crammed into the friendly little place either drinking or eating Al's famous goulash. This was the place where the beer and wine flew on a regular basis, and I do mean flew.

I remember getting hit with a flip-top so hard one night the bottle exploded and cut the hand of the guy that whacked me so bad he had to have stitches. I didn't even feel the bottle but did notice that my shirt was all wet.

I also remember how well we got along with the local people at Al's place.

They would all kindly give up their seats for any of us that would come into the place to eat or have just "ein Bier, bitte." I would nurse that beer all night, or so they would tell me.

On occasion, one may have to defend oneself from rival legs that would stumble into this quiet little dark trap. I remember going up to the hill one night and had no more than got inside when a perfect stranger bellowed at the top of his lungs, "That's him, the short one." I didn't know why, but he was yelling at me. I was sober, and yelling at me when I am sober is not a good thing to do. So I asked this leg, trying to defuse any foreseeable problem that could arise, "Are you talking to me, asshole?" He said, "Yes I am," and I asked what was the problem. He ripped open his shirt and showed me his chest that was more black than white. He said, "You did this to me last night."

I didn't even remember last night, nor did I remember ever seeing this guy before. "Are you sure it was me?" I asked him. He was sure, and he looked pretty mad. At that time he took a swing at me. I stepped back and hollered at Charlie White, "How much time do we have Chuck?" He said, "Formation is in five minutes." I took a step forward, saying to the guy, "Sorry leg, but I have to go now." I took one more step forward and knocked him out. We made the

B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)

formation on time. On the way back to the company Charlie told me what I had done the night before and it was not nice.

I am not writing this to brag on myself. I am making an attempt to open the door for more stories from all of you guys. Lets get the stories out so all that will follow will know what growing up in Nellingen was like. There are some of us that have already missed our chance to be heard. I would not like to see the remaining go before we have all told a few

stories about ourselves as well as our friends.

This is not the last of my yarns. I will try and tell them as I remember them. Any or all of them are subject to change by the way that you remember them.

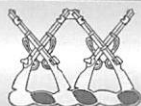
Please help and let's here your stories next time. I would rather read them and laugh than have to do all the writing.

McNasty

B/75 1972



We have received this picture of B/75 from Bill Wilson, who received it from SFC Thomas R. Wright (Maint Plt Sgt). Can anyone name all the personnel?



C/75 - E/20 LRP
Unit Director - Gary Dolan



BY: Gary Dolan

The festive holiday season for sharing loving moments and exchanging loving mementos will soon be upon us. Likewise, the upcoming New Year brings promise of new beginnings and resolutions as well as reflections and remembrances of past times and acquaintances. Somehow, it seems entirely appropriate that this blessed season is preceded and heralded in November with the celebrations of Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day. I feel especially blessed in that I have found my way to the Brotherhood of our Charlie-Echo Association,

which spirit has lifted me and reaches out to all our brothers.

I am delighted to report that Robert R. Russell sent his application to our Secretary, Sam Pullara. Robert was in Charlie Rangers in 1969 and 1970. Welcome, Robert! Also joining our Association since the last publication is Gary (Big "O") O'Neal, who was in my 2d PLT in '70 - '71. Gary currently resides in Rapid City, SD. I was literally blown away when Gary reached out and called me after having found me on the Internet. I have vivid recollections of Gary being one of the finest Rangers in

my Platoon and was absolutely thrilled to hear from him. We have had some great phone conversations and I look forward to seeing him at our next Reunion.

Brothers, plan right now on making sure you attend our next Reunion, which will be held at Fort Benning in July to coincide with the 75th Ranger Regiment Change of Command Ceremony and activities. The selection of Benning was made by a poll of all members and, once again, Sam Pullara has selflessly stepped up to do the arrangements to make certain it will be a highlight event. Be there! By

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

the way, don't worry about Miller Beer not being a sponsor again---even though our own Walter Buchanan ("Sunshine") has moved to Queensville, Ontario, he has assured us plenty of free flowing beer at the reunion!

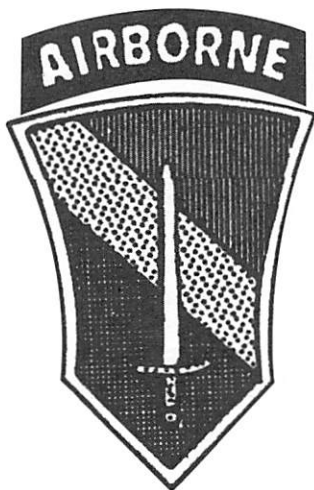
I have maintained phone contact with Laz "The Mad Russian" Lazarov, who has informed me about a terrific idea that he is formulating. Laz would like to help create a federation of all veterans' organizations that would be represented by a delegate of each individual group and meet annually to present a unified and defined issue for presentation to the Commander-In-Chief.

Anyone who has suggestions concerning this concept is encouraged to contact Laz or me.

Timothy Penman recently began a dialogue concerning a link to HanoiJane.net from the Association web site, which is being admirably maintained by our Webmaster, Daniel Pope. From the content of Timothy's messages, I gleaned that he has reached a commendable state of serenity and forgiveness—one that I have yet to attain. His message elicited considerable response and caused me serious reflection. To me, Hanoi Jane is a traitor. She is a suitable target for my contempt and disdain of the entertainment industry in its treatment of the Vietnam Veteran as a malcontent victim or worse, as a time bomb capable of exploding at any moment and incapable of contributing to the "normal" citizenry.

When I returned from Vietnam, I retreated into "normal" life and practically disavowed any connection to that period of my life. For thirty years, those words, "Viet Nam," were never mentioned in my

house. Perhaps I bought into the myth perpetrated by the entertainment industry and the news broadcasters about the Vietnam Veteran. Thus, I distanced myself and abandoned my brothers for the past thirty years. Now, I want nothing more than to shout and proclaim the heroic deeds of the brave, patriotic Rangers who valiantly served their country in its longest conflict. I am now proud to announce that I am a Vietnam Veteran, and I stand in awe of all my brothers who so gallantly served. When I finally came to this realization, I sought out companionship provided to me by



membership in our Association. I urge all of you to help seek those who have not yet found us to help bring them the peace and solace that our brotherhood delivers through membership. As I am writing this article, I was interrupted by the beep indicating I received an email. It happened to be from one of the best Rangers who ever served in my platoon. I would like to share it with you:

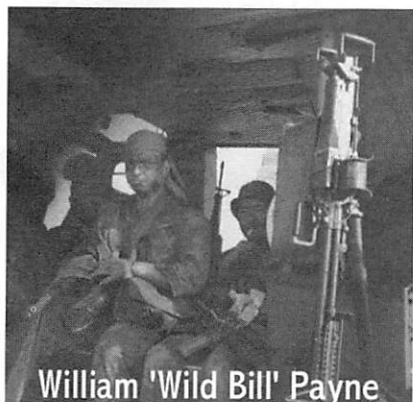
"Dear Gary,

Or I guess it should be Dear Sir. Because that's what I called you a long

time ago. I just found your site. Amazing, really amazing. I guess I should start at the beginning. For several years now, I've enjoyed knowing, at least in cyberspace, a few very good men. Our bond is in our past, an all expense trip to SE Asia. This past weekend, we met in Washington to honor all Viet Nam veterans, and especially the names on the wall, on it's 20th anniversary. There was maybe a dozen of us. On Monday morning, in the rain, I marched with my brothers from the herd, down Constitution Avenue. As is done every year, we laid a wreath with the herd patch in the center, at the apex of the Wall. I then spent some time just walking around, feeling the brotherhood that is only for those of us who were there. I came upon a ranger from E/75th. We talked. He told me that most companies have associations. He was sure Charlie Rangers did too. This morning, early, I got on the internet, and as all good rangers do, began my recon. Soon I was at your web site. It's a thing of beauty, in a special way. I came to a picture with the caption of "going in" underneath. It was obviously some men in a chopper, and I figured it was an infiltration. I clicked to enlarge, and found myself staring at me, thirty-one years ago, in full cammy, my M-16 by my side. Perhaps you can imagine my shock. I've been in a state of shock all day. But I knew I had to write this tonight, or I won't sleep. Of course my membership will soon follow. I am overwhelmed by the feelings I have right now. As I looked at the pic, I could feel my heart pound, my hands sweat, the adrenelin begin to flow. I could almost hear that "whop whop of the blades as

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

they began to turn, and the engine making it's high pitched song as it began to rev up. Feelings long buried are at the surface as I write this.



William 'Wild Bill' Payne

My name is Bill Payne. If you remember me at all, I doubt if the memories are fond ones. I was not one of the easy ones to command. As a matter of fact, you may have found it as much of a challenge as I did. As if what we did for a living wasn't dangerous enough, I used to take great pleasure in seeing how close I could come to a court martial and not get one. More than once, I came very close to the edge. The time I stole and cracked up Major Hudson's jeep. That cost me some money. And when we first got to Tuy Hoa, and were stationed at the army base before we moved over to the Air Force side, I disappeared for a weekend. My guys covered for me, and although you and I both knew I had been AWOL, the best you could do was restrict me to barracks. For what it's worth, I found a friend, the man who would later be the best man at my wedding, and I hung out and drank with him all weekend. He worked at the tank farm over by where we pitched our tents once we got to the Air Force side. If there is justice, later on, but before the big fight, this same guy was involved in a smaller one outside the EM

club. SSgt Carter came by, and ordered me out of the area. I disobeyed, and took another article 15 the next day.

But on the plus side, I was either the best RTO in the company, or at least in the 2nd platoon. I carried the PRC-25 for at least six months for Barker on team 2-6. I then was TL for double duece for a short time, and then as a pfc, was tranfered to 2-6 as ATL. Sergeant Lincoln once told me that I was one of the best fighters and worst soldiers he had ever worked with. I suppose that's true enough. I didn't do authority well then, and it only got worse after I returned to civilian life. But as so often happens, someone or something was covering my six, and I managed to somehow stay out of prison for the next ten years. It sure wasn't my fault. But eventually I saw the light, settled down, and did the things we are suppose to do. I think surviving Vietnam we have a debt to pay to those who didn't. I think we owe it to be the best human beings we can be. Or at least we can try. And although I can never put the past behind me, nor do I want to, I've been able to lighten my ruck considerably over the last twenty years. Life has been good to me. It's given me three good kids, the youngest of whom is in military school as we speak, and who's dream it is to attend West Point, (can you believe it), and God put those in my life to help me, and for me to help. I've been an alcoholic in recovery for over 22 years now, and it's been good, real good. Even in my status as 100% disabled, P&T, for ptsd, I find there is much good in the world. I may not be the man I could be, or even the man I should be, but I thank God I'm not the man I used to be. I do

want to thank you for the site, and for your work to keep what we had alive. I can honestly say that being a Charlie Ranger ranks right at the top of the things I am most proud of in my life. We were a special group, and as an elite group of combat soldiers, we had, and will always have, a special bond.

I am looking forward to contacting other ranger brothers. I see that Dean Barker is the treasurer. He was a good man then, I'm sure he's a good man now. He was my first TL. He showed me how to survive. I will close by telling you that, if I did cause you a few premature gray hairs in your first command, I'm sure the experience paid dividends down the road in dealing with others like me. And if that doesn't even the score, what I felt when I opened that pic and saw myself on a chopper, has more than made us even. You get the last laugh. Well done, sir.

Respectfully,
Bill Payne
2nd platoon
Charlie Rangers
4/70-3/71"

Last year I completed a task of writing a 430-page novel entitled, *Of Their Own Accord*. I have been fortunate in securing the services of a literary agent that is currently seeking a major publisher. This book is written as fiction but is based on the actual people, places and events that I experienced while serving as 2nd Platoon Leader with Charlie Rangers in 1970 and 1971. I have decided to always make available a free electronic copy to anyone associated with the Ranger Brotherhood. So, if you would like a free copy for your

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

personal reading, I invite you to send me an email request to gdolan@optonline.net, and I will send you a copy. I am proud of it because it depicts the Rangers as the true American hero. I must warn you that it is written from the unique perspective of a First

Lieutenant! You can check out pictures at my site, <http://oftheirownaccord.com>.

If you have any stories, pictures or anecdotes that you would like to see in print in future articles here, please send them to me by letter or email. I will be

happy to include any submissions without edit!

I wish you and yours a joyous, healthy, prosperous and happy holiday. God bless!
Gary E. Dolan



D/75

Unit Director - John Kingeter



No Submission



E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP

Unit Director - Robert Copeland



By Bob Copeland

Well here I am again and first off I would like to wish you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2003!!! Hope to see you all at the Co E Reunion in Kalispell, Montana, 23-27 July 2003. Reservations at the Westcoast Outlaw Hotel, Kalispell, Montana, tele: (406)755-6100. The contact numbers for reservations are FLATHEAD TRAVEL (contact person is Gail) 1-800-223-9300, Fax 1-406-752-8786, email www.flatheadtravel.com. Please call and make your reservations as soon as possible with the best person to call being our Flathead Travel contact person Gail. The reunion co-ordinator is Terry (Jingles) Leishman and his good wife Dorothy who are doing a wonderful job for us!!!! It is "IMPERATIVE" that you make your flight arrangements as early as possible for direct flights or connecting flights to Kalispell Flathead County Airport as the reunion is being held during high season in a resort area. Flights will be cheaper and more available if booked well in advance!!! Connecting flights can also be made from Spokane, Wash and Helena, Montana. Please do not wait until the last moment and be disappointed! For those of you who are planning on driving or flying please also book your Hotel room as soon as possible so that Jingles and Dorothy can use the numbers to arrange for credit toward a hospitality room or other perks that may be available through number of rooms booked or early bookings. You can contact Jingles and Dorothy personally by phone at (406)755-1538 or email at

leish@gliacierpeaks.net Hope to see all of you at the reunion and lets have the best turnout yet!!!!

Hooaaah!!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!! I hope you all turn out on Veterans Day and take a moment to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice and all those who served in past conflicts or continue to serve in present conflicts and the war on terrorism. On the same note please donate whatever you can to the Ranger Children's Christmas Fund by sending your donations to 75th RRA, PO BOX 921, HEFLIN, AL

36264. Please mention on the cheque or money order or on a separate note in the envelope that it is for the Christmas/Family Fund. All contributions will be listed in the Patrolling Magazine. Please give generously HOOAAH!!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

Our prayers and best wishes continue to go out to all our members who are currently ill, hospitalized or are undergoing treatment for their illness. We all pray for your speedy recovery! To the families of the unit members who have passed away we continue to offer our heartfelt sympathies for your loss and for that of our fellow comrade. Clancy Matsuda, Emory Parrish, Hilan Jones and families are especially in our thoughts and prayers at this time as they undergo treatment and recovery for their illnesses. Thanks Jonesy for getting the flowers and cards out to the members and families and also for the Newsletter that you so faithfully send out to the Unit Members.

Well folks that's about all for now, once again I wish



E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)

all of you in our RANGER/LRP/LRRP FAMILY, THE GOLD STAR MOTHERS, THE SPECIAL FORCES, THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMUNITY AND ALL THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE ARMED SERVICES AND CIVILIAN SUPPORT SERVICES A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2003!!!!HOOAAH!!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP

LEAD THE WAY!!!! TO OUR ACTIVE DUTY RANGERS ON DEPLOYMENT, STAY SAFE AND GOOD HUNTING, HOOAAH!!!!RLTW!!!! STAY SAFE AND KEEP THE FAITH
Bob Copeland
RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!



F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP

Unit Director - Joe Little



Hello to My Brother F/Co LRRP's 25th ID - F/Co 75th Rangers,

I know we have suffered the loss of two of our brothers and that has caused some to feel an empty spot, I just had the opportunity of meeting John Rowland at the last reunion and we spoke for many hours. However, I never got to meet Oscar Mullinax, my loss. As I reflected on those conversations it became more important that we stay in touch with one another some how or some way; and to attempt to locate more of our brothers.

One-way is to attempt to make our reunions off years or formal association reunions your choice. I/we are looking for suggestions for off year sites that would gather us together for some fun and excitement.

I want to thank Emmett Hiltibrand, Steve Grazik, Terry Rodrick, John Chester, Jay Lutz and others that I may have missed mentioning for being there for our Brothers John and Oscar and their families, representing our Brigade LRRPS'; I also would like to thank those that helped with contributions for flowers and those that sent money to their families.

A little business: It has been suggested that we set up a state representative for our unit, when one of our brothers should go to Warriors' Paradise that we can honor that individual with some from our unit and be supportive to family members.

Some of you may have heard that Marshall Huckaby has designed a LRRP 25ID coin that is a master piece of work according to Bill Mrkvicka. For those of you who

did not order any of the 25th Div LRRP / Co F coins from Marshall Huckaby - I got mine two days ago. These things are sharp. The silver proof coin is one of the best I have seen in a long time. In talking to Marshall the other day, he ordered some extra coins. If you want one, get in touch with Marshall. Here is the detail he provided about three months ago: Bronze in Lucite case \$13; 1 Troy oz silver in Lucite and in a leather presentation case, \$18 plus \$5 for mailing regardless of how many one may order.

Marshall's email address is RVNLRRP@aol.com. His snail mail address is 699 Willow Dell Dr, Senoia, GA 30276.

There is another subject I would like our members to consider and that is about VA claims. I am not sure if everyone is aware of the fact that if/when you receive an award of 100% total and permanent, you have an option to have life insurance paid for by the VA, however it must be a new award and you have a grace period of one year to apply for the insurance. This would be of help for those that are not insurable, because of health or age (and you know we are not getting younger) makes it too expensive. So I urge all to look into this benefit especially

for your loved ones.

I would also like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season and big thank you for your support from Joe Little UD, Dan Nate Assistant UD, Fred Stuckey sit on your lap secretary, Bill Mrkvicka, locator and keeper of our list, David Jacobs F/Co 75 Rep. and our original 25th ID LRRP representative Marshall Huckaby.



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Bill Mrkvicka,
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**G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP**

Unit Director - Steve Crabtree

**All Airborne Days**

By Stephen "Tower" Johnson

The Midwest All Airborne Alliance held their seventh annual gathering in the Twin Cities on August 16-17, 2002. The Alliance is made up of anyone who has jumped from a military airplane while in flight. What is so special about this annual is the Airborne Memorial Stones Dedication on Saturday, August 17 at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in St. Paul. Usually this group usually does only social gatherings and has no dues.

Two Minnesota Moms received Gold Stars as a special part of the Dedication. These special Moms each lost a son while serving in Vietnam. Both sons served in Airborne Ranger units as LRRPs. According to information provided by Angie Magruder, the Gold Star tradition began with President Wilson's suggestion that American women wear a black band on their upper left arm with a gold star. Each star would represent a family member who had given his or her life for their country. The Gold star tradition began in WW 1 and continues to this day. The headquarters are at American Gold Star Manor in Long Beach, California (for further information on this org., access www.goldstarmoms.com).

The Friday night event began with a gathering on the "Magnolia Blossom" paddle boat on the Mississippi River with a banjo band, lots of liquid refreshment, a superb meal, and shared glider and jump stories. (I have to admire these members for doing more than my five-military jumps). There were Silver Wings from many countries including Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, Israel, and France, to name a few. One special gentleman, Mr. Flatten, was packing not a chute on his back, but a hospital-provided IV food backpack. This he obtained before making his getaway from his hospital bed on this day so he could attend the festivities. His story about one Russian jump from a helicopter piloted by a "questionable Ruski crew", kind of reminded me of some our Nam helo rides. Glad I had a designated driver after that boat trip!

On Saturday everyone gathered for the Airborne Memorial Stones Dedication. This

major collaborative effort was started by Emmit and Sandy Rouse. Posting of the colors was lead by SSG John K. Weber, Chapter XV, 173rd Airborne. These guys were sharp!

The Gold Star Families led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Patrick Morgan gave the Invocation.

Emerson Gates, RICA, Chairman of the Midwest All Airborne Alliance welcomed us all and reflected on the importance of brotherhood (Airborne) as an equal regardless of what unit or country we served.

The main speaker, LTC John E Goetze, AUA (Ret), left us with a reminder: it's not the politician, poet, nor the college student organizer who fights for peace, but the soldier. The Soldier!.

There were many such soldiers representing their Airborne Units! Unveiling: Tom Eckhoff -75th Rangers; Special Forces- Roger Albertson, Jerry Schroepfer; 187th- Jerry Hunting; 11th- Jack Running; Korean Rangers- Emerson Gates; 101st- Brad Nichols; 82nd- Bud Ollum, John Anderson, Al Porter, Jim Flowers, John Hinchcliff; 173rd- Harry Persinger; 503rd- unknown; 17th- unknown (I apologize to the spelling and omission of names).

Each Airborne Unit had its flag permanently mounted on stone platform with a unit plaque that now makes up what is known as Ranger Circle. According to Robert McCollum, Director, Fort Snelling National Cemetery, this was the first collabo-

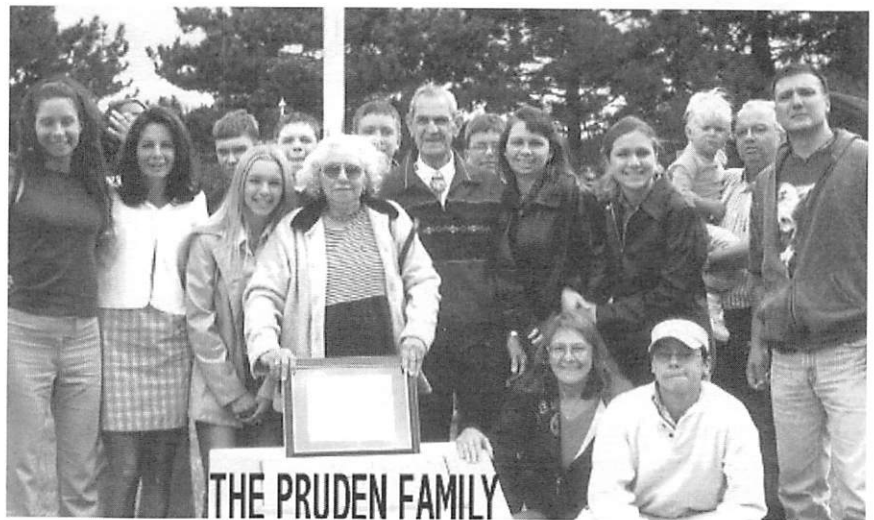


G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP (CONTINUED)

ration of military groups to dedicate a monument in any national cemetery.

The finale of the Ceremony was the presentation of the Gold Star Award to two Minnesota Moms.

Mrs. Pruden, Robert's mom, was awarded a plaque and Gold Star by Stephen Johnson, a former member of Company G 75th Rangers in Vietnam. Robert (CMH) gave his life on November 20th, 1969, when as a Team Leader, realizing that his team could be destroyed, charged into the face of death, and saved his men before he fell mortally wounded. "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This; That He Would Lay Down His Life For His Friend."



Bruce Mohn (H Company), Mr. Pruden, Riley (Mrs. Brizius' grandson), Steve Johnson (G Company), Mrs. Pruden, Cindy Prangburn (Mrs. Brizius' daughter), Unknown, Mrs. Brizius, Tom Eckhoff (N Company), Dave Gowen (N Company)

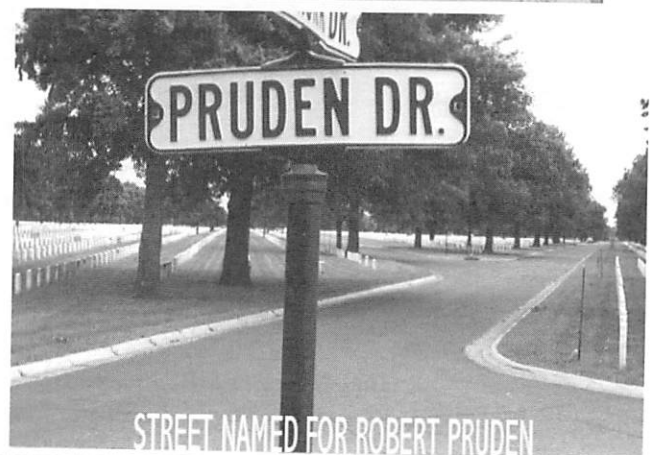
Mrs. Colleen Brizius, Raymond Reeves' mom, was awarded the second plaque and Gold Star by Dave Gowen, a former team member of Raymond's when he was killed by a burst of AK-47 fire while serving in Company N 75th Rangers in Vietnam, during November 1968. Dave was also wounded by the same burst of fire that fateful day. "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This; That He Would Lay Down His Life For His Friend."

We would personally like to thank the Midwest All Airborne Alliance, Gold Star Moms and family members, and all attendees who made this weekend a special one. Your hard efforts establishing the Airborne Memorial Stones for future generations to see will forever be honored.

Also, a special thanks to Tom Eckhoff and many of his friends who provided all of us with information that allowed us to find the right LZ and feel right at home.



Tom Eckhoff unveiling 75th Ranger Stone.



**H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP**

Unit Director - William Anton



By: James Ross

The following described action occurred in June of 1967 several days after Col. (Capt.) James D. James had relinquished command of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Company of the 1st Cavalry Division. James no longer was assigned to the LRRP Company, nor did he have any responsibility to, or for the unit. When the action was completed, James simply departed Vietnam and returned to the United States. In the press of combat, there was never an award recommendation submitted for this action. What is described herein is an act of selfless premeditated courage.

Within six hours of completing his first of two combat tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam, Col. (Capt.) James D. James was preparing to depart for his scheduled flight to his stateside re-assignment. His departure was abruptly interrupted in overhearing radio transmissions from a deployed six-man Reconnaissance Team that was heavily engaged. In a running battle against a reinforced enemy platoon.

The numerous attempts by the Recon Team to disengage and affect escape and evasion tactics were continually thwarted by the aggressive pursuit of the numerically superior enemy force, maneuvering to encircle the Americans. The Team's repeated requests for immediate emergency extraction due to untenable odds went unheeded in the inexplicable absence of command personnel necessary to authorize and execute the order to "pull the team". Recognizing that further delay would imperil the Team's chances of survival, without hesitation and with unwavering loyalty and concern for the welfare of his fellow Rangers, (in keeping with the highest traditions of a U. S.

Army Ranger), Captain James took immediate initiative and hastily procured a helicopter and crew and jumped aboard to take command of the rescue, (wearing his "uniform" at the time of his decision - a swimsuit, jungle boots and a borrowed weapon and ammunition).

Upon arriving "on station" above the Recon Team's area of operation, Captain James provided the Team Leader a compass azimuth to the nearest jungle clearing sufficient for the intended extraction and continually communicated encouragement and tactical information as well as personally directing aerial rocket fire around the Team's position enabling them to break contact with the closely engaged enemy and "set-up" for extraction. Upon Captain James's command and guidance, the aircraft pilot made a hasty landing amid intense hostile fire and successfully recovered the Recon Team while receiving numerous small arms "hits" in the aircraft. The selfless and heroic actions of Captain James is in keeping with the "Original Warrior (Ranger) Creed", "I will not abandon the comrade who stands by my side".

The gallant, intrepid action of Captain James, even while on the threshold of safety, enhances the finest and most honorable traditions of the U. S. Army Rangers. The indomitable courage and unfailing devotion displayed by Captain James towards his fellow Rangers, has been a magnificent and lasting inspiration to the men privileged to serve under his conspicuous leadership. His gallant and unwavering example of selfless loyalty and steadfast determination in the face of certain danger is like a shadow, it will always be with us. Drive on Ranger James!

"Rangers Lead The Way!"

**I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP**

Unit Director - Barry Crabtree



Veterans Day. 11th day of the 11th month is becoming a more and more special event for me. I never tire of reminding people that Memorial Day is for our fallen soldiers and Veterans Day is for all of us who are still alive and to please not get them confused! I celebrated this year by spending a few hours talking to some of my Ranger brothers on the phone with no regard for cost or consequences. Kind of like the way I used to run some of my missions. We talked about how much easier it was becoming

to share some of our life experiences in the hope of finding common ground among the few that had been to the brink....and back. Bringing our feelings out of the darkness and into the light while we glorified - not horrified - the memories of our many fallen brothers and the heroic sacrifices that were made so we could come back and tell the story.

Tell the story in a complete and accurate way to illustrate to our fellow citizens how costly our freedoms and

I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)

our way of life really is. It's important for us to assume that role to make it easier for the many 1000's of returning veterans now and in the future to make sense of the sacrifices made in battle. When they first come home, we've already seen the tragic results of how combat can change a man's life to the point where the veteran is not recognized by his loved ones, with explosive and tragic results that could, to a degree parallel our lives when we returned from the war to the world. When we go to war with Iraq, there will probably be as many for the war as there will be against it, here in this country and around the world for that matter. Our outspoken love for these men and their families . through our growing and influential 75th RRA make it all seem worth it. Something we lacked from the Vietnam era. It need not happen again. The last patrolling magazine, is rich in the stories of our caring for our brothers both alive and one's just passing on. Let's keep it up. The honor and the respect due to the warriors preserving our freedom can't be overdone. Making sure everyone knows the cost of freedom is buried in the ground and setting an example for warriors of the new millennium, We are the bearers of the torch of freedom and veterans rights, Let's not let the moment escape us!!!!

Jerry Davis called to tell me about the BIG RED ONE'S current efforts to bring our F CO 52nd INF, some recognition for our role in the early days of the war - before our designation as 75th Ranger Regiment. There is supposed to be a ceremony in Washington, DC and we've got Rangers in attendance. If I'm able to get their written accounts before my deadline, I'll include it for all to read. This trend points the way for many other units to begin to publicize our crucial role in many of the major operations of the war. This is a good thing and we all should be proud that many of the parent units of our Ranger companies are giving us our due - even if it is a little overdue?? All a part of our coming home, even after all these years. The acceptance still feels good.

Another of my Ranger brothers, Mike Wise called me to talk about his recent successes with the VA regarding disability issues, Mike may write a piece for our I CO space this quarter and when I get it, I'll be sure to include it. It seems the V A is giving in on the disability cases by granting 50% easily hoping that we won't press for the full 100% disability which is around \$2200.00 depending on dependents etc. Mike says that we are not to be duped into filing an appeal because that ties us up for years. Deal with these issues at the regional level and the results will be

more likely be favorable to you.

I Co. REUNION DATES AND SITE SET

These are some of the many types of things that will be discussed at length at our next reunion. The dates are April 30 to May 3. The Best Western Executive Inn, Tucson, Arizona. I've looked forward to this one more than I have any other. The excitement is building based on the great vibes with the 75th RRA Rangers of the summer reunion. I'm still bubbling from all the stories and information that only gets exchanged at a gathering of Rangers. Some new updated war stories will be forthcoming from some of our New York brothers that pitched in on 9/11. Some .will show up with new wives, some will come without them (permanent and otherwise), and some will come with the familiar faces we've grown to love since we

stalled this healing process around 1990.

I can't even begin to describe how these events have helped me in my life. Just seeing a bunch of guys like me act and talk out their frustrations is worth the price of admission. I've often said that those feelings of fear, excitement and wonder flow from a healing river that we all must cross as Vietnam Veterans.

Some of the feelings of healing are painful; however, just as necessary to experience and talk through as are the feelings of joy and discovery, The ONLY group on the entire planet that can even begin to be a part of this healing process are the names on our company roster that

we've hammered out through hook and crook to find all of our brothers from the war. It's amazing how much we have in common once we get to the point of a quiet breakfast where we talk openly and freely, having to neither weigh words or even care how something sounds. It's during these quiet times that the secrets come out and our ghosts are glorified. The GHOSTS OF GLORY are something that is very real in each of our lives. Once we learn to glorify those that were sacrificed, a lot of the very negative feelings are suddenly turned to our favor as we see all the good that was hidden in the shadows of the fears. Fear is nothing more than False Evidence Appearing Real – F E A R!!!!

I hope that all Rangers, whether they were a part of our Company in Vietnam or not, that read this can come and get a part of this ENERGY by being with us in Tucson. Some of you Rangers of more recent wars and conflicts can easily be a part of almost any Ranger Company Reunion by just showing up. The members of I CO would love to have some of our western Rangers close to Tucson be with us for this special occasion. Just call



I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)

Wildcat 9- Tapia at 520 889 3667. Maybe you were in a LRRP CO in Nam and just haven't got hooked up with your people yet. Come on down !!: We're expecting a big turnout and lots of the FEELINGS

OF HEALING for 2003. Don't miss this opportunity for discovery and renewal.
Barry Crabtree



K/75 - E/58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

Unit Director - Bill Bullen



By: Bill Bullen

Gentlemen, Friends and Families,
At this time we are on a roll toward the New Year. We need to start to rethink our mission. I believe, for the most part, it has been to 'Get together with the regulars and meet a very few new members'. Now is the time to make an all out push, get the rust out of our chambers, and find the 4th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Commando personnel. Talk to them and bring them to Seattle, Washington, in 2004.

Q: How do I locate people? A: Use 'Directory Assistance' on the Internet, it's FREE! Q: How do I locate people? A: Ask me to do a search, it costs a few bucks, but with the donations Wane Mitsch receives, from us, we can do it. We use old orders, old phone numbers and 1960s vintage BLACK BOOKS, most of us had one in country. Q: How do I locate people? A: Ask the existing members if they have any Intel on the subject. Just recently I was talking to Tom Sove about a young, K.I.A. Ranger Roy Olgyay. Tom recalled that his father was faculty at Princeton University. I called Princeton Directory Assistance for an Olgyay; they hooked me up with Roy's Aunt who put me in touch with his cousin, who told me where his Mom was. I spoke to his mother and she was Oh so happy to speak with someone who had

known her son in Viet Nam. I'll be talking with his sister soon, and needless to say this is good for me and I hope for her.

Guys, this is what networking is, we all do it then get burned out. Just heal-up and do it again. We will locate all of our comrades, if we pursue, do what we were trained to do, seek out Intel and continue the mission.



If you don't know how to go about this thing then call one of the phone #s in the Patrolling Magazine. If that guy is having a bad day, call the next guy; you will not hurt anyone's feelings if you call at 3:00AM. Wayne loves to talk with people ay all hours, especially when they've had a few nips! Seriously commo, and network, this is the answer. Find the widows find the mothers of Fallen Rangers. The Gold Star programs are the greatest things going.

Alas, the Ranger Hall of Fame, we need to submit names and documentation of real heroes. So

many good people have been named in the H.O.F. for being really good people. But we need to resurrect the memories and incidents, put them on paper and submit this stuff. If we don't, the next thing you'll see is some National Guardsman being inducted for looking real good in his BLACK BERET at the airport!

Enough for now, I can't wait to see all of you folks the next time we all get together. Seattle, Washington is the place. Save \$10 a week and before you know it, Oh bull sh--! Just make it happen. No one gives a hoot if you look older now, when you see Willie Williams you'll feel good! Don Keller looks like his brother!
Till the next time.
Ichabod, out
Bill Bullen

Gentlemen,
The original K/Co Guidon has been located and will be donated to The Special Operations Museum at Ft Bragg N.C. Knowing how some folks feel about the legitimacy of our [Viet Nam era Ranger] status, I think it is appropriate that it be displayed where it will be appreciated. I will make this recommendation provided there are no stronger arguments for another resting place. Be advised we will have a replica made to use at future gatherings. Please respond, or forever hold your piece.
Bill Bullen

K/75 - E/58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)

LIST OF KIA's 4th INFANTRY DIVISION

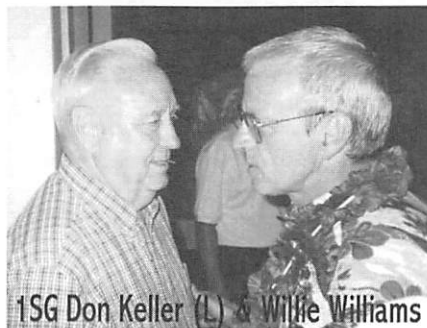
(NOT COMPLETE)

Richmond Luce Jacksonville, FL Age 18.... Dan Harmon Kodiak, AK Age 21... Ron Bonert Chicago, IL Age 21... Joe Steimbach Jacksonville, FL Age 22... Bill Thompson Ketchikan, AK Age 19... Dennis Ahendsen Olin, IA Age 21... Joseph Kull Philadelphia, PA Age 19... Dickie Finely Sweet Springs, MO Age 21... Luther Ghahate Zuni, NM Age 22... Michael Lawton Pittsford, NY Age 19... Ken Hess Throop, PA Age 23... Nathaniel Irving Hopewell, VA Age 20... Ralph Dunn Andalusia, AL Age 21... Gerald Hancock Louisville, KY Age 27... Hugh McKinney New York, NY Age 21... Jack Rightmeyer Allentown, PA Age 20... Armin Blake Denver, CO Age 34... Steve Hathaway Maitland, FL Age 21... Frank Humes Magnolia, NJ Age 20... Dennis Belonger Mantiwoc, WI Age 20... Wallate Thibodeau Kingston, NY Age 26... Raymond Johnson Morgan City, LA Age 20... Lonnie Gibson Jellico, TN Age 20... Luis Hilerio-Padilla Yonkers, NY Age 20... Robert Silva Somerville, MA Age 18... Kenneth Smolarek Detroit, MI Age 19... Michael Lyne Fayetteville, NC Age 18... La Roy Roth Wall Lake, IA Age 20, Eddie Carpenter Lexington, Ky Age 19... Charles Willard Charlotte, NC Age 21... William Bartholomew Catasauqua, PA Age 21... Dean Borneman Dumont, IA Age 21... Jim Doss Glen Burnie, MD Age 22...

Frank McLellan Salem, IN Age 21... Earl Braoch Dallas, TX Age 19... Evelio Gomez Kalamazoo, MI Age 22... Antonio Grau Lodi, NJ Age 19... William Roller Sebastian, FL Age 29... Frank Miller Athens, OH Age 18... Roy Olgyay New York, NY Age 18... Robert Toler Hazlehurst, GA Age 27... James McLaughlin Bangor, ME Age 22... Donald Larue Hempstead... NY Age 22, Charles Jackson Britt Ferndale, MD Age 28.

Prayer goes up and Blessings come down.

Bob Smyers, Chaplain 75th Ranger Regiment Association.
Vietnam: 67/68, TMLDR/PLTSGT, 2bde, 4th Division.



I received this in response to people trying to get in touch with a Fallen Brother's relatives. I think we all need to know the good with the bad. If someone is resistant, then we need to respect this notion. Bill

Bill, I thought I would share an experience with you that might be helpful to other guys looking for the families of out KIA. I was able to find the family of Evelio Gomez. He was KIA on Roger's team when Roger was hurt. I found them and called the names on my list. I got Evelio's Mother on the phone. She was polite, but made it

very clear that she and the family wanted absolutely nothing to do with me, Roger or any one connected with Gold Star Mother. The family is very bitter. She made a point of telling me that she did not hold Roger or other men of the company responsible but the government was a different story! She concluded the conversation by thanking me for caring, and the said

"Sir, if you are man of honor you will not call me or give my number to anyone". I assured her that I would honor that request and asked if there was anything I could help her with. She said "No!" and hung up. I had prepared a script of sorts to help me when someone answered, but I was so taken aback by the bitterness that I lost my composure a bit. After thinking about it a bit, I realized that I did not tell her about the brick at the memorial or give her my phone number. I suspect it would have had no difference, in this case, but maybe some one else can learn from this. It is easy to forget that not all of us who served are joiners and not all of our families want to be part of this process. I think they are the poorer for not knowing Roger and not letting us share in honoring Evelio. I do believe that one of the things we ought to have as Rangers is honor, so I will respect the request and not share the information.

When I made my first call, I think I contacted a brother. He was almost rude. He asked me if I was the person who had called so many times. I told him no and he hung up. If some one else is trying to contact this family, I think we should publish something to ask them to stop. What ever we have to offer is not welcome there at this time.



L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP

Unit Director - Randall White



Questions

I think I can safely say that the bonds of brotherhood developed in Vietnam and nurtured over the years at reunions or private gatherings are held dear to us all. We are members of a fraternity that can never be replicated and whose membership was closed years ago. The enrolment is for life and the cost of membership was a part of, or for some, all of that life. Like it or not, you are my brothers. The phone call late at night with a familiar voice at the other end is something I always look forward to and always know it brings with it a question. In many cases I can put a face with the voice even before I'm told who it is. Sometimes the voice is a little slurred or timid, but always looking to connect with someone who has shared the same experience. It seems we all need to verify that we really did go through the events of so many years ago and that there really is someone else out there who shared that experience with us. The dark rainy nights lying under a poncho liner, our ear pressed against the hand set of a radio hoping to break squelch twice, while trying not to cough or make a sound. The trail watcher who silently slipped past our position as we watched with our breaths held and weapons trained on him. The time we were so drunk in the rear that we woke up in the wrong hootch. These things happened to us and to others, and they were not a dream as our mind might try to fool ourselves into thinking today. The scar that is faded with age wasn't always there and it really did bleed and the screams of battle really did ring through the jungles and paddies. It seems so long ago but yet it seems like yesterday. Are we forever in our minds to remain the twenty year olds we see ourselves as? My aching body tells me no, but yet my mind still rings with the sounds of Huey's and Steppenwolf, and I can still feel the heat of a day in Vietnam. I can still taste the sweetness of a can of fruit cocktail in the jungle, or the dryness of a partially moistened LRRP ration. My twenty-year old body craved the moisture and the vitamins provided by the fruit cocktail, while my mind rejected the blandness presented on the spoon as sweat dripped down my nose. When I see or think of my brothers, I see them not as middle age men fast growing towards old age, but still as the young men in Vietnam who shared their fruit cocktail or their last cold Coke. The hair is a little gray-

er or thinning, and a few more pounds are carried on their frames, but the eyes and the voices are the same. Their wit, their sense of humor, their actions and mannerisms, their views and their beliefs are still the same. Their love for each other and the unit they served in is still the same. That will never change.

I also think about the Vietnamese I knew. Did they survive the war? Was the resident shit burner a VC or was he really just an innocent peasant as he professed to be. Are they happy with the government they have now, or are they sorry they didn't resist the north with the same determination presented to them by the NVA and possibly have the free and democratic society that we offered? What turn of event could have changed the outcome of the war, or was that card never in the deck they were dealt from? Do they also think of you and me, and

ponder these same thought? These questions will forever haunt us and will go unanswered.



My mind goes back to the places in Vietnam I remember best. The small a/o in a hootch I called home. The trail where a firefight took place and men died. The mountain top where I saw the most beautiful sunset I've ever seen. I remember the bunker line where we stood guard duty on hot black nights, peering into nothingness and seeing everything. Is the trail still there or has the jungle reclaimed it? Are the sunsets still as beautiful on that mountain top? What about the

bunker that was built to withstand Charlie's fury? Has the slow gentle fury of time eroded its concrete covered sandbags to dust? Again these questions will go unanswered for me. I don't anticipate a return to that jungle trail or another trip to a firebase long overgrown with jungle. But my twenty-year old mind still has these thoughts, still sees these images and still asks questions. Every day.

Most of all, my twenty year old mind remembers the American fighting men. Faces at once familiar, but yet just out of reach for a name. Faces of brothers fondly remembered but now lost to the expanse of "the real world". They're out there someplace wondering if it really happened to them. Wondering if I remember them and wondering if they're alone in their memories that now seem like dreams. Why did I make it home and he didn't...or did he? Who was with me on that run to Eagle Beach when the Filipino Band was playing. Did that mission happen in March or was it May, and who

L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP (CONTINUED)

else was on that team? I can see their face, but I can't remember...

But there are answers to some of our questions. The answers lay only a phone call, letter or e-mail away. The questions are universal and need not be asked. The voice on the other end of the line will be familiar and the face you see in your mind will still be that of a twenty year old. Do you remember me and were we both really there? Do you remember when... How's life treatin' ya? Did the wounds heal and is the V.A. giving you what you deserve? How many kids do you have? Do you know where so-and so is? Rekindle that brotherhood and make a connection. Our twenty-year old minds need it and you'll feel better for doing it. You'll make someone else feel better in the process when they learn that it wasn't a dream and that it really did hap-

pen, and they really were there with others who experienced it. Their twenty-year old minds are just like yours and need the same nurturing that the brotherhood brings. Their eyes and voice will still be the same and their love for you, the unit and those who were lost will not have changed. In the process some of your questions will be answered and your mind will think it's still in the body of a twenty year old young man. I think I can safely say that like it or not they are your brothers, and they've been looking for you and hoping you'd call.

Randy White

e-mail: ranwhite@jamadots.com

The 101st LRRP/Ranger web site:

0<http://www.lcompanyranger.com/>

**M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP**

Unit Director - Jack Fuche



By: Steve Houghton and Jack Fuche

Well it's Nov 12th and I haven't written a damned thing yet. I really haven't had the heart to as I lost my wife Sept 16, 2002 and have been on a emotional roller coaster ever since. Enough about me.

I talked to our unit director, Jack Fuche the other night. It seems he has just gotten some sort of adjustment on his VA disability check. Tim Hinderlieter has been in touch, it seems he travels in his line of work and is scheduled to visit my neck of the woods this Dec7th. He Jack and I have an appointment to get together on the Dec 8th. I'm really looking forward to seeing Tim, it's only been 33 years. Jack is supposed to get in on this mini reunion also. It should be fun. Larry Hall has sent me a photo from this last Veteran's day observance. I'll attempt to post it with this article. As you may recall Larry suffered a very serious injury this last summer. It's go to see he is up and about. I talked to several of my old lrrp buddies when the found out about my troubles. Terrell Ross called just this past weekend. We talked for about 30 minutes. It seems Terrell has been presented with his 2nd grand child. Jeremy Riggs Ross, a 9 pound 3 oz baby boy was born to Terrell's son Serrell and daughter in law April. We're happy for

them all. Charlie Hunt got in touch recently. He is looking for anyone who was at Firebase Barbara the day Charlie was wounded during a mortar attack. Now I recall several of those, but he is referring to one where he was hit in the back with a big hunk of dirt has he was running for the bunker. It seems his back is acting

up now and he'd like to apply for a benefit increase. I guess an eyewitness would help. If anybody remembers this get in touch with Charlie at

SuperPawPaw@ntelos.net If you don't have e-mail capabilities, get in touch with Jack Fuche. His address is in this "Patrolling" magazine. I have been making contact with several of our unit LRRPs and Ranger through my little web site. Lyle Webster who was wounded the same day SSG Oakes was killed just left me a message. Robert Carmody whose Dad was one of the units first casualties

just made contact this October. I am going to include his mail to me. It reads as follows:

Mr. Houghton,

My name is Robert Carmody and I have visited the LRRP page you maintain. My father lost his life in Oct. '67 and I have seen the page "The Fallen". Thank you for the page. I am curious about the publication called "Definitions of Valor". I have not been able to



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locate any references to this publication at all.

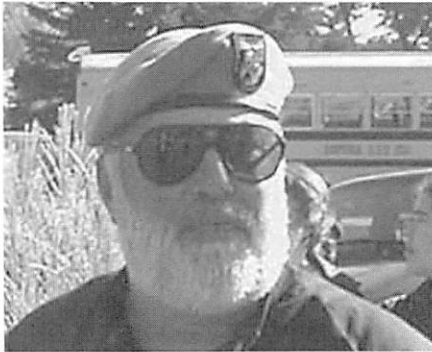
There was an article last May in a paper in North Carolina about one of the soldiers killed on the mission (Robert Williams). I contacted the reporter who wrote the story and was able to contact the Williams family. I learned that Williams had volunteered to lead that mission for another SSG by the name of Paul White. White was going home the first week of November and Williams volunteered so White could pack. White ended up escorting Williams's body back to his family. James Williams, the brother, and I have been trading documents and information by mail.

I corresponded w/Robert Smalinkas about 18mos. ago and was grateful for his help and support. I kind of left him hanging though, but will be getting back with him real soon.

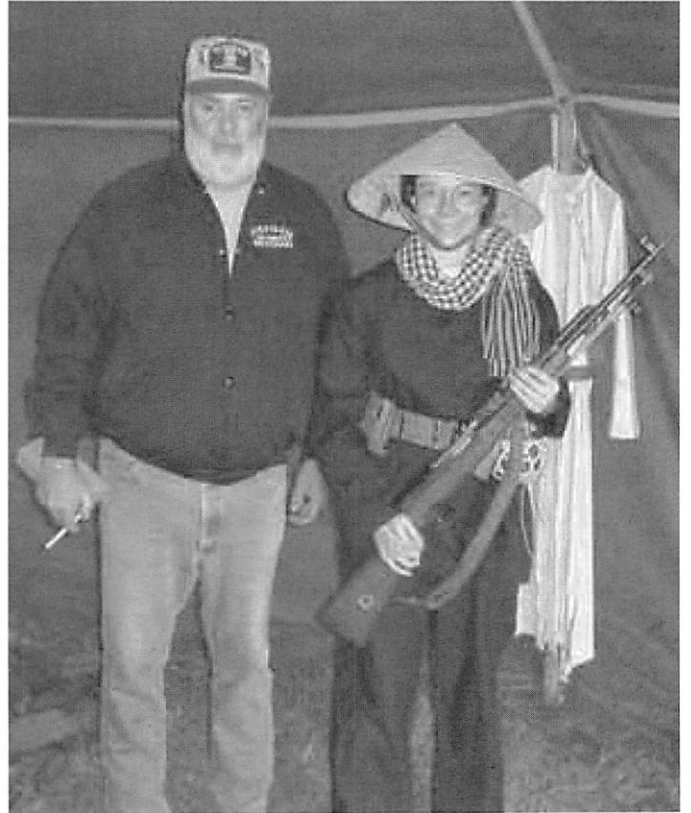
Anyway, if you are interested in receiving any documents or anecdotes on the soldiers, let me know. Thanks, Bob.

There has been others too who are making contact after years. Jerry Lindsey who served from Nov 69 to Oct 70 just made contact. Henry B Mortan who joined the unit in late Feb 70 also checked in. Those of you who may have know these men can get their e-mail address of the guest book entries from my guest book. Below is the email I got from Larry Hall just this evening.

**Hey Steve,
thought I would
send you a pic-
ture of me that
was taken yes-
terday morning
at a Veterans
service. I will
send a couple**



of more later Thanks Larry Hope you had a good Veterans day. This is me and a young lady last week. She does Vietnam reenactments, and was In Emporia for the week of the Veterans Tribute. I don't think I have ever told you, but Veterans day was started in Emporia in 1953 to replace the armistice day witch was only for the war "the war to end all wars" a gentleman here went to President Eisenhower, and the president signed a decoration to make it called Veterans day.



Well I'm running out of time and energy, so I'm closing for now. Jack wanted me to include a particular photo, but I can't find the damned thing. These other will have to due till next time.
Steve



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



BY: Reed Cundif, Roger Brown, and Tony Schnoover
This should be the first in a series of articles chronicling the history of the 173rd LRRP through its progression to the 74th Infantry and eventually N Rangers. Retired Colonels Bill Palmer and Bob Carroll, the first two commanders of the 173rd LRRP have said that they will provide material from formal founding of the unit

in June 1966 through its training at Recondo School (Class 0) in September and its first series of operations in September, October and November. I start off with the personal recollections of the first three patrols that were launched from Bear Cat on 8 December.

Operation CANARY/DUCK, a two phase highway security operation, was executed astride Highway QL

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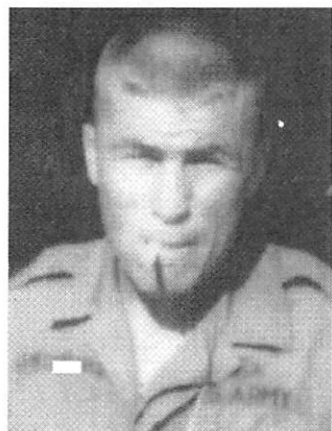
Retired SF CSM Al Ward and a commo sergeant on route march from Bien Hoa to Brigade TOC (R. Cundiff photograph)

15 from Phy My to Long Binh and from Phu My to Bear Cat, with the 173d providing escort for the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and 9th Infantry Division. These units were moving north from Vung Tau to their respective staging areas.

We traveled by truck from Bien Hoa through Long Bien to the Brigade TOC northwest of Vung Tau on QL 15. Teams 4 (Sergeant Jakovenko), 5 (Sergeant Evans), and 7 (Sergeant Roger Brown,) were airlifted by CH-47 to an old 4th Infantry Division's base area, Bear Cat not far from Xuan Loc near Route LTL 15.

Captain Phillips, Zeke Zaruba (communications sergeant) and the famous E/1/17th Cav dog Tango accompanied the flight.

Teams 4 (Jakovenko) and 5 (Evans) were infiltrated at the same time several kilometers to the east and west respectively of Landing Zone Stump (YS364865). Both teams were to do area recon and then do point recon of



SSG Vladimir Jakovenko (Roger Brown photograph)

the trail that ran due east from LZ Stump. Jake's team infiltrated at last light onto a small LZ 1500 meters due east of LZ Stump at map reference YS385875 and moved 400 m through fairly dense brush to laager. We were 30 kilometers from organic 173rd artillery support but were told that a battery of eight-inch guns could reach us. We moved south

at first light through the very edges of freshly tapped rubber. Moya found an unknown major east west trail (an unimproved road) that was our assigned recon point. The trail came to a juncture of two roads that ran through 500 meters of rubber plantation before traversing six kilometers of fairly open coffee plantation onto Route LTL 15. Jake led the team across the trail and Moya scouted the area to the south and east of the rubber. Both noted a large number of older prepared fighting and sleeping positions. Moya also found that another major trail joined this trail about 50 meters to the east. Jake then turned turning back north to the trail and sited the team on the south side of the trail for observation. Larry Cole and I were sited at right security facing to the north and covering the right (east); Bumgardner and Moya were looking west at left security, while Jake

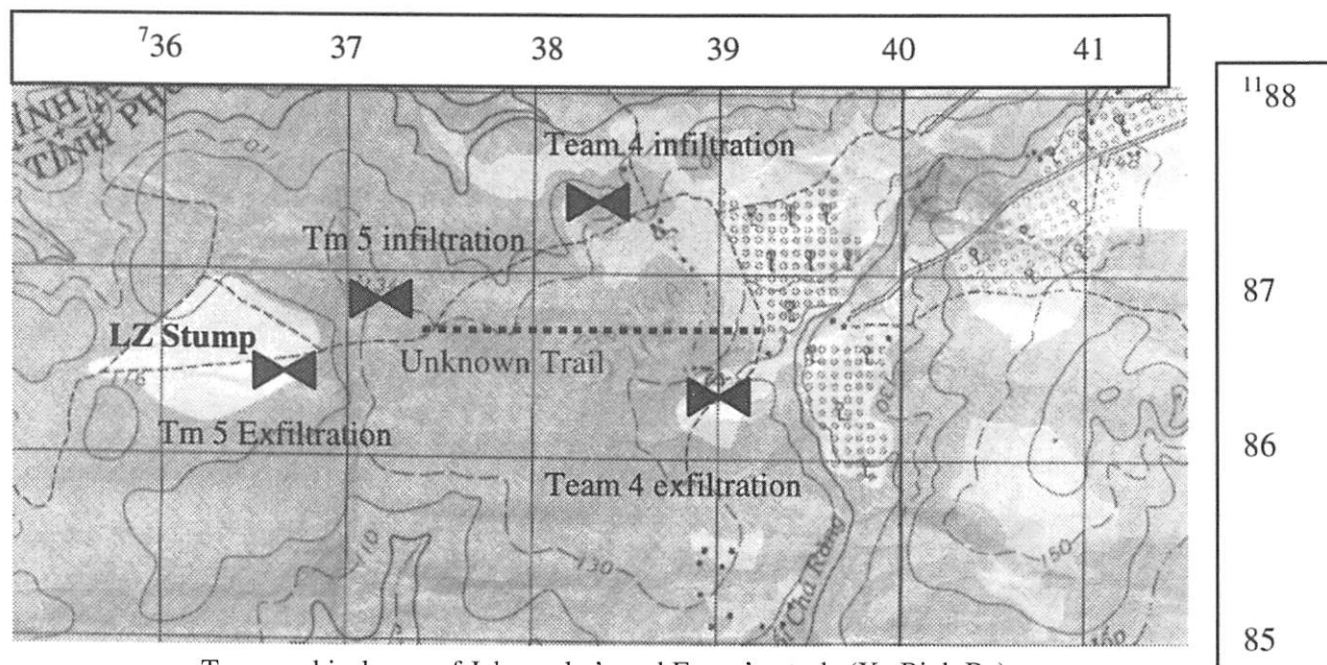
and the medic were to the south at control and primary observation. Larry and I settled into some light shrubbery between two small clumps of bamboo about four meters from the trail. This turned out to be a little too close. We heard footsteps to the left and I saw a young man and a fairly attractive girl walking along without packs and carbines slung across their backs. I reached left and squeezed Coles's right arm. He gave me a questioning look and then heard the footsteps. He started to look up and the surprise registered and he quickly lowered his head to watch their feet as they moved on by. I could see Coles' deep look of relief that

mirrored my feelings. We grinned and both immediately decided to re-apply camouflage and roll down our sleeves. We then heard the sound of running steps as the third member of the party came jogging by to catch up with his buddies. This was another good looking kid of college age who had probably just dropped back for a call of nature. We decided that we were too damned close for our own. We moved back like migrating cockroaches to about 7 meters off the trail and got very serious about assimilating our cryptic coloration into terrain. Cole had been on a number of patrols but this was my first look at the other side. The thought came to mind as to why the hell I was here, I should have ETS'ed and definitely taken up an offer to go to Mexico with a gal who was graduating in ten days.

A young kid in a light blue jacket then came into view an hour later. He was headed east like the previous three and was carrying an M-1 carbine. He looked very damned serious. He was probably on Christmas break from high school. He stalked down the trail, the rifle



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Topographical map of Jakovenko's and Evans' patrols (Xa Binh Ba)

weaving back and forth to cover all possible threats. The two older guys behind were carrying their rifles over their shoulder by the muzzles and seemed to look at their point man with tolerant bemusement. "God, we always get the young Gung- Hos" seemed to be their attitude. Mike and I moved a little farther back. An hour later an older guy, carrying a Moisin-Nagant 1936 model carbine across his pack, led seven older women wearing white jackets and black pants and was also headed east. The women were carrying very large packs. He looked very unhappy with the situation, the woman were laughing and talking up a storm. There is not much glory in escorting what was probably a laundry run. We oozed another meter back, carefully moving the grass and shrubbery back into place.

An hour later we heard a signal shot several hundred meters to the east. A few minutes later we heard very animated argumentation and two very big guys carrying AK-47s walked by headed to our left. They were really annoyed about something or each other. The guys were probably about 180 to 200 lb. and over six feet tall. The military intelligence officers from the 172nd MI told us at the debrief that we should have nailed the two of them since they were probably members of a contingent of Red Chinese advisors that Military Intelligence believed was working in the area. We moved back a little bit further.

At about 4:00 p.m., seventeen main force VC wearing basic black moved past headed east. They moved in absolute quiet and discipline. They had two Browning 1919A6s, two heavy machine guns (12.5 mm) and 60 and 81 mm mortars. The 12.5-mm machine guns were

slung on bamboo poles; each carried on two men's shoulders. They went around the bamboo thicket to our right. Near the rear if the group was a small attractive woman with a small pistol on a black belt in the middle of her back. Moya, at left security, was quite taken with her. I could hear Cole snuffle "Oh Jesus!" as sixteen more moved by carrying large packs. These sixteen were not as quiet and did not have the march discipline of the first seventeen. They were not dressed in basic black and looked like a mixed bag of locals pulled off the streets of Bien Hoa as local force porters. They disappeared around the thicket about 10 meters to our right and I breathed softly the same as Cole. We looked at each other in relief that they had gone.

Then we realized that it was no longer silent, we could hear the sounds of packs being riffled through and cooking utensils being moved about. The weapons platoon was setting up for the evening on the other side of the bamboo thicket with some of them about 25 meters away. Sounds of another unit's movement into the bivouac area were noted. Two guys wandered back to our left with one of the 1919A6s and a case of ammunition and set up to cover the back trail about 20 meters from Moya and Bumgardner. They opened the ammo can and locked-and-loaded. Moya stated that they then proceeded to light up high quality hash and got turned on. A guy and gal came into view in private and leisurely discussion. Someone started to play a harmonica and when we attempted to repeat the tune to MI later, we were told that this was a favorite tune of main force units, particularly the Phu Loi Regiment. I could swear that I saw someone with a butterfly net - hell,

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let's all get together, have a cup of hot tea or some beer, swap stories, and sing folk songs - I might as well be back in the Peace Corps.

Being within the security perimeter of a heavily armed platoon or larger element was not considered to be tactically sound. We were on the south side of the trail and within 200 meters of a low grassland savanna that was about 250 meters wide and over about 500 meters long. The VC were probably just settling in to eat and rest before moving through the rubber and coffee plantations in the dark of the night. Jake decided that it was getting a bit tight and we had best get the hell out of Dodge. He sent the radioman over to pull the recon elements back to his position after calling for extraction. We later found out that higher HQ elements wanted us to stay in place and "develop the situation". We had to move within 30 meters of the machine gun and I told Larry to watch the machine gun team while I played rear security. As if on cue, the conversation in the VC camp ceased. We reached the LZ in about 10 minutes and set up security just within the tree line and I remained deepest in the bush as rear security. I hadn't the foggiest idea of what to do. Being surrounded and outnumbered about 10 to 1 was not in the RECONDO school lexicon at the time and it definitely was not part of my experience. I saw two guys poke their heads out about 50 meters away to my right (the east) and then pull back. Another one peeked out from the left. It was as if they weren't quite sure what they were looking for and were not at all anxious to be the ones to find it. Jake was told that there were four to seven Huey gunships, 5 F-100s, and a battery of Corps level 8" guns on standby for the exfiltration. The lift off ship requested a smoke grenade to guide in. Jake refused, "Hell no! They're all around us!" The pick up ship came back to say that was all the more reason to know exactly where the team was, "You either pop smoke or we're not coming in!" No smoke, no exfiltration - your basic non-negotiable demand. Jake came back "OK, I'll pop smoke but you better come in fast". The air relay OV-1D Birdog dove and fired a White Phosphorous rocket into the woodline about 50 metres to our east in order to mask Jake's smoke grenade as he passed overhead. The lift ship came in as we broke cover (hats on inside out with the orange panels visible) and the gun ships made their initial runs and strafed the wood line about us with machine gun fire. The Hogs blasted the woods further in with 2.75" rockets and 40 mm grenades. The lift ship landed in the knee high grasses about 50 meters to our south on an east-to-west heading. Moya, as point man, led the charge to the lift helicopter. I was backing out about 10 meters out of the woodline and I saw two

guys with a 1919A6 (undoubtedly Moya's old friends) come charging around a thicket about 20 meters to my left and were about to put the entire team into enfilading fire. I inadvertently thumbed the selector switch to full (fine motor skills were sadly lacking) and managed to fire a burst into the pair. Jake was firing around the right side of the same thicket and the machine gunners were about to run into him as I fired. He was startled by the red tracers zipping about him and then saw the two machine gunners drop within 5 meters of him. He emptied his M-16 into them. Jake later told Captain Carleton Vencil that he had always wanted to see what happened when tracers hit someone. I turned around and started running towards the Huey, remembering to head for the front of the ship so that the pilots could tell the door gunners what was coming up (lesson 3 or 4 in airmobile operations). The right door gunner looked absolutely nonchalant but extremely vulnerable. He started firing long bursts over us into the treeline. Moya and Bumgardner were about 10 meters ahead of me and the knee-high grass was full of VC tracers. Moya and Bum went down - o shit - we're all going to get killed and then I went down hard over the same vine that had tripped the other two. I changed magazines, dropped to kneeling, and fired quasi-controlled bursts into the wood line. I then turned and ran for the chopper again, but it had bounded forward 15 meters and I remembered that there were some excellent reasons for not running towards the tail of a Huey but could not quite put my finger on it. Oh yeah, the tail rotor! And dove under the tail section near the skids and go in through the reverse door. The crew chief, Richard Billings, saw me coming up from under the belly and laid his M-60 on me. I apparently raised one hand to wave and didn't get wasted. We were all in and Jake asked the point man, Moya, for the count. "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Jake there's only 5!" "Did you count yourself?" "Six, we're okay Jake." Cole emptied his M-16 out the door and started singing the song "Here we come again" We could see the F-100s set up in a conga line ready to work over the area. We got back to the Brigade Tactical Operations Center on Route 2 and were debriefed by MG Williamson as well as by 172nd MI Company and the S-2 shop personnel

The Forward Air Control (FAC) pilot visited the BDE TOC a few days later to tell MI and Operations that he had never before received as much ground fire or seen as many secondary explosions from air strikes before. The action got a lot of publicity, half a page in "Stars and Stripes" and then in "Army Times". It had been a very uneventful day in the Area of Operations and we were told that a number of generals active in the

N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP (CONTINUED)

debarkation of the 9th ID had flown by to take in the show. The day after we got pulled out I ran into Major Selby at the TOC. He had been Executive Officer of 4/503rd and was now the Brigade Operations Officer. "Hey Reed, what are you doing out here in the field, part of AG forward?" "Uh, no sir, I'm the ATL in the LRRPs, Jakovenko's team." "Well, if you ever feel like getting back into the real Army and feel like working for a living again, I could use you over at the Operations shop," sic transit gloria.

CPT Phillips had just become our CO and wasn't that sure of SOP when the nucmam hit the fan so LT. Vencil just jumped on the C&C ship and took off with the rest of the entourage including the gun ship package. However, he left CPT Phillips on the ground, a definite breach of decorum. Phillips later counseled Vencil for taking off without his CO.

The following is Tony Schoonover's take on Team 5's (SSG Evans) actions.

Reed I am going to write this mission up in its official format. If it were just me that was involved, I would write it as it happened to me. SSG Rivers Evans was infiltrated into a LZ by chopper 15 minutes before dark. Two minutes after departing the chopper, the team heard the distinct sound of a M79 grenade launcher being fired; the round landed 25 meters to the left of team 5. Two more rounds were fired into the same location. The VC had seen the chopper leave the LZ but did not see the team's exact drop off point. The RTO radioed the command and control ship that the VC was firing a M79, and that the rounds landed 25 meters to the left of their location. The response was, "Do you want to abort the mission?" Evans looked at the team, and all agreed to stay in. The RTO radioed that the team would stay in. The command ship responded with, they would stay on station until the team radioed that they were secure for the night. Team five had been together since the Lurps had been formed and had several missions before being sent to Long Range Recon Patrol school on Nha Trang. The team knew than Charlie did not know their exact location and would not be running around in the jungle at night looking for them. The team set up for the night, setting out all 6 Claymores. No one slept that night and it seemed forever for morning to come. At first light the RTO radioed a situation report and that they would be moving south. Team 5 moved south about 200 meters and found a big trail that was wide enough to drive trucks down it. The trail was hidden from view by thick overhead canopy. The team set up on a small hill 25 meters from the trail, and watched as small groups of VC moved east down the trail. Some were armed with American M1 carbines and

others were carrying equipment for crew served weapons. It was estimated that at least 3 platoons of VC had moved down the trail throughout the day. There were women mixed in with the men. Later in the day the team heard considerable automatic weapons fire and explosions to the east of their position. The RTO started monitoring the radio since he knew that SSG Jake's team was in the vicinity of the gunfire. The RTO informed SSG Evans that Jake's team was being hit and had called for fire support and extraction. It seemed like it took them forever to get Jake's team out. The team was finally extracted and no one was hurt. Just before dark team 5 moved its location back into the jungle not far from the trail to set up for the night. All six Claymores were set up again. The thought of the grenade launcher was still on the team's mind and the fact that Jake's team had undoubtedly pissed off every VC in the neighborhood, made us doubly alert. It was another sleepless night. During the night the team heard the wounded from the firefight with Jake's team being moved back up the trail. There was a lot of talking, crying and moaning that seemed to last quite a while. The next morning after the RTO radioed in the sit rep and the team brought in all the Claymores, the team was getting ready to move out, when the RTO heard movement coming from the teams left front. He snapped his fingers to get the attention of the team leader, pointed to his ear and then in the direction of the sound. The team observed 10 VC less than a 100 meters from their location, wearing khaki uniforms and carrying automatic weapons. Each man maintained about a 15-meter interval. There was a lot of concern on the team's part; they were exposed, standing and bunched up. The team lowered themselves very slowly, so as not to draw attention to themselves with any sudden jerky movements. The old saying is --if you can see them--they can see you. The pointman in the VC patrol was a tracker and he was following the same route the team had taken the day before. The man doing the tracking was good. When he came to a very large dead tree trunk the team had crossed the day before, he found where the team had backtracked from watching the trail and moved to their present location. When the tracker stopped to read the tracks after crossing tree trunk, the men behind him did not stop and bunched up at the tree. Instead of crossing over the tree as the tracker did they moved down the side of the tree as the tracker crossed back over. All 10 of them walked into the teams kill zone, all bunched up with the tracker looking at the ground. He never knew what hit him. They were less than 15 feet from the team. Six M16s opened fire and cut them down. The last man in the patrol fired a short burst from

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an M2 carbine and hit Sergeant Potter in the shoulder before being killed. Potter was carried to the exfiltration point about 500 meters from the “ambush” position and the team was pulled out.

Team 5 had noted three platoon units moving to the east. It is assumed that they may have split onto parallel trails and a company-sized unit had joined for bivouac since they were not going to move further east into open country during daylight. The end result of these two missions was that VC casualties were 12 confirmed KIA by LRRP rifle fire and an estimated 20 to 50 probably killed or wounded from air and artillery in return for Sergeant Potter being wounded.



Team 5. Evans, Miller, Cordero, Dapello, Schoonover and VanDivers (Roger Brown photograph)

Roger Brown's memories of operation CANARY/DUC in December 1966. (36 years ago so it might not be entirely correct as he puts it). Roger spent 20 years in the Rangers to include tours with 173rd LRRP, L Rangers and N Rangers. He retired as a Major and is currently Unit Director for 1st Bn/75 Ranger Regiment.

Team 7's initial mission was to walk a B-52 strike and take pictures of the strike. TML Brown and his ATL Chris Christensen watched the B-52 strike from a Huey at 5,000 ft. altitude and 5 kilos away while the B-52 jet-tisoned it's load. (What a great sight!) The strike barely ended when our chopper immediately lost altitude and crashed into an open area in Bear Cat. We all walked away uninjured. Brown contacted Captain Phillips, got another chopper, picked up the remainder of Team 7 and sat down on the first crater. We walked the entire length of the strike. (No contact with the bad guys was made.)

When we board the 2nd chopper, Chris gave me one of those 'deer in the headlight' looks and said something under his breath like (thanks a lot dude, I rotated to Vietnam with the brigade, been here for 18 months and will be returning to the world of round door knobs and round eyed women in a couple of weeks, we just faced death and you couldn't wait to flag down

another chopper!) Chris, Danger is no stranger to an Airborne Ranger!

At the end of December 1966 or first part of January 1967, Ranger Collins was killed. Christensen escorted his body back to the USA. Both had enlisted together, attended basic, AIT, and airborne school and assigned to 173rd in Okinawa together.

Picture of Team 7 reconning B-52 strike (from front to rear: Brown TML, Raperto RTO, Right rear sp/4 Evans Chris Christensen (Turtle) left rear Ronald Davenport.



(Roger Brown photograph)

Closure

A seven man Hawk team from 74th Infantry (LRRP was inserted at dusk into the An Do Valley on 18 November, 1968. The mission was to intercept and ambush a Viet Cong recruiting team which was expected to arrive at a village on the An Do River. The team was inserted into the wrong LZ and the village lay across several kilometers of open rice paddies. The team leader, Eddie Martinez (Marty) decided to use the night to move across the rice paddies to a small hill outside the target village. He conferred with the team members on this method of approach and there were no dissenters.

The team moved out about half way through the night. We had a string of mountains to our left and our course brought us close to a finger projecting from these mountains. We must have attracted something's attention since a pig started squealing from a tree line. I remember thinking that muzzle flashes were going to light us up at any moment. This didn't happen and we arrived at the hill just before dawn.

There was a hedgerow at the base of the hill and the team moved through this into a small clearing where we stopped to take a break. Just minutes later, two

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Vietnamese walked through the hedgerow talking to us. Someone on the teak shouted "Dung Li!" The pair attempted to retreat through the hedgerow. As they ran, they were followed by tracers from several of our weapons. Both lay dead just beyond the hedge. The ATL, Cameron McCallister, took one man to check the bodies but they never made it to them. As he cleared the hedgerow, he saw numerous heads pop up from behind the paddy dikes. The race was on!

It is only speculation on my part but I believe that the dinks that walked in on us thought we were V.C. cadre. The low light conditions didn't allow those in the paddy to identify who walked out. This created enough confusion to allow us to didi mau. I attempted to contact the TOC to appraise them of our situation. Much to my chagrin, I discovered that we had no commo in the valley. We moved to the top of the hill and were able to communicate with the TOC. The hill we were on was lightly foliated and was surrounded on two sides by rice paddies, on one side by the village and on the fourth by a lake. There was no place to go. Marty told me to call for extraction. I still can't believe what happened to this day. The team was instructed to continue the mission. The mission was hopelessly compromised and we had no practical route to exfiltrate the area, certainly not in daylight. Marty decided to move off the top of the hill and move slightly downward toward the lake. There we set up and waited.

The plan was to wait until nightfall and attempt to E&E at that point. I believe that the gooks did us a favor by coming after us since I don't believe any of us would have survived the move at night particularly since we wouldn't have had commo once we made it to the valley floor. A violent firefight erupted when the VC located our position. Three of us were immediately wounded and Ray Reeves was dead.

I cannot help but think that the VC commander on the scene must have been pretty confused. My guess is that after the initial contact, he probably put some distance between us and hunkered down for the expected US artillery/helicopter onslaught, which never came. After some time he probably thought that we were unable to communicate with the rear for support.

Once the choppers did show up for extraction, they were met by heavy fire and had to withdraw. A heavy machinegun was firing at them from the area of the village. After gunships had silenced that position, a dust-off was able to extract Russ Weyl whose wounds were life threatening. After some more pounding by various aircraft, the team was extracted bringing Ray Reeves out with us.

I don't know who made the decision not to extract

us and I don't know the reason for the refusal. There is a strong possibility that we had managed to cack up our coordinates. When I reported we were hit and needed immediate dust-off and gunships, I didn't give our coordinates since I was under the impression that the TOC knew where we were. In any event, dust-off came right to our position without further direction. I remember that there was a rash of extraction refusals in November of 1968. I now look upon the whole thing as an example of the fog of war and how difficult it is to make decisions in that environment.

Fast forward to late 1999. I located Ray Reeves' mother from an obituary that I found in a St. Paul, Minnesota newspaper. When I first contacted her, it was obvious that she did not want to talk to me. I followed up with a letter in which I told her that if any family members wanted to talk to me, I was available. I then received a letter from Ray Reeves' sister, Cindy Pangburn. Cindy informed me that she was only eight when Ray was killed and that her mother put away Ray's pictures and letters away after the funeral and would hardly speak of him thereafter. Cindy attended the 2000 Reunion of the 75th RRA in Savannah, Georgia. She got to meet several of Ray's companions include two who were with Ray in the end, Russ Weyl and myself. I got to see Tommy Ekhooff again at the Reunion in Columbus, GA this last July. Tom told me of a ceremony that was going to take place at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August. Ten monuments to airborne units would be dedicated in a circle near the center of the cemetery. Two of these units are the 173rd and the 75th Rangers. He informed me that he is trying to get Ray's casket flag for the ceremony. Two weeks after the reunion, Tom informed me that Ray's mother is not only willing to provide the flag but that she would like to participate in the ceremony. One thing led to another and we were able to obtain a Gold Start Mother's package from Sandy Rouse and Ron Edward to present to Ray's mother, Colleen Brizius. It was time to book a flight from Philadelphia to Minneapolis.

Upon arrival in the Twin Cities, Tommy picked me up and took me to his hose where I was to spend the weekend with Tom and his wife, Robbi. Within an hour, Cindy showed up with her husband Gary, son Riley and mother Colleen. Colleen told me that not a day goes by that she doesn't think of Ray. We went out to his grave where she asked me if her son had suffered. I told her the truth that it was clean, it was instant and he did not suffer. She took comfort in that fact.

The ceremony was conducted the next day by the Mid-West All Airborne Alliance. This is one great

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bunch of paratroopers from all eras. Ray's family was represented by his mother, sister, nephew, brother-in-law, aunts and cousins. Our Company was represented by Tom, Reed Welke (who was on the radio in the TOC that day) and myself. I was honored to present Colleen with her Gold Star Mother Certificate. I wish Russ Weyl, Rich Dudley and Marty Martinez could have been there with me. As they played Taps and fired the 21 Gun Salute, Colleen cried, Cindy cried and yes, I cried. Through the tears, I think there was finally closure.

If you read this Marty, the family is aware that you purchased Ray's brick in the Ranger Memorial Walk at Ft. Benning. Colleen would love to talk to you.

I hope that other of you who were present when one of our brothers was K.I.A. will attempt to contact their family. If anyone who was with McCallister decides to do it, I would be honored to participate in your efforts. I know that our contact did Colleen and Cindy some good and I believe that there are other families out there who could benefit too. Time is running short. Many of our parents are already gone. Do it now, you won't regret it.

R.L.T.W.

Dave Gowen

The below is Treck's after action report and photo taken at the ceremony.

On Saturday August 17, 2002, the Midwest All Airborne Alliance successfully hosted the dedication ceremony of the first ten Airborne monuments placed in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN. The ceremony began at 1000 hrs with the Colors being posted. In addition to the usual flags, there were four Eagle Feather Staffs posted as well. A rifle, helmet, and boots were placed to the left, and a piece of stone from Corregidor, Phillipines, "The Rock", was placed to the right. A flag representing each unit stone was placed in a row behind the podium. These flags, along with the eleven 4'

x 6' American Flags flown on the 20' flagpoles at each stone made for quite a display. An additional forty more unit flags were posted on display to the rear of the seating area, which, along with another dozen American Flags at the adjacent circles, created a beautiful sight. The brisk winds held the flags stiffly at attention throughout the entire day. The National Anthem was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Gold Star family members. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Patrick Morgan. LTC John Goetze gave a very uplifting Airborne speech. Hal Roed formally presented the monuments to the Cemetery Director. Bob McCollum accepted, on behalf of the Veteran's Affairs Department of the United States of America, and closed his speech with a "Hooah." The stones were shrouded in parachute material until, one by one they were unveiled by members of the committee who had served in each unit. Volunteers from the Ft. Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad stood at Parade Rest for the entire ceremony. They came to attention and fired three crisp volleys. Jerry Carlson played Taps. On behalf of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, the committee allowed Tom Eckhoff to make a presentation to two Gold Star Mothers of men killed in Ranger Units during the Viet Nam War. Steve Johnson, of Golf Company, and Dave Gowen, of November Company, presented a Gold Star Life Membership in the 75th Ranger Regiment



Back row: Bruce Mohn, (H/75, D/75), Steve Johnson, G/75, Cindy Prangburn (Ray Reeves Sister) Reed Welke (74th LRP-N/75). Tom Eckhoff N/75, Dave Gowen on the end. Front row: Cindy's son Riley, Mrs Marlys Pruden (Mother of Robert Pruden, MOH, G/75) and Mrs Colleen Brizius, (Mother of Ray Reeves) Hooah,

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Association to a Mother who lost her son. Mrs. Marlys Pruden, mother of Robert Pruden, and Mrs. Collen Brizius, mother of Raymond Reeves, both graciously accepted. Chaplain Patrick Morgan gave the Benediction, and people gathered around to get a close look at the stones and the plaques. Trudell Guerue invited everyone to lunch at American Legion Post # 550, of Bloomington, MN, where we held raffles and an auction of interesting artifacts, which raised more money for the monument fund. This first group represents the 101st Airborne Division, the 82nd Airborne Division,

the 17th Airborne Division, the 11th Airborne Division, the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep), the 187th Parachute Regimental Combat Team, the Korean War Rangers, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the U. S. Army Special Forces, and is all in place. Cemetery Director, Bob McCollum, referred to the location as "the Airborne Circle". Those of us on the committee, thought "Drop Zone Alliance" had a nice ring to it. This is only the beginning, our first assault, this mission is most definitely a "GO", and the mission continues



O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Bailey Stauffer



Well guys it seems like yesterday that I just wrote an article for Patrolling but it is time again. I have my winter pasture planted and watered. Now I need a little rain to help with the irrigation pump costs. We will be shipping yearling calves right after Veterans Day. We will gather and move them to the upper pasture the weekend before. My son Bart and his girlfriend from Las Vegas will be coming down then. Eileen and I just got back from Las Vegas Oct. 21 Enough about me and Eileen.

The great water buffalo Rodeo of Ben Hoi. One morning in Ben Hoi, Don Crowe and I were detailed to water the water buffalo 1sgt Butts had staked out in the Company area. This was very insulting as it cut down on our beer drinking time. That afternoon after a couple of cold ones I made a loose rope out of parachute cord and we proceeded to ride them. After wrapping the cord around her brisket I climbed aboard. The poor old beast just turned around and looked at me with cow eyes (literally). I went to kicking and hollering, my flip flops didn't do much good. About this time 1sgt Butts came out to investigate. He was not amused to say the least. Sgt. Fant had gone to town and appropriated them to keep the grass down in the Co. area. The next morning Don and I were detailed to cut the grass

with hand scythes. That cut down even more on our beer drinking. That night Don and I went next door to the legs at the hundred and worst and borrowed without meaning to return a gas operated lawn mower. Early the next morning while 1sgt. Butts was recovering from vodka and root beer Don and I started the lawn mower outside



his hooch. This endeared the two of us to Butts for a long time.

DAREN LEE KOENIG

Born May 26, 1948 Daren Koenig joined the Army in Hannibal Mo. He arrived at F Co. 51st Inf October 20, 1968 and was assigned to the Commo Plt. On Feb 1 1969 he was assigned to Co. O 75th Rangers. On April 5th 1969 he



DARREN LEE KOENIG

was inserted by river boat in Binh Duong Province. Daren wanted a Combat Infantry Badge so he volunteered to go on a mission with Jerry Beck, Herbert Tortice, Smitty and myself. On April 6th Jerry said "You want a C.I.B. come on lets earn one." The two of them went out on a two man Recon. Shots were fired and Jerry fell dead. Herbert jumped back in the wood line as a round went between his knife sheath and his leg. Daren was hit in the chest. I ran foreword and pulled him out of the rice paddy into the wood line I treated him for a sucking chest wound until we could get a medivac on station. Daren died in the Hospital. They found one of the rounds had knicked his heart. Daren earned his Combat Infantry Badge April 6 1969.

AIRBORNE BAILEY RVN ALASKA



P/75 - 79TH LRP
Unit Director - Bill Davis



I wanted to take a moment and to thank Terry Bishop for the following article. He is a humble man and it took a bit to cajole him into sharing this account of the mission. I came to Papa Company less than a month after this encounter and it was still the talk of the Company. After all these years, it is still a testament to what a small band of dedicated warriors can accomplish. Enough of me, on to the account of the mission,

Bill Davis
UD Papa Company

November 15, 1969
by
Terry Bishop
Team 1-1
Papa Company
75th Infantry (Ranger)



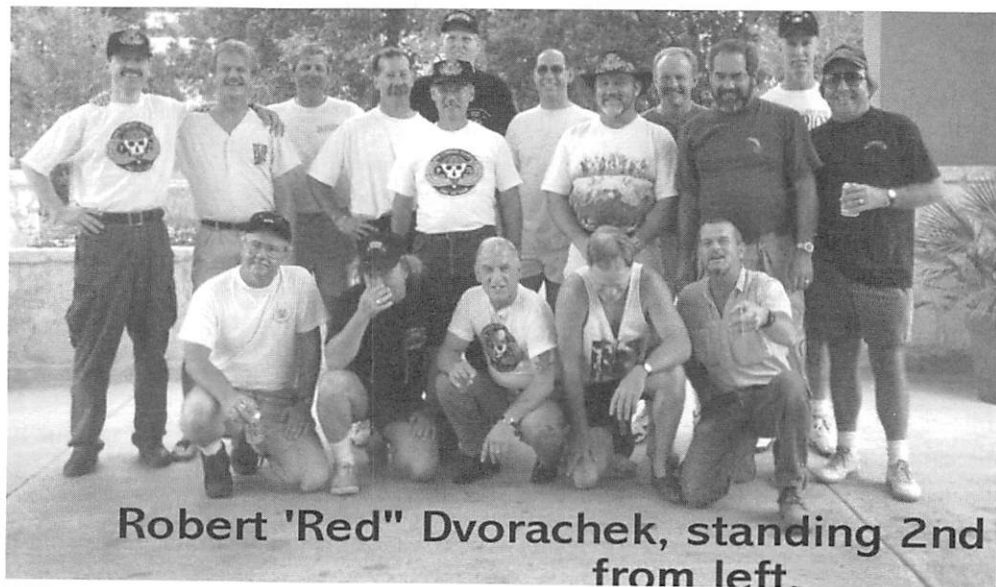
I have been asked by Terry Roderick and Bill Davis to recount an ambush that Papa Company Team 1-1 initiated on November 15, 1969. It has been 33 years since that night so there are many details I cannot recall. The team consisted of Rodney Mills ATL, Lawrence Taylor, RTO, Clarence "Pat" Patterson, M79, Kearney Spencer, Larry Hardester, and myself, Terry Bishop, TL. We had been going out on missions since late summer without making contact. It was then that most of us came in country. The exceptions were Mills and Patterson. Mills had come to the company from F/51st LRP (ABN), when it was formed as a Ranger unit earlier that year. "Pat" was a short-timer having served 11 months in country. The beginning of his tour was with 5th Mech., then volunteering for Papa Company when it was activated in Quang Tri. The rest of us were green. I remember a comment that

Hardester made the day of the ambush that summed up our experience as a team. He said he didn't believe that there were any "gooks" in Viet Nam. All of that changed that night.

We were inserted by helicopter northwest of the firebase at Alpha 4 into the DMZ. The team moved, from the insertion point in a rice paddy, several hundred yards into the brush. That part of the DMZ was made up of old rice paddies and rolling terrain covered with thick brush. It was easy to find cover. After spending the night in the brush we set out the next morning and soon crossed an active trail. The brush was thick around

the trail so we set up right there on the lower side with the rice paddy at our backs. Four of us carried two claymores apiece all of which I placed on the trail. We were close to the trail so the kill zone was pretty long. We had never blown an ambush before but had played around with claymores at the Camp Red Devil firing range in Quang Tri. I found that they could be placed back to back and blown simultaneously by wrapping the clickers together with rubber bands. It worked at the range and I found out that night that it was devastating in an ambush. The claymores were set a few feet off of the trail pointing up and down the path. I kept the clickers with me in the setup area. We used electronic intrusion

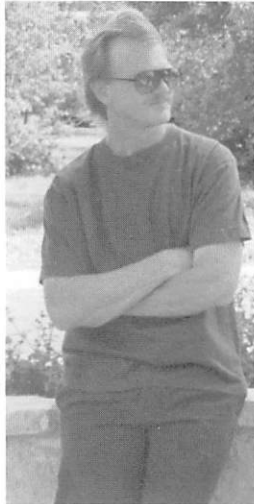
detectors on the trail to give early warning of anyone coming into the kill zone.



Robert "Red" Dvorachek, standing 2nd from left.

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

Sometime after we began rotating watch while everyone else slept, the watch woke me because the beepers were going off. It was 2200. When I awoke



Mills, he said something to the effect of "get ready". I heard someone running down the trail and in a moment they were gone. I hesitated and missed the chance to blow the claymores. I was the rookie and froze. I don't remember but I'm sure Mills gave me grief over it. I settled back thinking I had missed the opportunity, only to be awakened a short time later by Mills. He heard the beepers again and told me not to hesitate this time. In a minute or two we heard what sounded like

a forced march on the trail. I waited until I was sure the kill zone was full and heard Mills say blow it now. I had both palms of my hands on the eight clickers and blew them simultaneously. It sounded like the world had come to an end. Immediately there was screaming from the trail. We didn't know what to expect. Had we missed a bunch of them that would soon be attacking us? Had we wounded them and would they be firing on us soon? I can remember calling the relay at Alpha 4 to tell them we were in contact. Calling is a mild way of expressing what must have come across that radio. I soon realized we were not taking any fire but there was still moaning and screaming from the kill zone. We did not fire our rifles but did throw grenades at the sounds. I expected to begin taking fire but none came.

I don't remember anything more until we got a call from a Spooky gunship. He must have been in the area because he was on station before the cobras got there. It took at least 30 minutes to fly from Red Devil to the DMZ. Captain Hall, our CO, must have contacted someone to get help to us until he could get there. I can remember talking to the guy on the gunship and he said something to the effect that he was going to take care of us. I had the radio and directed his fire. We marked the kill zone, which was only a few yards away, with ground flares, and I gave him our location. He began firing his mini-guns and the sky lit up with tracers. The hum of the guns could be heard and the rounds began hitting the ground. I could hear them coming closer to us, and thought we were about to be hit. I can remember waiting to be hit by the rounds. I called for the gunship to cease fire, which he did but there were seemingly hundreds of rounds still on the way. I think the guy

in the gunship was as frightened that he had hit us, and was as convinced as I was, that we were about to be hit. Anyway, the gunship didn't resume firing. By that time, Captain Hall was there with the Cobras and Slicks. We probably worked the Cobras but I can't remember.

The noise on the trail had stopped and Mills wanted to make a sweep. Spencer, 'Pat', and Mills went out on the trail and popped flares. (On a lighter note: While sweeping the trail and setting off the flares, Mills somehow set one off while it was still in his pocket. The grief he took from that was much worse than the minor burn on his leg.) They were out there for only a few minutes before the slick came in for us. We piled onto the birds and were gone in moments. They had counted the bodies and retrieved most of the rifles. When we landed at the company area and got out of the huey I saw Spencer with several AK's slung over his shoulders. It was at that moment that I realized how many we had killed. Mills counted 15 bodies on the trail.

The next morning we went out heavy with Sergeant Dowd's team 1-6. The dead were still on the trail lined from one end of the kill zone to the other. There were 140 mm rockets and at least one RPG lying beside the bodies. They were carrying the rockets South toward Quang Tri. The group was later identified as NVA Regulars.

Our ambush was good, but what if I had blown it on those two guys that ran down the trail ahead of the main unit?

Kevin 'Rocky' Mayer

10 October 2002

Rangers,

Our Brother Kevin Rocky Mayer who has been battling cancer has been done in by Pneumonia that settled in both lungs; Kevin's system was too weak to fight it off.

All who knew him, along with his wife Grace and their family, loved Rocky.

I met Rocky at the very first 75th RRA reunion in 1988 at Ft. Benning, then again at Ft. Carson, CO. and the big one at Ft. Lewis, WA. He loved being a member of P/75 Rangers in Vietnam were his extended family.

In Ranger Brotherhood & Love,
Duke & Marion DuShane

The men of Papa Company would like to acknowledge Ranger Tom Eckhoff, (N/75) and Ranger Bruce Mohn, (H/75) for honoring Rocky when we were unable, showing the true spirit of Ranger Brotherhood

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and Love. I want to share the following e-mail from Tom.

14 October 2002

Duke,.....Ranger Bruce Mohn, (H/75) and I attended the wake yesterday. We got there early and set up the American Flag at the head of the casket, and the Ranger Regt Association Flag at the foot. We placed the rifle, boots, and beret off to the left, coincidentally in front of the floral arrangement from you, "In Ranger Brotherhood". We took turns standing guard to the left, by the rifle. We would come to attention, salute, exchange places...the one relieved would step in front of the casket and offer a salute, about face and exit. We did that every ten minutes or so for two and a half hours. The Funeral director got everyone to stand as we retreated the Colors from the room. I stepped back inside and spoke to the gathering. I told them we were Kevin's Ranger Brothers, and we were there to Honor our Fallen Comrade. I said we represented the 75th Ranger Regt. Assn., and that our presence meant All of Kevin's fellow Rangers were indeed there with us. I told them it was an Honor to be there.

This morning we will go back for the Funeral. We will be folding his Flag and presenting it to his wife Grace. I am glad I was able to do this.

I was sure to give warm regards to the family from you and Marian, and from all the men from Papa Company. I am not sure if I will be called on to speak, but if I am, I intend to represent All the Ranger Brotherhood in a positive way. Hooah,
T.

Tribute to 'Rocky'

from

Mitch Brown

Papa Company 1970-1971

As many of you I was apprehensive toward attending my first 75th Ranger Reunion, I believe it was the second reunion, but I decided to go and see what would happen. Would I know anyone or one anyone know me? You can imagine how surprised I was, when before I finished registering at the hotel, I heard my name called. Turning to the left, I could not have been more pleased than to see two great guys, AL Bartz (Skinny Freddie) and Kevin Mayer (Rocky). It was tough when less than two years later, Al took his life, and now we have to suffer the loss of Rocky to cancer and pneumonia.

You know there are just so many people we come in contact with, that we find ourselves thinking about more often than others. For me Rocky was just such a person. I still remember how he laughed and smiled and made many of us feel bet-

ter during a time when laughter was not always easy to come by. Too often we remember the solemn, serious expressions of young men in a deadly business. I remember Rocky well and with both expressions. I refreshed my memory last night, as I looked through my old album with its fading photos from so long ago.

After receiving Dukes call, I reflected on the time I spent with Rocky. I could talk about this mission or that mission and all the sorted details, but those are not the things I want to remember now. The event that comes readily to my mind is much more personal and seems most appropriate. I remember us sitting on the steps of Team 1-9's hooch and talking late one night. Earlier that day we had returned from a rather harrowing mission, and I remember Rocky asking how he did. He was concerned (as I guess most of us were from time to time) if he had done it right; did he have what it took; should he stay or ask for a reassignment. I told him he had done it right and his leaving would be a loss for the team and the unit; I meant every word of it. Rocky was the kind of guy in whom you could place your trust and fell confident your back was always covered. He took his turn at point or drag, and never hesitated to carry the heavy load.

Well Rocky, we never got the chance for another one of those talks. If we had I would have said

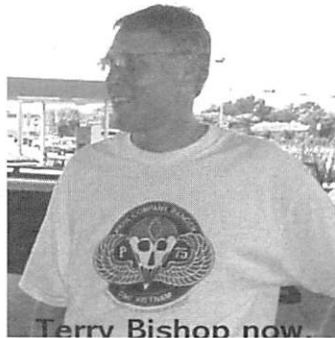
you got it right then and you got it right after. You demonstrated that when you picked Ms Grace for the mother of your children and you applied yourself to being a good father. You always had what it took and you kept on trying to the end. Team 1-9 has still suffered a great loss and so has everyone you befriended since the time we met so long ago



P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)



Killer 1-1 receiving their Bronze Stars for Valor for the mission.
From L-R Lawrence Taylor
Larry Hardester Terry Bishop
Clarence 'Pat' Patterson Rodney
Mills (KIA 5 May 1970)
Kearney Spencer



Terry Bishop now.

Robert C. 'Red' Dvorachek

Sometimes the response from the Company Newsletter is somber:

"11-7-02

It is with sadness and regret that I am writing to inform you of my husband's death. Robert C. Dvorachek died July 21, 2002 after a fall from our garage roof.

We are missing him greatly and will love him forever.

Sincerely,

Philomene Dvorachek, along with our six children"



D/151 LRP/RANGER Unit Director - Tom Blandford



Welcome Home Task Force 151

The soldiers that deployed with the 151st to Bosnia were welcomed home October 27th. Co. D 151 Rangers participated in the event by handing out Indiana service medals to the soldiers at a ceremony in Indianapolis. Those of us that attended are pictured by the Viet Nam Memorial across from Tyndall Hall, (that's where we had our welcome home ceremony in Nov 69).

Prayer for our soldiers.

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our

Lord and Savior. Amen."

The D 151 Ranger reunion will be August 15-16-17, 2003 at Atterbury. Put it on your schedule now. Call your old buddies and tell them to attend too.



Upcoming Events

There is an association meeting in January at Camp Atterbury to plan next year's reunion. Be there Jan 19 at 1:00.

Gravesite ceremony for Charles Larkins will probably be Feb 9, 2003, call me or Pappy Hayes prior to 2/9 for the time. The ceremony for Robert Smith will probably be Apr 13, 2003. It seems more convenient to have the ceremonies on the Sunday closest to the actual KIA date so more can attend.

It is with regret to inform everyone with the news of the passing of Jim Hunt. He was the Warrant Officer in charge of supply. May his soul rest in peace.

Tom Blandford, Ranger team 3-1, out.

D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

**Hold That Huey!**

BY: Mark Eastman

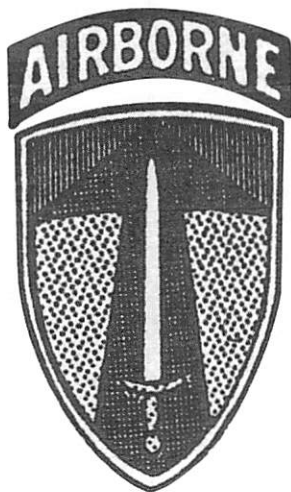
The hour grows late and nobody from F 51 has submitted anything to Patrolling. Mr.



Chester is mildly agitated because he really hates it when there is nothing in the individual Unit

columns. He said he is holding the chopper on the LZ but it is getting frantic out there. So I am trying to fill the void with some thoughts. Besides we as the Grand Daddy of

the Vietnam Rangers have certain responsibilities to uphold as role models. Perhaps this would be a



good opportunity to bargain for a more appropriate spot in the line of march in Patrolling Magazine.

Chronologically we should be placed ahead of the 75th ranger units. Only small problem with that might be it is their magazine. Maybe a short historical perspective on F 51 would be good. That might seem self serving and pompous, but do other units read the unit reports anyway?

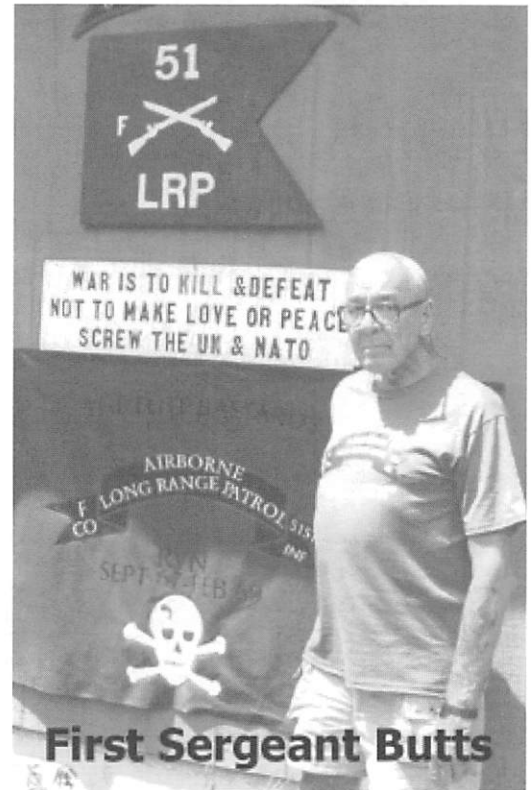
*We really do owe the 75th Association a debt of gratitude. Back in the late 1980s I had never heard from any of the LRP's I served with in the war. I knew one 75th Ranger **John (Blood on the Risers) Leppleman** of Charlie 75th. He was involved with the 75th Association and encouraged me to join. I never got around to it. Then one day a letter arrived at

F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

my house from the VFW. I had been a member of that organization but my membership had long since lapsed. When I opened it, I found a handwritten letter from **Gary (4/4: A LRP's Narrative)** Ford my former team leader in the last days of Cu Chi. We got into contact and I told him about the 75th. He joined met up with **Speedy Gonzales** of F 51 and later of O Company. We planned to get together at the 75th gathering in Colorado Springs. About 10 of us including First **Sgt. Butts** made it to that event. That was the foundation of our Company Association. Now we have 209 members on the mailing list for our Company newspaper The Sitrep. We publish 3 times a year. The Unit association is over ten years old, pretty good considering the Company existed for only 18 months. We pay dues and have reunions scheduled on the off

years of the 75th. Our next one will be October 6 to 11th 2003 in Tampa Bay Florida. The coordinator is **John "Pappy" Burke**. He can be contacted for more information at 11305 N 51st St Apt 62, Tampa FL 33617 or call him at 813-914-0781. When I was at the Columbus Reunion this summer I tried to find out if any other units have their own newsletter. I was told the 101st might. I sort of butted into a conversation between some large camo clad 101 guys at past midnight in the lobby of the Holiday Inn. I tried to establish a line of communication. They were talking PAC 10 football and I am a Washington State U Cougar. One of them was a Oregon State U Beaver and the other an University of Oregon Duck. I was not welcomed like a long lost brother. The six and a half footer said his kid plays

for the Beavers but I did not get his name. This is rivalry weekend in the PAC 10 and I just want to say to him "Who's laughing now"?



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Roger Brown



BY: Roger Brown

RANGERS IT'S ANOTHER GREAT DAY TO EXCELL FOR AMERICA, THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND THE INFANTRY.

First of all let me thank all of you Rangers from the First Battalion for the job that you are doing. I am not the type of person to say that I have been there and done that, all I know is that all of the older Rangers that served in your place several years ago are behind you 110% and then some. We respect you and we know that you are carrying the torch that we lit and kept it lit for the time that we spent in the Battalion. There will be some rough times ahead but you Rangers can take any mission that comes your way.

When I returned from my second tour in Vietnam in 1968, My Ranger buddy of 35 years, (wife Linda) and I were paid a whopping \$300.00 a month as an E-6. We were just starting a family and no one took care of

us. It does not have to be that way now. When Linda and I were in the First Battalion we always made sure that our Ranger's children were taken care of, especially for XMAS. Linda and I will donate money to the 75thrra Xmas fund so it can be contributed down to the Battalions. All of us old Rangers are wealthier and wiser now and I encourage the rest of you to help our lower ranking Rangers families out. Thanks from our hearts Linda and Roger.

Heard from

C. Co. Donald Shuster. Wrote that he is a professor of Political Science in the state of Minnesota. Don was in the Wpns. Plt. 90MM section. I sure felt sorry for those Rangers humping those 90mm's, especially on road marches. We used to trade those suckers off back and forth, so nobody would loose their pride and drop out. I won't even mention going through the woods wrestling with them and the wait a minute vines.

Al Newman Wrote that he wants to know the

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

whereabouts of CSM ret. Cobb. Al I saw him in July of this year when he was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Autrail Cobb is one of the finest soldiers that ever put on a pair of combat boots.

B Co. Ranger . Ranger Larry Lott. Wrote that he is in extremely great health (still cannot whip his old Plt. Ldr.) and that Ranger Bill Wingate stayed in the army and retired as Command Sergeant Major in the Screaming Eagles. George Taunton, is now Sergeant in the Florida Hiway Patrol. Damn when do you Rangers quit becoming so successful? You are and always will light years ahead of your peers.

I visited the Ranger Training Brigade last week, had lunch in the dining facility, for all of you old Rangers (mess hall). Got a chance to talk with some old timers, (Sergeant Major Ret.) Edmonds originally from Battle Co., now works in the Bde. S-3 as a civil-

ian. Command Sergeant Major Bobby Lane, The Ranger Training Brigade Sergeant Major, grew up in B Co., later on was a First Sergeant in 3rd Bat. I don't know if I would want to go to Ranger School under his watch, he is one tough Sergeant Major, as tough as they make 'em.

(WELCOME HOME RANGERS)

Russ Bryant, Brian Churhill, Robert Hilliday, Christ Hoy, Charles Law, Gene Peters, Don Shuster, First Sergeant Bonifacio Romo, Jayson Stamper. (ALL OF YOU ARE MY HEROES)

Rangers, take care and let me know if you need anything except money. If you want to contribute to an article let me know, you are important and we take care of our own. (RANGERS LEAD THE WAY FIRST BATTALION TAKES THE POINT)



1ST BATTALION RANGER REUNION AT THE BELLAGIO HOTEL IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
JANUARY 17-19, 2003 (3-DAY Martin Luther King HOLIDAY WEEKEND).

OPEN TO ANYONE WHO SERVED IN THE 75TH REGIMENT (or its predecessors)

Point of Contact JEFFREY LUTZ AT JEFFREYPLUTZ@EXCITE.COM OR
ENRIQUE HAZEL BY EMAIL AT HAZELNUT175@YAHOO.COM
OR PHONE AT (512) 388-6567 or 576-6211
FOR RESERVATIONS AND DETAILED EVENT SCHEDULE.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Rich Hecht



We are in the holiday season and again are asking for your contribution to the Ranger family fund. 100% of the money that is collected goes directly to the Battalions to be used only to support the families of Rangers in need.

What began as an effort to help out during the holidays, has evolved into a fund that can be used to help through out the year. Remember that this year there are several Ranger families that will be celebrating the holidays without their dad/husband. Please give what you can. Send your donation to 75th RRA PO Box 921 Heflin, AL. 36264. While you're writing a check, make sure your membership is current and if not, send along a check for that too! Below is an article from a new member, Ranger Christopher Braman. It is truly a great example of what being a Ranger is all about and that you never know where your next battle will be. Have a great and safe Holiday season,
RLTW,
Rich Hecht

Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Braman

United States Army
92G3S (Special Operations)

I was born and raised in Mission Viejo, California. I graduated from Silverado High School in 1987. I have been serving in the United States Army for nearly twelve years since 1990. While in the Army, I have attended several courses at Central Texas College towards a degree in Hotel/Motel Management and Nutrition. My military education includes Basic Training, AIT, Airborne school, Ranger indoctrine program, OPFOR Academy (Russian Warfare), PLDC, Basic Non-Commission Officer Course, Master Fitness course, JiuJitsu course (Gracie JiuJitsu Association) with the Ranger battalion, Bondo Instructor (American Bondo Association), PPCT (Pressure Point Control Tactics) instructor, Jerry Barnhart's School of Shooting, squad leader course, lifeguard, Zodiac repair technician/boat operator, Advanced Culinary school, Combat Lifesaver course (phlebotomy course), Field Sanitation, Swim Scout training,, and (FT Irwin CA) ,Foreign Weaponry course.

Places of Duty:

Berlin, Germany - (Deployments) Iraq, Turkey, and Yugoslavia.

Fort Irwin, California - Assigned as a Russian OPFOR

Field award: Philip A. Connelly Culinary Award for Field Team

Fort Lewis, Washington - 2nd 75th Ranger Battalion

Assigned to RDF/Squad Leader

Duties: Company Combatus Trainer, lifeguard, boat operator, shooting instructor, special skills team, combat search and rescue, (CSAR)

Pentagon, Washington D.C. - Assigned to the Secretary of the Army

General Officer Mess

Duties: Cook, purchasing agent, trainer

Military Awards:

Soldier's Medal

Purple Heart Medal

Army Commendation Medals (2)

Army Achievement Medals (5)

Good Conduct Medals (3)

Army Occupation Medal National Defense Medal

Joint Expeditionary Medal

Kuwait Medal Southwest Asia Medal w/Bronze Star Campaign

Humanitarian Medal Overseas Ribbon (2) AFM (2)

United Nations Medal NATO Medal

Army Service Ribbon

Army Superior Unit Award

Joint Meteorious Unit Award

Presidential Unit Citation Award

Badges: Parachutist, Expert Shooting Rifle badge, Driver's badge, and Grenade badge. Olympic Torch

I was nominated to carry the Olympic Torch by the Olympic Torch Relay Committee from Utah after seeing me on the Oprah Winfrey Show during Thanksgiving week. The segment was based on people thanking their heroes on national TV for their heroics pertaining to 9/11 and others as well. Mrs. Sheila Moody surprised me at the show and thanked me for saving her and being her guardian angel. After the show aired, I was called by the Olympic Torch Relay Committee, and I was informed that I was nominated to be a torchbearer for my heroics on 9/11. Two weeks later, they called to tell me that I had been selected to run the torch at a special ceremony at the Pentagon on December 21, 2001. On December 21, 2001, before running the torch, I raised the torch high and I lowered my head in honor of our fallen Americans. It was a

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

very teary moment for me. I found myself overwhelmed with feeling as I ran the torch through the American flags with great honor. On December 22, 2001, the torchbearers and their families were invited to meet with President Bush at the White House where the flame was brought to the President. The President lit the cauldron and passed the torch to the torchbearer leaving the White House garden on its journey to Utah. SSG Christopher D. Braman

September 11, 2001 Rescue

On September 11, 2001, I (SSG Christopher Braman) was on the phone with my wife who had called to tell me that two planes had just crashed through the Twin Towers in New York. I told her not to worry and that I was fine. I said I love you and I hung up the phone. At that moment, the building shook and smoke filled the hallways with panicking people. I immediately went across to the other office and yelled for everyone to get out. I went into the kitchen area and turned off the stoves. The doors were then secured and locked.

I came out the emergency exit on the side of the impact. At that moment, a DPS guard came stumbling up with a woman and a baby. I grabbed the baby from her and we walked about fifty more feet where I laid down the woman and the baby. I noticed that the back of the baby's hair was shortened and singed. The baby and the woman were covered in ash and appeared to be in shock. The woman did not speak and the baby was playful, but silent. At that time, the guard yelled to me to get the EMS. I ran towards the point of impact, where I noticed an ambulance pulling up. I yelled to them "I need to get an EMS and that there was a woman and a baby that needed help". As I ran closer, a DPS officer with a stretcher was carrying a woman that was burnt from the back of her head to her knees (bright pink in color). I was helping to place her down. As I pulled my hand away from her back, the burnt skin had pulled away from her back. The EMS told me that more help was on the way. I noticed that fire engine #61 was putting out the fire from the aviation fire engine where two men were being pulled out. At that point, I ran between the burning fire engine and the two burning vehicles on the right. As I looked up for a moment, I saw images of motionless people in the windows. I immediately said a prayer "Dear Lord, please give us the strength for what we are about to do". At that point, I met a man (Colonel Ted Anderson) at the point of impact in the fire and smoke-filled area. He and I grabbed a woman that was sitting down clapping and choking because she could not speak (found later to be Ms. Sheila Moody). As we rushed her to safety, I noticed blood from her nose and her mouth. She was covered with ash and appeared to be badly burned. We

continued to shuttle victims back and forth to safety. Colonel Anderson told me to get a body board from fire engine #61, and when I returned, a civilian (Terry Morrin) was standing next to him. Together, we continued around the side trying to find another way in because the entrance area that we had been going through had collapsed. People were watching and panicking.

At that point, someone from the crowd yelled out, "another plane is inbound and to get the hell out of there". We noticed a DPS officer on our left side coming out with a man who had his left eyeball hanging out of its socket. We continued to try to get back into the building to help our fallen comrades. A general ran up to us and told us that we were not allowed to go back in and that we were told to evacuate the area because there was an incoming plane. As we were forced across south parking towards the tunnel that leads underneath the freeway to Crystal City, we noticed a group of men with stretchers that were being forced to leave the area. I (SSG Christopher Braman) yelled to the men for them to stay together, regroup around the other side, and to get back to us as fast as they could. Colonel Anderson, Terry Morrin, and I (SSG Christopher Braman) ignored the plea to get back to safety and we continued to push forward towards the area of impact. Page Two

At that time, the Sergeant Major of the Army (Tilley) instructed me (SSG Christopher Braman) to throw him behind the parking cement barrier if another plane were to come in. Colonel Anderson and I noticed a medical triage being set up where the two firemen from the aviation fire engine were being cared for. We noticed an FBI agent standing there and Colonel Anderson told him that we needed to keep going back in. FBI agent White said that he would take the "butt chewing" and for us to go back in. As Colonel Anderson, Terry Morrin, and I (SSG Christopher Braman) started running back towards the impact area, we were instructed to move 500 meters back because of the plane that was in route. We sat on the 110 freeway watching the building burn from the point of impact to the other side of the aviation tower. Colonel Anderson instructed Terry and I to stand fast and to figure out a plan of action. At this time, more medical help had arrived including medical doctors, nurses, and anyone willing to help. With the changing of new chiefs of the FBI and FEMA, we had organized in teams five different times due to the chaos. When a plan of action had come about, it was already nightfall. Colonel Anderson obtained a fireman's face mask and had gone back in with a fireman. When he came back, he informed me about the victims' bodies and the ankle-deep water everywhere. At that time, we were informed that the 3rd Infantry would come to relieve us

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

and for us to go home. It was approximately 10:30 p.m. when I met a man from FEMA and a Lieutenant Colonel (Lt. Edmundson). They were looking for someone who was in charge of the morgue. I introduced myself to them as SSG Christopher Braman and that I was trained on a ranger combat search and rescue team and that I would stay and help with the morgue recovery. Lt. Col. Edmundson informed me that she was a nurse from the Department of Defense and that she would pronounce the victims deceased. I told her that I would be her NCOIC of the morgue recovery team and she agreed. She gave me a list of items that we would need. She informed me that there would be a meeting at 5:00 a.m. the next morning at the site. I fell asleep on the grass and I woke up with the noise from the water being sprayed on the building. 3D INF Captain Nuerenberg came to talk to me about the morgue recovery team and instructed me that his men would be the ones carrying the bodies out.

Morning came fast and I acquired all the equipment that Lt. Col. Edmundson had asked me to gather from the FBI supply agent i.e. body bags, face masks, flashlights, and body suits for recovery. When I saw Lt. Col. Edmundson, she had just come back from the 5:00 a.m. meeting with FEMA. They were trying to figure out refrigeration for the recovered bodies. I told them that the inspection point area had a refrigeration storage facility and that I would talk to the DPS officer in charge since I personally knew him. I walked down to talk to the officer and explained to him that I was in charge of the morgue recovery team and that we needed refrigeration for the recovered bodies. At that time, he told me that there was a Giant Foods 50-foot refrigeration truck that we could use. When I returned to inform Lt. Col. Edmundson of the Giant Foods truck, she said that it would work, but that we would need a vehicle to transport the bodies to the Giant Foods truck in the inspection area.

At that point, 54th Morgue Army Company showed up without orders to help. I got together with CSM Cuffey (MDW CSM) and he instructed 54th Co. to stay at Ft. Meyers and not to worry. As we began to set up Camp Unity and organize our morgue teams, the FBI instructed us that we would be going in on the far side of the impact area first. As our teams entered the building, Sgt. Major Butts informed us that he would be the last man out of the building each time we carried a body. Page Three

The hallways were flooded with water, slime, and debris up to our ankles. The hallways became smaller and smaller with every turn we made towards the impact area. The areas were no bigger than five feet with water on the floor and no area to carry the stretchers through. In many areas, we had to carry the body

bags through the debris and the smoke-filled room to the men with the stretchers that carried them out of the building. Civilian Eric Jones and I would bag the bodies and tag them for the FBI forensic teams and call for Sgt. Major Butts' men to carry them out. From there, the men would deliver the bodies to the refrigeration truck where the doctor would pronounce them dead and the chaplains would give the victims their last rights. As the next team would come in, we placed Ben-Gay under our noses before we replaced our ventilator masks upon entering again because the combination smell of death and jet fuel fumes were so immense. This went on for three days.

On the third day, Major Pantaleo, (a Marine Corps Major who was inside of the refrigeration truck helping Lt. Col. Edmundson verify the bodies and the tags that I would write in the dark with the use of a flashlight with the FBI forensic team), had noticed a Marine Corps flag hanging on the fourth floor that was unscathed by the fire. We decided to get the Marine Corps flag that represented complete defiance of the terrorist attack against America. Major Pantaleo, civilian Eric Jones, and I talked to the fire chief in charge to see if we were able to retrieve the flag. The fire chief instructed us to use the crane operator to retrieve the Marine Corps flag. We used the crane to retrieve the flag and we walked the Marine Corps flag to return it to the Marine Corps General. While in route, we were stopped by the speaker of the Congressional House, Senator Lott, and a few other senators thanking us for all our efforts with the morgue recovery team and retrieving one of America's symbols. We proceeded to return the flag to the Marine Corps General. The Marine Corps General met us outside of the Marine Corps Annex and we presented him with the Marine colors. He then turned and gave the colors to a man who was anxiously standing and awaiting the flag that was retrieved from his office. Knowing that we returned the Marine flag, it brought great self-esteem to us all. We then turned back to continue our recovery work.

On Friday, September 15, 2001, we were told that the original morgue team was being relieved due to lack of sleep and the amount of stress placed upon us in the past few days. We all looked for a place to burn our clothes due to the amount of human matter and chemicals that were accumulated on them. As we were leaving, we all felt that there was so much more work to be done and we wanted to continue doing our jobs. As I got into my car, I noticed victims' families lingering around the Red Cross tents in hopes to find their family members still alive, but we knew the truth.

Sincerely,
SSG Christopher Braman
Morgue Recovery NCOIC

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, has awarded the Soldier's Medal to:

**STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER D
BRAMAN UNITED STATES ARMY**

FOR HEROISM:

Above and beyond the call of duty on 11 September 2001, after a hijacked airline flight, with over thirty thousand pounds of jet fuel was used by terrorists as a weapon to attack the Pentagon Upon impact there was a thunderous explosion and a horrific fire that killed scores of military and civilian personnel, injured hundreds of others, and left most everyone in a state of shock, Staff Sergeant Braman rushed toward the hole in the building caused by the plane's impact with a fire extinguisher and called out for survivors. He entered the impact area and without regard for his personal safety helped rescue numerous people from the smoke and fire. In one instance, through fire and smoke so thick there was zero visibility, he heard a woman calling for help. Risking death by smoke inhalation, he continued forward and finally found the woman and ensured that she got to safety, the conditions were so terrible that the other woman in the same room that was rescued succumbed to smoke inhalation and burns, as well as thirty-three more of her fellow co-workers. His unyielding devotion to his fellow soldiers and civilians undoubtedly saved lives and showed America's resolve to overcome this act of international terrorism. Staff Sergeant Braman's heroic acts are a testament to his bravery and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army,



SSG Christopher Braman and daughters Lauren, 11 and Courtney, 8 after receiving the Soldier's Medal and Purple Heart. His Citation reads, in part:

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT**

Unit Director - Peter Squeglia

**The Making of a Ranger Battalion**

By: Steven A. Simonetti

I was looking through a recent issue of *Patrolling* (Spring 2002). There was a picture of the present 1st SQD, 1st PLT, C Co, 3/75 attending the Ranger School Graduation of one of their squad brothers. They looked proud for the picture with their newly tabbed squad bud with his patrol cap on. The picture made me proud. Some 18 years earlier I myself had been a member of that same squad and platoon of men. We were part of the original troops of the 3d Ranger Battalion from

1984-1986. There were many men that came and went during that period. For those that possessed the intestinal fortitude to stick it out, and worked to make the Battalion combat ready, you should be proud of your efforts and know that you set the standards for all of the Rangers that followed you into the 3d Ranger Battalion. Now with the 20 year anniversary of the activation of the 3d Battalion and the 75th Ranger Regimental Headquarters (October 3, 2004) coming closer, I would like to share with you in short my description and experience and a little history as part of those Rangers that were the original C Co "Charlie Rock" 3/75, and the sentiments of all the Rangers assigned under LTC

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

"Bionic Bill" Ohl ("It don't get no better than this!") and CSM Autrail Cobb of the 3d Battalion 75th Infantry (RGR) 1984-1986.

After the invasion of Grenada in 1983, the powers that be, determined that the nation needed an additional Ranger Battalion. I came into the Army in February 1984. The closest contract I could get to a Ranger assignment was Unassigned Airborne. I received my orders after Infantry basic and they read 60th Mech Inf. (Scout Company) Ft. Lewis WA. Nothing about Airborne or Ranger, I was disappointed but accepted my assignment and drove on to Airborne School. I would find my way to the Rangers some how. Come jump week a Ranger Staff Sergeant addressed the formation and asked if there were any 11B's that came into the Army on an Unassigned Airborne contract that would like to drop their present orders and come try out for the new 3d Ranger Battalion here at Ft. Benning, "come line up over here". Needless to say I was in line quick. He then informed us that if you washed out, your original orders would not be re-issued, and you were at the need of the Army. So if you had some high-speed assignment like the 82nd or 101st or 507th, they were history. There were about 20 or so that took the chance. Our orders were changed, we were given a weeks leave, and I was told to report to Charlie Company 3/75 at Sand Hill Barracks Ft. Benning upon my return in early July 1984.

Upon reporting, I was greeted by SGT William Ledbetter (former 1st Battalion boy) in the C Co orderly room. He was the acting Company First Sergeant and acting 1st Platoon Sergeant, as neither had yet reported to the Company. I was assigned to First Platoon and told where the squad bay was. The Harmony Church Reception Center was being remodeled as the future home of the Battalion, and we were all temporarily housed in the Sand Hill Barracks for the first six months or so. Within the coming months, the Company was filled out with cherries like me, and NCO's from across the Airborne/Ranger community. Many NCO's from 1st and 2nd Battalions. Grenada Raiders, men from Desert One, Vietnam LRPS. All hardened experienced top notch NCO's. The company was led by Capt. Benjamin Mixon, and 1SG "Smokin Joe" Heckard. "Charlie Rock" was formed.

At that time, each Battalion conducted its own RIP. 3/75 had no RIP in place, and the Regimental RIP had yet to be created. Our RIP came in another form. It came in the form of "Merrills Marauders" and "Darby's Rangers". Four months of continuous range training at Ft. Benning for all E-5's and below. Every Range and Malone you could think of over and over for four months. Alpha Company and half of Bravo Company made up Merrill's Marauders, and the other half of

Bravo Company combined with Charlie Company to form Darby's Rangers. Every morning it was Platoon or Company PT, chow and load cattle trucks to go to some Malone. Then it was road march back. For four months we road marched all over Ft. Benning.

We did jumps and road marched. In late July 1984, Charlie Company did its first airborne operation. A day-time combat equipment jump onto Fryar Drop Zone. I was M60 gunner number 1 of 1st Platoon and was in the lead bird and was the second Ranger out the door behind the Battalion Commander. A very hooah experience.

We road marched every day, everywhere, all the time. Many guys just couldn't take all of the "low speed training" we were doing. This wasn't "Rangers" according to them. So they quit. Off to the 197th Infantry they were banished. "You can't hang, good bye". The turn over was tremendous in four months.

We did some Hooah training also. "Darby's Rangers" jumped into Eglin and did one week of small boat training with the RI's from the Florida Ranger Camp. Everything we did was with Merrill's or Darby's except platoon PT while all of the E-6's and higher and Officers did their own training. After 4 months of Malone's and road marches, each man was solid in his basic infantry skills. And your feet were hard, and they would need to be for what lay ahead. The goal was to have everyone, and everything thing in place by October 3, 1984. Activation day of the 3d Ranger Battalion and the newly formed Regimental Headquarters. The Regiment was led by Colonel Wade Downing. All three Battalions stood tall on the parade field at the Infantry School on October 3, 1984. OD starched jungle fatigues, pistol belts and M-16 rifles with bayonets. Those in the 3d Battalion that stuck out the four months of "Merrill's Marauders" and "Darby's Rangers" were awarded the coveted Black Beret on that day. A day that rings out in Ranger history. The activation of Merrill's Marauders, October 3, 1943, and the Battle of Mogadishu October 3, 1993. For the 3d Ranger Battalion, training for combat readiness would begin in earnest immediately.

It was about then, that the first Ranger School slots began to come in for 3d Battalion. There was no Regimental Pre-Ranger in place yet. Each Battalion conducted its own Pre-Ranger. The absolute top studs were picked to represent 3d Bat in the first class. CSM Cobb oversaw the 3d Bat Pre-Ranger, and stated that anyone representing 3d Battalion at Ranger School had better pass or "do not come back". I was in the 6th group of 3d Battalion Rangers to go to Ranger School as part of Mike Co, Ranger Class 12-85.

The man that was chosen to form and lead this Battalion of gremlins was LTC "Bionic Bill" Ohl.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

Vietnam LRP of the 101st Airborne. If any of you out there have had the fortune and honor of serving with or under this man, only you can understand what type of leader and motivator he was. He was a "Stud". Big, tall and imposing. He loved PT, he loved his Rangers, and we would follow this man through the gates of hell. When he would address the Battalion or even be within sight, the razor stubble on the back of your neck would stand on end. "As we embark on our quest to become combat ready, this Battalion will set the standards for all to follow". And so it was. Everything was done to the highest degree. Everything. "There will be no doubt as to the readiness of this group one year from now." And the training began in each company. Squad training followed by a squad ARTEP. Platoon training followed by a Platoon ARTEP. Company training followed by a Company ARTEP. Raids, ambushes, recons, MOUT, road marches over and over at each level. In between, the Battalion deployed. Jungle School, Panama April 1985, Honduras (terrain association missions.) Cold Weather Fighting School Ft. Wainwright Alaska February 1986. From October 84 – October 85 we were in the field easily 50 weeks non stop. These ARTEPS were tough. The distances we covered were intended to break us. They did not. The big daddy was the Battalion ARTEP at Ft. Stewart vs. the vaunted 1st Ranger Battalion. It was two weeks long. The first week was marshalling and rehearsals at Hunter Army Airfield, and the second week was the field exercise.

On the first night of the exercise, the whole Battalion would parachute into objectives all over Ft. Stewart. They had the whole Battalion on the airfield for one big inspection prior to the jump. The Battalion and Regimental Commander walked up and down the ranks of the 3 Companies about to go to war. They checked us, grilled us, inspected us, tested us, looked for anything that was wrong or out of place. Privates were asked what their missions were, and the missions of their Platoons and Companies. Ever have a full Bird Ranger Colonel ask you the individual Ranger Private what your job is? I was crapping my pants! I remember one poor stud who forgot to sanitize his notebook of grids and freqs and everything that should have been memorized. They brought smoke down on him later. After the inspection, LTC Ohl rallied the whole Battalion around a PT stand for his pre jump Hooah speech. I remember like it was yesterday. It was pitch black and he stood on this PT stand, he was about 10 ft tall. Steel pot (pre Kevlar and Gortex) strapped on, cammoed and ready to go. You could feel the energy and adrenalin that was swirling all around us. He started with his "Where are my Alpha Rangers!?", "Where are my Bravo Rangers!?", "Where are my Charlie Rock

Rangers!?", and his classic line "Well Rangers, it just don't get no better than this" He told us we were about to embark into history. "After this mission, as a Battalion you will be ready to go to war". We were primed and ready to go. It was time to get it on. The pride and commitment that was on that airfield that night was truly special. It had been a long year and a half. There was quite the rivalry during that exercise. We wanted to show what we could do, and the 1st Bat Boys wanted to mess us up. We had much to prove. There were some pretty physical actions on the objective that week. All in good Ranger fun. The distances we covered were ungodly. After a week in those swamps, with that black water, Benning didn't seem so bad after all. The Battalion performed well. That week was a smoker.

After the basic Ranger infantry ARTEPS it was on to Special Ops. Little by little they weaned us. Fast Rope, Little Birds, Jump Clearing Teams, DACO, Jeeps, Bikes. Ft. Bragg for SOT and joint training exercises. The Hooah Schools started coming. HALO, SCUBA, Sniper, SERE. Yuma Arizona for SF Survival. We had paid our dues. Now we were enjoyng the fruits of our hard work. We had gone from crawling, to high speed. After that Battalion ARTEP, we were a hard unit, physically and mentally. We had created a Ranger Battalion, and we were proud.

For those of you who followed after us, we are proud of you for maintaing the standards. 18 years have passed since 1984, much of the equipment and uniform has changed. Yet the spirit and committment to be the best from generation to generation still remains. The men who formed the new 3d Ranger Battalion in 1984 worked extremely hard to maintain and raise the standards for those that came before and for those that followed after. I ets'd from the Army on Feb 28, 1988. In the four years I served in the Regiment and the Ranger Dept, the phone did not ring for the Regiment to answer the call. In November 1989, the Regiment spearheaded Operation Just Cause. Since that time it has been wheels up all over the planet in one engagement after another. In each instance, the men of the 75th Ranger Regiment have continued to carry on the tradition of excellence in combat, and have maintained the legacy of proud Ranger history. Rangers Lead the Way!

SGT Steven A Simonetti

1st Plt. Charlie Rock, 3/75 1984-1986

M Co Ranger Class 12-85 "Who Dares Wins"

2d Ranger Co, MRD Camp Frank D. Merrill 1986-1988

6th David E Grange Best Ranger Competition competitor 1987

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

The following story relates an incident where an individual claimed to be a participant in the action in Mogadishu, Somalia. Several 3rd Battalion people suspected he was lying & made inquiries to the newspaper. What follows is the result of those inquiries.

Jim, what is the current status of this outstanding issue? I was hoping to hear something from you by now. Please take the time to give me an update on how you and the Greeley Tribune are handling this situation. Best Regards,
Peter Neathery

Mr. Nethery: The following ran page one, 10 October. Thanks for helping us publish the truth. (You may read it yourself at Greeleytrib.com -- just do a search for Black Hawk).
Jim Elsberry

Greeley man admits his claim to 'Black Hawk Down' was untrue Story By Mike Peters Posted on Friday, October 04 @ 19:31:40 EDT

A Greeley man who claimed to be one of the Army Rangers in Somalia in a 1993 incident that was the subject of the movie and book, "Black Hawk Down," admitted Tuesday that he lied. Scott Meyer's story appeared in the Feb. 4 Greeley Tribune. Although Meyer did not want to talk about his fabrication, he sent a letter to the Tribune stating he was never a ranger in Somalia.

In interviews in February, Meyer claimed he was in the Mogadishu, Somalia, combat zone, and showed a photo of himself in an Army Ranger uniform and letters from officers commending him for other service. He now has admitted he was in the Army only two years

and never had an overseas assignment. A few months after the story appeared in the Tribune on the paper's Web site, several veterans of Black Hawk Down began e-mailing the Tribune, casting doubts on Meyer's claims.

Meyer no longer works in Greeley, but he agreed to come to the newspaper Tuesday to talk about the story. However, he left a handwritten letter at the Tribune office and said he didn't want to talk to anyone. In the letter, he explained his real military service: "After a left and right knee injury and time on limited (physical training), I was so out of shape and fat I could not keep up with my platoon. I was soon discharged for being fat, to my shame." He also said he had so many problems growing up that he learned to make up stories to be accepted by other children. That habit, according to Meyer's letter, continued on into his adult life. Now, after admitting the lie, he said he wants to apologize. "From the strength of my Lord Jesus Christ, I am sorry to the people of Greeley, my family, my God, my co-workers and church ... my shame has shackled me and made my life a living hell." He said he's tried to tell the truth about the story, but he'd told the lie so often that people continued to believe he was in the Black Hawk Down incident.

Fabricating a military career is not an unusual occurrence, according to Dana McGrath, president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association in Fort Myers, Fla. "We get a lot of these people," McGrath said. "They claim to be Navy Seals, Green Berets and in the Special Forces. It's not always easy to check out their story."

LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**Unit Director - Michael McClintock****3rd ID LRRP Detachment**

By Mike McClintock, Unit Director

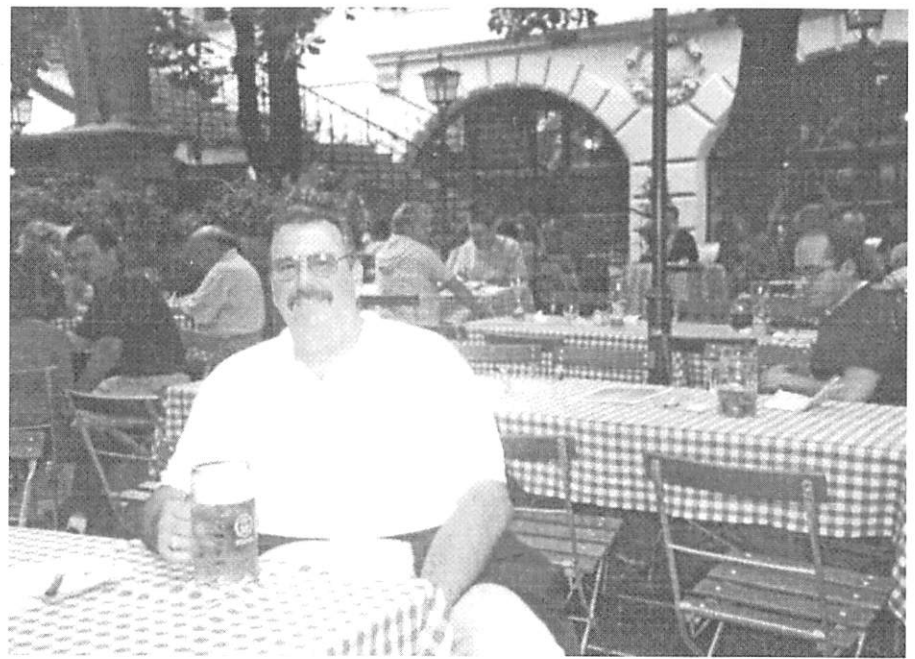
The 3rd Infantry Division LRRP Detachment was a creature of the Cold War between the United States and the USSR. Even though we never saw combat as a unit, we are still proud of our service and the contribution we made in keeping the Russian bear at bay. In 2005, World War II will have been over for sixty years and a lot of things have changed since then, including old LRRPs. During our time, in the early 1960's, the war had been over less than twenty years and most of us EM

were younger than that. Our time was before the Vietnam War, and the Korean War was the closest war we could relate to. Many of our senior NCOs were veterans of both WWII and Korea. The best of these had served in airborne and Ranger units, and they made us toe the line. Although we didn't appreciate it much then, over the years we have come to understand and appreciate the discipline they instilled in us.

The training we received as LRRPs in Germany was superior to that which we had received in any of the line infantry companies we had been assigned to before volunteering for the LRRPs. That's also why we had the best NCOs. The top airborne and Ranger NCOs

LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID (CONTINUED)

in the line companies of the 3rd ID knew where their training and experience would be appreciated and they too volunteered for the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment. Many of our best NCOs had also served with the V Corps provisional LRRP Co. (ABN) in Wildflecken, and they brought this additional experience with them to the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment. SSG Bob "Red Dog" Schroeder, SFC Bobby J. McMeans, SFC Gerald M. "Mike" Tardiff, SGT Clifford Mize, SGT Bobby J. Freeman, SGT William Hopkins and SGT Bernard Franz were among the finest soldiers any of us had the honor and privilege to serve with.



As I think back on those days of over forty years ago, I can still see the faces of the young men of our detachment and remember the sense of camaraderie that we shared. As it turned out, we didn't have to fight the Russians, the Berlin Wall eventually came down, and East and West Germany have been reunited. The evidence of the U.S. forces presence of almost fifty years in Germany is rapidly disappearing,

and the Germans already seem to have forgotten why we were there. That's one reason that I've gone back to Germany over the past several years, to visit our old haunts and savor the memories....among other things.

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)****Unit Director - Mike Martin**

BDQ Mike Martin

Page 1

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

As you read this, we will be celebrating the holiday season, a New Year will be here, or just around the corner...the Year of the Horse (Nham Ngo) 2002, will be history--the Year of the Goat (Quy Mui) 2003, will be the future.

The wondrous "changing of the seasons" tends to evoke memories--past and present.... At times I have a longing for the damp heat of Vietnam, and the sweat that soaked through every pore of the body, then too, I crave the climate and the shivering cold of our winter season.

The Vietnamese or the Americans who were serving in Vietnam will, not remember January of 1968, as the most sacred holiday season--Tet--. This utmost festival occasion will

forevermore be immortalized as the start of the Communists' Winter-Spring Offensive. As I sit at my desk, the rain slanting down beyond an open window, my recollections of Vietnam are more than just thoughts of the weather, but more so, of the exceptional courage of many who fought there and too, the terror of guerrilla warfare inflicted upon the country by the Communists.

Without dramatizing, I have taken this opportunity to present an erudite chronicle of one Ranger Battalion (41st Biet Dong Quan) and their actions during Tet and also, the accounts' of US Army Ranger Advisor Alfred Hill of his experiences as their advisor.

I will preface the article--for the uninformed, and those who did not serve there--with the following facts: the Viet Cong Main Force, composed of thirty-five enemy battalions penetrated Saigon and its suburbs at Tet; they also attacked thirteen of the Delta's sixteen province capitals. The delta actually starts about 30 miles south of Saigon, and



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

was the IV Corps Tactical Zone during the Vietnam War.... It is crisscrossed by nearly 6,000 miles of rivers, swamps, and canals--a tough AO for the foot soldier. It was the battleground for the Vietnamese Ranger 32nd, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, and the 44th battalions and their US Ranger Advisors.

THE 41st BDQ TET CAMPAIGN

(Part I)

"Those who fought alone" was a term often used as a symbolic description for the Vietnamese Ranger Advisors. It was most apropos during Tet 1968....

War can become a picturesque contrast in a battle scene to the cameraman or movie director in their concept of combat, but to Ranger Advisors who fought and witnessed the anguish of toe-to-toe and house-to-house fighting at Tet, it was rumors and confusion. Relentless attacks; blood and wounds; silent deaths and randomness slaughter, and too, the remoteness of being one, of the two or three, Americans fighting with a Vietnamese unit.

TRUNG LAP

Realistic tactical training is a necessity, even in wartime, for combat units. From the mid '60's on, the Vietnamese Rangers received their individual and small unit training at the Duc My Ranger Training Center (II Corps); battalion training for units South, was conducted at the Trung Lap Ranger Center (III Corps). In theory...battalions rotated there yearly--rarely was this the case due to their commitments. In addition to the training, the units received replacements and needed supplies--combat operations were ongoing to ensure the security of the camps.

After a lapse of several years--prior to Tet '68--the 41st BDQ's and their U.S. Advisors had deployed to Trung Lap, from their base camp at Ben Tre. The Rangers were airlifted into the Tan Son Nhut air base, then convoyed by truck to Trung Lap, located near the Ho Bo-Boi Loi woods--a Viet Cong stronghold riddled with concealed paths and a maze of subterranean tunnels. Trung Lap was also within the U.S. 25th Division's operational area, headquartered at Cu Chi.

Sergeant First Class AL Hill, was the senior NCO on the advisory team. Hill, a soldier from the "old school" had been with the 41st Biet Dong Quan for several months and was well respected by his team members and the Vietnamese. AL had served with the 82nd Airborne Division and the 505th Airborne Battle Group in Germany. He was well versed in Ranger Operations,

having served as an instructor at the Florida Ranger Camp, and in LTC Anthony B. Herbert's Provisional Ranger Platoon of the 505th--another BDQ Advisor, Bill Pere, 42nd BDQs, was a member of the same platoon. Regardless, SFC Hill would have no perception of events now unfolding, but his extensive experience would hold him in good stead in the days to come.

Trung Lap was staffed by U.S. Advisors and Vietnamese Rangers...the instruction was roughly similar to that offered by the U.S. military with the exception of actual combat operations: including mission oriented training, road clearing, patrols, night ambushes, and an occasional contact with local Viet Cong forces.

Training had gone well and as the Tet holidays approached the Rangers were-looking forward to seeing their families. However, even though both sides had declared a cease-fire during this period, there was a deep concern among some of the U.S. and Vietnamese command that this was a crucial time. Increased enemy actions and movement was reported in all Corps. Due to this, only 50 percent of the ARVN forces were granted a pass or leave: the Battalion Commander of the 41st had received permission to take half the battalion back to their home base in the delta for this traditional occasion--but, it would be the sounds of gunfire, not fire crackers, that would mark this Tet (Tet Nguyen Dan).

Major Braxton (Max) Mowery, the Senior Advisor who had joined the 41st Ranger Battalion in November, and two other team members--SFC McVey and SP5 Christsen (medic)--accompanied the contingent back to Ben Tre. Major Mowery was a graduate of West Point, Class of '59; a true professional, he had replaced the previous Senior Advisor, Major Roy Lombardo. Maj. Lombardo was now the Senior Advisor of the 4th Ranger Group.

Lieutenant Hans Tees, a "gung ho" Ranger, and SFC Hill would remain at Trung Lap with the rest of the troops. Lt. Tees would receive five Purple Hearts for wounds received with the 41st...little did they realize the impact of their decision; within days, both Tees and Hill would be in the misdt of heavy fighting in Saigon and the Chinese suburb of Cholon. They would also be engaged in the American and ARVN counter-offensive, fighting in the Cao Lanh area in the latter part of February....

Note: Part II, The 41st BDQ Tet Campaign, continued in the next issue of Patrolling.

EVENTS, WARNING ORDERS AND SITREPS
REUNION:

The Vietnamese Ranger Reunion (Advisors) will be

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

in Huntsville, Alabama on 2-4 May 2003. We are blocking "off" hotel rooms now-need to know if you plan to attend: contact us at 931-455-3824 or bdq@75thangers.org....We will mail invitations in February with details of events. "Stand-Tall" Co Vans, make "Roll Call" now! !!

Location: Huntsville/Madison County encompasses approximately 806 square miles, with about 154 square miles in Huntsville's city limits. The community, nestled between the Tennessee River and the Appalachian Mountains, is 300 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico, 100 miles south of Nashville, and 100 miles north of Birmingham. It is the home of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, U.S. Space Camp, and George C. Marshall Space Flight Center.

RECOMMENDED READING:

A Ranger Born--A memoir of combat and valor from Korea to Vietnam, by Col. Robert W. Black (R). Bob's book accelerates from boyhood to man; from civilian to soldier; from the Brown boot Army to the Army Green. Well written, with an insight into a Ranger's heart and soul....Old Soldiers will have flash-backs when reading about his time in the 82nd Airborne and the 8th Airborne Ranger Company in Korea. He also gives his opinion about the LRRPs and LRP's in Vietnam and why he feels that they deserve the Ranger Tab. Ranger Bob Black is the author of Rangers in World War II, and Rangers in Korea.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS:

Merry Christmas and a great New Year to all....Take a minute to pray for our Ranger brothers' whose blood and spirits anoint the scattered battlefields of the world...Rangers Lead The Way.

Had Achilles any thought of death and danger? For whatever a man's place is, whether the place which he has chosen or that which he has been placed by a commander, there he ought to remain in the hour of danger; he should not think of death or of anything but of disgrace.

-- "Apology, " Plato

Our enemy is not a man;
if we kill the man, with whom do we live? . .
Our enemy is inside each of us.

--Pham Duy, Vietnam folksinger

SHOOT LOW, I'll see you on the High Ground....

Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit Director



Captain Michael McNamara, Senior Advisor 32nd BDQs, 1965.
"Leadership by Example" was a must for Ranger Advisors (Co Vans).



American and Vietnamese Ranger Instructors -
Vietnamese Ranger Training Center.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)



Command Sergeants Major Al Hill (Ret) attends ceremony at the MIA Bracelet Depository at the Washington Memorial Park Cemetery in SeaTac. Ranger Hill was selected as a candidate for inclusion in the book Profiles, 100 Sergeants Majors of Color (Sergeants Majors of color from the Civil War to the present).



SAC Alfred Hill (left) and LT Hans Tees, 41st Ranger Battalion. Photo taken at Trung Lap Ranger Training Center, prior to Tet 1968. Tees was wounded five times with the BDQs.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Smeyers

My Confession of Faith

By: Bob Smeyers

Rangers,

I must say the appointment to this position is very humbling. I make a vow before all might God and to each of you. I will within my scope of understanding, authority, and ability try and meet your spiritual needs. Being the Chaplain I do not take lightly nor do I do it for recognition or title. I am a practical person and as such my communication will be where all can understand what I am saying without having to get a dictionary. I am a novice on the computer and only started to learn to type, thus expect some mistakes. Sort of, read between the lines. I am open to suggestions and can accept constructive criticism. I will even submit articles you may want to share on the Chaplain's page in Patrolling. It should be along spiritual lines and no bashing of other beliefs. In future work I hope to develop a faith based brotherhood and fellowship among our members. It will be a while before I can get to it. I am currently working to gather information about all Rangers KIA's, not only from the Vietnam War but all the wars. If anyone recognizes any of the names, which will be coming on the 75thrra site, please submit all you can on this brother. I also plan to try and get webmasters of other Ranger site to publish them. I am working with Emmett Hiltibrand (former President) to develop a site second to none. A page will be developed for each of our fallen Brothers.

What do I believe and how will I present the Words spoken by God?

Simple, I believe that God truly exists and does bless all mankind even in the worse scenarios. His love unlike ours is unconditional. I believe he came in the person of Jesus Christ to provide a way back to the God of heaven and earth.

Jesus though God in the second person came of his own accord (familiar words to rangers) to fulfill once and for all, the perfect sacrifice which would pay for all the sins we have, are, and will commit in the future. Though he was without fault, God chose to lay the sins of the world on him, that a door would be opened to all desiring to once again be able to appear before God.

I believe he was crucified and then as he promised raised the third day from the dead. I believe when he left the Holy Spirit came to guide and empower us to live a righteous and good wholesome life. Many would question this but if one really seeks the answer to this statement, he will come to understand it. The Holy Spirit has not come to talk about himself but Jesus.

I believe Jesus lives at the right hand of the Father and being all present he too lives in our heart.

I believe he will come again for his church and then judgment will come up on all that have refused to accept the salvation he has offered.

I believe there is a literal heaven and hell and we have been given a free will to choose our own destiny.

I believe there will be the Judgment Seat of Christ for all believers. There will also be a Great White Throne Judgment for all that have not asked Jesus to save them.

There will be eternal life for all people, however one group will be in eternal peace with God and the second group will be in eternal torment with Satan.

I believe the Bible to be the true Word of God. Often we refuse to read the Bible and demean those trying to express the goodness found in it. Many base their belief on what man says. One should check for himself to see what man has said is, yea or nay.

Finally, Jesus says in the book of John 14:6, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me.

Bob Smyers,

Chaplain for the 75th Ranger Regiment

WE NOW HAVE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION COINS IN SOLID SILVER.



Price of the above coins are \$20.00 each. They are solid silver. To engrave a name & member number add \$2.00 & add \$5.00 for shipping. Total cost delivered is \$27.00. (shipping is \$5.00 per order) If you order more than one coin, add only \$5.00 for the order.

We can now accept VISA or MASTER CARD.

To Order:

Call or e-mail John Chester

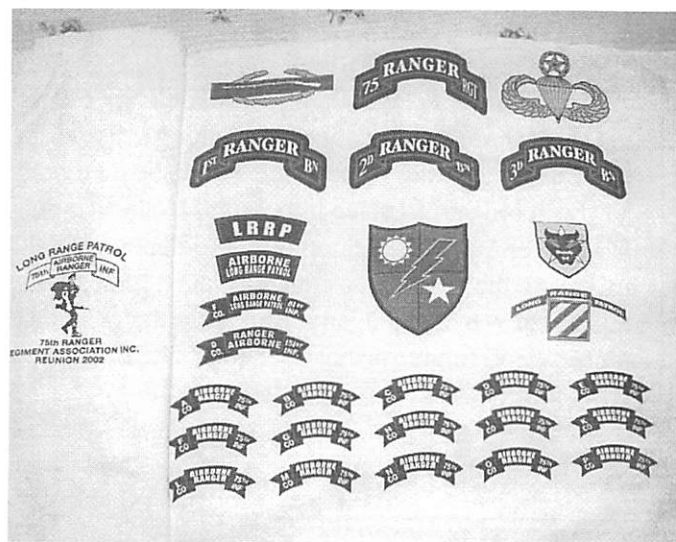
Phone: 410-426-1391

Fax: 410-426-0243

e-mail: macchester@erols.com

We also have some left over reunion Tee shirts in Sizes X-Large & a few in 2X, and some black hats with the 75th Scroll.

Tee shirts are \$12.50 and hats are \$10.00, or \$5.00 with a Tee shirt or coin. Shipping is \$8.50. Call for orders of multiple items. Order as above.



SOF Memorial Update, November 2002

We are extremely pleased to report reduced losses within the special operations community since our last update in August. Regretfully however, **Sergeant First Class Mark W. Jackson**, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) was killed when a bomb was detonated outside of a military facility in the Philippines. The bomb wounded one other American and five Filipino soldiers supporting Task Force Zamboanga, working to secure the city of Zamboanga from terrorists.

Major John R. Rowland, USA (Retired) a former LRRP Sergeant with the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam, and who later earned the Distinguished Service Cross as a Second Lieutenant platoon leader with Company D, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, has completed his last mission against diabetes. Services were held at St Petersburg, Florida on 10 September. Members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association who were attending the funeral service included **Dana McGrath, Emmett Hiltibrand, Terry Broderick, Jay Lutz, and Smokey Wells**. They jointly contributed to place John Rowland's name on the SOF Memorial.

Immediately beneath John Rowland are **Albert 'Zeke' Zilaidis** (named in an attempted expose on CIA operations in Vietnam as "the man known only as Zeke") and **Joe Kelly**. Both were former advisors to the CIA controlled Vietnamese Provincial Reconnaissance Units (PRU).

Eight members of the 2nd Special Forces Group (Airborne) who were killed in training on 18 April 1964 were added to the SOF Memorial. Former comrades now serving with Special Operations Command Central at MacDill AFB made this possible through their contributions. No that was NOT a typo! The 2nd Special Forces Group was active in the USAR from 15 March 1961 through 31 January 1966. At that time eighteen (18) Special Forces Groups were manned in the active Army, Army National Guard (ARNG), and the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). The names added were **1LT Donald B. Becker, SSG William V. Cornell, LTC Ray A. Glaze, SSG Joseph T. Kelly, CPT Calvin F. Kemp, PVT James W. Kramer, LTC Sam W. Sardis, CPL Peter A. Weart, and CPT G. P. Zucharelli**.

A Member of the Memorial Foundation funded to place Colonel Bruce Burda's name on the memorial as he departed USSOCOM to pin on Brigadier General stars. Colonel Burda, as Chief of Staff, USSOCOM, served the Foundation extremely well as the official liaison between USSOCOM and the SOF Memorial Foundation.

A former member of the **195th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC)**, supporting MACVSOG in the Republic of Vietnam funded a full-sized (12" x 12") engraving in memory of the 195th AHC.

Chapter LX, Special Forces Association made donations to place an engraving on the memorial in memory of all **Special Forces Prisoners of War and Missing in Action**.

Ensign Jerry "Buck" Pope was killed in the Yemen last month (October 16). Buck served with SEAL Team 4, was commissioned as a Physician's Assistant, and detached to the US Embassy Intelligence Detachment, Yemen when he was involved in a vehicular accident during a training exercise.

Finally, we received notification that **Air Force Technical Sergeant Jerome E. Bennett**, who died in training during a parachute operations with Air Force special operations had been omitted from the USSOCOM official Casualty Roster of personnel when he died on 28 October 1986. This is being rectified, and his engraving has been ordered to place him with the other USSOCOM killed in action/killed in training. (NOTE: The original purpose of the SOF Memorial was to honor special operators of USSOCOM killed in action or killed in training following the first major joint special operation – OPERATION EAGLE CLAW – the Iran hostage attempt in 1980, that was aborted, and resulted in the creation of USSOCOM. It was later extended to include all previous (legacy) and future special operators. The Special Operations Foundation has paid for all special operations personnel killed in action and killed in training since 1980, at no cost to the government, units, or families.



Geoff Barker and Smokey Wells

RANGER Organizations

As secretary of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, I get many inquiries about Rangers and Ranger Associations. Here is a listing of different Ranger Associations and points of contact for them.

RANGER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION WWII

President: Warren "Bing" Evans, 312 5th St., Huntingburg, IN 47541 (812) 683-2222,
email: robert@fulnet.com

Secretary: Thomas E. Herring, 8205 Tifton Rd, Charlotte, SC 28226 (704) 542-8918,
email: teh5rgr@aol.com

Website: <http://www.ranger.org/usara/s3/Ops/wwii/wwii.htm>

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION

President: Phil Piazza, 374 Timberlake One Circle, Seneca, SC 29678 (865) 972-3239
email: marauder1@trivergent.net

Secretary: Raymond Lyons, 11244 N. 33rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85028
email: marauder@gte.net

Website: www.marauder.org/marauder.htm

Publication: The Burma News

RANGER INFANTRY COMPANIES AIRBORNE (RICA) (Korea)

President: Robert Haywood, 1200 Foster St. NW, Box 28, Atlanta, GA 30318 (404) 352-1491
email: rhaywood@bellsouth.net

Secretary: Collin Chamberlain 15455-34 Glen oaks Blvd Sylmar, CA 91342-1322
email: rgr14chame@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.ricakw.org/>

Objective: To perpetuate and promote the history and tradition of the brotherhood of American Rangers; to honor our Ranger comrades living and dead; and to support a military policy that will retain Rangers within the regular military force structure and will provide for national security.

UNITED STATES ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION (USARA)

President: James M. Grimshaw, 1151 Loma Lane, Sierra Vista, AZ 85650 (520) 803-7410
email: jim_grimshaw@yahoo.com

Executive Vice President: Steve Maguire (703) 416-0007
email: maguire64@comcast.net

Secretary: Fred Mees
email: rgrmees@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.ranger.org/>

Publications: The Ranger Register, (hard copy) The Ranger Rally Point Newsletter
(email) RangerRP@topica.email-publisher.com

Purpose: Among the stated purposes of USARA are

- *Promote and preserve the heritage, spirit, image and service of U.S. Army Rangers.
- *Honor the service, courage and sacrifices made by active duty U.S. Army Rangers.
- *Cherish and preserve the spirit of what it means to be a U.S. Army Ranger.

Membership: We welcome all WWII Rangers, Korean War Rangers, Vietnam War Rangers, all Rangers that participated in Operations Urgent Fury, Just Cause, Desert Storm, Restore Hope, Enduring Freedom, all Rangers that have served honorably for at least one year in a recognized Ranger unit, and all Rangers that have earned the US Army Ranger Tab. Dues are \$30 per year.

THE RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (TRRA)

The Ranger Regiment Association is often confused with our own association The 75th Ranger Regiment Association. "TRRA" is run by the active duty Regimental S-5 at Fort Benning, GA.

POC: SFC Tom Pendleton or SFC Fuentes in care of TRRA, PO BOX 55843, Ft. Benning, GA 31905
(706) 545-5193
email: pendlett@soc.mil

Website: <http://www.trrausa.com/>

Publications: The Scroll (published Quarterly or as conditions allow, last publication Feb 01)

Mission Statement: The purpose of The Ranger Regiment Association is to bring together the brotherhood of Rangers and people with a common interest in supporting Ranger activities, to sponsor an association which represents Rangers currently assigned and those who have been assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment, to gain support within the civilian and military communities, to promote the values established in the Ranger Creed, to pay honor to Rangers, families, and friends who have distinguished themselves, and to provide an institution for managing funds and to sponsor activities which achieve these ends

WORLD WIDE ARMY RANGERS (WAR)

President: Stephen Melnyk, 26 Monroe Street, Waldwick, NJ 07463
email: Melscape@aol.com

Secretary: Bill Spies, 8 Spies Road, Ft. Mitchell, AL 36856 (334) 855-0348
email: RGRPegleg@aol.com

Publication: Frag Order

Purpose: 1. Support, financially and socially, active duty US Army Rangers, and
2. Provide a forum in which all Army Rangers, especially older US Rangers, can socialize while being honored for their service.

Membership: WAR is a worldwide federation of Army Rangers and US Army Ranger Associations in which all are equals. It accepts all US Ranger Associations as Patrols and all Rangers, including LRP/LRSU, as voting members who qualify as voting members in any current US Ranger Assoc, plus others such as SOG & SEAL patrol members. It is a fraternal organization that gives all power and final authority to the Ranger members and the various Ranger Associations as a Patrol. Dues are \$10 per year and \$4 more to receive the "Frag Order" newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The 2003 membership year runs from 1 July 2002 through 30 June 2003. We continue to send magazines to the end of the calendar year to give everyone time to send in their dues but **if the address label on your "Patrolling" has 2002 on it and you have not recently sent in your dues, this is your last issue!** If you have any questions on your status, please contact the secretary Ron Edwards at PO BOX 921, HEFLIN, AL 36264, or phone # (256) 831-7146, or email rredwards@cableone.net We can also now accept credit cards for annual or life membership dues.

The following have joined, rejoined or upgraded their memberships since our last publishing:

BERGER	KEVIN E.	RANGER REGIMENT	McCRARY	GLEN S.	1ST CAV
BILLIE	JIM	25 TH INF DIV	MELLINGER	JEFFREY	RANGER REGIMENT
BRAND	JOSEPH F	173RD ABN BDE	MILLER	MARK S.	RANGER REGIMENT
CHESTER	JOHN W.	4TH INF DIV	MOORE	FRANK	173RD ABN BDE
CLARK JR.	ROBERT F.	101ST ABN DIV	O'STEEN	SONNY JOE	V CORPS
CLEMENT	STEPHEN S	1ST FFV	PARKER	S.J."Peter"	RANGER REGIMENT
COOPER	DAVID A	101ST ABN DIV	POLSKI	RICHARD	5TH MECH
DAVENPORT	RONALD	173RD ABN BDE	PROCTOR	JOE	RANGER REGIMENT
DOKOS	THOMAS P	101ST ABN DIV	RAYMOND	JACKSON N.	RANGER REGIMENT
FERRARA	MICHAEL F.	1ST CAV	REGENTHAL	DAVID	25TH INF DIV
FISHER	BOBBY D.	1ST CAV DIV	ROSAS	PHILLIP M.	B/75
FRITZINGER	JOHN F.	23RD INF DIV	RUSSELL	ROBERT R.	1ST FFV
FUENTES	PAUL	RANGER REGIMENT	SAMPSON	ROBERT C.	199TH INF BDE
GOVE	STEVE P.	1ST FFV	SCHALAVIN	CSM JAN	RANGER REGIMENT
HALVERSON	GILBERT M.	101ST ABN DIV	SCHOTT	CHRIS	RANGER REGIMENT
HATHAWAY	RICK	VII CORPS	SPIES	BILL	RTB
HOLMES	FRANK	4TH INF DIV	STOKES	HOWARD C.	VII CORPS LRRPS
HOWARD	TIMOTHY	101ST ABN DIV	VANCE	JOEL F.	RANGER REGIMENT
HUND	GARY R.	101ST ABN DIV	VANS EVERS	FRANK W	173RD ABN BDE
JONES	DUANE A.	4TH INF DIV	WINN	WILLIAM J.	1ST CAV
KOPER	GEOFFREY	1ST CAV DIV	ZELLER	ALBERT F.	
LEWIS	JERRY E.	1ST CAV DIV	LINVILLE	MEL	25TH INF DIV
LONG	DELMER W.	4TH INF DIV	BULLEN	BILL	K/75
McCAULEY	ANDREW J.	VII CORPS			

Sponsor A New Member.

When Dana McGrath received the baton from Emmett, he told me his main objective was to run the Association like a business. The only way to succeed is to bring in new members. He feels that by sponsoring a Ranger in the Regiment now or a recently separated from active duty Ranger, we can accomplish this mission.

By paying the dues of a new member for one year, you will be doing your part. If you can do this, financially, please send your check or credit card # to Ron Edwards explaining what it is for. We will then, if you desire, recognize the New Member supporters in the Patrolling Magazine.

If this Association is to live on, then MEMBERSHIP, is the key.

Bill Bullen
K/75 Ranger

THE BIRDS

TEAM IN CONTACT, POP A RED SMOKE,
THE BIRDS ON SHORT FINAL, YOUR WORDS DO CHOKE.
YOU FIRE A BURST AS YOU HIT THE GROUND,
YOU HEAR THE BIRDS BANK, WHAT A WONDERFUL SOUND.

THE SECONDS PASS SLOWLY, EVER SO SLOW,
YOU CHECK YOUR MEN, YOU TRY TO KEEP LOW.
YOU HEAR THE YELLS, THE TERROR FILLED SCREAMS,
IS THIS REALITY OR SOMEONES BAD DREAM?

THE 60'S ROAR AS THE BIRDS FLY BY,
YOU FEEL SAFE INSIDE, A STRANGE KIND OF HIGH.
LIKE AN ANGEL WITH WINGS THE BIRDS DO HOVER,
YOU RUN LIKE HELL FROM YOUR SACRED COVER.

THE DOOR GUNNER SMILES AS HE GIVES THUMBS UP,
ALL YOUR MEN ARE SAFE, SAFE FROM CHUCK.
YOU PRAY TO THE HEAVENS PAST THE BLADES THAT CHURN,
FOR YOU KNOW IN YOUR HEART YOU'LL SOON RETURN.

THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THIS WAR PLAYS SUCH A LARGE PART,
THIS TRIBUTE TO THE PILOTS COMES FROM MY HEART.

MICHAEL D. MONFROOE
L/75 RANGER





IF ONLY

AS YOU LOOK AT MY NAME I WISH YOU COULD
HEAR ME SPEAK ,
OR SEE THE TEARS RUNNING DOWN MY CHEEK.
YOU WERE SO SMALL WHEN I WENT AWAY,
BUT YOU WERE IN MY THOUGHTS EACH AND
EVERY DAY.

YOUR MOTHER & I LOVED EACH OTHER &
FROM THAT LOVE WE HAD YOU, YOU
ENRICHED OUR LIVES & MADE EACH DAY
FRESH & NEW.

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS YOU'VE DONE
THAT HAVE MADE ME MIGHTY PROUD,
I WISH THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT,
IF FATE HAD ALLOWED.

I SAW THE HURT IN YOUR EYES WHEN YOUR
FRIENDS & THEIR DADS WOULD PLAY,
I SAT WITH YOU THAT NITE WANTING TO MAKE
THE HURT GO AWAY.
YOUR MOTHER RAISED YOU ALONE, SHE DID A
FINE JOB.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND WHEN SHE REMEMBERS
ME AND QUIETLY BEGINS TO SOB.

I WAS HOPING SOONER OR LATER THAT YOU
WOULD MAKE IT BY,
MAYBE THEN YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY I
HAD TO DIE.
I WAS FIGHTING FOR A CAUSE I REALLY HAD NO
CHOICE,
AT TIMES LIKE THIS I WISH YOU COULD HEAR
MY VOICE.

I HOPE YOU HAVE FELT MY CLOSENESS, OVER
THE YEARS AS YOU HAVE GROWN,
I'VE BRAGGED OF YOU OFTEN TO MY BUDDIES
ON THIS GRANITE STONE.
YOU HAVE SHARED YOUR LOVE WITH ANOTH-
ER, A CHILD IS ON THE WAY, YOU HAVE MADE
MY EXISTANCE COMPLETE ON THIS VERY SPE-
CIAL DAY.

MICHAEL D. MONFROOE
L/75 RANGER

**DUE TO OPERATIONAL
SECURITY CONCERNS,
WE WILL NO LONGER RUN
PHOTOS
THAT IDENTIFY
ACTIVE DUTY RANGERS
OR
THEIR SPOUSES**

PATROLLING - WINTER 2002



75 th Ranger Regiment Association. Inc
P.O. Box 921
Heflin, AL 36264

Membership Application Form

Annual dues: \$25.00
Life membership: \$250.00
Subscription Only: \$25.00
Checks Payable to:
75th Ranger Regiment Assoc.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	DATE
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP PLUS
AREA CODE/HOME PHONE	AREA CODE/WORK PHONE	OCCUPATION	

UNITS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

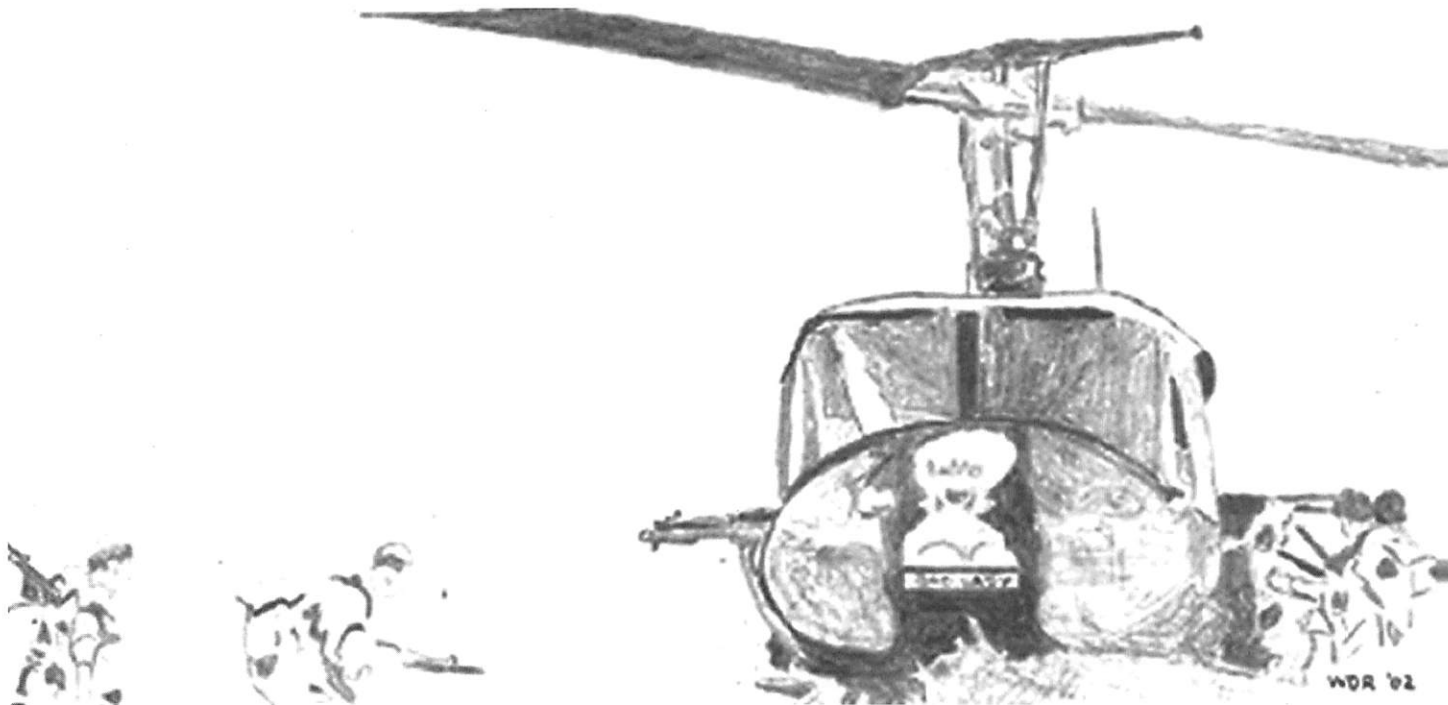
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REMARKS: _____

VISA or MASTERCARD # _____ EXP. DATE: _____

CHECK ONE: NEW APPLICATION _____ RENEWAL _____ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER _____

MEMBERSHIP CONTINGENT UPON PROOF OF SERVICE: ORDERS OR NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS YOU SERVED WITH IN THE UNITS LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. UNITS MUST CARRY THE LINEAGE OR BE IN THE HISTORY. WE ARE NOT JUST A VIETNAM ERA ASSOCIATION. ALL UNITS OF THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP



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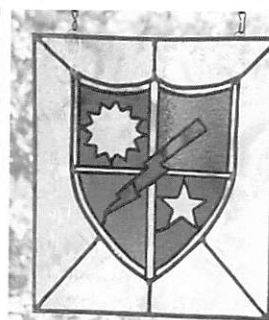
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 With Regards and Best Wishes



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75TH RANGER
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macchester@erols.com



We are considering offering 75th Ranger Regiment Association cards similar to the one above right, (bottom row). If there is enough demand, the price would be quite affordable. The format would be the same for all, (lowers the price). They would not be available with 'President for Life' or similar titles, but if you have a position it can be stated. If you are interested, drop me a line at macchester@erols.com or call at 410-426-1391. When I get an idea of the amount of interest, I can get a price together.

Card ads are still available. This is a great deal at \$100.00 for **FOUR** issues. Let the Ranger community know what you do and what you can supply. Most of us would prefer to deal with one of our own if we had the opportunity. Give it a chance, it helps the Association bring you a quality product at a reasonable price. Thanks to everyone that has signed up.



Dan Pantaleo, a Marine, carries a Marine Corps flag recovered from the Pentagon. With him are civilian firefighter Eric Jones, left, Army SSG Chris Braman (Former 2nd Batt Ranger) and CPT Jared Hansbrough.



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