

PATROLLING

WINTER 2003 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 18 ISSUE III



James King photo. James King on Nhui Khe Mountain during a radio relay in 1971.

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CHINA - BURMA - INDIA VIETNAM IRAN GRENADA PANAMA IRAQ SOMALIA AFGHANISTAN



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USSOCOM Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc.,
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AIR COMMANDO



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Manuscripts, photographs and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission, that is in bad taste, offensive or that discredits unnecessarily any individual or group.

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WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

The Association web site and *Patrolling* magazine are the windows of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. They are the principal means of communication from the Officers and Unit Directors to our members and the principal means of attracting new members. These two media sources, like the Association itself, are the property and responsibilities of all the members. We are going to highlight, in each issue, new features of each, and what our members can do to support and enhance both.

Web site: I just finished another web site course that will in the future help me stream line the web site so that it flows smoothly and loads faster on your machine. We have created about 500 pages since I took over the web site. I'm creating massive amounts of bulk information for the web site and have neglected the finer points of web protocol. But, I have a fine group of men who are cleaning up behind me. Dave Walker is still in his quest to improve the web graphics for the site. He's acquired a new program toy that allows him to develop clearer and cleaner graphics for the site.

The site is growing by leaps and bounds. I ask that each of you go to the site and review it from beginning to end. Write me about suggestions or comments. If you find an error, please let me know soonest. If you would like to help with the site in any way, contact me.

Emmett

Patrolling Magazine: We are still seeking sponsors/ advertisers for the business card ad section of the magazine. It is not necessary that the individual be a member of the Association or indeed, even military or former military. If any of your friends, relatives or associates has a product, service or message that would benefit from exposure in our magazine, give me the contact information and I will give them a call.

I have received no adverse comments about the format change, small though it was, so I assume that most members are OK with it. I'm still available if you have an observation or comment.

We are always in the market for stories, unit histories, etc. that can be run as feature articles in the magazine. They must be verifiable if they concern missions or operations. Feature articles can be submitted directly to me (contact info is in the edit box). I will contact you for any action that may need to be taken to verify any part of the article. Please note that deadlines are as follows: March issue deadline, February 15; June issue deadline, May 15; September issue deadline, August 15; December issue deadline, November 15. I know that several unit organizations are working on histories, so how about sharing them with the rest of us.

I hate to harp on something, but I received several submissions with photos imbedded in the text. **I cannot open these photos.** Please send the photos as separate files, or they will not be in the magazine.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dana McGrath

RANGER REUNION:

SEATTLE/TACOMA/FT. LEWIS – HOME OF THE SECOND BATTALION, SUMMER, 2004. Dates as of today (subject to immediate change if we get dates for the Change Of Command there) are 7/31/04 to 8/4/04. LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE DEFINITELY ATTENDING – we're projecting needs of rooms, refreshments (booze) and Ranger games at Ft. Lewis – NOW's THE TIME if you know you're going. We're almost at the agreement-point with Best Western/Fife (www.bwfife.com) for the Host Hotel, and the La Quinta (site of our last Reunion on the West Coast) as an overflow Hotel. The Best Western has tremendous facilities for our meetings and Banquet, plus an indoor pool, easy access to the Highway leading to Ft. Lewis and other attractions in the area. The Best Western Staff has been very helpful in inviting us to their Hotel and looks forward to showing us how good their service is to Visitors. SEE THE PAGE DEVOTED TO THIS SUBJECT – MAKE PLANS *NOW* TO ATTEND AND LET US KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE THERE, PLEASE.

RANGER HALL OF FAME:

By now most of you have sent the Draft of your Ranger Hall Of Fame nominees, I hope. If you haven't yet done so, but have a Ranger in mind, get in touch NOW so we can get you up to speed on the Packet. I will be

cutting off submissions by December 15 unless more time is available to us than I know of today (Just got the dates for us to have our selections at RHOF – Jan 4, 2004).

Here's how the process works:

Rangers work with the Unit Director to nominate a Ranger for the RHOF - Unit Directors submit the Packet to the 75thRRA Selection Committee Chairman (me as of this writing) – Selection Committee reviews all packets, suggests improvements if possible, re-reviews Final Packets. Selection Committee sends THREE forward to the Ranger Hall Of Fame Board by the end of January. The RHOF Board consists of Active-Duty Regiment and several Ranger Associations – all of whom submit packets. RHOF Board selects 15 for Induction to the Ranger Hall Of Fame. In late March or early April, the process is concluded and the Induction Planning begins for the following Summer.

As you can see, the time runs quickly and in order to do the best job possible, we need to get our work done with enough time to Honor the very best of those submitted each year. Let me know how I can help and I'll do it ASAP.

RANGER FAMILY / CHRISTMAS FUND:

Of all the amazing things I get to see as your President, this one counts BIG. This Fund has

become a year-round recipient of donations from Rangers and Friends of Rangers. Each Battalion has by now received \$2,500 for their Ranger Family Christmas festivities, so each Ranger's Child will have a special time whether Dad's out of town or home. I want to personally Thank each of you for your support of the Active Duty Ranger and his Family, as the Fund is used throughout the year for crises which would be even tougher if such support wasn't available. These funds are separate from our "Operating" Funds and are tapped when the call comes about an Active-Duty Ranger in need. I'm sure it feels as good to you as it does to me. Send to 75thRRA, PO Box 921, Heflin, AL 36264 if you have a donation to this Fund.

CURRENT EVENTS:

Rant Mode "ON"... The War continues and so does the Media's stance against it, based primarily on the their obvious all-encompassing dislike of the current President. With few exceptions, this War is being reported as in conflicts of long-past decades, instead of with balanced reporting of good AND bad. The Media's blatant hate for this country continues to disgust me, but it does give me a view of the enemy's perspective of America. One day we'll find a way to dislike the President and still love the Country he leads enough to support the troops in battle – might save a few of our

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

young Soldiers in wars of that time. It is unfortunate that the Soldier catches the bullet thrown by the enemy who would have quit in the face of solidarity, instead of the reporter or editorial board of the media. Were it different, they'd learn to support the troops in the quest for Freedom for us and/or others while questioning the Leadership of this Nation. My Hollywood boycott continues, my newspaper subscription is cancelled and my disgust with the media's furthering of our enemies' causes continues to mount. There are so many good things being done by Soldiers on a daily basis you'd think they could find such stories to include, but few make the attempt. Rant Mode "OFF" for now; please forgive the personal outburst if you can. Hanoi Jane can tell you all about my commitment level - I haven't paid to see her since "Barbarella" (nice bod, spoiled head, rotten heart of a Socialist with Capitalist desires and the willingness to do ANYTHING to enjoy the fruits borne from efforts of anyone but her own). (OK, Rant mode OFF, really.)

Remember, Rangers - TACOMA - JULY 31, 2004 - REUNION AND 75THRA BOARD ELECTIONS VOTE FOR THE REPLACEMENTS *YOU* WILL BRING TO THE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS OF *YOUR* ASSOCIATION. GET THOSE NAMES TOGETHER AND WE'LL GIVE THEM A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO

THE JOBS.

I'll see you there and enjoy the time, we'll have a few refreshments, tell some tall tales, meet Brother Rangers we've known forever and some we will think we have, see the sights at Ft. Lewis (might even get those Rangers to tell us some NEW stories) and generally raise what Cain we can as the opportunity presents itself.

We'll toast the Fallen Heroes, celebrate the victories and support those who are walking the walk today at RANGER level. I look forward to the events and the

feeling only found in the Company of Rangers.

Finally, I would like, on behalf of the entire Association to thank President Bush for his efforts in visiting the troops in Iraq. Any of us that have been deployed in a war zone know how much the support of the people means. I can think of no better way to show support than a visit from the Commander in Chief. Thank you Mr. President.

Dana McGrath

The picture is of a guy I used to know real well. He's an old guy now.



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Wayne Mitsch

This is always an interesting time of the year for me. As I am writing this, Veterans Day has just passed and Thanksgiving is coming. As you are reading it, Christmas is here and New Years is rapidly approaching. So my thoughts at this moment are flipping between patriotism, charity, time with family and friends, reflections on this past year and focus on the New Year.

We, as an Association, do a great job of giving to the Christmas / Family Fund for the Ranger families. Thank you to all of you who gave last year and I hope you will consider an even bigger contribution this year. If you haven't sent a contribution, it is not too late, in fact, it is never too late.

Bob Fraser from the 4th Division (K Company) donated over a hundred black t-shirts with the Ranger scroll to be sent to anyone in the 4th Division unit who donates to the fund. Bob paid for the shirts, the imprinting and the postage to send them. This is just one more example of our guys doing good deeds.

I lost count of how many were involved in the award and presentation made by Randy White (L Company) for the Ross Perot award. What a class act, by a lot of class people that turned out to be. We do little things and big things every day that have an impact on our lives.

But, what I'd like to focus on for a few minutes is our armed forces. I heard recently that our armed forces are deployed in 41 countries. Some are on active duty, some are career soldiers but a lot are the mobilized National Guard and Reserves type. No matter what your political views or opinions of our current military strategy, we – the veterans – need to refocus and see what we can do to help all of our brothers and sisters in uniform – not just the Rangers.

We can't imagine how many families have felt the impact of this mobilization or to what extent they are suffering. I am referring to the families who have had a husband or a wife, mothers and fathers, impacted in financial ways as well as just having to do without the help of the spouse in every day life and activities.

We need to be cognizant every day of the little things we can do that would be “no big deal” that could be ever so helpful in ways we just don't think about. And then there are the big things that we can do that would have a major impact on the families here as well as the military abroad. Some of the immediate things that come to mind:

- Go to the local dollar store and spend a few dollars on toothbrushes or cookies – thought gifts – something – anything that would let them know they are not forgotten. Give to one of the impacted families in your neighborhood

or send them to the troops abroad.

- Give up a seat on an airplane and take a later flight so the standby military person can get home for their leave.
- Help a family whose spouse has been activated by offering to mow their grass or shovel the snow from their sidewalk, get the oil in car changed – little things that can make a major impact in someone's day.
- Remind them of the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act when you hear about them being harassed by the bill collectors because their bread winner is deployed and family is living on an unexpectedly reduced income.
- Make a run to the grocery store for them and pay for it.
- The list of ideas is endless. Just put yourself in their place – what would you wish for?
- Or how about this – adopt a family or a week, a month or more.

Let's do our best during the holidays and next year as well to let our mobilized men and women in uniform know how much they are appreciated and that they have not been forgotten. Let them realize that what they read and hear in the news is only the opinion of a few. Make them aware that we appreciate them and the sacrifices they are making for all of us.

Have you noticed that more than ever, people are calling you on Veterans Day to thank you for serving your country? That doesn't make the main stream press.

Have you noticed that Jessica Lynch is a hero and has a Bronze Star? That makes the news in a big way. Those who rescued her are obscure; no names just doing what they do best day in and day out.

Regarding Afghanistan and Iraq - Have you notice that the body count has gone away? How come we only hear about our casualties? Gee – we wouldn't know who was winning the football game either if we were only given one of the team's score.

We, in my estimation, are on a very slippery slope – compliments of the liberal media. **We have to do what we can at our level to insure that the men and women in uniform know that America does appreciate them, their sacrifice and the thankless job they do every day!**

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2004.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By Ron Edwards

This is my third try at a secretary's column for this issue of "Patrolling". In my continuing battle with the age of technology, my hard drive received a mortal blow when it acquired some sort of degenerative disease causing it to lock up at inopportune moments (like when I was using it). The local witch doctors said there was nothing they could do; it would just die a slow painful (for me) death. So I lost my secretary column I was working on, I almost finished rewriting it when we bought the new computer and in switching things over to the new one, I lost it again. I feel like I have written 60 pages and have nothing to show for it. OK, here we go again, maybe just a little bit shorter this time.

I have spent the majority of my secretary time since the last issue working on getting the annual dues recorded and deposited. That, in conjunction with an increase of hours at my day job, has put me behind in other areas of the secretary job. I have not been as effective in acquiring new members, or answering members' questions as I should be, and I am also behind in sending out the life member certificates and ordering the permanent plastic membership cards from Ralph Harter.

Since I mentioned Ralph, let me thank him again for his support of the association. I have been secretary for about three and a half years now and have never managed to meet Ralph. I talked to him on the phone once and I believe to his lovely wife Sylvia once, but most of our communication has been through fax or mail. Ralph, a member from E/50 9th Inf. Div, evidently just likes to stay in the background and support the association as he can.

And since I just mentioned that I have been secretary for 3&1/2 years, let me put out the word that I will not be running for reelection at the reunion in Fort Lewis this coming summer. Two tours are enough for me to say I have contributed to the cause. I do not regret taking the job; I have had many good times, met some great people and have been allowed to feel good about contributing to something greater than myself. Actually it has been a hell of a ride and one worth paying for at any amusement park. Still I have a young family, four kids from 15 down to 7 years old (two boys 13 & 7)

and find I am not spending near as much time with them as I should and would like to. So, it is time for me to go and someone else to step forward.

Now for my quarterly remembrance. Do you know the difference between a Fairy Tale and a War Story? A Fairy Tale begins "Once Upon a Time" and a War Story begins "This ain't no shit now", so this ain't no shit... really.

We pulled several missions in the Khe Sahn plains. We would usually fly up to Quang Tri and then stage out of there for the mission. Khe Sahn is where the marines had a big battle in 68 I think. The pilots used the old airstrip as a marker. They would fly to the old airstrip than take a shorter azimuth to where our mission was located. I did pull one mission right around the old airstrip, nothing special happened but I do remember how the area was really shot up. Other missions in that area were not pleasant. The area is rolling plains and hills with elephant grass 8-10 feet tall. You can't see where you are going and it is terrible hot moving through the elephant grass with no shade.

On one mission there we came up a small hill and sent out a point recon to check out the top of the hill. They came back and reported seeing a foxhole with an AK-47 and NVA helmet next to it. This was a heavy team for some reason and we had a M-60 Machine Gun with us. We had called in the info and were told to collect the equipment. Four men including the machine gun went back up to the hilltop. We stopped about 15 yards from the position. One of the men volunteered to crawl on up and get the helmet and rifle but the team leader was suspicious and decided to recon by fire, shooting into the elephant grass on the other side in case it was a ambush. (Since it was on top of the hill they should have been able to see us moving for several hours before we arrived). In firing up the area one of the bullets must have hit the helmet because it set off a booby trap. When we had first reported the equipment a pink team (LOH and COBRE) had started towards our location. A good thing too; they arrived shortly after the booby trap blew up and reported a whole bunch of NVA on the other side of the hill. They had a field day

shooting them up in that open terrain. We had done our job finding the enemy so some extraction slicks were sent to pick us up. The pink team reported movement around us so we set up a perimeter to wait for extraction. Since you could not see 10 feet through that elephant grass, we threw a grenade every couple minutes in a different direction to help the NVA keep their distance. The team leader wanted everyone to consolidate their grenades with him so he could ration them out better. We were in a very small circle, maybe 20 yards in diameter so it made sense, but somehow you just don't want to give up the grenades you've been carrying for a couple days.

Our pickup ships finally arrived but we had trouble getting on them. We were still on the side of the hill, so since the helicopters couldn't land they came in sideways to the hill to enable them to take off faster. The skids were still 4 to 5 feet from the ground on the high side and completely out of reach on the low side. While we were trying to climb on the helicopter the team leader blew the claymores we had set out for defense. I don't think he warned the pilots he was doing this because when the claymores went off the helicopter took a giant leap sideways. The machine-gunner somehow lost his M-60 while climbing on the bird. We did not know this until we had finally all got on board and started leaving the area, and then the team leader noticed this fellow didn't have the machine gun. Leaving the machine gun was a major mistake and we wanted to go back for it but the pilot would have none of that. He did tell the gunship to go back and fire up the spot we had left so maybe the machine gun would be destroyed. Normally after a contact mission, even if on the second day, a team would get three days in the company to reload and do the planning and over flights for a new mission. For some reason the company commander wanted to send us back out the very next day on a new mission. (maybe he was pissed about the machine gun) The team leader did not like that at all and tried to get us the usual 3-day break. We did go back out sooner than usual though I think the team leader's complaints did get us an extra day and enough time for him to do some of the normal planning and over flights for a mission.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

One of the big problems in assessing the benefits available to a given individual veteran has always been the question of state benefits. Each state has some sort of office dealing with veteran's benefits. Mary Anne discovered a web site that lists all the states and the benefits available from each. This is the web site for the National Association of State Directors of Veteran's Affairs, (nasdva.com). This is the only site that I know of that gives a comprehensive listing of benefits on a state – by – state basis. It also provides links to the state veteran's departments and to other service organizations. This is one of the best assets available to individuals interested in state benefits. In an article I wrote a couple issues ago, I mentioned the difficulty of finding a compilation of state Veteran's benefits. Well, here it is and it's pretty comprehensive.

I don't often tell personal anecdotes in these hallowed pages, but Emmett said that I needed to tell this story in the magazine or he was going to put it on the web site. Here goes. In May, Mary Anne decided that we needed to get some chickens. (We live in the city limits) Having had 5 chickens a few years ago, we were old hands. Last time, we got baby chicks. Now they say that they can sex chickens when they're only a few days old, but the guy who did these must have had an off day. We were supposed to get six hens, so you can imagine our surprise when one of the "hens" started crowing at 0500. We needed to get rid of Tyrone as we named the rooster. (Did I mention that we live in the city?) I voted for inviting him to dinner, but of course I was over ruled. I actually had to drive 70 miles to deliver him to a chicken rescue facility. (That's right, chicken rescue. I still think it's a front for Perdue Farms.)

Guess what hens start to do when the rooster's gone? They fight for the top slot in the pecking order and start to kill each other. Within a couple years, we were out of chickens. At about that time, we fell in love with a (VERY expensive) cockatoo named Ricky. He was just darlin'. At first. After a year or so with him we got a dog. That started another round of dominance wars between the dog, the cockatoo and us. As usual, I lost. Taking a loss of several thousand dollars, we got rid of Ricky. Got pennies on the dollar too.

After the cockatoo, the suggestion that we get some chickens was actually a relief. This time I did some research. I discovered that we could get half grown chickens (pullets) and so ensure that they were of the proper gender. Oddly enough, the place to buy the chickens is only a few miles from where Bill Bullen, the K Co unit director lives. Turns out that you just can't go pick up a dozen chickens, no, you have to order them six weeks in advance and go through a sort of question and answer period. Believe me, you can adopt a Chinese kid with less of a back ground check. On the appointed day, we presented ourselves and got our chickens and took them home. They immediately started laying, would you believe nine or ten eggs a day? And no rooster.

Of course this chicken paradise could not continue. This area had the wettest spring and summer on record. Though the chickens have an outside run, they still manage to come down with dozens of diseases, infections, etc. About a month ago, one of the

chickens gets a little sulky, and the next day we go out to the chicken house, and there she is, belly up. Eleven left. A couple of weeks later, another one started to exhibit the same symptoms. We had an appointment at the Vet for the dog to get a shot, so we put the chicken in a box and drag her along. (This is the same Vet who treated Ricky the cockatoo, a bird specialist.) After an examination, the Vet pumps a pint or so of fluid out of the chicken's throat. She comes back and says, "We can admit her, hook her up to an IV (!) and keep her for a few days or we can try the less expensive way." An IV sounded too expensive so we inquired about the cheap way. "We give you the antibiotics and you administer them twice a day," the Vet says. We look at each other, "We can do that," we say while trying to keep the dog from eating the chicken.

One problem. We are on our way to Altoona to see Mary Anne's family. No sweat, we'll put the chicken in the dog's old training crate, take food water and medicine, and there we go. We go out to the front desk to pay up. The woman says that'll be \$30.00 for the dog and \$207.00 for the chicken. Ever been sucker punched? Two Hundred and Seven Dollars to fix a Five Dollar chicken!? The whole damn flock didn't cost that much. Not half that much. Wiser but poorer, we paid up and left. While I was putting the dog crate together, I spied Ricky's leash and harness. (Remember the cockatoo?) I threw it in the box along with the other stuff.

Altoona was, as always, delightful. I sometimes find time to drag a bit however, so I decided to give the chicken a bit of air and get her out of the back of the truck for a while. I didn't want to loose her, so I put the cockatoo's harness and leash on her and took her for a walk. Now my reputation among Mary Anne's folks is not all that sterling, and I am suspected of being a tad eccentric, I suppose. When Mary Anne's father, Pete, came out and saw me walking my chicken, he thought I was nuts. (It was the chicken's fault, for some reason, while on the leash, she would only walk backwards.) There were some mutterings about Vietnam Vets and other things I couldn't hear.

After everyone left and the chicken and I were spending some quality time together, one of the local's stops, backs up and says, "Is that a chicken?" I said, "Boy you can't pull anything on you!" He replied, "It ain't every day you see a chicken on a leash." I told him that we used her in our act. "Your act!" he said. I replied "Yeah, the Circus is in town, you know." "No," he said, "I didn't know that". I told him I'd send him a couple tickets. At least I tried to get \$200.00 worth of fun out of the chicken. Good thing I did, she died as soon as we got back to Baltimore. I suspect it was too many laughs.

After more than a decade of marriage (12 years to be exact), you'd think we would run out of things to talk about. I guess the reason we're still married, is that we don't. We were driving somewhere or other & we got to the subject of honor, specifically, if the same definition applied to men and women in the same way. In other words, would an honorable man and an honorable woman, given the same set of facts, behave in the same manner? That's a tough question. Is honor an absolute, would all people define it the exact same way all the time?

EDITOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

It seemed to me that by its very nature, honor had to be something that was self-imposed. It could not be forced outside of the individual. That would merely be following the law, and believe me, as a former lawyer I know lots of folk who stay well within the boundaries of the law, and are not possessed of a shred of honor, in fact they make lots of money screwing people out of their life's savings, but always within the letter of the law. I knew people when I was in the military that followed all the regulations, but would not do one single thing or take one single chance that they didn't need to and stay legal.

I asked the following question: If I was leading a unit in a combat area where the boundaries between friend and foe were a little blurred, (like Iraq or Vietnam), and I see what I perceived could be a threat. I engage the individual in the few seconds available in which to make a decision. Subsequently, I discover that the threat was not an enemy, but the individual is still dead. Was that a dishonorable act? As a former unit commander, I would say that any act that I undertook, in good faith, to keep my people alive and to accomplish my mission was, by definition, honorable. I'm sure that the average liberal anti-war type would disagree and call me a murderer. There is a difference between murder and killing. When I returned from Vietnam, I was called a murderer on more than one occasion. I took pains to point out to the offending parties, that I was a killer, not a murderer. There is a difference. Murder is always dishonorable, killing is not.

Trying to pin this down was getting frustrating, finally Mary Anne asked, "OK, how would you define an honorable person?" With one of those intuitive flashes we all get from time to time, I replied, "Easy, an honorable person is keeping score." "Define that," she replied. I said, "If you are aware of what you are doing all the time, of the consequences of your actions, of the debts you owe your family, friends, associates, etc., and are consciously attempting to act within those parameters and not violating the trust those people have in you, then you are acting honorably." After a bit more discussion, I think we agreed. Can this be a blueprint for life? Why not? After all, if two teams played a football game without keeping score, it would be pretty pointless, wouldn't it? A life lived without keeping score might be just as pointless.

Imagine my surprise when I got Roger Crunk's article written for the K CO Unit Report. In his piece, he talked about brotherhood and how we all behaved toward those men in the units we served in, and how we supported, protected and cared for each other. We left no one behind, often risking our lives to get a team or an individual out if at all possible. Was that because we were brothers? Partly. It was the right thing, the honorable thing to do. I believe that our sense of honor gave birth to the brotherhood, (or the other way around). I recommend that you read Roger's article, (if indeed, you are reading this). The concept of honor is one that is always with us, and it bears reflecting on from time to time.

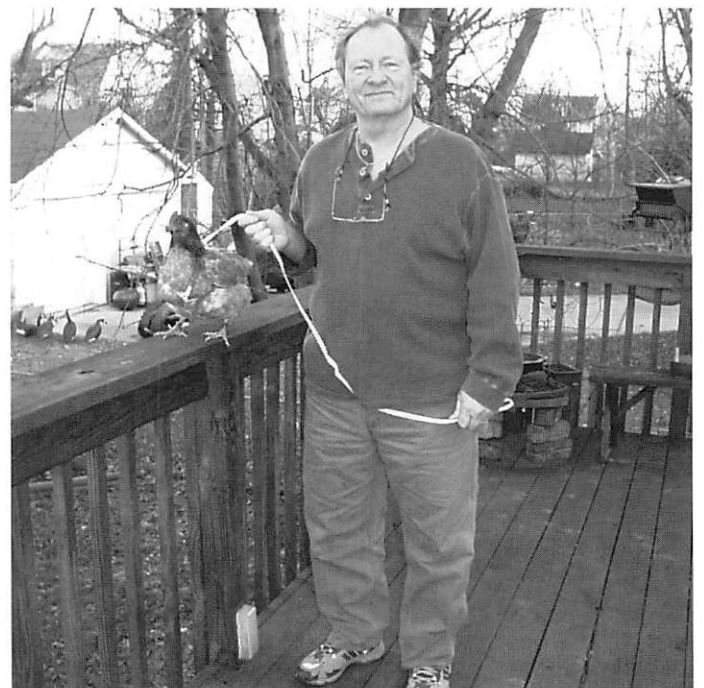
This from Retired CSM Don Keller, former Top Sergeant of K/75. It seems that car thieves, at least the smarter (?) ones, no longer break into cars to steal them. They simply write down the

VIN number (visible through the windshield on the lower left side of the dashboard), then go to a dealer of that type vehicle, pose as the owner and request a replacement for the 'lost' key. At that point, they only need to go to the car, unlock it and drive away. It is recommended that you cover the number so that is not visible from outside the car. It is illegal to remove it, but it is OK to hide it. Thanks Don.

Mary Anne and I attended a lecture at one of the local Colleges, Villa Julie. It was a ROTC related lecture, and it was given by MSG Matt Eversman of *Blackhawk Down* fame. Matt is currently assigned to the ROTC Department of Johns Hopkins University, here in Baltimore. Matt's address was well received by all present. It was quite interesting to hear the history of the Battle of Mogidishu from a participant and not from the "war story" perspective.

Matt discussed the fact that he thought that the movie *Blackhawk Down* addressed three values possessed by the Rangers involved. They were selfless service in a cause greater than your own self, courage, men who accomplish their tasks in spite of the fear that they might feel and duty, staying the course despite adversity. He also mentioned that he thought the movie was an authentic depiction of the chaos of war.

MSG Eversman gave a very professional presentation. He appears to be, by nature, a modest man, and his talk was free of any bravado or machismo. He discussed his own fears and those of the men he led. He also talked about their disregard for their own safety as they were helping their wounded teammates. (There we go with the concept of brotherhood and honor again, things aren't much different now than they were thirty years ago in that regard.) I was impressed by both MSG Eversman and his presentation.



John Chester with the million.

WEB MASTER

By Emmett W. Hiltibrand



In my last article for the Patrolling Magazine, I presented to you, what was available in the “MEGA LINKS” section of the web site. In this issue there is a sample page of what we are building for the Health & Wellness section. As you can see from the sample page, we are attempting to remain a portal for information rather than an end destination of information. Being an end destination would require our group of contributors to write massive amounts of already published data. We would then be required to update and maintain that data. Going the portal route, we redirect you the visitor to the already existing site and it is the responsibility of the host authors to update and maintain the information. In the case of the PTSD page, we developed what we thought would be the most commonly asked questions about this topic and then found the links to sites that answered that question. So, there you have it. That’s our game plan.

Not all of the major topics are flushed out with links or questions yet but we are getting there. It takes time to search all the possible questions and then hunt down the links to answer those questions. In the end though, we will have a very nice set up for you that will be a wealth of information. Or I should rather say, a link to sites that contain that wealth of information for you. I don’t think there is another site that has quit this same set up that we are offering.

I just finished another web site course that will in the future help me stream line the web site so that it flows smoothly and loads faster on your machine. We have created about 500 pages since I took over the web site. I’m creating massive amounts of bulk information for the web site and have neglected the finer points of web protocol. But, I have a fine group of men who are cleaning up behind me. Dave Walker is still in his quest to improve the web graphics for the site. He’s acquired a new program toy that allows him to develop clearer and cleaner graphics for the site.

We are also very near completion of the KIA site. At the section we are attempting to honor all of our men who were either Killed in Action or Training. We offer them in several categories. You may find a man by either **Alphabetical** listing, by **Unit** listing, by **Year** of death listing or by **Month** of death listing. Each listing offers you a different option to find out information about that individual. Like his [Vietnam Wall location](#), his [Ranger Memorial brick number](#), his [Gold Star Mother or Wife information](#) or finally a [Tribute](#) to the individual.

The site is growing by leaps and bounds. I ask that each of you go to the site and review it from beginning to end. Write me about suggestions or comments. If you find an error, please let me know soonest. If you would like to help with the site in any way, contact me. Please go to the ‘Guest Book’ and make an entry. Keep it clean but express yourself. It’s your web site and you should contribute to it. Keep it alive and worth while. It will only be as interesting as you make it. Until next time.

Emmett W. Hiltibrand ranger2c@mchsi.com


<http://www.75thrra.com/>

WEB MASTER MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

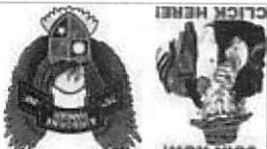
This is one of the pages on the Health & Wellness site. As you can see, we have plans for more topics such as HEP C, Diabetes, Agent Orange, Cancer, Physicals and Veterans Administration stuff. Not all of the other topics are flushed out as this one is. It's a slow process in collecting all the data needed and presenting it on the web site. But we are working on it for you. If you would like to assist and contribute to this portion, please contact me. We need help.

Emmett

75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



Health & Wellness



Disclaimer	Hep C	Diabetes	PTSD	Agent O	Cancer	Physicals	VA Claims	VA Info	
								DOD Info	

THIS PAGE IS NEARING COMPLETION - CHECK BACK SOON

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Subject's
PTSD - What is it per the American Medical Association (AMA). [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
PTSD - What is it per the Veterans Administration (VA). [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
What is DSM IV? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
How do I determine if I have PTSD?. [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
Why didn't I know I had PTSD? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
Does having PTSD make me any less of a person? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
What are the symptoms of PTSD? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
What is Global Assessment Function (GAF)? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
What is AXIS? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
How does the VA compute ratings. [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
What are the types of treatments for PTSD? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
What are the medications commonly used for the treatment of PTSD? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]
What are the possible side affects of these medications? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
Medications - When is enough, ENOUGH? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
How does PTSD affect you, your family, friends and co-workers? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]
How to co-exist with PTSD? [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]
You might have PTSD, if--

GOLD STAR...



Hello from your Gold Star Mom

There have been a lot of positive things happening with our Gold Star program.

We have added some Vietnam Gold Stars. They are Louise Watts, mother of Ranger Bradley Watts and Mrs. Hathaway, the mother of Steve Hathaway. I feel confident you will read the stories about these presentations elsewhere in this issue. I want to thank the Rangers involved who found these families and brought them home. This is one of the best and most rewarding missions you have ever accomplished. The rewards will be unending.

I strongly encourage those of you who have thought about contacting your fallen buddy's families to proceed in doing that. They deserve it and our fallen Rangers deserve it. What a wonderful Christmas present or what a way to start the New Year. I would love to triple our Vietnam Gold Stars membership by this time next year.

December 20 it will be 14 years for our family that we have been walking this Gold Star road. We have gotten past mourning the unfulfilled dream and have

come to terms with the fact Jim fulfilled his dream and met his destiny. We no longer dwell on what we lost but on how lucky we were for what we had and for the time we had it. He continues to give us moments of laughter during family conversations and has Blessed us with wonderful memories. He would want us to be doing exactly what we are doing. Honoring him everyday with how we live our lives. Just as he did. We still are amazed at the times we meet new people who knew him and have a Jimmy story to share. You could give that same gift to another family. I hope we are still meeting someone 30 years from now that knew and remembers our son. I hope you will take the time to give someone the gift of a memory that only you can give.

May God Bless each of you during this most special time of year and may the New Year bring you only the best that life has to offer

Thank you once again for allowing me to serve this wonderful organization. It is an honor and privilege.

As always RLTW

Sandee

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

ARMED SERVICES TAX FAIRNESS

ACT: After more than a year of bickering between the House and Senate over what offsets to include in the bill to ensure that the tax cuts did not further exacerbate the budget deficit a compromise was reached on the final version of HR 3365 legislation providing a package of tax cuts and increased death benefits for military families. Both chambers voted unanimously and the president signed it into law on Veterans day. The following benefits are covered under the legislation:

- Doubles to \$12,000 the death gratuity paid to survivors of military personnel killed in the line of duty, and would make the entire sum tax exempt. Currently, only half of the \$6,000 benefit is tax free. The increase in the death gratuity is retroactive to September 11, 2001;
- Provides a capital gains break on home sales for members of the military and Foreign Service. Currently, a taxpayer may exclude form taxable income up to \$250,000 in profits from a home sale, or \$500,000 for a married couple filing jointly, if the owner resided in the home for at least two of the five years prior to selling it. The bill changes the law to allow military and Foreign Service personnel to exempt up to 10 years away from home (on orders) from counting against the requirement to have lived in a primary residence for at least 2 of the 5 years preceding sale of the home, retroactive to 1997;
- Amounts received under the Defense Department's Homeowners Assistance Program will be excluded from taxable income. This program provides payments to offset adverse effects on housing values resulting from military base realignment or closure;
- Gives National Guard and reserve members an "above the line" tax deduction (one taken directly from gross income before any itemized or standard deductions) for transportation, meals and lodging expenses more than 100 miles from home to attend National Guard or reserve meetings;

- Deadlines for filing tax returns and paying taxes are suspended beyond those serving in a combat zone during hostilities to include those deployed outside the United States who are participating in a "contingency operation." Contingency operation is defined as an operation in which members of the armed forces are or may become involved in military actions against an enemy of the United States or an opposing military force;
- For students attending any of the military academies, the bill will permit penalty-free withdrawals from education savings accounts and qualified tuition programs.
- If astronauts die in the line of duty, income tax liability for the year of death, and the one preceding it, will be waived. For those who died on the Columbia space shuttle, the bill would apply retroactively. [Source: Various NOV 03]

NDA 04 BENEFIT UPGRADES: The House and Senate conferees forged a final agreement on their National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2004 (H.R.1588) unresolved differences on 6 NOV. Both the house and Senate have voted approval and the bill has been sent to the president for signature. Major personnel items of interest to service members include:

- 1.) Concurrent Receipt of Retired Pay and VA Disability Compensation. On 1 JAN 04, all military retirees with at least 20 years of service and VA disability ratings of 50% or higher will see their military retired pay offsets phased out over a ten-year period. Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) will be expanded to include all combat- or operations-related disabilities-from 10% to 100% ratings, also effective 1 JAN 04. Currently, only those with qualifying disabilities rated 60% or higher or who have a disability associated with a Purple Heart are eligible. In both cases, Guard and Reserve retirees with 20 qualifying years of service (including those with less than 7,200 retirement points) will be eligible.
- 2.) Military Pay and Allowances. An

average pay raise of 4.15%.

3.) Enhanced TRICARE Coverage for the National Guard and Reserve. Cost-share access to TRICARE for non-mobilized, uninsured / unemployed members of the Guard and Reserve and expanded TRICARE coverage prior to and following a mobilization. Also, immediate dental and medical screening for Selected Reservists (primarily, drilling members of the Guard and Reserve) alerted for activation.

4.) TRICARE Standard Information Outreach. DoD is directed to develop and implement a plan for information outreach to assist beneficiaries in obtaining access to TRICARE services.

5.) Imminent Danger Pay (IDP) and Family Separation Allowance (FSA). Beginning 1 OCT 03 for 15 months an increase in the worldwide use of IDP from \$150 to \$225 per month and FSA from \$100 to \$250.

6.) Military Manpower. An increase of 2400 in active Army end strength and an increase of 1,779 full-time active duty National Guard or Reserve personnel.

7.) Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Program. Equitable SBP coverage for survivors of active duty deaths regardless of the circumstances of the death. SBP annuities for survivors of reservists who die in the line-of-duty while performing inactive duty.

8.) Health Protection and Surveillance. The Secretary of Defense must establish a quality control program to ensure compliance with pre- and post- deployment medical evaluations for servicemembers.

9.) Commissaries. Unlimited commissary access for National Guard and Reserve servicemembers.

10.) Military Pay Raise Comparability Process. A permanent law change tying future military pay raises directly to private sector pay growth, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index (ECI). Current law specifies that raises for active duty, Guard and Reserve members after 2006 would otherwise be capped one-half percentage point below the average American's pay raise every year.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

11.) Additional SBP Changes. Survivors of servicemembers killed on active duty will have the option to elect "child only" Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage. This will help many surviving spouses who now see their SBP coverage reduced by the amount of any VA survivor benefit. In addition, the new law tasks DoD and the GAO to conduct a study of military death benefits to include a comparison with private sector death benefits.

12.) Housing Allowance. Servicemembers will see an average housing allowance increase of about 6.5% in January. That will reduce median out-of-pocket housing expenses for each grade to 3.5% of housing costs in 2004, with a target of further reducing average out of pocket expenses to zero in 2005.

13.) Reimbursement for Household Goods. A new provision authorizes the Pentagon to enter contracts with moving companies that require the companies to reimburse military families the full cost of replacing any items lost or damaged during the move. [Source: MOAA Leg Up 7 & 14 NOV 03]

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY YOUTH [DCS]: Applications are now being accepted for the children of active duty, retired and Guard and Reserve members to apply for \$1,500 academic scholarships. The application window for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program extends from 4 NOV 03 through 18 FEB 04. Now in its fourth year, the program, operated by the Defense Commissary Agency www.commissaries.com has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to some 1,500 children of U.S. service members and retirees. Last year, 550 scholarship recipients were selected from 6,500 applicants. The goal is to award at least one scholarship at every commissary location, depending on the number of qualified applicants and funding. Funding comes from manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries. In addition, the Fisher House Foundation is underwriting the program's administrative costs. The general public can also contribute to the program through the Fisher House Foundation www.fisherhouse.org and the Armed Forces Foundation www.armedforcesupport.org.

Applicants must be dependent unmarried ID card holders under age 21 (23 if enrolled as a full time student) who have at least a 3.0 grade point average and are planning to attend a college or university on a full-time basis starting in the fall term of the year 2004. The DEERS database will be the primary method of

verifying eligibility. Students attending a community or junior college must be enrolled in a program of studies designed to allow the student to transfer directly into a four-year program. Submission of a 500 word essay on "What aspect of military life has had the greatest impact on you?" is required. Applications can be picked up at your local commissary and are also available as a PDF file or Microsoft Word file at www.militaryscholar.org. Applicants who submit an application at more than one commissary will be disqualified from consideration for a scholarship. Scholarship Managers, an independent, professional scholarship management service, will select the recipients. Neither DeCA nor Fisher House will be involved in the selection process of the recipients. Questions relating to the application process can be sent to militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com. Scholarship Managers will mail checks to the recipient by 31 JUL 04. The check is made payable to the college or university selected by the scholarship recipient. Additional information about the scholarship program and application procedures can be found on the program's Web site www.militaryscholar.org. [Source: American Forces Press Service 6 NOV 03]

MEDICAL HOLD GUIDELINES: In a 29 OCT 03 DoD memorandum the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, issued a memorandum to the Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, to establish policy relating to military personnel placed on "medical hold" while awaiting medical care and/or resolution of their deployment or separation status because of a medical issue. The policy applies to all active duty personnel, including the reserve components, on active duty orders for more than 30 days and assigns them the highest priority for health care appointments. The TRICARE standards for access to health care: no longer than one week for non-urgent, routine medical care, and no longer than one month for specialty care appointments, are considered the minimum threshold for access to health care for these beneficiaries. Personnel on "medical hold" requiring specialty care services are to be seen within two-weeks of identifying the need for an appointment. If such access is not available within the standards, the MTF are to refer patients to other military, VA or civilian sources of care, to include both TRICARE networks and non-network providers. The memorandum also addresses the services providing uniform lodging for "medical holds" that meet quality standards for the area in they are located. It also calls for weekly Service

reports through DEC 03 to the ASD (HA) concerning the total number of medical holds for more than 30-days and over 60-days displayed by active duty and activated Guard and Reserve Components members. [Source: NAUS Leg Up 6 NOV 03]

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT W/DISABILITY: If you are under age 65 and have a disability, you can file for disability benefits from the Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board. You should apply at any Social Security office as soon as you become disabled. You may file by phone, mail or by visiting your local Social Security office. If you want to apply by phone call toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, and a time will be set up a for your local Social Security office to contact you. Once you have filed, you will need to be on disability benefits for 24 months to be entitled to Medicare benefits. You will automatically be enrolled in Medicare after you receive disability benefits for 24 months or when you reach the age of 65, whichever occurs first. The "Initial Enrollment Period" package that welcomes you to the program will be mailed to you about three months before your Medicare eligibility date. You can get more information by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov, by calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, or by visiting or calling your local Social Security office. If you are living outside of the United States, you should contact the Foreign Service Post which is normally located at the American Embassy to enroll in Medicare. Medicare does not pay for services outside the United States, except for some emergency situations in Mexico and Canada. The Medicare regulations define the United States as the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and for purposes of services rendered onboard ship, the territorial waters adjoining the land areas of the United States.

Premiums. You can get Part A without having to pay premiums once you have received Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board disability benefits for 24 months. Contact your local Social Security office for more information. Your Initial Enrollment Period for Medicare Part B will begin three months prior to your 25th month of disability benefit entitlement. The premium for Medicare Part B is \$66 in 2004. This monthly premium is deducted from your Social Security, Railroad Retirement, or Civil Service Retirement check. If you do not get any of these payments, Medicare will either send you a

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

bill for your Part B premium every 3 months or you can use Medicare Easy Pay as an electronic payment option. This payment option allows people with Medicare to have their Medicare premiums automatically deducted from either their savings or checking account free of charge. If you do not sign up for Medicare Part B during your Initial Enrollment Period, you can sign up during the General Enrollment Period.

This period runs from January 1st through March 31st of each year. During this time, you can sign up for Medicare Part B by calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or by visiting or calling your local Social Security office. Your Medicare Part B coverage will start on July 1st of the year you sign up. The cost of Medicare Part B will go up 10% for each 12-month period that you could have had Medicare Part B but didn't take it. You will have to pay this extra amount as long as you have Medicare Part B. If you choose to wait and sign up for Medicare Part B when you reach the age of 65, you will not have to pay a higher premium for Part B. [Source: www.medicare.gov NOV 03]

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES 2004: The registration and absentee ballot request deadlines are quickly approaching in states holding Presidential Preference Primaries in January and February 2004. In some states, voters should submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) (SF-76) to their states before the end of 2003 in order to vote in these 2004 elections. The following states are holding Presidential Preference Primaries on:

- * District of Columbia: January 13
- * New Hampshire: January 27
- * Arizona: February 3
- * Delaware: February 3
- * Missouri: February 3 (Submit FPCA Not Earlier Than December 22)
- * Oklahoma: February 3
- * South Carolina: February 3
- * Tennessee: February 10 (Submit FPCA Not Earlier Than November 5)
- * Virginia: February 10
- * Wisconsin: February 17

Citizens who are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) who are residents of these states should register and request a ballot by completing and submitting an FPCA to their Local Election Official before the end of 2003. Voters should also submit a second FPCA after 1 JAN 04. FPCAs received after 1 JAN 04 will allow voters to receive absentee voting materials for the 2004 state primary and November General Elections. For assistance, contact an FVAP staff member through the DoD Voting Information

Center (VIC). The VIC also provides recorded messages from candidates, as well as other information concerning elections, 24 hours a day. Citizens may reach the VIC toll-free from 59 countries using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP website www.fvap.gov. In the U.S. call 1-800-438-VOTE (8683) or local (703) 588-1343 or use DSN (military) 425-1343. Questions may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1155. Additionally, the FVAP can be reached via e-mail at vote@fvap.ncr.gov and on the World Wide Web at www.fvap.gov. [Source: Federal Voting Assistance Program - News Release #11]

ARMY RESERVE HEALTH WEB SITE: HOOAH 4 HEALTH (H4H) is a web-based health promotion and prevention program developed to respond to the needs of the U.S. Army Reserve Components. The site was launched in May 2000 and since then over 46 million hits have been recorded. The users of www.hooah4health.com include not only Reserve Component citizen-soldiers and active Army personnel, but also their co-workers and families. Also, many users are elementary school children, and requests to link to this innovative U.S. Army web site originate from around the world. The vision of the Army Well-Being Strategic Plan is captured throughout the modules on the site. Body, mind, spirit, environment, prevention, change, family and lifestyle are the primary wellness topics contained in a user-friendly environment. The HOOAH 4 HEALTH newsletter www.h4hnewsletter.us/ has been developed and designed so any user can customize it to enhance or augment their DOD health promotion or prevention program. Just insert a tailored organization logo at the top left-hand corner. A message board is also available on the site. All comments and contributions are welcomed. [Source: HEALTH+TFL msg 17 OCT 03]

CR UPDATE 22: President Bush, this week, signed the Defense Authorization Act into law. The new law includes a provision that will allow disabled military retirees with 20 or more years of service and a VA disability rating of 50 percent or more to receive both their VA disability and a 10-year phase in of their retired pay beginning January 2004. Those eligible will be receiving the following additional amounts in 2004:

Members with a disability rated as total would receive \$750 per month.

Members rated 90 percent disabled would receive \$500 per month.
Members rated 80 percent disabled would receive \$350 per month.
Members rated 70 percent disabled would receive \$250 per month.
Members rated 60 percent disabled would receive \$125 per month.
Members rated 50 percent disabled would receive \$100 per month.

The bill also extends coverage under last year's Combat-Related Special Compensation Program (CRSC) to disabled retirees with combat or operations-related disabilities rated from 10% to 100%. Guard and Reserve retirees with 20 years service will also be eligible.. Further guidance on applying for this program will be forthcoming. Some ex-spouses of retirees also stand to get more money if they have a standing garnishment order filed with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) as a result of an award of a portion of their former husband's retired pay in a divorce settlement. Defense officials have confirmed that former spouses will benefit, but warned payments are not guaranteed. An ex-spouse with a valid court order for a share of military retired pay could get more if the disabled retiree has non-combat disabilities, but would get nothing if the disabilities are combat-related. That's because the Defense Department considers CRSC to be a form of disability retired pay, which is not divisible under the Former Spouse Protection Act, while those with non-combat disabilities will receive additional retired pay, which can be divided with an ex-spouse. [Source: Various 18 NOV 03]

VETERANS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003: The Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset, and Business Improvement Act of 2003, S. 1156, provides legislation that expands specialized health care services for veterans and authorizes \$369 million to repair, renovate, and build new VA medical care facilities. S. 1156 represents a compromise agreement containing provisions from several other bills, including H.R. 1720, H.R. 2357, and H.R. 2433 that will help to ensure that the VA health care system has a modern infrastructure capable of providing medical services to our Nation's veterans. As amended and approved in the House this legislation will:

- Eliminate the 90-day requirement for former POWs to qualify for dental care and eliminates prescription drug copayments for all former POWs;
- Provide health care priority to veterans who participated in chemical and biological testing known as Project

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

112/SHAD.

- Authorize \$16 M of yearly medical health care services to 8,000 Filipino WW2 veterans living in US.
- Allow VA to contract with smaller non-VA providers to provide nursing and extended care to aging veterans.
- Authorize VA to appoint chiropractors as clinical practitioners.
- Increase funding for specialized mental health care services from \$15,000,000 to \$25,000,000.
- Extend VA's authority to transfer certain properties to community-based homeless veterans assistance providers.
- Establish an Office of Research Oversight to strengthen protections and safety for human subjects and VA employees.
- Authorize VA to carry out major construction projects proposed by the Capitol Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) initiative only after submitting a report to Congress listing each project in order of priority as established in this legislation.
- Require VA to notify Congress at least 60 days (or 30 days of continuous session) prior to undertaking any medical facility closures, consolidations, or staff realignments recommended by the CARES initiative.
- Authorize \$276.6 million for new major medical construction projects in Lebanon PA (\$14.5 million); Beckley WV (\$20 million); Chicago IL (\$98.5 million); San Diego CA (\$48.6 million); West Haven CN (\$50 million); Pensacola FL (\$45 million).
- Authorize \$5.879 million for new VA outpatient clinic leases in Charlotte NC (\$3 million) and Boston MA (\$2.879 million).
- Authorize \$86.5 million in advance planning funds for major medical projects in the following locations: Denver CO (\$26 million); Pittsburgh PA (\$9 million); Las Vegas NV (\$25 million); Columbus OH (\$9 million); East Central Florida (\$17.5 million)
- Require VA to develop specific plans for meeting the future hospital care needs of veterans who reside in Southern New Jersey, southern Texas, north central Washington, and the panhandle area of Florida
- Require VA to conduct a feasibility study in coordination with the Medical University of South Carolina and DOD to consider establishing a joint health-care venture providing comprehensive health care services to veterans, active duty servicemembers, and other beneficiaries in the Charleston SC area.
- Authorize VA to name the following health care facilities: Bob Stump VAMC in Prescott AZ; Jesse Brown VAMC in Chicago IL; Michael E. DeBakey VAMC in Houston TX; George E. Wahlen VAMC in Salt Lake City UT; John J. McGuirk VA

Outpatient Clinic in New London CN; Victor J. Saracini VA Outpatient Clinic in Horsham PA.

[Source: Committee on Veterans Affairs News Release 21 NOV 03]

VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 2003: Both House and Senate have passed H.R. 2297, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003. It will now go to the President for signature. Among its many provisions, H.R. 2297:

- Restores dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), home loan, education, and burial benefit eligibility for spouses remarried after age 57. Qualifying spouses who remarried at age 57 or more before enactment of the bill will have one year to apply for reinstatement of these benefits.
- Extends burial benefits to surviving spouses who remarry after age 57
- Increases monthly educational benefits for spouses and dependent children of members who died of service-connected causes from \$695 to \$788 for full-time study, from \$522 to \$592 for three-quarter time study, and from \$347 to \$394 for half-time study.
- Extends VA's specially adapted housing grant to severely disabled servicemembers prior to separation from active duty service.
- Expands benefits eligibility to children with spina bifida who were born to certain Vietnam-era veterans who served in Korea near the demilitarized zone.
- Eliminates the 30-day requirement for POWs to qualify for presumptions of service-connection for certain disabilities.
- Expands the Montgomery GI Bill program to cover self-employment training programs and entrepreneurship courses at approved institutions.
- Provides \$3 M of yearly compensation to about 100 US-based Filipino New Scouts for their war-related disabilities, burial benefits and for 400 widows.
- Increases the specially adapted automobile grant from \$9,000 to \$11,000, and increase the specially adapted housing grant from \$48,000 to \$50,000 for severely disabled veterans
- Allows the surviving spouse or dependent children to receive the full amount of accrued benefits if the veteran dies while claim is pending
- Mandates that the Department of Labor place staff in veterans' assistance offices at overseas military installations 90 days after date of enactment.

[Source: Various 28 NOV 03]

VA INSURANCE DIVIDEND 2004: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced its distribution of more than \$517 million in dividends to 1.5 million

active policyholders of veterans' life insurance. Over the next year, veterans will receive payments on the anniversary date of their policies, with the specific dividend amount varying according to age, type of insurance, and length of time the policy has been in force. Veterans will automatically receive their annual dividend through one of the nine payment options available to them. Dividends cover only veterans with government life insurance policies who served between 1917 and 1956. Veterans who were discharged after 1956 are covered by VA term insurance programs that do not pay dividends. The dividends represent a return of trust fund earnings on the premiums paid by policyholders throughout the years. They reflect the fact that veterans are living longer than originally predicted. Dividends are also attributable to the higher than expected yields earned by the trust funds from investments in U.S. government securities.

Only those with policies that have been kept in force when premiums were required are eligible for the payout. Inaccurate notices periodically surface in the veterans community suggesting that those who have not maintained insurance are eligible for a special dividend if they contact VA, but this is false. Dividends are automatically sent to eligible policyholders. The largest group receiving 2004 payments will be 1.2 million veterans of World War II with National Service Life Insurance ("V") policies. Total payments are expected to reach \$416.8 million. Dividends totaling \$1.8 million will be paid to about 11,000 veterans holding U.S. Government Life Insurance ("K") policies. Nearly 200,000 Korean War era veterans who have maintained Veterans Special Life Insurance ("RS" and "W") policies can expect to receive dividends totaling \$83.9 million. Veterans from the World War II era who hold Veterans Reopened Insurance ("J", "JR" and "JS") policies, currently numbering nearly 53,000, will share a \$14.7 million dividend. Although VA administers a special life insurance program for disabled veterans and a program offering mortgage life insurance coverage, neither pays dividends. For current active-duty service members and reservists, VA supervises a contract with a private carrier to underwrite Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. No dividends are paid on Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. Veterans who have questions about their policy can call the VA Insurance toll-free number at 1-800-669-8477, send an e-mail to VAinsurance@vba.va.gov, or visit the web site at www.insurance.va.gov.

[Source: VA News Release 21 NOV 03]

HEALTH

DISCLAIMER

The following articles dealing with health issues that concern or could concern our members are presented for your information and should not be construed as an endorsement of any of the treatments, medications or procedures outlined herein. It should be understood that there are new medications and treatments being developed that are largely untested, and though they show promise in the treatment of a given illness or condition, they may not be effective or safe for all individuals.

BY: Bill Bullen

At this time I'm in the VA hospital in Coatsville, PA. I'm writing this because I was always too proud to think that I was weak enough to have issue with PTSD. I thought that my problems were caused by a natural deficiency, until I learned that there are a whole lot of dysfunctional behavior addicts around, and that a lot of them are veterans of Vietnam and other wars. So, I'm here to attempt to learn some coping skills.

Dr. Silver is the man running this operation here at Coatsville. This program, if you can manage to get selected, is one of the best for moderate to severe cases of PTSD. The focus of the program here is treatment rather than medication, though many of the people in the program are on a wide variety of meds. The medical condition is also addressed in terms of the behavioral symptoms of PTSD, such as isolation, anger, hyper vigilance, the desire to control your environment, impatience with other's mistakes, etc. We also discussed some medical conditions that can cause these symptoms. For instance, I never knew that a hearing problem could affect

an individual's behavior or that what you eat, (diet) can also play a part in how you act. It all plays in to the problem.

At this point in time there is a good balance of education, therapy, recreation and free time. If an individual feels that this is not for him, no harm, no foul. No one is locked down, you can leave if you wish. What I expect or hope to gain from this program may take longer than I anticipated. We have been practicing this behavior for thirty plus years and need time to hone the tools at hand, so after this stay, there may be continuations. My dear wife and my family are very supportive, which makes this a whole lot easier.

In closing, I'd like to say that I'll continue this thought process in the next issue, unless you'd rather not hear about it. If so let me know, if I hear nothing to the contrary, I'll continue to write what I think you need to hear.

Regards,
Bill "Ichabod" Bullen
K/75 Unit Director

For My Buddy's Kid

For all the children that were left behind,
You were born into a world that was not kind.
Some of you were babies, not yet grown,
Your Daddy who loved you will not be home.

For grown up reasons he went to war,
In a childish game, no one kept score.
Don't try to reason why he had to die,

Cuddle your pillow tight, it's alright to cry.

He often spoke of you with tears in his eyes,
Why God choose him, I know not why.
Thoughts of you were with him to the end,
These words of love I promised to send.

Michael Monfrooe, L/75

FEATURE ARTICLES

To all Rangers Past, Present and Future

There are few things that, during the course of a lifetime, will define an individual or provide a benchmark by which the rest of his lifetime will be judged. Service in the Ranger Regiment is one such experience. Men will form attachments that will last a lifetime and memories that are etched in our minds forever. There is a mechanism that can facilitate the maintenance of those relationships, and that is membership in an Association whose purpose is to promote Ranger principles and provide a forum that keeps us involved in the Ranger Community.

There are a number of Ranger Associations, and all of them provide some measure of service and communication but in several different ways. In 1991 I helped institute The Ranger Regiment Association (TRRA) that still exists within the current Regiment today. Many of you have been or are currently members of this fine Association, but the ability of this in-house Association is limited by nature because the active duty managers of this Association have full time duties within the Regiment. In TRRAs' conception there was an unforeseen glitch of maintaining contact with former members once they departed from the Regiment. The Association that bridges this gap and compliments every aspect of the Ranger's needs is the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Caution here, they sound alike but are in actuality two entirely different Associations. Membership in one does not carry over into the other.

I would recommend to you with all my heart both The Ranger Regiment Association and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., both of which I am a member. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. maintains one of the best service organizational web sites that I have ever seen, and also publishes a first class quarterly publication called, *Patrolling*. Many of you have been reading the articles in *Patrolling* for some time. Numerous free copies are dropped off at each Battalion when they are printed. For this reason, some of you may have confused the two Associations as one or thought you were a member of both. The magazine and web site provide a means of communication and an exchange of ideas among the 23 units that make up the Association and the membership, 4 of them being the three Ranger Battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment and the Regimental Headquarters.

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. also maintains a Gold Star segment, (Gold Star Mothers and Wives), that provides an outreach to the families of Rangers that are killed in combat or as a result of training accidents. The mothers and wives who serve in the Gold Star section have had to walk that walk. The

Associations' members each year donate monies to and maintain a family fund, (currently in the neighborhood of \$14,000.00), that is used to aid the families of Rangers currently serving in the Regiment. This fund also provides about \$2,500.00 to each of the three Battalions at Christmas for the purchase of toys and Christmas presents for the children of young Rangers who might be financially challenged. Every dollar collected by the Association goes back to the Ranger's families, there are no administrative costs, fees or percentages skimmed off the top. The fund is maintained solely for the benefit of Ranger's families in time of distress. These funds are maintained by the 75th Ranger Regiment Association for the use by the Regiment because JAG said there were legal issues that prevented our active duty types or their spouses from holding this amount of money. Some good and worthwhile examples the family fund has been used for in the past to help the Regiment are as follows:

- Provided funds for a young wife to travel to Walter Reed Hospital to be with her husband who was wounded in Afghanistan.
- Provided funds for the purchase of a learning software program for a Ranger's young son who had a learning disability caused by a brain tumor.
- Provided living expenses for the parents of a young Ranger with a life threatening disease so that they could be with their son, who was not expected to live. (He later recovered).
- Beginning in 2000, provided an annual Christmas fund for distribution to each of the three Battalions and Regimental Headquarters.
- Provides funds on verbal request from each Battalion Commanders wife in any emergency situation.
- Provides funds to augment the Family Readiness Group (FRG) activities.

In closing, I recommend that you at least have a look at the 75th Ranger Regiment Association web site (75thrra.com). There are PDF copies of the magazine on the web site as well as an Association history, Unit Histories, Photo album's, links, lists of all KIA's from all eras and more features than can quickly be covered here. This is an Association run by Rangers, for Rangers and one that is dedicated to the Ranger Creed and the principles that we all live by. In other words an Association run by PAST Rangers, for the current benefit of PRESENT Rangers and will be around for FUTURE Rangers to come. Make sure that happens by joining now and doing what you have proven you are good at, 'Rangers Lead The Way'.

David L. Grange
Seventh Colonel of the Regiment

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

WARNING ORDER

I. SITUATION: We have fallen brothers to remember and honor. We are the links that connect the glorious history and heritage of the American Ranger to those presently serving. There are friendships to renew, stories to remember, beer to be drank, and lies (er, ah, war stories) to be told.

II. MISSION: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association will conduct a reunion, 31 July through 4 August 2004, in Tacoma, Washington, (Ft Lewis). You WILL have a good time.

III. EXECUTION: Return registration form ASAP. Make reservations now! Call the Best Western Fife/Tacoma at 1- 888 – 820 – 3555 Reservations must be made by June 30th. After that date remaining rooms will be released and will cost regular rates.

Teams will conduct infills by air or vehicle. If arriving by air at the SeaTac Airport, and you are not planning on renting a car, we will try to make arrangements to pick you up. Let one of the coordinators know prior to your arrival.

Be sure your membership is current, only those current active members will be admitted to the General Membership Meeting.

IV. SERVICE and SUPPORT:

Beer will be provided in the Hospitality Room. Soft drinks and coffee will also be provided. Water will be positioned at all outdoor events.

V. COMMAND / SIGNAL:

Dana McGrath, your Association President, will be onsite. *Patrolling* Editor, John Chester will be onsite. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions, problems, or complaints. Phone (410) 426-1391, john.chester3@verizon.net

INVITATION TO REUNION 2002

I want to personally invite you, to please come and join us in Tacoma, Washington this coming July. In addition to the many attractions in the Seattle/Tacoma area, the Ft Lewis Ranger community is extending a special welcome to the association. Today's rangers are proud of their history and heritage, and look up to you who helped forge that heritage. They are aware that the sacrifices they make in current combat operations around the world are done in the spirit of the creed they live by, "I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy." And they know the origins of that creed lie in an unwritten oath made in the jungles of Vietnam among LRP / Ranger teams. Come share in the camaraderie.

Let me also take the opportunity to extend a special invitation to wives and family. We plan to leave plenty of time in the schedule away from Army stuff to allow for sightseeing and enjoying our beautiful town. Reunion headquarters is the Best Western Fife/Tacoma. I am sure you will be pleased by the accommodations. This years banquet will be a casual affair.

As I write this invitation, our forces are engaged in a war on terrorism. Our economy has been affected, travel and tourism have been affected. We are determined to stay our course. It may be that the Rangers at Ft Lewis will be deployed at the time of our gathering, we cannot predict, under current conditions, the state of the Battalion at Ft Lewis. Regardless, we will still gather in brotherhood, we will remember our fallen comrades, we will embrace our friends and brothers and **we will have our reunion**. As it has always been, **RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!**

Dana McGrath
Association President

John Chester
Patrolling Editor

Rate: Best Western: \$89/night for Single or Double Room – Rate is good for 3 days prior and 2 days following the Reunion dates (7/31-08/04) - ALL NON-SMOKING ROOMS, Smoking permitted in the bar. This restriction will be important both to the smokers (like me) and to the non-smokers, but it's becoming the way of things in the world. Smoking rooms are available at several Hotels in the immediate vicinity, I'm told The overflow hotel , LA QUINTA HAS 30 SMOKING ROOMS AVAILABLE 253-272-9457 – CAROL PICA IS THE CONTACT PERSON THERE.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

**REGISTRATION FORM
75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
REUNION
31 JULY - 4 AUGUST, 2004**

Yes, I will attend the reunion at Tacoma, Washington 7/31 thru 8/4/2004.

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

UNIT AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE () _____ - _____

I will be accompanied by _____ guests:

Names: _____

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON \$30.00 \$ _____

BANQUET TICKETS # @ \$25.00 \$ _____

TOTAL PAID \$ _____

Make checks payable to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association (75th RRA)

Mail to: 75th Ranger Regiment Association (Reunion)

P.O. Box 921

Heflin, Alabama 36264

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

CHRISTMAS / FAMILY FUND

It has been an extraordinary year for the Family Fund. Contributions have been made all year and I want to thank all the generous members of this association and others who have made this fund a success.

A tremendous thank-you to Bob Copeland, Hilan Jones and the members of the 9th Infantry Division who have taken this fund to their heart. They are working on a program to memorialize each of their fallen comrades and so I will list them all together. They have raised over \$3,700 this year.

Contributors from the 9th Inf. Div.

ANDREWS, DONALD F.
BERG, JOHN HENRY
BOOTH, DONALD D.
CHEEK, CHARLES
CHRISTIANSEN, WILLIAM
COPELAND, ROBERT S.
COTTRELL, CHARLENE
EACHUS, JOESEPH B.
EHRLER, RICHARD S.
FAJARDO, BENJAMIN
FOREMAN, GREGORY A.
GLAZE, JAMES
GULICK, G. BRENT
HANFORD, LARRY J
HERNANDES, BOB
HOLLENBECK, GARY C.
JENKINS, FREDDIE D.

JONES, HILAN
KOONTZ, STEWART E.
LONG, DAVID L.
MASICK, JOHN J.
MATSUDA, C.G.
MAUSHARDT, ROBERT E.
NELSON, ROY D.
OPLINGER, WILLIAM
PHILLIPS, DANNY C.
SMITH, CLANCY A.
SPEROFF, THEODORE
STETSON, RICK
TESSENHORN, RONALD L.
WALLACE, ROBERT
WEBB, VINCENT C.
WHITSON, GREGORY T.

Other members of the association who have contributed:

1/75 ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS

1ST INF DIV LRP ASSOC
F/51st ASSOCIATION
K/75 4TH INF DIV LRRP
ALDRIDGE, RICHARD W.
ALDERSON, HANK
ALLEN, ROY E.
ANDREWS, WILLIAM P.
ARNOLD, JERRY W
BAKKIE, MICHAEL J
BARRIO, RAYMOND A.
BECKWITH, PAUL C.
BELL, HARRY C.
BERG, GILBERT M.
BERNARD, MEL T.
BISHOP, TERRY W
BISSEY, ROY H.
BLANDFORD, THOMAS R
BLOCK, WILLIAM D
BOBO, DAVID P.
BOILARD, DAVID W.

173RD ABN BDE
4TH INF DIV
BDQ
RANGER REGIMENT
INDIANA NAT GUARD
1ST CAV
4TH INF DIV
173RD ABN BDE
RANGER REGIMENT
RANGER REGIMENT
25TH INF DIV
P/75
V CORPS
IN NAT GUARD
RANGER REGIMENT
4TH INF DIV
25TH INF DIV

BOLTON, L. WORTH
BOTHE, BILL
BOURNE, CHARLES D.
BRANTLEY, WILLIAM D.
BRECHTEL, MICHAEL
BROWN, ROGER B
BULLEN, BILL
CAMPBELL, PETER J.
CARNAHAN, DONALD R.
CASEY, DAVID J.
CATOZZI, PAUL
CHESTER, JOHN W.
CHILDERS, DOUG
CONNELLY, ANDREW
COOK, CARL J.
COOK, SEAN R.
CORINO JR., JOSEPH
COY, CHRIS A.
CRAIG, JAMES A.
CRAWFORD, ROBERT C.
CRUNK, ROGER T.

C/75
V CORPS LRRP
C/75
25TH INF DIV
25TH INF DIV
RANGER REGIMENT
4TH INF DIV
173RD ABN BDE
D/75
101ST ABN DIV
173RD ABN BDE
4TH DIV LRRP
4TH INF DIV
C/75
1ST INF DIV
RANGER REGIMENT
BDQ
RANGER REGIMENT
VII CORPS
4TH INF DIV
4TH INF DIV

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

DAUKUS, MICHAEL	C/75	LEE, KEVIN W.	RANGER REGIMENT
DAVENPORT, RONALD	173RD ABN BDE	LEGENDRE, STEVE	101ST ABN DIV
DAVIS JR., RAYMOND P.	4TH INF DIV	LEISING, ROY L.	4TH INF DIV
DeMARA JR, DANIEL J.	1ST CAV	LEMONDS, GARY L.	25TH INF DIV
DEMICELL, DANIEL	RANGER REGIMENT	LININGTON, BARRY	P/75
DISCHINGER, ROBERT A.	C/75	LUTZ, JAY P.	P/75
DOWNEY, MYLES C.	25TH INF DIV	LY, HUNG VAN	BDQ
EHRKE, MICHAEL D.	23RD INF DIV	MA, BETTY	Friend of 3rd Inf Div
EMMETT, ROBERT A.	MERRILLS MARAUDERS	MAACK, WILLIAM P.	23RD INF DIV
EVANGELISTA, GEORGE	C/75	MAAR, SR MICHAEL	23RD INF DIV
FITTS, PETER	101ST ABN DIV	MARTENS, MICHAEL D.	25TH INF DIV
FLANAGAN, LAWRENCE	4TH INF DIV	MARTIN, RICHARD O.	25TH INF DIV
FORINGER, RICHARD K.	P/75	MCCABE, DOUGLAS	BDQ
FOUNTAIN, CHARLES M.	RANGER REGIMENT	McCLINTOCK, MIKE	3RD INF DIV
FRASER, BOB	4TH INF DIV	McDANIEL, SIDNEY E.	C/75
GENTILE JR, JOSEPH B.	25TH INF DIV	McDANIEL, WILLIAM M.	RANGER REGIMENT
GIORDANO, ANDREW	25TH INF DIV	McFARLAND, JACK W.	4TH INF DIV
GOOCH, CHARLES M.	P/75	McGRATH, DANA	4TH INF DIV
GUGGENHEIMER, MAX	BDQ	MCMAHON, THOMAS W.	1ST INF DIV
HALFACRE, NOAH E.	A/75	McNEAL, LARRY C.	BDQ
HAM, DAVID B.	4TH INF DIV	MEDD, DONALD J.	199TH INF BDE
HAYNER, DANIEL E.	25TH INF DIV	MEYER, DINO L.	RANGER REGIMENT
HICKSON, PAUL	RANGER REGIMENT	MIDDLETON, BRIAN	4TH INF DIV
HILL, DAVID M.	1ST INF DIV	MILLER, ROBERT	4TH INF DIV
HINES, MICHAEL C.	173RD ABN BDE	MITSCH, WAYNE	4TH INF DIV
HOY, CHRISTIAN	RANGER REGIMENT	MONFROOE, MICHAEL	101ST ABN DIV
HUSTON, PETER J.	RANGER REGIMENT	NESBITT, ALFRED M.	4TH INF DIV
JACKSON, BOBBY J.	BDQ	OSTROM, CARL	101ST ABN DIV
JACKSON, DOUGLAS C.	V CORPS	PIPIA, JOHN	4TH INF DIV
JAMES, JAMES D.	1ST CAV	REED, TOM	4TH INF DIV
JENTZ, EDWARD M.	3RD INF DIV	RENTZ, JERRY	4TH INF DIV
JUTTON, MARK T.	RANGER REGIMENT	SAYERS, LOREN J.	3RD INF DIV
KELLER, DON	4TH INF DIV	SMYERS, BOB	4TH INF DIV
KELLEY, TIMOTHY	1ST INF DIV	THUNANDER, DENNIS H.	4TH INF DIV
KIVIPERTO, JAMES A.	25TH INF DIV	TRIFARO, FRANK	A/75
KOCH, CHRISTOPHER R.	RANGER REGIMENT	TUCKER, MURRAY D.	173RD ABN BDE
KOPER, GEOFFREY	1ST CAV	WEST, BRIAN	4TH INF DIV
KORENEK, STEPHEN	P/75	WHITE, DARRYL K.	V CORPS LRRP
KURTZ, LEO I.	101ST ABN DIV	WILLIAMS, WILLIE	4TH INF DIV
KURYLA, CHARLES	4TH INF DIV	ZELLER, ALBERT F.	RTB

Others who have contributed directly to the fund or a memorial to our recently fallen rangers

ADAMS, LARRY USAF		COGGER, Chuck & Angela
ALEXANDER, JOHN		CORCORAN, THOMAS R.
Aspen Systems Corp.		CORNELL, DARREL
BAYS, HAROLD & MARSHA		DONNEL, TROY
BENEFIELD, HULETTE S.	101st Abn	DUGAN, ROBERT R.
BENSON, LOUISE E.		Egan, Michael P.
BIETY, CHRISTOPHER M.		EHRET, MICHAEL & JANET
BROCK & COMPANY		EVENS, JUDY L.
Broomfield High School Student Council		FEDERALES CLUB
BROWN, LINDA		FORD, JOHN J.
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Cecil Distributors, Inc		GLABACH, JOHN H.
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FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Great American Group
 GREEN & MacRAE, LeBOEUF, LAMB,
 HAHN, THOMAS & KIM
 HAZLEWOOD, R. FRANK
 HIGH SCHOOL BROOMFIELD
 HOGAN, REX
 HOLZAPFEL, BARBARA
 HUELSKAMP, C. VINCENT
 HUMPHEY, Steven & Sarah
 Information Ctr. Staff, Natl. Inst. of Corrections
 IYENGAR, Maya & Gopal
 JORDAN, MARTHA L.
 KING, NANCY EVANS
 KIRKPATRICK, VICKI & LEN
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 MORROW, MICHAEL D.
 NIDORF, BARRY J.

PERRY, Dick & Marje
 PIPER, TED & SOPHIA
 POWERS, JIM & BONNIE
 RAYMOND, CHARLES W. III
 REEVE, RICHARD R.
 RICE, FANNY M.
 ROBINSON, WILLIAM R.
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 SHOAFF, WILLIAM B.
 SOCNET TEAM ROOM
 STUART, SKYE L.
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 TOFFA, ANTOINE
 TREVASKIS, Larry & Anne
 VERSEMAN, JIM & PEGGY
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 POVITCH, RICHARD

BDQ

“Son Tay 33rd Anniversary Thoughts”

Rcvd Fm Bill Smith and LTC Dennis Downey.

At approximately 0200 hours on November 21, 1970, 56 United States Army

Special Forces soldiers' helicopter assaulted deep into the heart of North Vietnam to attempt to rescue as many as 100 prisoners of war from the prison at Son Tay. Every single one of these Green Berets was willing to fight to the death in order to attempt to rescue Americans who were being beaten and starved by the Vietnamese Communists in violation of the Geneva Accords. As Colonel Arthur “Bull” Simons told these men just prior to their departure from Udorn AFB, “If it goes bad, we will die here . . . but taking as many of these little bastards as we can with us.”

The Greeks told heroic stories both as a means of giving examples of selflessness and of preserving the memory of the individual. It taught the listener in an oral tradition that the selfless and often sacrificial act of a single human being often benefited the body politic, the whole society. That is why they honored their heroes and made sure never to forget them, since the health of their society was so often dependent upon the individual acts of these men. This is why we must never forget the men who, upon answering the call issued at Ft. Bragg in August of 1970, in effect said that they were willing to sacrifice their lives in this most noble undertaking.

Then, as now, the American press looked upon this perfectly executed deadly mission as a failure because the prisoners had been moved. Then, as now, the Professionals in that business knew and appreciated what it took to plan and execute such a complex and daring assault. Yet, then as now, the American left chose to ignore the effects of such daring and heroism (true heroism, not the currently popular adoption of the term for anything other than a selfless military act in the face of overwhelming and deadly odds), even when returning POW's praised the mission for the effects it had on their NVA jailers and torturers - essentially stopping all torture and bringing the prisoners together where they could finally care for one another.

Sadly, as we celebrate this courageous event's 33rd anniversary, those same members of the press (and it seems even more new ones) continue to assault our Army and everything it does. Look up the old articles published contemporaneously with the raid and you will recognize some of the same Congressmen's names currently critical of everything our Nation does to protect itself. Perhaps they believe those of us who served during those days have short memories, or perhaps have already died from Agent Orange or some other curse placed on us by their vitriolic hate for American success in anything military. They are wrong. We might have been lulled by their soothing words of “welcome home,” in 1991 after the Gulf War, when the Press proclaimed that the Vietnam veterans finally had something to cheer about. Excuse me! We cheered in 1970 after this mission, but you chose not to print it!

So, here is the point. On this 21st of November, stop for a moment to reflect and remember 56 of your brothers who donned face paint,

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

boarded three HH series helos and headed East into the jaws of death in the hope of rescuing their fellow Americans from their living hell, with the very real possibility that some, many or none might ever return. They did so because they were the men of the Green Beret, the men whose motto is etched into their souls, the men who, to this day continue to defend this great Nation of ours. To all of those raiders, I raise my glass and offer a dear friend's favorite toast -

"Death to the enemy"

On October 25, we met with Steve Hathaway's Family (Mom, Brother & Sister-in-Law) to present the Gold Star Certificate and 75th RRA Coins. Ranger Jim Testerman drove to Sanford, Florida from Virginia, Ranger Terry Roderick came from the East Coast of Florida - THANKS to both of them for going beyond the call for this important Ranger cause. Peggy and I came up from the Fort Myers area. The Family definitely knows their Ranger wasn't forgotten and will be remembered forever by the Rangers of the 75th RRA. The weather was gorgeous, and the Cemetery is a beautiful spot to visit and remember better days for the family and friends.

SGT Steve Hathaway (LRP Team Leader) was KIA in June of 1969 (E/58th & K/75th) during a

contact immediately following the insertion of his Team.

Ranger Testerman was Steve's Friend in RVN, so he did the main presentation of the Certificate and the 75th RRA Coins for Mom and Brother Bert. I did the "Official" 75th RRA presentation next. Jim did a fine job, and the Family hosted us with Honor and thanks for having so well remembered their loved one for all these years. (Bert and his lovely Wife Beth tricked us by paying for lunch before the bill was presented, they're great folks and have a familiar sneaky-Ranger approach to such things!)

Steve's Mom is a wonderful Lady who has experienced many tragedies in life, but continues to realize that life does go on and we have to make the best of each and

every day, enjoying our loved ones and the good things experienced through our days. As usual, Mom was the one who put the rest of us at ease with the presentation, and joined our "Family" immediately. We can't have too many Moms in the world, and this one is definitely a "keeper". The family has kept Steve's memory alive for all these years, and they appreciated knowing what there was to tell them about the LRP and Ranger world they knew so little about until now.

It was a day of sorrow and happiness, Honor and the sense of loss, but definitely one we will remember as a "good day". The Family hadn't gotten much information from the Military as to the loss of SGT Hathaway - one of the reasons it is so important to do what we can when we have the



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



chance. Terry's knowledge of the history of the Rangers helped the Family put into perspective the kind of unit Steve had volunteered to join so long ago. Steve's loss was one of the first during my tour with K/75th Rangers. Although I hadn't yet met Steve, I sure

remembered his name, the mission and its outcome.

Thanks to all of you who worked to get this presentation done - it's worth all the effort it takes, as most of you know first-hand.

Here are some pictures from the



Hathaway Gold Star Presentation. Some are good, others not as good, but they're what we took. The Lord provided a pleasant sunset for the day, too.

RLTW & Sua Sponte,
Dana McGrath

President, 75th Ranger Regiment Association

BY: John Puzo

It was "The Cold War 1954-1989," but for me and those who served with me, it was the Vietnam Winter-Spring Campaign - 1970 - Year of the Dog, and North Vietnam was sending 22,000 troops per month down the Ho Chi Minh Trail...

Early after the 1954 Geneva Accords, Ho and his Communist planners knew that they would need to develop a logistics system to fight their war of communist aggression against the South. North Vietnam forms Group 559 to begin infiltrating cadres and weapons into South Vietnam via the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The Trail will become a strategic target for future military attacks. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/time/details/5901.html>

The Ho Chi Minh Trail, called Truong Son Trail by North Vietnamese, was an elaborate system of mountain and jungle trails linking North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos during the war. The initial small trail developed into an elaborate trail system of foot paths for troops, bicycles, and elephants, and cobblestone roads - complete with POL and Repair Stations for vehicles. Way Stations, mess areas, and hospitals were built along the trail.

The trail had total length of nearly 20,000km and was divided into 2 main parts: the Northern half, from the Ca River Valley in Ha Tinh province in North Vietnam, to the Hai Van Pass in Da Nang; The Southern Half of the trail stretched from Hai Van Pass all the way to the region adjacent to the Mekong Delta in Binh

Duong and Binh Phuoc provinces in the far South Of Vietnam.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail existed for 16 years and was the scene of many fighting legends for American conventional and non-conventional forces, who adapted both their strategy and their tactics over the years we fought there.

The road became the most important network for transportation and was of strategic significance to the NVA, their lifeline for supplying war materiel and Soldiers from the North to the battle fields in the South.

Established on May 19, 1959 forced labor conscripts of the communist 'Brigade of Youth Volunteers,' began clearing operations for the trail. Over the war years, nearly 20,000 of the 300,000 full-time workers (and almost as many part-time farmers) were killed by US Forces on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Tens of thousands more were wounded. Many of their bodies fill the 72 Vietnamese military cemeteries that testify to the devastating human toll taken by the SOG and Ranger teams that sought and located targets of opportunity for American air power and Artillery.

Testimony to this fact is the NVA name given to a major spur of the trail that emptied into South Vietnam's Highlands at the northwestern end of the Plei Trap Valley and into the "Valley of Tears."

The trail's history as a line of communication actually dates back to World War II, when Viet Minh bands trekked the

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

same paths. During the 2nd Indo China War, the war against the United States, these existing footpaths developed into a highly organized infiltration route for men and supplies.

Although the North Vietnamese made limited use of waterways and pipelines, this labyrinth of roads and trails remained throughout the war the heart of their logistic system. As military historian John Prados has pointed out, whereas supplies, ammunition, and weapons could be sent South by boat, "only overland was it possible for men and women to head South and join in combat."

The Mu Gia pass, a gap in the Truong Son (Annamite) Mountains that formed North Vietnam's border with Laos, is one of two northern entry points to the Ho Chi Minh trail. To the east, the pass is flanked by a peak of 6,600 feet and on the Laotian side to the west, with a series of mountains in the 4000-4500 foot range.

Mu Gia crosses the cordillera at slightly under 1400 feet, making it one of the few passable spots along the rugged Truong Son range. Mu Gia was strategically located some 75 miles as the crow flies from the border of South Vietnam; 80 miles from Tchepone, the site of an airfield with a 4000-foot-by-65-foot runway; 100 miles from the Ban Houei Sane border area, and some 250 miles from vital supply points in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.

The road network extended from points north, southward along the heavily forested western slopes of the Annam range, to a series of exit points stretching from just below the demilitarized zone between the two Vietnams, to the triborder region of Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam - some 500 kilometers to the south.

Although the road net was initially confined to the western slopes of the Annam range, continued expansion of the system pushed additional miles of motor vehicle accessible routes further westward into Laos, providing the enemy an increasingly wide choice of routes along which he could channel supplies. By the summer of 1971, this labyrinth of routes and bypasses encompassed an estimated 3,500 kilometers of motorable roads.

The trails were subject to constant improvement, consisting primarily of foot paths to 18-foot-wide tracks carved out of the jungle. Although both gravel and corduroy surfaces were used to strengthen some sections, the roads were chiefly dirt and nearly impassable during the wet season.

The roads were originally built by manual labor, but as time passed, the North Vietnamese made increased use of bulldozers, road graders and other heavy equipment. The route network was operated, maintained, and defended by an estimated 40,000-50,000 support personnel organized in geographic area units called Binh Trams comprised of transportation, engineer, and AAA battalions to keep the flow of troops moving South.

The process by which supplies were moved southward could be complicated, requiring coordination between the NVA transportation elements and numerous transfers of cargo in and

out of vehicles, off bicycles and animal packs, and into wayside storage areas.

Almost all movement was conducted at night in a series of short shuttles, rather than by long-distance hauling. Drivers who drove their trucks over the same routes night after night and survived became familiar within their areas.

Periods of moonlight illumination and low cloud cover were exploited to avoid detection from overhead aircraft or the vigilant eyes of American reconnaissance forces which were continuously and aggressively seeking them.

With the ever vigilant eyes of painty faced men watching in the darkness, any and every miscalculation or laxity in secure movement by the NVA that was discovered was exploited. It was not uncommon for Recon teams to adjust fire on 'lights in the distance' and report secondary explosions from the target area.

Ideally, truck movement began shortly after nightfall and normally trailed off about 3:00 a.m. to allow time for the unloading, dispersal, and concealment of supplies and vehicles before daylight.

These tactics were developed by communist forces in Korea, where they were able to outmaneuver American and ROK forces that were tied to the roads. Refined in Laos, night movement tactics proved to be the most effective way of moving large quantities of supplies in a hostile and extremely hostile environment.

Although the North Vietnamese and VC made use of waterways and pipelines, their road network and trucks remained throughout the war the heart of their logistic system:

Intelligence estimates put the North Vietnamese truck inventory in Laos alone at 2,500 to 3,000 during the 1970 and 1971 dry seasons, 500 to 1,000 on the move at any given time, with individual trucks each carrying about four tons of supplies. Replacement trucks were drawn from large inventories maintained within the sanctuary of North Vietnam in the vicinity of Hanoi and Haiphong.

During the height of the interdiction campaigns, the trail was defended against U.S. aircraft with an estimated 600 to 700 anti-aircraft guns

Today, the Ho Chi Minh Trail is re-built into a trans-Vietnam Highway and in some areas something of a tourist attraction.

In 1972, the last major NVA offensive moved down the trail and involved 13 full combat infantry divisions. These were accompanied by Tanks, Heavy artillery, engineers, and dedicated anti-aircraft artillery battalions. ARVN resistance was unreliable in some places, strong and effective in others. But it was massive American Air power that doomed this communist offensive to failure.

On November 7, in Quangtri Province along the DMZ, the largest one day bombing campaign of the entire Vietnam War set

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

to wrack and ruin the NVA divisions that had retreated there. The city was of particular strategic importance to the North Vietnamese for several reasons, including the oil pipeline that began there and ran all the way to Loc Ninh, 75 miles northwest of Saigon, nearly 700 miles South.

Bloodied and shredded by the B-52's and Tac Air of the USAF and VNAF, the NVA massacred thousands of Quangtri South Vietnamese civilians – because they didn't rise up against the Americans - as they retreated back towards Hanoi whence they came. In a few short weeks, Nixon unleashed the big bombers in Linebacker II, the "Christmas Bombing" campaign against Hanoi. They sued for peace several days after that.

For America, the end of the war was in sight...However, a different 'end' would await our former allies, former South Vietnamese who worked closely with us, and, in particular the Montagnard, Nung, Cham, and other ethnic minorities that served with us. They were abandoned to their fate.

The historical record is that a large part of the Ranger mission was to keep tabs on the NVA regulars that moved from North Vietnam down the trail and into positions where they could attack targets in the South. Rangers, with their MACV/SOG counterparts on the strategic side of things, made sure that no NVA commander ever felt safe from our prying eyes or from the rain of steel that we could bring down upon them in an instant, anytime.

*Without them Standing Sentinel, as ever must they be.
Without them Standing Sentinel, not one American would live free.*

*I know they're all still out there, together evermore
From the Continental Army,*

*Or maybe it was long before
When the 1st American casualty fell on these now ancient shores.*

*They wear tri corner hats, coonskin caps and kepis,
And Wide brimmed Western cowboy hats, helmets and berets.*

*But no matter what they wear,
they belong to us.
It is from us they came.*

*Through distant mists of time and place,
They've gone to stand and wait,
To wait for those yet to come,*

To the Sentinel at the gates.

One day they will welcome me.

*For I once was one of them,
Privileged to be a soldier for my country,*

It is the best thing ever said of me.

The Special Forces and Ranger teams complimented each other in their respective, murky missions. The enemy was never quite sure who was on their trail. Trying to guess what went wrong for communist soldiers who walked into our midst was often the last thing on their minds as they disintegrated from the world in the firestorm of war.

Thus the blueprint for future American military operations was taken from the realm of theory and set into practical application. The concept was sound, and it was proven on the battlefield in Viet Nam: Small units of highly trained, intrepid men, utilizing the latest technology, adapted their strategy and tactics to events as they developed. They changed the very nature of war...

Ho Chi Minh Trail Edited from:

<http://www.nautilus.org/VietnamFOIA/background/HoChiMinhTrail.html>

(the Nautilus Institute "Essentially Annihilation: Targeting the Ho Chi Minh Trail:

SOURCES: F. J. DYSON, R. GOMER, S. WEINBERG, S.C. WRIGHT, *STUDY S-266: TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA* (INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES, JASON DIVISION, MARCH 1967). MARK CLODFELTER, *THE LIMITS OF AIR POWER: THE AMERICAN BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM* (NEW YORK: THE FREE PRESS, 1989). ROBERT A. PAPE, *BOMBING TO WIN: AIR POWER AND COERCION IN WAR* (ITHACA: CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1996). JOHN PRADOS, *THE BLOOD ROAD: THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL AND THE VIETNAM WAR* (NEW YORK: JOHN WILEY AND SONS, 1999). CAPTAIN MELVIN F. PORTER, HQ PACAF DIRECTORATE, TACTICAL EVALUATION, *CHECO DIVISION REPORT: TIGER HOUND: 6 SEPT. 66*. REPRINTED BY DALLEY BOOK SERVICE (CHRISTIANSBURG, VA), p. 2. *TIME*, MAY 6, 1966, p. 16.

*Father, son, husband, brother;
Important things these are,
But to stand with men of honor;
Is a better thing by far.*

*For without such men of honor,
ready to give their most,
what father, son, or brother;
would be left with any hope,*

*That there would be one more tomorrow
for this Nation proud?*

*Lest men as these we find, fit my Country for a shroud.
Yes there they all are waiting, they're all together now,
from every war and conflict, shot and shell they found.*

*At peace, eternal wait they now,
On holy, hallowed ground.*

How can we ever thank them, these selfless angels past?

*But thanks are but such trifling things
unless we dedicate our every waking moment*

...To the Sentinel at the gate.

*For there they stand awaiting,
watching how well we do.*

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

*Will we let slip away,
That which they loved so well?*

*Their full measured honored duty,
Will we so cheaply sell?*

*Yes there they stand awaiting,
All together now,*

*They know some other soldier stands at ready
and he will show them how.*

Then they'll welcome him as they all once were called:

*"Brother, home my brother,
See your name upon the wall.*

*"You have done what was your duty,
The load you proudly bare is left for them to carry,
Those others, yet over there.*

*"So take your place beside us, hang your cap upon this tree,"
"And wait not long You Sentinel,*

*"In time you too will see, another coming to these gates,
That others may live free."*

*Without you Standing Sentinel, as ever must you be,
Without one Standing Sentinel, we could not live free.*

II.

*So she said goodbye to her brave young man
And he wasn't even there.*

*Will the nation ever wear the truth
of what he'd done for her*

*and for all the rest...
who might find it easy to forget?*

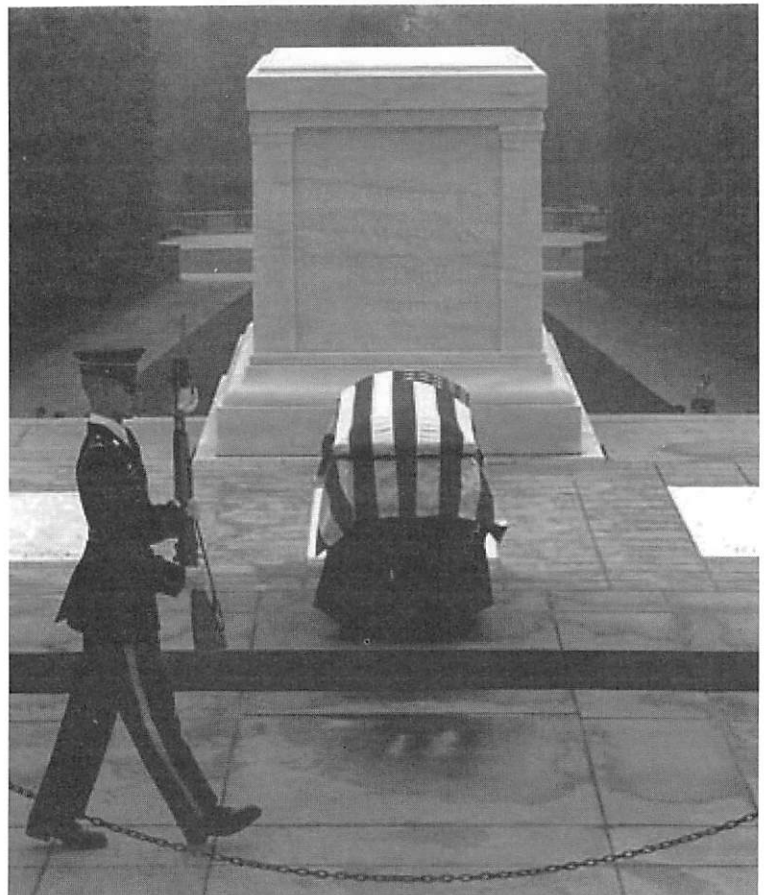
*"I wish that I could hold you
hold you just once more,*

*But you've already gone to those others
Those others over there.*

With them... 'Evermore...

John Puzo

Photographs courtesy of John Puzo.



UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Roger Brown



On behalf of my fellow Rangers, I want to thank all of the active duty Rangers for their service and sacrifice for our country. On Veterans and Memorial Day, I get away by myself and remember the soldiers that I have served with and their sacrifice for our country. THANKS RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada) 20th Year Reunion October 25, 2003

Rangers remember Grenada invasion

Twenty years ago today, Hunter Rangers led U.S. assault

By Noelle Phillips
Savannah Morning News
phillips@savannahnow.com
912-652-0366

Twenty years ago, David Lewis left Hunter Army Airfield in the middle of the night with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.



Rangers of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment salute during the playing of taps during a ceremony at Hunter Army Airfield commemorating the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Grenada and honoring the five Rangers who were killed in combat on the tiny island nation. John Carrington/Savannah Morning News

He flew in the back of a C-130 cargo plane, ready to tell other Rangers when it was time to parachute onto the tiny island of Grenada as part of Operation Urgent Fury.

"I remember the doors opening up, seeing the island coming up and knowing you're not sure what to expect," Lewis said Friday afternoon.

At the time, Lewis was a 25-year-old Ranger sergeant.

Friday, he showed up at Hunter dressed in a black, pinstripe business suit to join other Rangers in a 20th anniversary reunion of the U.S. invasion of Grenada. About two dozen Ranger veterans joined the 1st Ranger Battalion's troops to mark the occasion.

The operation took only five days. But five Savannah Rangers died in the assault.

The U.S. military invaded Grenada at dawn on Oct. 25, 1983 on orders of President Ronald Reagan. The United States believed Cuba was building a military airport on the southern part of the island and a recent coup had endangered the welfare of about 60 American medical students.

Rangers from the 1st and 2nd Battalions led the assault.

On Friday, the five names were read and "Taps" was played in their honor.

After the ceremony, tears welled in Lewis' eyes as he recalled the invasion.



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)



Former members of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment and veterans of the Grenada invasion, family and friends, bow their heads in prayer during a ceremony held at Hunter Army Airfield commemorating the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Grenada. John Carrington/Savannah Morning News

He talked about Rangers organizing their equipment during the six-hour flight and preparing to parachute.

Changing attack plans caused confusion as Rangers were first told the airplane would land and then ordered to re-rig their parachutes because they were jumping.

"They said one pass and one pass only and we dumped everybody out," Lewis said.

The Rangers parachuted from 500 feet to avoid anti-aircraft fire from enemy forces. They could see green tracers streak across the sky.

The Rangers took control of the airstrip, opening it for the 82nd Airborne Division to follow them. The 1st Ranger Battalion also helped rescue the Americans trapped on a medical campus and assisted in other assaults to gain control of the capital.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. William Acebes, who was the first sergeant for C Company during the invasion, called out the names of Ranger veterans during the ceremony and spoke of their roles.

He talked about the resourcefulness of Rangers who started bulldozers on the island's runway to clear a path for planes to land. He recalled new Rangers getting last-minute training before they parachuted into a combat zone.

He explained how Ranger veterans share the same spirit and courage as those who have fought in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Thank you for remembering us and when the time comes we'll remember you," Acebes said. "And, as always, Rangers lead the way."

1st Ranger Battalion members killed in Grenada

Five Rangers stationed at Hunter Army Airfield died in Operation Urgent Fury. One was shot during the initial assault on an airfield while the others were killed when their Jeep ran into an enemy ambush.

Those killed were:

- Sgt. Randy Cline
- Sgt. Mark Rademacher
- Spc. Mark Yamane
- Pfc. Marlin Maynard
- Pfc. Russell Robinson

From: CSM (Retired) Bill Acebes

To: All

The reunion can be summed up in one word "Great!" Everyone that attended said they had a very good time. Friday's Battalion Ceremony was outstanding and the Battalion did a great job honoring our fallen comrades. After the ceremony we moved to the Ranger Dinning Facility and had a Surf and Turf lunch. At the end of lunch we all kinda broke up into loose groups, some groups went up to the Battalion HQ. Other groups toured their old orderly rooms, while a few people left to return home.

Friday night the Battalion NCO/Officer Call was held at Kevin Barry's on River Street and it too was outstanding. Kip Reinhardt had taken some time putting together picture boards from images that Joe Muccia had gathered that were circa 1983. All the Grenada Vets got to rub elbows with the current Rangers Vets. If one stopped a monument and looked around, there were Rangers from Vietnam, Desert One, Grenada, Panama, and current operations. That is something you do not get to see every day!

There was a lot of chatting and hand gesturing through out the bar as both the old and new Rangers told war stories to each other. The current Battalion Commander took a few minutes to speak to all us. Finally around 0330 Friday night / Saturday morning a very small group of us shut the bar down.

Saturday we were pretty much on our own or recovering until 1800 hrs that night. The dinner at The River House was a much more private gathering, because it consisted of only Grenada Vets. From 1800 hrs to 1900 hrs we had cocktails and caught up on the events from the previous day. Pretty much the whole night we signed each other's Grenada Prints that Jim Bradford had printed up some years ago. Dinner was served around 1945 hrs and each of the three entrées you could pick from were excellent. After dinner we chatted some more and took time out for more photos. We slowly broke part as a group around 2200 hrs. Some small groups gathered at other places after dinner and fellowshiped until later in the evening. Sunday marked the end of the 20 year reunion and for the

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

attendees it marked the end of a great reunion. All the attendees now have more fond Ranger memories to chat about in the future. Hope to see you all at the next one.

SPECIAL NOTE: SSgt. Joe Muccia is writing a new book about Urgent Fury and is looking for Grenada Vets input for his book. Joe was very happy and excited to be with us during our reunion. He is a recent veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom; he served honorably with Marine Task Force Tarawa RCT-2. Joe can be reached at ziggpalf1@aol.com.

Links related to the reunion:

Shelia Dudley the 1st Battalion Secretary has posted her pictures from the reunion at:
<http://www.msnusers.com/1stBattalion75thRangerRegimentGrenadaRangers/shoebox.msnw>

AP News coverage of the ceremony in Grenada:
<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1025grenada25.html>
<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/americas/7100393.htm>

From the Office of Shiela Dudley, 1st Battalion Secretary:

Dear Rangers and Ranger Supporters,

On behalf of the Rangers of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, I would like to thank you for your support of the Rangers of 1/75 past and present.

In memory of our fallen comrades, we are in the process of raising funds to establish a fitting tribute to their selfless service and ultimate sacrifice. The monument will be temporarily located at the 1/75 Barracks, Hunter Army Airfield, with eventual movement to the Ranger Complex being built in FY 2004. We are excited about the new complex, but even more excited by the opportunity to provide the loved ones of our fallen Rangers a place to visit and remember all their Ranger loved and why he served. It will also be a gathering point for our current Rangers to pay homage to their brothers-in-arms.

Please provide your ideas for the memorial and provide your suggestions. We are also asking for tax-deductible donations. Your donation will make a difference to the family members of our fallen comrades as well as the entire Ranger Community. Our inspiration for this venture is fueled by the wave of support offered by the Savannah Community as we continue our endeavors in the war against terrorism. Our Monument Board is comprised of the leaders of the business community in Savannah and they are eager to show their support. The Graphic Design Class, under the tutelage of Professor Ian Stewart, Savannah College of Art and Design, has accepted the challenge to develop various concepts for us incorporating our desires for this monument. He has agreed to come up with a finished product suitable for presentation to the monument builder, thereby saving us an enormous amount of money. The list of support goes on and on with architects and construction companies offering their services. We expect the unveiling of this long overdue monument to be in the summer of 2004. The unveiling will be in conjunction with a celebration of the Battalion's 30th Anniversary and the Battalion Change of Command. We hope you will be able to attend these ceremonies.

The fellowship and loyalty of our supporters continues to inspire our young Rangers to take care of those who follow in their footsteps. As we know we have the support of such great Americans as yourself and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. For more information, please contact the undersigned at (912) 352-5606/5608 or dudleys@soc.mil/honranger@aol.com.

Rangers Lead the Way!

Sheila Bowen Dudley
Project Coordinator

Heard From:

Bryan Staggs	- 77-84 B Co.
Carl Kasunic	- 75-77 B Co
Danial Richmond	- 97-99 A Co.
	99-01 A Co.
Daniel Russell	- 81-83 HHC

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

David Zamora	- 92-93 A Co.
Gail Ernst	- 92-93 HHC
Henry Navarro	- 78-79 HHC
	79-80 C Co.
James Grant	- 98-01 B Co.
Joseph Smith	- 74-75 HHC
Michael Urig	- 77-78 C Co.
Robert Kramer	- 76-80 A Co.
Timothy Trask	- 01-03 B Co
Timothy Russell	- 90-92 A Co.

Senior Pesticides Use Specialist Dan Lynch is the son of the late Colonel Earl Lynch who was with the second wave of troops at Normandy Beach during World War II., a Kentucky Colonel, and a Korean veteran. Dan Lynch was here at Ft. Benning visiting his favorite sister Linda and her husband Roger in September. He is pictured here while visiting the Ranger Memorial.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Rich Hecht



11-08-03

2/75 is back in their "regular" training cycle and continue to prepare for any potential operations. Former Operation Just Cause, Bco CO, now Col. Joe Anderson, was the man in charge of the 101st ABN units assigned to take the compound where Uday and Qusay had holed up. From the SOF Magazine November 2003 issue, "Deciding that Uday and Qusay were going to do it the hard way, Col. Joe Anderson, of the 101st Airborne's Strike Brigade, decided to again prep the target, firing 10 TOWs and a great deal of small-arms fire into the building." We all know how that turned out, RLTW!!!

In October, I received a call from a reporter from the

Roanoke Times in Virginia. He was inquiring into the possibility that someone was improperly passing themselves off as a Ranger. If you have any personal knowledge about someone named Carlos Archuleta, who may have served in the late 80's into the early 90's, please let me know. I don't have a web site link, but you may be able to find the story by searching the Roanoke Times story dated 10-17-03, titled, The Singing Soldier.

In August, 2/75 honored Rangers who had served during the Korean War. 2003 marked the 50th Anniversary to the end of the war and 2/75 hosted a ceremony and banquet for the first Airborne Rangers. On October 14th, 2/75 hosted veterans of Operation Urgent Fury to honor the first combat operation of

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

2/75. (See the related stories.)

The 2004 Reunion is coming up fast. The dates as of now are July 31st -August 4th. Please begin to make your plans to come and watch the Assn. web site for info on hotels, schedules, etc.. (my house is already full, so don't even ask!) Your membership dues will need to be paid up if you plan to attend the meetings, banquet and other functions.

In the last issue, it seems I had received some bad intel. The USASOC soldier of the year was CPL. Jason Parsons and the NCO was SSG. John D. Sheaffer, both from Aco 2nd Platoon, the "BlackSheep." Thanks to SFC Eric Godec and PFC James Dodson for the correction.

Have a great Holiday Season,
Rich Hecht

Saturday, November 15, 2003 / 6:31 PM NEWS ALERT: KOMO 4 News has confirmed a soldier from Tacoma was killed in the Middle East. Sgt. Jay Anthony Blessing, 23, was killed when his humvee ran over a homemade land mine.

I had hoped that 2/75 would extend its lucky streak of no KIA's during the war, but knew that it would not hold forever.

I received an email yesterday with some information regarding our first KIA and had the info confirmed today by the local news.

While not confirmed, the Rangers were in Afghanistan. Another soldier was wounded in the same incident. I do not know from which company they are from or what their mission was.

I will put out information regarding services as I get it, Sgt. Blessing is from the Tacoma area and his family is still living here.

Rich Hecht

2/75 UD 75th RRA

I just got back from the 2nd Battalion Grenada memorial ceremony. It was a good trip and very moving. I started the day (10/14/03) running PT with the Rangers. Just like old times. Cold and damp Ft. Lewis autumn air. Showered in my old platoon area in 3rd Platoon, C Company. I was made to feel very welcome. As a retiree, (and still fitting into it), I put on my old class A uniform. I enjoyed RDF chow for breakfast and lunch, and attended the ceremony at 1300 to remember Slater, Genier and Lannon. COL (retired) Ralph Hagler and CSM Carlton Dietrich (who was a SGT in C Co in Grenada) was there as well. CSM Dietrich is now CSM of the Stryker Brigade at Ft. Lewis, and is fielding the new light armored wheeled vehicles that have attracted much press as of late.

CPT Pat Nelson, the current S-5 and former B CO XO, played host and showed me around the area. Pat is a veteran of combat in Iraq, and was on the mission to rescue PVT Jessica Lynch. His account of what happened on that mission is compelling. Most Rangers in the Battalion wear a combat patch and CIB. One absolutely professional CQ runner (a PFC) assisted me around the area. This Ranger, who could not have been 20 years old, had

already been to Afghanistan. While he had not yet been to Ranger School, he wore a combat patch and CIB.

For the ceremony, three M-16's with fixed bayonets were driven into the ground behind three sets of perfectly shined jump boots. Three black berets (our color during Grenada) topped the M-16's. In the background were the captured Cuban weapons from Grenada. CPT Nelson read the details of our mission on the island, as some members of the present Rangers, were not even born then. Later, LTC Jeff Bailey, current 2/75 commander, spoke. The ceremony ended with CPT Nelson conducting the final calling of the roll. COL Hagler, CSM Dietrich and I sounded off when our names were called. CPT Nelson continued, calling the names of the Rangers who were killed in action. Three times there names were called, as if someone would answer back. Five Hundred Rangers stood at steely attention. There was only silence for an answer.

A leadership professional development followed, led by COL Hagler. Both CSM Dietrich and I got to chime in with our observations from time to time. The ceremony was very nicely done. Local press covered the event. The link is to an article from that morning's Tacoma News Tribune.

<http://www.tribnet.com/news/story/4167002p-4181201c.html>

CPT (retired) Kurt "Max" Sturr

A SGT in 3rd Platoon, C CO 2/75 on October 25th, 1983



Photo by BRUCE KELLMAN THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Retired Army Col. Ralph Hagler talks with retired Army Capt. Kurt Sturr on Tuesday at Fort Lewis. The base honored the 20th anniversary of Fort Lewis soldiers' mission to Grenada, which Hagler led.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

10-15-03

**Fort Lewis honors those who fought in Grenada by
MICHAEL GILBERT; The News Tribune**

Remember Grenada? It will be 20 years ago next weekend that President Ronald Reagan sent troops in to rescue American medical students and crush the Caribbean island's budding ties with Cuba and the Soviet Union.

These days the mission, Operation Urgent Fury, gets a paragraph or two in high school history textbooks.

To some it's a punch line for jokes about U.S. overkill. And the only Grenada movie, Clint Eastwood's "Heartbreak Ridge," gives all the credit to the Marines.

But they remember it differently at the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Lewis, where soldiers paused Tuesday to mark the anniversary 11 days early.

The battalion lost three Rangers and another 20 were wounded in three days of fighting. In all, 19 U.S. servicemen were killed and 116 were wounded.

The 213 Fort Lewis soldiers who took part in the operation helped rescue nearly 600 American medical students from locations around the island. The students' status had been uncertain after a bloody coup on the island in the days before the invasion.

Retired Army Capt. Kurt Sturr, then a sergeant, said the students stood and cheered the Rangers once they were safe at the airfield.

"I've never been more proud to be an American," he said Tuesday.

He was among about 10 former Rangers who attended the ceremony, along with the entire current battalion, most of whom are recently back from operations in Iraq.

The three soldiers who were killed - Spc. Philip Grenier, Sgt. Kevin Lannon and Sgt. Stephen Slater - were each represented by the traditional display of boots, an M-16 rifle and a black Ranger beret.

"The students were given a life of freedom because of these Rangers and their actions," Lt. Col. Jeffery Bailey, the 2nd Battalion's current commander, told his troops.

Ralph Hagler, the man who was in Bailey's place 20 years ago,

said he had a lot on his mind when he led his men into combat - namely previous failed rescue attempts such as the Desert One mission to free 53 hostages in Iran in 1980.

"With these fresh on my mind when we got the alert, I thought, 'Gee whiz, the last thing I want is a repeat of any of that,'" recalled Hagler, a retired Army colonel.

The Fort Lewis Rangers had three days to prepare for their part of the mission in Grenada. Originally they were going to land at Point Salines airfield after the 1st Ranger Battalion jumped in to seize it.

However, the Cubans had placed obstacles all over the runway, so the Rangers jumped in instead - from 500 feet up. Hagler said he told them not to bother with emergency parachutes - they'd never be able to deploy them in time. Besides, they needed the room to carry ammunition.

The 2nd Battalion suffered its three combat deaths on the third day of the operation, when they were sent to seize a Cuban-held barracks. The first three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to make the assault were heavily damaged.

The following day the Rangers' work was complete and both battalions were flown back to Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia. Two days later, the 2nd Battalion was back at Fort Lewis.

In the weeks and months afterward, experts found much to fault in the operation. Army troops at the southern end of the island had no viable way of communicating with the Marines who landed in the north, or with Navy ships and aircraft.

Troops on the ground also lacked hard information about the enemy's strength and the location of all of the medical students.

And no less than the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff admitted later it was a mistake to bar the media from covering the operation. (At one point, the admiral in charge fired a warning shot across the bow of a boat full of reporters heading for the island.)

But the Rangers' performance led the Army the next year to double the size of the regiment.

Afterward Hagler appeared on ABC's "Nightline" to defend the operation. And these days, he said, he remembers it as a success in the first major combat mission after the sting of Vietnam.

"It was a watershed event for the Army," he said.



3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Peter Squeglia



By Ranger Roger Brown

It's been ten years since Rangers saw action in Somalia and most people probably recognize it as "Blackhawk Down" but we recognize it for what it really is. Our Rangers. Our losses. Our history. I would like to take this opportunity to remember our fallen soldiers from the 3rd. Ranger Battalion.

B COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 75TH. RANGER REGIMENT

CLP James Cavaco: KIA Somalia Oct 3, 1993 B Co. 3/75 Rangers

SGT James Joyce: KIA Somalia Oct 3, 1993 B Co. 3/75 Rangers

PFC Richard Kowalewski: KIA Somalia Oct 3, 1993 B Co. 3/75 Rangers

SPC Dominick Pilla: KIA Somalia Oct 3, 1993 B Co. 3/75 Rangers

SGT Lorenzo Ruiz: KIA Somalia Oct 3, 1993 B Co. 3/75 Rangers

CLP James Smith: KIA Somalia Oct 3, 1993 B Co. 3/75 Rangers

Courtesy of the Philadelphia Inquirer:
Chapter 15

Ambush after ambush:
Fighting just to stay alive
By Mark Bowden

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

SOME OF THE VEHICLES were almost out of ammunition. They had expended thousands of rounds. One of the 24 Somali prisoners had been shot dead and another was wounded. The back ends of the remaining trucks and humvees in the lost convoy were slick with blood. Chunks of viscera clung to floors and inner walls.

The second humvee in line was dragging an axle and was being pushed by the five-ton truck behind it. Another humvee had three flat tires and two dozen bullet holes. SEAL Sgt. Howard Wasdin, who had been shot in both legs, had them draped up over the dash and stretched out on the hood. Yet another humvee had a grenade hole in the side and four flat tires.

They were shooting at everything now. They had abandoned their new mission - to rescue downed pilot Cliff Wolcott and then try to reach pilot Mike Durant's crash site. Now they were fighting just to stay alive as the convoy wandered into one ambush after another, trying to find its way back to base.

Up in a humvee turret and behind a Mark 19, a machine gun grenade launcher, Spec. James Cavaco was pumping one big round after another into the windows of a building from which they were taking fire. It was hard to shoot the Mark 19 accurately, but Cavaco was dropping grenades neatly into the second-story windows one after another. Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

From his seat in the second five-ton, Spec. Eric Spalding shouted out to his friend: "Yeah! Get 'em, 'Vaco!"

It was just after that when Cavaco, firing to his left down an alleyway, slumped forward. He had taken a round to the back of his head and was dead. Spalding helped load him on the back of the truck. They tossed his body up and it landed

on the legs of an injured Ranger in back, who let out a shriek.

Sgt. Paul Leonard, one of the Delta soldiers, stepped up behind Cavaco's Mark 19. He was even more of an expert shot. The big 40mm rounds were designed to penetrate two inches of steel before exploding. As Leonard fired, the rounds screamed right through the bodies of Somali gunmen and exploded farther down the street.

But not long after he took over the gun, a bullet came through the side window of the humvee and took off the back of Leonard's left leg just below the knee. He was standing in the turret, so all the men in the humvee were splattered with tissue and blood. The muscles of his leg hung open in oozing flaps. But Leonard was still standing, and still shooting. A Ranger tied a tourniquet around his leg.

The convoy was taking a beating, but it was also leaving a terrible swath of dead and wounded Somalis in its wake.

In another humvee, PFC Tory Carlson was shooting out the back, his .50-cal machine gun rocking the vehicle, when he saw three Somali men cross the big gun's range. Their bodies went flying, and as the rounds kept coming the bodies skipped and bounced along the ground until they were thrown against a wall. Then the men came apart.

Carlson was watching with horror and satisfaction when he felt a sudden blow and sharp pain in his right knee. It felt as if someone had taken a knife and held it to his knee and then driven it in with a sledgehammer. Carlson glanced down and saw blood rapidly staining his pants. He said a prayer and kept shooting. He had been wildly scared for longer now than he had ever been in his life, and now it was somehow worse. His heart banged in his chest and he found it hard to breathe and he thought he might die right then of fright.

His head was filled with the sounds of shooting and explosions and the visions of his friends going down, one by one. Blood splashed everywhere, oily and sticky with its dank, coppery smell. He figured, This is it for me. And then, in that moment of maximum terror, he felt it all abruptly, inexplicably fall away. He had stopped caring about himself. He would think about this a lot later, and his best explanation was that he no longer mattered, even to himself. He had passed through some sort of barrier. He had to keep fighting, because the other guys, his buddies, were all that mattered.

Spalding was sitting next to the passenger door in his truck with his rifle out the window, turned in the seat so he could line up his shots, when he was startled by a sudden flash of light down by his legs. It looked as if a laser beam had shot through the door and up into his right leg. Actually, a bullet had pierced the steel of the door and the window, which was rolled down, and had poked itself and fragments of glass and steel straight up his leg from just above his knee to his hip. He let out a squeal.

"What's wrong, you hit?" shouted the truck's driver, PVT John Maddox.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

“Yes!”

And then another laser poked through, this one into Spalding’s left leg. He felt a jolt this time but no pain. He reached down to grab his right thigh, and blood spurted out between his fingers. Still Spalding felt no pain. He didn’t want to look at it.

Then Maddox began shouting, “I can’t see! I can’t see!”

Spalding turned to see Maddox’s helmet askew and his glasses knocked sideways on his head.

“Put your glasses on, you dumb ass.”

But Maddox had been hit in the back of the head. The round must have hit his helmet, which saved his life, but hit with such force that it had rendered him temporarily blind. The truck was rolling out of control, and Spalding, with both legs shot, couldn’t move over to grab the wheel.

They couldn’t stop right in the field of fire, so there was nothing to do but shout directions to Maddox, who still had his hands on the wheel.

“Turn left! Turn left! Now! Now!”

“Speed up”

“Slow down!”

The truck was weaving and banging into the sides of buildings. It ran over a Somali man on crutches.

“What was that?” asked Maddox.

“Don’t worry about it. We just ran over somebody.”

And they laughed. They felt no pity and were beyond fear. They were both laughing as Maddox stopped the truck.

One of the Delta men, Sgt. Mike Foreman, ran up and opened the driver’s side door to find the cab splattered with Spalding’s blood.

“Holy s-!” he said.

Maddox slid over next to Spalding, who was examining his wounds. There was a perfectly round hole in his left knee, but no exit wound. The bullet had fragmented on impact with the door and glass, and only the metal jacket had penetrated his knee. It had flattened on impact with his kneecap and just slid around under the skin to the side of the joint. The rest of the bullet had peppered his lower leg, which was bleeding. Spalding propped both legs up on the dash and pressed a field dressing on one. He lay his rifle on the rim of the side window and changed the magazine. As Foreman got the truck moving again, Spalding resumed firing. He was shooting at anything that moved.

Spalding’s buddy, PFC Clay Othic, was wedged between driver and passenger in the truck behind them when PFC Richard Kowalewski, who was driving, was hit in the

shoulder. He absorbed the blow and kept on steering.

“Alphabet, want me to drive?” asked Othic. Kowalewski was nicknamed “Alphabet,” for his long surname.

“No, I’m OK.”

Othic was struggling in the confined space to apply a pressure dressing to Alphabet’s bleeding shoulder when a grenade rocketed in from the left. It severed Alphabet’s left arm and ripped into his torso. It didn’t explode. Instead the two-foot-long missile was embedded in Alphabet’s chest, the fins protruding from his left side under his missing arm, the point sticking out the right side. He was killed instantly.

The driverless truck crashed into the rear of the truck ahead, the one with the prisoners in back and with Foreman, Maddox and Spalding in the cab. The impact threw Spalding against the side door, and his truck rolled off and veered into a wall.

Othic, who had been sitting between Alphabet and Spec. Aaron Hand when the grenade hit, was knocked unconscious. He snapped back awake when Hand shook him, yelling that he had to get out.

“It’s on fire!” Hand shouted.

The cab was black with smoke, and Othic could see a fuse glowing from what looked like the inside of Alphabet’s body. The grenade lodged in his chest was unexploded, but something had caused a blast. It might have been a flash bang grenade - a harmless grenade that gives off smoke and makes noise - mounted on Alphabet’s armor. Hand got his side door open and swung himself out. Othic reached over to grab Alphabet and pull him out, but the driver’s bloody clothes just lifted off his pierced torso.

Othic stumbled out to the street and realized that his and Hand’s helmets had been blown off. Hand’s rifle had been shattered. They moved numbly and even a little giddily. Alphabet was dead and their helmets had been knocked off, yet they were virtually unscathed by the grenade. Hand couldn’t hear out of his left ear, but that was it.

Hand found the lower portion of Alphabet’s arm on the street. All that remained intact was the hand. He picked it up and put it in his side pants pocket. He didn’t know what else to do, and it didn’t feel right leaving it behind. Dale Sizemore had to identify Richard Kowalewski’s body.

OTHIC CLIMBED INTO another humvee. As they set off again, he began groping on the floor with his good left hand, collecting rounds that guys had ejected from their weapons when they’d jammed. Then he passed them back to those still shooting.

They found a four-lane road with a median up the center that would lead them back down to the K-4 traffic circle, a major traffic roundabout in southern Mogadishu, and then home. In the truck, Spalding began to lose feeling in his fingertips. For the first time in the ordeal he began to panic. He felt himself going into shock. He saw a little Somali boy

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

cradling an AK-47, shooting it wildly from the hip. He saw flashes from the muzzle of the gun. Somebody shot the boy. Spalding felt as if everything around him had slowed down to half speed. He saw the boy's legs fly up, as if he had slipped on marbles, and then he was flat on his back.

Foreman, the Delta sergeant, was a hell of a shot. He had his weapon in one hand and the steering wheel in the other. Spalding saw him gun down three Somali men without even slowing down.

Spalding felt his fingers curling and his hands stiffening. His forearm had been shattered by a bullet earlier.

"Hey, man, let's get the hell back," Spalding said. "I'm not doing too good."

"You're doing cool," Foreman said. "You'll be all right. Hang in there."

A humvee driven by SEAL Homer Nearpass was now in the lead. It was shot up and smoking, running on three rims. One dead and eight wounded Rangers were in the back. Wasdin, the wounded SEAL sergeant, had his bloody legs splayed out on the hood (he'd been shot once more, in the left foot).

They came upon a big roadblock. The Somalis had stretched two huge underground gasoline tanks across the roadway

along with other debris, and had set it all on fire. Afraid to stop the humvee for fear it would not start up again, Nearpass shouted to the driver to just ram through it.

They crashed over and through the flaming debris, nearly landing on their side, but the sturdy humvee righted itself and kept on going. The rest of the column followed.

Staff Sgt. Matt Eversmann, the leader of a Ranger unit that had been rescued by the convoy, was curled up on one of the back passenger seats of his humvee, training his weapon out the window. At every intersection he saw Somalis who would open fire on any vehicle that came across. Because they had men on both sides of the street, any rounds that missed the vehicles as they flashed past would certainly have hit the Somalis on the other side of the road. What tactics, Eversmann thought. He felt these people must have no regard for even their own lives. They just did not care.

In his vehicle, Othic was on all fours now, groping around on the floor of the humvee with his good hand, looking for unspent shells. They were just about out of ammo.

As they approached K-4 circle, they all braced themselves for another vicious ambush.

RangersIA Somalia Oct 3, 1993 B Co. 3/75 Rangers



James Casey Joyce



PFC Richard Kowaleski



SGT Dominiella



SGT Lorenzo M. Ruiz



PFC James M. Cavaco



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

Unit Director - Tom Brizendine



Unit Director Tom Brizendine's wife Donna recently had three stints put in her main artery. The doctor said she was on the verge of a major heart attack. She is home and safe and thanks everyone for their prayers and support.

Meanwhile Tom's reflux disease has got to the stage where the medicine is not working and he has been told to quit smoking and DRINKING COFFEE. Tom is considering his options.

And if all that isn't enough, one of Donna's nieces, an MP, was killed by an explosion in Iraq. One of her nephews died back in Desert Storm

Norm Thomas and Mike Farmer visited young Ranger Jeremy Feldbusch in hospital in Texas soon after he was brought back from Iraq seriously wounded.

They are very impressed with Jeremy and his parents who were there in the hospital with him full time.

Terry Roderick and Rick Ehrler also visited him after he got home.

Some of the guys tried to get the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to make him a life member but the Association pointed out that the costs of running the Association, printing this magazine and all mean that the Association would go broke giving life memberships away, even to people that so richly deserve support.

So big Roy Bissey held the bucket while people from this company pitched money to raise the funds to cover his life membership.

Hal Boyd who was in the company at Ft Hood in 1973-74 and his wife Karen presented the life membership to Ranger Feldbusch in behalf of the company.

Here are Hal's words.

"The framed and mounted Life Membership arrived in Michigan in perfect shape - it looked great. Nice job

Ron (Edwards-Assn Secretary). On Saturday my wife, Karen, and I arrived at the Feldbusch home in Pennsylvania. It was a beautiful, sunny day. Shawn, Jeremy's older brother, met us at the door and welcomed us in. Jeremy has good presence, in many ways it's hard to tell that he's blind. He's got confidence in his voice, looks in your direction when you converse, and has good strength of character. I gave him the membership, told him "Thanks" for serving his country, and told him that we (the Association) were there for him now and in the years to come. We spent about an hour and a half with him and Shawn before Brace, his father, arrived home from work. They're a good looking bunch, extremely polite and respectful.



They've got a bunch of pictures they'll be posting online in the near future. On September 20th, the town is hosting a parade in Jeremy's honor - big turnout expected. We viewed most of the pictures including some from Iraq while Jeremy recounted the days leading up to and including his wounding. Jeremy will be joining us online in the months ahead. He's going to be working with a voice-activation email system and, now that he's a member, he'll be linking into these posts with Shawn's help.

Hal Boyd, Pealzorch, Mr. Clean A/75 1973

Thanks for taking the time and trouble to present the membership to Ranger

Feldbusch, Hal.

I can't remember whether it was Terry Roderick or Gil Berg that posted an e-mail about getting your military records via a website from the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis.

I filled out the e-mail form on their website at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> on September 29, faxed the signature page to them on September 30.

Their reply was dated October 7, posted October 9 and arrived at my remote PO here in Australia on October 23rd by First Class Mail (not air but I think it goes by air on standby) with two copies of my DD-214 and a reasonable sounding form letter giving me options if I needed more stuff.

Three weeks from the Personnel Records Center to Oz. I'm impressed! I had not seen my DD-214 in at least 20 years.

Oh yeah, there was another form stapled behind the DD214s.

It says, "By order of the Secretary of the Army, you are discharged from the United States Army Reserve on the date indicated below."

Type of Discharge: HONORABLE - DD Form 256A

Reason for discharge: Expiration of term of service.

Effective date of discharge: 31 December 1969"

I've been hearing guys say it is impossible to get stuff from those record keepers but that's a pretty good effort.

Ft Hood era member Rick McGee showed up on the company server in November, looking for old buds including SGM Red Herman.

Red reckons he's been looking for Rick for years. He says "This guy was so close that my parents tried to trade me for him".

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

Also back is Henry Lightfoot from the Wildflecken and Frankfurt eras and Wade Peterson from the Ft Hood era. Wade still lives in Texas.

Bunch of folks had another party at Carlisle's cabin in late October. Present were Mike Cantrell, Dick McGee, Bill Bowman, Mark Carlisle, Stan Jones, Mike Fisher and Captain McFuton aka Karl Fee.

Mike Cantrell left early because his daughter Dana had a baby girl. Reckons he thought he was seeing things when Bowman showed up at 0500. Hadn't aged a year. "Is that you, Bowman?" "Nope. I'm his son."

Stan Jones dropped in at Red's place on the way home.

A year or two ago some guys on the A/75 server were talking about Captain Thomas P. Meyer, former company commander at Fort Benning. We put out feelers but couldn't locate him.

Until the last issue of Patrolling where he was referred to as the proof editor for F/51's unit history on page 70.

Mike Farmer has left the US to work in Kuwait. Good luck, Mike. He promised to let us know how the garden spot in the garden of paradise is.

Cantrell keeps talking food on the company server so I said give us a recipe.

Here 'tis. Sounds good. Thanks Mike. I'll try it with 'roo meat since there aren't many deer 'round where I live.

one each two pound deer rump steak

two packs fajita seasoning

tsp cayenne

2 pieces bacon

tsp salt

2 cloves fresh garlic

5 purple onions cut up

Brown steak with bacon in a dutch oven

add other ingredients with 1 cup water

bake at 350 degrees F for 2 hours

serve with sour cream, flour tortillas,

refried beans and chopped salad

One VII Corps LRRP found a bunch of V Corps LRRP names on an old set of orders for people from both companies who successfully completed the 8th Inf Division Military Freefall School on 18 AUG 62.

Our guys were Manley Jones, Glenn Rutherford, Allan Becker, Bobby Freeman, Doug Carter, Bob Clark, Gary Goering and Bert Wiggins. Bob Searcy of VII Corps LRRPs who later became our 1st Shirt also completed the course.

Anyone who wants a copy of the orders, let me know on isedit@gcom.net.au

Our thanks to the VII Corps guys for sending those orders to Unit Director Tom Brizendine.

Ex CO Norm Carlton has just celebrated his 73rd birthday. Happy birthday, Norm!

Wildflecken and Frankfurt era LRRP Eric Weber died on August 26 in San Diego after an operation for a brain tumor. He was a bright spark with a lot of talent and a good sense of humor in the company

The photo above catches a side of Eric that many of us knew well. That's him on the left in his civilian boxer shorts getting promoted in the field by C.O. Edward G. Haislop.

Eric started in patrols and worked his way into the S-2 Intelligence NCO position during his six years in the company. During his stint s S-2 he managed to complete a Masters of Science Degree in Electronic Engineering at night school in Darmstadt and left the company and the Army in 1967.

He worked as an electronics engineer from 1967 to 2002 when he retired and moved to San Diego with Sabine to be near his daughters and grandchildren.

Eric's background was an interesting one. He was a native German speaker, born in Burma in 1939 and fled with his family to India to escape the Japanese invasion in 1942. He went to school in India until

1948 and then studied for two years in England. Eric and his family returned to Germany in 1950 where he qualified as a Metal Worker and also did business studies. He moved to the US in 1957 and joined the Army in 1958 as a Military Policeman, meeting his future wife Sabine in Darmstadt, Germany that year.

He came to the company in 1961 where his combination of intelligence and irreverence allowed him to fit in easily and flourish.

Eric is survived by his wife Sabine, daughters Rica and Agnes, and grand daughters Julianna and Erica. Our condolences to them.



Eric Weber getting promoted.



Dennis Mulloy pins jump wings on his son, Brian at Ft Benning.



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

Unit Director - Kirk Gibson



B Company Rangers Operation Trackdown

Our ongoing effort to locate former members of B/75 and put them back in touch with each other is slowly bearing fruit. We have contacted at least 50-60 members we hadn't had on the rolls before, and more are pending. The ex-B/75'ers are also sharing info with the C/58 and LRRP guys. We hope that we are able to convince a significant number from all 3 units to attend the 75th Regiment reunion next year in Washington.

We are currently distributing contact information via email to unit members we are aware of, and anticipate sending snail mail updates to those with no known email address. The first version of the company roster with names, addresses, and contact information is expected to be released close to Thanksgiving.

Some of the past company members we have reestablished contact with are:

Donald Aguilar, Peter Alvarez, Thomas Armajo, MG Eldon Bargewell, Dick Beahm, Felix Blinn, Bill Bennett, Tom Bennett, Felix Blinn, Bill Bradigan, John Brittain, Steve Bump, HA Cole, Larry Coleman, Chris Coy, Steven Donn, Patsy Fuscaldo, Steve Gamble, Robert Gillespie, Joe Gooden, Tony Harley, Stan Harrell, Don Harris, Tom Harris, Samuel "Pappy" Haugh, John Hay, Mike Hines, Dana Hird, Ernie Horn, Paul Housemans, Chuck Ishman, "Doc" Jeans, Lidio Kercado, Kenneth Kubasik, Tim Leadbeater, Neil Lofgren, Dennis Lucas, Tommy Luckett, Richard Martin, Bill Mathiak, Kim Maxin, Jim "Stretch" McElreath, George Mendes, Don Miles, Harold Miller, Gary O'Neal, Gary Olson, Dean Papka, Bob Parker, Hilton Peavey, Ray Peck, Joe Picanco, Don Purdy, Wild Bill Ramsdell, Chuck Reams, Ralph Resch, Anthony Richardson, Jerry Roberts, Eric Rodriguez, Phillip Rosas, Bill Ryan, Barry Schlamp, Richard Seitz, Detlev Signor, Steve Silverman, Jim Simpkins, Versal Spalding, Frank Stewart, Melvin Stewart, Richard Stutsman, Bob Taylor, James Taylor, Marc Thompson, Rick Torres, William Uzmack, Gilbert Vaughn, Roberto Villalobos, John Visel, John Henry Voyles, Richard Waldroup, James Wallace, Richard Wardroup, Sealon "Doc" Wentzel, Bob Wittwer, Dirty Eddie White, Cephuse Williams, Bill Wilson, John Wood, Bob Woolstrum, and Thomas Wright.

There are many more listed in the B/75 portion of the 75RRA Website.

We know that many of the B Company members also served in both 1st and 2nd Battalions. If you're a member of 75th RRA or served in one of the Battalions, and served in B Company, and you have any contact info for other ex-members of the company, we would really appreciate your help if you could send the info to us.

We have begun compiling a roster (names only) of the unit members on the 75thRRA website (see the roster link under Association units, B/75). If you find any incorrect, incomplete, or misspelled information on the website, please let us know so we can correct it. If you have any information about other B Company members, or need to update your information, please contact Kirk Gibson (our Unit Director), Richard Stutsman, Stan Harrell, or Marc Thompson, at:

Kirk: khgibson@paonline.com.

Richard: cdso79rs@yahoo.com (785-427-3270)

Stan: rgrharrell@hotmail.com (843-280-1015)

Marc: marc@roinet.com (610-913-8183).

UD Note: Much credit for this effort goes to Marc, who has done a great job of tracking down B/75 Rangers. An added benefit is that there are some new contributors to Patrolling, such as Richard Stutsman who sent the following memories:

Why you should never volunteer

Early one morning at formation for the B Co. 75th Rangers the First Sergeant asked for volunteers to go to HALO school, a 5-week school at Ft. Bragg. I was standing next to David McCrea in formation and he had spent some time in the 82 Airborne at Ft. Bragg. I asked Dave what a HALO school was: he did not know. I asked my Platoon Sergeant what a HALO was, and he said he did not know. Dave McCrea said raise your hand and we will find out together. So I did. Do you know we did not find out what a HALO was until we got to Ft. Bragg and signed in at Smoke Bomb Hill?

Being 4 months over 21 years old and having spent 18 months in the 173 Airborne in Vietnam, I figured I could about handle anything.

When we arrived, there was this mean-looking CSM there (CSM Dave Clark). We asked no questions and followed directions carefully. Later we found out that the CSM was the 1SG of B Company Rangers when it was a LRRP company in Germany. We also got to see CSM Clark on TV. He made 46 jumps on his 46th birthday. All four of us there for HALO School did not have 46 jumps combined. We were taken to our barracks and shown the mess hall. The barracks was a great huge 3-story building with air conditioning, nothing like the facilities at Ft. Carson. We were instructed to report at 0700 in the morning, in shorts, T-shirt, and black boots.

That night we talked to other soldiers on the 2nd floor and found out what HALO means (High altitude, low opening). I did not care about the high part, but I was not real exited about the low



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opening part. I figured to give it my best shot.

At 0700 we were introduced to our instructors. Mine was Joe Pelter. Joe did not say a lot so I figured that I should pay attention when he says something. The first thing covered was free-fall positions. There were these tables like the VFW have when they have a dance: 10 feet long and 4 feet wide. We were shown the delta position and the modified frog position. Then they put us on the tables. We were on our bellies, then arched our back with our hands and arms by our sides like a delta-wing fighter. Our feet would be shoulder-width apart, and we arched back as far as we could. That was the exit position.

Then we got into the free fall position: the modified frog. It's just like it sounds. The whole day was spent on these tables on our bellies. I thought I was in pretty good shape, but after 5 hours of this I was long past ready for lunch. After lunch was 4 more hours of table training. All day Tuesday was more table training. Tuesday was a long day.

Wednesday we went to Langley Air Force base for the High Altitude Chamber Training. That's where they put you in this big steel tank and suck all the air out of it. It's a test to see how long you can go before you pass out. All of us guys from Ft. Carson got together and studied for the test so we did not pass out till long after every one else did. Then back to Ft. Bragg on Friday, and then the weekend off before our 1st jump on Monday (that's another story).

Jump day we were all dressed up in our orange jumpsuits and black leather helmets. Joe Pelter told me that my goggles were not tight enough. He said to tighten them till they hurt. I tightened them till they were uncomfortable: I should have followed instructions. Then we loaded on the C130. At 12,500 feet they opened the back ramp and had us follow our instructor. Each instructor had 5 students. It kind of reminded me of a hawk and 5 orange pigeons. As each 5-man group left the back of the aircraft I hoped I would not look like that. Then we went. You are supposed to jump off of the tailgate, spin in the air, and go into the slipstream in the delta position. I did that OK, but every thing after that did not go so well.

The first thing that happened was my goggles blew off. Now I couldn't see so well. I was distracted, so I stayed in the delta too long and built up too much speed. My mind went into neutral and I could not remember what to do next. When I remembered what to do next (transition from the delta to the frog position) instead of doing it nice and slow like I was taught, I snapped into the frog position and about had my arms and legs ripped off. Then I was flat, stable, face to the earth in the right position. About this time I saw Joe on his back fly under me grinning like he was having a good time. Then he waved so I waved back. Bad idea! I went out of control, end over end, so I went back into the delta then back to the frog slowly and I was stable again. Then Joe flew off to pick on somebody else.

Then I thought: "OH Crap: how long have I been falling?" and I

looked at my altimeter. It read 10,000 feet! This can't be right. I have been falling for an hour. I must have missed the earth. I started to look around to see if I could see any other jumpers and my eyelids started fluttering, so I stopped doing that. It didn't feel good. Now I was tense and wondering why I do these things, counting the ways I was going to tear off parts of McRea's body. But I finally got down to pull altitude. I looked and saw the ripcord. Instead of holding my arms out and using them as short wings keeping me flat and stable, I reached down with my arms next to my body, bent slightly at the waist, and pulled.

Now I am in a head-down position, on my back, and my parachute came out between my legs. I thought, "This is going to hurt", and it did. When it opened it cracked me like a whip, and drove my nose through the glass on my altimeter that was on top of my reserve parachute. I had burns on the side of my neck from the suspension lines rubbing on my neck as they went past. I could not figure why my right arm hurt so badly until I looked at it. There, sticking out of my arm, was an ink pen. I pulled the pen out of my arm and threw it away. The ink pen had been in the left shoulder pocket in my jump suit. Now I am wondering where I am. I could not believe it. I was right over the drop zone - the only time it happened in the next 4 weeks.

When I got on the ground one eye was swollen shut and there was blood everywhere. God this is fun!! Can I go to HALO jump master school too? I was able to make the afternoon jump after putting ice on my eye, and when you do every thing right free fall is a blast.

But I still had my moments like when I opened my chute and did a 360 turn and did not see anything but large 60 foot pine trees and I-421 going through them. I thought, "Well, the median looks large enough to land in. If I land right in the center I should have enough room to keep my parachute from getting in the road". When your parachute has a 6-knot forward drive and you have a 3- or 4-knot wind it doesn't compute, so I did not land just where I wanted, about 10 feet from the edge of the road. Thank You, Mr. Truck Driver for stopping in time! I was not in the mood for drag recovery practice. Highway 421 is a 4-lane highway just out side Ft. Bragg. Got yelled at for that one.

Another time I opened my parachute, did a 360 to see where I was, and could not see anything but green pine trees. As I got closer to the ground, I could see a big patch of wild grape vines growing up between the trees. I thought "I will just land right in the middle of the grape vines grab one and climb down out of the tree after I cut my chute away". You know what? Tarzan lies. I went through those grape vines like they were not there, however one did manage to wrap its self around my ankle, swing me head down, and slam my head on the ground. Easy duty, just hanging around having fun.

Then we started with the higher jumps. Joe Pelter said: "Don't eat things that cause gas before a high altitude jump". I had

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learned my lesson so I did not, however a couple of young Seals ate chilidogs with onion for lunch. I had never seen anybody swell up so much in so short a time. I had never ever heard anyone pass gas for one minute before, either. I was glad I was wearing an oxygen mask: those boys might have hurt somebody. Glad smoking was not allowed.

Joe Pelter said "Don't wear watches at high altitude", so I did not. Somebody did and we watched watch pieces fly all over the inside of the C-130. Pressure on the inside of the watch is greater than on the outside and cheap watches can't stand it and fly apart. Some tooth fillings don't do so good either. If there is an air pocket between the tooth and the filling the pressure will pop out the filling. We did not have this problem in class 1-71.

All in all, I would not have missed it for anything, and it gave me a new hobby I practiced for the next 15 years. And yes I miss it. Why doooo we volunteer?

Richard Stutsman
November, 2003

"Bugs" Moran, and the origin of "HOOAH"

Another first time contributor is Bill Bennett, who sent the following in response to an e-mail about SGM James E. "Bugs" Moran

ALCON:

Bugs died some years ago in Bosnia. He had ended up as a SGM in the USSOCOM J3 shop. After retirement, he worked for MPRI on one of the battalion training teams in Bosnia. A couple of other friends of mine, Sonny Schaffnit and Abel Zuniga (both SF) were with him. He had just returned from a run and had a heart attack. We carry him on our deceased roles on the Command SFA Chapter (Chapter LX). I always enjoyed seeing Jim in the twilight of my career since he was in my first unit (I was a 2LT and he was a SSG) and in my last (I was an LTC and he was a SGM). He obviously did better than I. Jim had broken his back in a jump shortly before I arrived at USSOCOM in July '93; slowed him down, but didn't stop him.

I have always laid the Army's "HOOAH" craze at his doorstep. I can still see him come out for morning formation, stand at the top of the stairs of 2nd Platoon's barracks at Eighth and Polio Streets, give a "Hooah", affix his headgear, and proceed down the steps and into formation. Anyway, I trace the lineage of "Hooah" from Bugs, to 2nd Platoon, to B Company, to 2/75 at Ft Lewis (since Co B (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne) was the Bn's initial core element and we were using it in '78 when I joined them again), to 1/75, to the Regiment, and then to the entire Army. Believe I am right, too!

Thought everyone knew that "Bugs" was gone. I hope this sheds some light on his demise. Damn good man and a soldier to the end!

RLTW
Bill Bennett

B/75 Photo Album

If you haven't done so by now, please go to the B/75 site on the 75RRA Website. You will find an ALBUM button, where you can see and add pictures, like the following from Bob Wittwer.

Here is another photo of me and LT Huggins taken at Peterson Field standing beside/outside of a C-141 prior to a jump. I thought you might like to add to your photo album for B/75.

Bob Wittwer (RLTW)



VETERANS' DAY TRIBUTES

Tim Leadbeater reports, "I used to deliver the Miami Herald as a teenager in South Florida so I was pleased to submit the attached op-ed to the Herald and pleased that they published it on Veteran's Day."

John T. "Tim" Leadbeater
B/75th

VETERANS' DAY TRIBUTE 'The American spirit prevails' BY JOHN T. LEADBEATER

I am a naturalized American — a Canadian by birth who became a naturalized American citizen in a ceremony in Miami on June 30, 1973, nine years after my parents moved to Deerfield Beach. There, my father and another Canadian expatriate opened a small retail office supply store, Royal Stationery, and I graduated from Pompano Beach Senior High. However, the greatness of America is demonstrated to me by my service as a soldier in the U.S. Army. This service spanned 30 years, from 1973 when I enlisted in the active Army as a private in the infantry to now as a recently retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel.

I think military service is a noble calling. It has taught me many lessons and captured my heart. The military experience provides you with a unique opportunity to meet and work with our fellow Americans from every part of our country and from every socio-economic background. You also have the opportunity to experience shared sacrifices that come from defending our American values from those who are even now seeking to destroy our country.

There are few if any other institutions in our country where you can experience these shared sacrifices and meet and work with so

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many fellow Americans from such diverse backgrounds. Although my active duty service from 1973 until 1981 was filled with adventure and camaraderie, including enlisted service as an Army Airborne Ranger and commissioned service in the 82d Airborne Division during the Iranian hostage crisis, the pinnacle of my experience as an American soldier occurred in October 2001 when I was called to active duty in response to the events of September 11, 2001.

Multiple duties

In November 2001, I deployed to Southwest Asia until August 2002 where I supported Operation Enduring Freedom as the Deputy Comptroller for Coalition Forces Land Component Command. The Command (a three-star command) exercised and control over the land battle in Afghanistan. Simultaneously we prepared for combat operations against Iraq.

During the buildup for Operation Iraq Freedom, I reached my mandatory retirement date, so I had to sit back and simply appreciate how effective our military forces were in deposing the Saddam regime. I was not surprised. We have a magnificent military force that continues to amaze its supporters and stun its adversaries. This is no accident. The American military embodies the American spirit. When our adversaries engage our armed forces they have mistakenly engaged the indomitable, indestructible spirit embodied in all Americans past and present. The outcome of such engagements is certain. The American spirit prevails.

Renewed reverence

It was very sobering boarding a military charter that Thanksgiving weekend in 2001 with two duffle bags, not knowing my final destination or when or even if I'd be returning. The experience gave me a new appreciation for the service and sacrifices many others have made before me. I also have a renewed appreciation for what I have taken too much for granted. Our way of life, our freedoms, are more fragile than I realized. For me, the American way of life has always been something worth protecting and defending. The events of September 11, 2001, and my experiences since then have only deepened that conviction.

More than ever, this is my country. Thank you, America, from the bottom of my naturalized American heart.

SG Glenn English (MOH) update:

The following is an e-mail exchange between two former VII Corps LRRP (ABN) members, John DeCosta and Theo Knaak. SSG Glenn English was a former VII Corps LRRP, who gave all in Vietnam. Thanks, John, from all us old LRRPs.

Theo

On Veterans Day I went on a small mission. I put on my red beanie and went downtown to the Medal of Honor Memorial and hung a flag next to Glenn English's name. It was a good LRRP mission. Nobody knew I was there until I was gone.

John

Job well done Soldier.

Nothing better to make a man feel good than honoring those that are real heroes. You say you were stealthy enough not to be noticed?

AIRBORNE

Theo

Yup, nobody knew I was there. I didn't want to make a spectacle at all. Just wanted to give some honor and respect.

ALL THE WAY!

John

ROWE ATTAWAY, TOUR GUIDE

John and Cheryl Visel went to Germany to check out the foreign headquarters of Rowe Attaway, and to RECON the old VII Corps LRRP stomping grounds. He gave them a whirlwind tour of southern Germany, including a nostalgic trip back to Nellingen. John found himself instinctively assuming a familiar position outside of Major Hunt's old office. I guess once you've had the nickname "Visel Get Me Twenty," some habits are hard to break!



John Visel in a familiar position



John Visel and Rowe Attaway behind the old barracks

A few thoughts on Truckers, Rangers and LRRPs, by Patty Smith

As I was driving down Interstate 5 last week I heard two drivers talking. They did not start their conversation with the truck drivers' most used phrase, "You ain't gonna believe this shit," so

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I thought I would listen and see where this conversation between two professionals would lead me.

Driver 1 said to driver 2, "Well they finally filled that hole down by Blueberry Hill (400 miles away) yesterday."

After a long pause driver 2 replied, "It's about time."

Twenty miles passed, then driver 1 came on the air again and said, "I wonder why they did that?"

After another long delay the driver 2 replied I don't know."

Twenty minutes later, driver 1 says, "Must have stopped raining Huh?"

Long delay..."Yep it did some time last night. That's probably why they did it."

This went on for three hundred miles. To the untrained ear, this would be no more than idle chatter, but to these two knights of the road it was a survival tactic used by thousands of drivers to protect and keep their friends safe and out of harm's way. Driver 1, trying to hold a conversation with the reluctant to talk driver 2, was making an attempt to keep his partner awake so they could make their deliveries on time.

As I followed the two trucks, it was easy for me to tell just about when the driver 1 was going to ask a mox-nix question. By watching driver 2, driver 1 could tell when his friend was about ready to run off the road from lack of sleep. Each time the lead truck would drift onto the shoulder of the road, a question would be asked and after an immediate correction of the direction of travel, driver 2 would reply with as few words as possible then go silent again.

That was the way I spent my first thirty years of driving truck. Surviving by experience that was not written down on paper but what was learned from old timers that had been driving for many years. Little tricks, like making an alarm clock out of a \$95,000 truck rather than buying one for \$12.00. This was done by leaving the key in the on position, then cracking the air supply petcock just enough to let the air escape from the system. In about 30 minutes time, the system's low air alarm would activate and wake the driver up. So much for Hi-Tech.

Nowadays, things have changed - computers, electronic log books and at least two alarm clocks in each good truck, plus the fact that you are putting your job at risk if you drive in violation. This has given the USA a whole new breed of driver on our interstate highways. Are they better than we were when we started? Time will tell.

On the other hand man for man, are the new LRRPs better than we were when we started? Or do they just have better equipment and better knowledge and more proven training pasted on to them from old guys? It would be impossible for them to have more heart than we had. We all gave all when called upon to do so.

I would like to think that the new breed today has learned from our experience and from our mistakes and successes. For instance, The LRRP of today can do more communicating with a

cell phone than we could ever do with a Trac-77. How nice it would have been to have a 4oz. cell instead of a 20-pound Trac. With the cell there would be no need to tie C rats to your antenna wire just to get it over a limb. Just think how many spare batteries we could have carried with us in the field. Now LRRPS have items like night vision, GPS and C rats that don't clang together when walking through the Black Forest.

The Rangers of today all look like Paul Bunyan to me. They look like they were all stamped from the same mold. I wonder how they would have held up running "The Loop" with a hangover?

Living in Springfield Oregon, I don't have a chance to see Rangers every day, but sometimes I see them at bus stations and airports in the Portland area or on convoys traveling from post to post. I never fail to stop and talk to them when I get a chance. I have found that a good way for a short fat guy to get their attention is to call them to attention. That doesn't work, so then next I put my hands behind my back, walk up to the biggest Ranger in the group, and ask him while looking him in the eye, "HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU JUMPED THROUGH YOUR APEX, TROOPER?"

After they stop laughing, they almost always ask what unit I was in. I smile and reply VII Corps LRRP, Nellingen, Germany. They are always eager to hear tales from the past. Some of the things they ask are real funny. Rangers I have come in contact with show good manners, just like we did when we were confronted with an equal. Most of the time, their first question is, "Where can we get some beer?"

Such a great group of Americans we have to carry on our humble line of work. I am proud of all of them. I know we are all blessed to be in such capable hands of the Rangers of today but....do you really think they could run "the Loop" with a hangover? HA HA!

IRAQ UPDATE - CLOSE TO HOME

Mark Chetwynd, son of Joe Chetwynd, is serving in the desert near Tikrit, with the 1058th Transportation Company of the National Guard. Here, in bold, are excerpts from an article sent to the hometown newspaper by one of his buddies, which captures the emotions of the soldiers serving there.

Many things have happened since my last letter...there is no way I can put into words the emotions I've been juggling in my head....He then describes attacks on convoys which involve some near misses, some heavy damage and casualties, including...

A truck that was traveling the other way on the highway had hit a land mine dead on. The truck the soldiers were driving was destroyed. Blown to pieces, leaving puddles of oil, antifreeze, and blood. The driver had suffered minor injuries, but the passenger was not so fortunate. His legs were destroyed in the blast, rendering him helpless. (He) would later have both legs amputated from the knees down.

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Seeing that soldier being pulled from that truck is a vision that will be etched in my mind forever....

These experiences have left us with the realization that all we can do now is try to survive....

So much of what I've gone through has opened my eyes to what we're really facing up here. I look at the children's faces, especially the little boys. They look so innocent now, but that's probably how others like them looked 12 years ago to the men and women who fought before me in the Gulf War. So sweet and innocent. Now it's those children, grown up, who are attacking our convoys. They've been taught all their lives to hate us, to hate all Americans. What they fail to realize is that we can actually help them (and) all the people of Iraq, if they would just let us, but as the days go by, and with these recent attacks, I fear they won't....

But therein lies the lost innocence of a National Guard transportation company from Massachusetts who never thought we would have to fight just to survive on a daily basis. What we do we have to do, and only God can judge us for that....

Once again, I would just like to thank everyone for keeping in touch and for sending us such generous packages. Your letters (are) a constant reminder of everything and everyone I care about back home, (and) reassure me that I have a lot to look forward to when I come home.



SSG Mark Chetwynd and his father, Joe

And Kirk Gibson's son, Kirk, left Baghdad on 2 November with a Bronze Star and another ARCOM, having served a six-month extension there with his unit of the 1st Armored Division. He will return to CONUS in late December, on terminal leave. Recently, he wrote about an incident in which one of his young NCO's instinctively killed an approaching Iraqi terrorist who was firing a weapon into the cab of the truck in which he was riding, an act which undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades. It was his first combat experience.

That event is but one instance of daily heroism committed out here. The bravery is forged by the indescribable

camaraderie that service under these circumstances fosters. These circumstances also magnify so many other emotions. About two weeks ago there was a report of a gunshot wound on camp from an accidental weapon discharge. One of my Senior NCOs was near the aide station when the truck pulled up and the open eyed pale face of the soldier lay motionless. He was pronounced dead at 1203 that same afternoon by my Doctor friend and read his last rites by our Battalion Chaplain.

The Army rarely admits suicides publicly. They are hardly an epidemic, and it isn't something they are trying to hide; they just want to preserve as much dignity for the soldier's memory as possible. Because this was so local, everyone here knew the story that he had shot himself. I don't know why. I don't know if someone broke his heart or if he just felt he had no other choice. Maybe he was just completely lonely out here in the sand. I wondered all these things when I had to bring papers to the aide station 30 minutes later outlining some of the procedures that needed to happen with moving human remains. In the back ward was an 8' doubled black bag filled with ice. The soldier was zipped tightly within them and laid neatly on the floor awaiting a ride home. The CNN ticker on TV less than an hour later reported the death of another US soldier in Iraq. The distance from everything he called home and desolation of the environment here left him no other options. It's tragic that his leaders didn't see it coming. We're all trained on the signs. He was a casualty of war.

Another casualty of this war is the inherent scrutiny our nation is facing during the aftermath. Nothing bothers me more about the media than talking heads who clearly have no business speaking publicly, who speak out and say we weren't prepared, we weren't ready, we have no good plan for the aftermath of major conflict. This country was summarily raped of work skills, work ethic, individual freedom, infrastructure, industry, and human rights. This need for instant gratification for the sideliners is obscene. Of course the (Iraqi) people here are unhappy! They live in their own shit, they don't have power or clean water or adequate medical facilities, or any sort of job market which can create employment. They also don't have the education or wherewithal to get them out of it all. Guess who put them there? It sure as hell wasn't us! The guys who did have been all but eliminated. Does the media really expect every kid to have a new book bag and every home to have cable TV by the end of the fiscal year? Does the public truly believe that people who have been scared out of their minds their whole existence will rise up in a matter of 6 months and start improving their own society? Please don't buy the BS. How can anyone possibly plan the complete reconstruction of a country? Reconstruction after the Civil War took over a century. It took the better part of 50 years to get Germany back on track (while our schools were still segregated). The first 44 of those years still placed 1/5th of the country in economic strife under communism. West Germans still pay

really going on. I come back to the TOC later and watch the same stuff on TV and it's frustrating to see 1/10th of the story told by some gal wearing makeup or some guy in a collared shirt. The stories need to be told by the forces on the ground or the Iraqis who understand and support us. The others make the dept. of Defense look like they haven't thought through anything. Events here are far more calculated than they appear. Just like the in-the-ranks camaraderie which is so indescribable, so often is the methodology of an on-the-ground-now foreign policy.



Kirk Gibson, Jr. in Iraq, 2003

Joe and Kirk can't tell you enough of how proud they are of their sons, and of all those with whom they are serving.

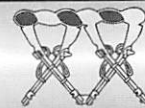
a tax to help to reconstruct the 14 years-free East. This was in a country with a fairly common European language, a destroyed, but largely rebuildable infrastructure, an educated populace, and the support of the United States' Marshall Plan.

Our exit strategy for Iraq has been clear all along. A government for the people by the people will be emplaced. The costs will eventually be financed by the natural resource which Iraq will use to improve on itself. Everyday the direction we need to go to reach that end state changes—No different than any long term business strategy. This cannot be done until Iraqis are ready to make it happen. This will take time. As I type, 3 miles away runs the Iraqi Civil Defense Training Academy. Setup by Americans in an old industrial warehouse, Iraqi citizens train as a multifaceted police force. They learn order, structure, and techniques which will allow them to protect their own. Upon their successful graduation they receive a new uniform and a \$50 bonus. (equal to or more than many annual salaries of last year) They work side by side with American soldiers manning checkpoints, interrogating people, searching places, etc... Every week, another 150+ graduate with a ceremony, standing with their US Soldier-instructor counterparts. It's a great step in the right direction. Funny how that's not even mentioned on TV, isn't it?

Please keep the faith and ignore the news as much as possible. I look out my door on convoys and see what's



C/75 - E/20 LRP Unit Director - Steve 'Doc' Gove



AND YET, MANY AMERICANS AND THEIR POLITICAL LEADERS ARE BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL. ONLY 10% NOW CONSIDER TERRORISM AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. MANY BELIEVE THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN A FAILURE AND THAT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE FOUGHT IN IRAQ AT ALL.

A MAJORITY THOUGHT THAT CONGRESS SHOULDN'T HAVE VOTED THE FUNDS THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT WHERE THE ENEMY IS INSTEAD OF SPENDING IT HERE FOR THIS PROGRAM, OR THAT PROGRAM, OR WHATEVER.

WHO STALKED AND SLAUGHTERED THEM. WE ARE AT WAR WITH AN ENEMY YOU CAN'T TALK TO, REASON OR COMPROMISE WITH, OR DO



THIS SITE IS THE LAST RESTING PLACE FOR HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHOSE REMAINS WILL NEVER BE FOUND. JUST LIKE YOU AND ME FOLKS JUST LIKE YOU AND ME WHO WERE JUST LIVING THEIR LIVES, OBLIVIOUS TO THE ENEMY

THE HOLE IN THE GROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS PICTURE IS WHERE THE WORLD TRADE CENTER TOWERS STOOD BEFORE ISLAMIC TERRORISTS DESTROYED THEM AND KILLED 3,000 MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN IN AN ORGY OF HATRED AND MURDER.

"IN CASE YOU FORGOT"

FROM: THE ECHO-CHARLIE
AIRBORNE RANGER SIT-REP
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

ONLY 31% NOW SUPPORT INCREASED SPENDING FOR OUR MILITARY. THE ONLY FORCE STANDING BETWEEN US AND THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO KILL US.

ONE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RECENTLY SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR AND BROUGHT ON THE CURRENT TERRORISM IN IRAQ. TO SOME DEGREE ALL OF THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS SUBSCRIBE TO THIS VIEW. FROM WHAT THEY ARE SAYING I CAN ONLY SUPPOSE THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO TURN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY OVER TO THE UN OR TO OUR "FRIENDS" LIKE FRANCE AND GERMANY.

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THESE THINGS AND WANT TO CUT, RUN, AND APPEASE THE VERY PEOPLE

WHO MURDERED US. TERRORISTS WHO THINK WE WILL NEVER STAY THE COURSE BECAUSE WE ARE A WEAK PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT FIGHT FOR THE THINGS WE SAY WE BELIEVE. THE QUESTION FOR US IS WHETHER THEY ARE RIGHT OR NOT.

I WONDER WHAT THE 3,000 DEAD WOULD SAY TO THEIR LIVES BEING LOST IN VEIN? OR THE SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ, WHO HAVE FOUGHT AND DIED TO PROTECT AND DEFEND US? OR THOSE STILL STANDING BETWEEN US AND THE MURDEROUS FANATICS WHOSE ONLY GOAL IS OUR DEATH AND OUR NATION'S DESTRUCTION? WHAT WOULD THEY SAY?

I THINK THEY WOULD ALL SAY,

"REMEMBER US AND SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, OR BE SURE TO SUFFER IT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN."

SUBMITTED BY

DOC GOVE, E/20-C/75 UNIT DIRECTOR



D/75

Unit Director - John Kingeter



No Submission

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

Unit Director - Robert Copeland



By Bob Copeland

Since this publication will arrive before Christmas and after Thanksgiving, I will wish all our extended RANGER/LRP/LRRP FAMILY, all the best to you and yours on both occasions, as well as a Prosperous New Year 2004!!!! To our Armed Forces I send our greetings and best wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!!!! STAY SAFE AND GOOD HUNTING!!!!

It is my great pleasure to inform you that on reviewing some old copies of Orders dated 31 March 1970 which I had received from the parents of Lt. Mark Toschik (KIA 11 Aug 1970), I discovered the name of Donald C. Morgan Sp5 11B40 with the correct SSN under Co E 75th Inf (RANGERS) along with Gary L Kirvan, Gregory Whitson, James Rourke and Edward Cross as having received the Combat Infantryman Badge. These Orders from the

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS, 3D BRIGADE, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO SAN FRANCISCO 96371, SPECIAL ORDERS NUMBER 90 DATED 31 MARCH 1970, confirm that Donald Clarke Morgan served with E/75th Ranger at Tan An, RVN. Don served in the

Unit from Feb 1970 to 3 Apr 1970 when he was wounded and dusted off to the 3rd Field Hospital Siagon and then back to the United States. Don Morgan left the Army after he recovered from his wound. As a result of having confirmed Don's presence in E/75th, I have ordered and personally paid for a Stone to be placed in the Ranger Memorial Walkway. I have received a letter of confirmation from the Ranger Memorial Foundation that the Stone will be engraved on the next cutting date in the summer of 2004. I contacted Don Morgan's wife Susan Morgan at her home in Oklahoma and his brother Mike McReynolds in Montana and advised them of the confirmation of Don's service with our Unit and the laying of the



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

Stone in the Ranger Memorial to Honor Don as a Brother Ranger. It is regrettable that documentation was not available prior to my being able to confirm Don's status, as a Ranger with our Unit, but to receive this HONOR, it is imperative that all who have STONES set in the pathway of the RANGER MEMORIAL be verified first. The Morgan family was excited and elated that Don was able to be verified as a serving member of E/75th Ranger in Vietnam and that he has now received this HONOR. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Morgan Family for their understanding and support for the delay in honoring our deceased WARRIOR BROTHER' RANGER SP5 DON CLARKE MORGAN. We do not leave a Fallen Ranger Behind and the Morgan Family stated that Don lived by this Creed!!

I have also received confirmation from the Ranger Memorial Foundation that the Stone ordered for our deceased E/75/E50th LRP Jack Clayton Delaney will be cut in the summer of 2004. This Stone was purchased by the Unit Members of E COMPANY to HONOR our WARRIOR BROTHER, LRP JACK CLAYTON DELANEY and to thank his wife Barbara and their children for their support of the E Company Family. Thank you again Barbara and family for allowing us to Honor Jack by placing a Stone in the Ranger Memorial, on your behalf!!

How many of you have a 75th Ranger Coat of Arms to sew on your blazer pocket? Ranger Ron Isom has provided us with a man who will make one for you, if you wish to have one for that special occasion. It was Ron's idea to approach Larry Beckner the owner of Master Designs to have a blazer pocket insignia made up and through his efforts they are now available to anyone who wishes to order one. The address for Master Designs is 6520 Commonwealth Drive, Roanoke, Va. 24018, Telephone 540-989-6729 (Fax is same number). The email address to make contact is LBeckner@masterdesigns.org and the website for the online store is www.masterdesigns.org. If you wish to avail yourself of this item you can take a look on the website. Thanks Ron for all the effort on your part to help your fellow unit members.



Well Christmas is right around the corner and I hope as many of you as could afford it has contributed to the RANGER CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS FUND ON BEHALF OF OUR FALLEN AND DECEASED COMRADES. These donations are always well spent in supporting the many active duty Ranger's Children, at Christmas and throughout the year for special needs. Many thanks to all of you that contributed to making this Christmas a Merry Christmas for the Children of Rangers who go in harms way!! Even though we cannot be with them in Iraq and Afghanistan we can support our Warrior Brothers by making sure that their families are cared for, while they carry out their many necessary missions, in the war against terrorism. Thanks to Hilan (Jonesy) Jones our Secretary/Treasurer for coming up with the idea this year of supporting the Ranger Children's Christmas Fund by sponsoring our Fallen and Deceased Warriors!! Well done Jonesy!! And all of you who have contributed to the Ranger Children!! Hooaah!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

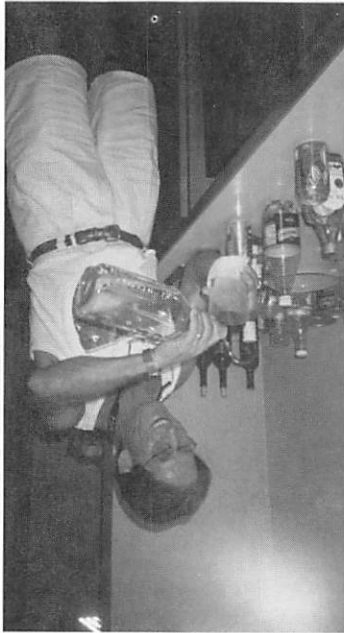
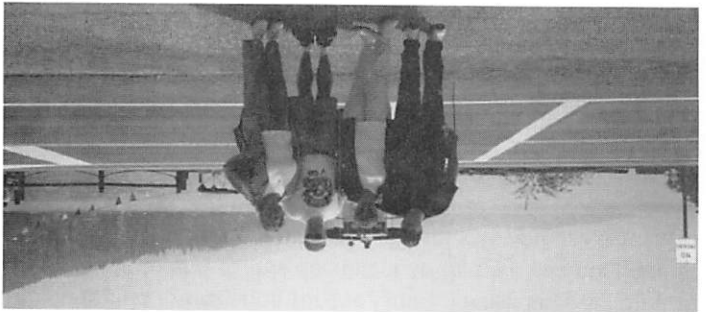
In regard to the Unit History we for the present will keep this information as an in house document to be added to as information comes available. Jonesy will keep the original of the compiled information for the Unit. Please keep sending in information to add to this document so that we can continue to build on the Unit History over time. Thanks to all those who have contributed and will contribute in the future.

Well folks, that is about all the news I have for the present, so I will take this opportunity to thank all of you once again for lending your support to our extended RANGER/LRP/LRRP FAMILY and our Gold Star Mothers!! Wishing you all aVery Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2004!!!!

Bob Copeland
Unit Director
RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

Here are some more photos from last year's reunion!!







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

Unit Director - Joe Little



Message Corner for those that are in the move and want us to know what their up to these days.

Joe,

I had reason to be in Toledo Ohio last week & hooked up with Dave Boilard for a few days of beer & reminiscing. He's been remarried four years & doing fine. I'm retiring in Dec. after 31 years on the fire dept. See ya at the reunion July. All the best.

Tom Finnie

This message came in from Teresa Byrd Roberts better half, I will send his email if anyone would like it after I receive it from Robert.

Robert wanted me to let you know that he has gone to Iraq with the StateDepartment as a police advisor. He is one of 24 right now with the hope that more will arrive in December. He should be there a year. He will have access to email at some point so he will try to keep in touch with the association.

He did something similar in Kosovo for a year and a half and then in East Timor for a year. Hopefully, things will look a little better in Iraq soon. However, he did ask me to get in touch with you and tell you he will try to keep up with you guys. Please pray for him. Thanks. Teresa Byrd

Now for my message:

I don't usually put plugs in for any reason. However, I found this one interesting. For sixteen years I have worked on a program that called Operation Freedom Bird and it works in conjunction with the Arizona Vet Centers as part of a treatment program that assist Veterans in the healing process to restore Honor and closure to some of our experiences. We fly fifty Combat veterans to the Vietnam Memorial (The Wall) in DC and other ceremonies. This is an expensive and labor-intensive project worth every cent of the energies of those that are involved in the program. There is a principle sponsor that provides airfare round trip every year. When 9-11 took place many sponsors could not afford to assist except one, and that was Southwest Airlines. When the marketing director asked Colleen Barrett-President & CEO why they chose to keep this program after cutting all others her remark was "it is the right thing to do for our Veterans." I was amazed that a large corporation was willing to continue its support and never asked for anything in return and they still continue to honor our Veterans today.

Joe Little

Re-union October 2003 Colorado Springs, CO Mike Rohly put together a fine gathering in Colorado Springs in October for our unit's re-union; and if you missed it, you sure missed a lot of good men and their families that attended. We sure hope you will join us in Seattle at the association re-union. There were many at this one that have already committed to attend our next get together in Seattle, WA.

I would like to thank you Mike for a wonderful job He did in doing a hell of a lot of work for our really first successful unit re-union. Also special thanks to Jim Hanson and Gene Tucker, I watched them assisting during the re-union and would guess they were also instrumental.

Meeting about 30 men I never met before was fantastic, and there were about 15-20 that never attended any gathering a reflection on Mike and a few other good men who worked really hard to get us all together.

I know this was stated before, but I will say it again Mike Rohly's wife did an outstanding work of art with this enormous quilt and she had to deal with Mike's input during this true labor of love.



Fort Carson folks let us be a part of some of the events play on their Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT) facility, like aircraft simulators. Some of the families had lunch at modern Dining Facility. Included was a visit of 3rd Cavalry Museum, the oldest continuous Cav unit in the Army. Mike arranged for us to be a part of their Retiree and Veterans Appreciation event at Ft. Carson.

Many took in the sites in and around Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak, railroad, Garden of the Gods and attempted to

F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)

hike up trails that just took your breath away with the altitude letting us old farts realize our pace has slowed a tad since we carried a lot of gear in our younger years.

We celebrated at the flying W ranch and ate great grub with fine entertainment from the local ranch hand band with some comic relief.



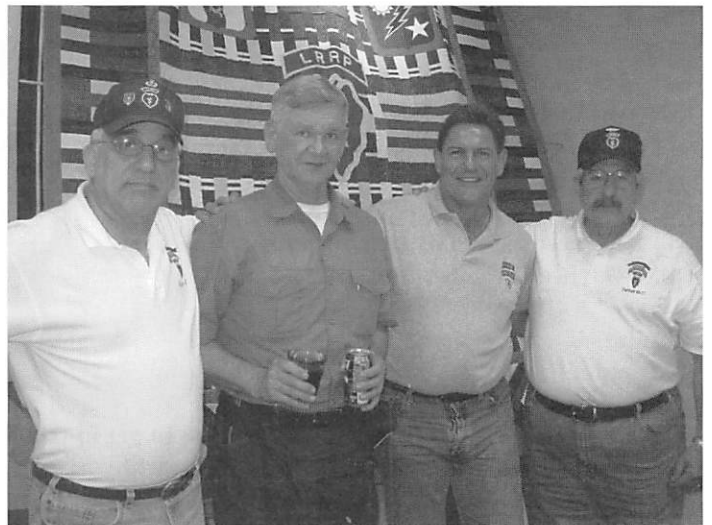
We had a banquet night for all with great food served up for all served at our host hotel and our very own guest speaker Capt. Ponzillo (LRRP 1); when Capt. Ponzillo completed his speech (not really a speech) of our historical roots and the start of 25th ID LRRP he was presented with the original fl Cav LRRP guideon. Now LRRP 1 is not one to be lost for words, however this special presentation did just that very thing made him speechless.



The following is a list of those that signed the guest book who attended there are some that were present and did not sign-in and I apologize for not including those names, however there seems to be a case of CRS running around at age 50+. Some of the pictures are without names for that very reason so we will attempt to put before and after shots together as a possible door prize for a future event.

Valerie Morey attended this reunion and met many of us that were close friends of Steve (Bouncer); thanks Valerie for attending and hope to see you in Seattle since that is close to home.

Joe Little, UD



F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)



REUNION ATTENDEES

Dennie Callahan
Gene Carline
Diane & Joe Cassilly
William Crossley
Marylin & Scott Cook
Bill Crosley
Garth Drennan
Peggy & William Evans
Ron Elliff
Bob Gericke
Terry L Grunwaldt
Colin K Hall
Frank Hamilton
Ruth & Jim Hanson
Jim Hargett
Ron Harrison
George Hazuda
Diane & Ed G Howe

Marashall Huckaby
Dave Jacob
Demos D Johnson Jr
David Krein Jr
Harvey L Lameman
Donna & Robert Lawrence
Gary L Lemonds
Heidi Vogeney & Joe Little
Barbara & Rich Martin
Emiley & Ronnie McKinney
Nancy & Ted Miller
Valerie Morey
Bill Mrkvicka
Daniel G. Nate Sr.
Carolyn & Warren Nycum
Karen & Bob Palmer
Thomas S Pease
Jo A & Mark Ponzillo

Rodney L Porter
Janis (CP) & Don Purdy
Melody & Larry Putman
Gene Reilly
Mike Rohly
Linda & Jeff Sandell
Tom Schommer
Bill D Sloyer
Jerry D Spicer
Walt Spicer
Devone & Bob Spiegel
Butch Trostel
Eugene G Tucker
George Timmons
Craig E Wearmouth
Benjamin Welch
Doug G Williams
Michael Wood



G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP

Unit Director - Steve Crabtree



No Submission



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

Unit Director - William Anton



No Submission



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

Unit Director - David Hill



While our wives and families were not themselves LRRPs or Rangers they have, in spirit, traveled back to the Viet Nam War through our own memories, and the stories and memories shared with our comrades during reunions held since the war. They have been there for us all these years, showing their pride in our service, sharing their strength and providing their loving

empathy and comfort to us through the tough times and memories of tough times. Their concerns, as do ours, extend back to the soldiers who were our predecessors as well as to today's soldiers. One such Ranger wife is Sue Brandenburg, wife of I Co./75th Ranger Dave "Brandy" Brandenburg. Sue is serving her second consecutive term as co-Secretary of our 1st

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

Infantry Division LRRP/LRP/Ranger contingent of 75th Ranger Regiment Association and has contributed greatly to our unit. We are thankful for her service and when she recently asked if she could contribute to "Patrolling" a poem that she had written, I quickly and appreciatively accepted it. Here it is.

Soldier
By Sue Brandenburg

The year was 2003
March to be exact
President Bush said "Prepare
We're going to bomb Iraq"

Mothers and wives
Shed a tear
Hoping good news
Is all they hear

Is my soldier okay?
No cards or letter
He's fighting to make
Our country better

World War II, Korea
Desert Storm, or "Nam"
Lives will be taken
At the drop of a bomb

We can all send prayers
To God above
Return our troops
And the ones we love

In an effort to tell in "Patrolling" the stories of some of our unit's LRRPs and Rangers and their missions, I had encouraged one of most intrepid team leaders, Barry Crabtree, to put into words the mission for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1969. As many of you know, Barry is one of our unit's members in the Ranger Hall of Fame, and our just past Unit Director to 75th RRA. Here is his narrative of that fateful mission of May 11-12, 1969.

MISSION SUMMARY:

Perform area reconnaissance of recon zones southwest of Quan Loi, western Binh Long Province, and, at team's discretion, engage enemy targets of opportunity.

THE SETTING

Quan Loi basecamp, then home of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st ("Ace of Spades") Brigade, served as the northern anchor of the Big Red One's Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR). Located approximately 40 kilometers north of the long-time VC enclave known as the "Iron Triangle" and just south of the town of Loc Ninh, it was within artillery range of the "Fish Hook" and other VC-NVA sanctuaries along the SVN-Cambodian border. Surrounded by countless square miles of rubber trees—part of the largest rubber plantation holdings in the world, that of Michelin—it appeared as a bright, dusty red dot among the trees

when viewed from the air. It would be the mission of Crabtree's team, and that of Robert Roossien's, to find and report on the large enemy units suspected to be present within the area around Quan Loi. While the enemy units could, and often did, avoid contact with the division's powerful line infantry and armored cavalry units, it was believed that the two Ranger teams could slip in undetected and locate the NVA.

PREPARATION

After receiving a mission "warning order" from Division G3 advising Crabtree and Roossien that they would be OPCON to the 1st brigade in Quan Loi, mission preliminary planning began. The two Team Leaders (TL) and their assistant Team Leaders (ATL) conducted pre-mission overflights from a Huey and selected their primary LZs, which were to be just over a "click" (one kilometer) apart. While that distance provided adequate separation between the two teams' specific recon zones, they could nonetheless hump swiftly through the rubber groves should they need to quickly link up to provide mutual support.

Their last-light overflight was uneventful, with very little visible under the rubber trees from altitude. Having selected their respective LZs, they returned to the Ranger's Lai Khe base, held a brief-back with their CO and their teams, drew ammunition, grenades and supplies and tried to get some sleep: as it turned out, it was the last sleep they would get for quite some time.

[The rest of the story is told from Barry Crabtree's perspective.]

THE MISSION

The afternoon after the mission briefing, we painted up, moved down to the Lai Khe airstrip, climbed aboard our Hueys, and went to find the gooks. The slicks, escorted by Cobra gunships, took off and soon had accurately inserted each of our teams into the selected LZs. Things started to get interesting not long after we were on the ground. I placed my team just inside the rubber and moved out to a thicket about 50 meters away to conduct a quick recon of my own. We "lay dog" in those positions for a few minutes, listening to our surroundings. It was real quiet; as John Wayne would say: "Too damn quiet" (only this wasn't any movie!!) I could hear some slight noise, but it was too faint to be identifiable. I had felt from the moment of landing that we were being watched, but could not confirm it. Still with my "sixth sense" nagging me that were under observation, I moved back to my team and told them to "be frosty" while we moved just inside the tree line paralleling a high-speed trail running in the direction of our patrol route. While far more exposed than in jungle, our team could nonetheless move both quickly and relatively quietly through the undergrowth among the trees. As it would be getting dark before long, we wanted to get settled into an initial position, then await full darkness before moving some distance away to some thicker cover for our final ambush position for the night. This second move was designed to throw off anyone who might have observed us settling into the initial position and then intended



moving in on us after dark. At least that was the plan.

We had moved only about 100 meters from the LZ, when an RPG exploded against a rubber tree not 50 meters from us. We didn't know where it had come from, but there was no doubt we had been compromised. We had to figure that the first rocket would soon be followed by others—and then the people firing them. If they could see us well enough to shoot near us, they had to know there weren't many of us. We quickly moved out, while I got on the horn to call the contact into 1st Brigade Tactical Operations Center (TOC) in Quan Loi and make sure we had helicopter gunship support on strip alert if we proved unable to evade further contact. The unexpected response from Brigade was to direct Roossien's team to leave their current position and move to affect a link up with our team before last light. Not a common nor necessarily sound tactic, but while operating under control of commands other than the Rangers own officers, the teams were often at the mercy of the controlling headquarters—whether they agreed with the decisions or not.

We quickly backtracked through our original LZ and to the south of it, where I called in our coordinates to Quan Loi and Roossien so they would know where to find us. We seemed to have broken contact for the moment, but nervously waited in our new position, feeling unduly exposed, but unable to do much about it until Roossien's team arrived. At about 1800 hours, just before dark, Roossien's team contacted us to let us know they were coming in and soon joined us in our position. After quickly conferring, we moved our teams to a temporary holding position, then after full darkness moved quietly away to our final night defensive position (NDP). Unlike for an infantry NDP, there would be no "digging in". We would depend on our stealth for safety and have only the rubber trees themselves to provide cover if discovered. We set up in an ambush position alongside a nearby high-speed trail and awaited whatever the night might bring us.

We did not have long to wait, and soon found that we had not evaded the enemy after all. Though the gooks did not appear to know our exact position, they soon resorted to a highly unusual method to try to flush us out. All of a sudden, a gook with a deep, booming voice came running up the trail and started yelling at us. My first reaction was to "fire him up", but my instincts and fire discipline kicked in and I passed the word for everyone to hold their fire. Knowing that this character on the trail was probably just a sacrificial lamb to get us to open up and give away our positions, I decided we would sit tight for the moment, relying on our claymores and hunkering down in the sump-holes around the bases of the trees to protect us if the gooks initiated contact. We didn't want to trigger our ambush on this one guy and confirm our positions to the gooks, only to find that he had a platoon or more behind him—just waiting for the chance to bring the max down on us. With just two 6-man Ranger teams and nothing heavier than our rifles and grenade launchers, I opted to hold our fire unless they fired first. If that happened, we would blow our claymores, fire a magazine each and break contact—then run like hell back to our rally point at the original insertion LZ. However, luck was with us. Not getting the desired reaction out of us, "Luke the gook" continued up the trail to our north, still jabbering in the dark. Perhaps figuring that we were not there after all, enemy activity soon picked up and we now began to hear heavy movement northward about 40-50 meters in the

underbrush on the opposite side of the trail from our position. If they indeed now doubted our presence, I figured they would move up to the trail and continue on their way; no sense in them busting through underbrush if they had a wide open trail to move up and nobody around to see or stop them.

I then got on the horn, gave a sit-rep (situation report) to Quan Loi, noted the direction of the movement heard and requested gunship support. I was advised that two Cobra gunships were being scrambled, confirmed their call signs, and waited for them to arrive overhead. I planned to have them shoot up the rubber on either side of our teams, but had to make sure they knew exactly where we were. I wanted rounds "danger close" and our lives would depend on those pilots knowing precisely where we good guys were sitting before they started firing. I remember asking Gene Newcombe, the other team's ATL, to mark our position with his strobe light. It took a lot of balls for Geno to hold that strobe over his head and turn it on when the Cobras arrived on station. No holding it in the breach of his M-79 and trying just to point it at them—he wanted to make sure they had no doubt of exactly where we were. Now, reflecting on this more than 30 years later, it occurs to me that Geno probably got that especially hazardous assignment in the same manner as the gook who had come running up the trail yelling at the top of his voice—sometimes a guy is just close at hand when a need arises. To Geno's credit, he didn't hesitate.

The Cobras made their initial runs and we could hear the bad guys continuing to crash through the brush. As I was calling the Cobras in for their second gun runs, it started to rain real hard. With visibility now drastically reduced, the pilots, with my concurrence, reluctantly ceased their attacks. Soon after they departed, the rain eased off somewhat and we began to see silhouettes across the road from us. We counted only 10-20 at first, but knew more were out there. From the strobe and the Cobra runs, the gooks now knew where we were and proceeded to surround us (at least, at the time, that appeared to be their game plan). Individuals were dropped off, some climbing trees with flashlights and waving them around, as if to mark the noose they were drawing around us. With the Cobras now gone, I quickly called for artillery and after a good initial spot and a couple of quick adjustments, soon had a ring of hot steel surrounding us. The arty was coming in accurately and continuously, when, nearly as quickly, it was pulled away from us. We were advised that they had to check fire for us, having been diverted to an even higher priority fire mission. We later found out what the "higher priority" had been, but at the time, we could not imagine any higher priority than covering twelve lonely Rangers surrounded in a "target rich" stand of rubber trees. Nonetheless, no further explanation, nor artillery, was provided to us. We were strictly on our own for now and once again it was just we and our rifles and claymores to fend off an unknown number of angry gooks. Not knowing which way we could safely move, I decided we would just have to sit it out for the moment.

The rain started getting heavy again and I soon lost all but sporadic radio contact with Quan Loi. After a while, I was able to regain contact with the artillery, which was now able to provide at least one gun to fire sporadic illumination rounds for us, out over the surrounding rubber trees. Being hunkered down in the middle of the ring of illumination rounds allowed us to see

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

silhouettes in the surrounding rubber, while not ourselves being exposed by the flare light. As one flare was descending, Mike Gasconi spotted a gook crouching over one of our claymores, disarming it. As he grabbed the clacker to touch it off, I restrained him. The gooks seemed to either temporarily lost us—or lost interest in us—and I didn't see any advantage in engaging this guy with so many others known to be out there somewhere. We just watched and waited, wishing we could pull the ground up around us and disappear. Meanwhile, even the few illumination rounds stopped as; again, the artillery was pulled off for a "higher priority" fire mission. Radio contact again became intermittent and remained that way for the rest of the night. Through the remainder of the night enemy units continued to move around our position, traveling steadily toward the north, apparently toward some objective. For the moment, we were just content that we no longer seemed to be that objective. All told, hundreds of them must have moved past our position that night, though we never saw the silhouettes of more than 10-20 of them at a time. Perhaps we had only been a nuisance to them all along—just a lightweight distraction compared with their true mission that night. Unable to safely speak to our controllers in the brigade TOC, all we could do was "break squelch" on the radio in answer to their queries regarding our situation and what we were seeing. With the radio being so unreliable, we could only hope that our intel was getting through and the information being put to use. Either our communications on the enemy movement did not get through, or was not believed to be credible, or the connection was just not made to any potential danger to Quan Loi basecamp itself. Ultimately, neither the information we hoped we had conveyed, nor pulling artillery away from us for use against the enemy attacking Quan Loi, deterred the terrible fate which befell the basecamp that night. Between sappers who had infiltrated the perimeter and infantry attacking the perimeter itself, nearly 200 Americans were killed or wounded that night in Quan Loi.

None of this was known to us at the time. It was only later, hearing heavy firing from the direction of where we figured Quan Loi was located, that we finally figured out that it, Quan Loi, had been the real objective of the enemy all along. It did not take a stretch of imagination to figure that the gooks who had been filing past us that night had probably been some of the initial assault or follow-on units of the force that had hit Quan Loi. That probably best explained their seeming reluctance to press an attack on us, when they might have so easily and relatively quickly overwhelmed our small force. We just were not their priority that night.

Toward daybreak, the rain stopped. I had apparently dozed off briefly, but was abruptly awakened when the big tree limb against which I had been leaning moved as a gook bumped the other end of it as he hurriedly moved past our position in the last minutes of predawn darkness. The only thing I saw of him was a blurry figure running at full-speed away from us and disappearing into the underbrush beneath the trees to our south. Now fully awake, Roossien and I got the teams prepped to move out as soon as it was light enough to do so. While policing up our position and retrieving our claymores, we found that all had been disarmed and most stolen—just the wires with their blasting caps remaining lying on the ground. Evidently during the heavy rain we had been approached even closer than thought. Had we needed those claymores during the night, we would have been

sadly disappointed with the results, or lack thereof (if even still alive to contemplate it).

As we got ready to move out, we all simultaneously spotted another gook hurriedly moving southward parallel to the trail and opened fire on him. Not even a blood trail was found afterward. Though virtually every guy on the teams had qualified "expert", apparently not even one hit was registered. But while searching the underbrush for what we had hoped would be his body, we found evidence of how truly fortunate we had been the night before. The enemy on the move past us the previous night and early morning had not been the only bad guys in the area, for here in the underbrush we found a fairly large matted down area which looked like it had probably held another 50 or so troops at some recent time. Meanwhile, my RTO had finally been able to reestablish radio contact with our brigade TOC in Quan Loi. Giving only the barest of details of what had transpired at Quan Loi during the night, the TOC quickly advised me that an Aero Rifle Platoon (ARP) was coming to reinforce us. Once they had arrived at an LZ near us, they and we moved toward each other to make the linkup. Nearly as soon as we had established a temporary perimeter with the ARPs, a platoon of about 20 gooks, dressed in unusual looking green fatigues, could be seen through the rubber approaching our position. I tried to signal the ARPs to hold their fire until the gooks got closer, but their M-60 gunner immediately opened fire, scattering the enemy before we could concentrate all of (by then) our considerable firepower against them. We pursued them a short distance, shooting as we ran, until my M-16 double-fed and jammed. I remember thinking that if I could just kill one of the gooks and get to him, I would then have his AK-47 and could continue the pursuit. Sanity finally returned, however, and we rallied back to the perimeter, where the ARPs still remained—not having moved an inch from their positions while we had run willy-nilly after the scattering enemy troops. I even asked the ARP's lieutenant "why they were there, if not to fight". He just commented that "the jungle cammy fatigues you're wearing ain't bullet proof" and "you should be more careful". I was about to pursue the discussion with him when one of my guys whispered that there was another gook coming out of a thicket by the trail and moving toward us. Roossien, Newcombe, Lindholm (my RTO) and I came up quickly onto the path, but I fired first, dropping the gook at about 50 meters. My shot was immediately answered by sniper fire, which caught Roossien in the chest and Lindholm in the ankle and lower leg. Now with two men down, we lay pinned behind a couple of rubber trees, returning fire after having pulled our wounded in from the open. All of a sudden, Ricky Phifer, one of our Rangers, came running down the hill, disregarding the sniper fire, which moved us also to take action to pick up Roossien and Lindholm—firing as we maneuvered to get them back to the perimeter for medevac. Robert Roossien did not make it. [Lindholm recovered from his wounds and now lives in Fargo, North Dakota, but to this day remains unwilling to talk with us or about that mission. We miss both of them.]

Brigade called us to advise us that we were to move overland to Quan Loi with the ARPs. Despite receiving more sniper fire enroute, and responding in kind, no more Americans were hit. Finally, later that morning, two dog-tired Ranger teams, now both under my command, and the ARPs reached the Quan Loi perimeter and headed to the airstrip to await transport back to Lai Khe. My most lasting memory of that mission to this day is the

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

tremendous number of American KIA in body bags alongside the strip, awaiting their final journey. Only then did the enormity of what had occurred at Quan Loi that previous night become so tragically apparent to us. I couldn't help but think that had our sightings gotten through to the TOC, or if they had, the connection then made between the heavy enemy movement we were seeing and their portent of a possible attack on Quan Loi, perhaps at least some of these losses could have been averted. Even a few minutes warning might have made a difference to the flow of that battle. "The fog of war" strategists call it. What is clear in retrospect often is not always so clear at the very time clarity was needed.

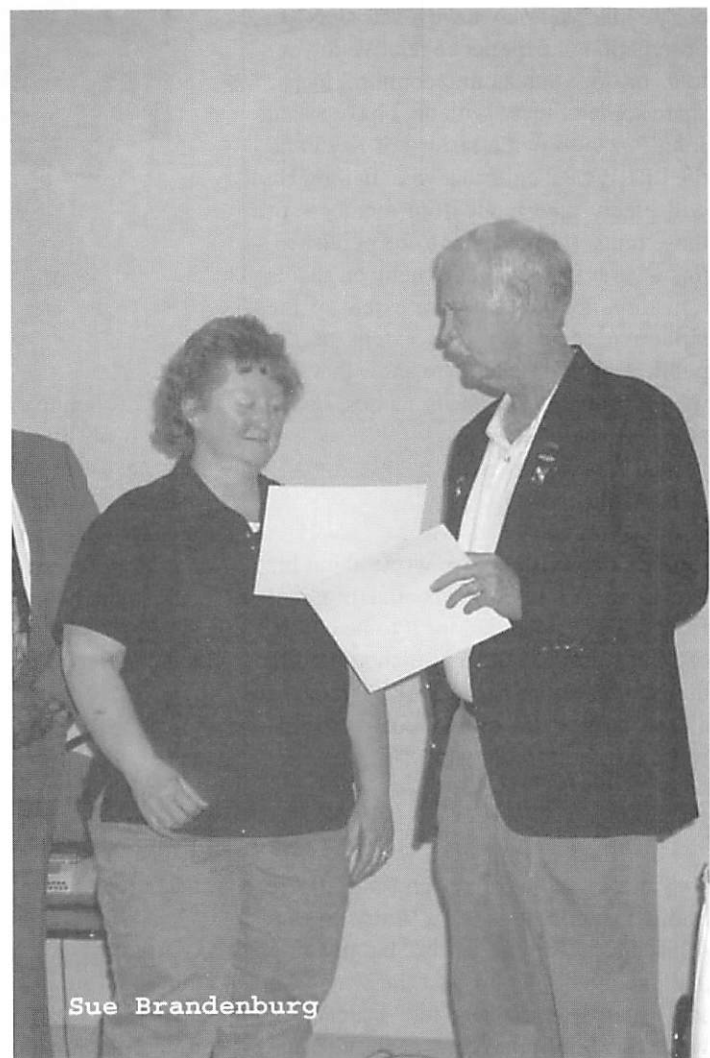
After all these years, I am sure that some details have eluded me. What I do know is the actions which earned me the DSC were replicated by my men and those on the other team, any of whom should have been similarly recognized. They fought so willingly and "kept their cool" while a greatly numerically superior enemy tramped all around us that night. I would be willing to fight the most powerful forces of fear and evil with these guys by my side—anywhere, anytime, against any enemy. Some of my former team might have accused me of things during my year as a Ranger, but being hesitant to engage the enemy was never one of them. I seldom passed on any opportunity to trigger an ambush if we had even a reasonable chance to bring it off successfully. Why on this particular mission I was able to restrain my aggressive tendencies, only God knows. All these years, it has remained ever a mystery to me. But it turned out to be the right course that night and I was spared and able to pass on these and other "lessons learned" to those Rangers who continued on when my tour was finished. Hard earned as some of those lessons had been, they served to guide me thus far through the rest of my life and I recognize that my life has been bought with the precious blood of comrades that will forever be my own GHOSTS OF GLORY.

On this Veterans Day, let us all rejoice in our freedoms purchased at such a high price and know that here, back in "The World", what seems our worst nightmare of a day cannot even come close to the perils we and other soldiers faced so often in Viet Nam or any other war—past or present. How many others will face similar trials in what could be a "Hundred Years" war against Muslim terrorists? Let us commit to ensuring that present day and future American soldiers' sacrifices are recognized, respected and revered as they too strive to safeguard our hard-won liberty.

Veterans Day is the time to find a way to express our thanks to those men and women who so valiantly gave of their time—even their lives in so many cases—to preserve this country and its many riches. For this Veterans Day, let me say from the bottom of my heart: "THANK YOU" to the soldiers still paying the price every day for the freedom I so take for granted as I ply my trade, earn money, support my family, and otherwise go about my life. And "THANK YOU" to those brothers lost to war, and to their families, who themselves have suffered such grievous loss. In closing, I would like to pose a question whose answer reveals much about a man: is there not one thing in your life for which you would be willing to give everything, including your life? Every LRRP and Ranger can answer that question in the affirmative and with a big "HOOAAAAH". Rangers "lead the way" and always will because being on the "sharp end of the

spear" is the only place we would ever want to be. I thank God for that shared attitude and for being a part of that proud heritage, even more on Veterans Day than any other day of the year—and always will.

Go find a soldier and tell him or her that you love them and appreciate their service in a way only a veteran can.





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

Unit Director - Bill Bullen



Fellow LRRPS, LRPS and Rangers, family and friends:

I hope you get this issue by Christmas, by then we will have given the active duty Ranger families their gifts. If you have not done so, please send your gift to Wayne Mitsch, Vice President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, he will then get it to the proper place, in the name of the 4th DIV LRRP, LRP, K/75 group. The time is now to begin to get into reunion mode. This year (2004) we will be meeting in the Tacoma, Washington – Ft Lewis area. It will be from July 31, 2004 through August 4, 2004. If you have any questions, call our President, Dana (Crash) McGrath any time, day or night, he doesn't sleep anyway!

I would like to thank Dave Bristol for submitting his article about the Montagnards. We need more input from our people, you may have a war story, an observation or experience relative to your tour or to your home coming, please share some of these with us. I have asked John Puzzo to pen a history of K/75 and the LRRP, LRP units that went before. He will gladly take input from members of those units. If you desire to be published, this is your chance, but remember, this is a history, not a novel. The extent of the input will determine the extent of the publication. Please let John know that you were out there. He needs names, dates, missions and photos.

Bill "Ichabod" Bullen

K/75 Unit Director

Editor's note: Bill Bullen wrote about his experience in a VA residential program for PTSD. He intended for it to be part of his unit column. I thought it should go in the health section because of its value to all our members. I did not consult Bill, I just did it. Sorry about that Bill.

Brotherhood

Bill asked me if I would write something for *Patrolling* and one of the things I should do is learn to say no as a self-improvement exercise, but my wife and daughters like me just the way I am so I'll tackle this chore too. I am not a writer so you'll have to bear with me

while I learn a few things about this computer and writing too.

It has always been difficult for me to put my thoughts on paper and put them in some kind of order, maybe I think too fast, although I've never been accused of that either.

One of the things that has been on my mind a lot lately is the idea of Brotherhood and how it relates to me or what it means to me in the context of my experience in Vietnam. That year in Vietnam, "69/70" was and still is the worst or the most difficult time of my life. Having said that I always come back to the fact that I would not exchange that year for any other "what might have



been's". Having established that fact as a given in my life, then that year in Nam must have been worth the cost, right? I wish it were that easy for me. Some days the answer is an unequivocal yes and other days it's no. The truth of the matter is that most of the time I just don't know.

Every day of the last thirty-three years I have regretted the fact that I had to take the lives of other human beings. Every day of those same years I have grieved the loss of my team-mates, my Brothers.

I don't want to wax philosophical about Brotherhood or try to intellectualize it, I'll just tell you about a few things that made it clear to me what it really is.

The most vivid and poignant example occurred when my team, Romeo-7 was ambushed near our extraction LZ on August 19, 1970. Of the 4-man team, three of us, including myself, were hit in

the initial contact. Phil Meachem, with only one good arm, found what it took to immediately return fire and with help from Darrel Beam was able to keep us alive until the gun ships came on station. They did this because that's what Brothers do. The Blackjack slick did not hesitate to come in on our unsecured LZ. Unknown to me, the door gunner was my good friend and former K/Co. Ranger Brad Stutz. He along with the crew chief, Donnie Lail, left their ship to help the React Team get us to the slick and out of that hellhole. The last thing I remember of that wild flight back to An Khe was Brad holding me in his arms urging me to hang on. They did all this because that's what Brothers do.

I regained consciousness as the chopper touched down at the hospital and there was Bob White to take over from Brad. Of course, it was extremely painful as the nurses and corpsmen moved me and worked to get my fatigues and boots off, so Bob forcefully encouraged them to be more careful. He did this because that's what a Brother does. Some hours later, in pain and sick as a dog, I realized someone was holding my hand and encouraging me back to the world of the living. At some point I was able to focus enough to realize it was Top Richards doing duty as nurse, corpsman, friend, and counselor. He did this because that's what a Brother does.

On a mission South East of the Mang Yang Pass we came to a deep fast moving stream. Eventually, we found a large log on which to cross. Drew Fatten, Bruce Benson and I made it across and were providing security as our tail gunner started over. I wish my memory was better, but I think his name was Wolf. He was almost across when he lost his balance and was swept downstream before we could react. Drew and I attempted to provide some security while Bruce ran downstream. As he got even, he dove in and had to swim like mad to reach Wolf, but was able to grab his pack and work back to shore. Amazingly Wolf still had his weapon, and without saying a word we rested for a while, then picked up and continued our mission. That's

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what Brother Rangers do.

I recall many occasions when a team would make contact; the barracks would empty of all able bodied Rangers to stand outside Operations with packs and weapons to await the call for a react force. We did this because that's what Brothers do. I could go on in this vein and fill several pages, but I don't want to take

up too much space. I'm sure each of you have had similar experiences that define for you what Brotherhood means in your life. And I can't forget those who got together and formed this Association so that we are able to continue this relationship called Brotherhood. They did this because that's what Brothers do.

In closing, I wish to dedicate this to "

Evelio Alfred Gomez" KIA 8/19/1970. I carry him with me every day of my life, but as the Bobby Goldsboro song says "He ain't heavy, he's my Brother."

Roger Crunk

Some photos of the K/75 Reunion, August, 2003 and the Airborne/Special Ops Museum.





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

Unit Director - Randall White



The Randall Knife

It looks better now. The shine is back in the blade and the brass hilt gleams in the light above my computer. There are still a few pits on the base of the blade near the hilt, and the Randall Company didn't polish the area near their company logo for fear of damaging the engraved lettering. A couple small nicks in the hand grip render testimony to the history it's witnessed as a functional combat and utility tool. No, it's not lived the life of some display case collectors item. The leather sheath has darkened with age and wears the color of an old pair of unpolished work boots. The brass rivets holding the leather together are tarnished and have a slightly green tint making them almost indistinguishable from the surrounding leather. On the back of the sheath the letters "LOBO" can be faintly seen, applied with a magic marker almost 35 years ago. The leather leg and wrist straps have long since disappeared, but the original sharpening stone is still in the pocket sewn onto the side of the sheath. One look at the worn stone is further evidence of the hours it spent in the hands of men who appreciated a fine blade, and passed the hours honing its steel to a fine edge. As far as I know, it never killed another human being, but instead it faithfully served those of us who carried it by doing more mundane types of tasks. Cutting a rope, digging a cat hole, or opening a box of c-rations and maybe a package from home were the tasks it knew best. I had a few other knives in Vietnam that I had bought off of L Company members who were either short of cash or rotating home and no longer had a need for a combat knife. There was a nice Puma with an antler handle, and a Buck my wife had sent me. The obligatory K-Bar and a Gerber that was probably an "Honor Graduate" knife from a Recondo School Class. Damn, I wish I had that one back. But the Randall Model 14 was the one that outclassed them all and was my favorite. I don't know when Bates first got the knife or if he was the original purchaser, but it came to be mine in the summer of 1970. Jim walked into my a/o one afternoon and asked if I wanted to buy the knife for 25 bucks. I don't know his reason for wanting to sell it, but I quickly coughed up the MPC and the Randall was mine. From that day forward I carried it on every mission, strapped and taped to the suspenders of my LBE. On long dark nights in the rear, it accompanied me to bunker guard duty and helped me pass the hours while I ran the stone over its edge. As my time in country dwindled down to the last few days, so did my knife collection. One by one they were sold or traded off till only the Buck given to me by my wife and the Randall remained. I had no interest in selling either knife and intended on returning to the states with both of them, but fate intervened. Just days before I derosed, Rick Butler and I were walking around Camp Hocmouth [Phu Bai] and we ran into Joe

Wallish. Joe had left L Company and was with a line unit by that stage of his tour, and he still had a couple months time to go before his return to the world. Joe was in need of a knife and he knew I had the Randall and asked if I wanted to sell it. I really didn't want to let the knife go, but Joe had a brand new Black Beret and my original beret was showing its age by then. With some pleading from Joe and further convincing by Butler that I no longer needed the knife, a deal was struck. I got the new Black Beret and Joe got the knife...with one stipulation. That if I ever found him when we were back in the states, I got the knife back. Days later I was on my way back home wearing a brand new Black Beret, but carrying a feeling that I had left something behind in Vietnam besides my youth and innocence. I almost immediately regretted making the trade for the beret, but reasoned that I'd soon forget it and besides Joe needed a knife. The nagging feeling never left me and from time to time my mind would wander back to the day the deal was struck and the

last time my hand had held the blade. The years passed and I never forgot the knife, nor the deal Joe and I had made about its return to me if we should ever meet back in the world. Lobo called me on the phone one time and asked about the knife. He too wanted it back. I told him who had it and how the events had transpired, but Jim and I had never made a deal about its eventual return to his possession. Joe and I had talked on the phone a few times over the years, and I always brought up the agreement we had made about the knife. He'd laugh and say it was lying in a drawer someplace, or on a shelf in the garage, but I was serious about wanting it back. By 2003 Joe was living in the Dallas area and I had a trip planned

to meet Ross Perot coming up in a few weeks. A few days before leaving for Dallas, I called Joe and asked if he'd like to meet again for the first time in 30+ years. He said he'd love to and I asked him to bring his photo albums...and the knife. A couple days later and true to his word, we met at Nicky's Lounge on the north side of Dallas and he came in carrying a plastic bag in his hands. When I stood up to greet him he stuck out his hand and passed me the bag. The contents were too small to be a photo album, and too heavy and solid to be but one thing. Could it really be? We talked for a few minutes as I hesitated before opening the bag. Could the knife my hand had burned for, for over thirty years, be wrapped in the confines of a plastic shopping bag? With a nod from Joe I reached for the bag on the table and slowly unwrapped the plastic package. Inside the bag my hand instinctively wrapped itself around the black mica handle and I pulled out a dark and worn leather sheath containing the object of my quest for all these years. Though the model 14 is a large knife, it somehow seemed smaller as I studied the worn leather before unsnapping the strap that securely held the knife in its sheath. The knife slid free from its confines in the sheath like



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it had done countless time over the years, and again we met face to face. As I turned the blade over in my hands and examined its surface, the memories came rushing back of the hours we had spent together in a far away land. Joe had been as true to his word, as a brother and former Ranger could expect to be. The knife was mine again. I also get to keep the beret that now hangs on a shelf as an artifact of a time gone by, when Rangers wore black. I can again sleep easy at night knowing that should I feel the need to sit and pass the hours running a hone over blade, the Randall is close by. They say you never really own anything in this world. You only borrow it for a short period, while your time on earth runs its course. Such is true with the knife. Someday when the new facility is opened at Fort Campbell and I no longer feel the need to caress its steel, the knife will be passed on to the 101st Airborne Pratt Museum. That donation will be made in all three of our names. But until then it will remain close by my side here at my computer desk, just in case I have bunker guard duty or I need to pack for one last mission. Besides, my first name is engraved on the blade near the hilt. It says "Randall Made". Thanks Joe, for being a brother and honoring a deal we made so many years ago.

Randall White



White and Randall: Randy White photo. Waiting for the lift ships on "Banshee Pad" during the summer of 1970. The grip of the Randall knife is just visible above my right hand. Leonard Thornton leaning against the revetment and Lloyd Grime standing with hands in his pockets. Grimes was KIA September 25, 1970



M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Jack Fuche



Well here I am again with another deadline staring me in the face and I have writers block.

I called Jack the other night and he said we should wish everybody well during the holidays. I know its a time of year when people get together with family and friends and we certainly do wish well for those we care about. I heard some sad news the other day concerning one of our own, Charlie Hunt. Charlie's wife Melissa passed away suddenly, leaving a big hole in his family and life. What can anyone say that will make a difference to Charlie. Having gone through this just a little over 14 months ago, my first thought is, nothing. Nothing makes the pain go away, but to be honest, the kind words and thoughts expressed by different ones from our brotherhood, made the pain a little easier to bear. What can we say Charlie, except we care. We know you're dying inside brother. I wish there was something we could give you to make the hurting stop. We can't make it stop, we can only say we think, and pray, and care about you. I hope that helps some.

On a brighter side, we have had some contact with a couple of old lrrps who are asking questions about the up coming



reunion this coming July at Ft Lewis Washington. In fact I had dinner and a beer with Tim Henderlieter last night. He gets up in my area once or twice a year on business, and we were able to get together last night. We had a great time. We talked about the reunion and

wondered who might be able to attend and who we'd like to see from the olds days. Errol Redden has made contact and expressed interest, along with Steve Caldwell. I see where Lt. Tillish has joined the Association since the last issue of Patrolling. I think the potential for a good turn out is there, we need to talk it up a little bit is all. I've never made one before, my circumstances would not allow it. That's changed, and my plans are to attend this summer. If it's half as enjoyable as my visits with Jack Fuche and Tim Henderlieter this past year, it will be worth going. Think about it men, and lets make it happen.

I really don't have much more in the area of news, except a little personal stuff. I went hunting in Colorado this past October and killed my first bull elk. Nothing great, but a legal bull, and since it was my first, I guess that makes it a trophy.

I'm sorry I don't have more for the unit article. But since it's late already, I'm calling it good for now. Till next issue..

Steve Houghton



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



Dave "Varmint" Walkers T-shirts

Dave has designed a very nice T-shirt that has been almost universally admired since it first came out two months ago. All of the first order have been sold and I will not be in the position to take orders for the next 8 months. The design of the shirt is enclosed. If interested, contact Ed at bestletter@blueridge.net. They are being made in white and light grey. The light grey seems to be the most popular

TDY

I will be on TDY for six months in Iraq as the Army Material Command Science Advisor for the Field Assistance through Science and Technology (FAST) Program. This program



represents the Army laboratories, AMSAA and the Research, Development and Engineering Centers. These have all been formed into a new Research, Development and Engineering Command under a two-star and our team of me, a SGM (infantry) and an aviation Captain (P) will be the conduit between the new command and the field units. I wrote Larry Cole that all I really want is enough Kevlar that I need help getting up if I sit down. Larry wrote back "Reed, at your age you need help getting up without body armor!" I need a new circle of friends. I will have a new AKO for e-mail when I get there but my current government AKO rcundiff@arl.army.mil will suffice since e-mail sent there will undoubtedly be forwarded to the new e-mail address.



D.P. WALKER - 2003



O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Bailey Stauffer



Well, here we go with another three months gone by. Still no rain, we have sold about half our cattle and we have our winter pasture planted, I'm watering it now. Veteran's Day is soon, with the holidays not far behind. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Eileen will be putting up scads of lights soon. Eileen and I went to Phoenix in August for All Arizona Airborne Days. It was a real good time and we had a report on Iraq from Col Nye, he is a big shot with Central Command.

In October we went to Madeira Beach, Florida. Speedy was there with his new wife; Chico and Brenda Hernandez, along with Jim and Gloria Bergeron rounded out O CO'S participation. Houser's sister came down real sick and he had to stay behind. We wish him and his family all the best. We went out on a gambling boat one night, it was a cheap imitation of Las Vegas. There was lots of good food every place we went. Most of us went parasailing; there wasn't enough wind for us to go tandem, so we had to go individually. The boat had a problem pulling us, a little too much paunch, I think. Speedy and I went to the Special Operations

Memorial at MacDill AFB. It was pretty impressive.

The 14th annual All Airborne Mid-Winter Conference will be in Tucson, AZ February 19-21, 2004. If you have had enough snow and winter, come on down. It was winter here last week, it got down to 33 degrees on a couple nights, but back up to 60 degrees during the day.

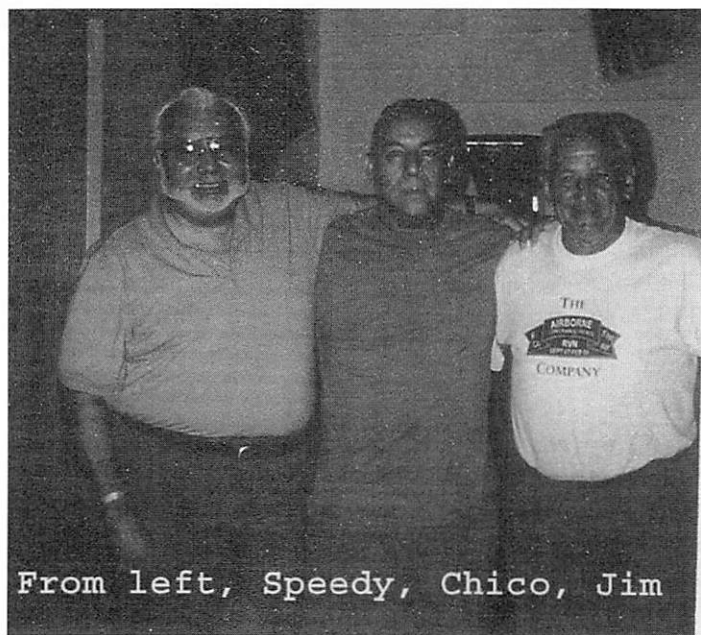
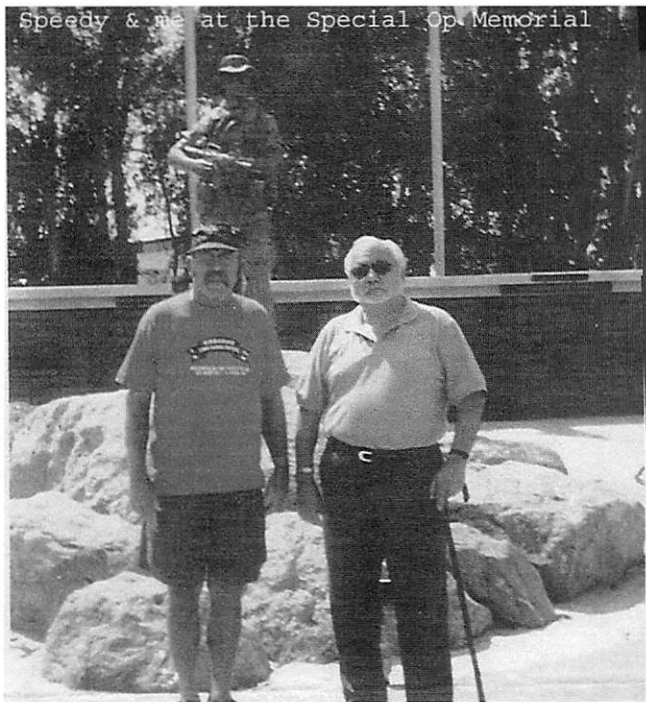
I have had quite a few people contact me in the last couple of months saying that they served with O Co. I have a pretty good handle on the ones from Vietnam, but not the ones from Alaska.

One Service Officer contacted me and told me about a guy that put in a claim because he went to Vietnam from Ft Stuart to O Co. and a shroud line wrapped around his neck when he was jumping into Cambodia on a mission. I know we were there with F Co., but we went in by helicopter.

Ed Emmanuel's book *Soul Patrol* is out. It is a good read and brought back lots of memories. Look it up. Air Borne Bailey, RVN and Alaska



Speedy & me at the Special Op. Memorial



From left, Speedy, Chico, Jim



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



Papa Company

Patrolling Winter 2003

It is with great sorrow I need to inform you that Mike Rossi passed after a long struggle with an Agent Orange related illness. The Papa Company family that was able to pay honor to Mike were the Rossi's, Duke and Marion DuShane, Garry Norton, Jay Lutz, Gerald and Marlene Cornelius, Dave McNulty, Clyde and Susan Tanner and Terry Roderick. Roy and Joyce Boatman were also able to make it; so all in all, there was a good Ranger representation to honor Mike.

Duke DuShane gave the eulogy and Roy Boatman read the poem 'A Ranger Died Today'. The reading of the poem left the service with few dry-eyed people. Mike was very well known and liked in the community. Many of them had no idea what Mike really did in the service and seemed amazed that Mike was such a warrior. A few of them sought us out to question us about Vietnam. I was able to send some flowers to represent the Company. There were also flowers from Spud Gain and Ken Emmick, and perhaps more I didn't see. (This intel coming from Terry Roderick, and I thank him for it!) Terry also advised me to give a HUGE THANK YOU to Roy Boatman for having the courage and spirit to get through a truly emotional poem.

Mike's wife, Mary passed this along and it is worth passing it on to all of you:

"Terry- can you please pass this along for me. I cannot put into words how much it meant to Mike and me to have part of the Ranger family with us at this time. I love all of you and so did Mike. A friend sent this poem to me and I wanted to share it with all of you. God saw he was getting tired and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around him and whispered, "Come with me." With tearful eyes we watched him suffer, and saw him fade away. Although we loved him dearly, we could not make him stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands laid to rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST! Author Unknown I think this says more than I can at this time. Love Mary I will miss him"

The mission happened on Saturday, June 6, 1970 (this is the date on the orders for the Purple Heart by Jay Lutz and I) the time was approximately 1445. This is the time that his wristwatch stopped which was on his injured hand. Before I go much further with this I want to make a disclaimer of sorts. I've talked to a number of folks as to their memories of this mission. What follows is the best representation I can put on this mission.

We were going out on a BDA (bomb damage assessment) mission. We knew it wasn't the usual (whatever that was) mission, because we went out with two teams and a scout dog and handler. SSG Gates was the TL for one team and SGT McNulty was the other team leader and I was his ATL. Even with all the great minds I talked with, we could only come up with about half the names of the participants. Dave McNulty did remember the name of the scout dog, and that was Puddles.

The CO, Luke Ferguson told me we went with the heavy team because the area was extremely lively. We weren't on the ground more than a couple of hours when Jay Lutz, who was on point, came upon an NVA bunker. What we had discovered was an NVA bunker complex. There were thirty or so bunkers stretched over 100 meters on a ridgeline of a steep hillside. There was a trail on a ridgeline above, and another below along a creek bed.

This meant when the bombs dropped, they'd have to be an almost an exact hit to destroy a bunker completely. There were only three or four where that happened, and there were another dozen that had sustained some of damage, but all in all the bunkers were still quite useable. They were obviously just recently vacated, as there were fresh blood spoor. There were also pieces of equipment up to a 51 Cal., missing only the receiver. Charlie had left in a hurry.

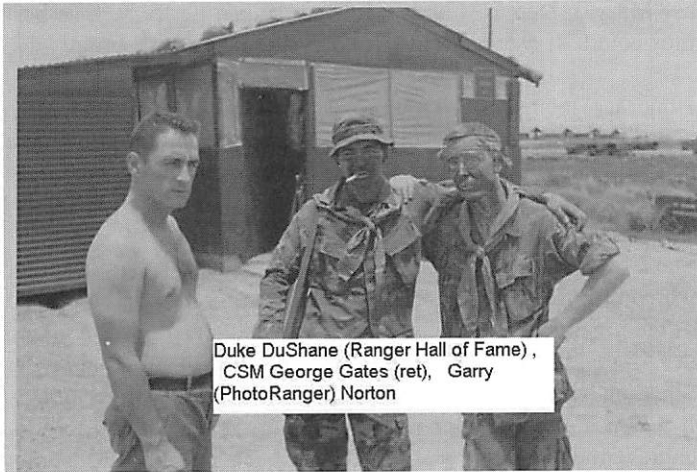
There was enemy activity around as a number of them were seen, including three that walked under Dave McNulty while he was up in a tree reconing the area above the bunkers. It was fortunate that Jay had spotted them and was able to alert Dave. Fortunately at this point, we had taken no fire, but we were obviously under observation.

It was at that time a pre-arranged plan went into place. An engineer and a demolitions man were sent in with at least a



Ferniano, Turner, Cassidy, Blankenship, SFC Dave McNulty (ret)

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)



Duke DuShane (Ranger Hall of Fame),
CSM George Gates (ret), Garry
(PhotoRanger) Norton

couple other members of the company, one of those being Gerald Cornelius. The plan was relatively simple, enough plastic explosive and enough crystal cs gas to incapacitate all of the bunkers. About five pounds of each were placed in each bunker and then it was wired together with detcord. Terry Roderick, in the rear, helped load the crystal cs gas out of 55 gal drums. He said it looked like Drano.

Everything had gone smooth to that point. We had the 100 meters worth of bunkers wired and ready for fire in the hole. We were in the last stages of packing up to be ready for extraction. It was at this point the worst happened. Somehow the explosives detonated and the entire hillside went up. No one will ever know what happened: whether it was static electricity; Charlie; or what I believe is that at the time of the detonation the young EOD man was putting scraps of the last bits of explosives into one of the bunkers so they would be destroyed. He had been warned earlier about his hand grenades, and their security on his web gear and was I a bunker when it went off. One of his grenades detonating could have easily set the chain in motion. He was one of the two KIA's on that mission. The team literally had to bring him out in pieces in poncho liners. The other KIA was the engineer. He

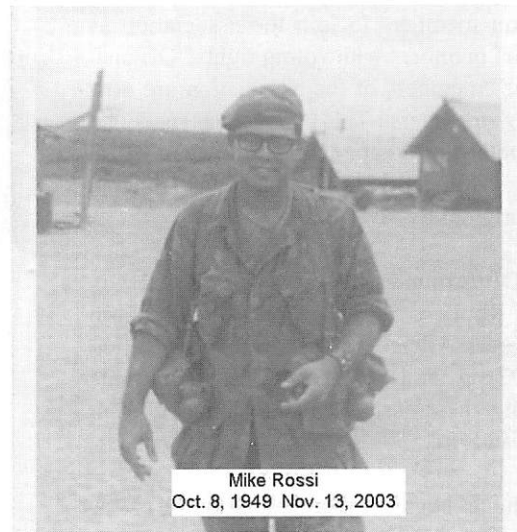
was standing behind me and took a small piece of shrapnel in the chest with the bad luck of it severing his aorta. He didn't make it to the MASH unit.

Although I was closer to the bunker, about six feet, I was close to the ground. I was putting my claymore in my rucksack when it detonated. I thought the claymore had gone off and it was over. I did however get a mighty blast of the cs, a concussion, and perforated eardrums. I was lucky though. Jay Lutz came home sans most of a hand, the vision in an eye and the hearing in one ear. Although Jay has spent over thirty years refining his 'hand' jokes.

It was June 6, 1970, a day I'll never forget!!

Hope this finds you all happy and healthy for the holiday season.

Rangers Lead the Way,
Bill Davis



Mike Rossi
Oct. 8, 1949 Nov. 13, 2003



D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Tom Blandford



D 151st Infantry Airborne Ranger Association Reunion 2003 Recap

The reunion for the D-151 members, families and friends was a success. The purposes of the reunion were to dedicate a plaque that honors our fallen comrades, reconnect with our past, plan for our future, and honor our fallen comrades from battle and from life. All that was accomplished.

The motorcycle riders took off in style as they rode out of the Camp Atterbury outdoor museum, after an informal send off by the Post Commander, Colonel Ken Newlin. Everyone had a really great time, and the weather – it was just beautiful, and PERFECT for riding!

Friday night was a real hoot, as folks rolled in that hadn't seen each other in over 30 years! We had our first F/51st transfer show up, Lurch and his lovely wife came up from Kentucky. We also had Dan (Winters) Hughes and his lovely wife come all the way from North Carolina, and I got the impression that they were awfully glad they did. Most folks didn't recognize each other, but EVERYONE recognized Pappy.

The Plaque dedication was emotional as we remembered those no longer with us. We were honored to be joined by World War II survivors of the Battle of the Bulge, who also had some words of wisdom for us. Chuck Eads did a fine job as MC, Larry Rhodes gave a thoughtful invocation and Jane Justus beautifully

D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

sang "God Bless America". Jim Johnson's speech was blessedly short. Once a low ceiling went to one mile visibility, two Hueys performed a flyover. We were surprised to see the likeness of *Little Annie Fanny* on the front of one of the choppers that flew overhead.

From there we moved to Drop Zone Larkins for the 151st Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance) demonstration jump. The LRS jumped from the Annie Fannie Huey. As always, the jump was fun to watch. We all appreciate the LRS for their participation, and their service to their country. In a few months many of the members of the 151st LRS will be mobilized for a Balkans mission. The lineage and honors of D/151st is in the 151st LRS.

At the business meeting, new officers were elected. Tom Blandford is the association President and Bill Schoettmer is the Vice-President. Loren Dixon's term of President was greatly appreciated and he will serve a two year term on the association Board of Directors. It was also announced that the by-laws regarding membership qualifications will be changed to allow LRS unit members to join the association as "regular" members with voting rights. Original "regular" members of the association are now "charter" members. This change was made "to perpetuate the history and tradition of D Company Ranger 151st Infantry", as is stated in the original by-laws.

A PTSD/VA round table discussion was led by Larry Rhodes, Phil Cravens and Tom Blandford. Advice was given about dealing with PTSD and VA benefits. Handouts regarding these issues can be obtained from Tom Blandford.

The banquet began with a new thing for us. A MIA/POW table was provided by Ted Dunn. Doug Hagan read the purpose and explanation of the table setting. He read it with the music from the movie *We Were Soldiers* in the background. I'm here to tell you there was not a dry eye in the house. Even Zita Moore's 13-year-old son, Michael, could not contain his emotions, which is a good thing – he understands the price of freedom.

Very special D-151 coins were presented to George Heckman (who also addressed the group with his thoughts), Ron Himsel and Bill (Pappy) Hayes. These men were honored because they are considered as our primary leaders in Nam. The coins were cast in silver and enameled paint and represent our high regard for these men.

The main speaker, one of our own, Dennis Engi, gave a very interesting presentation about his career since Nam. His presentation began with a rendition of the "Ballad of D-151" written by Dennis while we were "in country". In the tradition of "Peter, Paul and Mary" (with a very attractive Larry Rhodes

as "Mary"), Dennis, Larry and Doug Hagan performed, as best they could. It was hilarious, but they should keep their day jobs.

Honorary membership was given to some ladies who have contributed so much to our association. Connie Bussell, Sue Cravens, Jane Justus and Pamela Porter are now Honorary Members. Thank you ladies for all you do for us.

Sue Cravens ran the raffle with the assistance of Sarah Moore, which brought in much needed money for the association. One of the greatly coveted items, especially by us guys, was a gift to the Association for the raffle from Barry Richman and his wife. She/they have a business which engraves glass and other things. It was a liquor decanter (filled with Jim Beam) and 2 glasses, engraved with D151 Scroll! It has been reported Bohannon contributed greatly to the raffle once he saw the set. Barry also donated a plaque/statuary of an Eagle, the list of men we lost in Nam and the poem *The Young Dead Soldiers*. It's quite impressive.

Many thanks go to the Post Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ken Newlin and the Camp Atterbury personnel for their hard work. And thanks to the staffs of the All Ranks/NCO Club and King's Hall for good food and plenty of refreshments. And as always, many thanks to Zita Moore! It couldn't happen without her help.

Indiana Rangers Documentary Film

Gregg Brown (brother to unit member Alan Brown) will be working on a documentary of Co. D (Ranger) 151st Infantry. He attended the reunion to get interviews and will continue to call members for interviews. Some believe there will someday be a book or film about the unit so it would be better if we tell our stories so that the stories will be accurate. Your participation is your decision.



Souvenirs

Commissary still has a bunch of neeto kewl D/151 stuph. If you would like to order any of the stuph, send a check or money order made to our quartermaster: Gary Bussell, 5000 W Connie Drive, Muncie, IN 47304. Please do not email your credit card numbers. Use the US Postal System to send check or money order. Don't forget to include \$3.00 per order for shipping and handling.

Bumper Sticker – Unit Scroll	\$ 3.00
Patch – Unit Scroll	\$ 8.00
Hat Pin – Unit Scroll	\$ 8.00
New Design Challenge Coins :	
Choose Bronze or Nickel	\$10.00
Enameled Nickel in Case	\$15.00
Chance to Win the Gold Coin	\$20.00*
(see restrictions below)	
Embroidered Hat – Unit Scroll	\$15.00

D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

Ranger Airborne Parking Only	
D151 Signs	\$22.00
Silver Ring – Jump Wings	\$30.00
(some larger sizes available)	
Golf Shirt – Unit Scroll	\$35.00
T-shirt – Unit Scroll	\$15.00
(add \$3.00 for 2X or larger)	
T-shirt – Indiana Rangers Litho	\$15.00

***Raffle for the GOLD D-151 challenge coin.**

Tickets can be bought from Gary Bussell for \$ 20.00.

Any person who is eligible to be a Charter Voting Member who has not already purchased a chance to win the coin may do so. When a minimum of 50 chances are sold and verified, the drawing will be done during the next meeting of the officers, board and members. There are only six (6) tickets left to reach the magic number. Don't put this off, you may lose this chance to own a one of a kind D151 Challenge coin. For those of you who don't know, this is a one of a kind coin minted out of one ounce of gold (not gold plated) valued at \$525.00. This is the new design that we introduced at the reunion. It was donated by a client of Connie Bussell's. We wanted to make this absolutely equal chance in winning the coin. Only one chance per person qualified to enter. Good Luck –

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Membership Dues: \$12.00

Life Membership Dues: \$100.00

Donation to the association (optional)

Check payable to Co D 151 Association

Return to: Gary Bussell, 5000 W. Connie Dr., Muncie In 47304

If you have not paid your dues for 2003, please do so. It helps us keep in contact with everyone we can and locate others.

And, if you want to pay your dues for 2004 while you are thinking about it, we can handle that, too.

Membership - Company D (Ranger) 151st Airborne Infantry Association, inc., was started "to perpetuate the history and tradition of D Company Ranger 151st Infantry, and to honor our comrades living and dead." Dues are \$12.00 per year. Current members, your dues may be due. Those that haven't joined and would like to, contact Gary Bussell at d151bussell@cs.com, or 765-288-3541.

—Active Membership (Now called Charter) - Is open to those who have honorably served in D Company (Ranger) 151st Infantry from January 1966 through January 1970.

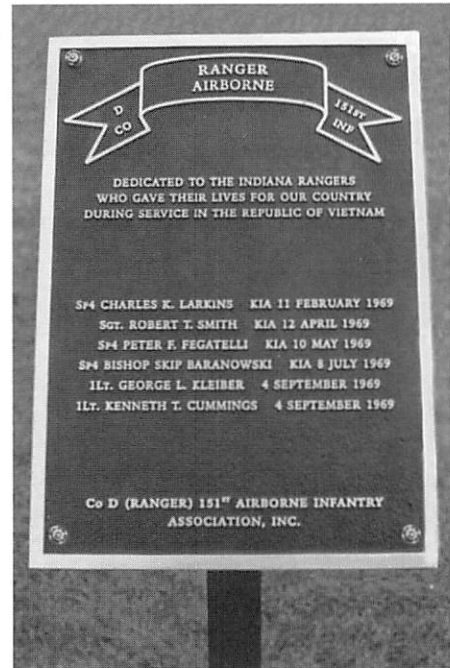
—Active Membership - Is open to those who have honorably served or are now serving with the LRS Unit currently located at Darlington.

—Associate Membership - Widows and other family members of deceased Rangers who would have been eligible and any airborne qualified, or ranger qualified person.

—Honorary Membership - The Board of Directors may designate this membership for those that have performed significant service for the Association.

Next Events - - -

For anyone who is planning on attending the dedication of the LRS Training School in Fort Benning THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED. It was scheduled for September 17 and 18. It has been set back. A specific date is not yet known. LET YOUR BUDS KNOW – IT'S A LONG DRIVE TO BENNING.



The plaque on display at Camp Atterbury.

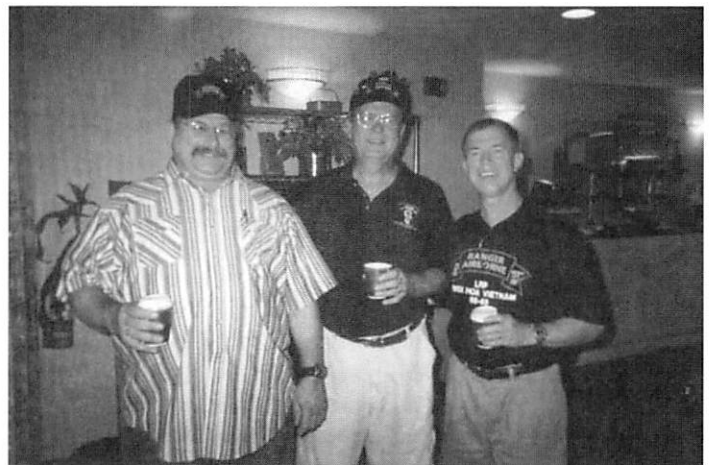


The group with our favorite Huey "Little Annie Fannie".

D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)



The motorcycle riders.



Pictured are Paul Bezayiff from who came in from Alaska, Tom Blandford and Jim Bohanon.



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon



F Company 51st LRP 2003 Tampa Reunion

The much anticipated biannual reunion of F/51 LRP was an unqualified success. This marked our ninth Company reunion. On October 6-12, 2003 we gathered in Madeira Beach Florida. Our people on the ground there were, John Burke Jr. and Richard and Mary McCoy. You just can't say enough about these people who volunteer to host these affairs. We had 45 signatures on the guest list of LRP's, wives, and children of LRP's.

Burke ran the hospitality suite in standard GI order a little ass chewing about policing up the area etc. We did have a small negative, a thief got away with Dwight and Peggy Clements cameras and a couple of bottles of Canadian beer out of the hospitality room. The culprit was a guy who passed himself off as an ex marine and smoozed amongst the guests. The camera bag also contained the Clements' videos of past reunions. Better secure the public area when nobody is there!

Mack McCoy has all the toys, including a 41-foot pleasure craft named the Mary/Mack. He generously took everyone who wanted to go, deep-sea fishing. For me (Mark Eastman) that was a definite high point of the reunion. Seeing the Gulf from a boat was the

epitome of the South Florida experience. It was just like the clichés, dolphins, sea turtles and, oh yes, the fish were biting. Several folks showed up for this event that had not been in contact with the Company since the war. Robert and Marie Gonzaga, Myron Anderson, Lt.(Snuffy McGuff) McGough and McCoy himself. It is gratifying to see the impact these reunions can have on new/old people. There were the usual



suspects, those who plan every other vacation around the 51st reunion. Ed Dvorak brought his in country slide show and showed them in the hospitality room, they were especially interesting to 1st platoon people. It is always so good to see everybody and the sidebars are fascinating.

When you 30 or 40 people trying to assemble for even a small thing like going to dinner it is challenging. I think LRPs should be some of the most naturally patient people around, thanks to our mission. We managed to get everybody fed and entertained pretty much on schedule. The Holiday Inn we stayed at offered everything you wanted. It is right on the beach and you never had to leave if that's what you preferred and even included room service massages for a price. Most went out for the scheduled activities. We had a few nice meals in local eateries featuring seafood. Mary McCoy took the ladies to nearby Tarpon Springs for shopping and eating in the quaint old Greek settlement. One night we went on an evening cruise on a gambling ship. They have to be seven miles out before the cash starts flowing and most of it seemed to flow directly into the ship's coffers. Most of us were tapped after about an hour so we had plenty of time to enjoy the moonlight, fresh sea air and rare company on the top deck, since there is nowhere else to go and we wouldn't dock until midnight.

Tiofilo "Speedy" Gonzales, Bailey Stauffer, Bill Mortenson, and me (Russ Dillon) made a side trip to McDill Airforce base where the Special Operations Memorial is located and found names of people we knew. As with

F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

special operations, the memorial is in a discrete location that seems well suited for a memorial dedicated to those that operated in the gray areas of their respective of the services.

Then there was our Association Business meeting. Dennis Lovick (Sgt. 4th platoon) was named the new Secretary/Treasurer to replace outgoing Bob Edwards. Thanks for your four years of service Bob. The next reunion

will be held in Nashville Tennessee, hosted by Dave Barfield and Gene (Wolfman) Slyzuik. As always, First Sergeant Walter P. Butts will remain the Association President. We got to meet a couple of his kids, Simone and Karl, again the dynamics are interesting.

The last day we went down to a quaint little sea fairing area called Johns Pass for parasailing. A few of the wives got their water wings that day. Drive on Girls!

Richard and Mary McCoy graciously opened their house to us for a farewell

barbecue that featured enough chow to feed the whole company when it was up to strength. The women decided they liked it so well down in Madeira Beach they would come back in the spring and gather perfect seashells from San Marcos Island. We may not have found The Fountain of Youth, down there but I think we all got some pretty good elixir.

Russ Dillon/ Mark Eastman

LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

3rd ID LRRP Detachment

Mike McClintock, Unit Director

In the last issue of Patrolling I wrote about the condition of the Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument in Normandy and said that I was going to write to Marine General (Ret.) P. X. Kelley, Chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission to express concern about what was being done to protect the monument. On 23 October I received a reply from the ABMC. The gist of the reply was that the ABMC is working with the French government to renovate the monument, but this will only entail relocating the granite Ranger commando dagger pylon. The bunker the monument stands atop, unfortunately, will be allowed to slide into the sea. The only good news is that there are plans to build a visitor's center with a ceremonial area with a clear view of the entire site. I will let you when I find out more about what is going on.

On another subject, getting old is a b——! Both Ed Jentz and I have had back problems in the last month. Ed has a better excuse for his sciatica than me, because he is older and has had more bad parachute landings. Not to mention a couple of bad aircraft landings (since he was able to walk away from them they cannot be considered crashes, as a "good landing" is defined as one you can walk

away from). Anyway, any of you who know Ed and/or want to cheer him up can drop him a line at:

COL Ed Jentz (Ret.)



P.O. Box 32
Charles City, VA 23030

By the way, I found a good Chinese acupuncturist who took care of my sciatica after just a few sessions. Now he is working on my knees and shoulders and I feel a lot better (I have also been exercising my knee on a brass rail and doing 12-ounce curls at the bar).

In 1961, one of the 3rd ID LRRPs, SGT Dan Ochoa, went to Amsterdam on leave and met a young Dutch girl. They became good friends and Dan visited her as often as he could, but when he rotated home in 1964 she stopped writing to him. Dan thought of her often over the past 40-or-so years and wondered why she had quit writing? Well, you can imagine my surprise when I got a recent copy of "The

Watch on the Rhine," the official newsletter of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division and saw an article entitled "Dutch Woman Seeking 3rd ID Soldier." It turned out this lady has been looking for Dan for the past ten years and this was her last hope. Anyway, to make a long story short, she and Dan have been reunited and are exchanging lengthy letters about their lives since 1964. By the way, she quit writing to Dan in 1964 because her purse with all her addresses in it had been stolen. The moral of this story is that you never know when the information highway is going to lead



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID (CONTINUED)

to your front door and for those of us who served in Europe during the Cold War and met some nice European girls, the news may not always be good!

Finally, I don't want to leave some of you with the impression that us old Cold War

Lurps did nothing but drink beer and chase skirts while we were in Germany (we did, but we did do some serious stuff too). One of the more serious jobs that we had was working the border between W. Germany and E. Germany/Czechoslovakia. At anyone time, we

were looking at ten or more Soviet armored divisions that could have rolled up the Fulda Gap at the drop of a hat. Attached is Lurps-eye view of a couple of Soviet tanks. We are happy to report that they stayed on their side of the border.



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Mike Martin



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

The memories of the past are like beads on the wires of an abacus, sliding back and forth, as the reminiscing of events and places take hold.... Winter in cold, dead and dreary stretches - - with Spring seemingly a long way off - - evoke the ones that are the blackest, with the short days and long nights, and the leafless trees in the darkened garden immobilized like silent sentinels guarding the secrets of the night.

There are those who apparently welcome this period of gloom, who succumb to the dark, vitreous silence as if it is a frock of dominance; a kind of fatal affliction to the mind and body the media and our precocious politicians appear to have attracted this "frame of mind" in regards to the war in Iraq - poor old George would have been in "deep Kimchi" if these soothsayers had been at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778.

One ray of brightness that has lifted the winter's solstice like a shaft of sunlight penetrating through the thickness of double canopy foliage is, that one of our unsung heroes is being recognized at last....efforts are ongoing, by a variety of sources, to recommend Ranger Advisor Harold G. Bennett for the Medal of Honor.

Bennett was captured with his RTO, PFC Charles E. Crafts, on

29 December, 1964, while fighting with the 33rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion at the bloody battle of Binh Gia; six months later Ranger Bennett was executed by the Viet Cong.

Colonel Doug Moore(a med-evac chopper pilot flying at Binh Gia) was one of several gunships and med-evacs waved off by Bennett because the area was too hot for a pickup. Thirty five years later Colonel Moore, (Retired) wrote:



"I cannot imagine what his thoughts were when things began to collapse around him, and there is no way to fathom the despair he must have felt while he was being led from the battlefield with American helicopters circling a few hundred feet overhead. I am still amazed that he could remain so calm during his radio transmission. To this end, his focus seemed to be on our safety and not his. The willingness to sacrifice himself instead of risking others was a remarkable demonstration of valor. If I ever have to face a life-or-death situation again, I hope I can find some of his courage."

Two of our distinguished BDQ Advisors—Bean McHarg and Tom Ware—received their final marching orders: Bean passed away on 7 September, Tom died on the 19th of October. Tom graduated from West Point in 1948: he was one of the first American Advisors to Vietnam in 1960-61, serving with the newly formed Vietnamese Ranger Companies. He and his lovely

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

wife Lee were great supporters of the Biet Dong Quan. Our berets are off as we "Present Arms" to these two warriors!

The following is an article that BDQ Karl Fee provided to us on Ranger McHarg:

William F. McHarg, born July 3, 1945, finished high school in 1963 and enlisted in the Army. He grew up in what we used to call a "broken Family", his parents separated. "Billy" lived with his father in California, and would visit his younger sister Mary at their Mom's house in Oklahoma in the summer, becoming very attached to her. On one of his first leaves as a private, he took his little sister to the store, she was 7 or 8, and told her that he would buy her anything she wanted. Making maybe \$68.00 a month or whatever Privates got back then, that was an indication of the type of guy he became, generous to a fault to those he cared about.

Bill went through three tours in RVN, all of them as an infantryman -1st Infantry Division in 65-66, 82d Airborne 68-69 (went thru Ranger School in 1966, went to Wash. DC to quell riots in 1968) and the 22d ARVN Ranger Battalion in 1970. He was awarded three Bronze Stars for valor and the Silver Star (don't know when). During his tenure with the BDOs, he was called "String bean" or plain "Bean" cuz he was such a skinny looking kid. He loved practical jokes. Best story was when he climbed up the tower that held 55 gal. drums of water for showers in the Ranger Advisor compound, carrying a bag of concrete. He waited until then 1 LT Ken "KD" Hicks had finished a long shower, then dumped the concrete dust on KD while KD was still soaking wet. Everyone was rolling on the ground laughing while KD cursed Bean and chased him around the compound buck nekked coated with concrete dust. .

In April 1970 the 22d and 23d Ranger Battalions engaged the NVA near Dak Seang in the battle that made Gary Littrell a hero as the advisor who led the 23d against horrendous human wave attacks after the CO was KIA along with the senior advisor and the XO broke down. The 22d, with Bean and KD, fought doggedly to break through to the besieged 23d, linking up when the 23d broke through after four days of continuous fighting. (This was the battle in which Gary Littrell won the Medal of Honor)

I first met Bean on my arrival in June 1970. We were acquaintances but not close teammates, as he was with the 22d BDQ and I worked with the 23d. Bean had left country prior to the 22nd BDQ's March 1971 fighting in the Plei Trap Valley that killed 1LT Orie Dubbeld and SFC Duncan. After I returned to the US and was at Ft. Hood, Bean looked me up and visited me at my apartment. That was the real beginning of our friendship, when we talked about the Army, what had happened to Dubbeld, and what we had seen in the BDQs. Bean made a point of keeping in touch with me by phone and by letter from time to time. It wasn't until years later I learned how private his life was and how carefully he chose his friends. Bean would never bad mouth or criticize anyone, even when I pressed him point blank on specifics. He would just deftly sidestep the issue.

Bean went on to become a drill sergeant at Ft. Polk, although I cannot picture him raising his voice and harassing young enlistees. It just wasn't in his nature.

In 1980 he was a PSGT in C/1/75 under then CPT Grange. Bean admired Grange, speaking of him as a great soldier who shared every hardship of those under his command. Grange, Bean said,

would not make his troops do something he wasn't willing or able to do himself. In 1987 Bean retired from active duty as an E8. In 1990, his old friend Gary Littrell recruited him to work for the VA as a Veterans Service Officer at the Bay Pines VA Center in Tampa Bay. He gained a reputation as the "go to" guy for veterans seeking assistance. From what I heard at the Center, he set the standard for helping vets. It was typical of him to work from 7 am to 5 pm or later, then go to the home of someone who couldn't get to the Center and take them the forms to sign, helping them fill them out. Bean and I met at the 75th Association reunion in Savannah in 2000. We also met that same year on Veterans Day in Wash. DC for a BDQ reunion where we also met up with KD Hicks and SGT Dong, our old 2d Ranger Group interpreter. The big surprise that year was finding MAJ Thanh, someone we all, including Dong, had assumed was KIA when Ben Het fell in 1972.

One of Bean's greatest dreams was to eventually return to Vietnam to recover the remains of Orie Dubbeld. He patiently worked every military and government connection he could find, trying to get support for his quest. I heard from a reliable source his idea even reached Colin Powell before finally being squelched. Bean's efforts spoke volumes about his intense loyalty to his friends. .

About a year ago I learned Bean had been diagnosed with a tumor behind his esophagus. Talked with him a couple times, heard he was recuperating at the Littrell's home. When I talked about going to see him, he dismissed it, saying he was fine, the cancer was in remission, he was back at work, etc. I should have known better or bugged the Littrell's about it. Bean was not recovering, he was succumbing to the monster. He continued to work long hours, even when he was forced to use an electric wheelchair to travel the VA hallways.

All the time he worked at Bay Pines, he was part of the Littrell family. According to Gary, he showed up on the dot at 3:15 every Saturday for dinner and poker. Always the trickster, he would bluff Susie Littrell with higher and higher bids, knowing she would lose her temper and throw in her hand, even when he had no more than a high card or a pair when she had three kings or a full house. As a consummate giver, Bean would constantly try to outdo the Littrell's at Xmas. Of course, they would do the same. Bean remained close to his little sister Mary. She had one child, Jack, who Bean loved to spoil. When Jack was a toddler, Bean would tease him by knocking on the wall and telling Jack "the monster" was lurking in the basement or the next room.

The call everyone dreads about a friend or loved one came on Friday Sept. 5th when KD called me from his home in San Antonio to tell me Bean was in intensive care and close to death. We both flew to Tampa the next morning. Bean was losing consciousness as Gary told him KD and I had arrived at the airport. Despite all the efforts to sustain him on life support, Bean left us shortly after 5 am Sunday, attended by his fiancé Ann, sister Mary, and KD.

The memorial service the next day was crowded, filling the tiny chapel and spilling into the hallway outside, for Bean was much loved, respected, and admired by those who knew him.

True to the last, Gary Littrell made arrangements for his long time comrade to be buried at Arlington with full honors from the Old Guard at Ft. Meyer. On Tuesday Sept. 30th, Bean was laid to rest with all those who have gone before.

Vietnam Tidbits:

The most beautiful women of Vietnam were from Can Tho; they

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

were known for their delicately reddish complexions—rich men wanted to marry them.

The most famous bird of the South was the Son Ca, the skylark of the rice paddies, that sang from dawn to dusk; the farmer's companion....

Korean War

The Chinese had specialist squads trained for quick cloak-and-dagger attacks; they were attached to most regiments and had distinctive titles—one of the most famous was "The Sharp Swords", an honor equivalent to a unit citation.

...Russell Spurr, Enter the Dragon



SFC William 'Bean' McHarg, Pleiku, 1970; Advisor to the 22nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.



November 11, 2000, Washington, D.C., left to right: LTC (Ret) Kenneth 'KD' Hicks, former Major Thanh (BDQ), and William McHarg.



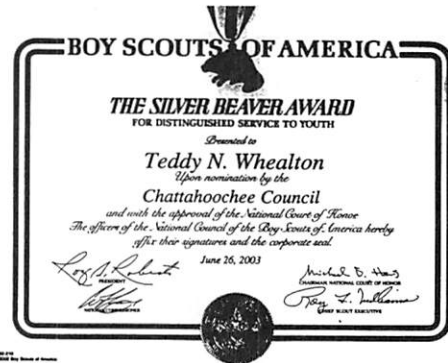
Ranger Advisors, 33rd BDQ's, Harold G. Bennett (left), and Charles E. Crafts, shortly after their capture at the battle of Binh Gia, 29 December, 1964. Note the both POWs' boots have been removed and Crafts is missing his glasses.

"It is good to win a battle; better to win it without losing a single man."

Co Vans, its that time of the year again, Christmas(Giang sinh) and New Year(Nam moi); we wish all of you a great holiday season, remember our Ranger brothers fighting and serving in distant lands...there were times when we were spread to the four winds, far from our loved ones, fighting for our country.

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

Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit Director



BDQ Ted Whealton was awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver Award in Scouting on 26 June, 2003. Ted retired from the military with tours of duty in Vietnam, Thailand, Korea and Germany. He has worked in Scouting since 1973, and is currently serving as District Commissioner in the Chattahoochee (Georgia) Council.



Long Range Reconnaissance training—when? This is a copy of a Long Range Patrol Course completion certificate presented to SPC Gary Chitester, from the 11th Airborne Division, (Germany), on 8 June, 1957. Gary served as an advisor to the 52nd Biet Dong Quan and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Smyers

CHRISTMAS

We celebrate December 25 as the day our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ was born, and we call it Christmas day. Simply put, Christmas means people gathering in mass to celebrate Christ's birth, thus the word Christmas. The whole Western Christian Church from early on celebrated this day to commemorate His birth. Some time later the Eastern Church accepted this day to also celebrate Christ birth, and with little contradiction. No one knows the exact day Jesus was born. Some say April 20, others May 20, and still others January 6. It matters little, the important thing is Christ came.

I am sure many will agree that Christmas in our time, has become a time of commercialism. The retail industry invades our minds and thinking long before the day arrives. Initiating a subliminal message in such a subtle way, we rarely even recognize it. Usually they begin by placing a few Christmas items in a high traffic area but make no hoopla about it. They know the sooner the Christmas shopping switch is activated in our mind, the more people will begin to think about Christmas, and start buying. They are not doing it to remind us of the reason for the season, and speaking for my self, my first thought probably is not of the real reason for the day but rather, gift buying. Perhaps I am not alone?

Are we allowing retailers and advertising firms to succeed in getting us to think of material things, rather than the true meaning of the day? If you are anything like I am, you are tired of hearing about Christmas long before it gets here and look forward to it being over. Does this mean I do not love our Savior? No, but I am human. Do you think maybe we are allowing the real joy of Christmas to be taken from us?

May we be encouraged not to allow commercialism to cloud our mind concerning this festive time, a time we enjoy with family, friends, or neighbors? I humbly suggest the head of the house or an appointed one tell the Christmas story while gathered to exchange gifts. Reminding all that Jesus gave the greatest gift of all, his life that we may have redemption from sin and life eternal with God. It however must be received by faith and to our choosing.

Many of you reading this are looking forward to Christmas and as we do, let us not forget, it is The Most Glorious Day for all humanity. The Birth of our Lord and Savior that gave His all, to free all, from sin.

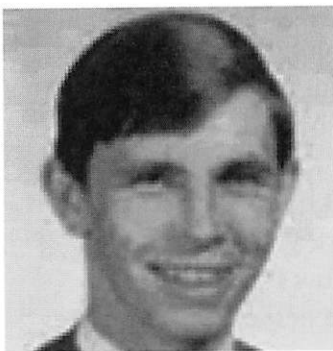
Thanks for allowing me to share.

Hoping all will have a very Merry Christmas followed by, a Happy New Year. Be safe! May God bless you each and everyone.

In Christ,

Bob Smyers

Chaplain of the 75th Regimental Ranger Association



Lonnie Lowell Gibson

Lonnie Lowell Gibson born in Jellico, Tennessee located right on the Tennessee/Kentucky border just off of interstate 75. It is a fairly small town but the people there are for the most part warm and friendly with the flavor of country people. They speak with a southern twang giving it more of a sense of down home, a comforting feeling. Lonnie lived most of his young life here before

joining the army. He was pretty much on the quiet side one who was appreciative, kind, considerate, humble, and very gracious. One anyone would like to be around. When you look into his eye with that soft smile you see a very loving person. Briefly out of school he joined the army to fulfill his obligation as an American, soon finding himself in Vietnam and being who he was he never complained, and was quickly accepted by members of his unit. Growing up and being fairly unaggressive one would think he never would have join a unit such as he did. This was an all

voluntary unit, in fact the only way in was to volunteer. Why? It was considered one of the most dangerous units to serve in in Vietnam. Life expectancy was considered to be slim to none due to the type missions they ran. Lonnie had joined the famed Long Range Patrol Rangers, K Company 75th Rangers previously know as, the 1st brigade Long Range Patrol 4th infantry division. Lonnie had done his best growing up to be the best he could be and now wanted to be with the best, he had a calling, a calling that he and he alone knew and he did answer it. Talk about one you could trust with your most prized possession, Lonnie was the man. He worked with 3-4 guys and they worked as a team deep inside of enemy held territory. They gathered information that could be gotten no other way. His and the others life depended mainly on communications, artillery, helicopter gun ships and slicks (inserted and extracted the team). Men that did this were of a different breed but pomp and arrogance was not part of their make up, but courage and commitment surely was. I feel a great sense of pride as I write about Lonnie and think of others like him. Giants, everyone, bigger than life and thought it not wrong to go a step farther into the unknown, to perform a task that did save the lives of many American soldiers and indigenous people living in or around the area of operation. Lonnie had only been

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

in country a short time when he was called to a greater place on September 28, 1969. Why so young? We will have to trust God on this. On this day while engaged in a firefight Lonnie would fall in the service of his country. Lonnie growing up had many friends. While in South Vietnam he gained lifetime brothers. Those still alive reflect upon their time with him and feel sad but also joy for being blessed with a memory of a fine young man. Lonnie, you may be gone from our realm but certainly, your memory lives on. Sua Sponte. Rangers Lead the Way!

To the family that has had to bear the loss of Lonnie, we offer our heart felt thanks for your standing so strong. Many that enjoy real freedom have been affected by the great contribution he gave towards our freedom. He is still dearly loved and missed, even to this day.

Lord, those who knew Lonnie are so thankful you allowed them to be graced by his being among them. We his brothers of like spirit, a spirit that says all people, of all nations, should enjoy the right to live free and to choose for themselves, do also thank you. He stands out to us and the world as a symbol of the price of freedom. Your Word says; "no greater love hath a man than this, to give his life for a friend" Lonnie did just that! He forsook self-preservation for others to live. He acted out of love, a love that required no contemplation but rather action. Surely it never crossed his mind at the moment that he would come to be known as a "HERO". We thank you for men and women like our brother that thought it not too much, to give his life for others to live. Lord, this day give comfort to those loved ones that have been all these years without him. Help them to know he is at rest with you

and Warriors of like kind. May we never forget the blood of others bought our freedoms. Lord, regardless of our belief, help us as we remember him and the many like him to consider the following words of wisdom; to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, soul, mind, and strength and secondly to love our neighbor as our self. Truly acceptance and application of this wisdom by all people of the world, is to see war and all other atrocities against humanity end! May our hearts be charged to honor the sacrifices of such men and women with a continuous and sincere effort to promote peace on earth and good will towards all.

Bob Smyers

Larry Flanagan writes -

Lonnie Gibson was a good soldier and also a friendly kid that always had a big smile on his face. We didn't know him all that long before he was taken away, but Lonnie's quick smile and friendly, warm personality made him a favorite of everyone that was lucky enough to have known him. I remember the day he died, I was on the chopper pad when they brought his body in. I remember how stunned everyone was, when the word got around that Lonnie was gone. I saw the tears in the eyes of his teammates, the particulars of the mission I never knew, and didn't want to. It didn't matter to me, all I cared about was that we had lost another brother. He was lost, but he is not forgotten, he lives on in our memories, with all the others.

Prayer goes up and Blessings come down.

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

One Shot, One Kill

My legs are cramping from laying still,
Three days I've waited to get this kill.
I listen for the sounds mixed with the wind,
Within seconds of seeing them, their life will end.

As a sniper, I'm one of the best around,
To move quickly and quietly, not making a sound.
One shot, one kill, that was our creed,
To kill the enemy, that was our deed.

My weapon and I, we work as one,
As I lay waiting under a scorching sun.
I watch and listen for a warning sign,
As the sweat pours off me with the passing of time.

My scope brings the enemy so very near,

They don't know I'm out there, they have no fear.
As the team waits, we say not a word,
To all but one, the shot will be heard.

I take my shot, we move out quick,
To look at your kill can make you sick.
A sniper in the Rangers is how I served,
A lot of patience, and a little nerve.

My skill is unique and somewhat strange,
To take out the enemy, at great range.
To kill the enemy is easy to do,
To live with yourself after, is harder to do.

Michael Monfrooe, L/75

Special Operations Memorial Update, November 2003

As we pass the second anniversary of 9/11 the war against terrorism continues to exact its toll against both our conventional and special operations forces.

Since our last report in the Fall 2003 edition of *Patrolling* we mourn the losses of Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Buehring, a psychological operations officer liaison to the Army Component Headquarters of U.S. Central Command (ARCENT) who was killed in action on 28 October. This loss was followed two days later on 30 October when Staff Sergeant Paul A. Sweeney, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) became the next victim. As we go to press our third loss due to combat action was Sergeant Jay A. Blessing of the 2nd Ranger Battalion on 14 November.

In addition to current combat losses we have added the names of all members killed in action while assigned to the 195th Assault Helicopter Company supporting Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACVSOG). Their eleven names are memorialized in a single column on the Special Operations Memorial. The Special Operations Memorial Foundation funds all special operations personnel killed in action.

I was remiss failing to mention in the last edition of *Patrolling* of an engraving purchased for Walter Hume who served with Company P (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne) in Vietnam and later with the 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Three other engravings include the current Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), General Bryan D. "Doug" Brown and his Senior Enlisted Advisor, Chief Master Sergeant Robert V. Martens, Jr. General Brown was a former enlisted Special Forces soldier before later commanding the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment followed by the Joint Special Operations Command and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command prior to assignment as Deputy Commander, followed by Command of USSOCOM. It should be noted that the cost for General Brown's engraving came from an individual donor, and the CMSGT Martens came from the USSOCOM Booster Club who have funded the recognition of every Senior Enlisted Advisor since the formation of USSOCOM.

I am also pleased to report that with the assistance of Smokey Wells we have 'closed ranks' of the columns of names from three and four columnar sections to five columnar sections, allowing more room in the rapidly dwindling space to add more names. We have presented our proposed expansion blueprints to the Base Engineers at MacDill AFB for their approval prior to soliciting consent from the Secretary of the Air Force (as the memorial resides on an Air Force installation) to expand the current site.

Geoff Barker
Director of Site Operations

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, 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.

I have been keeping track of the individual and unit contributions resulting a cumulative total for the Association. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is currently placed as a Major Contributor with other (Three-spear level) Major Contributors to the SOF Memorial.

The spears indicate:

Four Spears	\$10,000
Three spears	\$ 5,000
Two spears	\$ 2,500
One Spear	\$ 1,000

75th Ranger Regiment Association consolidated contributions to date based upon the above:

Company C (Ranger)	\$3,650
(Company N (Ranger) and Lazarov	\$3,900
Ten individuals @ \$100 each	\$1,000
Two individuals @ \$250 each	<u>\$500</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$9,050

Nine more engravings and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association will be elevated from the three-spear to the four-spear (highest level) of Major Contributors.



RIGHT SIDE of the USSOSOM Killed in Action/Killed in Training Wall

JOSEPH SUPONCIC IMO SSG USA 991215	JASON FALEY IMO SSGT USAF 010312	SEAN M CORLEW IMO TSGT USAF 020612
DENNIS SEALLEY IMO SFC USA 000118	JAMES M ROGERS IMO CPT USA 990804	ANISSA A SHERO IMO SSGT USAF 020612
MICHAEL A THOMAS IMO SFC USA 000120	ROCK E BLAIS IMO LCDR USN 010830	PETER P TYCZ II IMO SFC USA 020612
JEFFREY R COSTA IMO AIC USAF 000324	WALLACE COLE HOGAN JR IMO MAJ USA 010911	MARK W JACKSON IMO SFC USA 021002
BRAD TUCKER IMO HM1 USN 000310	JOHN J EDMUNDS IMO SPC USA 011019	JEROME E BENNETT IMO TSGT USAF 861028
JOHN L FRANCIOSA IMO CSM USAR 000712	KRISTOFOR T STONESIFER IMO PFC USA 011019	JERRY O "BUCK" POPE IMO ENS USN 021016
SHAWN L MUSTARD IMO EN1 USN 000913	JEFFERSON D DAVIS IMO MSG USA 011205	GREGORY M FRAMPTON IMO SSG USA 030129
TERRELL L WALKER IMO CTO3 USN 001102	DANIEL H PETITHORY IMO SFC USA 011205	THOMAS J GIBBONS IMO CW3 USA 030129
CHAD BURKHART IMO GM2 USN 001124	BRIAN CODY PROSSER IMO SSG USA 011205	DANIEL L KISLING IMO SSG USA 030129
SCOTT M DANIELSON IMO HT2 USN 010221	NATHAN ROSS CHAPMAN IMO SFC USA 020104	MARK S O'STEEN IMO CW3 USA 030130
JOHN A SKOP IMO LT USNR 010307	STANLEY L HARRIMAN IMO CW2 USA 020302	JACOB L FRAZIER IMO SSGT USAFR 030329
TROY WESTBURG IMO SSG USA 010312	JASON D CUNNINGHAM IMO SRA USAF 020304	ORLANDO MORALES IMO SGT USA 030329

NINO D LIVAUDAIS IMO SSG USA 030403
RYAN P LONG IMO SPC USA 030403
RUSSELL B RIPPETOE IMO CPT USA 030403
MARIO MAESTAS IMO IT2 USN 030703
CHRISTOPHER COFFIN IMO 1SG USA 030701
MARK A BIBBY IMO CPL USA 030721
DAVID M TAPPER IMO PH1 USN 030821
MITCHELL A LANE IMO SFC USA 030829
WILLIAM M BENNETT IMO SFC USA 030912
KEVIN N MOREHEAD IMO MSG USA 030912
CHARLES H BUEHRING IMO LTC USA 031026
PAUL A SWEENEY IMO SSG USA 031030

Column Numbers:

R-016

R-017

R-018

R-020

A GATHERING OF EAGLES

- WHO:** The Ranger Family. All Rangers of all Ranger Associations, Active Army Rangers, Ranger Families, Widows, Sons and Daughters of Rangers.
- WHAT:** Meet and Greet, Ranger History Lectures, Seminars, Entertainment, Book Signing, Meet Authors, Memorial Service
- WHEN:** Saturday, March 20, 2004 to Wednesday, March 24, 2004.
- WHERE:** Steinbrenner's Ramada Inn and Convention Center,
Ocala, Florida
Room Cost: \$59.00 per night, plus tax.
Reservation Phone Number: (800) 715-1070 Be sure to say, "Gathering of Eagles".

THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS AVAILABLE...BOOK NOW, YOU CAN CANCEL THROUGH FEBRUARY 4, 2004.

Special entertainment: Theme tickets to Lee Greenwood concert at beautiful Silver Springs and all day at theme park on Sunday March 21, 2004. Tickets with special seating for Rangers in VIP section, including a buffet lunch are \$38.00; for age 10 and under, tickets are \$32.50. For Concert, Theme Park and lunch ticket, send check or money order to: RICA Southern Region, C/O Ranger Gerald Shaffer, 4300 Oakvale Lane, N.W., Kennesaw, GA 30152

Book Review:

Stealth Patrol, The Making of a Vietnam Ranger

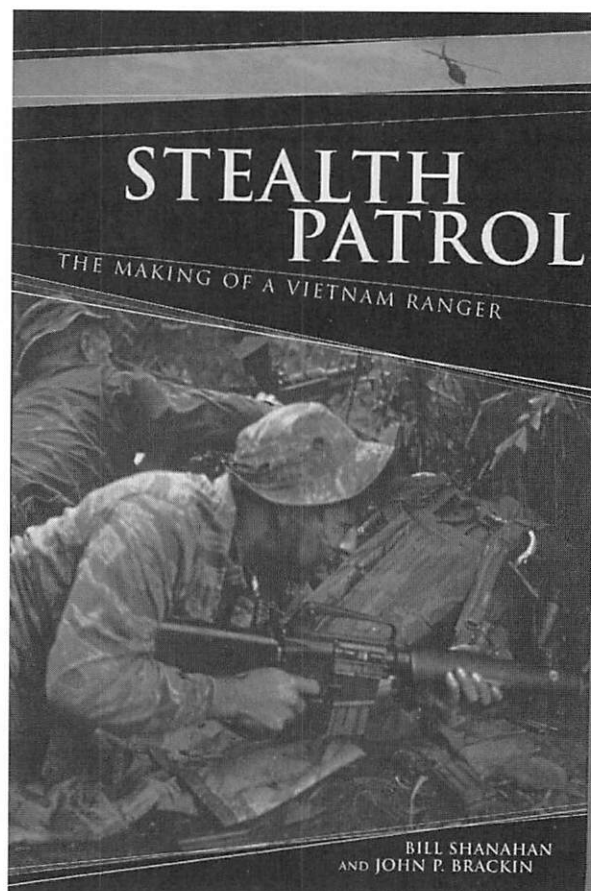
By: Bill Shanahan and John P. Brackin
Da Capo Press

Review by: John Chester

Bill Shanahan served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He started his tour in a Rifle Company, became dissatisfied with what he saw as a wasted effort, and when the opportunity presented itself, he transferred to the 74th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Patrol). He was in the unit when it became Company N, (Ranger), 75th Infantry.

Shanahan's is a straight forward story. There is no rumination on the futility of war or the price that we pay if we are warriors. This is a well written and well constructed memoir of one man's journey through a combat tour in Vietnam as a LRP and a Ranger. There are descriptions of a number of missions that go into a great amount of detail, (I wish my memory was that good), and will certainly take you back to your own experiences as a LRRP, LRP or Ranger.

I appreciated the honesty that Shanahan brought to the work. He's not afraid to admit when he was scared and that makes the experience authentic. There are also descriptions of the life in the rear areas and the N Company area. There are also detailed explanations of weapons, equipment and tactics and the reasoning (or lack of it) for leaving a team in once contact was made or for extracting the team for the same reason.



Stealth Patrol is available in books stores now. You can also order through Amazon.com or from Perseus Books at j.mccrary@perseusbooks.com.

ATTENTION:

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The Airborne & Special Operations Museum has launched the ONLY permanent archive and internet service that preserves the shared history of airborne soldiers and special operations soldiers, both active-duty and veterans.

DON'T let your history, or that of a loved one, be lost. The tremendous contributions and sacrifices soldiers have made and continue to make for America's freedom is a part of history that is too important to be left to chance and forgotten. Record your Army and post-military experiences for future generations to come.

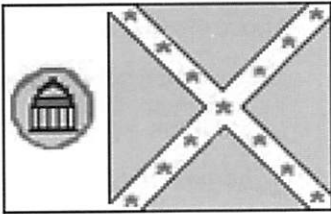
You may enter as much or as little information as you wish. This interactive computer database provides basic historical information accessible through the Roll Call database online and through two touch screen computers in the museum lobby.

Now, until DECEMBER 31ST, 2003, you can enroll for FREE (normally a \$25 charge).

Enroll now at www.asomf.org. For additional information call (910) 483-3003.

We look forward to seeing you in Roll Call.

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



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ranger2c@mchsi.com



GEORGIA STATE COORDINATOR

This is the update of the Georgia State Coordinator to organize and coordinate activities within that State. This is not a leadership position within the Association. The sole purpose for creating of this concept is for the Association to have the flexibility to coordinate critical activities geographically within the State of Georgia regardless of an individual's unit affiliation. Up to this point, the Association has not had the means to reach out to Georgia members, to coordinate funeral services, to visit sick members, the retention of current or lapsed members, the recruitment of new members or the solicitation of Corporate Sponsors within Georgia.

The approving authority for the Georgia State Coordinator position shall be the Association President. State Coordinator reports to and works directly for the Association President. This is a purely volunteer position and the Georgia State Coordinator serves at the discretion of the Association President. There is no reimbursement by the Association for any expenses incurred in the execution of these duties.

The following are a list of functions the Georgia State Coordinator may fulfill:

- Contact Georgia non-members and assist and recruit them in joining the Association.
- Contact members in Georgia whose membership has lapsed and assist them in renewing.
- Organize and coordinate for funeral services in Georgia.
- Organize and coordinate visitation of incapacitated Georgia members.
- Establish an alert roster system for all members within the State of Georgia.
- Maintain an informal contact with all members within the State of Georgia.
- Solicit local Georgia businesses for advertisements and sponsors in the Patrolling Magazine.
- Present a limited Georgia article for publication in the Patrolling Magazine for each edition.
- Present current Georgia information to the web site. (More space available here.)
- Disseminate time sensitive information to Georgia members by alternative means.

(The above list is not mandatory or all-inclusive of the duties or functions for the State Coordinator but serve rather as a guideline.)

The Georgia State Coordinator may cross unit boundaries and / or lines to fulfill the duties listed above in behalf of the Association. As a common courtesy, the Georgia State Coordinator should keep the Unit Director informed concerning pertinent information of any given individual within that unit. The Georgia State Coordinator will not share this information with third parties without the expressed permission of the Association President, Secretary or applicable member.

The responsibility and actions of the State Coordinator are essential and critical to the day-to-day operations of the Association. The ability for the Association to be able to reach members outside the normal chain of command or in conjunction with the unit is paramount. The work sharing of funeral duty assures that no member is left to make the final walk to his grave a solitary one. The assistance in recruitment and retention of members assures the Association strength well in to the future. The potential impact that this position could have on the Association can only be a win / win situation.

I have volunteered for the first assignment to this new concept by seeking the position of State Representative for the State of Georgia. Those of you wishing to contribute to the success of the Association should contact the Association President as soon as possible. Volunteering, contributing and participation in these activities is rewarding.

GEORGIA MEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Emmett W. Hiltibrand F/75
Mike Wise I/75
Marshall Huckaby 25 LRRP
Bob Suchke L/75
Gary Lemonds 50 LRP
Roger Brown 173 LRRP
Eugene Reilly F/75
Dan Pope C/75
David Cummings N/75
Ted Tilson P/75
Doug Perry BDQ

If you live in Georgia and wish to participate along with the rest of us, contact me soonest.

Emmett W. Hiltibrand
ranger2c@mchsi.co

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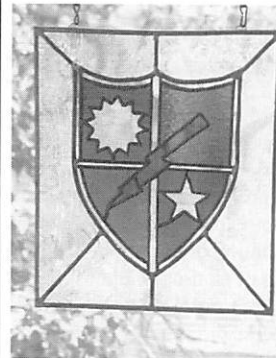
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75th Ranger Regiment Association
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Card ads are still available. This is a great deal at \$100.00 for **FOUR** issues. Let the Ranger community know what you do and what you can supply. Most of us 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.

A RANGER DIED TODAY

He was getting old and grouchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling war stories of the past.

Of a war that he had fought in
And the deeds that he had done.
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were HEROES, every one.

And 'tho sometimes, to his neighbors,
His tales became old hat,
All his buddies listened,
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' John has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer,
For a RANGER died today.

No, he won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Quietly going on his way;
And the world won't note his passing;
'Tho a RANGER died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories,
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a RANGER,
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution,
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promises
And cons his fellow man?

Or is it the ordinary fellow,
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country,
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend,
And the style in which he lives,
Are sometimes disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary RANGER,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal,
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,
For it is so long ago,
That our John's, and Tom's, and Bobby's,
Went to battle, but WE know.

It was not the politicians,
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom,
That our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With is ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a RANGER,
Who has sworn to defend,
His home, his kin, and Country,
And would fight to the end?

He was just a common RANGER,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us,
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
Then we find the RANGER's part,
Is to clean up all the tussles,
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor,
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage,
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline,
In the paper that might say:

**OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
FOR A RANGER DIED TODAY.**

PATROLLING - WINTER 2003



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	

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FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
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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

The Ranger Quartermaster: Quality Ranger Gear

75th Assn Polo Shirt, Black	M L XL, + \$2-> 2XL	_____	x	\$30.00	_____
75th Assn Polo Shirt, Tan	M L XL, + \$2-> 2XL	_____	x	\$30.00	_____
75th Assn Fleece Jacket	M L XL, + \$2-> 2XL	_____	x	\$47.00	_____
75th Assn License Plate Frame		_____	x	\$3.00	_____
75th Assn Ranger Coin		_____	x	\$10.00	_____
Ranger Advisor Hat		_____	x	\$15.00	_____
75th Ranger RGMT Black & Hat		_____	x	\$15.00	_____
75th Ranger DUI Lighter		_____	x	\$15.00	_____
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Earned Not Issued Tee	M L XL, + \$2-> 2XL	_____	x	\$15.00	_____
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RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!



Black Assn. Fleece Jacket



Tan Assn. Polo Shirt



75TH RANGER REGT. ASSOC. INC.



75th Ranger Regiment Association License Plate Frame



Regiment Hat



BDQ Hat



Distinctive Unit Insignia Lighter



DUI/Sua Sponte Flask
(Four Ounce Capacity)

(front)



I'M NOT THE KILLER MAN
I'M THE KILLER MAN'S SON...



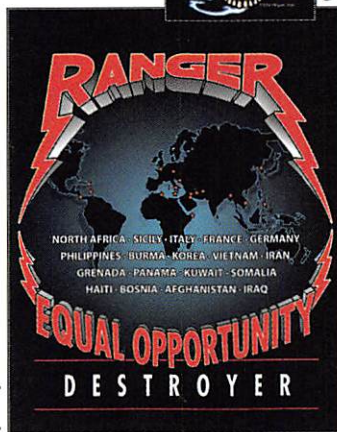
(back)

BUT I'LL DO THE KILLING
TIL THE KILLER MAN COMES!

Ranger with 90mm Recoilless Rifle
M60 MG & Tripod, Ghurka Knife and
Distinctive Unit Insignia Shield &
the coveted Black Beret. Text is from
a cadence.

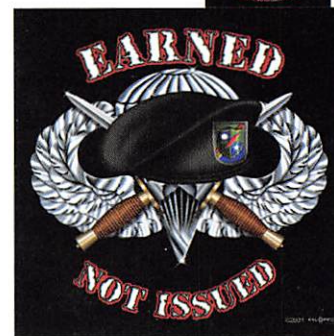


(front)



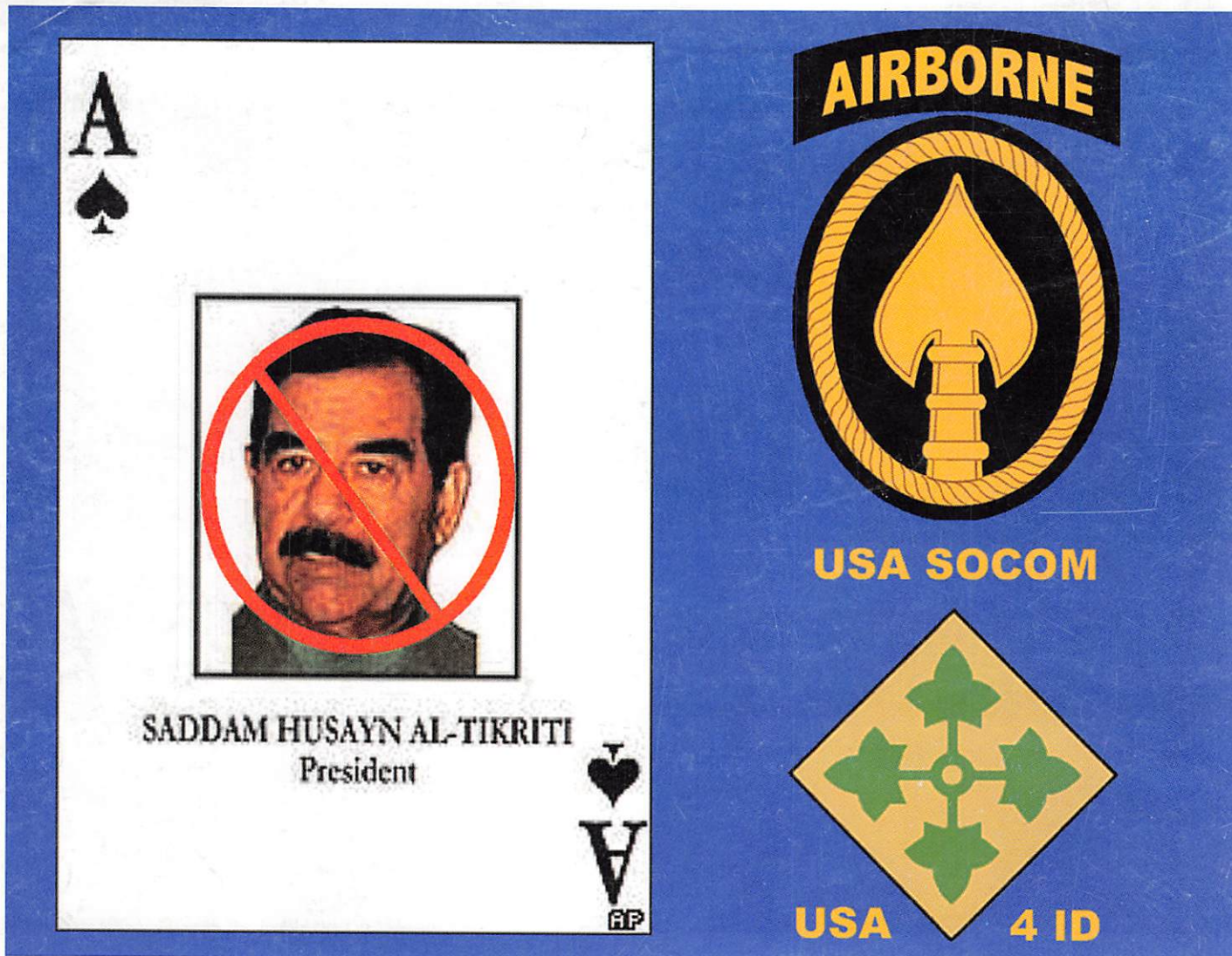
(back)

Rangers have provided the enemy in
the 18 locations noted by a gold star
on this global map, with an equal
opportunity to be destroyed.



The pride in a job well done and a
symbol earned, not freely given
remains strong among all Rangers
who earned the Coveted Black Beret.

ONLINE AT WWW.75THRANGERS.COM



GOT YA!!!

Clearly Saddam wasn't playing with a full deck, but Troops of the 4th Infantry Division and the Special Operations Command drew the Ace of Spades. Saddam was captured December 14, 2004. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. thanks and congratulates the Men and Women of the 4th ID and SOCOM for a job well done. We also want to Thank and congratulate all the men and women of all the Armed Forces serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and all the related areas in the war against terrorism.

Ed Note: I got a call about 0800 Sunday with the news of Saddam's capture. I immediately called Dana (the President of the 75th RRA) & told him that I wanted to get something in the upcoming issue that was at the printer and ready to be printed. I then called David Walker, who has done the unit graphics in the magazine and the web site. Dana sent the playing card, Dave, in the true Ranger spirit dropped everything he was doing, and made the above graphic. This is an example of the working concept of Honor and Brotherhood that I discussed in my article and elsewhere in the magazine. Thanks David. RLTW!



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