

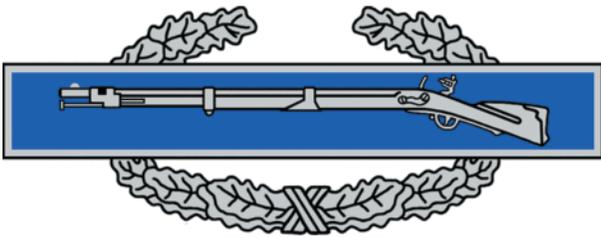
PATROLLING

SUMMER 2004 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 19 ISSUE I



*Best Ranger Competition, 2004, Helo-cast.
Photo by John Chester*

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*This is a copy of the back of the 2004 Reunion Tee shirt.
Graphics by Dave Walker.*

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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:

The credit belongs to the man in the arena, truly applies here. Your Web Site Crew has out done themselves this time. Graphic's are clearer. Friends are sending in Tributes for their fallen comrades daily. More and more Health sections are being populated with life saving information and the biggest and best part is that a whole new web site is being developed right now, behind the scenes. You better have a gander at the old one soon, before it's history. The new one is like none that I have ever seen. It's no where near completion but it is shaping up nicely. State of the art and high speed just like we were in our younger days. All those wonderful pages that were buried too deeply are being brought up front within your finger tips. All of this is owed to those who were willing to step forward and offer their services. We still need a lot of help and there will always be room for those who wish to give something back to the Association. Submit a Tribute to a fallen man in your Unit. Pick a Health section and volunteer to populate it. You do not have to be a programmer or rocket scientist to do this. All you need is a willingness to help. We'll find something for you to do and you'll see the fruit of your efforts in no time at all.

RLTW - Strength & Honor

Emmett W. Hiltibrand

Patrolling Magazine:

We are considering running a handbook on health issues. This would be a compendium of all the health articles that have been published in the magazine over the last four years. These would include articles dealing with filing a claim, as well as articles dealing only with health problems and diagnosis. Also under consideration is the method of distribution; do we mail copies to all the members, and then charge a nominal fee for additional copies, or simply make them an expense of the Association, and give them to whom-so-ever wants them? Send an e-mail to the editor and let me know what you think.

Dave Walker has once again worked his magic with the graphics of the unit patches and DUI'S, as well as being involved in the design of the Tee shirts for this year's reunion. Dave does very good work Thanks Dave.

John Chester

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dana McGrath

**75th RRA REUNION:
SEATTLE/TACOMA
07/31/04 08/04/04
FT. LEWIS HOME OF THE
SECOND BATTALION**

Let us know if you're planning to attend by visiting your Association Website (www.75thRRA.com) and follow the 75thRRA REUNION link on the front page - Warning Order is out and the clock's running out fast! I hope to see you ALL there soon. I have a probable-count of over 200 people attending, so you'll miss some interesting days if you don't get there!

Website: Visit the Website and run through your Unit pages - the Unit Directors and The WebGuru, SGM Emmett Hiltibrand, have been working to get all the Fallen Rangers' information and stories posted so we can remember their gift to us forever. If your Unit has missing or incorrect information, PLEASE HELP YOUR UNIT DIRECTOR NOW with the info only YOU might have so we can present our Brothers as well as memory will allow.

Patrolling: Fantastic. I know of no equal publication for and by Rangers in the world. I also know it couldn't be done by "us" if Ranger John Chester and the Vendors who handle it weren't PROFESSIONALS in every sense of the word.

The Losses: Horrid events we're too familiar with, as they are a part of the job we all volunteered to do. Horrible times for the Families, the Nation and its War on Terror. We stand at the Ceremonies of our Fallen Brethren, wanting to help, yet helpless, hoping to "fix" what

can simply not be fixed, but we're THERE, regardless of the distance and "trouble" to get there. Every one of you who has lifted that HEAVY ruck and headed out to be there has our undying respect and gratitude. There have been famous and un-famous names on the list of the Fallen Rangers, but in "our" world, they are truly equals by their CHOICE to serve as Rangers and their willingness to keep doing so in the face of the outcome to them and their loved ones. The job left to us is to REMEMBER them and assist their Families at each point in life where that is possible. I am certain that job will, as usual, be DONE by Rangers forever. Our sympathies and promise to be there when needed extend to all points of the globe, wherever a Ranger or Ranger Family is in need of such help. The Families of the Fallen and those wounded in the War on Terror become our priority when that need arises – it's what it's all about in the Ranger world.

This is my last article as your President (did I say Thanks yet?). I will soon step down from this "lofty" position with its responsibility to represent all of you as if you were there in person. No job I've held brought a heavier responsibility to the heart of my world, and I can only hope I've done it well enough to satisfy you. I could never have done it well enough to satisfy ME, so I sure understand where you aren't satisfied, either! I have been asked a few times "What have you done for the Association?" – a reasonable question in my opinion, and part of what each

person considers each day of a "Representative's" life. The answer is timeless and fits well this term of office – I've done NOTHING noteworthy, and all accomplishments were by the best "Team" of Rangers I've ever had the fortune to have served on. To each of them I owe my heartfelt THANKS and admiration for the heft of their rucksacks. This Association has been "run" by its Members and its Board since it was first formed, and when ANY single Ranger can "accomplish" anything on his own, I'll be the first one to COPY HIS APPROACH and use it in the rest of my world. You have an Association of RANGERS in good financial shape and with the ability to go wherever it decides to go in the future – YOU must take it from here to where YOU want it to go. Don't just "get involved" – GET IMMERSED and you'll know the joy of the job you do for your Brothers. Nobody can tell you how "hard" it is without also telling you of the Honor of having been selected to do it with all the downside-issues you might bring to the job. Don't Mean Nuthin', just DRIVE THE ___ ON and do all you can. Where you miss a step, fix it if you can – if you can't "fix it", see "Drive On", above. None of you killed me to show me how poorly I was handling it all, and for that I say THANKS, Rangers. I'm leaving the President's chair, but I'm out here if needed, just not in line for another Board term at this moment. VOLUNTEERS – Take One Step Forward (insert sound of much shuffling to rear, leaving a few up front who weren't listening).

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The 75thRRA Membership Agenda for your review (we’ll vote on these and other items at the Reunion):

A. A motion will be made for a temporary One-Year Term of Office for the President and Secretary positions:

1. Reschedule our Bi-Annual Reunions to coincide with the 75th Ranger Regiment Change Of Command, which is held on our current “off-year”. The benefits here are endless, the downsides are obvious. The events which are so hard to schedule at the Battalion Bases are part of the Regimental Change of Command, and if you haven’t seen one of those, you should see one ASAP – AWESOME presentation by Rangers, with all the trimmings and events included in the few days of the Ceremony. Remember, the Batts have JOBS to do, and there are many Ranger Associations to “please”. We don’t care much about the fanfare, we just want to see our younger Brothers wherever it is possible to do so without taking time from their duties and their Families! This will correct many problems for all involved in future 75thRRA Reunions.

2. Provide the Association the opportunity to attract more Rangers for Leadership positions in the future from the vicinity of the Home of Rangers, Ft. Benning, GA. The primary Board positions are more easily handled when you’re “up the street” from the events than when you’re “out in the hinterlands” where most of us have landed. There are more available Rangers in the Ft. Benning area than any other place

I know, and it takes a lot of TIME to do these jobs, no matter how “simple” you try to make each job. Ranger Hiltibrand and Ranger Chester have offered to fill these positions in addition to their current duties IF elected and IF these motions are passed. Others are sure encouraged to step up and Lead The Way with their thoughts and effort.

B. Financial: Our bylaws were changed a few years ago to require all Life Membership monies to be invested in a “high-rate CD” or other good-return SAFE investment with preservation of capital being the highest priority. In the current times (as in the times of that change, actually), such instruments simply do not exist without unacceptable risk. The idea was to have the interest “pay” for the cost of Lifetime Association Member-level expenses, but that is just not going to work on \$250 bearing any imaginable interest rate. The Magazine and mailing costs alone take the majority of the revenue-per-Member, and that is acceptable and desired to continue at its present level of quality. Since the constraints of that requirement were never met and could not be met, the next Board will present its approach to changes of this part of the bylaws. The Association exists for its Members and its “secondary” purposes – it either trusts its Board of Rangers or it won’t exist for long. SUPPORT your Board’s decisions and let them know where you differ from their suggestions, but be ready to STAND UP and become a Board Member if you really believe in your approach and others don’t accept it as well. The Family

Fund is a separate account and should always be so, of course. THANKS for supporting that worthy cause so well in the past. I know we’ll continue as long as we breathe.

MEMBERSHIP:

GROWING, and much of that growth is from the “less-old” (I’m a Diplomat, but not real good at it) Rangers of more-recent vintage (see “Diplomacy”). They’re going to be the ones who take this thing into the future beyond my life, and I am thrilled to get to “meet” them and realize just how quickly they’re finding out who and what we are in the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. We’re all the same Rangers, as we’ve all known for a long time. Get them into the jobs and let them take the point where they can – they’re GOOD to work with and have equally-great ideas for the future (they ARE the future, you know). The current times will put many Rangers on our streets with memories many of us can recall, and the Brotherhood of this Ranger Association is the best route for them to take to find folks who know who they are, who and what they’ve been, and what the future will be like for them. That will be a priority with which many of us can help in the future, and I well-remember being “them” a long time ago – tough days ahead after the tougher days are done. If we don’t strive to take better care of our younger Brothers than we experienced, then WE become part of the problem, not the “cure” for those who are walking a path we’ve walked already. Those who have walked it must improve it for those who must walk it later, or their walk is diminished in its importance to the future.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

RHOF:

July 8, Ft. Benning – if you haven't watched as our Ranger Heroes are inducted into the Ranger Hall Of Fame, GET THERE – you won't forget the experience. Congratulations go to the Inductees, all of which have belonged there for a long time, all of which will be among those already enshrined in that Hall. There will be an interesting and much-deserved Honorary Member Of The Regiment Induction, too, and I can say it is a well-deserved award for these honored Citizens as it has been in the past.

There will be other issues brought up and discussed (at RANGER-level, of course) at the Membership Meeting, as there could be issues we just haven't thought of and need to, or there could be Candidates for office of which I am simply are not aware

as I write this article. These are not ALL the issues – it's what the Meeting is for, so if you're willing (or not paying attention when everyone else backs up one step), get IMMERSED in the Ranger world for a while and make your voice and beliefs known to all. It'll do you good, and if I live 'til 08/02/04, I can tell you it won't kill you, and it will give you another memory you'll never regret or forget. If it does kill me, I'll go in Honor of the memory of having done it. THANKS, Rangers – as Ronnie has said so well - it's the one of the best rides I've ever been on, worth at least 20 tickets and a 4-hour wait at Disneyland.

Sandee Rouse and Sandy Harris, I have to tell you one day just how much I value your willingness to help those who have entered your special "world". When I find the right words, I'll use them, but for

now, know how much I appreciate your friendship and your courage in the tough world of the Gold Star Mother and Wife. It is the Ranger-truth when I say "I couldn't have done it without you", and I sure hope you know it. I know how much it means to the Family to be helped in the worst of times by someone who knows too well where they've been, how they feel, what will happen next, and that there IS a future out there even when it's impossible to see. Where we can help, you have our support, respect and admiration. I think it's more like "awe" in my case, and I'm sure not alone there...

Rangers – if you can make it to Seattle/Tacoma, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW and I'll see you there SOON. If you can't, I'll sure see you at a Reunion when you can make it.

Dana McGrath

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Wayne Mitsch

By: Wayne Mitsch

I can't stop talking about this Association and what we stand for. It really is all about giving, caring, sharing and helping one another. Unfortunately, I don't get to see what is going to be written in each Patrolling edition before it goes out, so I have no way of commenting on other articles in this addition. However, I just have to reflect back to the last edition (spring 2004) and point out how awesome this Association is. If you have a minute, grab your copy of the spring edition and look at a few pages. Notice in Ron's article on page 7 that this Association **gave \$22,764.00 in 2003** to the Rangers' Family Fund. Or how about John's article on the same page – **no one financially challenged will be denied membership in the Association**. Quoting Bill Bullen on page 16 while discussing his personal experience with PTSD – **"This is what this Association is all about, Rangers**

helping Rangers". Or, how about Bob Crawford's article in page 32? Talk about sharing and caring. Bob, you are truly awesome! So much for giving and caring – I'm sure there are enough examples throughout the Association to fill this entire edition.

I am reminded of one such experience that happened a couple of years ago with one of our members from the K/75 - 4th Division LRRP. This brother lost his job, his wife had medical complications, and was financially distressed along with some other family financial issues. I sent out an email call for help among the 4th Division members. I never mentioned who this member was or the extent of his needs – just that a brother needed our help. The donations flowed in. It was very humbling – it was quite an awesome experience. The same happened when we needed matching funds for our KIA's bricks at the Ranger

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Memorial – far more donations than were needed. We truly are an Association of caring – we are certainly blessed.

On another note, did you read James Benjamin's article about Daniel Battise? I think we should invite Mr. Battise to the reunion, all expenses paid of course, give him the microphone and let him talk for 3 days!

It was at the last reunion when Dana asked me to be the vice president of your Association. He said "Wayne just keep me out of trouble and reel me in if I get too far out." I told him I could do that and I would under two conditions. One, he had to stay healthy so I wouldn't have to assume the president's position and two, I had no plans for stepping up to the president's position 2 years later. Well, the good news is that it is 2 years later, Dana has stayed healthy, (never did quit smoking) I never had to reel him in and I have no plans on seeking another position on the board right now. I have been a member of the Association since the early 90's and will continue to be active. I have enjoyed my 2 years service, although I will tell you that when you have as strong of a board, web master and editor as we have, my job was easy. Once again, I would like to give a big Hooah and a hearty thank you to Dana, Ron, Joe, Emmett and John for making my tour of duty a memorable and painless experience.

As of today, I am not aware of anyone who has contacted Dana about any of the 4 board positions that are open for the next term. I hope you will think very seriously between now and the reunion about running for one of these positions.

This is my last article as a board member. I look forward to seeing you at the reunion. I would like to end with a quote by John Chester from the last edition. **"This Association is all about brotherhood, not about money. I hope that never changes, if it does there wouldn't be much point to being a member, would there?"**



'Wayne & Fran Mitsch'

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By Ron Edwards

I am not good at putting my thoughts down on paper (or even letting them out as my wife says) so all my columns have been difficult to write. This will be my last column as my second tour as Secretary ends with the reunion and elections this summer. I am not a candidate for any office in the association. It is not what I want to do, and I have debated myself endlessly over it, but I know it is what I must do. I leave home at 0530 and usually return at 1800 and then try to squeeze my association work between the needs of my family for the evening and on Sundays when I should be fishing or just throwing a ball with my boys (eight & fourteen). In the last year I have found myself not doing well at either and both deserve better.

I do recommend the job to all of you, as I have said before it is a hell of a ride and one you should have made me pay the association for the pleasure. I have

accomplished some things and failed to accomplish others but that is always the case in any endeavor. (some just realize it while others say it wasn't their fault) I will especially miss working with people I didn't even know four years ago. I have been on the losing end of several votes among the officers of the association, and have had many more than one late night "discussion" on the why's and wherefores of this or that. I have probably drunk a case of Wild Turkey just talking to Emmett on the phone or reading Dana's emails late at night. John Chester is a gem that all of you need to meet (along with the lovely MaryAnn) and what a job he has done with "Patrolling". I am going to stop the list there, not because it is the end of the list, but because the list really is too long to write down. Just so many people that I have had the opportunity to meet and work with that I would never

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

have met otherwise.

I'm going to blame this story on Rudy Teodosio who served in N/75 and then in 2/75 I think. I worked with Rudy in the Airborne Department at Fort Benning. I think that Rudy got out of the army for awhile and then decided to enlist again. It seems in some conversation sometime someone asked why he came back in, and Rudy's answer was that he associated with a better class of people in the army. That's kind of the way I feel about the association, working with men better than myself was a privilege. Rudy, if that story isn't true, it might as well be now that I have put it in print.

And so, as Roy & Dale use to say Happy Trails... I have usually included some of my memories of my missions, but since this is my last column, I will skip to the end.

Going Home

About the last week in February 1971, I took a radio relay out on one of our active firebases. Team 1-1 was virtually a nonentity at this time because of wounds and consolidating with other partial teams to make up something that could be sent to the field. This was not a regular mission since we were "secure" on the firebase and we expected to stay out two or three weeks. There were four of us I believe and we would monitor the radio in shifts and read or play cards in our assigned bunker. Pretty boring for us. I would go down to the firebase TOC for their updates and also report to them whatever our teams were doing. They seemed impressed because it seemed like one of our teams somewhere was always into something. We played Hearts mostly I think with some Rummy and Spades.

We received a message from the company one day for "Ed" to be ready for pick-up that afternoon. My official codename was "Rebel" but we didn't have anyone with the codename of "Ed" and I was the closest to it so I packed my things and went down to the pad. We had only been out about 10 days so I didn't have any idea what was going on. It turned out that a typographical error had cut my deros by 20 days. When the orders came down the company just jerked me off the relay as quick as possible and two or three days later I was on my way to Cam Rahn Bay and home.

It took about two days at Cam Rahn Bay to be issued a set of khakis to wear on the flight back to the states and get my name on the manifest for a plane. While on

the Radio Relay I had developed an infection from an insect bite on my knee. The company doc in L Co. had dressed it and told me to change the bandage at least every two days. Well, I had about 2 days in the company area, then 2 days at Division out processing, then 2 days at Cam Rahn Bay and hadn't bothered to change the bandage. The night before my flight the knee was really itching so I took the bandage off and got a good scare when along with the bandage I pulled a long string of pus out of a hole in my knee. The hole was about as round as a pencil and seemed to go straight down for two or three inches. The sight of it was quite enough to get me to a local dispensary. There was a young medic there and he put me up on one of the steel beds and proceeded to pack some cotton strings down into the hole to soak up the pus and then pulled it back out while I tried to bend the edges of that steel bed. He got it cleaned up and again warned me to change the bandage every day. This time I made absolutely sure I followed directions.

Not much to say about the flight back from Nam, I do remember a general cheer when the aircraft wheels left the ground. It was a civilian plane complete with stewardesses, who took it all with a good attitude. I imagine they flew weekly flights and were used to it. Back to Ft. Lewis, Washington. It was raining when I left for the flight to Nam and it was still raining when I came back. I was there about 3 days on the way to Nam but only 24-30 hours on the way back-one night at any rate. They processed us, fed us a steak dinner no matter what time of day it was and had us back out the door pretty quick. It probably took a little more time for the ones who were processing out of the army instead of just PCS-ing. They recommended we go by the PX and get some civilian clothes for travel. They probably did that because of demonstrations but I was glad to just be able to wear something other than a uniform. I caught a plane to California to see my sisters and spent 3 or 4 days there before flying on to Alabama. I had 30 days leave to spend but was really ready to leave after 2 weeks. I knew that would hurt my parent's feelings so I stuck it out for 3 weeks before reporting in early to Ft. Polk, Louisiana. I did not have any problems readjusting to the "real world". My sleep cycle was messed up and I tended to fall asleep at 2 PM no matter where I was or what I was doing, but that soon passed. There were two times I felt slightly "out of place". One time was just walking out in the front yard one morning. Perhaps it was the general "green" setting. In Vietnam, Camp Eagle had

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

been a brown dust hill and the only time I was surrounded by green I was in the jungle on a mission. Anyway, on walking out into the yard one morning I suddenly had a queasy feeling that "Gee, I sure would make a good target out here in the middle, I should be going around the edge of this open space". It was just a fleeting feeling and not repeated as I remember. The second time involved the helicopters at nearby Ft. McClellan. I had seen several UH-1s fly over the house and something always seemed wrong with them. It finally came to me that these UH-1s had doors on them. In Nam they always had the doors removed and two M-60s sticking out the sides.

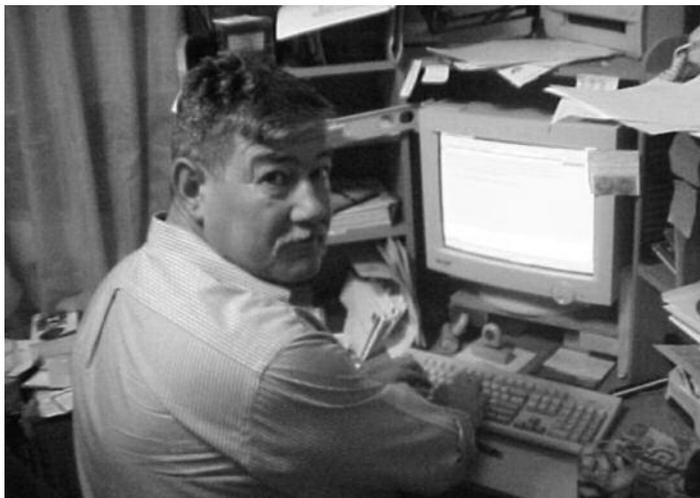
During my leave my dad and I went car hunting. I knew what I wanted; a 1965 Mustang convertible with a 289 engine and 4-speed. We found a 1966 convertible with a 289 engine and automatic transmission. Close enough, I was happy with it and 10 years and 200 thousand miles later I sold it for more than I paid for it.

My time in Vietnam, between missions, was often spent drinking. If you were not on guard, ambush, or waiting to be inserted there really wasn't much else to do. The whole time of my leave I had not had a drop and really hadn't thought of it. Dad, although a drinker in his day, now did not allow any in the house and the city of Anniston was still "dry" at that time. After about 3 days of getting settled at Ft. Polk, I decided it was time to get out and see the town. In Nam a common way to drink was to cut the top out of a coke can with a "P-38" can opener pour half into another empty can then put in some ice if available and refill the rest with bourbon. Or what I usually drank was Canadian VO blended whiskey. Jim McLaughlin

drank that and it was as good as any so that is what I usually drank. While checking out the town I stopped at a little nightspot and having no particular preference just ordered what I was used to; a VO and coke. After a month without a drink of liquor that sudden familiar taste and aroma did, for a instant, bring back the "feel" of Viet-nam and coke cans half full of whisky. Again it was a fleeting feeling not to be repeated.

Although many soldiers reported being abused upon their return, I did not run into any of that. Perhaps it was traveling in civilian clothes, or just that I returned to Alabama which has always been a conservative and patriotic state. Then going on to Ft. Polk, Louisiana, no one to demonstrate there either. Why travel to Ft. Polk when you could demonstrate in much nicer and more comfortable areas.

OK-Finally- that's it. There's no more to tell unless I go into my military career, two marriages and what I usually have for dinner- Happy Trails - Ron Edwards



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

I recently attended a seminar on veteran's representation given by the Texas Veterans Commission in Ft Worth. I attended with Jim Cooke an old friend from the 3rd BDE of the 25th INF DIV days. I learned a fair amount and got to meet some pretty interesting people, so it was a good deal all around, and it was free, aside from the trip expenses. Hard to beat a deal like that. A lot of what they dealt with was not germane to what we do but there were many nuggets of information, especially dealing with the appeals process, that were worth mining. Remember, if you are having a difficult time with the VA check in with me, I may be able to point you in the right direction.

I'm sad to report that the pheasant isn't working out as I hoped. The rooster has not brought order to the hen house, the chickens are regularly kicking his ass. Most of the time the pheasants huddle together and hope the hens don't notice them. Looks like we got a REMF pheasant, he looks real pretty, but he can't fight worth a damn. He can't even take care of his hen, the chickens beat the crap out of her too. We're looking for another home for the REMF pheasants.

After the seminar in Ft Worth, we drove over to Ft Benning and attended the Best Ranger Competition. We had quite a party, Ron Edwards came over from Alabama, Brian Radcliffe was also staying with family in Alabama, and he came over. Dana McGrath came up from Florida with Peggy and we all attended the festivities. Brian, Ron and Mary Anne and I all stayed with Emmett and Rebecca, so their house was kinda crowded one night. I was very impressed by the competition, (see article, this issue). It's not the first one I've been to, but I never fail to be amazed by the level of skill and commitment exhibited by the competitors, and I never leave there with out vowing

to get in better shape.

People with PTSD should not raise Bonsai

I have raised Bonsai for almost 30 years. Bonsai are miniature potted trees that are trained in various postures. Going into the winter I had about a half-dozen outside and a few that winter over inside. We had a pretty bad winter, with a lot of snow and about two months of below freezing weather. I usually make some sort of shelter for the outside trees, but this past year, I just didn't get around to it. The mid-winter lethargy set in along with the short days, (it's called Seasonal Affective Disorder caused by the lessening of daylight hours), and then I got sick. That was another excuse to do nothing, sort of a default setting on the PTSD dial.

Most of the people I know who have PTSD to a greater or lesser degree, have only two settings, STOP, (lethargy, disinterest, isolation), or GO, (manic, compulsive, work around the clock, etc.). Well, I was on stop most of the winter. When Spring came around this year, most of the outside trees didn't. This of course, caused feelings of guilt and self hatred, which helped fuel the depression that is the constant companion of our old friend PTSD. What to do? Well, in a rare moment of clarity, it occurred to me that I should simply eliminate the growing of these little trees. If I don't make any attempt to grow them, they won't die, and I won't feel guilty. Simple, huh? The Buddhists say that all suffering is caused by desire; in order to eliminate suffering, you merely need to eliminate the underlying desire for things, possessions, position, etc. No trees, no suffering? Sounds like a plan.

Once I decided to do that, immediately I was plagued with another problem. Now I feel like a coward,

EDITOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

instead of facing the problem, I am running away from it. One thing I became sure of, PTSD was not going to let me off the hook, if I looked hard enough, I'd find something to feel bad about and get depressed. I discussed the problem with Mary Anne and didn't come up with any answers, only more questions. Is there a solution to this? Probably not. Talking to my friends with the same problems helps. As I have often said, PTSD can't be cured, but it can be managed. Will I grow more trees? I don't know. It is said that eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. It is also the price you pay for PTSD. I have found that living totally in each moment, recognizing the symptoms as they appear, and managing them to the best extent possible, is the price I have to pay.

Having a partner that understands helps, but there are so many close to us that don't have a clue, (parents, children, siblings, etc.), that it is discouraging. I can't educate the entire world, or even my extended family, about PTSD and its effects, but I wonder if it would make any difference if I did. People will believe what they wish, in spite of the facts. While researching another article I ran into the following quote:

“To those who know, no explanation is necessary. To those who don't, no explanation is possible.”
Schuberth

I am finishing up my 4th year as editor of this magazine. The position requires that I be in close contact with the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Web Master, etc., so I get to see some of the inner workings of the Association. I especially get to see all the people that do a lot of unheralded work. I keep

promising myself that I will devote an article to these guys, but then better sense prevails and I think of all the pissed off people that I will forget to mention or that I don't know about, and I forget about it.

There is one guy however that I just have to thank, and that's Dave Walker. I called Dave a couple months ago, just about the time that the magazine was to go to print with a request. Saddam had just been captured and I wanted to change the back of the magazine. He did it in no time. I recently called on him to re-design the reunion tee shirt, and to make a new design for a magazine centerfold. He also re-engineered all the unit graphics in the magazine. Take a look at yours, nice, huh? Thanks Dave, for all the help at odd hours. Dave does nice work, I never get the last copy, I know a better one is on the way. We have come a long way in 4 years, but we still have a ways to go yet. We still want to put each issue out supported solely by the ads it carries, at no cost to the Association. At present, we are about half way there. If anyone has any ideas, don't be afraid to let me know. Take a look at the center of the magazine, the four color pages will be available for ads. (Again, thanks to Dave Walker, he designed the text ad.)

In the last few days I received calls from two different people that I helped with a claim or an appeal concerning the VA. Both were successful, the VA ruled in their favor. Some things do end up OK.

A thought to consider:

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

WEB MASTER
By **Emmett W. Hiltibrand**

75th Ranger Regiment Association



ALVIN WINSLOW FLOYD



Alvin Winslow Floyd died in the service of his country while serving in F Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division



GENERAL / PERSONAL

Last name:
First name:
Home of Record (official):
State (official):
Date of Birth:
Marital Status:

MILITARY

Branch: Army
Rank:
Component: Infantry
MOS (Military Occupational Specialty code):
Major Organization:
Unit of assignment:

ACTION

Entered Service:
Start of Tour:
Date of Casualty:
Age at time of loss:
Casualty type: Hostile, died
Reason: Gun, small arms fire, ground
Country: South, Vietnam
Province:

TRIBUTE

Vietnam Memorial Wall: Panel , Row Picture of Vietnam Memorial
Ranger Memorial Stone: Section , Column Picture of Ranger Memorial Stone
You may submit your Remembrance for
Alvin Winslow Floyd to be posted on this page.

Honor is one of the traits that make men do the impossible. The fear of failure is also a strong drive to excel beyond ones physical and mental means. It is this honor to my fellow man and the failure not to do the right thing has driven me to work long hours on this web site for you. I developed the above page to honor our fallen comrades. Some pages are almost completely populated with the correct data that shows those who have given their all. Several pages are just a shell as the one above. But there are far too many that are completely void of any data. This is unacceptable gentlemen. These were guys who were over there with you. These are guys who gave their lives so others could be free. These are guys who didn't come home. The least we can do is honor them before it is too late. The task lies in the hands of your Unit Director. I have contacted them all and requested their assistance. You elected them into this position. You might ask them why your Units pages are blank.

I'm creating pages as fast as I can. I do not have the time to research the data that goes in each Tribute. Most Units already have that data. It is just a matter of working with me to construct these pages. Go to the KIA pages by YEAR and in the far right column, you will see the word "REMEMBRANCE". See if your Unit has presented anything. This is your web site as it is your Association. The old adage of 'Trash in, trash out' applies here. If nothing is sent, then nothing gets posted. Is it time for a change or is it time for others to assist in what is going on and that effects you as a member.

There are some where's in the neighborhood of 500+ Killed In Action comrades in our Association. I've created about 200 or so pages. Most are not even flushed out yet. Ask your Unit Director if you can take over this portion from him and assist in completing your Units Tributes. There is no sense sending me Tributes or pictures until the pages are created. The data has to be sent first, then we can flush out the page with Tributes and pictures. If it had been you that didn't come back, wouldn't you want someone to at least to have remembered you? Let's get the ball rolling on this and get it done. Nowhere else has this ever been undertaken on this scale. Only in a Association of Units filled with you guys could this be done.

Collectively, this is no one's fault but our own. All too often we tend to sit back and let others do things for us. And when things don't get done, then we do what is so natural, we complain. It stops now. It stops with us. From this point forward we begin to help each other and this Association. It begins now.

**CONTACT YOUR UNIT DIRECTOR, NOW.
GET INVOLVED, NOW.
LET'S HONOR THESE MEN, NOW.**

http://www.75thrra.com/

GOLD STAR...



As I write this we are approaching Memorial Day.

For so many this day celebrates the beginning of a bright and beautiful summer.

For those of us who have paid for the price of Freedom with the life of our loved one it is a time to remember and wonder if others are remembering.

This one day our nation is asked to think about how precious what our country stands for, is. To think about those who served proudly and valiantly and ask only that we value what they were willing to fight for.

There are none that serve more willingly, passionately and bravely than our Rangers.

We send our most heart felt sympathy, love and prayers to two more Ranger families.

Ranger Pat Tillman 27 who died in Afghanistan April 22 when his patrol vehicle came under attack. Ranger Tillman was assigned to 2/75 Ranger Battalion. Cpl. Tillman gave up a career most young men only dream up as an NFL player to become something even more special a United States Army Ranger. He is a real example of the truth in what I tell people. You CAN NOT MAKE A MAN A RANGER. RANGERS ARE BORN. IT IS THEIR DESTINY. Ranger Tillman leaves behind a loving wife, mother, father and brother (who also serves proudly as a Ranger)

The other Ranger Christian Kilpatrick had just this

past December left 3/75. He was working as a private contractor and had returned to Iraq when his team was ambushed. Christian had spent 20 months in Afghanistan and Iraq while with 3/75 and had gone back to try to continue to serve our cause over there. Christian leaves behind his mom, stepdad, dad, and his brothers.

These two brave men probably never met each other and yet they were brothers.

I will ask you again if you have not contacted your fallen buddies family ,WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?????? For us every day is Memorial Day.

TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY, WE CAN NEVER REPAY WHAT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO THOSE OF US HERE AT HOME. WE SALUTE YOU AND WE THANK YOU.

I hope I get to meet all of you personally in July in Washington .

Until next time let me say once again what an honor it is to serve you and our Goldstar families. I am soooooo Blessed

HOOAH Rangers (I love it my computer doesn't understand Hooah)
RLTW

Sandee

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

D I S C L A I M E R

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. Article IV: Sec. 2. The Association shall not endorse any political candidate, platform or party. Sec. 3. Officers, Directors and Members shall not engage in any form of activity that implies or specifically relates the Association to any form of public activity without first obtaining approval from the Association. 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 Article IV, Section 5: The foregoing does not restrict or prohibit members from engaging in activities which are the constitutional right of any citizen. 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

CRDP UPDATE 25

According to a DFAS website posting, Concurrent Receipt or Concurrent Disability Pay (CDP) is now called Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP); and, although the name has changed, the program has not. DFAS said it paid 144,098 retirees their CRDP payments on time on February 2, 2004 and that it paid 2,620 retirees whose retired pay is calculated based on a percentage of disability. Due to the complexity of the calculation, these retirees received their electronic fund transfer deposits on February 13, 2004. Retirees who receive hard-copy checks in the mail have been issued payments as well and should allow for mailing time. On-going CRDP payments will be paid on the first business day of each month. These payments will continue without the need for further action from eligible retirees. In the future, CRDP rates will automatically increase or decrease based on the percentage of disability reported by the VA.

Retirees from the National Guard or the Reserve with VA disability ratings of 50% or better, no matter what they had been told in the past, may still qualify for Concurrent Retired and Disability Pay (CRDP). Until recently Guard and Reserve retirees were told they had to have a minimum of 7200 points to qualify for CRDP. Specifically any retired reservist or guardsman that has "20 Good Years" and meets the remaining eligibility requirements is eligible to get their CRDP benefits just like their active duty counterparts. Eligibility for the CRDP includes all

chapter 61 medically retired personnel with twenty years of service whether their service was twenty or more years of active duty or twenty or more GOOD YEARS for Reserve Retirement (section 12732 of US Code 10). A GOOD YEAR is one in which the retiree had earned a minimum of 50 points. Guard or Reserve retirees, who believe they qualify for CRDP but are not currently receiving it or had been turned down in the past, should take the following steps:

- Gather all of your documentation including your letter of Retirement Eligibility ("20 Good Years Letter") and your last point summary.
- Call DFAS at the toll free number 1-800-321-1080 to determine the reason for nonpayment. [Source: NAUS Update 9 APR 04]

CRSC UPDATE 18

DFAS is sitting on thousands of approved CRSC claims while waiting for DOD to issue an implementation policy letter because its lawyers only recently reconciled the legal connection between CRSC and Individual Unemployable (IU) and the method of determination. Months ago, it was decided to pay disabled retirees with IU rated by VA at the 100% rate when their CRSC is at least 60%. DOD has said the decision will be released soon, since it was only a procedural problem. Not a policy change. Driving the DOD internal push for resolution is the fact that the retroactive CRSC payments to many of the affected retirees now exceed \$10,000.00 each and increases each month and the congressional concern generated by retirees caught up in the procedural

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

quagmire. Furthermore, the lack of funding for DFAS and the military departments, each of which also has its own set of processing procedure problems, is a major contributor to swift payments once the awaited policy directive regarding CRSC processing is received. Additional details regarding CRSC processing, problems, and related information can be found at www.crlegislation.com. [Source: NAUS Update 9 APR 04]

DoD officials have indicated they expect to release the new application form in the next two weeks. In the interim service boards responsible for processing CRSC applications have informed MOAA that they will accept applications from all eligible retirees using the existing forms. In other words, retirees with combat-related disabilities of 10-50 percent do not have to wait for DoD to publish the revised form. Applicants are advised to simply ignore any references to disabilities payable only for 60 percent and above or to the requirement for a Guard/Reserve retiree to have 7200 or more retirement points. Those criteria were applicable for payments in 2003, but no longer apply as of 1 JAN 04. A copy of the application form and a list of questions and answers can be found at www.moaa.org/benefitsinfo/crsc/crsc.asp. [Source: MOAA's Legislative Update 9 APR 04]

SBP REFORM UPDATE 04

Rep. Chet Edwards, (D-TX) has introduced a discharge petition (H. Res. 584) in an effort to force a floor vote on H.R. 548, a bill sponsored by Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL). Rep. Miller's bill would eliminate the offset of the Survivor Benefit Plan for spouses of deceased military retirees. At present, spouses face a reduction from 55 percent to 35 percent of their SBP benefits when they reach age 62. H.R. 548 currently has 301 co-sponsors; only 218 signatures are needed on the discharge petition to force a floor vote on the measure. In mid-March Rep. Miller offered an amendment on the budget that would have provided \$500 million over five years to fund H.R. 548; it was opposed by the 13 Republican members of the Budget Committee. According to officials of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), the effect of a discharge petition can be significant. That was evident last year when Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA) introduced his in support of H.R. 303. Although it didn't receive the

required 218 votes, it was enough to put pressure on the administration to support a partial fix for concurrent receipt. [Source: AF Retiree News Release No. 04-03-04 6 APR 04]

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (DST)

For most of the United States and its territories, DST goes into effect annually at 2 A.M. on the first Sunday in April and remains until the last Sunday in October.

In exchange for this inconvenience we get an additional hour of daylight in the evening during the periods where DST is observed. Although Federal law enacted DST, it allows exemption for states/territories that do not want to change. For example, Arizona, Hawaii, the Eastern Time Zone of Indiana, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas do not change their clocks. Benjamin Franklin conceived DST while he was an American delegate in Paris in 1784. However, around 1907, William Willett, a London builder, became the first serious advocate of saving daylight. In 1916 and during WWI, Europe realized a need to conserve energy and various plans of "daylight savings" were enacted. In 1918, the United States came to the same realization and enacted a law to both preserve daylight and provide standard time for the nation. It was an unpopular law, and in 1919 was repealed over President Wilson's veto. However, some localities liked the DST concept and continued it. During WWII, the nation, for the years of 1942 - 1945 went under DST year around, which was called "War Time". In 1966, 1972, 1972 and 1986, Congress passed various laws concerning the issues of time and daylight savings. [Source: NAUS Update 2 APR 04]

DEATH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR RETIREES

Upon the death of a uniformed service retiree, the next of kin should call the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Cleveland Center. DFAS will close the retiree's pay account and send a survivor benefits package. Typically, forms will be included that instruct the next of kin on how to recoup the retiree's unpaid pay and how to initiate SBP payments if applicable. You must fill these out promptly and return them with a certified copy of the death certificate. Survivors should report retiree deaths to

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

the DFAS Cleveland Center's casualty office at 1-800-269-5170. Faxes can be sent to the office at 1-800-469-6559.

Provide the following data in your notification:

- Retiree's full name.
- Retiree's Social Security Number.
- Retiree's date of death.
- Beneficiary name and relationship to deceased.
- Retiree's current address.

Additional actions to take are:

- Notify Social Security Administration and apply for \$255 death benefit.
- Return and cancel any pension payments received after the date of death. However, Do not return any retired payments that have been directly deposited to a bank account; DFAS will automatically reclaim the money that needs to be returned when you notify DFAS of the retiree's death.
- Obtain a list of benefits applicable to the retiree's beneficiaries that they are entitled to.
- Notify the Local County Veteran's Service Office or Veterans Administration Regional Office and request their assistance for obtaining burial benefits.
- Apply for a new ID card for the spouse.
- Do not use any retirement, VA or Social Security payments issued after the date of death. A beneficiary can be required to pay any money back that was used after the date of death.

MEDAL REQUEST VIA INTERNET

Army veterans and their families can have an easier time tracking and receiving medals and decorations thanks to an automated system used by the Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate (PSID). The Web-based system eliminates extensive paperwork, reduces processing time and has capabilities such as allowing each veteran the opportunity to find out the status of his or her request or make address changes online. These types of inquiries that used to be handled telephonically or by letter can be entered online at <http://veteranmedals.army.mil/>. Award criteria and background for the different service medals can also be found on the Website. Requests for medals are initiated through the National Personnel Records

Center (NPRC) in St. Louis. Eligible veterans or the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran can request medals from NPRC at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. [Source: Psychological Operations Veterans Association VSO Msg. 16 MAR 04]

DOD POLICY ON RETIREE/RESERVE

BENEFITS:

On 4 MAR 04, Charles S. Abell, principal defense deputy for personnel and readiness, told a congressional panel, "it is possible to create a force that is too expensive for the nation. Especially when it comes to programs that are essentially deferred compensation, or where the benefits accrued only to those who no longer serve." Testifying before the Total Force Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, he said the Bush administration supported hikes in basic pay and housing allowances for active duty forces, but it opposes raises in entitlements, especially for retirees, their survivors, drilling reservists and their families. His hit list:

- Phase-out of the SBP annuity cut faced by widows at age 62;
- Full concurrent receipt for all retirees;
- Military health care for all drilling reservists and their families;
- Lowering the full Reserve retirement age from 60 to 55.[Source: Armed Forces News Issue 01 Apr 04](Note: Veterans who disagree with the policy regarding drilling reservists, retirees, and survivors can so indicate at the polls next November

SDVI:

Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI) is available for veterans who are in otherwise good health. Application for this insurance must be submitted within two years of being notified of service connected status by the Veterans Administration. Coverage can be purchased for up to \$10,000 by veterans who left service after 24 APR 51. Veterans who are totally disabled may apply for a waiver of premiums for initial coverage up to \$10,000. For those veterans who are eligible for this waiver, additional supplemental coverage of up to \$20,000 is available but they must pay the premiums for the additional coverage. [Source: Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents Pamphlet 80-03-1]

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.

BBC NEWS

Trauma linked to coronary disease Post-traumatic stress disorder increases the risk of heart disease, a study shows. Research from the New York Academy of Medicine found people with trauma were up to six times more likely to suffer a heart attack. Dr Joseph Boscarino looked at 12 studies involving 50,000 people exposed to urban disasters, war, child abuse and sexual assault. Rates were even higher for those who also suffered anxiety and depression.

‘War veterans’

Dr Boscarino used a study involving veterans of the Vietnam war to highlight his findings. In this study, 2,490 men were examined 17 years after serving in combat. It found 54 suffered post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), while 30 showed signs of having experienced a heart attack. They determined this by looking for Q-wave infarctions, a tell tale sign of a heart attack, in electrocardiograms (ECGs). What we think are psychological effects can have significant effects on the body. Dr Boscarino found that 7% of men with PTSD had suffered a heart attack, compared to 1% of those without PTSD. He took into account factors such as lifestyle, smoking, substance abuse, age, race, economic status and personality.

‘All in the mind?’

Dr Jim Bolton, consultant psychiatrist at St Helier Hospital in South London said the study

‘makes sense’. “We often tend to think these things are all in the mind. What we think are psychological effects can have significant effects on the body,” he told BBC News Online. He said depression and anxiety are common in people with PTSD.

“Anxiety and depression have an effect on heart rate, it may be that they can make the heart more vulnerable to irregular beats. They can also increase the risk of blood clotting, by making the platelets more sticky.”

Symptoms of PTSD include intrusive memories, troubling nightmares, and constant dwelling on the event. Sufferers also become ‘hyper-vigilant’, where they are constantly on the look out, or become anxious when something acts as a reminder.

Psychiatrists can treat people with the disorder by cognitive therapy, which helps the patient to file the memories away and move on. Dr Bolton said it was important to treat people early on, as the condition can last for years. “Some of my patients are WW II veterans who are still suffering post traumatic stress disorder,” he said.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/health/3528837.stm>

Published: 2004/03/08 00:31:53 GMT

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VA Reaches Out to Newest Combat Veterans

WASHINGTON (May 10, 2004) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding its efforts to reach veterans of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure they are aware of benefits they have earned.

Beginning today, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi is sending a personal letter to more than 150,000 veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who have recently separated from the military to thank them for their service and to remind them of

N
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H E A L T H

their eligibility for VA health care and other benefits.

“I want these men and women to know that we are grateful for their service to our country,” Principi said. “Those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world have risked their lives to make America more secure. One of the ways the nation shows its gratitude is by ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve.”

Principi’s letter includes brochures and links to its Web pages at www.va.gov <<http://www.va.gov/>> that contain more details about VA benefits, including an opportunity to apply for benefits online.

As Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans continue to leave the active-duty military, VA expects to mail about 10,000 letters each month.

VA also regularly mails information packets to all service members separating from the military to remind them of eligibility for basic VA benefits, such as VA-guaranteed home loans and education benefits. In addition, there are provisions in these programs for reservists and National Guard members.

The additional outreach to those recently deployed to combat theaters alerts them to special eligibility that increases their access to health care for two years after separation from the military for illnesses and injuries that may be the result of military service. For those medical problems, VA waives copayments for

inpatient and outpatient care.

VA focuses special attention on those with service-related disabilities. The department’s goal is a seamless transition from military to VA services, with claims for financial benefits receiving expedited processing. For the seriously wounded, VA has counselors working at the bedsides of patients in military hospitals with the largest numbers of casualties to begin benefit applications before they leave the military.

In addition, VA social service personnel work at these military facilities to plan health care coordination as service members move from military to VA care. This helps ensure a smooth transition to a VA hospital or clinic near the veteran’s intended residence for continuity of medical care.

In partnership with state and local government benefits counselors and veterans service organization representatives, VA annually briefs about 200,000 service members around the world before discharge to help prepare them for civilian transition and VA benefits. It operates benefits offices at 133 military installations to help service members with conditions arising during service prepare to begin receiving VA compensation promptly after discharge.

“VA has learned many lessons since the Gulf War in 1991 and other conflicts, which will ensure that this newest generation of war veterans receives the health care and assistance they deserve when they return to civilian life,” said Principi.

VA Secretary Set to Announce CARES Decisions

WASHINGTON (May 7, 2004) - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi will announce today details of a comprehensive plan to modernize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system. The plan includes new hospitals in Orlando and Las Vegas, 156 new community clinics, four new spinal cord injury centers, two blind rehabilitation centers and expanded mental health outpatient services nationwide.

The investment of nearly \$1 billion annually for several years is the result of a major three-year review of the medical system serving America’s 25 million veterans.

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“Thanks to the contributions of more than 200,000 people who shared their thoughts with us, plus the hard work of VA staff and a special independent commission, VA now stands ready to bring greater access to quality care closer to where most veterans live,” Principi said.

The three-year review called CARES stands for “Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Service.” It was a landmark study of the nation’s largest health care system, which is operated by VA. CARES assessed veterans’ current health care needs and developed recommendations for meeting those needs in the future.

By opening health care access to more veterans, VA expects to increase the percentage of enrolled veterans from 28 percent of the veterans’ population today, to 30 percent in 2012 and 33 percent in 2022.

The decisions announced today by Secretary Principi include:

- * Construction of new medical centers in Orlando, Fla., and Las Vegas, Nev.;
- * Creation of more than 150 new community-based outpatient clinics;
- * Rehabilitation and modernization of medical centers;
- * Potential creation of four new - and expansion of five existing - spinal cord injury centers; and
- * Opening up two new blind rehabilitation centers.

In some cases, the plan also calls for transferring care from antiquated facilities to more modern or better located VA facilities or contracting for care in local communities.

“No veteran will lose health care as a result of CARES, nor will there be any gaps in health care services,” Secretary Principi added. “In fact, we will be able to expand outpatient services and provide more of the care veterans want and use.”

Full details about the secretary’s decision will be available on the Internet at www.va.gov <<http://www.va.gov>>.

“CARES allowed us to identify the infrastructure that VA needs to care for veterans in the 21st century,” said Dr. Jonathan Perlin, VA’s acting under secretary for health. “We’ll be able to spend more of our resources on doctors, nurses and medical care, instead of building maintenance.”

Perlin noted the realignment will also enable VA to avoid imbalances in its services in the future, by making sure the size and location of its health care facilities match the needs of veterans.

In July 1999, the General Accounting Office estimated that VA diverted a million dollars a day from health care to maintenance of unneeded or unused facilities. Most VA facilities are more than 50 years old, although the industry standard for health care in the private sector is less than 10 years.

On Aug. 4, 2003, VA unveiled a 100-page draft national plan that was developed by VA’s staff. That plan was reviewed by an independent, 16-member CARES commission which presented its own recommendations to Principi on Feb. 13 after conducting 38 public hearings, 10 public meetings, hearing from 770 witnesses and receiving written comments from more than 212,000 people.

Last year, VA health care workers treated about 4.8 million patients, up from 2.9 million in 1998. The president’s budget requests \$29.5 billion for VA’s medical care for next year, more than 40 percent above the level in 2001.

H E A L T H

SHINGLES

If you had the chickenpox as a child and are now over 60 you are in the group most likely to get shingles. This is a miserable painful skin and nerve infection caused by a reactivation of the chickenpox virus. Each year more than 800,000 Americans develop shingles, also known as herpes zoster. About half of those who live to 85 will get the disease that had chickenpox as a child. When a young person recovers from chickenpox the varicella zoster virus continues to remain in clusters of nerve cells next to the spinal cord. The immune system causes the virus to lay dormant for many years but as we age the immune system weakens allowing the virus to reactivate. Factors other than age that can heighten the risk of reactivation are those that compromise the immune system. AIDS, Hodgkin's disease, intact of drugs that suppress the immune system, and stress can play a role in triggering the disease.

Contact with an infected person does not cause another person's dormant virus to reawaken. However, the virus from a shingles patient may cause chickenpox in someone who has not had the disease before. When the virus reawakens it travels through the nerves to the skin. The first symptoms can be flu-like such as fever, chills, headache, nausea, or upset stomach. Some people experience itchiness, a tingling feeling, or pain in the initial stage. Within a few days, a painful rash develops usually on the chest, back or face. When the rash is at its peak it can be intense and

unrelenting. This rash develops into small, fluid filled blisters that begin to dry out and crust over after about a week. For most people the disease will resolve without treatment and after one attack the condition is unlikely to return. If treatment is provided with antiviral drugs within the first couple of days it can reduce the pain and may help prevent a shingles complication known as postherpetic neuralgia. This condition results from damaged nerves and can continue long after the rash heals. While not life threatening it can develop into chronic pain that may bring with it insomnia, weight loss, depression, and other medical problems. Fortunately, only about 10% of all people with shingles develop postherpetic neuralgia and in most cases the pain is not severe and goes away within a couple of months. If shingles appear on the face it can lead to vision or hearing problems. If the cornea becomes infected the result can cause permanent blindness.

Researchers are testing a more potent version of the chickenpox vaccine given to children to see if it can prevent the occurrence of shingles. The study has recruited some 37,000 volunteers at 21 VA medical centers nationwide. Results from the clinical trial are expected within a year or two. The VA researcher coordinating the study has reported that seniors who regularly performed a Chinese style of exercise called "tai chi" for 15 weeks boosted their immunity to shingles. [Source: Living Well article in AL Magazine FEB 04]

DVA Secretary Principi Green-Lights Chiropractic Care for America's Veterans

WASHINGTON, March 30 /PRNewswire/ — The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) and the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC) commended Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Secretary Anthony Principi for issuing an historic and far-reaching blueprint for formalizing the full inclusion of chiropractic care into the massive veterans health care system in the United States.

Secretary Principi's decision today to implement more than three dozen recommendations made by a multi-disciplinary health care advisory panel will dramatically

improve the quality of care available to millions of veterans in the U.S. and increase access to chiropractic care for every veteran who wants or needs to see a doctor of chiropractic. The Secretary's bold action originated with legislative directives from Congress in 2002 and 2003 — passed at the urging of the ACA, the ACC and America's veterans - to establish a permanent chiropractic benefit through the DVA system and authorize the DVA to hire and employ doctors of chiropractic as care providers.

This is a great victory for veterans and an

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historic new opportunity for doctors of chiropractic across America,” said ACA President and U.S. Navy veteran Donald Krippendorf, DC. “Secretary Principi always makes certain that veterans come first. He’s done so today by acting decisively to bring chiropractic care into veterans hospitals from coast-to-coast and to make doctors of chiropractic full partners in providing care to all those who answered our country’s call to serve.”

Since the creation of the DVA health system, the nation’s doctors of chiropractic (DCs) have been kept outside the system and all but prevented from providing proven, cost-effective and much-needed care to veterans, including those among the most vulnerable and in need of the range of the health care services DCs are licensed to provide. In 2002, 4.5 million patients received care in DVA health facilities, including 75% of all disabled and low-income veterans. Although the DVA health care budget is roughly \$26 billion, in 2002, less than \$370,000 went toward chiropractic services for veterans.

In issuing today’s order to his department to begin inclusion of chiropractic care, Secretary Principi specifically acknowledged that the goal is “to ensure that chiropractic care is ultimately available and accessible to veterans who need it throughout the DVA system.”

Several key elements of Secretary Principi’s blueprint were strongly supported by the ACA and the ACC, including:

- * DVA’s endorsement of the integration of full-scope chiropractic care (under applicable state law) into all missions of the DVA health care system, including patient care, education, research and response to disasters and national emergencies, and DVA facilities across the country.

- * DVA’s endorsement of a successful and patient-friendly model — essentially based on the operations of Bethesda National Naval Medical Center — of full integration of doctors of chiropractic as partners in health care teams.

- * Inclusion of chiropractic care into the VA’s funding of research into treatment of service-connected conditions.

- * Inclusion of chiropractic colleges and students in training programs at VA facilities.

- * Establishment of a goal to ensure continuity of chiropractic care for newly discharged veterans who have been receiving chiropractic care through the Defense Department health care system.

Jean Moss, DC, President of the ACC, commended Principi’s decision to integrate chiropractic care into the DVA health system, saying, “The administration, faculty and students of chiropractic colleges across America are delighted that Secretary Principi has taken steps to ensure that DCs can now directly contribute to the health and well-being of veterans. I am pleased, too, that chiropractic college students will become eligible to participate in internship programs at DVA hospitals and that a fair share of federal research funding will be directed to further documenting the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of chiropractic care.”

Dr. Krippendorf added, “The ACA is a membership organization that is comprised of thousands of hard-working health professionals who are pillars of their communities in all 50 states. Our advocacy for full inclusion of chiropractic care in the DVA system is part of our broader campaign to ensure that DCs and their patients are treated fairly in all of the Federal government’s health care programs and initiatives. We’ve made great progress across the board, but the fight for fairness continues and the ACA is evervigilant.”

In addition to legislation authorizing the DVA to employ chiropractors (Public Law 108-170), ACA-backed bills to test expanded access to chiropractic services under Medicare (Public Law 108-173) and to accelerate the implementation of chiropractic care in the military (Public Law 108-136) were also signed into law by President Bush in 2003. In 2004, the ACA will make it a priority to ensure that Secretary Principi’s recommendations are speedily implemented, and work with Congress on new legislation to ensure that chiropractic patients are never wrongly denied access to care. There are about 60,000 DCs in the U.S. and an estimated 25 million chiropractic patients.

Today’s historic action involved the hard work and determined efforts of several members of the DVA’s Chiropractic Advisory Committee, including Drs. Reed Phillips, Cynthia Vaughn and Rick McMichael,” said ACA Chairman and Army veteran George McClelland, DC. “These outstanding leaders have helped improve America’s veterans health care system, eliminated discriminatory practices against their fellow DCs and won meaningful protections for a most deserving group of chiropractic patients.”

FEATURE ARTICLES

After the Battle Part II

A request from Force Headquarters was sent out to the men. It asked for written, eyewitness accounts of individual bravery, so that some Forcemen could be awarded medals. It was in vain. Headquarters received less than a handful of replies. This, from men who had witnessed extraordinary feats of bravery in the face of overwhelming odds.



To the vast majority of Forcemen, medals were meaningless. More important to them was that in their first battle, under incredibly adverse conditions, they had won a major victory. “That was enough satisfaction for us,” declares Battise, “On that mountain we fought for each

other, proved ourselves in combat, and some of us were killed. We didn’t need any medals to prove who was brave. It might be hard for anyone else to understand that.” Exhausted as they were, the men would have little time to rest. On December 21 st, the Force was ordered to attack a range of mountains near San Pietro, Italy. The Forcemen would spend Christmas in combat.

Since the Force had not had time to receive replacements, two regiments, the 504th Parachute Infantry, and the 36th Division’s 141st Infantry, (sister to the 142nd) would be attached to the Force. This time, Texans would fight alongside the Forcemen. Daniel Battise recalls these mountains well. “ It was freezing and snowing on us, so forget about ‘sunny Italy’. The wind blew all the time and sometimes we had sleet, rain, and snow all in the same day. We actually planned and carried out an attack on Mount Sammucro on Christmas Eve. This is when we showed the two attached regiments why we were so successful in a combat assault. We called our squads ‘sections’ and they usually numbered around 12 men. Between us, we carried rifles, grenades, a bazooka, a Browning .30 caliber, belt-fed machine gun, and a Johnson light machine gun. An ordinary infantry squad only had about eight men and they usually had only one automatic weapon, a BAR, (Browning Automatic Rifle).

“We carried a hell of a lot of firepower and men from

the 504th and 142nd were amazed at how we could move and climb so quickly under so much weight. They couldn’t believe we carried such heavy weapons, along with so much ammo, but we were used to it from training.”



Battise, of course, still had his deadly accurate, bolt-action 0’3 Springfield rifle of World War I vintage. It was the rifle a Tennessee native named Alvin York had made famous. As a sniper, Battise was still called forward to make crack shots at the enemy. “Working as a sniper is where being a good stalker comes in”, says Battise, “ You have to get in position without being seen. I would use different types of camouflage and crawl on the ground. Sometimes it would take me an hour to crawl a hundred yards. Sometimes they would call me forward to kill one of the *enemy* snipers. Some men wouldn’t want to do that: go one on one with another sniper; but I just looked at it as another part of being a soldier. To me, it was like stalking a deer, only this type of deer could kill you!”

“In an infantry attack, I would use the Johnson machine gun for firepower while my rifle was slung over my shoulder. I didn’t mind the extra weight. When the fight starts, you don’t feel it. All of us were trained to use the German infantry weapons as well. I saw a Forceman run out of ammo in a gun fight and reach over and pick up a dead German’s weapon and go right back to killing Germans... in a battle, you don’t think about it.”

“During this period of combat, you’d look around in the middle of a fire fight, and there would be Colonel Frederick, the Force commander, right up front with you. He would show up in the craziest places during a battle. He could have been at the rear, but that wasn’t his style. He didn’t mind getting shot at. He’d usually appear quietly, right alongside of you, and almost always give you a shot of whiskey. We didn’t mind that at all, it was so damned cold.”

According to other Force veterans, appearing at the front of an attack was a common practice of Frederick. He could rarely be found in the rear of his

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

unit and had no sufferance for curious Generals who wanted a public relations pitch about this mysterious unit composed of men from two countries, carrying different weapons and wearing special, mountain warfare uniforms. “That’s how he was, and I will always remember this. . . that General Frederick didn’t believe we needed publicity”, says Battise, “He was a very modest man. And we, his soldiers, weren’t out for publicity. We were still kind of a semi- secret unit anyway. We became known to the rest of our army not by reporters, but by the fact that we usually killed about ten or twelve Germans for everyone of us killed. That’s what started U.S. officers and reporters asking questions like, ‘Who are these guys from two countries in the same unit? And why won’t they talk to us?’”

“We weren’t supposed to talk to reporters”, says Battise, “our actions spoke better than words ever could.”

On January 17th, 1944, after three weeks of heavy combat, the Force was again pulled out of the line. They had taken every objective assigned to them but the price was staggering. 1400 of the Force’s 2300 men had become casualties. In recognition of the Force’s achievements, Robert Frederick, barely thirty-seven years of age, was promoted to Brigadier General. Characteristically, he gave credit to the men under him for his promotion. He also asked that they be given a period of recuperation. His combat veterans needed time to rest and re-equip themselves. They also needed replacements.

But the Force would not take just *any* replacement. New men had to be screened in oral interviews. Their physical stamina and expertise with weapons had to be assessed. Once selected, the new men were instructed by the veterans in the complicated battle drills that had sustained the Force so well in combat. There was a certain quality the Force was looking for.

Battise: “It would be hard to explain to anyone who hasn’t fought as a commando in combat what we wanted from those new guys. Even now after all these years, it’s hard...it wasn’t enough that a man was a good shot with a rifle or was in good physical shape. We were looking for men who wouldn’t quit no matter what. We had learned in combat that a man’s mental toughness was as important as his physical strength. That was important, really important, because we had our share of tough guys. But a few of them cracked up in combat because they couldn’t handle the strain on the mind. So we knew what we wanted in those

replacements. They had to be as physically tough as we were, and ready to fight as hard as we fought. In a combat unit, you can’t afford not to.” So the Force rested for a while, refitted, took on and trained the new men, and got new weapons and equipment. It was a fortuitous moment for the Force.

Soon, in Italy, at a place called Anzio, the Force would see combat so horrific, everything else paled in comparison. For veterans of Anzio, the hardest part in describing their experiences is conjuring adjectives sufficient to convey the hell it truly was. It began with a flawed plan to establish an allied beach head behind German forces in Italy. It ended, after a long siege, in what was called an allied victory, a somewhat hollow victory for this was a siege reminiscent of Verdun or the Somme. Tens of thousands of men on both sides died gaining ground measured in hundreds of meters. On January 22, 1944, 36,000 U.S troops landed at Anzio. By February 2nd, when the Force arrived, those 36,000 men had advanced just seven and one-half miles. They were unable to rout the German forces in front of them. It was worse than trench warfare; a “paralysis of movement” was what later historians would call it. The Germans held the high ground and could observe with impunity any U.S. troop movements to their front. They would immediately pour artillery fire on those troops. And the German artillery, according to Battise and his comrades, was deadly.

By now, the Force had great respect for the main German artillery piece, an .88 millimeter, triple-purpose gun that could be used as an anti-armor, anti-aircraft, or antipersonnel weapon. Battise : “They could shoot that big gun as accurately as you would shoot a rifle. The Germans had a multi-barreled rocket launcher that we called the ‘Screaming Meemie’. The shells screamed as they fell, but it wasn’t that accurate. But with that .88 artillery gun it was different, they could put a round right at your feet. I saw them hit small groups, maybe three or four guys, from a long distance, over a thousand yards, and the round would always hit right at their feet Sometimes they’d fire a shell just to kill one man and they’d score a direct hit on him.”

Between the embattled allied and German forces lay a flat, marshy area known as the “Mussolini Canal”. It was actually several agricultural irrigation canals rather than one, spanning out in an area over several thousand yards, forming a swampy, “no-man’s land” of death. Few men from either side ventured out in this area after dark. The nights were void of

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

moonlight in February and the slightest sound traveled a great distance over the flat marsh. Conventional Generals would have considered this a tactical impediment. Not Frederick. He saw a perfect opportunity to practice another little-known Force technique.

Night Raiding. The allied forces desperately needed intelligence on the type and number of the German troops who were fighting so savagely to hold their ground. Frederick had a plan to get that intelligence. In war, nothing is as valuable as a living prisoner from the unit opposing you on the battlefield. He is a fountain of information. Conversely, nothing is more dangerous than infiltrating the enemy's lines at night, locating a lone soldier and taking him alive by force.

Battise: "It's easy to locate and *kill* an enemy soldier at night if you move very quietly, look, listen and smell for him. Once you find him, you can kill him with a gun, which is going to make a lot of noise, or you can kill him with a knife, which is silent, but a lot more dangerous. It takes a lot of speed and strength. What is really more dangerous than both is taking a *live* enemy captive at night!" General Frederick proposed to capture German prisoners at night using his Forcemen in small patrols, sometimes just two men operating as partners. He reasoned that keeping the enemy awake, fearful, and scared at night, would make him less aggressive and alert in the day time. The captured prisoners would also yield vital intelligence. Some non-Force officers thought it suicidal to send small groups of their men wandering around in the pitch-black dark of the enemy's positions. Battise : "They had no idea of how we worked and trained for this. You stalk a man at night like you stalk a deer in daylight. Stay downwind. You can smell him but he can't smell you. Walk slowly, don't make sudden movements, try to step lightly, feel your way ahead with your hands, stop often and just listen. Use your sense of smell. The Germans smoked this strong tobacco. And remember, they can smell you. I used to brush my teeth with salt instead of toothpaste. There were times when I knew the enemy heard me coming, because they'd get scared and call out. But instead of running away. I'd freeze. They'd walk all around me. When I located a single enemy at night, I'd get as close to him as possible, have my knife ready, and usually take him from behind."

According to Battise, even after the hellish combat they'd experienced in the mountains, he and his comrades were still eager to "mix it up" in close

quarter fighting with the Germans. This type of fighting would be the payoff for the countless hours they'd spent in training under Dermot O'Neill, their hand-to-hand instructor.

It would also give them a chance to practice another skill they'd learned, a skill that few soldiers actually know and the public sees as somewhat gruesome. Every Forceman had been issued a razor-sharp V-42 fighting knife. They'd practiced countless hours using the knife to quietly dispatch sentries. It could also be used to silently capture an enemy by slipping up and placing the blade across his throat from behind, while simultaneously telling him not to move. That is, *if* the enemy wanted to cooperate. Sometimes he didn't.

Battise, "In the movies they get it all wrong. You see a man grab another man and just slide the blade across his throat and that man just falls down dead. It doesn't work that way. I don't know if people want to hear me describe this but... it's hard to cut through a man's neck deep enough to kill him quickly. And you have to cover his mouth so he can't shout. Also, the Germans wore big overcoats with big collars they could turn up around their neck. I would usually grab an enemy from behind and sort of get him in a headlock and tell him to surrender and not fight back...sometimes he'd give up... and sometimes he wouldn't." By design or coincidence, many of the Forcemen were fluent in German. Those who weren't picked up a rudimentary form of phrases from their comrades. Daniel Battise attributes the Forcemen's fluency in German to the fact that a lot of them were from Northern states such as Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Nebraska, all states with large communities of German immigrants.

Before long, captured Germans were describing to their U.S. interrogators how blackfaced men had suddenly appeared in front of them after midnight. Silent as wraiths, they seemed to glide across the ground, noiseless until they had you in their grip. In terrified incredulity, another German prisoner described how two men had approached his position on a night so dark you couldn't see three feet in front of you. Speaking perfect *deutsche*, one of the devils had asked him for a cigarette! The next thing he knew, he was on the ground with his arms pinned behind his back!

Because the nights were so black, it was hard to identify an approaching man by his uniform. This, explained another talkative German prisoner, was one of the reasons he suspected nothing as he waited with

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

two other men behind him in a German chow line to receive a late evening meal. They even asked him what was for supper! After food was handed out to all three men, the German walked away and sat down to eat, all the while making small talk with the men who sat down with him. As they finished eating, one stood up and grabbed the German in a choke hold. The other stuck a pistol in his face and told him he was now their prisoner!

The Germans at Anzio were fast becoming confused and intimidated. Never had they encountered any enemy brazen enough to infiltrate their positions and converse with soldiers in their own language! The Force's existence was still top secret and much of the time they operated independently. Wartime photos of Forcemen taken and published in *Yank* magazine had the Force's shoulder patch blacked out by censors. Some U.S. conventional units operating at Anzio had no idea the Forcemen were even there. But the Germans did. As more and more of their comrades began disappearing at night, captured German diaries began to include a reference to "black-faced devils", or *teufeln schwarten!*

The Force carried this psychological warfare a step further, leaving plastic stickers of the Force's spearhead shoulder patch on dead German bodies. Battise: "We learned to use the night to our advantage. A lot of other units stayed in their foxholes at night, but not the Force. We would move around, listen to the Germans talk, and we found out a lot of information that way. If a group of them approached us, we didn't panic or start shooting, we just acted the way they did. If they called out to us, there was always one of us who could speak German in the group. I'd even picked up a few phrases myself. I used to carry a German helmet. I kept it on my pistol belt till I got close, then I'd put it on. We would wait till one of the Germans separated from a group and was alone, then we'd grab him and tie him up."

Battise soon became renowned for his prowess at capturing enemy prisoners at night. Always honest though, Battise relates an incident where he wasn't successful: "I crawled up on a German foxhole one night and I could barely see this man in it. I got myself ready and then jumped in the hole with him. That's when he stood up and he must have been close to seven feet tall, real big man, and he just grabbed me and threw me out of his hole! That one I figured I'd better leave alone, so I took off."

The Forcemen continued with their nocturnal forays. In the daytime they hunkered in their foxholes,

dodging the German artillery that slammed in on a regular basis. At night, they raided and scouted, grabbing prisoners when they could, and destroying enemy strong points. They got very little sleep. But the Germans got even less. Says Battise, "The Germans knew we were out there prowling around at night. And they knew if they fell asleep they might get their throats slit, especially if it happened the night before to one of their friends." Battise became renowned for his ability to operate in the dark, especially after he returned one morning with graphic proof of a bloody struggle. Reaching inside his blouse, he pulled the scalp taken from a dead German soldier. "That was the first and only time I ever scalped an enemy. I don't believe in mutilating the bodies of enemy dead. I did it as a message to the Germans, like a form of psychological warfare. You have to remember that when we went on a night raid we were usually outnumbered twenty or thirty to one by the Germans in that sector."

"After a while," Battise remembers, "your senses started to react like an animal's would. Loud noises make you jump, you hide close to the ground in daylight, and you learn to crawl quickly from one point to another. You get to a point where you can also tell the difference in certain weapons just by the sound they make when fired."

Ultimately, Daniel Battise would spend 103 days in continuous combat at Anzio.

"I only got one hot shower during that entire time, but I fired my weapon for everyone of those 103 days!"

When the battle of Anzio was over the men of the Force had earned another battlefield legend. At places like Hell's Comer, House 13, and the Mussolini canal, they had fought with a tenacity the German enemy could not match. And as in other battles, the Force had suffered heavy casualties. Daniel Battise was one of them. For the second time he was wounded in battle. A chunk of shrapnel hit him in the head, causing a severe laceration and knocking him unconscious. The medics told him he was going to be medically evacuated. "Nope, not me," he replied, "I'm staying with the Force and staying in the fight." According to him, his refusal to go to a hospital was not uncharacteristic of Forcemen. Battise says a lot of his comrades feared being separated from the Force more than they feared a combat wound. "If you went to the hospital," he says, "there was a chance that the Force would move on without you. I didn't want to go to the hospital because I might be assigned to another unit

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

when I was released.”

After Anzio, the Force served in the attack on Rome. When Italy was secured, the Force was moved to southern France to attack German positions there. In this attack, Daniel Battise was wounded for the third time by mortar fragments slashing into his back. Again, he refused medical evacuation. He had been through too many campaigns with the Force to leave. So it was that Battise was still with the Force in Villeneuve-Loubet, France, on December 12, 1944 when he and his comrades were dealt the crushing blow and their first defeat of the entire war. Orders arrived from the War Department that the Force was to be disbanded.

Battise: “Now, to me, that was the worst thing of the whole war. It was a horrible order. When you have fought and bled with men, and you know they would literally die for you, as some did, it’s hard to just walk away from them.” The Force gathered for the disbanding ceremony in an open field. The colors of the Force flag and the Canadian contingent were lowered and furled. When the names of over 500 comrades who had fallen in battle were read, many of the Forcemen openly cried. Battise: “That was the only time in the war when I actually saw Forcemen really cry. I mean there weren’t any dry eyes, and we were all kind of in disbelief, after all the battles we fought, and as well as we did, here comes a piece of paper saying we were to be split up. We were standing in formation and when the command was given for the Canadians to fall out from the ranks, everyone just stood there for several seconds. We didn’t want them to leave and they didn’t want to go. But of course, they finally did and they loaded on to trucks. Guys were hugging each other, and as the trucks drove away some of the Americans were still behind the trucks, waving good-bye and crying. You have to understand that by then we didn’t think of ourselves as Canadians and Americans, we had, all of us, become one group that didn’t care who was from where. Those men, all of them, were my blood brothers.”

The Canadian contingent went back to their army. The Americans were scattered to various units. Daniel Battise wound up in the 508th parachute infantry regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. He would see more combat as a paratrooper before returning home at war’s end in 1945. He married, started a family and worked at various jobs around Livingston, Texas. But he bore physical and mental scars from the war that made him restless. For too long he had lived a life charged with excitement. He says he never missed the

horror of war. Then, with a slight twinkle in his eye, he admits he missed the adrenaline. He wanted something a little “challenging and maybe a little dangerous.” He packed up his family and moved to Chicago.

Daniel Battise found what he was looking for as an ironworker. Balancing like a ballerina on a ten-inch wide I-beam hundreds of feet off the ground unnerves a lot of men. Carrying steel rods and other construction materials at the same time is even scarier. “I didn’t mind it all,” he says, “I could out-work a lot of men too. To me there’s no difference walking a ten-inch beam twenty feet off the ground or twenty stories. The only time I got a little bothered was when the wind would be blowing way up there.” Grinning, Battise quipped, “They don’t call Chicago the ‘windy city’ for nothing. “During one of our many interviews, Battise stated he retired from iron working in 1985. I pondered that for a second and said, “Wait, that means you were still climbing the high iron when you were almost seventy!” “Yep,” he said nonchalantly, “I figured at age 69 I should slow down a bit and let the young guys have their share.” Before he left Chicago to return to Texas however, another remarkable incident occurred, one which is totally in common with the irascible and humorous character of a man who never meets a stranger.

On a cold winter day, Battise was standing on the stadium sidelines watching a Chicago Bears football game. One of the players noticed the proud, erect native American and respectfully said hello. Before long, other players did too. When the game was over, Battise joined the entire team for refreshments. After that, Battise began a long association with the team as their unofficial mascot. The numerous Chicago Bears memorabilia in his house are a testimony to that friendship.

Today, Daniel Battise lives on the reservation where he was born. When I first interviewed him at home, I requested a photo of him in his “pow-wow” shirt, a beautiful, multi-colored garment painstakingly hand-made by his granddaughter. I asked him if he had any military medals he could wear for the photo. He disappeared into a back room and returned with a worn, cardboard box. Gazing inside the box I saw several military medal cases covered with dust. Inside the velvet-lined cases, still sealed in faded, yellowing plastic, were his numerous medals. Incredulously, I asked him, “Are these the medals you received after you came home from the war?” “Yep,” was his terse reply.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

“But they’re still in the original wrappers!”, I said, “Haven’t you ever worn them?”

“Nope, I know what I did in the war, I don’t need any medals to remember it by.” And remember it well he does. From the first reunion of the Force held in Helena, Montana in 1947 to the one he just returned from on August 18th, 2003, Daniel Battise has rarely missed a gathering of his comrades. Invariably, he is singled out as the subject of some wartime story.

Interviewing men who served with Battise in combat was surreal. Like the mythical belief Apache warriors held in Geronimo, Battise’s comrades claim he could not be killed in battle. Like a phantom, he would disappear in the night and return with a captured prisoner. And like Geronimo, though wounded several times in combat, no bullet ever killed him. Maybe some myths have a grain of truth.

Today Daniel Battise is a great-grandfather and is still married to his wife of 58 years.

He is also an oral historian of his people, an elder statesman of his tribe, and a naturalist who can describe in detail every tree, animal, and plant living in the Big Thicket, and do so in his native tongue. He has remained true to his roots and is a role model for all children of the Alabama-Coushatta tribe and patriotic citizens everywhere. He is a gentle and dignified man, a far cry from the young warrior who killed so many men in combat long ago; a man who now loves children and puppies and raises both. But do not be deceived. He is the bear in winter.

America, here is one of your native sons. Correction, make that a Native American son. And a true American hero.

Ed Note: James ‘Chip’ Benjamin the author, served

with Company A (LRP), 75th Rangers from 1972 to 1974, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division at Ft Hood, TX. He is a former State Trooper and current Government employee who works in South America. I also want to thank Dave “Doc” Sisk, who originally contacted me about the story and put me in touch with Chip Benjamin.



Daniel Battise, Ft Bliss, TX. C. 1940. Daniel was assigned to the 12th Cavalry Regiment, Machine Gun Troop.

Daniel Battise wears his medals for the first time for this photo



Airborne Training. Daniel Battise is identified in this class photo.



The warrior in repose, Daniel Battise loves his animals

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

75th Ranger Regiment Association 2004 Reunion

JULY 31 THROUGH AUGUST 4, 2004

**CURRENT SCHEDULE (CHECK THIS OFTEN -
SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL THE REUNION IS OVER!)**

REUNION DATES:	JULY 31 THROUGH AUGUST 4, 2004
Registration/Recreation:	Sat 7/31/04 (0000 - ??? - Hospitality Room)
Membership Meeting / Elections:	Sun 8/1/04 (1200 hrs - NOON 'til Moral Improves)
Open Time (Likely Ft. Lewis Visits):	Sun 8/1/04 OPEN after Noon Mtg
Unit Functions / Ft. Lewis / Tours:	Mon 8/2/04 0000 - 1730 hrs
Banquet:	Mon 8/2/04 @ 1800 hrs - 2030 hrs
OPEN	Tues 8/3/04 OPEN
OPEN	Wed 8/4/04 OPEN (checkout)

Music during the Banquet and perhaps scheduled in the Hospitality Room when possible.

Ft. Lewis Functions will be planned as possible with the Second Battalion as their schedule permits. Any and all Active Duty Rangers have an OPEN INVITATION to come improve our morale and tell us some bed-time stories. It will, as always, be IMPOSSIBLE for them to buy a beverage of their choice!

HOTEL RESERVATION INFO:

1. HOST HOTEL: Best Western Fife Hotel

Reservations: 1-888-820-3555 • Ask for the 75th Ranger Regiment Rate (\$89/night)
253-922-3550 Fax • email: doreenvitek@bwfife.com

All Rooms at Best Western are NON-Smoking - there will be smoking allowed in our Hospitality Suite(s) and in the lounge.

2. OVERFLOW HOTEL: La Quinta Inn and Suites

Carol Pica (Sales Manager) • **1-800-531-5900 Reservations**
Seattle Tacoma, 1425 E. 27th St., Tacoma, Washington 98421-2200
Website: [La Quinta Inn](http://LaQuinta.com) • email: Carol.Pica@laquinta.com
La Quinta offers smoking and NON-smoking rooms.

Rates: \$89/night - rates are good a couple days prior and a couple days after our Reunion Dates. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW with the Hotel of your choice, please - limited number of rooms available (blocked for our Reunion) in each Hotel. If you prefer to stay at another Hotel, that is OK, too!

There will be a 75thRRA Registration Fee (\$30 Per Adult) due on or before the Reunion dates, plus \$25 per Dinner (Menu) at the 08/02/04 Banquet (Banquet is scheduled for Monday, 08/02/04). You may pay in advance by sending to:

75thRRA • ATTN: Ron Edwards
P.O. Box 921, Heflin, Al. 36264 • (256) 831-7146

I look forward to seeing you there - bring the Family, as we will have "non-Reunion" activities for those who wish to do the "tourist" thing in beautiful Tacoma/Seattle.

We'll be emailing Reunion updates to all who have filled out this form - if you prefer NOT to be contacted, please let me know by follow-up email and I'll keep your email address off that list (I know how that goes!).

RLTW & Sua Sponte,
Dana McGrath, President, 75th Ranger Regiment Association
239-995-2436 • email: ranger75@cyberstreet.com • www.75thRRA.com

2004 75thRRA Reunion - FT LEWIS - 7/31-8/4/2004 - BE THERE! Sign up NOW at
www.northfortmyers.com/Rangers/75thrrareunionform2.htm

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

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW. CONTACT THE BEST WESTERN FIFE/TACOMA AT 1-888-820-3555. OUR BANQUET WILL BE ON SITE. THE BEST WESTERN FIFE/TACOMA OFFERS COMPLIMENTARY SHUTTLE SERVICE, LOUNGE, RESTAURANT, INDOOR POOL, FREE PARKING, AND A HOST OF OTHER AMENITIES. Call 1-888-820-3555 FOR RESERVATIONS.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

75th Ranger Regiment Association
Reunion 1st Bi-Annual Golf Tournament

The 1st Bi-Annual 75th RRA Golf Tournament will take place at the Ft. Lewis Golf Course on Monday, August 2, 2004 with the first players teeing off at 0900. This Tournament will be in a "Scramble" format consisting of 2 person or 4 person teams, there will be "Closest to the Pin" contests on holes #8 and #12, there will be "Longest Ball" contests on holes #4 and #18 and there will be prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams with the lowest overall scores. The "Scramble" format makes for the most fun and least pressure for those of us who aren't able to play that much and we're going to be out there to get to know each other, beat the little white ball senseless and try to win! We'll also play it as a "scratch" game, as many of the players just might have an established handicap and there might be a "sandbagger" out there, not that a LRRP or Ranger would EVER resort to that type of nefarious skullduggery. Regardless of your golfing skill level, the two following simple rules should level the playing field for all players and they are:

1.) Each Team member will play a tee shot and the best tee shot is then selected. Each Team member will then shoot their next shot from that spot, and so on for each shot, and then the best shot among Team balls is selected until the ball is hit or putted into the cup to finish play on each hole. There are NO "Gimmes" and the hole is NOT concluded until the ball is in the cup. The shot total is then added up and becomes that Team's score on that hole.

2.) Each Team is required to use a minimum of at least ONE tee shot from each member during the course of the round. It is up to each Team to determine when to use each players tee shot, so long as each member has had at least one of his tee shots be the Team tee shot on at least one hole before the round is completed. There is some strategy/tactics involved here, but LRRP's and Rangers are excellent at developing and implementing these skills, so there should be no problems whatsoever.

The fee for the Tournament is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and this includes all green fees, use of a 2 person golf cart, a box lunch & drink and all of the various prizes. There will also be beverages available from the Courtesy Cart during the Tournament. The per person fee of \$50.00 MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN July 12th, 3 weeks BEFORE the starting date of the Golf Tournament.

Players can sign up as a Team, or individually and then be assigned to a Team, and it is open to the FIRST 40 players to sign up! The Tournament is open to all members of the 2nd Battalion/75th Rangers and their families, all 75th Ranger Regiment Association members in good standing and their wives, any other family members, girlfriends and relatives and a good time WILL be had by all! The Awards presentation will be at the Banquet on the evening of August 2nd and this Tournament is already looking like its going to have a fine turnout so, get signed up now and get ready for a fun time and some excellent golf at the Ft. Lewis Golf Course on August 2, 2004!

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ UNIT _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

COMPLETE ABOVE, COPY OR TEAR OFF AND SEND, WITH A CHECK FOR \$50.00 TO:

Robert S. Stack PHONE 415-485-7075
P.O. Box 611 CELL 415-312-1744
San Anselmo, CA 94979-0611 FAX 415-893-9894
icu_7@netzero.com (email)

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

General Membership Meeting

By John Chester & Emmett Hiltibrand

The general membership meeting that will be held at the 2004 reunion of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., will deal with a number of issues of importance. Every member present will be asked to vote on these issues at the meeting. The following points are presented in order that each of us has some advance warning of the issues that will be the subject of the vote. These issues are not Bylaws issues and do not require a ballot or a 2/3 approval for passage. They are issues that can be addressed by and voted on by the members in attendance in the General Membership Meeting.

1. This is perhaps the potentially most interesting issue that will come before the membership. A number of people, (me included) have felt for some time that the bi-annual reunion should coincide with the bi-annual Ranger Rendezvous and regimental change of command. This will cause a number of situations to occur, the first being a one year term of office for the President, VP, Sec & Treas. It would result in a reunion, and board elections in 2005, one year after the current reunion in 2004, because if approved, the next National Reunion would be in 2005 at Ft. Benning.

I believe that it would be preferable to have interim officers for this one year period. It would also afford the opportunity to have a year to identify individuals who would be willing to take office in 2005. With this in mind, Emmett Hiltibrand has consented to run for President for the one year period, (2004 – 2005), and I, (John Chester) will consent to run for office of Secretary for the same period. Each Officer elected at this Reunion would be elected for the same term, with the understanding that each may serve the following two-years term. This causes just a one year super inconvenience of Emmett being the Web Master and President at the same time and John being the Patrolling Editor, VA Advisor and Secretary at the same time for that one year. Neither of us wants to be ridden into the ground doing this. We both have experience, not only in the workings of the Association, but in the administrative requirements of the offices.

There are quite a few advantages in have the bi-annual reunion at Ft Benning every two years. It will be easier to negotiate favorable room rates and to negotiate better arrangements with hotels if it is known that we will be returning every other year. Ft Benning is the home of the Infantry, of the Ranger Regiment Headquarters, of the Third Ranger Battalion, of the Airborne School, of the Infantry Museum, of the Ranger Training Brigade, and of the Infantry School. The activities at each Reunion are a large part of the job of organizing the Reunion, and activities at the Regimental Change Of Command are already scheduled. Additionally, there are a great many of our members who are retired form the military and who live in the Columbus area. This means that there is a pool of talent to draw from that will simplify the process of co-coordinating and arranging the reunion. In the case of the upcoming reunion, (2004), as of this writing, we are not sure if the Second Battalion will even be there for the reunion. This problem would not occur at Ft Benning. The Ranger Training Brigade is a 24/7/365 Ranger “activity”, even if the Third Battalion and the Regimental Headquarters were deployed as was the case during the 2000 reunion if you recall. The down side of this arrangement is that the reunion would always be in the East, at Ft Benning. I have also heard a considerable number of people discuss the concept of annual reunions, rather than bi-annual. There is no reason why reunions could not be held in reunion off years, (even years) at different places around the country. All it would take is for someone to step up, propose a site at the bi-annual convention, then volunteer to organize and host the Reunion and to have the site approved by the General Membership at the meeting. These even year reunions would be social gatherings, and would be the responsibility of the individual or individuals who agreed to be the sponsor(s). There would be space available in *Patrolling* Magazine and on the web site in which to advertise the event.

2. In an effort to get more people involved in the management of the Association, there is a proposal that the additional offices of a 1st and 2nd Vice-President be created. The intent here is to create a succession to the office of President, that will ensure continuity and to distribute a multitude of tasks between the Vice

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Presidents that will allow the other officers to direct their energies to the tasks appropriate to their offices. This also allows for a deciding tie vote on Board of Director issues if the original four are dead locked.

3. The current Bylaws allow for the creation of a financial committee at the President's discretion, to oversee the overall financial health of the Association. We feel that the financial security of the Association is increased if more people are privy to the financial workings of the Association. The office of the Treasurer will be concerned with overseeing the financial posture, rather than actually running the financial operation. The Office of Secretary has been demonstrated to be more attuned to the actual financial workings. For instance, the dues come to the Secretary, the bills come to the Secretary, and it only makes sense that adding the Treasurer to the equation will only delay and confuse the process. Many of the bills we pay are discounted if paid promptly. Adding the Treasurer to the process only slows things down. We do not have all that many bills to pay at any rate and the simpler the process is kept, the easier it is to monitor. The actual book keeping would still remain as a Treasurer function, we are talking about the Secretary writing the bills. Another function of the Finance Committee will be to arrive at a consensus, and to advise the Board of Directors and Officers on Bylaws changes in reference to how life membership funds are handled. Currently, we are required to place all life membership funds in a high interest bearing secured money market or US Treasury account, which has never been accomplished since it was first included in the bylaws, and forbids the spending of these funds for any reason. The intent originally was to use the interest from these funds to pay for the payment costs of printing the Patrolling Magazine, and requires the funds be maintained in a separate account, (Article XVII, Section 2). I assure you the interest we could obtain from this sort of investment does not come close to nor never has come close to paying the cost of printing. This Bylaws stipulation is ridiculously restrictive. The current investment atmosphere is not conducive to this type activity. We would prefer to see the bulk of the Association's funds in low risk, high yield, (to the extent that that is possible), accounts, and the minimum to operate the Association be maintained in the operating account, regardless of the source. [It should be noted that the Family Fund monies are not Association money and are maintained in a separate account]. There will be proposals for investment alternatives at the General Membership meeting.

4. An additional proposal, which would require a Bylaw change, would permit Instructors from the Ranger Department to be regular members of the Association. Being selectively inclusive is better than being selective exclusive. I personally do not subscribe to the "Last Man Standing" concept, where the last man alive closes the door behind him when he dies and the 'Closed Forever Sign' is hung in the window. Others do subscribe to this concept and I do not fault them. That is their business and their Association. This Association is not structured that way and will continue when maggots have feasted on the last morsels clinging to those rotten remains. Bona fide "Ranger Instructors" may very well be the last foreseeable inclusion I could think of deserving recognition. This is not to be confused with one who just got a Ranger Tab but later in turn served as an Instructor in the Ranger Department or what is now called the Ranger Training Brigade.

In conclusion, the above proposals would involve a change in the cycle of the reunions. There would be an 'official' reunion every other (odd) year in conjunction with the Ranger Rendezvous and Regimental Change of Command. These reunions would hold the General membership meeting and conduct the business of the Association, including the election of Officers, and any other matters before the general membership. The alternate (even) years would be social reunions **if** someone stepped forward with a proposal and a site, and that proposal was approved at the General Membership Meeting. There would be a limited amount of Association funds available for the off year reunions. The creation of the offices of 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents; the change in the duties of the Treasurer; the disposition of life membership monies and the addition of Ranger Instructors to the ranks of regular membership are all proposals that would require a bylaw change. Assuming that the proposal for the change of the bi-annual reunion is passed, those changes would be offered to the membership for a vote at the 2005 reunion. We will follow the same procedures as were followed during the last bylaw change. An authorship committee consisting of the past presidents, unit directors or their appointed representatives and the current officers will draft the proposed bylaw changes.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

4TH RANGER TRAINING BATTALION DEPLOYS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

BY: Cpt Kevin Cahill

During the Vietnam conflict, the Recondo Course executed training for the Long Range Patrol and other reconnaissance units to improve the fighting and intelligence gathering skills of soldiers conducting the most dangerous missions of the war. The course was taught in-country and culminated with a live patrol into enemy territory.

At Sulaymaniyah, Iraq: Delta Company, 4th Ranger Training Battalion from Fort Benning, GA, executed the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader Course (RSLC), formerly the Long Range Surveillance Leader Course (LRSLC) and heir to the Recondo Course. They conducted a Mobile Training Team (MTT) to northern Iraq for the long range surveillance units and Battalion scouts from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), XVIII Airborne Corps, and V Corps. The course was taught in-country and contained a live fire exercise conducted in enemy territory.

In the low intensity conflict stage of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the typical Long Range Surveillance Unit (LRSU) mission has been a rarity. The majority of LRSU's are currently conducting border security missions in northern Iraq, a role doctrinally reserved for Special Forces. Scout elements have been filling the gap of what was once the LRSU's domain. In light of this, it was determined that the LRS and scout elements deployed to Iraq needed to be brought up to speed on their doctrinal missions to maintain the special skills required to conduct the highly difficult and dangerous tasks that are expected of them.

At the request of MG Petraeus, Commanding General of the 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) – responsible for AO North, the whole of Northern Iraq to include the porous borders of Syria, Turkey, and Iran – D Company, 4th RTBn traveled across the globe to conduct the Army's only recon and surveillance course for the soldiers and leaders under his command. The training was conducted on a secure compound, co-located with the headquarters of the 16,000-strong Peshmerga army in northeast Iraq. These Kurdish fighters (Peshmerga means "fighter" in Kurdish) have been fighting Sadaam's forces for years and are fiercely loyal to the American forces located here. This meant the students could fully concentrate

on what has been called the graduate course of Ranger School.

The mission of the RSLC Course, as the proponent for all reconnaissance and surveillance doctrine, is to "Conduct the 33-day (or 18-day MTT) Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader Course to further develop leadership and combat arms related functional skills of officers and soldiers eligible for assignment to units whose primary mission is to conduct Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Combat Assessment." The course also standardizes and trains on the Mission Essential Tasks (METL) of LRSU's, light and mechanized scouts, the Recon/Surveillance/Target Acquisition (RSTA) Squadrons of the Stryker Brigades, Special Forces A Teams, and Marine Corps Recon forces. These tasks include Reconnaissance (area and zone), Surveillance, Reporting, Target Acquisition, Combat Assessment (formerly Battle Damage Assessment), Insertion/Extraction (static line, military freefall [HALO], airmobile, special purpose insertion/extraction system [SPIES], fast rope insertion/extraction system [FRIES], vehicle, boat, and foot), and Command and Control. Though, due to the combat environment, the students of the MTT in Iraq were taught the insertion/extraction techniques but did not execute them.

The students attending the RSLC Course represented nearly all of the different LRS and scout units in northern Iraq: scouts from the 187th Infantry Regiment (Rakkasan) and the 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne); LRS soldiers from the 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) LRS detachment (hosted the course); F Company, 51st Infantry LRS (XVIII Airborne Corps LRS Company); E Company, 51st Infantry (V Corps LRS Company); and soldiers from the 10th MTN DIV (LI) LRS Detachment (from the one team attached to F, 51st for Operation Iraqi Freedom while the rest of the detachment is in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom). The mere fact that their units were willing to give these leaders up for the duration of the 18-day MTT is a testament to the importance placed on the skills taught in the RSLC Course, knowing that these leaders will return to their units as experts in recon and surveillance operations, furthering the abilities of the units currently engaged in combat operations.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

During the Vietnam War, Army leadership determined that the men who volunteered to conduct the most dangerous missions of the war deserved the training that would make them more effective and lethal on the battlefield, as well as give them a greater chance of survival. That same determination, resulting then in the Recondo Course, manifested itself today as the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader Course in Iraq. Then, as now, the first stanza of the Ranger Creed rings true for these men, “Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession...”



(L to R) SSG Tully, SFC Button, and SSG Keith at 101st Div HQs, Mosul Palace – D Company cadre standing in front of Saddam’s old Presidential Palace



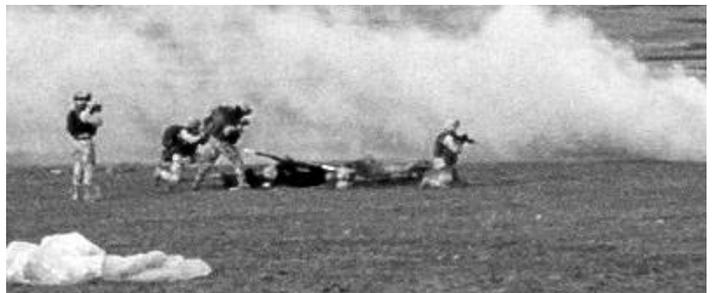
SFC Ray joins the Peshmerga – standing with Peshmerga Motorized Infantry in front of an old Soviet BRDM2 RKH NBC Recon Vehicle at the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Motor Pool in As Sulaymaniyah



Break-Out from a Surveillance Site II – students conducting a Battle Drills Live Fire Exercise



SFC Ray instructing during Battle Drills Live Fire Exercise



Break-Out from a Surveillance Site III – students using smoke to conceal their withdrawal during a Battle Drills Live Fire Exercise



Break-Out from a Surveillance Site I – students conducting a Battle Drills Live Fire Exercise in the shadow of the Zagros Mountain Range near the border of Iran

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

California Rangers

BY: Ranger Bob Eppens

It's been a tough few weeks for California Rangers. Three of our comrades have fallen. As 75th Ranger Regiment Association president Dana McGrath put it, "The Families of the KIA have mentioned the awe of seeing how many of us who didn't even "know" their Ranger come to say goodbye out of the respect we hold for each other. I get the chance to tell them we ALL know each other whether we've met personally or not - it's the kind of thing most never get to know... Rangers- - we're remembered by the Family because WE remember each other. What they don't know is, we mostly remember because we CAN'T forget, but the outcome is the same, and we DO care enough to help where we can."

First, Ranger Cpl. Pat Tillman, 27, of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment was killed in action April 22nd while on patrol in Afghanistan with A Company's second platoon (the "Black Sheep"). He was escorted home to San Jose by his brother, Ranger Kevin Tillman, also of 2/75. A public service was held Monday, May 11 and was broadcast nationwide.

I was honored to represent the 75th Ranger Regiment Association there, along with Rangers from SOCOM, 75th Regiment, and the US Army Ranger Association. Lieutenant General Kensinger, the USASOC commander attended, along with a Ranger command sergeant major, who was limping from a reported jump injury.

Ranger Tillman was eulogized by a number of family members, friends, and celebrities including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's wife Maria Shriver, former POW and Medal of Honor recipient Senator John McCain, and Arizona Cardinal teammates from his earlier career in the NFL.

One of the early speakers was Navy SEAL Steve White, who served with Ranger Tillman in Afghanistan and earlier in Iraq (SEALs typically avoid having their pictures taken—now White's face is posted around the world!). White revealed more about Tillman's enthusiasm and sense of purpose, and told briefly how Rangers and SEALs were teamed with other Spec Ops guys for their various missions.

One of the Regiment's Rangers identified as Tillman's squad leader, staff sergeant Schaffer. Ranger Shaffer has served most of his career in the Regiment: six and a half years at 2nd Battalion,

several more at Ranger Training Brigade. Both White and Schaffer, being "Quiet Professionals", spoke in generalities and left much unsaid—as expected—about the mission and Tillman's death. Here's what was posted on the Special Operations Command website (www.soc.mil):

During the Rangers' combat patrol, Tillman's platoon was split into two sections. Tillman, a team leader, was in the platoon's lead section when the trail section began receiving mortar and small arms fire. Because of the area's cavernous terrain, the trail element was unable to maneuver out of the kill zone and it was difficult for the embattled trail section to target the enemy positions. Although Tillman's element was already safely out of the area of the attack, he ordered his team to dismount and then maneuvered the Rangers up a hill near the enemy's location. As they crested the hill, Tillman directed his team into firing positions and personally provided suppressive fire with an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon machine gun. Through the firing, Tillman's voice was heard issuing commands to take the fight to the enemy forces emplaced on the dominating high ground. Only after Tillman's team had engaged the well-armed enemy did it appear that the hostile fires directed at the Ranger trail section were diminished. Leading his Rangers without regard for his own safety, Tillman was shot and killed while focusing his efforts on the elimination of the enemy forces and the protection of his team members. As a result of Tillman's combat leadership and his Soldiers' efforts, the platoon's trail section was able to maneuver through the ambush to positions of safety without taking a single casualty. In a Sports Illustrated article (<http://www.cnn.com/pr/subs/siexclusive/2004/04/27/tillman0503/>), there was contrary report mentioned by an allied Afghani leader, suggesting Ranger Tillman was killed in a vehicle by an IED. Tillman was also eulogized by his younger brother, Rich, who was clearly grieving, and wore a white t-shirt to the event. The San Francisco Chronicle commented on his remarks in a 5-5-04 article (<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/05/05/BAG6U6FMM91.DTL>):

Family's farewell: During Monday's memorial for Pat Tillman in San Jose, some relatives displayed the same free-spirited style as the fallen soldier who gave

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

up a million-dollar NFL career to become an Army Ranger. Rich Tillman appeared to be toasting Pat with his big brother's favorite beverage — a foamy pint of Guinness beer — when he took a sip and said, "Thanks, Pat," as he rose to address to the 3,500 mourners at the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. "I didn't write (blip) because I'm not a writer," young Tillman said, choking up. "I'm not just going to sit here and break down on you. But thanks for coming. Pat's a (blipping) champion and always will be." What followed may have stunned those accustomed to solemn memorials. "Just make no mistake, he'd want me to say this: He's not with God. He's (blipping) dead," Rich Tillman said. "He's not religious. So, thanks for your thoughts, but he's (blipping) dead." There was some laughter from the crowd, noted Chronicle reporter Alan Gathright — some of it nervous. And one person near Gathright clapped. One wondered: where was Rich Tillman when his brothers joined the Rangers? There was little time to ask, or talk with any family, as the speakers and family members left immediately after the ceremony. Cpl. Tillman's Ranger buddies quickly departed for their lodging at a Hampton Inn. A linkup with them was unsuccessful.

On April 29th, Ranger Alan Campbell of Sacramento died quickly following a mononucleosis infection. Many of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association know his leadership in helping coordinate the annual Ranger Rendezvous, last held in Reno. He was one of the Ft. Hood A Company Rangers who went to Ft. Lewis to establish the 2nd Ranger Battalion in 1974; he served four years, had 50+ jumps and was a sergeant. He became a noteworthy lawyer for Sacramento County, and was very active in his church and Boy Scouts. He is survived by his wife Jacqueline and fifteen-year old son Matthew.

We had a squad of Rangers at Ranger Campbell's memorial service. CPT Kurt Sturr did a roll call, all Rangers snapping to attention and sounding off when called by name, with one lone exception: "Ranger Campbell..." "Ranger Alan Campbell..." "Ranger Alan C. Campbell..." Taps sounded, we presented our final salutes to our friend and comrade. I couldn't see much after that, somehow my vision got blurry.

Ranger Christian Kilpatrick, who recently left the Ranger Regiment for a civilian contractor job, was killed May 1 in an ambush in northern Iraq. Kilpatrick, 25, of Santa Rosa, worked for DynCorp, a private company that trains police, prison guards and

judicial officers who work in places such as Kosovo and Iraq. Ranger Kilpatrick was killed when his convoy was hit by rocket-propelled grenades, machine gun fire and artillery near Tikrit, according to a local newspaper. He spent four years in the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, where he rose to the rank of sergeant. Graveside services were being arranged for May 20, after Patrolling goes to the publisher.

Related article:

<http://www.marini.com/Stories/0,1413,234~24407~2128524,00.html>



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

It's about time!

Crime - New law targets fake vets impersonating a veteran now a crime akin to pretending to be a police officer.

OLYMPIA _ Everyone has seen the cardboard signs clutched by panhandlers at intersections, freeway exits and supermarket parking lots. “Will work for food.” “Pregnant.” “Anything helps.” “God bless you.” There’s one common panhandling sign, however, that state lawmakers hope to soon see a lot less of: “Veteran.”

This week, Gov. Gary Locke approved a law making it a crime to profit by falsely claiming to be a military veteran. Among the bill’s targets; people wrongly seeking hiring preferences or educational benefits, con-men preying on people’s sympathies and panhandlers. “It’s one of the worst kinds of fraud. It devalues the concept of being a veteran,” said the bill’s prime sponsor, Sen. Pam Roach, R Auburn. The state Legislature unanimously approved the bill earlier this month. “Its way overdue,” said Chuck Lawrence, a Vietnam veteran living in Sumner, Wash. “I was just fed up, as was most of the veteran community.” Lawrence said his own father in law ripped off a friend for \$10,000 by falsely pretending to be an ex-Navy SEAL left penniless by government paperwork foul up. “These people, they leech off the public,” he said, “they are a blight.”

Starting July 1, falsely claiming to be a veteran “with intent to defraud for personal gain” will be considered criminal impersonation in the second degree. That’s a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. A similar law already exists for people pretending to be police officers. Reactions among local veterans and homeless advocates were mixed. Dick Powell, a veteran and volunteer with Disabled American Veterans, Spokane, said the law’s not a good idea. “We’ve got enough laws. I don’t think we need one for impersonating a vet,” he said. “Look at your prosecutors they don’t have the time. It just creates more of a backlog.”

Another Spokane veteran, World War II sailor Garland Enberg, said there are some but not many real homeless veterans who panhandle. “There are a few of them that are legitimate,” he said. “They’ve just

picked that way to go.” Enberg has long volunteered to help homeless veterans and helped put together a veterans’ day labor program, now defunct. He volunteers at health care events for homeless vets, and set up a library at the veterans’ home in Spokane. It bothers him when he encounters fake veterans, he said, but he questions whether the law will deter them.

“I don’t think it will have a lot of effect,” he said. “These people take going to jail like missing a meal.” Kari Reese, a public relations coordinator at the Union Gospel Mission in Spokane, likes the new law. She’s seen real homeless veterans weep, overcome with emotion, when honored at veterans’ events at the mission. “I feel like it is kind of a slap in the face for those men when others use it (the title ‘veteran’) and throw it around like it means nothing,” she said. “It’s just another con, but it’s even worse, because it dishonors them.”

D.E. Twitchell, a Vietnam era veteran in Spokane, agrees that it’s unlikely that local police will devote much time to questioning panhandlers about their personal histories. But he still supports the law. “I’ve got nothing against panhandling. I’ve given money to guys with a sign reading, ‘I need a beer,’ because they’re honest,” said Twitchell. But, he said, it irks him to see fake veterans.

Sen. Roach said she thinks the law will be used. “I think in fact we will find this will be enforced,” she said. “The people support this bill. It’s not something that’s going to be overlooked.” She also thinks the law will encourage veterans to question panhandlers and others who say they served in the military. Twitchell’s done that a couple of times. The former drill sergeant once confronted a man asking for cigarettes at Spokane’s bus station. The man wore a military field jacket, with several medals dangling from it. Twitchell questioned the man, who said he’d been a B 52 navigator in the Air Force. So Twitchell mentioned a well known military slang term unprintable in a family newspaper for the big bomber, and asked the man what the term meant. He didn’t know. “I told him I didn’t want to see him wearing those medals again or I’d take it personally and kick his ass,” said the 59 year old Twitchell.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Politics and the Association

By: John Chester

During the course of an average day, I probably get 10 – 20 e-mails extolling the virtues of one candidate for President of the United States and condemning the other for being a gutless SOB. There are members of our Association who think otherwise, but they are largely silent. Some have gone so far as to urge Dana to take a public stand in favor of a party or candidate, or to urge me to take a stance in the *Patrolling* magazine and to either excoriate or exult one candidate or the other. There are a number of reasons that we can't and won't do this, three come immediately to mind.

1. The short answer, which should suffice for most purposes, is; our By-laws prohibit the Association from supporting any political party or candidate.

“Article IV, Section 2: The Association shall not endorse or support any political candidate, platform or party.”

“Article IV, Section 3: Officers, directors and members shall not engage in any form of activity that implies or specifically relates the

Association to any form of public activity without first obtaining approval from the Association.”

“Article IV, Section 6: Violation of the intent of this Article may result in loss of vested right to membership.”

2. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered, tax return filing ‘Non-profit Organization’, under the tax laws of the United States. This means that as an Association, we do not pay Federal income tax on the money we receive. If we are seen to have taken a political position, we would be in danger of losing our tax exempt status. The result of that loss? The IRS could go all the way back to the founding of the Association, and assess taxes due for each of those years, (20 or so). That would, of course, be the destruction of the Association.

3. Finally, and I know most of you will be surprised at this. We don't all agree. We are about equally divided as far as I can tell. I don't think it's a matter of conservative Vs. liberal, I just think we have different opinions on the same issues. Believe it or

not this is healthy. We all fought, or were prepared to fight for that ephemeral concept that we call “Freedom”. The bottom line is that each of our opinions is as good and as sacred as any other's opinion. If the Association were to back any given party or candidate, we would immediately alienate half the Association, regardless of which we supported.

A certain amount of debate is necessary and healthy in any Democratic society, but as I have often said, “Democracy is when 51% of the people decide to shoot 49% of the people.” Do we live in a Democracy? Do people who have opinions different from the majority of people have a right to be protected in those beliefs? Has political correctness gone overboard and become political stupidity? I'm not smart enough to answer all those questions, but I bet there are folk who think they are smart enough and want to jam that opinion down my throat. I do know that I wouldn't want to be a spotted owl, but I don't want to be a storm trooper either.

2004 Ranger Memorial Foundation / Bill Heard Chevrolet Partner Scholarship Winners

The Ranger Memorial Foundation and Bill Heard Chevrolet proudly announces the 2004 academic year scholarship winners. Applications were received from active duty and retired Rangers and their eligible family members from all three battalions, the RTB, and from former members now serving in other army units. The applications were reviewed and, to date, fifteen approved as 2004 winners. Thanks to the generous donation of Bill Heard Chevrolet, the annual scholarship was raised from \$500 to \$750 for each winner. The following list contains the names of the awardees, their relationship to the Rangers, and their school:

1. Ms. Valery Barron, daughter of CSM Byron Barron, RTB. North Georgia College and State University
2. Ms. Lisa M. Valenzano, wife of SPC Anthony Valenzano, HHC 75th RGR RGT. Columbus Technical College.
3. Mr. George B. Bullen, son of Vietnam era (K/75th) Ranger William Bullen. Valley Forge Military College.
4. Ms. Alisha R. McGraw, Wife of SPC Holland McGraw, 2/75th RGR RGT. Seattle Community College and Pierce College Puyallup.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

5. Ms. Leslie Ann Herlick, wife of SFC Mark A. Herlick, RTB. Columbus State University.
6. Ms. Christina A. Lewis, wife of SPC John E. Lewis, 3/75th RGR RGT. Florida Southern College.
7. Mr. Scott F. Stetson, son of Winslow Stetson, U.S. Army Ranger. Birmingham Southern College.
8. Ms. Nicole White, wife of Sergeant Kevin D. White, 3/75th RGR RGT. Columbus State University.
9. Ms. Laura L. Lemon, daughter of Vietnam era Ranger Peter C. Lemon and Medal of Honor Awardee. Pepperdine University.
10. Ms. Linda L. Henry, wife of LTC Scott A. Henry, U.S. Army Ranger. George Mason University.
11. Ms. Lauren F. Raney, granddaughter of Ranger Ralph Puckett, Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment. University of Georgia.
12. Ms. Megan A. Marquis, wife of SPC Benjamin A. Marquis, 2/75th RGR RGT. The Ohio State University.
13. Ms. Jennifer M. Wright, daughter of Ranger Jim Grimshaw, USARA. Webster University
14. Ms. Erika R. Norment, daughter of Ranger Normant, 75th RGR RGT. Ivy Tech State College.
15. Ms. Erica A. Jones, daughter of Vietnam era (N/75th) Ranger E. P. Rick Jones. Radford University.

All applicants were quality individuals deserving of the Ranger Memorial Foundation / Bill Heard Chevrolet Partner Scholarship. Applications are currently being accepted for 2005. Ranger Memorial Foundation Scholarships are not need-based, but are awarded based on the strengths of each applicant. Qualifying criteria and applications can be found on the Ranger Memorial Foundation web page at www.rangermemorial.org. For more information please log-on and learn more about the Ranger Memorial Foundation.

RANGER HALL OF FAME

Here are the results of today's Ranger Hall of Fame selection board.
Congratulations to the following 2004 Ranger Hall of Fame Inductees:

Inductees

Ranger John A. Acker
Ranger Robert D. Bayne
Ranger Harold G. Bennett
Ranger Roger Brown 75th
Ranger Charles W. Caruth
Ranger George Massey Gividen
Ranger Christopher M. Gooch, Jr.
Ranger James A. Herbert
Ranger George Horvath
Ranger Francisco G. Magana
Ranger Robert S. Mueller, III
Ranger Walt Sanders
Ranger Jimmie W. Spencer
Ranger Carl W. Stiner
Ranger James Gavin Storter

Honorary Inductee

Mr. Paul E. Voorhees

Nominated by:

Merrill's Marauders Assoc
RICA-KW
Rgr Michael Martin, 95'RHO
Rgr Regt Assoc
RICA-KW
Rgr Joseph G. Clemons, RHO
The Rgr Assoc
RICA-KW
Rgr William H. Acebes, 03'RHO
The Rgr Regt Assoc
The Rgr Regt Assoc
75th Rgr Regt Assoc
The Rgr Assoc
USASOC
The Rgr Assoc

Nominated by:

Rgr William Spies, 00'RHO

The time and date for the ceremony in July is TBD. More information to follow. Notification letters to the inductees will be mailed out next week.

RLTW

V/R,
SFC Fuentes
SFC Paul M. Fuentes
Public Affairs NCO
75th Ranger Regiment
706.545.4260 fuentesp@soc.mil

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

SILVER ROSE

MY name is Donna Brizendine. I am a Silver Rose Director for South Alabama . I am writing this and sending the mission statement to the Ranger Magazine , first because my husband is SFC Thomas Brizendine Retired Co A 75th Ranger from Ft Hood Texas . The reason is because we need to let all Vietnam Veterans know we care for them and if they have Cancer from Agent Orange we have a Special Silver Rose to award them. I am leaving my email address and the Silver Rose email address here so everyone of the Vietnam Veterans can read about the Silver Rose. The addresses are <http://silverrose.org> and djbriz@gulftel.com. My telephone number is 251-945-3278. I have awarded one Silver Rose last year and I am wanting to award many more this year to veterans who have cancer that served in Vietnam . Take time to see the Silver Rose web page and also take time to read the Mission Statement below.

—— Original Message ——
 From: Donna Brizendine
 To: Donna Brizendine
 Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2004 2:27 PM

MISSION STATEMENT

Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant, is and was a weapon of war deployed by American Forces against the enemy during the Vietnam War. Accidentally, many of our own servicemen and women were also wounded and killed by it. For those wounds, according to statutory law and military specifications and regulations, as

with all other wounds received in a combat zone, our Agent Orange heroes qualify for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. However, no Military Order of the Purple Heart has ever been awarded to a Vietnam veteran for Agent Orange wounds. This is a grave injustice. We, the Selection Committee of The Order of the Silver Rose, believe that the people of the United States need heroes, and we have been overlooking too many of them. It is the mission of this organization to recognize the courage, heroism, and contributions of American service personnel found to have been exposed to Agent Orange in a combat zone, and who have been identified under the 1991 Agent Orange Act of Congress. Personal sacrifices have gone neglected by the very nation for whom those sacrifices were made. We refer specifically to The Military Order of the Purple Heart (herein frequently referred to as “the Purple Heart”), and the capriciously inconsistent methods by which its requirements, which are simply and clearly stated in military regulations, have been used to exclude, rather than include, American Agent Orange combat heroes.

We believe that the Purple Heart, our most venerable military decoration, should be awarded to ALL combat veterans wounded or killed in action against an enemy of the United States; although at this time we focus our attention specifically on the Vietnam War and the defoliant Agent Orange which was deployed there.

We are aware that many other

injustices have been perpetrated on Vietnam veterans, but at this time, the matter of Agent Orange is the only injustice for which we have court decisions and federal legislation to back our claims. Therefore, we choose to fight one dragon at a time, in hopes that our example may eventually light the way for those who will one day take up the remaining gauntlets of injustice. Purple Hearts should be dispensed thoughtfully and evenhandedly. A combat veteran who is wounded or killed in action is entitled to the Purple Heart, regardless of the source of the wounds.

In our Quest for the Purple Heart, we have learned that ignorance is contagious, and misery knows no fatherland. There is no copyright on pain, and no statute of experience garnered through wading through miles of red tape, trying to find someone with the courage necessary to force the President to enforce existing law and give our armed forces all they ask for ... simple Justice.

There can be no doubt that Vietnam veterans exposed to this deadly defoliant and identified under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 deserve Purple Hearts. Executive Orders, Public Law, and Military Regulations specify it in black letter law. Only Presidential Policy stands between the service personnel and their medals. The President is the only person who can change Executive Policy, but he can, indeed, do so, with a single stroke of a pen. The President of the United States, at this time, is in violation of Executive Orders and

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Public Law, and even the Military Regulations to which he is subject as Commander in Chief. Purple Heart Law, specifically U.S. Naval Regulations, contains no discretionary clause by which personnel can be excluded. It MUST be awarded to a combat veteran who has been wounded or killed in a war zone. Those service personnel whose lethal exposure to Agent Orange resulted in internal, invisible wounds, which are revealed only by the passage of time, are nonetheless eligible to receive Purple Hearts. Unfortunately, at this time, Agent Orange exposure is NOT considered an eligible wound, because that is the President's present political policy. Unlike the other military decorations, the President of the United States alone is responsible for its dispersal and standards. Although President Kennedy, in Executive Order #1016, authorized the Secretaries of each of the Armed Forces to bestow it on his behalf,

the standards for awarding Purple Hearts remain in the hands of the occupant of the White House, unless they are uniformly altered across all branches of the Armed Services, as approved by the Secretary of Defense. Regulations at this date are NOT uniform.

Any existing regulations that require that the Enemy inflict an injury are in direct conflict with both the letter and the spirit of Executive Orders concerning "friendly fire". Any regulations that require that a wound be treated and recorded at that time have lost touch with the realities of modern chemical warfare. Americans who were exposed to mustard gas in World War I received Purple Hearts. Ask any wounded survivor or Hiroshima or Nagasaki today (many of whom are American Service personnel), and they will tell you that they were wounded by a bomb, a weapon so insidious that its results could be impossible to detect at the time.

It is for these reasons that we

have created The Order of the Silver Rose. We will never stop praying that the doors to the Purple Heart will someday swing open wide enough to admit all service personnel who have earned it. Until that day comes, we cannot allow our particular demon to continue to run unchallenged in America. We battle the Dragon of Prejudice armed only with a Silver Rose, desiring to win simple honor and respect for these heroic personnel who have already earned it. That honor and respect is embodied in The Military Order of the Purple Heart. However, if the Armed Services refuse to recognize and reward these American heroes, then we will do it. As our pleas to the White House go unanswered by the President, we solicit a Joint Resolution of Congress to bring pressure upon the Commander in Chief to Right this thirty-year-old Wrong. We do it proudly, because we are the children of American Heroes.

In The Yellow Snow

By: Gordon Yosinoff, C/2/75 , (1980-82).

I was a new guy at 2nd Battalion back in Dec. of 1980. We were heading to our annual "winter training" deployment. This time we were off for Alaska. I remembered how they scared the crap out of us all during our "indoctrination" back at Ft Lewis. The thing I remember most from the trainers is how they always were over emphasizing the dehydration aspects of training/fighting in the arctic. "Drink water, drink lots and lots of water," was the advice drilled into us. "Remember, they said, when you step out the door of that C-141, and that blast of air first hits you the temperature will be approximately 271 degrees below zero. I thought, "Oh my God, 271 degrees below zero, damn, that's unbelievable" But trusting my trainers and being loyal to the cause, I heeded their advice. So the day arrives, I'm in. a C-141, it's a five flour or so ride, and they're cranking on the AC to get

us all acclimated for the first frigid step out the door, and into the so called 'unbelievably' cold weather. Little did I know at the time (only being a naive nineteen year old), that this was just an extreme exaggeration (or a "line of bull" as some like to put it). Never-the-less, I blindly obeyed. Now I had on at least three layers of clothing for the five-hour flight, and was drinking water out my canteens and water bottles, in order to give myself reassurance that I wouldn't start off dehydrated. I'm getting nervous, so I'm drinking more water. So now we're only three hours out, and some idiot decided that we needed to suit up. SO now we're all suited up, and all checked out, and we're just sitting there in our monkey suits getting ready for "the big blast." I knew that I had to take a "leak", but after getting equipment checked, I didn't want to mess around with undoing any of my gear and jeopardizing my own safety. I'm dying there, my eyes are turning

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

yellow, and I'm squirming in my seat worse than a ferret on speed, as I count the moments until I finally get to step out that door. I'm wearing two layers of gloves by now, when the 'magic moment' finally arrives, and within seconds I'm out the door and on my way down to a snow covered drop zone approximately mid-thigh deep. I do a 'stand up landing' as I stay on my feet.

Now, what's the first thing a Ranger does when he lands on a drop zone? Does he remove his weapon from its case or pull his quick release in order to collapse his chute? No... the first thing that this ranger did was to fervently throw both layers of gloves to the ground then unbutton and dig through at least three layers of clothing, in order to relieve himself. After much digging and scrapping I was finally able to do what I had waited so long for. Now I'm about half way through the process, and my eyes are just about rolled back in my head. All of a sudden this strong Alaskan wind rolls in and re-inflates my chute, but I'm too busy to even notice through my watery relieved eyes. With out a second to react, I'm suddenly jerked face down into my own yellow snow. I'm being drug, or in a sense "plowed" through the thigh deep snow. As I'm being pulled forward, the weight of my body is forcing me to go deeper and deeper under the snow.

By now, I'm almost at the bottom of the snow, and I've been drug at least twenty feet.

Because I'm being pulled head first I cannot seem to get my feet under me so that I could stand up. I was definitely drowning and suffocating in the snow. All the while, I'm trying to pull on my quick release (which of course would collapse my chute}, however my quick releases were not releasing. Why? Because my hands were so numb by this point that I was finding it difficult to pull hard enough to get a release. I'm panicking by this point. Then, after what seemed a minute and a half without any success, I remember thinking how embarrassing it would be to be found dead this way, penis out my pants, and suffocated under the snow. So I send up a 'flare prayer' to the great 'Commander and Chief' and I decide to give it one last final pull with all my might on my quick release, because by now I'm becoming weak and failing. By some incredible miracle my quick release pops and collapses my chute. I am slowly able to get my feet under me and to dig myself out. Too embarrassed to say anything to anyone, and being unnoticed, I gathered my gear together and made my way to the assembly point. Later that day, I mustered up enough courage to tell my buddies about "My Day in the Yellow Snow".



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Best Ranger Competition – 2004

By: John Chester

The 21st Annual David E. Grange, Jr. Best Ranger Competition was held at Ft. Benning GA, April 23 through 26, 2004. Twenty teams entered the competition; eight completed all the scheduled events. This year's winners, SSG'S Boley and Nash, were from the 75th Ranger Regiment.

The course consisted of 29 military skill events, ranging over 60 hours with no programmed sleep or rest periods. Participation for this year's competition, due to deployments, was not as strong as some in years past, but still included teams from the following units and Commands; Ranger Training Brigade, 75th Ranger Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, United States Military Academy, Old Guard, 7th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Warfare Training Group, USAMANSCEM, 4th Infantry Division and JSA Korea.

Originally conceived to identify the "Best of the Best", the Best Ranger Competition has been held annually since 1981. The competition was cancelled for the years 1991 and 2003, due to deployments in support of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Since its inception the competition has grown in stature and fame, until, at present, it is recognized as one of the premiere military and athletic sporting events in the world.

In July 1981, the Chairborne Rangers, a civilian organization that supports Rangers, asked the Ranger Training Department to design and conduct a "Ranger Olympics" in order to identify the best two-man Ranger team in the Army. From the beginning, the objective was clear, competition should place extreme demands on the team's physical, mental and technical abilities as Rangers. The standards of performance must vastly exceed those required by the average soldier.

The first two Best Ranger Competitions were held as competitions between teams from each of the three

Ranger Department Camps. In 1984, the Competition expanded to include teams from throughout the Army. Interest in the Best Ranger Competition has risen to such a high level that many of the participating commands now conduct preliminary competitions to select the teams that will represent their unit at Fort Benning each year.

The competition is a 3-day event consisting of physical and mental tasks undertaken with very little rest between events. Selected events must be completed to remain in the competition. The historical attrition rate averages approximately 60%. Competitors are not aware of test sequence until arriving at the test site. The competition has grown over the years to be one of the highlights for Fort Benning with multi-media coverage and outstanding guest speakers.

Some basic facts: The average age of the competitors is 28; the average height is 5' 10"; the average weight is 165 lbs. Rank ranges from Specialist to Major. All competitors must be Airborne - Ranger qualified. All competitors are decathlon caliber soldier – athletes, 26 % are prior competitors.

Events have included the 4.7 mile ruck run, grenades, military knots, weapons assembly, rope climb and rappelling (prussic), bayonet assault course, night land navigation (map & compass), obstacle course, water confidence test – slide for life – rope, helocast – swim, mile buddy run, airborne operation, Darby Queen confidence course, rifle & pistol marksmanship, machine gun marksmanship, 20+ miles foot march (60 lb ruck), spot jump and an unknown distance run.

Needless to say, this competition cannot fail to impress the spectators. This is not the first Best Ranger that I have attended, and each time I depart with a renewed commitment to get in shape. With any kind of luck that feeling will wear off in a week or two.

All photos by Dana McGrath & John Chester



Water Confidence course



Parachute event



Spot jump



Water conference course

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!

75th AIRBORNE RANGERS

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We are not expensive, and reach nearly 2,500 current and former LRRPs and Rangers with each issue. Published four times a year.

(This is the ad)



The winning team crossing the finish line; SSG'S Boley and Nash at right.



Marksmanship



Helocast & swim

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT
Unit Director - Roger Brown



By Ranger Roger Brown

I attended a Ranger School Graduation on 7 May, along with a great Soldier (Carl Vincill Maj. ret.). Carl was my Platoon Leader during our first tour in Vietnam, in both A/1/503 and LRRP, 173rd. Abn. Bde. 1966-1967. I met a young outstanding soldier (PFC Michael Brasswell), who had just earned his Ranger Tab. Mike is assigned to the 2nd. Plt. of Battle Company 1/75th. Mike has been in the Battalion less than a year. I want to thank his Fire Team Leader, Squad Leader, and his Platoon Sergeant for preparing him for Ranger School, in such a short period of time.

Best Ranger Competition 23-25 April 2004, was won by SSG. Colin Boley and SSG Adam, Nash, both from the 3/75th and had just returned 2 weeks before the competition from Afghanistan. 19 teams started and 8 finished.



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)



The Wild Critter Cook Out was held in Dahlonega GA. from 2-4 April. There were several former members of the First Ranger Battalion in attendance.



Doug Perry (Call Sign) Cow Killer 6

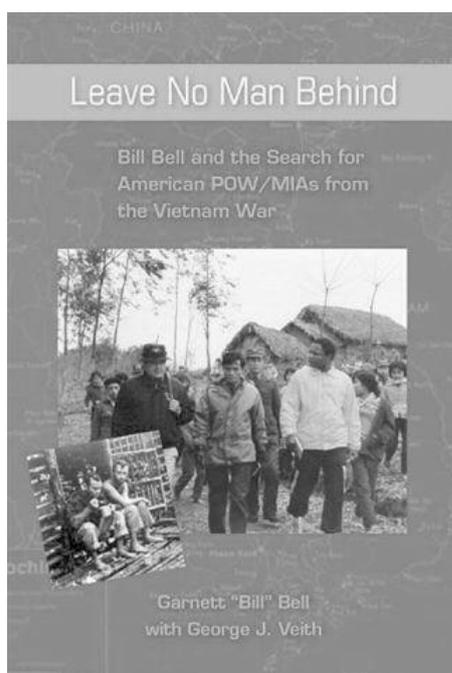


Rangers who served in Vietnam

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)



This book (LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND) is a must read. The author (BILL BELL) is an Airborne Ranger and a great soldier. Bill and I served together during our second tour in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division. Bill Bell was one of the last soldiers out of Vietnam when Saigon fell to the Communist in April 1975.



First Battalion 30th Reunion Schedule. Please send old photos to Sheila Dudley ASAP.

Reservations are available at the following hotels for the 30th Anniversary attendees at reduced rates:

Hunter Army Airfield - The Landmark Inn
(912)692-0139

Midtown - The Clubhouse Inn (912)356-1234

Downtown and beside the site of the 2004 Ranger Ball (Savannah International Trade and Convention Center) - The Westin 1-800-228-3000 (\$93 per night

normally \$250 and up rooms).

Please ask for the Ranger Group rate when calling for reservations. All rates are available for dates 12-16 July 2004.

Tentative Schedule of Events

2 July 2004 - Banner Day Activities (Picnic, sporting events) at Hunter Army Airfield

13 July 2004 - Ranger Ball, unveiling of Memorial model, recognition of 1/75 alumni at Savannah International Trade and Convention Center

14 July 2005 - Lunch at RDF

15 July 2005 - Battalion Change of Command at Forsyth Park, Historic District

Please help us get the word out and hope to see you this summer. Shelia

NEW MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST BATTALION

Joe Mattison=BCO.Feb.74-Sep77

Matthew Shriver Bco. June 95-Feb. 98

Charles Graver. Dec91-Feb.96

Donald Bruce Mar .74-dec77 A/C Co.

Brett Jacob July93-Nov.94 A Co.

I am saddened to inform everyone the loss of a former member of our Battalion. (CW3) Chuck Fortenberry. Chuck was a pilot in Command of an Apache Helicopter that was shot down near Baghdad on 11 April 2004.

One of our Rangers, Retired SFC Wesley Batalona formerly serving with 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion was one of the four government contractors killed in Iraq recently. His wife, June, lives in Hawaii and he has one daughter, Krystal.

Krystal is trying to find someone with photos of her dad. He served in 1st in the early 80's and 3rd in the late 80's early 90's to the best of our recollection. He also served in the 7th RTB. If anyone has photos of Wes, please send to me via email or regular mail to 59 N. Lightning, Bldg 1156, HAAF, GA 31409-5120.

June's address is: House 43-961, Paauilo, Hawaii 96776 for sympathy cards or letters.

The Ranger Hall Of Fame will be held at Ft. Benning on 8 July. This year's inductees from the First Battalion are CSM (ret.) Franciso Magana, CSM (ret.) George Horvath and CPT. (ret.) Roger Brown.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Rich Hecht



Rangers finally get their due

ADAM LYNN; *The News Tribune*

The fifth stanza of the Ranger Creed begins this way: "Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country."

Judging from their recent actions, the Army Rangers of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment based at Fort Lewis have been true to their creed.

Four times since the war on terrorism began, they have deployed for missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. They made history last year when elements from the battalion were active in Iraq and Afghanistan at the same time.

It was the first time that "a single Ranger battalion conducted simultaneous combat operations in two separate theaters of war," according to Capt. Scott Naumann, the battalion's adjutant.

"In every case, Rangers willingly faced the fiercest enemies at great risk to themselves, knowing that their actions would receive little to no recognition from the public," Naumann said.

On Thursday, they got their due.

Standing in formation on the Ranger quad at Fort Lewis with relatives looking on, the Rangers of the 2nd Battalion were awarded the medals and badges they earned on the battlefields of western Iraq and in the 9,000-foot mountains of Afghanistan.

Three Rangers - Sgt. Justin Cullinan, Spc. Manuel Avila and Sgt. Matthew Watters - received Purple Hearts for wounds received in action with the enemy.

Watters and Sgt. Jason Bewley also were awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for valor on the battlefield. Others received the Combat Infantry Badge, and still others the Army Commendation Medal.

"This is a great band of brothers," said guest speaker Ralph Hagler, a retired Army colonel who once commanded the 2nd Battalion. "You have our collective thanks. Continue to lead the way."

The more than 100 Rangers also paused to remember one of their comrades who didn't make it back: Sgt. Jay Blessing of Tacoma. Blessing was killed Nov. 14 in Afghanistan by a homemade bomb. He was 21.

"His memory lives on with us as a true testament of selfless service to our country," said Naumann, who served as master of ceremonies.

Following the ceremony, a few handpicked Rangers met with the press.

Watters was one.

His lower left leg blown off by a rocket-propelled grenade in western Iraq, his combat days are over.

But he retains the high ideals expressed in the Ranger Creed that requires these elite soldiers "to shoulder more than my share of

the task whatever it may be, 100 percent and then some."

"I still want to serve my country," Watters said. "There are people out there serving every day that don't get recognition, like the police and firefighters. I just know I want to wear a uniform the rest of my life."



NFL pro-turned-Ranger killed
MICHAEL GILBERT; *The News Tribune*

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

The Ranger battalion at Fort Lewis was the perfect place for Pat Tillman to break clean from stardom in professional sports and serve his country quietly as an infantryman.

The elite troops perform like almost no others in the world. They have been sent on at least five combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan since the U.S. war on terrorism began in October 2001. And they almost never talk to reporters.

From his place in A Company of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, it was easy for Tillman to avoid all those in the media who wanted to hear him explain his amazing decision to forsake the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League for a three-year enlistment in an Army at war.

Now it's a story that others will have to tell.

Tillman, 27, was killed and two other soldiers were wounded in an ambush by Afghan militiamen in the mountainous Pakistan border region, U.S. military officials and news services reported.

The Pentagon formally announced his death late Friday, and public reaction was swift and widespread.

The White House praised him as "an inspiration both on and off the football field." U.S. senators, pro football team owners and his former teammates and coaches expressed their sadness, and their gratitude for having known him.

Tillman is the 827th U.S. service member to die either in Afghanistan, Iraq or in locations supporting operations in those two countries. But he was unique in at least one respect: He gave up celebrity and fortune to serve his country.

He was an all-conference linebacker at Arizona State University and played four seasons with the Arizona Cardinals before walking away from a \$3.6 million contract to be a 25-year-old Army private.

Inspired by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, he and his brother Kevin, a former minor-league baseball player, enlisted in the summer of 2002. They went through basic training, advanced infantry training and then survived the Ranger Indoctrination Program. They arrived at Fort Lewis late that year or early 2003.

The 2/75 compound is a world within a world at Fort Lewis, set off from the rest of the post by a fence around the barracks and company areas. Rangers are standoffish by nature - such is the way with a battalion of young soldiers trained to believe they are elite.

In the NFL, Tillman stood out as a hard-hitting, 5-

foot-11-inch, 200-pound safety, but at Fort Lewis he was just another Ranger.

Bryan Hannes of Bonney Lake, who left the Army last year after several years in the Ranger battalion, was a staff sergeant at headquarters when the Tillman brothers arrived. He said the sergeant major had put out the word: They were to be treated just like everybody else.

"The first time I met him I didn't even realize that's who it was," Hannes recalled Friday. "He was asking for something, I can't remember what. He goes, 'Hey sergeant, where's such and such?' ... He came up like a deer in the headlights. I told him it was upstairs, and off he went."

Hannes asked others who the new guy was - he seemed a little older, more composed, but still a new guy.

"He was a private like everybody else was a private," Hannes said. "But he definitely had a sense of maturity and dedication. You could see it in his face, in his eyes."

"Later on I'd ask how the Tillman brothers were doing over there in A Company, and they'd always say 'those guys are freakin' monsters.'"

Tillman reportedly served at least one combat tour in Iraq last year. There was no information available Friday about when his unit went to Afghanistan, but Ranger deployments are almost never announced, even after they're over.

According to news service reports, Tillman was killed about 25 miles from Khost, near the border with Pakistan. U.S., Afghan and Pakistani forces are reportedly hunting al-Qaida and Taliban fighters there.

He died in the same general area as the first U.S. soldier killed by hostile fire in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Chapman, a Special Forces operator from Fort Lewis, was killed Jan. 4, 2002.

Tillman was also the second Fort Lewis Ranger to be killed in the war on terrorism: Sgt. Jay Blessing of Tacoma was killed by a homemade bomb on Nov. 14 in Asadabad, Afghanistan.

Tillman's wife, Maria, and other family members declined to speak to reporters. A Pierce County sheriff's spokesman urged the news media to respect the family's privacy and stay away from their home on a private drive in University Place.

Kevin Tillman is reportedly escorting his brother's body home.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

The Fort Lewis commander said the news would no doubt heighten awareness of the sacrifices of U.S. service members “because of who (he) was and why he chose to do what he did.

“He was certainly a hero in many people’s minds,” Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano said. “He was a hero as far as the Army and the Rangers are concerned.”

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.
Michael Gilbert: 253-597-8921
mike.gilbert@mail.tribnet.com*

SIDEBAR: Friends speak of Tillman’s loss

“The tragic loss of this extraordinary young man will seem a heavy blow to our nation’s morale, as it is surely a grievous injury to his loved ones.”

U.S. SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-ARIZONA)

“He always shunned the limelight and I’m sure he would want that continued, but his life deserves to be celebrated and for his story to be told.”

DAVE MCGINNIS, FORMER ARIZONA CARDINALS COACH

“I knew that Pat had very strong feelings after Sept. 11. I think that we all did. The difference between Pat and the rest of us is that he was willing to act on them, to put everything else aside and go over there.”

PETE KENDALL, CARDINALS GUARD

“This is devastating. Pat was a special guy. It was my hope that he was going to finish his tour of duty and come back. We’d make another offer and have him come back and play for us.”

MICHAEL BIDWELL, CARDINALS PRESIDENT

“In today’s world of instant gratification and selfishness, here is a man who was defined by words like ‘loyalty, honor, passion, courage, strength and nobility.’ He is a modern-day hero.”

BOB FERGUSON, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS GENERAL MANAGER AND FORMER CARDINALS EXECUTIVE

 **3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT**
Unit Director - John R. Edmunds 

— No Submission —

 **A/75 - D/17 LRP - V CORPS LRRP**
Unit Director - Tom Brizendine 



OBITUARY-
ALAN C CAMPBELL

Ranger Alan “Curly” Campbell died suddenly on April 29 in Sacramento.

His passing surprised most of us who thought he would be one of the last of us standing.

Alan was both popular and highly regarded in the company and the wider Ranger community as a man of principle and integrity who shirked nothing and always did his job well.

He was a quiet, man who never sought the limelight but stood out anyway for his piercing intelligence, insight, good humor,

steadfastness and willingness to help anyone in difficulty.

Alan served in this company’s 1st platoon at Ft Hood, much of his time as an RTO for Sgt Luis Palacios or for Sgt “Country” Owens with whom he had gone to both Jump School and Ranger School.

When A/75 wound down towards the end of 1974 Alan went to the newly formed 2nd Ranger Battalion where he finished his four-year hitch as a sergeant.

He went back to university after discharge earning a BA in English

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

cum laude and then earned his law degree and was admitted to the California bar in 1985.

After years of private legal practice, Alan joined the office of County Counsel for the Country of Sacramento in 1999.

Alan was an active member of the Ranger community attending reunions and activities and participating in the airborneranger.com and A/75 discussion groups on the net.

His insights, cool head, political nous and great recall of long ago events were often delightful assets in the discussions.

And he was generous with his time and knowledge to those in need.

Condolences to Alan's family

came in from Rangers far and wide including CSMs Gary Carpenter, Duke Snider and Luis Palacios.

Eppens, Kevin Miller, Dave Cooper, Bob Sampson, Kurt Sturr, Dave Lukoskie and from this company, Chet Smith. The Service ended with Captain Sturr calling the "final roll call" for Alan, and the playing of Taps followed by Amazing Grace.

Alan will be sorely missed by this company and the wider Ranger community.

Our sincere condolences to his family. Alan was a credit to his parents Roland and Irene Campbell who survive him. Alan also leaves behind his beloved son Matthew, sisters Nancy, Diane and Jeanine and brother Lyle.

Alan will not be forgotten while any of us are alive.



Present at Alan's Memorial Service were Rangers Dan Crow, Peter Parker, Jerome Schaub, Bob

Banner for B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP Unit Director - Kirk Gibson, featuring a unit crest on the left and an Airborne Ranger Co. logo on the right.

Greetings to all members of B/75, C/58 and VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN). We look forward to another few days of camaraderie, re-acquaintance, and meeting new friends. Most of the LRRPs will be bivouacked at the La Quinta, and it will be our fifth reunion in as many years, and we hope the B/75 guys will find us and share their memories with us. Please bring as many pictures, stories and memorabilia as you can find, so we can add copies of them to our Unit archives. Also, we invite the V Corps LRRPs to find us, bring a few beers and swap a few lies. If past reunions are any indication, this promises to be another great event. An after-action report will be filed in the fall *Patrolling*.

Kirk Gibson and Joe Chetwynd, President, VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) Association.

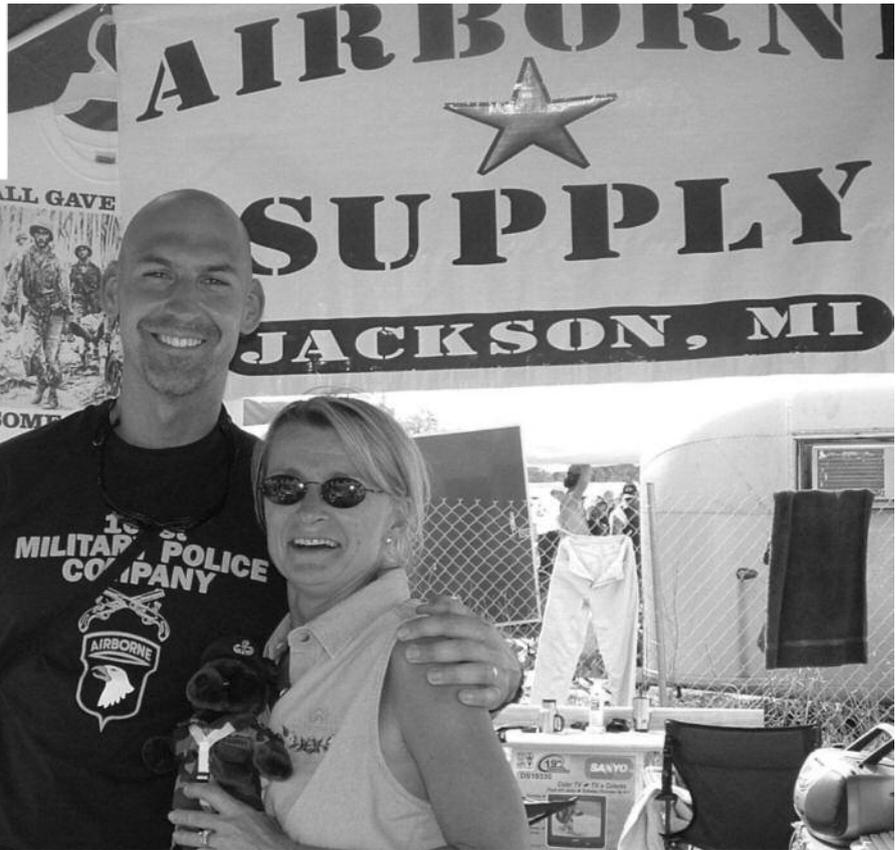
TIME WELL SPENT

Two of our members have been spending a lot of time in support of Veterans. Cheryl and John Visel (LRRP) recently were in Daytona Beach, FL where, while enjoying their other passion of motorcycling, Cheryl set up her shop, Airborne Supply (see ad elsewhere in this issue), at which she makes and sells all kinds of Airborne "stuff." Cheryl generously shares the proceeds of her venture with various Veterans' organizations.

While there, who should show up but SSG Anderson, the same SSG Anderson who pinned an Air Assault badge on Cheryl at last year's reunion at Ft. Campbell, after she had successfully conquered the obstacle course. He was on his way to Iraq, where we are sure he will make a difference. God's speed, soldier.

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John and Cheryl Visel brought Airborne Supply to Daytona Bike Week 2004 to raise money for Airborne Veterans. While there, they ran into SSG Anderson from Ft. Campbell. Small world, indeed!
SSG Anderson was off to Iraq a few days later. May God be with him!



Ssg Anderson pinning Cheryl Visel at Ft. Campbell. VII Corps LRRP Reunion 2003.

Another is **Ed Yarbrough**, who has worked with Veterans in the Minneapolis area for several years. The following is his story:

I am not big on writing about myself and my activities or my history in the US Army. Since I became a civilian, I pretty much let others find out things, rather than talk about them.

What I do here in Minnesota is that I am pretty much a freelance supporter of Veterans. I gave up all that connection with organizations a while back, and focus

my attention on what I learned from the experiences and the people I got to know while doing it. To put things in a nutshell, for a short period in '88 I was Commander of the Third largest VFW in the Nation, VFW Post 5555 Richfield Minnesota. It was that which got me started in Veterans Affairs, and it was that which damn near made me walk away from it. I helped start the POW/MIA Balloon here in Minnesota, which is now known internationally. After learning from Joe Chetwynd about Capt. Alan Brudno, I took it to the others on the Balloon Committee/Flight Crew, and it was in our next flight that we dedicated it to the memory of Brudno, and tossed some crushed roses into the wind over Lake Mille Lacs in his honor. I deal with veterans on an everyday basis with what they call PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and the deaths/suicides is or was at a very high rate, and myself I have known a few close friends who have taken that same step, and it really breaks my heart, and yet mends the soul when things like Captain Brudno's name was added to the wall. and I am currently working on getting the balloon to come to the reunion, but that is still up in the air and it looks like I may have fund it all myself. But I want to organize a jump from it.

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Once a year, I take guys from the Minnesota Veterans home on a fishing trip, up to Northern Minnesota to a camp called Veterans on the Lake, run by a Vietnam Vet and a Ranger. Most of these guys are disabled, and it wasn't for me, I say me only because I started doing it some twenty years ago when I was drinking and it sounded like a pretty good idea with all the guys I was drinking with at the time, mostly former SF, and Airborne Rangers. You see there aren't very many SF people here in Minnesota that get out, for some strange reason or another, and it all has to do with the very same thing that was going on with Brudno. The truth is that if I didn't know how these guys think they wouldn't be found, and any help they may need they don't want and there is pretty much a bunch of isolation going on, why not you couldn't have a better survival guy than a Ranger/SF in the whole world, but the isolation thing is what kills them, and to be truthful with you, suicide results. No criticism intended about Brudno, for the truth is that I understand it, and also can identify with it personally. I have been there, and have had a few friends have the same thing happen to them. I was just talking about that with Bob Murphy recently, for I was at one time isolated up in the woods in Northern Minnesota, living pretty much the way he is down under. F— civilization, they didn't want me and I was ready for them.

I have since directed all my interest into Veterans and any help I can give I give plus 1 per cent. All of my friends are what I call "Bush Bunnies" and although we are all republican that is not where the name came from. The work itself is surrounded by the VA and VA Hospitals within the area. To date, I do a news letter every week to the troops over in Iraq, Afghanistan, and anywhere else they are assigned with news from home, things like Johnny scored a touchdown, Jack's wife need a ride to the doctors the other day and this group of guys we call the BVD's (Backhome Veterans During their thing) give me support in tat area, and I also include news that may be important from a national standpoint and any Veterans Administration news I can give about benefits, an area with which I am very familiar. I have taken all my experiences that I have learned from LRRP to begin with and SF and put them to work in high

schools, Boy Scouts, and anybody that wants to go fishing or hunting. I have been on 60 Minutes, and on the front page of the Minneapolis Star Tribune with an interview done by none other than Dan Rather himself, only because I had escorted him in Vietnam when he was a young punk kid who pissed his pants in a teamhouse at my A team when a mortar round, a friendly one at that, came whistling over the hooch too close. I am not presently married, but would do it again in a heart beat if the right person came along that doesn't want money, because any I had all the others got. I have two boys that are grown and are in the military and are in Germany and Korea right now. Both are officers, and that is only because I insisted because it was worth the money and security, but if they didn't do their jobs the right way I would kick their Airborne Ranger's asses!

I do have a fruit salad, but who doesn't? But the truth is, I earned mine, unlike the guy who didn't who is running for president, and got his because he was dangerous to the rest of us. The bullet always missing those who were born on a silver platter. It is really all my issues with Veterans today that really keep me going, for I may not be in uniform but you can bet your sweet living ass I would be if called to do so. I loved my time in the service, and it all began at LRRP and the memories of the trials and tribulations

and the growing up that went on there is something that I will always stand up for. MY helping Veterans here in Minnesota is indicative of that. This little group also has a picnic every year for all the families of Veterans who have PTSD or were a veteran of war. Every Christmas we give to a selected bunch of other families enough money for them to have the traditional holiday meal and the groceries for a month so the rest of their money can go for the bills that come about for gifts for their kids. This year the fishing trip is for the families of veterans who have a loved one overseas in Iraq, and we are going to bring the kids of those families, and have a big party and send off pictures and prizes to the Dads and Moms in Iraq, so each kid is fishing for a prize for his Dad or Mom. This is done because of my suggestion, as a way to show the personnel overseas that things are just fine back home and that we think and support them in everything they are doing. Most of the personnel are



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from the US Army reserve here in Minnesota, but we have some families that are with the Rangers in Afghanistan, and Special Forces in Haiti, Afghanistan and two in Iraq. We avoid and don't look for gratification from any news source or publication for various reasons, but the biggest help is from those who give us some money, which shows us support and they are then welcome to fish with the rest of us. Otherwise leave us alone.

Right now there are programs being set up for the returning of personnel from Iraq that may prevent the same thing that happened to so many of us from Vietnam, and it seems to be going along well. It is pretty selective because we have to be to keep the leg wannabe's out, and the biggest thing is that we simply have so many we can give support to. However, we pass all legs off to Kerry supporters.

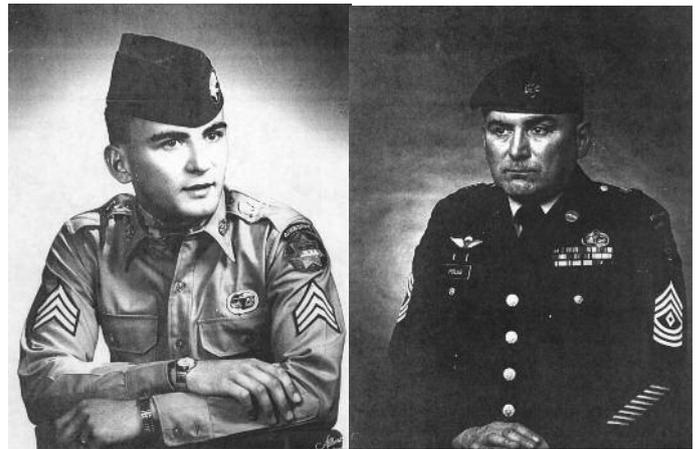
Not much else buddy. My first days with LRRP were something right out of Beatle Bailey, but I have never put them down on paper, but as I was going thru it, I realized that some of my experiences are pretty funny. There is always another time, and there certainly isn't any hurry to do things wrong only for the fame and glory of being mentioned in some rag tag magazine like Patrolling, that only prints the truth, and nobody is interested in it anyway, the truth that is. (Expect to hear more about Ed's memories in later editions, I hope. - Kirk)

Thanks again,
Ed Yarbrough



A few months ago, I found **Michael Holub**, here in Pennsylvania. He didn't remember me at first, but he knew that I remembered him when I reminded him of

the time he spit shined his deuce-and-a-half and put a large aluminum ball on the gearshift. Of course, the Army frowned on shiny vehicles, and he had to restore it to its original non-reflective condition. Once I had sent him a picture, his memory light came on and we had a great chat. He wrote, "All I can say is, WOW, I never thought I would ever hear from you guys again. I must say, it was an emotional thing for me to read the info that you sent.. Looking at your picture it tells me two things: First, that was the day we jumped on Nellingen; Second, that I was in your base station." Mike retired from the Special Forces as a first sergeant, having been a Distinguished Instructor in the jumpmaster cadre of the 19th Special Forces Group (ABN), 1st Special Forces.



HISTORY CORRECTED

Tom Harris found the 75RRA Website after hearing from **Stan Harrell**. He offers this correction to our history:

"B/75 moved to Fort Lewis Washington from Fort Carson in June 1973 under the command of CPT Tom Harris. The 2/75th activated in November 1974 with several of the B/75 personnel joining 2/75 when B/75 was deactivated at Fort Lewis."

Thanks, Tom. If anyone has further corrections or additions to our history, please don't be bashful. Let's get it right, while we still can.....

Thanks to Rich Seitz, who sent this picture of the 3rd Platoon, B Co Ranger 75th Inf. (ABN), taken at Ft Carson, CO in January, 1970. To have kept it that long, he must have been proud of you guys.

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

L-R (Rear) Skawski, Horn, Jackson, Coughlin, Kiser, Kelly, Walker, Kerns, Smith, Benson, Lindsey, Baker, Drake, Underwood, Hunnicutt, Green, Outlaw, Eades

L-R (Kneeling) SGTs Erickson, Kroesi, Meyer, Arrington, Adams, Booth, Bluford, Lt Seitz

Not pictured - SSG Searcy, Patterson, Smith C.D.



In Memory of the Living!

To all who served, and continue to serve, in the bonds of brotherhood,

I want to thank all of you who have forwarded your messages of respect and reverence for those of our comrades who fell either in combat or in some other form of service to our country and to thus to us all. I join you all in this timely act, and I would also like to extend this respect and reverence by remembering all of you who are still alive and with whom I once served. Bear with me please, because being in touch with you all again, some of whom I remember and others who either came before or after, has really put me in back in touch with some of the major factors that have determined who and what I have become as a person, for better, or for worse (I like to think, for the better) even today... maybe especially today.

What is really interesting is that even though we don't all know and remember everybody, there is still this common thread of experience and memory lingering from a short period of our lives that was a very important benchmark for all of us. I venture to think

this must be true for the highest ranking officer and non-com as well as the lowest ranking private who passed through the portals of our barracks at 5th and 7th Corps in Germany, which was the birthplace of the LRRP concept. 1st Sgt. David L. Clark said it right when he said it was an important and defining period of his life. I'm sure many of us share his sentiments on this. It is this common thread that binds us all together as "brothers" in an experience and a memory that few in the regular military will ever be able to lay claim to.

I am writing now about something that actually goes beyond memory, nostalgia and emotional attachment to the past. I am referring to something that is a part of us in ways that cannot really be explained. A part of us that, when it seems to have departed from you, it hasn't really departed at all, it just moves beyond your vision, but it remains a part of you and never goes away. It may lie dormant in you for half a life time, for the most part forgotten, lying beneath a multitude of new experiences and events. Then one day something happens (a phone call from the past) that reminds you, that awakens this thing that lives inside you, that burns like an ember that is never quite extinguished.

It may be true that we can never retrieve the moments that gave us this appreciation of certain values that we acquired during this period of our lives, but we can join together in a bond of brotherhood and revere these moments when we were unknowingly shaping each other's character and we were learning to embrace the qualities that mean so much to us now. We may remember events and experiences, sometimes chaotic and confusing, sometimes hilarious or aggravating, but the actual forming of character and the tempering of the soul lies somewhere beyond memory. It, more than memory, can bring to our awareness so we can only live in awe and reverence for the time of our lives that we know it was happening to us. It is an ache of appreciation deep within ourselves for each other and the parts we played in each others' lives, sometimes almost melancholy, yet it reminds us of our connection to the life we have been given, and to the lives, and to the deaths that have allowed us to go on living and have made us what we are. As 1st Sgt. Clark has so rightfully pointed out, these are our "defining

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moments”.

If I may choose one of the “living” as an example to whom I’d like to pay my respects, I name the man I’ve mentioned above, my 1st Sgt, David L, (“Daddy Rabbit”) Clark. There are many others, of course, and he would be the first to point this out. I knew him when I was a member of the LRRPS, so I can reveal first-hand the things about this man that have affected my life. “Top”, (DLC) brought strong, manly character to his men. He made them aware of their need to develop it in themselves. He also made those who had difficulty developing it in themselves at least respectably determined to become better people. He never taught its theory in words and ideas, but rather by example, by spontaneous action, by the qualities that were naturally and innately within him. He made his men “want to be like that”. This is what makes a man a hero in the eyes of other men.

His substance must be real! His character must be sound! His moral fiber and his values must be anchored in the soul, because it shows, it is reflected in the life of the man to those around him. You can’t fake it! Believe it or not, we all know innately how to recognize these things when we see them. Most of us tend to bury these qualities beneath roles we’ve adopted in order to get by in life, yet some men exercise the power of choice to reveal them in the manner in which they live their lives. In truth, for them there is no choice, because it is the essence of who and what they are. These are men who live closely and spontaneously to the true spirit of who they are and, as a result, a compelling and magnetic light shines in them which attracts those who are drawn to their qualities of character.

It is true that few of us ever saw combat together in a theater of action, but we did share unusual hazards together in the creation and evolution of a unique military concept that gave each of us a certain amount of license to be ourselves within an otherwise relatively identityless juggernaut. LRRP gave us the opportunity to become individual, yet universal soldiers, rather than simply cogs on a great wheel of military automation. We “Lurps” were more like the lubricant that made the great wheel able to function better and more efficiently. And, strangely, hardly

anyone in this entire military endeavor at the time even knew we existed, unless one of us happened to “streamer” in and made the news, or we carried a football into a German stadium on an exhibition parachute jump.

Nobody really knew who or what we were all about. Nobody really knew what our job really was. Ostensibly we were developing a new reconnaissance patrolling methodology for use in the unusual guerrilla war going on in Vietnam, and that was part of it. But in the larger picture, we were also meant to let the aggressive forces of communism in Eastern Europe know that we were watching them, and would be forcibly deterring any ground based advancement across Western borders by means of planting “nukes” (ADM’s - Atomic Demolition Munitions) in as many strategic locations, such as highway passes, tunnels, bridges, dams, etc., as would be necessary to thwart any such invasion tactics should they occur. That is no doubt how we became known as the “suicide patrols”.

The word is out now, of course, and it can be talked about, but not in those days of cold war tensions that were building in the wake of the erection of the “Berlin Wall” in 1961 (which interestingly enough coincides with the inception of the first two LRRP companies that were formed “experimentally” in the European Theater). Few of us in the LRRP units at that time even knew the full scope of our real mission, but rest assured, the enemy did, and that was the whole idea. Our very existence was meant to be a deterrent in itself and may have been a major reason why the Communist Bloc countries chose to resort to the “Trojan Horse” infiltration tactics (now referred to as “silent weapons for quiet wars”) in Western Europe rather than overt aggression.

We are witnessing the effects of these tactics now, not only in Western Europe, but within the borders of our own country. Remember, and be aware, because they are here in our midst. Perhaps the LRRP’s will be called upon again someday to develop a new mission to thwart the enemies of freedom who have stealthily and treacherously begun to gain access to our political system, our media, our educational system and our financial institutions.

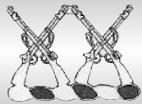
B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)

I know that I've gone on a bit and I hope that all of you realize that my tribute on this Memorial Day is to all of you who continue to serve, the living, as well as to those who have passed on in their service. I chose my 1st Sgt. (DLC) as the figurehead for this tribute because he was always the fulcrum point that held the scales of our LRRP unit (the CO and Officers on the one side, and the NCOs and enlisted men on the other) in what I can only describe as high-spirited harmony and teamwork amidst the extremes of chaos that ensued on both sides of the scales. This, I can assure you would not have been an easy task, but for someone who loves what he does, it's a life worth living, and I take off my beret to that.

May God Bless You All,

*Bob "Pogo" Brevig, E-4 (64 – 66)
3780 LRRP Co. (ABN)*

Dave Clark, after his jump at VII Corps LRRP reunion 2002, at Fort Campbell, KY.



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



Smokey Wells:

The Ranger community in general and the members of Echo LRPs/ Charlie Rangers in particular owe you a debt of gratitude and a "Hooahh" for a job well done! You took the Point, did all the Recon and Charlie-Miked the Mission. As a result of your efforts, the Dedication Ceremony at the USSOCOM Memorial in honor and recognition of the fallen heroes of Co E (LRP), 20th Inf & Co C (RGR), 75th Inf (ABN) who gave their lives in Viet Nam was a huge success. I salute you. Because of your involvement, we were honored with personal greetings from GEN Brown and treated to an in depth Command Briefing. I was also particularly impressed with the SOF Memorial Briefing by Geoff Barker, the Director, who took the time to provide us with the interesting details of its history.

It is because of the untiring efforts of individuals like you that keep alive the legends and traditions of the Ranger heritage from our era and connect it to the honor of the current dedicated Special Operations personnel.

Gary "28" Dolan



E/20-C/75 memorial service at USSOCOM

Thanks to Gen. Brown and all the people under his command who help this reunion be an outstanding success. Also to Lori Bast and NOAA for the briefing and tour. Everyone involved gave 110%, they really wanted this to be a huge success and it was. Also thanks to Geoff Barker who is a rock when it comes to the SOF memorial, and to my running partner Tony Boodram who's assistance is greatly appreciated..

USSOCOM REPRESENTATIVE

C/75 - E/20 LRP - LRRP (CONTINUED)

BY: Doc Gove

Mr. Murphy is a LONG time 'GREMBLIM' of LRP, LRRP's, and RANGERS. Here's a mission I was on and Mr. Murphy was in rare form! Someplace in the 'Land of the Little People' an Air-Borne Ranger Team sits on the Tarmac, checking tail numbers on the passing Slicks. The bird touches down and the TL goes to talk to the pilot. We load, and wait. The whine of the engine increases in pitch and loudness as the ship shakes to lift off the ground. Climbing the coolness of the higher altitude feels good. The flight time is non-existent, each of the six men are in their own world. The TL locks and loads, we follow suit as the ship noses down. The ship hovers as we hit the ground running for cover and concealment. Our ears return to normal, the day sounds of the field come to life around us. A check of the map and an azimuth is taken. Single file, Indian style we depart the LZ, heading towards the darkened wood line just ahead. A hundred meters or so, and we find a high speed trail! A hard packed about two inches wide. Security checks up and down the trail. We cross and put into action the rehearsal we have practiced. Claymore mines on the trail, flank mines are placed at each end of the kill zone. Rear Security observes as the Team moves in to place, under his watchful eye. The TL snaps his fingers! Yep! Murphy! He had almost backed across a Super Highway!! Three to four inches wide and so hard packed no boot prints. Re-roll the wire, and repack the claymore mines. Plan 'B', parallel the trail and see where it leads us. The terrain was flat, then started to incline. Wow, Murphy? The trail does a lazy right S turn. OK, let's cross the trail again and parallel it. We cross the trail one at a time. Murphy? Two NVA in Khaki uniforms, weapon on their shoulders and half stepping BIG TIME! SNAP!! BLAMBLAM BLAMBLAM. OOPS

{MURPHY}KLACKLACKLACKLACK. A third NVA!!! Running and firing. An 'Old Salt' and a 'FNG' check the kill zone. 'FNG' moves the body to check it. Air rushes out of one of the ventilation holes. Murphy? 'FNG', now in a low hover about eighteen inches above the ground, rapid reloads three magazines so fast, it sounds like a continual burst of sixty rounds! Now if you shoot a dead body, it will move. If it moves, its alive, shoot it again ~ RIGHT?!

Kill Zone secured, bodies stripped, time to get out of Dodge. Well, now EVERYONE knows where the team is located. Oops!!! Team runs down the trail to get some distance between them and the Kill Zone. Slowing down and looking at where we are ~ WE ARE IN THE CENTER OF AN NVA BASE CAMP!! YEP they are all in khakis and WE are in our BEST 'TREE SUIT'! OK ~ a quick 360 and a 'Mad Minute'! SMILE, nothing but assholes and elbows in Khaki uniforms!! {MURPHY} We run back down the same trail we had just come from. This was like when the flashing-'BLUE'-lights-are-behind-you kinda run. Right turn where we intersected the Super Highway. Crossing the smaller trail, still at a dead run we set a 360 up and call in 'contact sitrip' and request for an extraction. The bird is enroute, and will be here in ten

mikes. 'Have you seen any bad guys in the area?' 'Roger, have two KIA's and one possible.' 'Where's the possible?' 'Still running towards Hanoi.' 'OK, pop smoke.' 'I see Banana.' 'Roger.' {MURPHY} The smoke canister went about ten feet, bounced once and popped. Yellow smoke billowed from the bottom of the canister. The dry grass was no longer ten to twelve inches, BUT, red-orange topped with thick white smoke! Yep, we had a fire on the LZ, headed in our direction at a rapid pace! TL, 'Abort, Abort, LZ's on FIRE!!' The pick-up bird climbs and

disappears over our shoulder. We run, the fire is in hot pursuit. OK, we can't outrun the fire, so let's run through it!?!? WE DO! We call the Huey to return and pick us up. Pop smoke, hell everything has been burned up, so no worry about the LZ catching on fire now! As the Huey flares for final, we have movement, green and white tracers and EVERYTHING is in SLOW MOTION! The skid touches down, and five camouflaged Rangers scramble from a burnt black LZ. Nose down, tail up, we come out 'HOT' and climb rapidly. Cool air, cigarettes lighted, the team is heading back to Fire Base Buffalo. One final item is all the Team needs to complete. A RED smoke is popped as we near FB Buffalo. A red stream of smoke against the Blue sky. Confirmation that that Team has made a kill.

The total time on the ground was forty-five minutes!

Doc

C/75





D/75
Unit Director - John Kingeter



No Submission




E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP
Unit Director - Robert Copeland



By Bob Copeland

Once again we are looking ahead to the 75th Reunion 31 July to 4 Aug 2004 and hoping for a record turnout. Let's get our reservations made guys and remember this is the election year and we should all be there vote in a new President and wish the outgoing President Dana McGrath all the best for his faithful service over the last two years. Great job Dana!!!! Other positions also need to be filled so if you are interest be there!!

On the 8th of May I attended the 5th Ranger Bn Open House at Camp Frank D. Merrill in Dahlonega, Ga. along with Joan Bellwood, Marshall Larsen, Tyrone Muse, Rick Stetson and Brent Gulick for the induction of Ranger Richard Roy Bellwood KIA 25 January 1969 into the US Mountain Ranger Association, Fallen Ranger Memorial. Joan Bellwood represented her family, Mrs. Catherine Colombi (mother of Richard Bellwood), Carol (sister of Richard, recently deceased), Kathy (sister of Richard) and Erik (nephew of Richard). After I read the Citation for Richard (the Citation can be view on the USMRA webite at <http://www.usmountainranger.org>), Ranger LTC Rick Stetson (US Army Ret) who had been a young Lieutenant with the 9th Div LRRP, spoke to the gathering at the Memorial regarding the history of the unit, the mission and the courage of the young Warriors like Ranger Richard Bellwood who gave his life for his comrades and his country in the Vietnam War. He spoke to the individual courage and dedication of Ranger Bellwood and to those who served in the RANGER/LRP/LRRP UNIT. Ms. Joan Bellwood then addressed the gathering and read a letter she had received from a friend of Richard, Ranger Jesse DeLeon. Jesse's comments read by Joan were as follows: "The year was 1968 and the War in Vietnam had been raging for several years. There was protests and rioting in the streets as our losses mounted and began to read like a score card on the

weekly news. They say that Americans are at their best when things are at their worst and it's little wonder that eighty percent of those who served were volunteers. There's a certain pride to being a young warrior and even though it's been many years since I've held a weapon in my hands, the sights, sounds and men I served with have never left my mind. It's with great pride that I knew and fought alongside Richard Bellwood. His aggressive manner in battle

instilled confidence in his team mates. And one thing for sure he had come to fight. His awards and decorations bear this out. The day we lost Bellwood brought the war for me to a halt. Suddenly I couldn't hear the distant cannon fire or the sounds of war. There was a stillness for his comrades that made us reflect on our own mortality and a soon to be grieving family. Richard died doing what he had always done, advancing on the enemy and standing up to their fire. Years from now someone will walk past his head stone, or his name on the wall, or his brick in the walkway and wonder who he was. All that ever

needs to be known was that he was a soldier defending God and Country. Time has passed and I've come to know his family and the anguish of his loss. He was the son of Catherine Bellwood who couldn't stop him from his destiny and the brother of Carol, Karen and Joan. To his memory and family I salute them. His comrade in arms, Jesse DeLeon". Joan then read some letters that Richard had written home to his sister Carol which spoke of the daily routine of a combat soldiers life in Vietnam but not of the loss of life of comrades or the rigors of the missions he had engaged in. Richard like many combat soldiers did not want to burden his family members with grime details and cause them to worry for his safety. The letters were light in nature and brought some smiles to faces in the crowd. Joan spoke of how the loss of her brother when she was 13 years old, affected her and of her love for her Warrior brother.



E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9th div LRRP (CONTINUED)

The name Ranger Richard Roy Bellwood now appears on the Road Sign post at the US Mountain Ranger School for young Ranger Students, to look upon and be inspired by his dedication to the “Ranger Way”, that of each RangerWarrior named on the post represents. Ranger Richard Roy Bellwood has also been posthumously made a member of the US Mountain Ranger Association and will appear on their Membership Roll.

Many thanks to all those who attended and were able to participate, directly or indirectly, in Honoring Ranger Richard Roy Bellwood at the USMRA Fallen Ranger Memorial Induction Ceremony. To all those who were unable to attend we thank you for your support and understand that it was not possible for many to attend due to other commitments and personal matters.

After the Fallen Ranger Memorial the Rangers In Action Demonstration commenced and everyone was given the pleasure of viewing our currently serving Ranger Warriors in Action. Demonstrations included Hand to Hand Combat, Fast Roping into an Area of Operations and the ambush of an enemy force, an attack by a Bradley Fighting Vehicle culminating with an assault by the Ranger occupants, extractions of Rangers by helicopter by onloading and by rope hookup as well as Mountaineering ascent, descent and descent assault demonstrations on the tower.

drink and an exchange of conversation with their friends and family members. In all it was a great day with excellent exhibits and exciting entertainment provided by the 5th Ranger RTB, to include the delicious barbecue. Thanks to the 5th Ranger RTB for making this Open House such a memorable occasion for all who attended and many thanks to the US Mountain Ranger Association for allowing us, to again Honor one of our Ranger Warriors, namely Ranger Richard Roy Bellwood, through his Induction into the Fallen Ranger Memorial.



Static displays were also set up throughout the camp for viewing of current equipment used by the Rangers and support elements along with a WW11 display of Airborne and Ranger weapons and equipment. Following the Ranger In Action Demonstration which was enjoyed by all present, a Barbecue was held beside the NCO Club with two Blue Grass Band playing. Many retired to the NCO Club for a cool



A poem for our fallen comrades:

“A SOLDIER’S DEATH CRY”
FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE I CALL TO YOU
MY FRIENDS SO DEARLY LOVED
TAKE UP YOUR ARMS AND SET ME FREE
REVENGE MY LOSS OF BLOOD
STRIKE DOWN THE ENEMY ONE BY ONE
RAIN NAPALM FROM ABOVE
LIGHT UP THE NIGHT WITH TRACER ROUNDS

E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9th div LRRP (CONTINUED)

LET GUNSHIP ROCKETS FLY
SEEK THEM OUT IN EVERY VILLE, ON EVERY
TRAIL AND STREAM
TAKE VENGEANCE ON THE HATED FOE
WHO CUT SO SHORT MY DREAMS

AUTHOR
RANGER SGT/E5 ROBERT S. COPELAND (RET)

A poem we can all relate to as it became a way of
life for all those who
served with E 75 RANGER/E 50 LRP/9TH DIV
LRRP

“AMBUSH”
HEAVY MIST, SILENT PRAYERS
GRIM FACES, STEELY STARES
MUSCLES TENSED, FINGERS CROOKED
STREAMS OF SWEAT, HEAVEN BOOKED
WHISPERS HEARD, WEAPONS STEADY
WATCHFUL GLARES, AT THE READY
SHADOWY FIGURES, ALL TAKE AIM
SAFETYS OFF, START THE GAME

AUTHOR
RANGER SGT/E5 ROBERT S. COPELAND (RET)

Well folks that’s about all for now, so until the next
time stay safe and have a great day!! I hope that
everyone who attended the Mini Reunion in Huston
had a great time and good fellowship!! To all those
who have been ill we wish you a speedy recovery and
look forward to seeing you all in Tacoma for the 75th
Ranger Regiment Reunion! If you haven’t joined or
renewed your membership in the 75th Ranger Regt.



**L-R BRENT GULICK, MARSHALL LARSEN,
JOAN BELLWOOD, BOB COPELAND, TYRONE
MUSE-FALLEN RANGER MEMORIAL**

Assn. please do so, “Remember there is strength in
numbers!” SUPPORT YOUR BROTHER
RANGER/LRP/LRRPS!! To all our active duty
Warriors who have gone in harms way, we wish you
GOD SPEED, GOOD HUNTING AND A SAFE
RETURN HOME!!! Hooah!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP
LEAD THE WAY!!!!

Bob Copeland
Unit Director

Photos are from the US Mountain Ranger Open
House, 2004.



**SP/4 RICHARD
ROY BELLWOOD
KIA 25 JANUARY
1969**



**Ranger Richard
Bellwood**



Hand to hand Demo.



Hi Guys we had a pressed deadline for this article with many suggestions as what to put in this issue, However many suggest and few submit material. This quarter seemed obvious with re-union coming up this became a no brainier the following is a perfect reason why. **Show UP and feel the brotherhood in Seattle.**

I want to thank Jim and Vicki Hargett and Ron Harrison for representing F/Co for our fallen comrade **David Jacobs** served with F/Co 69-70; and laid to rest 3-16-2004. I also thank those of you that sent donations for the wreath ordered to represent all of us. All of us that attended any or all the re-unions can recall the smile of David Jacob and the royal hug he gave to many. I also knew David's humor and kindness as we drove in two separate cars from Columbus to Florida. He and I stopped in a small town en-route and assisted a person that had problems getting his truck started. I pulled out the cables and David said he would watch my back since we were out of our element and we looked like easy targets. David was a character that was always there when the need arose.

We will miss you our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. They are always welcome to join our re-union.

Those that have not heard David Regenthal suggested and I concur, that we as a unit welcome family members of our fallen comrades at the following re-union with assistance from available funds if needed. So they may have the opportunity to hang out with us and maybe learn some things about the men that served. It is apparent we could tell a better story to fill the gaps often left open, out of humility.
Joe Little, UD

Following is after action from Ron Harrison
Guys, just a quick update re: the ceremonies for our fallen comrade David Jacob. Although such affairs are always difficult, EVERYTHING WENT SWELL. // Co F flowers were prominently displayed; a large, brightly colored, circular wreath with a gold ribbon

placed diagonally across the circle. Jim Hargett & his charming wife Vicki drove down the night before and assisted in the setup. Jim made certain the wreath was placed high and close to the pastor. It was clearly the most visible flower arrangement during the ceremony; to see the pastor the audience also had to look at our flowers. Both Jim and I took the opportunity to speak when the pastor offered the floor to friends and family. Although I don't remember what I said except that David had performed extremely hazardous duty with honor and great courage, I had people tell me later that they were very glad to know that Co F would think enough of a former comrade-in-arms that Co F would

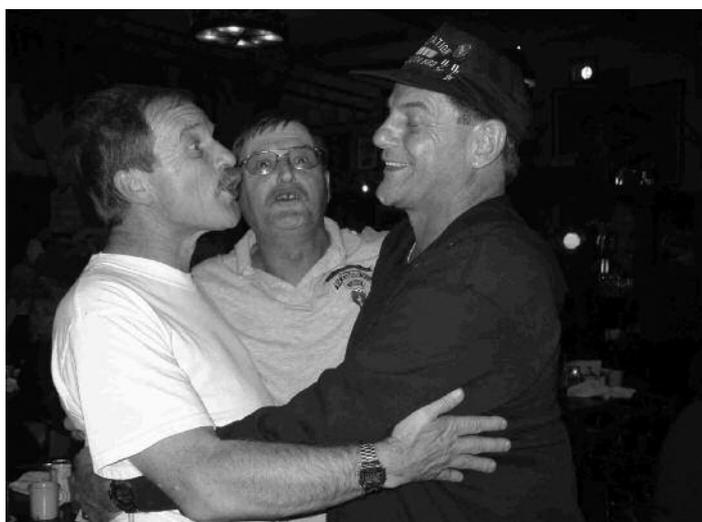
send representatives and such nice flowers. I told them that in Co F, we never thought of it any other way. (You know how you can kind of sense when you are being followed. Some of the guests stalked and circled Jim and I quite a while before they finally approached to thank us for coming, and tell us that our words about David were well received.) // My God, at the National Cemetery it was a beautiful day for any ceremony - bright sunlight, breeze zero to six off the ocean, plenty of evergreens topped off with white cirrus puffs high in a blue sky, and an absolutely beautiful location, high up on the western slope of a hill, overlooking Portland off in the distance to the Northwest. In response

to the funeral director's request, an absolutely splendid-appearing honor guard was assembled at graveside from local Regulars, Reservists, and the VFW. All were tricked out in their finest, looking very impressive w/ plenty of CIB's, jump wings, gongs, ribbons & cords, shiny brass & jump boots, etc. etc. all conveying one impression: that these decorated professionals were returned from foreign battles and now assembled here at Wilamette National Cemetery for the toughest duty of all - to lay a fallen comrade to his final rest with appropriate honor and dignity - and they did a marvelous job with it. I've seen fallen comrades laid to rest at Arlington, and it's no slur on the Old Guard to say that on this day, the Old Guard itself had nothing on these guys. The VFW fired their rifle salute from WWI Springfield '03's; which was



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

appropriate: David was a rifleman, and the honor guard saluted David with a rifleman's rifle, every part built from steel and stocked in walnut way back when America was a nation of riflemen. The .30-'06 case provides more bang for the blank than you will ever hear from those wimpy 5.56 blanks in current use, and the booming reports ricocheted back off the hills and trees to the East and reverberated on out toward the ocean. Other visitors at other gravesites jumped when the VFW fired and stood straight up in respect. Then the bugler played Taps - complete silence except for sobs from the assembly, then echoes of the sad notes followed the echoes of the rifle salute out toward the ocean, lingering and finally fading on away. It didn't matter how many times I've seen memorial services and heard Taps prior to this, the ceremony sent chills down my spine. It was done right. The scene, the flowers, the words, the ceremonies, just everything in combination was appropriate in the rendering of honors for David, whose image is fixed in my mind, always smiling, and now at rest.



Jim Hargett, David Jacob & Joe Little

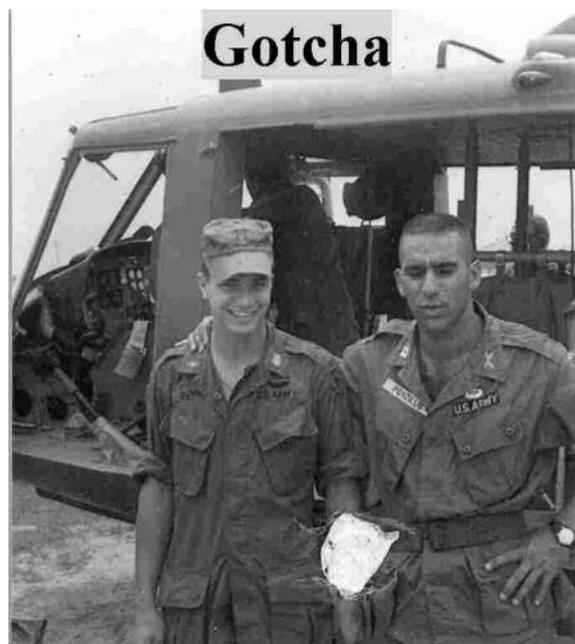
Submitted by Mark Ponzillo (LRRP One)

1966 – 2004 That's 38 years give or take a few whatever's. Where have we been? Where are we now? Where are we going? Who could have predicted in the mid-1960's we, as a group, who did not know one-another from "Adam", became on of the finest military units in the United States Army. That is not to take away from other divisional Recon organizations. It is just to emphasize the significance of what we were, what we did, and what we have become. Recently, a bunch of us got together in

Colorado Springs, Colorado for a mini-reunion, in numbers only. The gathering was great. The experience was expressed at different levels by all attendees – families included. Without mentioning names, for fear of omitting anyone who deserves credit for their efforts, we are in the debt of those brothers who have taken the time and effort to establish the basis of our unit and its history. There are those among us who through their own efforts, time and money created a personnel history, after-action reports file, personal contact with those of us who wanted or needed assistance, perpetuated the continuing attendance at special functions, organized, supported and insured that we got together and enjoyed the experience. I know that I am in a better space, as a result, of those men, their families and their collective efforts on our behalf.

This year in Seattle, Washington there is going to be a 75th Ranger Reunion for "us". Without the original 25th Infantry Division LRRP's, F Company (LRP) of the 50th Infantry and, of course, F Company (Airborne Ranger) 75th Infantry, there would be no "us". If at all possible, I highly recommend y'all consider attending, and enjoying time with those men (and their families) who have become part of our collective families as a result of our shared experiences.

Your Unit Director, Joe Little, has asked for some pictures of "us" doing what we did, do and how we did things. So here are some history shots of "guess who?". Granted some of the detail is not up to digital



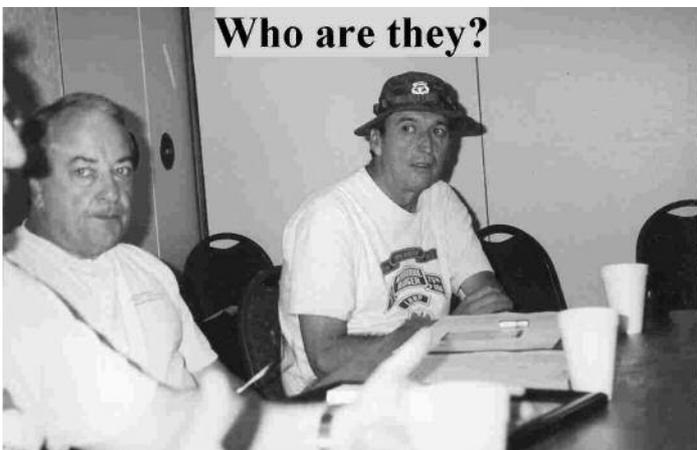
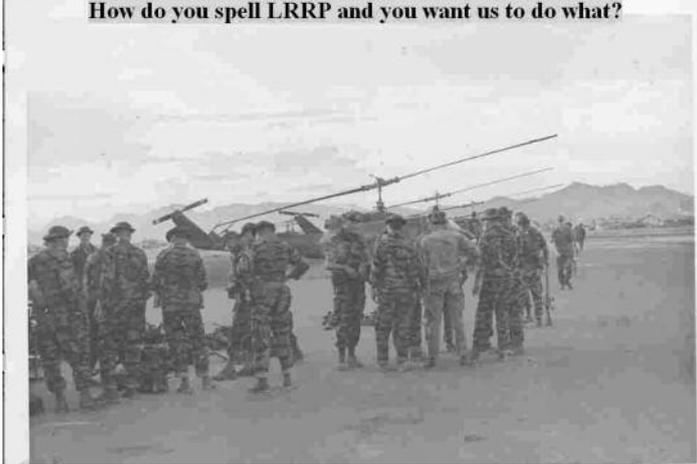
F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)

camera standards, but you have to consider the circumstances, and equipment used to record the people or action.

OK, assignment for this issue is to see if you can remember whom, when and where the attached photos were taken. You will be tested. There is an exam and a prize if successful. If not, you are in real trouble of doing some push-ups. However, do not worry about the number of push-ups. You will get a day or so for each one assessed.



How do you spell LRRP and you want us to do what?



Who are they?



You want me to make like a cannon and what?



He was #1 Recondo



Pre-Recondo School

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



As a final note I request y'all start searching your personal archives for pictures, documents and whatever that is part of our unit and personal history. Submit them to the Unit Director or his designated rep. for inclusion in future Patrolling Magazine articles. We owe it to ourselves. See you in Seattle.




G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP
Unit Director - Steve Crabtree



SPENCER KAROL AND E51

The deep and meaningful expression "freedom is not free" is in danger of becoming overused by well-meaning reporters. But for those families and friends of the 500-600 or so of our dedicated Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives serving our Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq, the meaning is, sadly, all too clear. One of those who lost his life was Spec. Spencer Karol. Spencer Karol died on October 6, 2003. He was 20 years old and hailed from Woodruff, Arizona. He had attended nearby Holbrook High School. He leaves his parents and several brothers. He was planning to be married and leaves a fiancée.



(Those of you who are of my age will remember his grandfather – Guy Madison, who played Wild Bill Hickok in the early television series of the same name.) Spencer Karol represented an important link over the bridge of 35 years or so of military history to our unit, as well as an ideal of service to the nation and volunteerism that the members of our unit cherish. Spencer Karol was a member of Team 2-1, E Co., 51st Infantry (LRS) (ABN), assigned to the 165th Military Intelligence Battalion in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. By wearing the E51 "colors", Spec. Karol honored the traditions of our unit in Vietnam. He lost his life during combat operations, killed by an improvised explosive device ("IED")

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

while returning from a surveillance mission. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for his actions during the encounter and the Purple Heart. Captain Kevin Kelley, former E51 XO, and Sfc. Todd Galliard, Spec. Karol's team NCO attended the services for Spec. Karol in Arizona. Two of Spec. Karol's teammates were also badly injured in the explosion that took Spec. Karol's life, but they will recover from their wounds. On December 10, another 3 men of E51 were caught in an ambush triggered by another IED. One lost his leg, another took shrapnel to his face, and the last took three shots to the chest. All will survive. Thus far during the War on Terrorism, E51 has had 10 wounded in action.

As we wind down this Holiday Season, and look forward to the New Year and our hopes and aspirations

for it, we should remember Spencer Karol and the sacrifice he and the other patriots that have given their lives, have made for us all that we may live in safety. And we should be thankful that our Nation still produces young men like Spencer Karol and the other young warriors of E51, and all of our Armed Forces, who are striving to bring Peace on Earth to all.

Remembrances and sentiments for Spec. Karol's family or for E51 may be sent to me, and I will be sure that the family and E51 receive them.

Tom Nash
3 Prospect Place
Kearny, NJ 07032
tnash@lrrpranger.org

 **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 

Memorial Day, 2004

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Perhaps General Logan's proclamation was simply the making official of what the nation yearned for and spontaneously began to form after the near total destruction of the Civil War. It is that sharing of loss, honoring the sacrifices of those who made possible the lives we enjoy today, and family connections across the generations that keep Memorial Day in our hearts...and always will. Upward of 48 million Americans have served the cause of freedom and more than a million have died to preserve our liberty. We also remember the more than

140,000 who were taken prisoner-of-war and the many others who were never accounted for. These memories remind us that the cost of war and the price of peace and freedom are great.



Many an American has fallen in battle since then, and many Memorial Days have passed as well. By the time you have received this issue, Memorial Day 2004 will itself have come and gone. I hope you used the occasion not only to remember our fallen brothers from all wars past and present, but also to participate with others in your community in publicly recognizing the sacrifices of our brave countrymen in the service of our great nation.

While many among us still bear the physical and/or mental pain of our own war or the "homecoming" never properly received, it seems that times truly have changed. Communities throughout America now come together in increasingly larger numbers to honor our war dead in public observances. Memorial Day

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events, once seemingly attended mostly by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion, are now replete with a growing and diverse assemblage of veterans and their non-veteran fellow citizens and families. They come together in city parks, stadiums or other venues to display their respect and admiration not only for those who fell in combat or since then, but also for those veterans who survived war and represent their brothers who did not. In a Memorial Day ceremony that I attend each year in a town near me—Danville, California—what started as a small parade of veterans and a quiet observance in a local park, has swelled to an all-day program and tripled in size since the 1990s. It is attended by people of all ages from Danville and many nearby communities. Generally a local celebrity, who is also a veteran, chairs the program, introducing various speakers from among the ranks of local veterans and civic leaders. Sincere, solemn tribute is repeatedly paid to those brothers lost in combat or who are otherwise no longer among us. Names of local service men lost in long ago or more recent wars are read. There is not a dry eye among any of us by the end of this portion of the observance. But the ceremony, while focused on those lost, is nonetheless as much a celebration of all who served in America's wars. There is always a color guard to post Old Glory and the flags of each branch of service, and a band, which plays each of the well-known service branch songs ("Over hill, Over dale, We will hit the dusty trail, As those caissons go rolling along..." for we soldiers). There is a special VIP, shaded seating area for the older veterans (as compared to us youngsters in our 50s) and special recognition for them. But one of the proudest moments comes for each of us as the veterans of each branch of service are called upon, as a branch, to stand and be recognized by the audience. Then the veterans of all branches, but for a specific given conflict, are asked to stand and be recognized in turn. I can tell you that each of us is bursting with pride as we stand before that crowd. Not out of prideful, foolish ego, but surely with genuine pride of service. Each year it is one of the best, most heartfelt "homecomings" that many of us have ever received. These public displays of great pride in our accomplishments and those of our fellow servicemen will hopefully never fade, nor the reason for them ever forgotten. Though many of us are now middle-aged, truly: "We Were Soldiers Once—And Young". And the faces of our lost comrades will be forever young in our memories and those of their families. Through these Memorial Day observances then is yet another way of living by our vow to "Leave no man behind" (nor the memories of

them behind). If you missed Memorial Day observances this year, try to make one next year. Wear your LRRP or Ranger shirts, hats and/or tabs or pins. You will see many others, from all branches, wearing identifying items. Show your own unit colors with pride; you've earned it and you are still truly among the elite.

This poem was one I first read as a school boy (oh, what a long time ago that was), but it still rings as true, particularly around Memorial Day, as it did the day it was written:

In Flanders Fields

John McCrae, 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

In our ongoing effort to ensure that none of our brave LRRPs and Rangers who were killed in action are forgotten, the 75th RRA webmaster has begun development of a new "Tribute" feature for the 75th RRA website. It will feature a picture of and brief written tribute to each of our KIA, for each unit. For those of you who are former Big Red One LRRPs or Rangers who may have any pictures of those we lost and can write a brief tribute for the individual, please forward them to me. The picture should be in JPEG format (or if you can loan me the picture via US mail, I will get it scanned into JPEG and return it to you). This will allow us to further honor these heroes. They and their families deserve nothing less.

Our Ranger Heritage

As you read this issue of "Patrolling", it will have been just over 60 years since US Army Rangers of the 2nd Ranger Battalion stormed up over Normandy's D-

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Day's beaches to take Point du Hoc in order to ensure that German heavy artillery, believed emplaced upon that height, could not bring its wrath upon the 1st Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division and 29th Infantry Division troops then landing below on Omaha and Utah Beaches. Though the guns, unbeknownst to the Rangers, had just been moved inland, some Rangers of the 2nd Battalion moved forward from Point du Hoc until they found the missing German battery in an orchard and succeeded in destroying the guns under the very noses of hundreds of unsuspecting German soldiers, preventing their use on that and the days following D-Day. Looking at Point Du Hoc in pictures or documentaries it is still hard to believe that even our Rangers could have scaled it under fire. Meanwhile, Rangers of the Fifth Ranger Battalion ("Rudders" Rangers) thrust forward off Omaha Beach with the ringing order that was to become the Ranger motto forever after, when Major General Norman Cota, of the US 29th Infantry Division shouted: "Rangers—Lead the Way!!" They then moved up onto the heights behind the beach to secure them from counterattack.

Though Rangers had been formed and trained beginning in 1942 and had been involved in fierce major engagements in North Africa, Sicily and Italy since the Allied counterattack had begun, their actions in Normandy, beginning on 6 June 1944, are probably the ones most remembered in the Ranger history of WWII. Hard lessons had been learned during the preceding years of the war, and the payoff was Normandy and the remaining fight from there to final victory over Germany. Army Rangers remained engaged in heavy combat until the end of the war in Europe. Rangers also fought in the Pacific with great distinction and success. The "Ghost Soldiers" of the 6th Ranger Battalion distinguished itself in that theater, including among their feats their incredible 1945 rescue of over 500 American POWs being held at Cabanatuan Camp in the Philippines, thus saving those "Bataan Death March" POWs from certain death at the hands of their brutal Japanese captors.

As America again went to war in Asia in 1950, the need for Ranger units was quickly recognized and units formed and trained for combat in Korea. Their slashing, hard-hitting raids against North Korean and Chinese positions during that brutal conflict proved once again what relatively small units of highly trained, aggressive Rangers could do to take the war to the enemy, keeping him off balance and preempting his own actions. Rangers, attached to Army divisions,

remained in Korea until the nature of the virtual stalemate between Communist and UN forces made their presence no longer required. While Korea has sometimes been referred to as "The Forgotten War", those of us who succeeded them in the wars and battles to follow should never forget those brave Rangers.

Just a dozen years later, in an embattled nation then hardly known to the American public, the clarion call came once again for small, stealthy reconnaissance and direct action units to support the expanded US combat role in Vietnam. Each Army division and/or separate brigade first formed provisional Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) units, then official LRRP platoons or companies, followed by the Long Range Patrol (LRP) companies and finally, in 1969, the lettered companies of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Though operating under different designations at different times and performing numerous types of combat missions, the high levels of combat success of these small, dedicated teams remained unchanged throughout that long war. Just as their forebears, whether called LRRPs, LRPs, or Rangers, they did "lead the way" (and usually were the only American troops even in the vicinity)!

For most of us, the LRRP, LRP and Ranger units of Vietnam are the part of the Ranger legacy that we carried forward. While a number of soldiers started and finished their tour of duty in Vietnam as LRRPs or Rangers, many of us came first from regular "line" infantry units or the units that supported them. Many among our ranks already had months of ground combat under their belts before volunteering for the elite reconnaissance units. But whatever our routes to our LRRP or Ranger units, once in them, our lives changed radically and forever (and, I will always believe, for the better). Our stealth, speed and effective, aggressive tactics amply supplanted "strength in numbers". Our relative lack of organic firepower was generally more than compensated for by our ability to bring tremendous artillery and air assets to bear upon enemy formations—an enemy which often was not even aware of our presence until we had unleashed a firestorm upon them. Time and again LRRPs and Rangers were able to bring the war to the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army on our own terms. With our teams throughout Vietnam, it was generally the VC and NVA who were the comparatively conventional units, being discovered, tracked and engaged by the American LRRP and Ranger "guerillas" on countless occasions. The severe

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impact our LRRP and Ranger operations had upon the enemy was all out of proportion to the relatively few troops we deployed at any given time. It was not without cost, and those that “Gave All” will never be forgotten.

Our modern day Army Rangers have valiantly and successfully carried on the Ranger tradition on deadly battlefields from Grenada to Panama to Somalia to the Persian Gulf and in Afghanistan. Like their brothers before them, today’s Rangers have, and will continue to, distinguish themselves in combat and remain among the very elite of fighting forces in the world. Tactics, weaponry, communications and a myriad of other details have changed and improved—but the basic tenets of Rangers and their employment probably never will. Still numbering only a regiment among an entire Army, it will generally still be US Army Rangers who are in the vanguard of American forces as they “move to the sound of the guns”. Rangers will always “Lead The Way”. Each generation of Rangers has added to the laurels of our Ranger legacy. That cannot ever be forgotten. They cannot ever be forgotten.

2004 75th RRA Reunion at Ft. Lewis, Washington

I hope to see many of you at our 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion to be held at Ft. Lewis, Washington (home of the 75th Rangers 2nd Battalion) from July 31-August 4, 2004. For those that can be there, it will be well worth the time. I attended the 2000 75th RRA Reunion in Savannah, Georgia, (home of the 75th Rangers 1st Battalion at nearby Hunter Army Airfield). To see each other and to meet and get to know some of the brave young men of today’s Ranger Regiment is a great way to ensure that our traditions are carried on, and that our proud association will be carried forward by those who are the current and future generations of Rangers and Ranger veterans.

Golf at 75th RRA Reunion at Ft. Lewis, Washington

A great new event has been added for the 2004 Ranger

Reunion at Ft. Lewis. Bob Stack, former Unit Director of K/75th (2000-2002), has taken on the task of organizing the first Bi-Annual 75th Ranger Regiment Association Golf Tournament. Play WILL be at the Ft. Lewis Golf Course (a 27-hole complex) on Monday, August 2, 2004. Tee times will begin at 0900. This tournament is open to all members of the 2nd Battalion/75th Rangers, and all 75th RRA members in good standing, their wives, other family members, girlfriends, relatives, etc. The entry fee will be \$50.00 per player and includes the green fee, cart fee and prize fund contribution; the \$50.00 per player fee must be paid three weeks in advance of the tournament so teams and tee times can be assigned. The format will be “scramble” (with either two- or four-person teams). In this format, each player on the team hits their shot, and the best ball is then selected from which to hit the next shot or putt, until the ball is finally in the cup. It is a fun, no-pressure format (only need one good shot from the team each time). Players can sign up either as a two- or four-player team or as individuals to be assigned to a team. Prizes are to be given for: The winning scrambles team; for Closest-To-The-Pin on a preselected par-3 hole on each side; and, for Longest Drive on a preselected hole on each side. A brief awards ceremony heralding the winners will be held during the Reunion dinner. In order for Bob Stack to get an idea of the expected number of participants (and to ask him any questions), please advise him via his e-mail at icu_7@netzero.com if you want to play. He can also be reached on his cell phone at (415) 312-1744, or via pager at (415) 485-7075. **REMEMBER: PLAYER CHECKS (\$50.00 PER), PAYABLE TO ROBERT STACK: SHOULD BE SENT TO HIM VIA US MAIL AT: ROBERT STACK, P.O. BOX 611, SAN ANSELMO, CA 94979-0611. No refunds will be made for “no-shows”.** It should be a great time in a beautiful setting and we are looking forward to it.

RLTW

—Dave



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Unit Director - Bill Bullen



Fellow Rangers Families and Friends,
Finding enough to write about get more difficult all the time as I have very little input from my brother Rangers. I’m so glad to have a few folks giving me some inspiration.

First and foremost, on my list are Elizabeth and

Joy Olgyay, Elizabeth being, fallen Ranger Roy Olgyay’s mother and Joy his sister. Roy’s sister Joy has sent me two V.C. knives captured by Roy. These were sent to his mother after his death in 1970. If anyone knows where an appropriate resting place should be, please let me know. I had heard the

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Ranger's would have a dedicated museum at Ft. Benning; maybe this would be a good place? Another item of interest is a WW2 Air Corps Pilot's silk survival map. The crew would hide these things in their jackets and use them if they had to ditch, and evade. We're trying to find an Air Force concern, which would be interested in these maps. Let me know.

Also, since last issue among others, we've captured Ruben Siberling, K/75 original company commander as a new member. Ruben is a retired career officer and an ROTC advisor for the last 7 years. He is going to be at the next reunion, God willing. We had a good talk last night; if anyone wants to get in touch, let me know. He is very positive about the Association; so we may have a future office holder, welcome Ruben!

There just isn't much to say at the moment. Just, if you think there may be something wrong or if you do have problems, you just don't feel able to handle, see a VA Service Officer, like Purple Heart, DAV ect.. If you don't feel good with that, talk to any fellow Vet or better yet, a fellow Ranger. In the Association we have Advocates for just this reason. We have a very good, strong and structurally sound Association, it is yours, USE IT! See y'all soon,
Bill

My beloved, admired and deeply respected Rangers,

This is Reuben finally (after 35 years) responding. Thanks to Dana, Cliff Norris, Don Keller and so many others who have lit my fuse in the past 48 hours. At the end of this note is a short Bio that is used for local events. I'm so very slow at keyboarding that I'll insert the military stuff right up front. I did this once already today but the computer or e-mail system ate it. It's that old "the doggy ate my homework" trick.

I entered the Army as a grunt infantryman in 1956 then transferred to Artillery (155 self-propelled) in 1961 in preparation for the Berlin Crisis. In 1962, after completing Aircraft Engine Repair and "Huey" maintenance schools, I transferred to the 5th Special Forces 22nd Special Warfare Aviation Detachment at Fort Bragg. Subsequently (May '63) we went as a detachment to form the Airlift Platoon, 52nd Aviation Battalion, Pleiku RVN. 425 missions and 17 Air Medals later we returned to Bragg assigned to the 6th Special Forces Group Aviation Company. Our

mission was to conduct the 25-hour Huey Transition Training for the new Warrant Officers coming out of Fort Rucker enroute to Viet Nam.

In May 1966 I was commissioned upon graduation from Infantry OCS Class 8-66, Fort Benning, GA and returned to Bragg with 7th Special Forces then on to Bad Toelz, GE as Team Leader of A-Team 23 (Libya). After many great training missions in seven other countries in Europe and North Africa (HALO School, Cross Country Ski School, Desert Navigation in England with the British 22nd SAS, Desert Survival in the Sahara, etc.) I felt the war in Viet Nam was going to end without me. I volunteered for an ITT and went straight to Camp Enari and took command of Echo 58th Inf (LRP) on July 5, 1968. Subsequently we were redesignated CO K 75th Rangers (ABN) in February 1969. Soon after that I was again blessed by getting the Army's best First Sergeant, Donald Keller.

By now you have all been aware that we got our butts kicked on the early morning hours of June 7, 1969 when the NVA attacked us at our newly constructed buildings on the Perimeter of Camp Enari.

Subsequent to departing RVN in July I attended Infantry Officer's Advanced Course where the Army came to the realization that I had no college background. Thus they decided to interrupt my education by sending me to college under the Degree Completion Program and I graduated from Park College (now Park University) in May 1973. Viet Nam was winding down then they decided they wanted combat arms type in AG and Finance. (Now the embarrassing part—was sent back to Basic Officers Training at Fort Ben Harrison, Indiana and became shhhh—don't tell a soul—a Finance Officer! Alright you hard charging Rangers, quit laughing!! I can hear it all now, "Hey, the Old Man, the Father of Company K 75th Rangers, turned out to be a Finance Officer! Gads!

I was the Deputy FAO for Fort Riley Kansas then as the Staff Finance Officer for the Army Recruiting Command at Fort Sheridan, Illinois working directly for General Max Thurman, a great soldier. (God rest his soul). My annual budget was \$400 million. After making the O-5 list, I retired on June 30, 1981 after 25 years service and have had a great civilian career including starting and operating my own firm, Business Capital Resources since 1983. Last year I was recruited by the First Bank of Missouri, a medium



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size bank with \$875 million in assets and the BIO below tells the rest of that story. Please Rangers. Come by to see me anytime. My office is five minutes south of Kansas City International Airport (KCI).

I'm not a survivor. With God's grace, I am an overcomer. Overcoming my A,B, C's, alcohol, bankruptcy, cancer (2-times) divorce (1-time), etc. etc. How very blessed I am to be named among the elite

and the Army's finest. RANGER! To each of you, I have no way to repay your kindness and your dedication and sacrifices for our wonderful country—so I'm asking God to!

Reuben
E/58 and K/75



Witchdoctor 5 and the Hac Bao

BY: Randy White

The ARVN Hac Bao {Hock Bow} was an all volunteer company of the 1st ARVN Infantry Division that could arguably be called the best ARVN Infantry Company in Vietnam. Certainly the 1st Division was the best infantry division in I Corps and these “Black Panthers” were the best the 1st Division had to offer. Primarily used as a strike force type company, their reputation among both the NVA and the local civilian population was wide spread as that of an elite and disciplined outfit that always drew the toughest missions. Though the unit was not as well known among American forces, that situation would soon change during early 1971 and Operation Lam Son 719.

During Lam Son 719 the Hac Bao Company was under the operational control of the 2/17th Cavalry of the 101st Airborne. Since American troops were not allowed on the ground in Laos during the operation, the Hoc Bao was designated as the force that would perform air crew recoveries inside Laos. They were stationed at Ham Nghi during the operation and on standby for any recovery missions that might arise needing their special fighting skills and aggressiveness. On March 5th, 1971 they received the call for a little known rescue operation inside Laos of seven Americans who found themselves on Laotian soil. Among American Helicopter crewmembers who participated in the battle inside Laos, the rescue would become legendary.

March 5th was to see the ARVN establish Fire Support Base Sophia West by two battalions of the 2nd Regiment of the 1st ARVN Infantry Division.

This was to be the last FSB on the escarpment south of the Xe Pon River during their march westward to the town of Tchepone, the stated objective of operation Lam Son 719. The assault on Sophia would follow the formula established during the operation by first softening up the FSB with preparatory fires before making the initial assault. Once the Air Mission

Commander (AMC) determined that adequate fire power had been placed on the objective and enemy return fire had been reduced to an acceptable level, the assault from the air would begin. As part of the air armada of 120 U.S. helicopters heading towards Sophia carrying the ARVN Infantry was the crew of “Witch Doctor 5”. This ship was the maintenance helicopter from the 174th Assault Helicopter Company, flown by assistant maintenance officer of the 174th Ralph “Butch” Elliot and co-piloted by Richard Gabauer. The mission of the men on this helicopter was to orbit the operations area and act as an immediate recovery ship for any downed aircrews. Aboard this helicopter were its crew chief Dave Smalley, door gunner Harold “Bud” Brasket and the three most experienced maintenance specialist in the company;



Mike “Mac” McFadden, Jim Watkins and Rumaldo Salinas. Also carried aboard the aircraft were some basic tools and spare parts, should the situation arise that a downed aircraft could be quickly repaired and flown out. There were also two other aircraft assigned to the same type mission that day stacked up at higher altitudes, but since Elliot was the junior man he was down on the deck heading west at 90 knots when the major assault lifted off from Khe Sahn. Shortly after passing Aloui, which is about 15 clicks west of the

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border, Witchdoctor 5 was hit by a burst of .51 cal. fire that stitched the engine and tail boom with 5 rounds. One of these rounds went through the engines' compressor which caused the aircraft to immediately lose power and created a hissing sound as air needed for ignition escaped from the damaged component. Elliot just had enough time to get off a radio transmission reporting "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, Witchdoctor 5 is going down, west of Aloui in the trees." Since they were already flying at tree top level, little time was allowed to choose an emergency landing zone, so relying on training and instinct, Elliot resorted to a tactic told to him by an instructor during flight training; bottom out the collective to take out all of the pitch from the blades and pull back hard on the stick, then just as you hit the trees put all the pitch back into the blades and the helicopter will be thrust into a tail boom low attitude. The idea behind this procedure is to allow the tail boom to be crushed and absorb the impact of the crash as the helicopter settles in the trees. Elliot did this instinctively and as the M-60 being fired by Brasket was ripped from his grasp, the ship settled to the ground with a bone jarring stop. Miraculously when things came to a stop all seven men emerged from the helicopter unscathed. Butch told Gabauer to use his .45 to shoot holes through the KY-28 to destroy the classified codes encoded in the radio. One of the M-60 was pinned against a tree, but the other was removed along with ammunition and the personal weapons that each man carried. As they appraised their situation near the remains of the helicopter they noticed dozens of figures wearing "black pajamas" moving towards them and considered it a good idea to move away from the destroyed ship. Smalley set up his M-60 and laid down a short burst that startled and scattered the enemy and gave them time to make their departure. When they moved away from the ship they had these weapons and one survival radio, but left behind canteens of water, C-rations, two complete survival kits and a brand new camera that Butch had brought along to take pictures as they toured Laos...from the air. In the future they would all remember that "if you think you'll need it, wear it." As the enemy again came closer the crew used fire and maneuver to put a little distance between them and the helicopter. They knew it would be harder for rescuers to locate them if they didn't stay near the helicopter, but it also made it easier for the NVA to find them. They knew they had been north of the Xe Pon River and Route 9 when they were hit, so they attempted to move south towards the river and the main east-west highway Route 9. The commander of the 174th Dale Sprat, call sign "Boats 6", heard the Mayday call of

Witchdoctor 5 as he was leading his 174th towards Sophia. Unable to take immediate action because of the assault that was in progress, Sprat noted the location of the downed ship and continued his assigned mission, ultimately losing another 3 aircraft before the day was over. When the report of the "aircraft down west of Aloui came into the 2/17 Cavalry TOC at 13:40, word went out to stand up the Hoc Bao for a possible insertion to recover a downed air crew. At 14:10 C 2/17 Cav lifted off with the Hoc Bao, but enemy fire precluded any attempt at insertion that day. There were several other early individual attempts at rescuing the downed fliers but all attempts at braving the enemy fire fell short. An Air Force "Jolly Green" made an attempt at hovering over the crew and dropping a rope ladder. The ladder dropped to within ten feet of the downed fliers, but the enemy fire drove him off before he could chop his way down to the crew. The downed crew members were stunned when enemy fire erupted all around their position any time a helicopter attempted to hover near their position. As the enemy started directing more fire power at the men on the ground, the Witchdoctor crew deemed it advisable to try and move farther away from the ship and find cover. Still moving to the south, they came across an abandoned enemy .51 cal. position and settled in to await rescue. By this time there were a host of assets on station to assist the downed crew. A FACs using the call sign "Hammer 55" and flown by John Wright reported that he had eight flight levels of fighters on station stacked up and awaiting further instructions. "Hammer 55" was relieved on station by "Hammer 21," flown by Roger Carter who located the crew in the abandoned enemy position when Elliot place his flight jacket, which was orange on the inside, in the middle of their donut shaped hole. As daylight began to fade, it became apparent that there would be no rescue before total darkness set in and they were informed by Sprat that they would have to spend the night on the ground in Laos. Sprat said it was one of the hardest things he ever had to do as a commander. Through the night the crew was watched over by a succession of Air Force FACs, including Hammer 24, 76, 77, 84 and Hammer 86. Using their survival radio they directed the fire from an orbiting AC-310 Specter gunship at locations around their position where they heard movement, and using the FACs they called in air strikes. They could also hear the NVA dismantling their helicopter under the cover of darkness. At various times through that long first night they heard what sounded like a golf cart moving up and down a nearby trail. From this tidbit of information U.S. Intelligence determined that the NVA were using

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electric powered vehicles to move supplies so as not to be detected by infrared photography. Because of this tip from the downed fliers, more sensitive film was used that could detect this movement and sure enough, there they were.

Sunrise on the 6th found the crew still alive and on the ground in Laos with out any food or water for over 18 hours. During this lull in the action Butch and a crew member slipped out of their tinny perimeter to look for water. As they came to a small stream they were surprised to find a pipeline across their path, and nearby a manned machine gun position that was well camouflaged and obviously one of the guns that had been firing at their would be rescuers the day before. Carefully stepping back from the danger ahead of them, they returned empty handed to their fellow fliers in the gun pit. At one point during their stay in Laos, Major Sprat of the 174th came on station to announce to Elliot that he had been promoted to Capitan. The information about the pipeline was relayed to the FAC as air strikes were put in around the crews' position through out the day. During one of these air strikes a Navy A-1H call sign "Sandy 04" was shot down. Flown by LT C.L. Tipton of the 56th S.O.W. from Nakhom Phanom, the pilot was recovered. Late in the afternoon Hammer 21 informed the crew that he'd have to leave station for ten or fifteen minutes, but he'd be back. The response from the crew on the ground was less than enthusiastic, but Hammer 21 said he'd explain when he returned if they didn't understand by the time he came back. Shortly thereafter the ground began to shake as a B-52 arc-light pulverized the area to their north which had been identified as an enemy oil storage depot thanks to their discovery of the pipeline. With the plight of the Witchdoctor crew eating up resources that could better be used elsewhere, one last tactic would be tried before giving up on the downed fliers and forcing them to escape by their own means. The Hac Bao would be inserted about 2 clicks to the south east of their position on Route 9 and the "Black Panthers" would attempt to link up with the downed crew. That evening at 18:15 the Hac Bao was inserted into a hot LZ along the edge of QL 9 and after consolidation, the three platoons began a drive to the west to reach the stranded fliers. Using gun ships and air strikes to blaze an opening through enemy defensives the company moved approximately one click to the west and to the south side of QL 9 where they set up a defensive position for the night. Through out the night of the 6th and into the early morning of the 7th the Hoc Bao remained surrounded and in contact with an enemy determined to annihilate the element. The NVA

employed small arms fire and shouted for the Hoc Bao to surrender during the entire night, to which the Hac Bao responded by throwing grenades and refraining from using their direct fire weapons so as not to give their exact positions away. Meanwhile the downed air crew was also surrounded and resisted attacks by the NVA throughout the night, also using grenades to defend their position. At times the enemies were within 10-20 feet of the crew from "Witchdoctor 5". On the morning of the 7th the Hac Bao started a series of grass fires, to which the NVA responded to by firing mortars into their exposed position. At 09:30 the Hac Bao attacked to their north west in an attempt to reach the downed fliers. During this move the Hac Bao made three more contacts with the enemy before reaching the area of the fliers at 12:20. To affect the link up with the Witchdoctor crew, the fliers were to call out "Witchdoctor", to which the ARVNs were to respond to with the call of "Hac Bao." When Elliot and his crew members saw armed figures approaching their position, they yelled out "Witchdoctor", to which a response of "A-O.K." was hollered back at them. After a couple more attempts at getting the proper code word response, the fliers fired a shot over the heads of the approaching figures. They immediately heard a chorus of men screaming Hoc Bao, Hoc Bao! At the time the Hac Bao reached the survivors, the crew men had 5 rounds remaining among them. After receiving water and distributing ammunition to the crew members, the combined element moved out again back to the south. It took another two hours for them to work their way back through the tangle of blown brush and downed trees, making sporadic contact with enemy elements along the way. At 14:13 a well detailed and choreographed extraction of all personnel was effected near the original insertion area of the Hac Bao the previous evening. During their short stay on the ground the Hac Bao were credited with killing 27 NVA, destroying 30 AK-47s and capturing 1 AK-47 and 4 B-40 rockets. The Hac Bao had suffered 3 WIA. The Hac Boa commander estimated that there was an enemy battalion to the north of the crew's position. The crew of "Witchdoctor 5" had spent over 48 hours surrounded on Laotian soil without food or water and had helped destroy an enemy oil supply depot and pipeline, while being first hand witnesses to a B-52 strike. They had directed 97 air strikes around their position, detected the use of the enemy using electric golf carts for transportation for the first time, and had been responsible for an untold number of enemy killed. Without the extraordinary efforts of the "Black Panthers" their story might have been quit different. After the return of the airmen to

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the Khe Sahn combat base, the reputation of the Hoc Bao also spread among the fliers and helped lift the morale for those who still faced the gauntlet of what was called Lam Son 719, the largest helicopter operation of the Vietnam War.

I've searched for 5 years for a surviving Hoc Bao who might have made his way to the USA after the end of hostilities, but I've never found one. During the summer of 1970 L Company helped train the Hoc Bao at Camp Evans, and our members often went out on missions with the company, including some fairly large scale operations. I had the privilege of going on two missions with the Hoc Bao Company as an "advisor." At the time I felt silly being referred to as an advisor and I still feel that way. How do you advise the best light infantry the ARVN had to offer and who had been fighting the NVA for years. I was more like a glorified RTO and I diligently stayed by the side of the unit's Di Wi, where he wanted me. Ya never did

have to pull a guard duty while with them boys! If anyone has photos or further information about the Hoc Bao, please allow me to make copies. Their full story needs to be told. See 'ya in Seattle!
RW



M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Jack Fuche



By: Steve Houghton and 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 make 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 its 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.



M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP (CONTINUED)

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

The Del Prince Story

Like many of the men that were in Nam, I had a service number that started with US. I didn't go to Nam because I didn't have anything to do that year, I didn't go because I was patriotic, and I certainly didn't go so that I would have something to talk about thirty years later, I went because I received a letter from the selective service system that started with the word "GREETING." I was inducted January 17, 1967. That letter is now in a frame and hanging on a wall in my computer room. I spent eleven months and twenty five days in country. This short story is about some of those days.

My first three months in Nam were spent with the 196th as a mortarman. I was then infused into the 199th in September or October 1967. While waiting to be processed, a Lieutenant came through the door dressed in Tiger Fatigues with a black T-shirt on under his fatigue jacket, boots were bloused, and he was wearing a Green Beret. This man turned out to be Lt Tillish, our XO. He looked around at all of us and said, "I need six volunteers". You know what my first thought was! :) While he was talking I started to think about what he was saying, after all I hated being in a mortar platoon, it was the pits. I asked Lt Tillish a few questions, then turned to my friend Frank Puma, from the 196th, and asked him, "well what do you think". He said something like, "are you nuts, these guys have to be crazy, they go out in six man teams, they get dropped off in the middle of the jungle, and have to do it all with just six men." I said something like "does that mean you don't want to volunteer." Needless to say I volunteered, and I have never regretted it. I'm not sure who the other five guys were who volunteered. I may be wrong, but I think Ron Ratliff and Roger Blanchard were two of the volunteers. They were also my teammates. It's funny how you can remember some things like it was yesterday. Other things, (dates, names, faces) are very fuzzy. The one question that I didn't ask Lt. Tillish was, why he needed six men to volunteer? I found out later that day when we got to our base camp in Cat-Lai. It seems that one of the teams had a Claymore turned on them in a night halt position. When the shit hit the fan, and someone blew the Claymore, the results were, well you all know. If I remember correctly, all were lost but one. I then realized why Lt. Tillish needed six volunteers.

While in Cat-Lai we went through a training program that included map reading, lots of map reading. We were taught basic ways to use code for our radio transmissions while out in the field. Then there was the "march". I hated that one. Full gear with ammo and grenades. Full rations, a lister bag full of water, and a 25 lb. sandbag in our rucksack. I don't remember how far we had to go, but I remember that we had thirty minutes to finish, and I ran most of the way. I had a couple of guys pulling on me at the finish line, as I was about to drop. I think one of the guys was Barry Alton. (short legs vs long legs)

We went on training missions even after we made the move from Cat-Lai to Long Binh. That's when I found out I couldn't walk on rice paddy dikes. Until I got my legs, I must have slipped off a hundred times. One time I slipped off and landed in the water and my leg got all muddy. I started to wipe the mud off with my hand. A few seconds later, I realized it wasn't mud I was wiping off! Yep that damned water buffalo had to relieve himself right where I fell in. I washed off what I could, but it still smelled for the rest of the mission.

We went on a training mission in December 1967. Acting Sgt. Ron Hammerstrom was the teamleader. We were supposed to be in a "safe zone", whatever that was. It was a training mission alright, all hell broke loose! We were walking along side a well used ox cart trail in the jungle. We were somewhere close to Long Binh base when the shit hit the fan. I remember diving into a rut in the trail and laying down a field of fire to my right. Everyone else did the same. Then Hammerstrom stood up and started running down the trail firing his 45 in the direction of the enemy fire. He was wounded in the chest area. I remember thinking, "why did he do that", it happened right in front of us. When the shooting stopped, we went over to Ron and started tending to his wound. He was having a hard time breathing. I thought he had a sucking chest wound, so I tore open a dressing and applied the plastic to his wound to seal it up. The choppers came soon after that. Ron died on December 7, 1967. God rest his soul. Safe zone, my ass! Here I am 32 years later still trying to figure out why he ran down the trail like that.

We had good times too. The LRRPs seemed to be able to get a party going in no time, with a full trailer of ice and beer. And we even got the mess to make us cakes. The "Donut Dollies" attended one or two of those parties. We had to guarantee their supervisor that we would pick them up and drop them off safely, and at the appropriate time. Of course we could guarantee that, we were LRRPs! Everyone tried to talk to the girls. It was nice to talk to a female that could speak

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English. After awhile most of us had quite a bit of beer to drink, and kind of forgot they were there. Of course there were always of couple guys that never left their sides, thinking they had a chance with them. (you know who you are)

It seems there was always music playing in the barracks. I remember "The Doors" playing all the time, I think John Malinski liked the "Doors". Barry Alton liked Frank Zappa, he liked a song called, "Brown Shoes Don't Make It". I also remember someone playing "Johnny Rivers" a lot, particularly a song called, "Tracks of my Tears". We had a small dog for a mascot. I'm not sure where he came from, I think he had Rickets or something, as he was bowlegged. His name could be nothing else but "LRRP". There is a photo on this site of Bob Smalinckas holding "LRRP" as a puppy. The Vietnamese people used to walk by him and look at him. I always thought they were trying to figure out a way to make a meal out of him. You didn't see many dogs in Nam.

Then there was the day Bob Denver (Maynard G. Crebbs-also Gilligan from Gilligan's Island) came around to visit us. He seemed like a pretty good guy. He caught his share of shots from us, he also gave it right back too. He posed for a photo with us. There is a copy floating around somewhere, who knows maybe it will appear on this site soon. Of course there was no "Gilligan's Island in 1967, we all knew him from the "Dobie Gillis Show". He was the first and only television actor I ever met.

As I surfed through this site, I read that Steve Houghton said, Dave Wolfenbarger was known to carry a recurve bow on missions. I will attest to that.

He was on a mission with us and carried his bow. He and I were talking about it one day, he said he had a bow and would like to take it on patrol. I told him I thought it was a good idea. It would be a silent weapon if we ever needed it. I'm not sure if he had it with him in country at that time, or if he sent home for it after we talked. I'm also not sure if it was approved by Lt. Tillish or Lt. White. He may have just taken it without asking. I am sure he did carry it on a mission. He was pretty good with it too. Dave also taught me how to sharpen my survival knife. He always said, "cut the stone Rick, cut the stone". Hey I was a city boy, what did I know about sharpening knives. Still today I cut the stone when I sharpen a knife. Thanks Dave.

Everyone has memories of their tour in Nam. Some good, some bad. These are just a few of mine. Some of the facts can get blurry after so many years. I have tried to be as accurate as possible with my story. This is how I remember it.

One thing for sure, we were all brought together as strangers and when we rotated back to the States, we were happy to get home. But when we left, it felt as though we left family members behind in harms way. There was a feeling of trust amongst us. We trusted each other with our lives. I would like to thank all of my family from the 71st LRRP's for helping me to get home safely. If it were not for you guys I may not be here today writing this story. I apologize for the sad stories, but they are part of memories, as are the good stories. It seems as though many men want to forget that part of their lives. I can't blame them for that. I will never forget.



BY: Reed Cundiff
Got back from Iraq in late March. Got a few important things done, or so I hope. Am still pursuing three of the projects I got going. Nothing terribly exciting happened other than a free-flight rocket landing within 110 m of where we were staying with the Rapid Equipping Force (REF). We were in a safe reinforced concrete building but this particular rocket (with 18 kg HE warhead) landed within 8 meters of the tent city for the 1st Armored Division and blew away three tents. Fortunately, they had sandbags piled several feet in height and there was



only one lightly wounded. I talked with an MP SFC that afternoon and he said a lot of the 1st AD kids were a slight bit disturbed. Two weeks after I left, the new REF building had a near miss that killed two Iraqi construction workers and lightly wounded a US SGM. The REF had managed to pick up a really nice building in one of the better neighborhoods of Camp Victory (since it all palaces and retainers houses) right across a lake from the twin pleasure palaces of Saddam's sons. The reason that no one else had

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grabbed it was the two foot wide hole in the ceiling and the corresponding two foot hole in the floor: a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JADAM) 2000 lb bomb now sitting 50 to 100 feet under the building.

One of the guys attached to the REF as a technician from Exponent Corporation is a former 2nd Bn Ranger, Eric Thompson. He was in charge of a sniper team in the Rangers. It was good to have him around.

Did have another amusing incident. We were waiting with the Commander of the Pickatinny Research, Development and Engineering Center to meet with the head of Navy EOD when there were three loud bangs about a km away. OK, they have been firing more than 3 mortars at a time. Four more bangs and a little ground shaking. OK, they haven't fired anything like this before. Three more bangs about 300 m away and there trying to hide behind a small refrigerator was a Navy O-6, an Army -6, two majors, a SGM, a retired EOD E-8 and myself. Ten seconds later there were bright flashes but no bangs - the retired E-8 was cheerfully taking pictures of his boss and others behind this 2' by 2' refrigerator - to be seen next week in the Pickatinny gazete.

Flew to Iraq commercial via London and Kuwait and returned via C-17 from Balad. Flying in a C-17 when there is nothing on-board but four HMMVs and nine passengers is definitely the way to go. The loadmaster told us that once we were at altitude, we should just find some open deck space and crash. About two hours into the flight to Frankfurt, one of the guys asked the loadmaster where was the pallet with passenger's baggage since he was really getting cold. "Duh! what pallet?" I was the only passenger and/or gear from Frankfurt to Charleston - again, if I ever go back to Iraq I am flying C-17 (and then probably find myself in troop seats with 250 other guys for 10 hours). One trunk finally got to my home and apparently the two duffle bags have been found (after being lost for two months) so I don't have to do a report of survey on the TA-50 gear.

Pat Tadina was working in the Green Zone and we were able to talk on the phone a few times but were not able to tie up. One just doesn't hop into an SUV or HMMV and drive down the road to Baghdad by oneself to look up old buddies.

SGM Jeff Horne's Ohio National Guard Armored Brigade was called up for duty in Iraq where they have changed from tanks to HMMVs (and I doubt that they

really like that idea). He will be in Kosovo for the next year and I am sure would he greatly appreciate hearing from folks. I heard from a number of guys when I was in Iraq and I certainly enjoyed hearing from them.

I was in Monterey, CA (Naval Postgraduate School) the first week of may to give a presentation at the Joint Electronic Warfare Conference and there was a Colonel currently assigned to STRATCOM. COL Grohoski has extensive service in 2/75 and 3/75. Had a good time talking with him during the socials.

Got the following letter from Carl Millinder:

*Hey guys this is from the pilots view. I told him We didn't really know where we were going only that some POW's were located in a grid, and That the grid square was going to be saturated with CS one minute prior to insertion, and that I thought I remember that the LZ was going to be a old abandoned fire base. It was a very long flight but we were back on the hill by noon. Time on the ground was short, maybe 45 minutes to an hour. We found the base camp pretty quick but it was deserted. The fires were still hot. The cages were empty but the rice bins were full. Among the guys talking the mission failed because of the brass flying overhead before we got inserted. Rumor had it that they had over 100 hours of flight time over the grid .
Later, Carl*



The photo had this message from the pilot

Carl this is the waterfall. This picture was taken by a Casper pilot, and I got it off their web site "page 6" I originally saw the water fall in 68 when we were lost in a heavy rain and followed the wrong river. We seemed to follow a lot of rivers and roads.

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I didn't know you were that much in the dark as to where you were and where the POW's were located. For this mission the Rangers were staged out of Lz Pony. We had two flight, I was in the lead of the first flight. We followed the river west past Lz Abby and than north and as we came to the water fall we climbed so we were low level at its top. The river bent back to the west and at the apex of that curve we turned south and set for landing, there were a lot of stumps and down trees so the command was "pick your spots". The C&C released the CS gas when we were about one klick out. We landed in an Lz which used to be an old 1st Cav. fire base. We had orders not to fire even if fired on so we would not hit the POW's. I was flying right seat, and the AC had the left seat. Our blades over lapped an old bunker and the slot opening was right in front of me, about 20 ft. All I had was a 38 but orders or not if someone had stuck a weapon out of that window I would of been shooting through the wind screen. We had two hills on both sides and if they had chosen to make a fight of it, there would of been a turkey shoot and we would of been the turkeys. Half the crew with mask and the other half incapacitated by the gas.

The location was several km North of An Khe and North west of Happy Valley, there were no friendlies for miles.

The map is on the 61st web page, but it does not go far enough to the west to show the location of the inseration. If you open ot the map that says Pony, Crow's foot, Abby that gets as close as any of the maps.

As you look at the water fall you were to use for E&E it is hollow and has a cave under and behind the water.

In 68 Casper pilot Mr. Henderson followed truck tracks up the river and to the water fall. He reported it but I don't think much was done about it.

If you would of had to E&E you would of been going into an NVA strong hold.

Glad you didn't have to do that.

Cliff White



Photo of waterfall is enclosed

Enclosed is a photo sent in by Carl Millinder of Team Charlie, N Rangers taken in early 1971. The folks are:
Top: Tom Oulette, Carl millinder, Don Vallencourt
Bottom: Wayne Galbreth, Mike Staffin(TL), Dennis Russel



1ST BATTALION, 507TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT

Be it known that
STAFF SERGEANT DAVID P. WALKER

at this institution and that in
testimony thereof is presented this

**MASTER
PARACHUTIST BADGE**

Given at Fort Benning, Georgia on this fifteenth day of April,
two-thousand and four

Aidis L. K. Zunde

AIDIS L. K. ZUNDE
LTC, Infantry
Battalion Commander



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One of our own, Bill Shanahan, has had a book published on his experiences while with N Rangers. "Stealth Patrol" by Bill Shanahan and John Bracklin was released on October 14, 2003 by Da Capo Press of the Perseus Books Group. It has received good reviews:

"The author's greaest asset is his ability to cut straight to the core of the events - especially the simple and pervasive need to keep quiet - and to give credit to the

many people who served for much longer and with greater skill. Throughout history commanders in chief have always said "if we only had a few more like these.." Well, the LRP teams were some of "these" few".

Dave Walker was belatedly awarded his Master wings, See certificate.

	O/75 - 78TH LRP Unit Director - Bailey Stauffer	
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OK men this is my last article for Patrolling magazine. We need one of you to step forward and take over as director for 0 co. I will be in Seattle and will have Tee shirts. If I order 20 of them they will-be approximately \$ 15.00 apiece. The more we order the less the price per shirt. Right now I am looking at black shirts with the red and white scroll, also the RVN and ALASKA below it. Of course I have not heard from anybody so far. If I don't hear from somebody I will forget it. My new number mostly is (928) 428-1996. Or drop me a line. Eileen and I went to Tucson in Feb. for mid winter confurence, and met some old airborne troopers and some not so old. We had a good time. If anyone is around Safford May 29th, we will Bar B Que and paratroopers are welcome. The Special ForCes hold a memorial service here the Sat. before Memorial day each year. Eileen and I will go to the 75th reunion and then back to Tucson the end of Aug. for the national reunion of the 187th. They jumped with the 2nd and 4th Ranger Companies in Korea. We have been busy all spring. It seems like one thing happens and another something comes up and has to be dealt with. I have all the sheep sheared and last weekend started gathering cattle and started branding. With the drought we won't have as many to do.

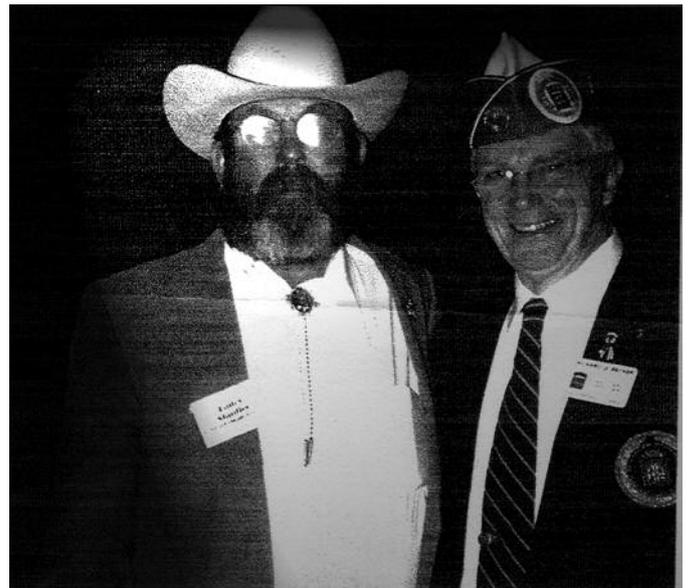
It is interesting how with the election, all of a sudden the Viet Nam War is so important and how and weather you served is so important. The death of Pat Tillman hit us hard in Arizona. and I am sure that there are going to be a lot of wanaabes come out of the

woodwork. I wish I could devote more time to being Unit director. Things are constantly changing and we just have to adapt.

AIRBORNE
RVN
ALASKA



Below is a picture of me and Richard Becker, President of the 82nd Airborne Division Association in Tucson.





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



Papa Company

Summer Patrolling

“Lest We Forget”

CARTER, DAVID EDWARD SFC
 AUGUST 10, 1969 FEB 27, 1941
 HAMILTON, OH 20W L121

It just seems like yesterday that I was writing a Patrolling article and now it is time for another. I had the honor to attend the reunion of the Southeastern Chapter of RICA (Ranger Infantry Companies Airborne). These were our predecessors in the Korean Conflict. It was quite an honor to rub shoulders with these Warriors. I certainly learned a lot about many of our traditions. Also in attendance were a couple of Merrill’s Marauders. One of these men made the four hundred mile, ten day forced march to take out a Jap airfield which saved many Allied lives. There were also two Rangers there who made that fateful climb up the sheer faced cliff to take out the German guns that threatened the entire D-Day assault. I asked one of them what it was like. His simple reply was, “it was exciting” It was also quite refreshing to be one of the ‘young guys’. That even included Papa Duke DuShane!

It was good to see other members from Papa Company there. Sam Pacurari and his wife, Terri was there with their son and daughter. ‘Troll’ Lloyd was kidnapped from St. Augustine and brought along. Terry Roderick, Ted Tilson, Garry (photoranger) Norton, and Duke and Marion DuShane were also there.

We spent an interesting hour being interviewed by Col. Black, a Korean vet and Ranger historian. We were quizzed on a number of things such as tactics, weaponry, and logistics amongst other things. It was amazing how the old memories kicked in as we recounted our history. I learned a lot that I hadn’t heard before. Hopefully we can get a copy of this from Col. Black, as I’m sure you’d all be interested.

Terry Roderick heard of a young Ranger who was severely wounded in Iraq and decided to enlist the Company in adopting him into our family by honoring



him with a lifetime membership into the RRA. The young Ranger’s name is Kurt Sayers. He comes from good bloodlines as his father, Buck was in the 2d Battle Group 4th Infantry, 3 ID and was in their Long Ranger Patrol unit (legg Lurp) at Bamberg, Germany. This is what Terry had to say “Just a note to thank those of you who answered my request for \$10.00 each to purchase a Lifetime Membership in the 75th Ranger Regiment Association for a young Ranger who lost his eye in combat in the current war we are fighting. Most of you sent more and

I’ll thank you myself. I’d like to make a special mention to our close friend, Gilbert Berg, (Aka General Greb, Aka MSG Gil Berg (ret.)), HMOR (Honorary Member of the 75th Ranger Regiment), who has always stepped up every time I have had a brainstorm like the Kurt Sayers Lifetime Membership thing and he was a regular contributor during the period that the Lutz Family and I raised the funds to honor our KIA’s at the Ranger Memorial at Ft. Benning. General Greb is an “Honorary” member of the Papa Company family and if you ever see him, give him a big hug and a sloppy kiss on the cheek. He’s a wonderful man and Ranger supporter. A special mention to Marshall Larsen of E/75th Rangers who also made a contribution towards the Sayers LM. The guys who showed up in Ocala had no way to avoid me and they were all most generous.”

In typical Ranger manner, Kurt felt that there were others who were more deserving. These are Kurt’s credentials”

SSG Kurt Sayers

Duty

JSOC, Ft. Bragg NC

Positions &

Assignments

75th Ranger Regiment, Ft. Benning, GA

TM 1 Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment

Senior Reconnaissance Sergeant

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

B. Co., 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment,
Ft Benning, GA
Rifle Squad Leader, Team Leader, Grenadier,
M 249 SAW Gunner
Platoon RTO

Combat OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM,
March 2003-April 2003, Western Iraq.

Experience Conducted operations in support of
Task Force objectives. Identified and interdicted key
crossing points and pivotal escape routes to prevent
escape of Iraqi Regime leadership.

OPERATION ENDURING
FREEDOM, June 2002-Sep. 2002,
Afghanistan.

Deployed as part of a six-man
reconnaissance and surveillance team
that conducted thirty-three successful
combat reconnaissance missions as part
of advanced force operations.
Instrumental in the apprehension of a
CENTCOM TIER II HVT in August of
2002.

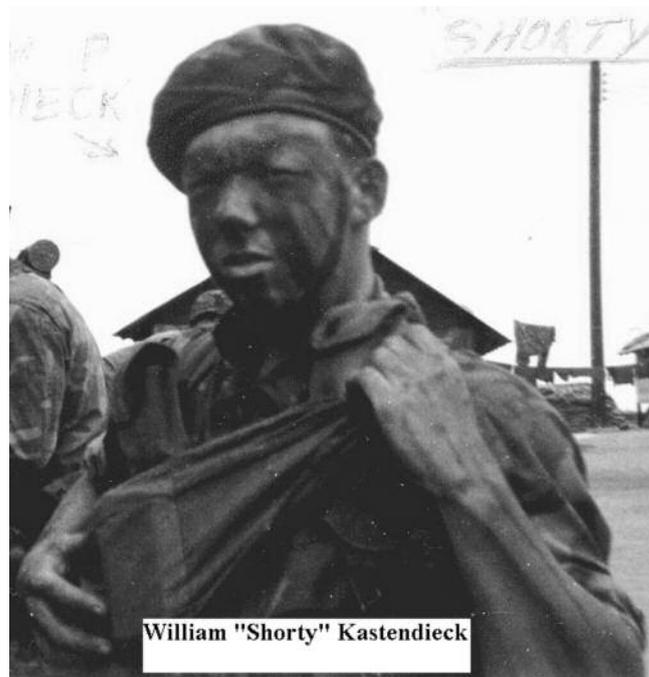
OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN,
Oct. 2001- Dec. 2001, Kosovo.

Conducted twelve combat
reconnaissance missions in support of
Special Operations Command Central
Europe (SOCCE), resulting in the
apprehension of an international
criminal.

Education JSOC Course, Jumpmaster Course,
Basic Non-Commissioned Officers
Course, Military Free Fall Course,
DOD High Risk Survival Training,
RRD Reconnaissance Training Course,
RRD Assessment and Selection,
Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support,
Mountain Warfare School, Self Care in
Austere Environments, Primary
Leadership Development Course,
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-
B), Ranger First Responder, Ranger
School, Airborne School, Multiple
Combative Courses

Awards and Bronze Star with V device, Purple
Heart, Meritorious Service Medal,
Joint

Decorations Service Commendation Medal, Army
Commendation Medal 2 olc, Army
Achievement Medal 5 olc, Good
Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman
Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge,
Senior Parachutist Badge, Romanian,
German and Canadian Jump Wings



This was his response after receiving his membership:

Terry,

It is an absolute privilege to be welcomed in by the
Papa Co. Rangers and as a Lifetime Member of the
75th Ranger Regiment Association. I would like to
thank you for the constant and continued support of
the 75th Ranger Regiment and its families.

The support has come in a variety of forms, from
financial contributions, to attendance at Regiment
functions or even just sharing a beer. I am more than
certain that by and large the majority of support is not
seen and seldom thanked.

However, without doubt, the most critical support
we active duty Rangers receive is in the form of our
unit legacy. The daily reminder of our unit heritage of
who we are, whom we represent and where we come
from. That Ranger tradition is what wills us to run
further, train harder and keep our tomahawks a little
sharper. Since World War II modern Rangers have
been at the very forefront of the toughest fighting; “at
the cutting edge of battle”. It is represented in the
battle streamers of the Regiment, but only truly
understood by men who were there. We now hold in

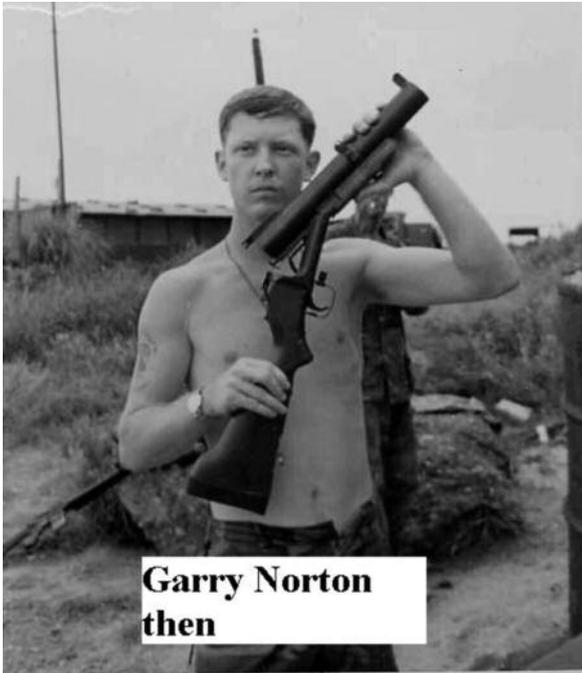
P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

trust those sacrifices and the legacy of our Ranger forefathers. It is our most privileged obligation to live up to that tradition.

I would speak for all active duty Rangers when I say Thank You for your Service and the strongest bloodlines imaginable.

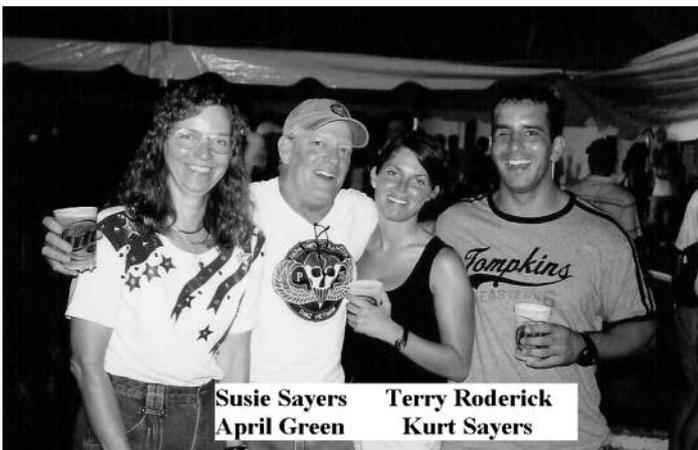
Very Respectfully,
Kurt Sayers

A class act!!



**Garry Norton
then**

We have been able to clear up something that has been bothering many of us for some time. There had been some concerns regarding the correct spelling of one of



**Susie Sayers Terry Roderick
April Green Kurt Sayers**

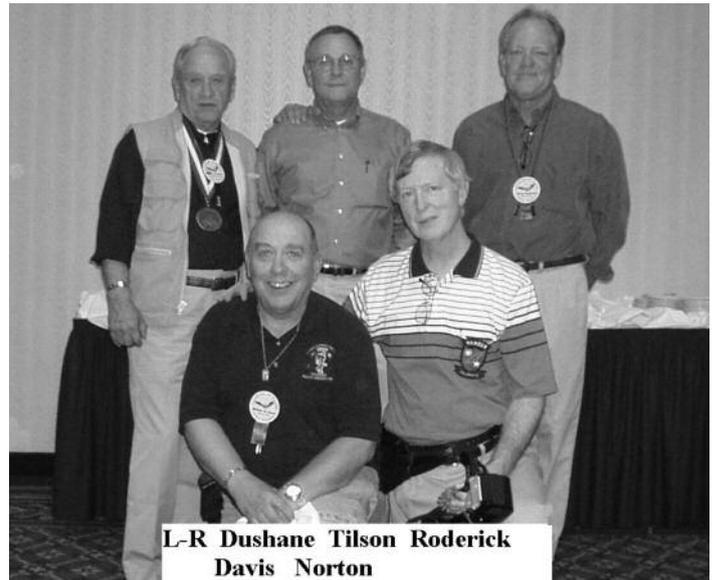
our fallen Hero's names; William "Shorty" Kastendieck (April 1, 1970). On all of Shorty's orders, and on the nametags on his uniforms had his



**Garry Norton
now**

name spelled as 'Kastendieck'. On the Wall his name was spelled Kastendieck. There was concern that it was incorrect on the Wall and efforts were made to 'correct' it. We recently have been in touch with his niece, Maureen. She assured us that the correct spelling was indeed Kastendieck. Obviously Shorty didn't give a damn that the Army misspelled his name. For those of us who remember and loved Shorty this should come as no surprise. The process of correcting the spelling of his name on his brick at the Ranger Memorial is in motion. So now all is right. Rest in Peace, Shorty!!

Last, but certainly not least, a short note about some Ranger wives. There is a rumor going around that three of them tore up the casinos up in Minnesota. Mary Rossi and Marion DuShane went up to visit Grace Mayer and they painted the town red!! At least I'm sure that they had a great time. I want to extend a note of thanks to Mary for giving of her time and energy to assist Joyce



**L-R Dushane Tilson Roderick
Davis Norton**

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

Boatman, while her husband Roy (November Company) was recuperating from surgery. For those of you who know Roy (the warm and fuzzy man he is), I'm sure it was an experience. HOOAH Mary!! Remember to keep these ladies in your thoughts and prayers. Mary and Grace are still dealing with the loss of their Rangers, Mike and Rocky, while Marion is

still struggling with her illness.

In Ranger Brotherhood,
God Bless Our Troops in Harm's Way!!

Bill Davis

	
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Hello fellow Indiana Rangers.

We just returned from Evansville tired but very inspired. Larry Rhodes initiated and arranged a very moving ceremony for David Nash, a Medal of Honor recipient from Whitesville KY. A highway was named in honor of PFC Nash who covered a handgrenade saving the lives of 3 fellow soldiers in Nam. Attending Rangers were Ted Dunn, Doug Hagan, Phil Cravens, Gary Tichenor and myself. On Saturday, even more of us played golf and had dinner before going to the gambling boat. Attending were Gary & Mary Ellen Williams, Gary & Vicki Tichenor, Phil & Sue Cravens, David Cates and his wife, Daryl & Susan Dassel, Loren Dixon, Bob & Sue McIntire, Mike & Diann Reisman, Larry & Debbie Rhodes, Chuck & Sandy Wallace.

UAW Veteran's Memorial May 1, 2004 - Mark Ellis, Jon Ellis' son, is the Veteran's Representative at Rolls Royce/Allison. On May 1, there was a dedication ceremony for a U.A.W. VETERANS MONUMENT. If one wants to view the monument, it sits in front of the UAW hall at 2320 S. Tibbs, Indpls. Several of us attended the UAW Memorial Dedication. Indiana Rangers attending were Chuck & Linda Eads, Phil & Sue Cravens, Doug & Pam Hagan, Mike Slabaugh, Tom Hart, Tom Blandford and, of course, Jon Ellis. Doug gave his reading of the MIA/POW table invocation which is very touching. Mark did a great job of chairing the committee to plan and install this Memorial. We appreciate the work he did.

75th RR reunion - July 31-August 4, 2004, There are two hotels, both are \$89.00 per night, but only the La Quinta allows smoking, the Best Western

does not. Sue Cravens has secured six rooms in the Smoking hotel and five rooms in NonSmoking.

Upcoming Events

- **September 12, 2004 - 1LT G. Larry Kleiber, and SSG Jimmy Worley Memorial Services.** We will honor 1LT Kleiber, 1:00 p.m., at Crown Hill Cemetery, 700 West 38th Street, Indianapolis. Afterward we'll travel to Greenfield's Park Cemetery, 621 S. State Street, Greenfield, IN to honor Jimmy Worely. Fellowship at the VFW where Jimmy used to cook will follow. The VFW is at 529 Apple Street, Greenfield, IN.

- **September 17-18, 2004 - Howard County Vietnam Veteran's Reunion.** D/151 has two lots there, 410 & 411 East. This has become a huge event and I encourage all Rangers/LRPS in the Indiana area to attend, and bring a buddy.

- **October 7-10, 2004 - The Wall that Heals Noblesville National Guard Armory.** 2021 Field Drive, Noblesville, IN west of Noblesville High School. Tom Blandford has the 411. It is October 7-10, 2004, open daily at 10:00 a.m. opening prayer, raising flag, tour. The Wall closes at 4:30 p.m. There is a call for volunteers,

don't worry if you have to work all day, you can help guard the precious Wall that Heals all night. The very nifty thing is nightly at 4:30 p.m. there will be a closing prayer, taps, retreat and firing squad. I've never had the opportunity to be at the wall at closing time, I hope to be able to catch it.773-9985

- **November 11, 2004 - Veteran's Day Parade.** Indidnapolis Indiana. Show up about an hour early at



D/151 LRP (CONTINUED)

10:00 AM to get together and get situated. D 151 is in the parade.

DON'T FORGET OPERATION SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!!

Now in order to get ahold of Mrs. Manis, should you want to support OSOT, or find out info on what is needed (looks to me like postage), here's the info: Brenda Manis email is: chasbren@comcast.net and her phone number is 765-759-7222. She has been so involved in this program that there was article in the newspaper all about her efforts to support the troops overseas. Super Job Mrs. M!

Six Men's War

*Article originally printed in 1969 by Don Tate
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer*

Long Binh, South Vietnam – “Do a rain dance,” one GI cracked, “maybe we can wash out today's ball game” – another five-day sally into the jungle. Six young men sat tapping fingers on the table in a low, tin-roofed building they called their club. A general had just told them what a great job they were doing. Only in an hour they would have to do it again.

Each time, before a mission, the tension begins rolling over them like the heavy monsoon clouds outside. Some in the unit are unable to eat or sleep. The six seemed unlikely for this line of work. No one looked even remotely like John Wayne. There was Spec. 4th Class Steve Steckler, Pfc. Dave Cates, Sgt. Dave Waters, Sgt. Lawrence Kelle, Spec. 4th Class Gary Williams and Spec. 4th Class Dennis Engi. All from Evansville. Early 20's Clean cut. Drinking Pepsi's. Mild-faced boys with a 21-to-one kill ratio over the enemy.

Their work is as dangerous as there is in South Vietnam. Back in Indiana, before being activated, they were part-time National Guardsmen. Their life then was being brick masons, managers of drive-in restaurants or junior supervisors of washing machine companies. Since arriving in Vietnam last December, Delta Company of the 151st Infantry had been turned into Rangers, going out on Long Range Reconnaissance (LURP) missions. Six-Man teams plunked down in the enemy's jungle. Find him, kill him, come back alive. Alone out there and usually out numbered. And such a long way from Indiana.

The hour ticked by. Would it be the same today as last

time? Their troop-loaded “slick” helicopter streaking in just over treetops, hitting the jungle clearing cold turkey. No gun-runs beforehand to prep the area or warn Charlie (Viet Cong). Then everybody rolling out the sides and the chopper lifting, whirling off over the trees. Six men plunging into the jungle, thumping to the ground, panting, listening, hearing nothing but their hearts pumping wildly against the jungle floor. Then seeking, stealthily and finding a trail to ambush. Waiting in waist high elephant grass beside the trail. Waiting. And waiting...Nothing. Three days of nothing but birds yakking, monkeys swinging through trees, mosquitoes, ants, snakes, elephants, spiders, scorpions. Drenched, crawling with jungle things. Waiting for Charlie.

Suddenly, one afternoon, the jungle is silent. There's movement on the trail. It's the Viet Cong. Carrying AK-47 automatic rifles designed in Russia and wearing rubber-soled sandals made of stolen US tires. Leathery brown and squat, wearing floppy hats and pajamas, they move noisily through their jungle.

In the grass 15 feet off the trail hand signals flash among the young men from Indiana, their sweat popping, tension coming up in their throats. They blow their claymore mines along the trail, springing their ambush. The six young men, 10,000 miles from home, open up with everything they've got. One shouts through the roar into his radio, “Loft, this is Ranger one seven! We're in contact! Contact!!

Loft is a spotter plane high over the trees. Loft's job is to relay the message to Delta Company. Within two and a half minutes a pair of Cobra gunships and a fire team called The Playboys are clattering toward the ambush. “Ranger one seven, this is Playboy one six. We're two minutes out. Where do you want your first gun run?” “Make first run zero eight zero degrees, 20 meters from my smoke – and hurry!” “Okay down there. As I roll in you pop smoke. I'll tell you when. . .Okay. . .Let's see your smoke!” Yellow smoke spews up through the trees. “Tallyho, yellow,” crackles the pilot. “Roger.” “I'm rolling inbound. Get your heads down.” Hell comes to that piece of jungle. Rockets, machine guns, mini-guns grind up The earth only yards from the Hoosiers. The Viet Cong suddenly are either dead, helpless or running.

But all that was another mission. Today is another day. Back around the table the young men hope their luck keeps running. “Is Charlie as good in the jungle as he's cracked up to be?” someone asks. There is a

D/151 LRP (CONTINUED)

chorus of “Naws.” Steckler says, “I think he’s kind of simple.” His hands still are puffed and discolored from a bamboo snake’s bite last time out. “Yeah,” says Waters. “Charlie’s curiosity gets him in trouble.” “He’s very clever at digging tunnels and bunkers, all right” allows Steckler. But how does Charlie stack up as a fighting man – say, compared to the Joes from Indiana? “He doesn’t have the drive,” observes Kelle, who lives in Evansville. “In a firefight Charlie runs,” says Steckler, who is the son of Mr. And Mrs. Oscar J. Steckler of Martin Road. “We never run.” Blond Cates, whose arms and legs are covered with welts from being chewed by jungle insects, has a scar from shrapnel on one hand. “That doesn’t mean we don’t get nervous. Like right now,” he adds. Cates is the Son of Mr. And Mrs. Morton Cates. “I’m getting old and bald from it,” says Steckler, who is 21. “and disgusted,” adds Williams, the son of Mr. And Mrs. Gus Williams. “We never get time to unwind before we’re right back out there again.” “Amen.” One of them mutters it’s almost time to go back out there now. “We’re no hero company,” stresses Steckler. “None of that stuff. We just want to get through it.”

Bespectacled Engi, the son of Mrs. Betty Engi Wilson was attending Purdue University, and has things Like a future in nuclear physics on his mind, says it’s time to get on with it right now. Waters is the son of Mr. And Mrs. Lawrence Waters. They head for the barracks as it starts to rain lightly. “Harder up there, please,” a man beseeches, hoping their mission will be scratched.

The barracks is bedlam. Delta is now a mixed company of RA (Regular Army), Draftees and National Guardsmen. One buckles on four smoke grenades and four fragmentation grenades. Each carries hundreds of rounds of ammo, six to eight quarts of water, dehydrated food, all kinds of killing and survival equipment. The tension, the concentration on what’s about to happen, squeezes out everything else. But the sky rumbles. Rain rushes down. “Nothing should fly in that,” says a GI. “Let it rain and rain,” yowls another, kicking his pack. Today’s game for the young men from Indiana is about to be postponed, and nobody is really sorry.



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon



The following article was taken from F/51 LRP summary of operations that are in the National Archives in Collage Park, MD. Over the next few issues there will be more operation summary from F/51 LRP

OPERATION KICKOFF

F/51 LRP’s code name for the up coming operation was Operation Kickoff. This was a short operation that lasted only three days. The reason for this is that on Dec 5, 1967 F/51 LRP was to lose control of their air support for insertions and extractions and gunships. The team’s mission during this operation was for trail watching in the Strike Area of Operation. Operation Kickoff was part of a larger operation called Operation Strike/ Uniontown that was under mission control of 199th Light Infantry Brigade. II Field Force released F/51 LRP and 3/15 Air Cavalry to 199th operational control. The following is a summary of the team missions.

Team 12 was inserted into their area on December 3, 1967 at 1743HRS (5:43 PM). On December 4 at 0730HRS (7:30 AM) Team 12 reported that they were in contact with an estimated platoon size element of Vietcong. During the contact 2 Vietcong were believed killed and 4 or more wounded with one M-1 rifle recovered. Team 12 broke contact and were extracted at 0755HRS (7:55 AM). After the team was extracted, artillery was fired into the area.

Team 13 was inserted into their area on December 3, 1967 at 1800HRS (6:00 PM) and at 2355HRS (11:55 PM) the team reported movement all around them. On December 5 at 0645HRS (6:45 AM) Team 13 spotted 4 Vietcong moving East to West of their position.

Later on December 5 at 1636HRS (4:36 PM) as Team 13 was being extracted 12 more Vietcong were spotted but this was not reported until after the team was back at their base.



F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

Team 25 was inserted into their area on December 4, 1967 at 0638HRS (6:38 AM). At 1650HRS (4:50 PM) Team 25 reported 4 Vietcong in camouflage fatigues carrying two weapons and moving Northeast to Southwest of their position. On December 5 at 0845HRS (8:45 AM) Team 25 reported they were in contact with an estimated platoon size Vietcong element. The result of the contact was four Vietcong believed killed and one team member was killed. All of Team 25 was extracted at 0909HRS (9:09 AM) and an element of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade was inserted to further develop the contact. There is no mention in the after action summary as to what the 199th found or may have encountered. The team member killed was Daniel H. Lindsey; he was F/51 LRP first fatality. F/51 LRP second fatality, John H. Lattin would come 10 days later. These first two fatalities for F/51 LRP are where we got our camp name in Bien Hoa.

Team 23 Was inserted into their area on December 5, 1967 at 0639HRS (6:39 AM). At 1000HRS (10:00 AM) Team 23 sighted 1 Vietcong on the trail they were watching. Through out the day the team heard a great deal of noise on the trail indicating that the trail was heavily used. At 1506HRS (3:06 PM), team 23 was extracted with no follow up on their reports.

Team 27 Was inserted into their area on December 5, 1967 at 0700HRS (7:00 AM). At 0937HRS (9:37 AM) Team 27 reported tracks and a bunker. At

0945HRS (9:45 AM) Team 27 reported hearing noise coming from the bunker area. At 0955HRS (9:55 AM) the team reported a bunker system 20 meters in front of them. At 1010HRS (10:10 AM) Team 27 sighted 1 Vietcong at the bunker complex. At 1045HRS (10:45 AM) it was decided that an element from 3/17 Air Cavalry was to be inserted and would link up with Team 27. At 1225HRS (12:25 PM) the link up was completed. At 1228HRS (12:28 PM), it was decided that both elements would pull back about 200 meters and artillery was fired into the bunker complex. At 1405HRS (2:05 PM), Team 27 and the element of 3/17 Air Cavalry entered the bunker complex and found it to be a base camp that was under construction. The Vietcong had departed the area and at 1447HRS (2:47 PM) Team 27 was extracted.

In Major Maus's report to IIFF, he restated his concerns about air assets that are needed for F/51 LRP to perform their missions. The minimum requirements needed are 4 slicks (helicopters), 2 Cobra gunships and an air communications relay. Major Maus also insisted that the above air support be attached to F/51 LRP, as it has been shown that this provides for immediate response capability for a team in trouble. This quick response time is needed due to the limited time a team can sustain itself in a firefight and if a reaction force is needed, they and the air support would be set to go immediately, instead of having to wait for the slicks (helicopters) to arrive. This delay would put teams in jeopardy of being lost.



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID
Unit Director - Michael McClintock

As I write this in mid-May, I am feeling a whole range of emotions. I feel happy because by the time you read this the 3rd ID LRRPs will have had their third unit reunion since we first got back together in June 1998, after almost 35 years. This year's reunion was in Branson, Missouri, selected, in part, because Ron Scott and Jack Quinn have time-share condos there (what's the matter with Maui or Cancun, guys??). I will fill you in on the happenings in the next issue of Patrolling. Needless to say, I am looking forward to seeing my old buds from Bad Kissingen, Germany once again.

I am also angry. I am angry that our Commander-in-



Chief and the Secretary of Defense have had to apologize for the mistreatment of terrorist thugs by U.S. forces in an Iraqi prison, while those same thugs are ambushing U.S. soldiers and civilians, and decapitating, burning and displaying their bodies for the world to see. Now we are the bad guys because we have abused (not tortured or mutilated) some Iraqi prisoners. I am even more outraged to learn that we may even compensate some of these goons for their alleged mistreatment. God help us, are we really this stupid?

I have been to too many Ranger funerals lately for me

LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID (CONTINUED)

to even think about being conciliatory toward those who are opposing us in Iraq and Afghanistan (not to mention France and Germany). I am even less inclined to be conciliatory towards our own elected officials who are prolonging this war and getting more of our people killed because they haven't got the sand to give them the support they need to get the job done right. All I know is that when you extend your hand in friendship to those who really, seriously want to kill you, they will gladly shake your hand, if for no other reason than to make it easier for them to pull you in close enough to slit your throat.

Here's something else that got my blood boiling. In the May 2, 2004 edition of the Washington Post, Richard Leiby wrote that last summer the Post profiled a Los Angeles writer named **Micah Ian Wright**. Wright had just published a shrill **antiwar poster** book called "You Back the Attack! We'll Bomb Who We Want!" In his book, Wright described himself as a veteran of combat, a former **Army Ranger** whose experiences during the 1989 invasion of Panama turned him into a peacenik. Leiby said that in interviews with the Post and other media, Wright played up that background. As it turns out, Wright was a liar. He never served in the military. Pursuing a tip from real Rangers who'd never heard of Wright, the Post filed three Freedom of Information Act

requests with separate Army commands — and it was confirmed that Wright never served.

"I feel awful about it. It was a lie that just grew and grew and grew," Wright, 34, told The Post. He said mounting combat deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan, including that of Ranger **Pat Tillman**, compound his sense of remorse. Maybe there is some justice after all. He has made a public apology on his Web site www.micahwright.com.

Wright's publisher has also canceled publication of his next book, If You're Not a Terrorist, Then Stop Asking Questions. His publisher will remove from future printings of the first book his detailed and wholly fictional account of parachuting into Panama under fire during Operation Just Cause. Wright's book of satirically "remixed" World War II propaganda posters was a minor success, selling more than 20,000 copies. It carried endorsements from two noted WWII vets, novelist **Kurt Vonnegut** and leftist historian **Howard Zinn**. Vonnegut said, *"I still like what he did. He's a liar, but I still like his pictures."* **He's still a liar, Kurt!**

Keep supporting our troops, as once we were they.

McGeek sends.

	ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) Unit Director - Mike Martin	
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Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

The scene that encompassed my view from the hotel window brought back vivid impressions of my experiences as an instructor at the Mountain Ranger Camp in the early seventies: the city of Dahlonega spread out like an amphitheater at the base of the ridgelines that unfurled from the Blue Ridge Mountains...the Chattahoochee National Forest flooded with sunlight from a radiant dawn, charged with the potent beauty of early spring.

"How many young Rangers trained here to accomplish any assigned mission, regardless of the odds of terrain, weather and an

aggressive enemy have left their boot prints on battlegrounds



around the world—their blood too?"

My wife and I were attending the annual US Army Mountain Ranger Camp Association Cookout in the pine Valley area (near the first formal Army Ranger training camp) of Lumpkin County. It would be a day—Saturday 3 April—of critters, not Rangers, on the grill and characteristically, the comradeship of Rangers past and present.

Some of the culinary delights included wild boar, goose, snake, armadillo and possum...the tempting cuisine, served on a paper plate, made my palate weep for the days of steamed rice (com trang), tripe (da day bo), fish sauce (nuoc mam), and well used

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

chopsticks (dua). Those were the days my friends....

Roger Brown and Bonifacio Romo (two great Rangers) who I served with in the 1st Ranger Battalion when it was first formed, were at the get-together; also several BDQs (Ranger Advisors). Romo and I are the two remaining, living members, of the original First Sergeants and Sergeants Major of the Ranger Battalion.

Proceeds from the Cookout will go toward scholarships for students of Ranger families going on to college or to technical schools.

My beret is "off" to Ranger (BDQ) Doug Perry and his lovely wife Terry, their hospitality and courteousness to my wife and I made this a memorable occasion; They are a true Ranger Family.

REUNION:

2005 US-VIETNAMESE RANGER (BDQ) REUNION SET FOR PHOENIX, ARIZONA

In recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and the Vietnamese-Americans who sacrificed their lives for freedom, the "Biet Dong Quan" and "Co Van Mys" will join together with members of the Counterparts Association, and other veterans in a Remembrance Ceremony on this auspicious occasion-22-26 April 2005—to honor our fallen warriors.

Plans for the reunion are being formulated in conjunction with the ARVN Rangers and will be announced when firm. Hotel rooms will be reserved with special room rates; there will be a major Banquet.

There will be a rededication ceremony at Arizona's Vietnam Memorial, Wesley Bolin Plaza, by the State Capitol...the memorial is

adorned with flags, a map of Vietnam, bronze time-line plaques that provide an outline of the history of Vietnam and the war in addition to a statue of soldiers helping a wounded companion. This is the only memorial in the country that permanently displays the Flag of the Republic of South Vietnam.

After a very successful Co Van (BDQ) reunion in the Huntsville metropolitan area last year, we are looking forward to sharing our activities with our counterparts. Because of the large Vietnamese Ranger population in Arizona, Texas and California-plus its location in the U.S.—Phoenix offers an excellent site for this event.

There will be an extremely large attendance, with national news coverage, so now is the time to plan your schedule; families and friends are encouraged to attend. Specific details such as dates, points of contact, prices, lodging, transportation and scheduled activities will be forthcoming on our web site, the Patrolling, and with written invitations. Bring your BDQ Beret!!

"PRESENT ARMS"

Two more of our distinguished BDQ Ranger Advisors—Harry Stewart and George Lester—received their final marching orders. Harry passed away on 29 March 2004, George on Easter Sunday, 11 April 2004. Both were professional Non-Commissioned Officers who led by example Their Ranger Spirit will forever endow the discipline and duty of the Corps'. I have included comments on Harry from Bob Reitz, Senior Advisor to the 35th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion and those provided by family members of George Lester.

“MY SWORD I GIVE TO HIM THAT SHALL SUCCEED ME IN MY PILGRIMAGE, AND MY COURAGE AND SKILL TO HIM THAT CAN GET IT. MY WORKS AND SCARS I CARRY WITH ME, TO BE A WITNESS FOR ME THAT I HAVE FOUGHT HIS BATTLES WHO NOW WILL BE MY REWARDER.”
SO HE PASSED OVER AND ALL THE TRUMPETS SOUNDED FOR HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE.
...Bunyon

FIRST SERGEANT HARRY STEWART BY COL (RET) ROBERT A. REITZ

First Sergeant Harry Charles Stewart, U.S. Army Retired, passed over the bridge and joined the Great Ranger in the Sky on 29 March 2004. “Stew” was a miracle man, surviving eleven heart bypasses over three surgeries, a stroke, diabetes, agent orange contamination and God knows what else.

He had that indefatigable spirit and took all his torments in stride... like maybe his own “Red Badge of Courage”. I’ve had four bypasses, but he would tell me he was better, ‘cause he had eleven! What a character! Indeed! Quite possibly, he was a legend!

Stew was my senior non-commissioned officer team chief in 1967 and 1968. We had quite a time together. As I said at his funeral “Most of you knew him as a character, but I knew him as a damn fine combat soldier, highly courageous, never failing, and always dependable. He watched my back and vice versa.”

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

In tight situations, he spoke with clarity and could be expected to do the risky and brave things that others wouldn't. At the beginning of the 1968 Tet Offensive, he had returned to Bien Hoa 3rd Ranger Group for a stand down, mail run and refurbishment of supplies. The VC began their attack through Ranger village east of 3rd Ranger Group Compound. As 3rd Group personnel "hauled ass" to III Corps, Stew was left to delay or stop the VC from continuing on to III Corps HQs...

While perched on the roof of the Ranger barracks, he directed several sorties of gun ships onto the VC that were moving up the creek bed behind him. This quick action accomplished the mission by scattering the enemy to cover. Stew then ran into Ranger village to lead wives and kids out to safety within the III Corps HQs. Just a Ranger doing his job.

Shortly afterwards, he ran the gauntlet to Cholon where he rejoined the 35th Ranger Bn for more fun and games. This is only one story of many I could tell about 1SG Stewart. He was a real combat soldier.

After retirement, Stew continued to serve. He wrote several papers, became a Gideon minister, a Stevens Minister and studied art and quilting. Everyone he met became his friend. He took people into his home that needed help and always had a kind word (or perhaps a wise crack) for those around him.

First Sergeant Harry Charles Stewart was truly one of a kind. He shall be missed by many. Stew's body now rests at his beloved home, Fort Benning. But his soul continues to share his many Ranger tales with those behind those pearly gates. God bless you Stew.

Harry C. Stewart retired from

the US Army after more than twenty years of active service. His decorations include: Silver Star for Valor, five Bronze Stars (three for valor and two for meritorious service in combat), two Vietnamese Gallantry Crosses and the Vietnamese Honor Medal 2nd Class. He holds the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab and Parachute wings; he was also awarded the Vietnamese Ranger Badge.

FIRST SERGEANT GEORGE LESTER

George Sigurd Lester was born April 18th, 1930 at Ft. Lincoln, Bismarck, ND. He was the first of six children and the only boy born to George F. Lester and Irene K. Lester (Wenaas). His father was a First Sergeant with I Company, Fourth Infantry garrisoned at Ft. Lincoln.

George S. Lester joined the Naval Reserves on 22 April 1947 and was honorably discharged from the US Navy Reserves on 9 September 1948 with the rank of Apprentice Seaman. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corp on 6 October 1948 and served until 30 January 1953 when he was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant. During his six years as a Marine he served three separate tours of duty in Korea. He was awarded the Silver Star for actions that he took during his first tour in Korea and he earned a Purple Heart for wounds he received during that firefight with North Korean regulars. During the next two tours in Korea he received two more Purple Hearts for wounds received during combat. He also received his Combat Action Ribbon with three stars and a USMC Good Conduct Medal during his time with the Marine Corp. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corp

on 30 January 1953 after having received serious wounds in combat and earning his third (3) Purple Heart. He however strongly disagreed with the USMC and did not feel like he was ready to become a civilian so he joined the US Army on 13 February 1953.

During his time with the Marines George also found time to get married. He met Renee White in 1951 while stationed in Pocatello ID. Renee was from the Pocatello area and they were married on 14 June 1951. Their first son David Lynn was born 23 April 1952 in Pocatello. Their second son George Earl was born 25 April 1953 in San Diego, CA. By the time their third child was born George was in the Army. Ronald Alan was born 13 September 1955 at Ft. Ord, CA and he was followed by the first female child Kathleen Renee who was born 1 March 1957 in Tokyo Japan while George was stationed at Hardy Barracks. Their last child Beverly Jean was born 28 August 1958 at Ft. Lewis Washington.

George was in the US Army for almost 26 years. He retired on 1 January 1979 while stationed at Ft. Lewis Washington with the 2nd BN 39th Infantry 1st BDE 9th Infantry Division. He retired at the rank of First Sergeant. George spent most of his time in the Army as a Ranger and served in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971 as the Senior Weapons Sgt. with the 36th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion (BDQ) as an advisor. During this tour he was awarded two (2) bronze stars, one with Valor three (3) more Purple Hearts and he also was awarded two (2) Air Medals. In all during his time with the Army he received the Army Commendation Medal with one (1) Oak Leaf Cluster; the US Army Good Conduct Medals with 4 (four) Silver Loops; the Vietnam

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

Service Medal with three (3) Battle Stars; The Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm; the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star; the Vietnam Honor Medal 2nd Class; and the Vietnam Staff Service Medal. He also earned his US Army Combat Infantry Badge with One (1) Star. His other awards and Medals were the National Defense Service Medal with one (1) Oak Leaf Cluster; the Naval Occupation Medal with Asia Bar; the Army Occupation Medal with Berlin Bar; the Korea Service medal with three (3) Battle Stars; the United Nations Medal; the Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60th Device; the Presidential Unit Citation Navy with three (3) Bronze Stars; the Presidential Unit Citation Army with three (3) Oak Leaf Clusters; the Valor US Unit Award with two (2) Oak Leaf Clusters; the Korea Presidential Unit Citation; the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm; and the Korea Service Defense Medal with three(3) Oak Leaf Clusters.

Of all the Medals George won he always said the hardest to earn for him were the Good Conduct Medals, “being brave and getting shot was easy; behaving myself was much harder”.

After he retired from the Army George served as a Deputy Sheriff in New Mexico. He also met his second wife Ellen (Sam) during this time and they were happily married for 24 years. They had one son together, Christopher Lester, who they raised together and two stepdaughters, Lynn and Lisa, both Sam’s girls from a previous marriage.

He passed away Easter Sunday at the age of 73 on 11 April 2004 after a hard fought battle with cancer; he was only seven (7) days from his 74th birthday. A service

was held in the main Chapel at Ft. Lewis and he was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on 28 April 2004. He rests in section 54 plot 51 by the main entrance gate to the Cemetery. George Sigurd Lester left behind six (6) children; two (2) stepchildren; thirteen (13) grandchildren and one (1) great grandchild. He also left two sisters 23 nieces and nephews and numerous grand nieces and grand nephews..

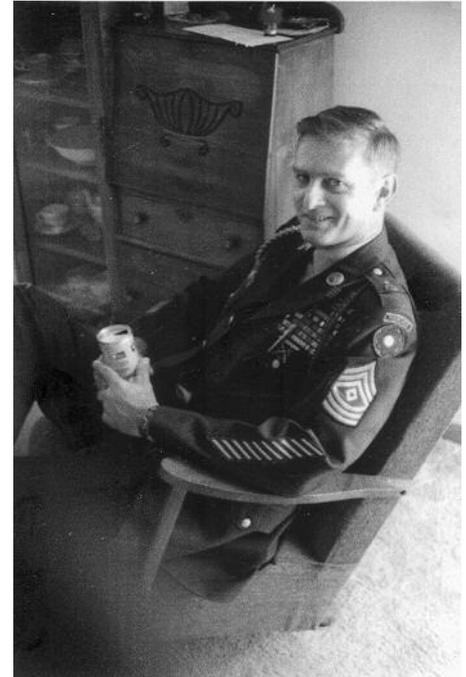
CONTEMPLATIONS

Between two groups of men that want to
 make inconsistent kinds of
 worlds, I see no
 remedy except force It seems to
 me
 that every society rests on the
 death of men.

...Oliver Wendell Holmes

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

Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit
 Director



First Sergeant George Lester. George was an advisor to the 36th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.



Ranger Advisor Earl Singletary, (front, kneeling) with the BDQ...Earl served with the 30th, 33rd & 38th Battalions, and the 5th Ranger Group Recon. He also served tours as an instructor at the Mountain Ranger Camp.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)



Ranger Advisor Harry Stewart with a Vietnamese Ranger (BDQ) family



Ranger Harry Stewart, 35th BDQ'S at Christmas 1967, Ham Tan, South China Sea.



BLACK TIGERS: Fire Team Leader (first from right) and members of his team from the 44th Ranger BN, 1965. They are wearing the US Presidential Citation—first unit in Vietnam to win this award—over their right pockets. Their helmets are the black and yellow stripe tiger helmets of the 44th.

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS - In the beginning



In August 1943 at the "Quebec Conference", President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and other allied leaders decided that an American Long Range Penetration Mission behind the Japanese Lines in Burma was needed to destroy the Japanese supply lines and communications and

to play havoc with the enemy forces while an attempt was made to reopen the much needed Burma Road.

President Roosevelt issued a Presidential call for volunteers for "A Dangerous and Hazardous Mission". The call was answered by approximately 3,000 American soldiers. The volunteers came from State side units, from the jungles of Panama and Trinidad they came, from the campaigns of Guadalcanal, New Guinea, New Georgia they came, to answer the call, some battle scarred, some new to the ways of war, each different but with one thing in common. They Answered The Call.

The Unit was officially designated as the "5307th Composite Unit (Provisional)" Code Name: "GALAHAD", later it became popularly known as "MERRILL'S MARAUDERS" named after its leader, Brigadier General Frank Merrill. Formed into six combat teams (400 per team), color-coded Red, White, Blue, Green, Orange and Khaki, two teams to a Battalion, the rest formed the H.Q. and Air Transport Commands.

After preliminary training operations were undertaken in great secrecy in the jungles of Central India, the Marauders began the long march up the Ledo Road and over the outlying ranges of the Himalayan Mountains into Burma. The Marauders with no tanks or heavy artillery to support them, walked over 1,000 miles through extremely dense and almost impenetrable jungles and came out with glory.

In Five major (WALAWBUM, SHADUZUP, INKANGAHTAWNG, NHPUM GA, &

MYITKYINA) and thirty minor engagements, they defeated the veteran soldiers of the Japanese 18th Division (Conquerors of Singapore and Malaya) who vastly outnumbered the Marauders. Always moving to the rear of the main forces of the Japanese the Marauders completely disrupted the enemy supply and communication lines, and climaxed their behind the lines operations with the capture of Myitkyina Airfield, the only all-weather airfield in Northern Burma.

The attack on Myitkyina was the climax to four months of marching and combat in the Burma jungles. No other American force except the First Marine Division, which took and held Guadalcanal for four months, has had as much uninterrupted jungle fighting service as Merrill's Marauders. But no other American force anywhere had marched as far, fought as continuously or had to display such endurance, as the swift-moving, hard-hitting foot soldiers, of Merrill's Marauders

When the Marauders attacked Myitkyina they had behind them over 800 miles of marching over jungle and mountain roads and tracks. They had to carry all their equipment and supplies on their backs and on the backs of pack mules. Re-supplied by air drops the Marauders often had to make a clearing in the thick jungle to receive the supplies.

Every wounded Marauder was evacuated, an extraordinary feat in itself. Each wounded Marauder had to be carried on a makeshift stretcher (usually made from bamboo and field jackets or shirts) by his comrades until an evacuation point was reached. These evacuation points were mostly small jungle village's, where the Marauders would then have to hack out a landing strip for the small Piper Cub Evac. Planes. The brave sergeant-pilots of the air-rescue unit would then land and take off in these very hazardous conditions, removing every seriously wounded Marauder one at a time. The small planes, stripped of all equipment except a compass, had room for the pilot and one stretcher.

At the end of their campaign all remaining Marauders

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS - CONT.

still in action were evacuated to hospitals suffering from tropical diseases, exhaustion, and malnutrition or as the tags on their battered uniforms said "A.O.E." (Accumulation Of Everything).

For their accomplishments in Burma the Marauders were awarded the "DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION" in July, 1944. However in 1966 this award was redesignated as the "PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION" which is awarded by the President in the name of Congress. The Marauders also have the extremely rare distinction of having every member of

the unit receive the "BRONZE STAR".

The unit was consolidated with the 475th Infantry on August 10, 1944. On June 21, 1954, the 475th was redesignated the 75th Infantry. It is from the redesignation of Merrill's Marauders into the 75th Infantry Regiment that the modern-day 75th Ranger Regiment traces its current unit designation.

From Merrill's Marauders Website by permission of Phil Piazza



Ranger Battalions Association – WW II

RBA-WWII, as are all WWII associations, is losing membership to the ravages of time. Our ranks, in the last 5 years, have been reduced by over 200 in number. We, the living, miss each and every one of them.

To honor these Rangers who have gone to a better place, we are dedicating a monument in their honor at the WWII Museum in Auburn, IN on August 27.

RBA-WWII is holding their annual reunion in Fort Wayne, IN August 24 - 29, 2004. We anticipate about 100 WWII Rangers to be in attendance. Total attendance, including families and friends, is expected to be almost 300 people. We always have a great time at the reunions!

Our last several reunions have been arranged and hosted by our auxiliary group, Sons & Daughters of WWII Rangers. They have accepted the tasks with pleasure and enthusiasm and the results have shown that.

All Rangers are welcome at our reunions. If you would like details, contact Tom Herring, 8205 Tifton Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226. Email teh5rgr@aol.com

THE GUNS OF POINTE du HOC

Many thousands of lives were spared on the landing beaches of Normandy and on the invasion fleet just off the beaches, on D-Day by the quick action of the courageous Rangers on the third beachhead captured at the cliffs of Pointe Du Hoc. On June 6, 1944, 225 Army Rangers of the 2nd Ranger Battalion were given “the most dangerous mission of D-Day” so said General Omar Bradley in his book, *A Soldier’s Story*. He was then C.O. of all American ground forces in Europe. He assigned this awesome mission to LTC. James Earl Rudder, C.O. of the 2nd Ranger Battalion. About 180 Rangers reached the top of the cliffs. On D+2, the mission successfully accomplished, only 90 Rangers were left standing, ready to fight on. This mission was deemed very important and indeed necessary in case the U.S. Army Force missed their bombing targets: the large coastal guns on the high ground bluffs and cliffs of Omaha Beach early D-Day morning before the landing and ground assault began. The Rangers’ early success enabled the invasion fleet laying 10 miles off shore to move closer to shore to off load the assault troops, tanks, vehicles, artillery, and other necessary equipment.

The primary objective of the mission was to climb the 100-foot cliffs as quickly as possible, capture the Pointe, establish a beachhead and, most importantly, destroy the five big 155 MM coastal guns of Pointe du Hoc, supposedly contained in large encasements as seen from the air. The 10-mile long distance firing capability of the guns could easily reach the landing beaches and ships at sea. Secondly, Rangers were to destroy the enemy communications and establish a roadblock on the east-west coastal black-topped main road between Omaha and Utah Beaches, about a mile inland. The cliffs were bravely defended by about 175 German soldiers, shooting down at the Rangers, cutting their ropes and dropping grenades on them. Hundreds more German troops assembled throughout the day in their efforts to push Rangers off the cliffs and drive them back into the sea. German artillery and mortar fire was intermittent throughout the day dependent on when German counter attacks were in progress. There never the-less was a great deal of small arms fire, machine gun and anti-aircraft flat trajectory fire due to frequent fire fights and patrol skirmishes throughout the day.

There were many examples of valor and leadership among the Rangers of Pointe du Hoc that day. However, who found and personally destroyed the guns of Pointe du Hoc before they could kill many thousands of soldiers on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, the mission’s main objective? 1st Sgt. Leonard G. Lomell and S/Sgt. Jack E. Kuhn did and thereby earned a Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star, respectively, for their courageous performance above and beyond their usual line of duty behind enemy lines on D-Day. They were both serving in an acting capacity above their true rank. 1st Sgt. Lomell was an acting platoon leader of the 2nd Platoon of D Co. and S/Sgt. Kuhn was his acting platoon sergeant. There had been a shift in leadership in D Co. due to the assignment of an officer to special duty at Battalion Headquarters just prior to D-Day.

1st Sgt. Lomell’s LCA landed about 7:10 a.m. and, though one of the first Rangers wounded, led his 2nd platoon quickly up the cliff and across the Pointe through the German defenders only to find the three gun positions assigned to Co. D were empty. The five large coastal guns of Pointe du Hoc were nowhere to be seen. At this point in time, there were 22 men with Lomell and they didn’t know where to begin to look for the big guns. They thought they would hear these mobile coastal guns fire from their assumed alternate gun positions thought to be further inland, but they never did. However, Army historical documents contended later, they had been fired before their discovery and destruction.

Lomell’s 2nd Platoon depended on speed and aggressiveness in pursuit of the Ranger mission to find the guns as quickly as possible. They immediately headed inland, moving as fast as they possibly could through the German resistance encountered. They neutralized a machine gun position, a guard post at the German billet and various fire-fights with Germans, fighting in and out of tunnels and through hedgerows. They wasted no time getting to the coast road, which they reached within an hour of their landing. While their sections Sergeants set up the first Ranger roadblock as ordered with their 12 remaining men. Lomell and Kuhn set off on a two-man reconnaissance patrol. They found and destroyed the guns of Pointe du Hoc by 8:30 a.m. The landing beaches were swarming with troops at that hour, particularly Omaha Beach.

The five big guns were in an apple orchard, heavily camouflaged with netting and apple trees about 200 yards from the D Co. roadblock. There were about 75 Germans being talked to by their leader about 100 yards west of the gun position where corners of the pastures and a farm road joined. The gun position appeared unguarded at the moment. The German gunners knew their observation post on Pointe du Hoc was

THE GUNS OF POINTE du HOC (CONT.)

neutralized by the Rangers there. Did they have any other OP? Were they expecting more incoming fire from the battleship USS Texas laying off the Pointe? In any event, Lomell seized the opportunity to destroy the guns with silent thermite grenades carried especially for this mission, placing some in the traversing and elevation mechanisms and also in the breech blocks of the guns. The intense heat melting the moving parts aforesaid into an inoperable position. Lomell then bashed in the sights on each gun with the padded butt of his submachine gun. More such grenades were obtained immediately and the process of destruction quickly repeated. S/Sgt. Kuhn never took his eyes off the Germans as he stood guard with his submachine gun over Lomell. As they were leaving the position, a tremendous explosion occurred nearby. They ran as fast as they could back to their Ranger roadblock, believing the explosion was a short round from the BATTLESHIP TEXAS. They didn't stop to find out.

Rangers Fate and Luning of the 2nd Platoon volunteered to take the message back by different routes to LTC Rudder and by 9:00 a.m. they had notified him that the Ranger's mission had been successfully accomplished. The German lines of communication along the coast road were destroyed by Sgt. Harvey Koenig of Lomell's platoon. About 9:00 a.m. the 2nd Platoon was happy to be joined by the eleven survivors of D Company's 1st Platoon led by Lt. George Kerchner. The 1st Platoon had been delayed by their heroic contribution in defense of the Pointe where they lost half of their men. Together the remaining one third of the men of D Company, still able to bear arms, were determined to maintain and defend the first and only continuous Ranger roadblock established early D-Day until relieved.

Some survivors of E & F Companies came in the afternoon of D-Day to help D Company defend the area of their roadblock and big guns aforesaid. D, E, and F Companies were later fortunately joined by the survivors of a platoon of Rangers from Company A of the 5th Rangers Battalion who had broken through enemy lines at Omaha Beach in their efforts to help out at Pointe du Hoc. The Rangers' defensive position for D-Day night at the inland battle area now numbered approximately 85 Rangers.

Hundreds of German troops in varying numbers were seen in the area throughout the day. Approximately three hundred Germans counter-attacked this inland Ranger defensive position D-Day night, and in the very early hours of D+1 morning, on at least three horrendous occasions. There were heavy casualties on both sides. The German force withdrew after the third attack. The surviving Rangers, except for D Co., withdrew back to the Pointe the morning of June 7, 1944 to help support LTC Rudder's group. D Co. had 13 men left, determined to defend the D Co. roadblock to the last man or until relieved as ordered. On D+2, D Co. was duly relieved by the Rangers from Omaha Beach and elements of the 116 Inf. Regt. of the 29th Division. Two thirds of D Co., including their C.O. had become casualties out of its original 68 men committed. D Co. had suffered the highest number of casualties and men killed in action of the Rangers on Pointe du Hoc. The temporarily missing guns of Pointe du Hoc had not rendered the Ranger mission in vain. Four months of prior aerial bombardment and naval shelling on the Pointe early D-Day morning left no craters near the actual alternate position where the big guns were found south and inland of the coastal road. It was learned months later that the guns had never been installed on the Pointe where the aforesaid bombing and shelling took place. The guns had been in their alternate position where they had been placed several months prior to D-Day. Nevertheless, the destruction of the guns of Pointe du Hoc by 8:30 a.m. had indeed saved thousands of lives on the invasion beaches of Normandy and on ships at sea on D-Day. Those beaches remained crowded for days with men and equipment moving through. The 2nd Ranger Bn. was awarded the Presidential Unit citation for their courageous action on D-Day. France and England also awarded medals of recognition to the Battalion for its heroism in timely destroying the guns of Pointe du Hoc.

Lomell and Khun played a major role, along with LTC Rudder, in contribution to the success of the Ranger mission at Pointe du Hoc. The valor and leadership of these Rangers were outstanding. The great courage of all Rangers will never be forgotten. Each step they took that fateful day was a life and death matter against extraordinary odds of survival and/or success of the mission.

1st Sgt. Leonard G. Lomell went on to become Bn. Sgt. Major and eventually became the first 2nd Bn. Ranger to receive a battlefield commission, October 7, 1944 in Arlon, Belgium. He was wounded three times and was honorably discharged from the Army at the Valley Forge General (VA) Hospital, Phoenixville, Pa, December 30, 1945. He currently resides in Toms River, NJ and is a retired lawyer.

S/Sgt. Jack E. Kuhn was promoted in December, 1944 to 1st Sgt. of D Co. He was also wounded. He subsequently served as an 1st Sgt. in the Marine Corps in the Korean conflict. He resides in Altoona, PA and

THE GUNS OF POINTE du HOC (CONT.)

is a retired chief of police of that city.

LTC James Earl Rudder also awarded the D.S.C. retired as a Major General. He later became the President of Texas A&M University. He was posthumously inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in June of 1992 at the Home of the Rangers at Fort Benning, GA.

Rangers Rudder, Lomell and Kuhn were the first three Rangers from the 2nd Ranger Battalion to be inducted into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

(Ref. Omaha Beachhead Historical Div, Rudders Rangers by Col. Ronald L Lane, Small Unit Actions Historical Div, Rangers of WWII by Col. Robert Black, D-Day, June 6, 1944 by Dr. Stephen Ambrose)

by Louis Lisko National Historian of the Ranger Bn Association of WWII, D-Day member of 2nd Battalion Rangers. Ranger Lisko, who is deceased, resided in Breckenridge, PA.

RANGER INFANTRY COMPANIES AIRBORNE (RICA – KOREA)

by Bob Black



Recently RICA buried one of our members at the National Cemetery at Arlington. There was a funeral cortege and as there are now 25 funerals a day at Arlington our cars were lined up on the beautiful entrance boulevard to the cemetery. I would image that the entrance to the warrior heaven of Valhalla must look something like that of Arlington. Sitting back from the roadway were stately hedges and at various points sections of the hedges had been cut away to allow significant monuments to be emplaced. Among those I saw were one to the Seabees and one to the 101st Airborne Division. The Screaming Eagle monument is done with grace. The monument also reveals thereon that the division suffered some 9,000 casualties in World War II and over 20,000 in Vietnam.

There is no monument to the Rangers at Arlington entrance and there should be. We fought six wars in America before the United States was formed. Our record in the Revolutionary War and on both

sides in the Civil War is an amazing story and our service in the 20th and 21st century is a credit to our nation and our brotherhood. Arlington is one of the most visited of the national parks and the resting spot of our unknown soldiers

The Korean War Rangers, Ranger Battalions of World War II, Merrill's Marauders and WAR have all expressed interest in Ranger Associations working together to put a significant monument to the Rangers at Arlington. It would be best if no single association led the effort and if the chairman would be of the stature of General Wayne Downing, or Buck Kernan or David Grange. It is my hope that the 75th Ranger Regiment Association will agree that an Arlington Monument is important to Ranger Brotherhood.

We recently concluded a gathering at Ocala, Florida that a number of men from WWII and Vietnam attended. It was another good experience in Ranger Brotherhood. Sometimes reunions are held in distant places that men do not care to go to. We hope your door is open to us. We welcome you at our Regional and National meetings. Our next one will be Oct 20-23 2005 in St. Louis Missouri.

A good place to begin is at the beginning so I'll tell you how the Korean War Rangers came to be.

When 90,000 North Koreans trained and armed by the Russians attacked South Korea in June of 1950 there were no American Ranger units. The North Koreans were very successful at sending teams of infiltrators ahead. These would then assemble behind South Korean or American lines and strike rear area installation at the same time major attacks were happening on the Main Line of Resistance. The tactic was good and General MacArthur decided to do the same so he organized a Ranger Company that became

RANGER INFANTRY COMPANIES AIRBORNE (CONT.)

known as the 8th Army Ranger Company.

The Chief of Staff of the Army General J. Lawton Collins liked the idea so he directed that Rangers would be reformed and that in order to be a Ranger one must first be a qualified paratrooper. Many jumpers from the 11th Airborne had gone to fill up the 187th Abn RCT which would fight in Korea. The Army turned to the 82nd Airborne Division for volunteers and as men recognized that the 82nd would not be sent to Korea (National reserve) a flood of Regular Army Paratroopers volunteered for the Rangers.

We were organized into companies of 107 EM and 5 Officers with the intent that one Ranger Company would be attached to each Army Division. We were the first to go through the Ranger Training Center at Fort Benning, complete the course and be awarded the Ranger Tab. Many of us then also trained at Camp Carson and Camp Hale, Colorado.

The 8th Army Ranger Co fought with the 25th I.D. The 1st Abn Rgr Co with the 2nd I.D, the 2nd Abn Rgrs with the 7th I.D., the 3rd Abn Rgrs with the 3rd I.D. The 4th Abn Rgrs with the 1st Cav. The 5th Abn Rgrs replaced the 8th Army Ranger Co (which was disbanded) and fought with the 25th I.D. The 8th Abn Rgrs fought with the 24th I.D. We went behind Chinese lines by land, water and air and fought in six campaigns. Seven hundred and fifty of us fought in Korea. We spearheaded attacks and were used to plug holes in the line. One in every nine of us who fought in Korea died there. Other companies served with Divisions in Germany, Japan or stateside.

The men were highly trained and well motivated. We had good leadership. We had many automatic weapons and could fight larger units successfully. The 7th Abn Rgr Co and the 9th Abn Rgr Co provided replacements to the combat companies. In my company the 8th Airborne Rangers, the men who came in had the same training we had so they blended in quickly.

The greatest drawback was being organized as companies attached to Divisions. They did not know how to use us, sometimes left us on our own for food, water and ammunition. When our Captains were shot off, the Division G-3's (Lt.Col.'s) rarely paid attention to recommendations. We should have been organized in Battalions as the World War II Rangers were with a Lt Col and Staff to stand up for us.

The Ranger Companies were disbanded at the time in 1951 that it became trench warfare, the Army and

the Ranger community forgot of our existence. In 1983 we had six lines in the Ranger Manual and three of those were wrong. We formed a national association and got our history squared away. Today the Korean War Rangers have the largest photograph collection in the Army Archives of any unit of any size that fought in Korea. We learned the hard way " If you are not willing to tell your own story, don't expect others to do it."

RLTW – Bob Black



THE
BUNDLE
CHASER

Michael!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Smyers

MID NIGHT CALL

I would like to share with you a true-life experience, experienced by my wife Wanda. Many of you know her and many have prayed for her over the last three years. First let me lay a foundation. In 1991 Wanda experience a massive heart attack, leaving her with one third of a heart muscle. I had taken her to the hospital the night before, but we were told it was probably muscle strain, but they would watch her over night, so I went home to get some sleep. Returning the next morning about ten o'clock. Wanda was still having pain which they treated as a muscle strain, even tried to get her to eat a heavy breakfast. I left about twelve o'clock telling her I would return later in the afternoon. About two o'clock I got a call from the hospital from a friend of ours, and he said I should get to the hospital. I was sure I had lost her or she was in deep trouble. Arriving at the hospital, Bill, our friend had stopped to check on Wanda and as they talked, her heart stopped. Being a Fire Marshal he took action and got the nurse's attention. She called a code blue and by the time I got there they had gotten her heart started again. I wanted to see her, but they said no, and closed the intensive care down to all but medical personnel. It was seven hours later before I got word, and it was not hopeful. She would need transport to a more equipped hospital, which they did. The cardiologists had worked on her all afternoon, and before they moved her they allowed me to see her. Before all this began, Wanda's hair was blonde, but now it was totally gray, indicating she had been through hell as the doctors did all they could. This was probably the reason the cardiologist that came to see me asked, is that your mother in there? Mind you, I held onto my faith and believed God's will would be done; though it looked impossible from my point of view, but with God all things are possible. They sent a cardiac team for her transport to the other hospital because she was so near death. Once there, the doctors decided it would be best to try and get her more stabilized before either open heart, or angio-plasty would be done. Morning came and they took her in to do the angio plasty first, but were ready to proceed with open heart if they ran into trouble. They were able to open some arteries, but could not place any stints to assist in the flow of blood. She was to sick and weak to take the risk. Once in her room she was attached to all kinds of life support, and having no use of her left hand due a major stroke, which left the left side paralyzed, and today remains so. Her right hand was tied down to keep her from pulling any wires or tubes loose. She had to be fed through a tube and was not allowed water, except by sponge. Her respirator prevented any talking until several weeks later. She was not improving and the hospital was being pressured by the insurance company to send her home to die. Once Wanda was able to talk, she told me for the last three nights some one was laying beside her, and she could hear him breathing. I ask why she never said anything to him and she did not answer. I looked at her situation and there was no way anyone could lay beside her, just too much equipment, and wires of all kinds. It happened two more days in a row, and the last time was the night before they sent her home. I came to see her before she was sent home, and yes the doctors told me it would be but days, weeks, or months at the most. and she would be gone. Well the last night Wanda heard the familiar sign of his breathing. This time however, she was experiencing an out of body. She said she was up above her body and looking down at it. She also said there was a man lying there and was hooked up to a respirator breathing with her. Jesus said he would never leave us nor forsake us, he was there showing her he was suffering with her. It was the day and she came home, still looking like a person dying, but she also had somewhat of a glow about her, and her strength showed improvement. Well they told me she would die, but I never accepted their diagnoses, and that was fourteen years. She has suffered a major stroke and stayed in faith, she has had three other minor heart attack, leaving her with a heart that is only able to produce 20% of the blood needed by the body, she took all this in stride. Today she has diabetes and breast cancer she is fighting. She has always accepted God's will for her, and I can not tell you how many lives she has touched for God. Even though she has suffered much, she brings joy to all she meets, and Glory to God! God uses us for his Glory, if only we will believe. That leads us to what she wrote years later about what happened when she died for a while. She will admit the wording and style was

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

not of her, but rather Jesus. She had an encounter with the Lord. I can testify it was not my wife's style or words she would put together so beautifully. Since then God has given her a gift to do spiritual writings, not when she wants, but rather when He wants. When she ask for paper, I knows she is getting something and it it came quickly, thus getting it on paper was important. Wanda wrote what she experienced and now she shares with all of you.

MIDNIGHT CALL

HE DAY WAS WARM AND CALM. THE NIGHT WAS CLEAR, WITH THE SKY FULL OF STARS. SO MANY FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. TO MY GREAT AMAZEMENT AS I LOOK TO THE HEAVENS, I SEE A FIGURE COMING DOWN LIKE MANY STARS FALLING TO THE EARTH IN ONE BIG CLUMP VERY SLOWLY.

I DARE NOT TAKE MY EYES AWAY FOR ONE SECOND, I MAY MISS SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT. AS I LOOK ON I SEE THE FIGURE GETTING CLOSER. ALL WHITE WITH LIGHTS ALL AROUND IT.

I'M NOT FRIGHTENED JUST CURIOUS. AS IT GETS CLOSER I FEEL A WARMTH LIKE THE SUN. BUT IT CAN'T BE ITS MIDNIGHT. I'M PUZZLED BUT INTENT ON KNOWING WHAT'S TO HAPPEN NEXT. AS IT GETS EVEN CLOSER I FEEL A GENTLE BREEZE WITH THE WARMTH. AS IT HOOVERS OVER ME I FEEL A GREAT LOVE SURROUND ME.

THE LIGHT WAS SO BRIGHT BY NOW I COULD NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT IT. BUT MY EYES WERE FOCUSED AROUND IT.

IT TOUCHES MY SHOULDER EVER SO SLIGHTLY AND CALLS MY NAME. I'M STARTLED BUT PLEASED THINKING IT MAY BE A VISIT FROM JESUS.

WHEN I DID NOT ANSWER, IT CALLS MY NAME AGAIN AS IF TO SAY ANSWER ME.

I'M SHOCKED BACK TO THE PRESENT WITH ITS PRESENCE STILL THERE.

MY CHILD RISE UP AND BE HEALED, IT IS NOT YOUR TIME TO GO WITH ME BUT RISE UP AND TESTIFY OF ME. GO TELL ALL YOU CAN ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN.

I SHOWED YOU THIS SO YOU CAN TAKE TO OTHERS, SHOWING OF YOUR STRONG BELIEF IN ME AND OF MY POWERS FROM MY FATHER OF WHAT I CAN DO. SO THE UNBELIEVERS CAN HAVE A PORTION OF YOUR FAITH AND BELIEVE THE WONDERS OF MY POWERS. I AM YOUR JESUS IN THE STARS AND I LOVE YOU.

TAKE MY PRESENCE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.

WANDA LINTON SMYERS DEC.1995

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TRIBUTE Roy Olgyay

Lord, those who knew Roy 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" Roy 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? To the family that has had

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

to bear the loss of Roy, we offers 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 loved and missed, even to this day. Taps, when sounded after the Honor Squad has fire the final volley, of a 21 gun salute, brings to us the reality of the price of Freedom. While being played one can hear the words from the heart of the writer, in the silence of the mind, yet among many, but seemly alone, you hear and feel the words; Day is done, Gone the sun, From the Lakes, From the hills, From the sky, All is well, safely rest, God is nigh. Fading light, Dims the sight, And a star, Gems the sky, Gleaming bright, From afar, Drawing nigh, Falls the night. Thanks and praise, For our days, Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky, As we go, This we know, God is nigh. We can take comfort in these words because God truly is near, as close as your breath, and his tears join with ours, as we say our last good byes.

Roy, having sacrificed his physical life for those that are the leased able to fight for themselves, has fulfilled the great words of Jesus Christ; no greater love hath a man than this, to give his life for a friend. His friends we could say are those seeking to live peaceably among mankind. Roy Christopher Olgyay, a very young man that fought bravery against the North Vietnamese Army, but before help could arrive to assist the small team, Roy was hit by small arms fire. Roy was a man of high character. One that never ran when his country called. No, he answered knowing his life would be in great danger along with many others. After training state side he was sent to Vietnam. Here he would show uncommon courage by joining the Long Range Patrol of the famed 75th Ranger Regiment. This unit was made up of all volunteers. Volunteering was one of the prerequisites because of the amplified danger these units faced. They were the eyes and ears of the combat forces in Vietnam. They worked deep inside enemy held territory to gather much needed information. Information that could not be gotten any other way. The teams were such a threat to the North Vietnamese government, that they formed Tracker Teams to hunt them down once suspected of being in the area. They went as far as to place bounties on their heads of \$1000- \$2500, dead or alive. Operating in mostly 4 man teams they could practice great stealth. In doing this they were able to get so close to the enemy at times, all they need do was reach out, and touch them. All the while undetected. This enabled them to report information back to Headquarters and field commanders for planning better of operations when deploying their soldiers. The teams, at times, brought much devastation to the enemy by calling in artillery or air strikes upon their positions, often without detection. Roy was one of the Elite working with a unit that would, and did write history. They performed well under pressure and did perform some of the most dangerous missions, in the history of the United States Army. Some called us crazy, but what I saw was unbelievable commitment, determination, courageous, gallant, loving men, and more often than not “Valorous”. Some of the bravest I have ever known or served with. Roy was, and remains one of, “AMERICA’S BEST”. Sua Sponta (of his own accord).

Bob Smyers

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: john.chester3@verizon.net

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.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIAL UPDATE 11 May 2004

Since our last input to Patrolling I regret to report the loss of a significant number of special operators. The Air Force Special Operations Command lost TSGT William J. Kerwood, Major Steven Plumhoff, SSGT Thomas A. Walkup, Jr., and TSGT Howard A. Walters in an aircraft fatality.

Geoff Barker purchased two engravings. One for CMA3 Marvin Shields who had been posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor while helping to defend a beleaguered Special Forces Camp in the Republic of Vietnam, and one for Colonel Ola Lee Mize who was awarded the Medal of Honor as a Master Sergeant during the Korean War. The addition of Colonel (then Master Sergeant Mize became name number 1,000 added to the Memorial.

On 5 December a plaque was purchased in the name of Captain Bernard R. Cenney and Master Sergeant C.W. Clark.

Specialist Charles E. Bush with the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion was killed in action on 19 December 2003

Army National Guardsman, Sergeant Roy A. Wood, a medical sergeant with the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was killed in action on 9 January in Kabul, Afghanistan on 1 January 2004. He was formerly a Major serving as the 3rd Battalion surgeon, but that position was not being called for deployment. He voluntarily reverted to Medical Sergeant and deployed with the 20th SFG(A) element.

Master Sergeant Kelly L. Hornbeck, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), died of wounds on 18 January after an explosive device his vehicle hit south of Samarra, Iraq.

Following his death in January, Master Sergeant Don Quimby (Special Forces retired) was memorialized by the members of Special Forces Association Chapter 40. He had served with the 5th, 7th, and 19th Special Forces Groups.

Specialist Adam G. Kinser, 304th Psychological Operations Battalion; Sergeant First Class Curtis Mancini, 350th Civil Affairs Group; and Sergeant Danton Seitsinger, 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, were all killed in action on 29 January.

Mr Richard Shaw made a \$1,000 donation on 31 January, and also recognized his Special Forces son, Major Richard C. Shaw.

An engraving in memory of CWO Tim Prusak, U.S. Navy Seal, was purchased by Bob Mabry.

Finish Master, a subsidiary of DuPont Chemicals donated \$825 value of extremely high heat resistant paint for use on the SOF Memorial engravings. Hard-working Smokey Wells re-painted all names on the

SOF Memorial prior to the arrival of Company E (LRP), 20th Infantry/Charlie Rangers, 75th Infantry when they came to visit USSOCOM and memorialize their former comrades lost in the Republic of Vietnam.

PFC Nicole Frye was killed in action on 14 February while assigned to the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Master Sergeant Richard L. Ferguson died in Afghanistan on 30 March following a vehicle accident in Somara, Iraq.

Technical Sergeant David G. Gressett, USAF, was killed in training on 1 April with the 1116th Special Operations Squadron.

Special Forces Sergeant Major Michael B. Stack was killed in action on 11 April while assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), when his convoy was attacked near Baghdad. He had previously served with the 3rd and 10th Special Forces Groups and the 1st Special Warfare Training Group.

Former NFL football player, Specialist Patrick D. Tillman was posthumously promoted to Corporal, and awarded the Silver Star for his actions resulting in his death on 22 April while assigned to the 2nd Ranger Battalion.

Former members of Operational Detachment B-36 expanded their coverage of ODB-36 personnel to include Lieutenant Mike Beebe, SFC Morris Mallard, SGT Phil McGowan, Sgt Joe Yersak, PFC Frank Taboata, Sp4 Bill Miller, SSG Davis Aleo, Major Bob G. Lunday, SSG David Morrison, SSG Ronald B. Piper, SGT Peter W. Stark, and SSG Dallas R. Pridemore.

On 11 May, nine special operations Medal of Honor recipients participated in a Special Operations Valor Day at the Special Operations Memorial, MacDill AFB. They unveiled the names of the ninety-eight special operators killed in action or killed in training since 911, and dedicated a plaque in their memory.

Following the Valor Day ceremony, Lieutenant General Paul 'Gene' Blackwell made a \$10,000 dollar donation in behalf of Raytheon Corporation to the Special Operations Memorial Foundation. The check was received by Geoff Barker, Director of Operations (also with Raytheon), and witnessed by General Doug Brown, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), and Major General James C. McCombs (USAF Retired), a former Deputy Commander, currently USSOCOM, Chairman of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation.

Keane Federal Systems donated space at the

SPECIAL OPERATIONS (CONT.)

Tampa Convention Center for the Special Operations Memorial to display a model of the Memorial during Special Operations Week.

JAY A BLESSING IMO SGT USA 031114	ADAM KOCHERAN IMO CPT USA 030123
WILLIAM J KERWOOD IMO TSGT USAF 031125	GEORGE A FERNANDEZ IMO MSG USA 030402
STEVEN PLUMHOFF IMO MAJ USAF 031125	SCOTT D. SATHER IMO SSGT USAF 030408
THOMAS A WALKUP JR IMO SSGT USAF 031125	JOHNNY 'MIKE' SPANN IMO CIA 011125
HOWARD A WALTERS IMO TSGT USAF 031125	SAMUEL B FOSTER IMO MSG USA 981003
CHARLES E BUSH JR IMO SPC USA 031219	KURT J UPTON IMO SSGT USAF 030603
ROY A WOOD IMO SGT ARNG 040109	JOHN E TAYLOR IMO SFC USA 030517
KELLY L HORNBECK IMO MSG USA 040118	MARK S RAKER IMO SFC USA 030519
ADAM G KINSER IMO SPC USA 040129	BRANDON E MILLER IMO SPC USA 030529
CURTIS MANCINI IMO SFC USA 040129	ANDREW F CHRIS IMO SPC USA 030625
DANTON SEITSINGER IMO SGT USA 040129	THOMAS E RETZER IMO ICI USN 030626
NICOLE M FRYE IMO PFC USA 040216	TIMOTHY M CONNEWAY IMO SGT USA 030628

JAY A BLESSING IMO SGT USA 031114	ADAM KOCHERAN IMO CPT USA 030123
WILLIAM J KERWOOD IMO TSGT USAF 031125	GEORGE A FERNANDEZ IMO MSG USA 030402
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ROY A WOOD IMO SGT ARNG 040109	JOHN E TAYLOR IMO SFC USA 030517
KELLY L HORNBECK IMO MSG USA 040118	MARK S RAKER IMO SFC USA 030519
ADAM G KINSER IMO SPC USA 040129	BRANDON E MILLER IMO SPC USA 030529
CURTIS MANCINI IMO SFC USA 040129	ANDREW F CHRIS IMO SPC USA 030625
DANTON SEITSINGER IMO SGT USA 040129	THOMAS E RETZER IMO ICI USN 030626
NICOLE M FRYE IMO PFC USA 040216	TIMOTHY M CONNEWAY IMO SGT USA 030628

NINO D LIVAUDAIS IMO SSG USA 030403	ROBERT D LUND IMO SPC USA 040126
RYAN P LONG IMO SPC USA 030403	DAVID G GRESSETT IMO TSGT USAF 040401
RUSSELL B RIPPETOE IMO CPT USA 030403	MICHAEL B STACK IMO SGM USA 040411
MARIO MAESTAS IMO IT2 USN 030703	RICHARD L FERGUSON IMO MSG USA 040330
CHRISTOPHER COFFIN IMO TSG USA 030701	PATRICK D TILMAN IMO SPC USA 040422
MARK A BIBBY IMO CPL USA 030721	
DAVID M TAPPER IMO PHT 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	

LEFT SIDE

RIGHT SIDE



Eight MOH Recipients with General Doug Brown at the Special Operations Memorial, 11 May 2004

Jon Cavaiani, Joe Jackson, Ola Mize, Drew Dix, Gen Doug Brown, Bernie Fisher, Gary Beikirch, Bob Howard, and Roger Donlan. Their close-up photos and MOH Citations may be found at the Special Operations Foundation website at: SOFMemorial.com or SpecialOperationsMemorial.net

BULLETIN BOARD

ALL RANGERS INVITED

DEEP SEA FISHING TRIP, SATURDAY, 09 Oct 04 LOCATION: MOODY DOCK, DESTIN, FL

COST \$10.00 EACH (A TIP FOR CREW AND FUEL)

LENGTH OF TRIP = 10 HOURS - DEPART 07:30 AM, CT, - RETURN 5:30 PM, CT.

BRIEFING STARTS AT 7 AM, CT, AT THE BOAT (MOODY DOCK)

TOTAL FISHING SPOTS W/TACKLE = 90 - TOTAL ROOM ON BOARD = UP TO 120, I.E., 30 RIDERS. THEY CAN SHARE RODS & FISH IF THEY LIKE.

DRINKS/FOOD = ON BOARD FOR PURCHASE: BEER, SODA, & LIGHT SNACKS. SMALL COOLERS WITH FOOD AND DRINKS ARE WELCOME.

DRESS: CASUAL, BRING A COAT/JACKET.

BRING THE FOLLOWING: HAND TOWEL, CAMERA, HAT, LOTION, & SUNGLASSES.

GOOD LUCK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THE FIRST 120 TO DEPOSIT THE \$10.00 TIP WILL HAVE A SEAT RESERVED ON ONE OF THE BEST FISHING BOATS IN FLORIDA - DONATED BY RANGER CAPTAIN TOM MOODY. A FISHING TRIP SUCH AS THIS USUALLY COSTS \$100.00 OR MORE.

SEND DEPOSIT TO: WAR Inc, 8 SPIES RD, FT MITCHELL, AL 36856 - MAKE CHECK OR M.O. TO "WAR". REMEMBER: ONLY THE FIRST 120 WILL GET A SEAT. AFTER THE FIRST 90 DEPOSITS I will contact you for your decision. I will return checks and M.O.s if you are too late to get a seat.

COOK OUT SUNDAY, 10 OCT 04

LOCATION :MOODY'S DOCK, DESTIN, FL

COST: COMPLIMENTARY

START: 11:00 AM TO 1:30 PM

MUST HAVE HEAD COUNT NOT LATER THAN 01 OCT 04 - AND AN UP DATE SATURDAY MORNING (NO LIMIT)
MENU: HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, BAKED BEANS, POTATO SALAD, COLD SLAW, BEER, SODA ,AND ALL THE FIXINGS.

DRESS :CASUAL, WEAR YOUR SPECIAL HAT !

MISCELLANEOUS: BRING A CAMERA AND A BIG APPETITE.

HOSTESS: RANGER-ETT CAROL MOODY. HOST: RANGER CAPTAIN TOM MOODY

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE COOK-OUT. Email: rgrpegleg@aol.com . Ph:334 855 0348. Write: WAR Inc, 8 Spies Rd, Ft Mitchell, AL 36856

First Ranger Battalion Ranger Ball

EVENTS: 12 Jul - Banner Day, Picnic - HAAF - TBD
13 Jul - Ranger Ball and unveiling of Memorial model, Sav International Trade and Convention Center, River Street - 1830
14 Jul - Lunch RDF, Tour (TBD)
15 Jul - Bn Change of Command and Award Ceremony, Forsyth Park, Sav - 1900

BILLETING: Landmark Inn (on post) - (912)692-0139
Clubhouse Inn (midtown economy) - (912)356-1234
The Westin (River Street) - (912) 201-2000 (\$93 per night)
Please ask for the Ranger Group Rate at each establishment

COST: Ranger Ball: \$30 per ticket - this includes dinner and alcoholic (beer)/non alcoholic beverages. Mixed drinks/wine will be available for \$1 as in year's past.

MAILING ADDRESS: Commander
1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment
Attn: Shelia Dudley
59 N. LIghtning Rd, Bldg 1156, Savannah, Georgia 31419

NOTE: Please make your reservations now and send payment as reservations for the Ball are on a first come basis. We have seating capacity for 1500 pax. Make checks payable to Ranger Activity Fund and PLEASE SPECIFY WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE CHICKEN OR BEEF. Specify names and total number of guests with their selection. If you have further questions, please feel free to call, email or write.

Rangers Lead the Way!
Shelia
(912)352-5608 (912)596-8295 Cellular fax (912)352-6074
email: dudleys@soc.mil or HONRANGER@aol.com

Membership Information

A MEMBERSHIP YEAR in the association runs from 1 July this year to 30 June next year and the mailing label on your “Patrolling” will always reflect your dues status. For example if above your name on the label it says “0628 2004” it means your membership number is 0628 and your dues are paid through **30 June of 2004**. Annual dues are \$25 and you may pay them at any time during the membership year or if you want to pay ahead you can pay for multiple years. Check your address label now and see when your membership year ends. Life Membership is \$250 and can be paid by check in up to five monthly installments or by credit card. Mail your dues to: **75th Ranger Regt. Assoc., PO BOX 921, HEFLIN, AL 36264**. If you have a question on your membership status you may contact me at that address, or email redwards@cableone.net or phone 256-831-7146.

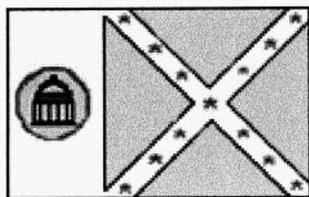
The following have joined, rejoined, or became Life Members in the association since the last issue of “Patrolling”.

LM	ELLIS D. BINGHAM	VII CORPS LRRPS
LM	JAMES A. CRAIG	VII CORPS LRRPS
LM	MICHAEL H. DAVID	A/2/75
LM	HAROLD KAIAMA	L/75, B/1/75, 74TH LRP
LM	THOMAS J. NASH	196TH
LM	FREDERICK E. WHITE	C/75, N/75
LM	ROBERT L. WHITE	K/75
LM	ALBERT F. ZELLER	RTB
LM	KURT A. SAYERS	B/3/75
LM	JOHN E. HURLEY III	B/1/75, HHC/3/75
LM	JERRY SCHUSTER	E/51
LM	THOMAS D. TEEPLES	K/75, 1ST BDE LRRP
LM	CHARLES R WALLACE	D/151

RAYMOND A. BROOKS	A/2/75
MICHAEL T. EDWARD M.	CARROLL C/2/75
ROY E. DAVIDSON	CROSS E/75
ROBERT DEY	BDQ
STEVEN A. HARDY	C/75
	Honor Grad class 7-81

SCOTT P. HOKOANA	71ST LRRP
JOHN C. JUAREZ	F/52
JOEL A. KOMROSKY	C/1/75
KEITH KYLE	B/2/75
AARON LEE	HHC/3/75, C/3/75
RICHARD W. MCLACHLIN	3779 LRRP
KENNETH MOORE	F/51
ZACHARY PARKER	2/75
DINO M. PIZZA	A/3/75
JOSE RIVERA	V CORPS LRRP, A/75
JIMMY ROBERTS	2nd Bde 4th Inf Div LRRP
HENRY S. RYNKOWSKI, Jr.	BDQ 2nd Rgn Gp
IVAN SALGADO	RTB, 25th Inf Div LRS
MICHAEL SLABAUGH	D/151
WILLIAM C. TOY	A/3/75
SEALON R. WENTZEL	B/75, HHC/2/75

5TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



EMMETT W. HILTIBRAND
6459 ADAMS PARK DR.
COLUMBUS, GA 31909
(706) 323-5426
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 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 there.)
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
Earl Singletary BDQ
Mike Turner F/75
Mark Ponzillo 25 ID LRRP
Bob Gilbert L/75
Steve Hawk 1/75

If you live in Georgia and wish to participate along with the rest of us, contact me soonest.

Emmett W. Hiltibrand
ranger2c@mchsi.com

STATE COORDINATOR GUIDELINES

This letter is to state the guidelines, limits and restrictions of the State Coordinator position within the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. This is an 'Appointed' position and therefore not a leadership position within the Association. The sole purpose for creating this concept is for the Association to have the flexibility to organize and coordinate critical activities geographically by State regardless of an individual's unit affiliation. Up to this point, the Association has not had the means to reach out to members by State, 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 a given State, Region or locality.

The approving authority for a 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 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 State Coordinator may fulfill:

- Contact non-members within the State and assist in recruiting them to join the Association.
- Contact members within the State whose membership has lapsed and assist them in renewing.
- Organize and coordinate for funeral services by State.
- Organize and coordinate visitation of incapacitated members by State.
- Establish an alert roster system for all members by State.
- Maintain an informal means of contact with all members by State.
- Solicit local businesses for advertisements or as sponsors in the Patrolling Magazine.
- Present a limited space article for publication in the Patrolling Magazine for each edition.
- Present current State membership information to the web site. (More space available there.)
- Disseminate time sensitive information to State members by the most expedient 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 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 State Coordinator should keep the Unit Director informed concerning pertinent information of any given individual within that Unit. The 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 duties 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.

Volunteering for the State Coordinator position is a new concept that can be as successful as the individual makes it. Those wishing to contribute to the success of the Association by filling these positions should contact the Association President as soon as possible. Volunteering, contributing and participation in these activities is rewarding.

Individual members within the State who do not wish to participate in this program should express this to the State Coordinator as soon as possible and their name shall be exempted from the roster. This is a purely voluntary effort and by no means compulsory. In certain geographical areas, ie., the East Coast, because of the size of the States and the paucity of members, it may be necessary to combine several states into a regional coordination area.

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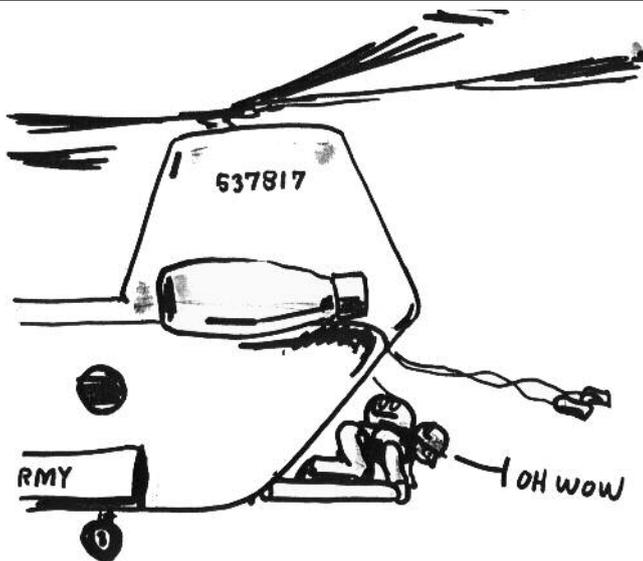
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Steve Lemire
Skipper/Captain

The card ads on these pages allow the Association to bring you a quality product (the magazine) at a cost that is sustainable by the Association. These card ads are a great deal, the cost is only \$100.00 for **four** issues. That's a years worth of advertising. If the advertiser has a web site, we will provide a link from our web site (75thrra.org) for an additional \$50.00, so for \$150.00 you will have a years worth of exposure as well as a link to your web site, for a total of \$150.00. We mail around 2,200 copies of the magazine each issue. The copies that go to the 3 Battalions and to the RTB are seen by many more people than the number of copies would indicate. That's a lot of exposure for a minimum cost.

As members, we should make an effort to patronize our advertisers. Most of us would prefer to deal with one of our own given 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.



To the
75th Ranger Regiment Association
With Regards and Best Wishes



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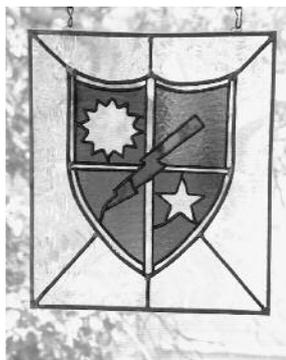
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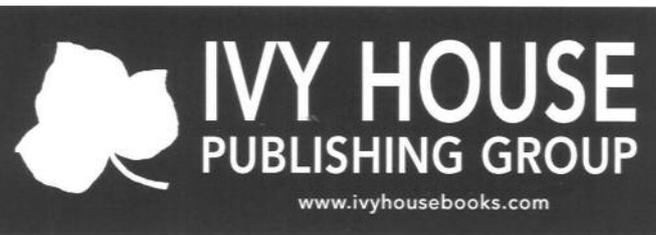
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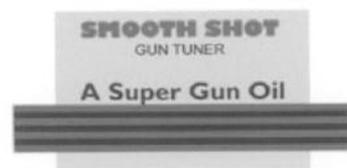
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INSANITY

*After your war, you came home again.
In outward appearance you seem quite sane.
But there is anger and pain and nightmares too.
Some nights you wonder if you'll ever get through.*

*Your loved ones tell you they really do care,
And with you the nightmares they're willing to share.
But you just can't tell them, you're locked up inside,
So all the anger and insanity you try to hide.*

*They finally give up and you drift apart,
This final betrayal is a knife in your heart.
Your friends have all gone and you're all alone,
Fighting for survival now out on your own.*

*In sheer frustration you turn to the bottle,
And begin living your life at full throttle.
You listen to sad songs trying to cry,
But the tears wont come, however you try.*

*Though you try, the insanities remain,
And suicidal thoughts enter your brain.
In utter despair you visit a shrink,
Hoping he'll teach you how not to think.*

*Slowly the madness begins to subside,
As you slow down from this crazy ride.
With all life's niceties you want to conform,
Hoping this insanity will finally reform.*

*Things seem much better and you're feeling ok,
And you think your insanity has gone away,
But every so often it breaks out again,
Just to remind you.....you're still insane!!!*

Lee O'Neill 28 July 1998

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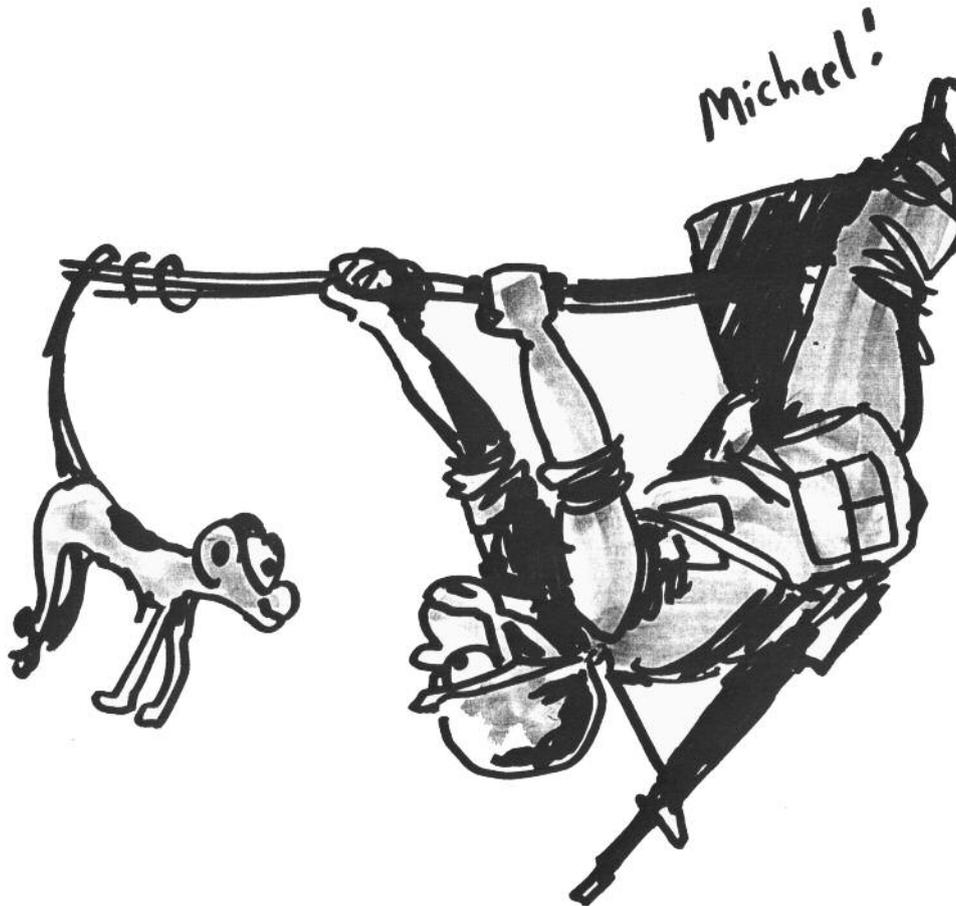
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*The company commander of the Hoc Bao at the time I accompanied them on a mission in August of 1970.
(See L-75 Article)*

Randy White Photo



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