

PATROLLING

SUMMER 2005 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 20 ISSUE I



April 30, 2005 is the 30th Anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam. Lest we forget the sacrifices made by the South Vietnamese and American military in the cause of freedom.

Officers' Messages -----1-11
General -----12-33 & 34-75
Unit Reports -----76-88

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Patrolling is published quarterly by the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., and is mailed third class postage, under postal permit #75, Duncansville, PA

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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.

Deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Issues respectively.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to: *Patrolling*,
PO Box 10970,
Baltimore, MD 21234

Patrolling is printed by:
A Plus Printing, Inc.
500 32nd Street
Altoona, PA 16602
(814) 942-7711
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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.

Slate of Officers for the 2005 Election

Instead of web site and magazine news, we are going to identify the people who have decided to seek office at the general elections that will be held at our reunion that will be held in Columbus, GA, July 5 thru 9, 2005. You will notice that there is no candidate for the position of Treasurer. Rick Benner could only serve for one year, and it is necessary that we have someone that can serve for the full term of two years. The following individuals have indicated that they are candidates for the positions indicated.

Steve Crabtree..... President
T. Robison..... VP Operations
Bill Bullen..... VP Membership
John Chester..... Secretary

If anyone has any interest in being a candidate for any of the above offices or for the position of Treasurer, please contact the Secretary, John Chester at 410-426-1391 (home) 410-382-9344 (cell) or e-mail.
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If the by laws change discussed in this issue is passed, there will be two Vice Presidents, one for Operations and one for Membership. If this amendment does not pass, there will be only one Vice President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Emmett W. Hiltibrand

It's been an interesting ride this last year. Can't say whether or not it's been fun or just darn painful but interesting for sure. I've seen the best of man and the worst of man and that's exactly where that comment will begin and end. It is counter productive to point out where the doer of deeds could have done better. Just remember, it's the man in the pit who gets the credit. This will without a doubt be my LAST President's message. Not trying to scare anyone from ever seeking this job but it has taken its toll on me and I'm walking away. No fanfare, no parade, no regrets, just walking away.

It is not difficult to sing the phrases of those who have stood out from my observation during my first two years as President and this last one. I can readily link those two time periods together because in between I was the web master and saw what was going on in the Association on almost a daily basis. I do not think John would allow me to consume the remainder of this magazine by listing their names individually, nor shall I try to. Anyone who has stepped up to the plate and volunteered their time to work or serve in one of these offices deserves a clap on the back and a few words of thanks. A couple of beers would do also. The Elected Officers take on a fast and quick burden of work in a short period of time. The Unit Directors in most cases do this continuously for years on end. So too are the numerous Appointed Positions that have been created to facilitate the day-to-day operations and running of this Association and what it is. All of these people are what make this Association tick and are representative of this great body of men.

This is a very good Association and serves its' members better than most for profit organizations. Keep in mind that none of these leadership positions are paid slots and seldom adequately compensates its leaders for out of pocket expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. What follows here in my final report, I felt fitting to give you a sort of 'State of the Association' report. It's not in any order of importance, just what we do day in and day out.

Where the Association is now:

Membership - When I became President of the Assn in my first term in Savannah, there were 1200 members. Either 500 or 700 of those members were lapsed in their dues but then again, that was after all at a time when dues were supposed to be renewed. We have worked diligently on this since that day and through Dana's term to build the membership base. Today we have over 2000 plus or minus a few. And all of them are paid up on their dues. Most of this is due to John's invoice effort. That was the invoice that some of you screamed about because you are a life member and still got an invoice like everybody else. I got an invoice too just like everybody else. Everybody got one regardless of membership status. We have already identified where we need to fix it for next year with better instructions and including your current membership expiration date on it. Also better wording will help you understand it. Maybe we will use a

better lay out for the form and give you an early warning in the Patrolling magazine that it's coming your way. But the bottom line is that it works. I accept responsibility for the confusion that was caused in the Assn. over this but we netted a whole lot of members with this method that were just hanging out there on the periphery of never-space. There were only a few who were upset or confused and I will equate that to them being mentally deranged and despots. We reaped a lot of lapsed members back in to the Assn. because of this invoice effort.

Finance - These are just rough numbers. I sent the bank printout to John Friday when I made the deposit in person at the CB&T. We have four separate accounts there. One has a little over \$100,000 in it, which is our Operating Account. Another has a little over \$22,000 in it, which we do not know why it is a stand-alone account. I maintain a Presidents checking account with \$2,000; it only has \$1,200 in it right now. We also maintain the Family Fund because the JAG said the Regiment wives group (FRG) could not, it has \$28,000 or very near that. There are only three on the signature cards, Rick Benner the Treasurer and John the Secretary and Myself. All of this money has just been sitting in checking accounts at CB&T (Columbus Bank & Trust) drawing a measly .3% interest. — I've just directed John to open up an account with the Morgan Stanley Investment Group and for him to place \$80,000 in \$10,000 amount increments into US Treasury Bills maturing at yearly intervals, which should reward us with a blended rate of 3% interest. This account we are opening will require three Officer signatures to withdrawal any monetary funds from it. There wasn't anything magical about this move of funds. Both John and I are beyond paranoid to the hilt about these funds being stolen someday and also the lousy rate of return we were getting on them. They will be more secure now and give us a better rate of return and both of us will rest easier with this knowledge.

Bylaws - Three or so years ago when we re-wrote the Bylaws, I think that we did a good thing then. The Authorship Committee was made up of the Elected Officers, Unit Directors and Past Presidents and they did a great job of cutting out the fat and streamlining the document before it was sent out to the General Membership for a confirmation vote. In that vote, the one single Bylaw change that received the least amount of support still passed with a 96% approval rating attesting to the job of the Authorship Committee. I think every portion that was changed was fair and balanced and will serve the Association for many years to come. Did we make a few minor errors and we over look some things purely by accident. As minor as they were, that Bylaws change was still a good piece of work. There were 25 people working on those Bylaw changes then and we all had an equal say in the matter. In this term we took up the Bylaws issue once again to correct those errors, omissions and new problems not addressed last time. In the first Bylaws change we almost

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

completely skimmed over the entire Finance portion. Mainly we did this because I did not understand the ramifications of high finance. This time I was smarter and appointed a Finance Committee to address those areas but unfortunately they were not able to submit their recommendations to me to present to the Authorship Committee in time for our review. That will have to be taken up by the next set of Officers.

Family fund - This is a good thing that we are doing here. That account amount resides around the \$28,000 mark even after we disbursed \$10,200 to the Regiment elements at Christmas time. We sent \$3,000 to each Battalion and \$1,200 to the Regt. HQ. Company. If there was any reward or benefit I ever got out of the office as President was attending a Christmas party for the children we helped pay for. That was great. Another reward I got was the many thank you letters that were mailed to me from the children thanking the Association for making their Christmas better, many while their fathers were deployed. I wrote an article in the last Patrolling magazine explaining the program and there were enclosed pictures of the cards in there also. Those cards were heart warming and made me feel good. I hope they made you feel good because you were the force behind that effort. All this money came out of that Family Fund and not out of our pot. We've expanded this Association effort in the second or third year to help families get to the funerals of their sons. This was also extended for wives and mothers in some cases to be with their wounded Ranger while he recovers from wounds received in action. I also think this is a good thing that should be continued. I also took one FRG wife to the Commissary and bought 18 turkeys for families that would not have had one if not for this fund. I did not expect or intend to be thanked for this action but every Ranger that came out of the building that day with a turkey in his hand came by and shook my hand. It was sort of embarrassing because I did not expect it or see it coming. This is an exclusive for our Association and no outsiders have a part of it.

Members Fund – John and I talked about a separate fund from the Operating fund but similar to the Family Fund that would be targeted more at helping the current and Vietnam era members. What we can up with was a separate accounting line item that we could funnel interest, profits and general non-specific donations into that we could use to give something back to the current members NOW before they die. We advertise it in the invoices and it gets a lot of attention from the contributors. Personally, I recommend this to all in the future. The Family Fund is and has been established and has excess money in it. It will always be well and funded long into the future. It is for current and future unforeseen emergencies. The member's fund is for you guys, now. Consider if you might, some E-4 who is now in the Batt, who retires in 20+ years and eventually becomes President of this Assn. and says, "Hey, we've got a quarter of a million dollars in the account – Let's have a big party with it and celebrate". I'd

hate to think that was going to ever happen but just why are we saving all this money? I say, let's do something for the members who are alive now and can enjoy it now. That's why I recommend this 'Members Fund' to you guys. If you send in a donation to the Secretary, please specify a portion of it to go to this fund. We are still developing exactly what benefits we can turn around and give back to you guys. I encourage all members to purchase a friend a membership in this Association. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. All you can do is introduce them. Then it's up to them to continue.

Gold Star program - This is also another good program we have going. It's hard to keep it going but even harder to say no to one of these ladies. The 75th Ranger Regiment has even agreed to accept our program as is and use our points of contact for there own to interface with the families that lose Rangers. That alone says volumes for us as an Association that they adopted our program. Who better knows how to say the right words but one who has walked in those shoes? I encourage all of you to try to find all our remaining Gold Stars and bring them into our fold.

Patrolling magazine - I think this is one of our biggest selling points. It has really grown and we are even getting membership applications from people who just want the magazine alone. Every member I've talked to likes the magazine. They feel they are really getting something for their money. It costs us about \$6,000 per issue to produce and mail each single production of that magazine. But we are still growing and making advances in membership and financial accounts. It costs money to grow but we managing to stay ahead of the game. It is an endless battle to get articles for the magazine every issue and in on time. Yet on the other hand we have to keep the magazine it around 88 pages for it to be the most cost effective size. Dave Hill has been helping John Chester produce the magazine and has therefore taken a great load off of John. Thank you Dave for stepping forward and helping. We could use a few more like him to help wordsmith the articles and format them for final print preview. All of this doesn't happen over night. It takes time and planning and a lot of hard work to make it happen. An example is that we made the decision about the Patrolling magazine 5 years ago in Savannah and you see where it is now. I encourage all of you to assist your Unit Director in making submission to this publication. Anyone can submit an article. It may or may not be published right away but we will try to fit it in when possible.

Web site - When I came out of office in 2002, I took over the Association web site. We were screwed out of our old web site and a great URL and needed a new one up and running quickly. I therefore learned web code and have developed around 1,000 pages on that site now. It needs a lot of work and some fine-tuning on a constant basis. The site is growing and is pretty fair and balanced. It just requires so much time to keep it up on a daily basis. I currently cannot do the Presidents workload and

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

the web masters load so I had to stop putting work into the site all together. It's just sort of coasting along right now but still in good shape. I'm not willing to give the time to it I did before and will no longer remain web master. I'm trying to break it up into separate and individual workable portions and get different people to assume those specific duties. Bob Dowd and Mike Wise have stepped up to the plate and are now doing a fair share of the workload. I thank them for it and hope others will also volunteer. I encourage those of you who have web site experience to volunteer your time and skills to make this site dynamic.

Past President's Advisory Council - I do not know if this source was ever consulted for advice before I took office for the first time. I just do not know so I'm sorry if I'm insulting anyone. I do know that I have used it and it works very well. There is just too much past knowledge and institutional experience not to draw from it. I began using it in my first term and this time around I've even included it on my Monthly Unit Directors messages that I send out. These are proven and dedicated members, who have stood up at times in this Association's existence and lead it, cared for it and even fought off the wolves at times. They are seasoned, smart and in some cases have walked down the wrong trail before and got their own deserved whooping. When asked and their guidance sought, they have never let me down. I encourage the future leadership to use this resource.

Monthly Unit Directors messages – I began this effort in my first term to keep the Unit Directors informed on a monthly basis and as a way to get productive feedback from them regularly. I used those messages last time I was President and it kept the UD informed and producing for their units. It worked well and I recommend it continue. This time, I've also included all of the Past President's and Appointed positions too.

Ranger community - I've stood my ground in the Ranger Community for this Association. I have not given in to any other Ranger Association or entity. I have tried to work with them as long as we both have a common goal or cause to obtain in that it is mutually beneficial. We have to try to work with these groups even if we do not agree or like them. I've tried to remain cordial and I will tell you that it is trying at best. Sometimes I think they are going the wrong direction and I just sit and watch them do it. Then, after they have gone down the wrong trail, I catch them on their return trip to the right trail. Just like the beret issue. My wife and I went to the Regimental awarding tan beret give a way ceremony. I was the only Association President that did not accept one. I went because I wanted to watch and see for myself how grown men gave up their honor for a piece of cloth they didn't earn. We as an Association are miles above these guys and will stay there. Our

integrity is intact and every one of those other Ranger Associations knows it. It was one of the silliest functions I've ever seen in my entire life.

Ranger Memorial Foundation- I had to stop going to this meeting as a board member from our Association. It was just too much I was trying to do. I currently have Stephen Crabtree in there now and he stands up for our interests. I encourage each of you to purchase a brick to memorialize you for eternity at a place we can call our own.

Ranger Hall Of Fame - I've sat on this board for 4 years and will do it no more. I have asked Mike Martin to sit on this year's board. Mike takes no "Shit" from any one. Heck, Mike even gives me a hard time occasionally. He's not critical, just demanding at times. Mike will do a good job for us in there. I will never accept a nomination for myself to ever be nominated into the RHOF. Just wanted to let you know that. I've been accused of setting myself up for an induction nomination in there by people who do have an hidden personal agenda or who are merely speed bumps in the way of progress. There are just too many worthy people that have been overlooked and deserve it more. I encourage each unit to form their own internal board to select deserving men from within their own units for submission.

State Coordinators - I've learned; That I wish I could have told those I cared about that I love them one more time before they passed away. And for that reason we have started this effort along with our regular reunions to bring our guys together. This is another program we spent a lot of time trying to get started. It got a lot of resistance at first but people are now beginning to see it's long-term merit. This is not a leadership position. Volunteers from each State help out with going to burials, visiting hospitalized members, recruitment of new members and retention of the old ones. Tom Gage is working and organizing this effort and it's just now starting to show results. I encourage each member to consider volunteering for this program. That's about it for where we are now.

Where the Association is heading:

Reunion - The General Membership voted in Tacoma to skip a cog in the reunion time wheel and hold the reunion in the odd numbered years. Reason, in 2002 the 3rd was deployed. In 2004 the 2nd was deployed. By going to the odd year we can always catch at least two of the three Batt's at a change of command and other functions. You guys can change that rotation any time you like at any of the General Membership meetings. It must be voted on in that meeting setting. It is not a Bylaws issue. Therefore, it being just a one-year term, I accepted the Presidents job because it would not be fair for a new guy who just starts to learn the ropes to go out of office after one year. Also, as soon as I got back we had to put out a

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Patrolling magazine and plan for a reunion. I would have been just too much for a new guy. I did not want to be President again. I accepted it only after two other people were nominated did I accept a nomination. If I were on a power trip like I've been accused of, I'd go for two years instead of one. David Cummings is doing a superb job as Reunion Coordinator for the second time. Today I just received his accomplishments and a time line schedule and no one could have done a better job. Find him at the reunion and thank him personally. We have the Regt. schedule and it is out to the members. We have the hotel blocked and rooms at \$69 a night. We have the Iron Works scheduled for the dinner and the fee waived. We got the hospitality suite fee waived. We are still trying to line up beer for free. We have Mike Durant, the pilot from Blackhawk Down as our guest speaker. He is out of the Army and is currently a motivational speaker. He should be good. We have a guy named Keni Thomas of the band 'Cornbread' who has agreed to sing for free to provide entertainment for the members at the hotel (this may or may not happen at this time). Other items are still in progress and not nailed down yet. We always try to at least financially break even at reunions and not make a killing off the members. We would not even mind if the reunion cost us a little. In 2002 we made about \$1,000 profit and in 2004 about \$1,500 profit, none of which was expected. Keep in mind, between expenses and intake, about \$25,000 to \$30,000 passes hands. So, a plus of the above small amount is amazing. That was not intentional; it just happened when everything was added up and subtracted, we just came out ahead slightly. We are out of the quartermaster business, thank goodness. We are not using the last individual; there were too many complaints. We have recently give license to Cheryl Visel to sell products with the Assn. logo on them. We do internally sale coins and members may buy an extra T-shirt by way of John Chester but do not want to get into the quartermaster business ever again.

Bylaws - I think the Assn. has grown big enough that we need a 2nd VP. We need to spread the workload more and it also provides as a breeding ground for potential Presidents in the future. I've also recommended we remove the time limits from the VP position. If we get a good VP in there who does not desire to excel into the Presidents slot and he is doing a good job and the General Membership likes him, let him stay. The time restriction must remain on the Presidents position. I think there was some minor house cleaning on wording but that was basically it. I worked on that portion and back in October had formed a Finance Committee to review all of the finance portions and recommend changes to the Authorship Committee. They let me down and did not get their recommendations to me in time or in a format I could put out to the Authorship Committee in time. So I have removed any finance recommendations from the table. We really did not address finance last time around. I did not understand it well enough

and basically jumped over it. I was smarter this time and formed a Committee. They came up with some real good recommendations but as I said, too late. I didn't want to be accused about trying to cram stuff down people's throats again. Time was of the essence because I had to get the Bylaws stuff into the last Patrolling magazine so ballots could go out to all the members so they could get a chance to vote on these changes. I recommend a visit to the Bylaws occasionally to see if it still serves the Association as it evolves.

Finance recommendations - Because we could not get those recommendations into the Bylaws in time and that too much money is just sitting there, I was going to make a recommendation to the BOD and Past Presidents. (1) I wanted to place \$100,000 in T Bills at Morgan Stanley Investment Group. They are FDIC insured and we could get an account that requires three signatures to get any money out. The account we have now draws .3 percent interest and the blended T Bill rate would be around 3 to 5 percent interest. (2) I want to form a Standing Finance Committee of 5 individuals, one dropping off every year and one being (added) nominated and voted on every year by the Executive Officers to monitor our finances, tax returns, bonding of Officers who handle money, State Charter renewal, I also want an outside Audit done maybe every two years or so depending on the cost of this audit. These would not be leadership positions, appointed and voted on and filled with people who have a finance background who can advise the Assn. well. I recommend a 'Standing Finance Committee to continuously review the Associations financial status.

Family fund guidelines - We are working on guidelines that will outline for the Batt's and our own Assn. Officers just what is and is not a worthy cause for money to be disbursed out to the Batt's from this fund. What you and I think may be legitimate may not be what a young E-4's wife thinks is when she's broke. We manage this funds money for them and have a fiduciary responsibility therefore to the contributors who donated the money in the first place.

Boy Scouts - We are now officially the sponsors of a Boy Scout Troop on Ft. Benning. DOD recently said that active duty units could no longer be their sponsors, so they approached us for help. It will cost us nothing; they just needed our name to continue being a Troop. Good PR for us and for a worthy cause.

PayPal on the Assn. web site – We are working to install PayPal on the Association web site. We think that will be a plus for us and expedite the membership process. Members can then pay on line for their membership, buy Assn. coins, hats and T-shirts. We are mindful to not allow our inventory of items to grow to the point we maintain a quartermaster again.

Distinguished Member of the Association - We have been

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

discussing some type a "Distinguished Member of the Association" award recently. This would be to recognize a member who has contributed much in the way of time and effort in and for the Association in an un-Elected office. We are thinking a Gold Association coin or Life Membership as the reward. We are looking into programs that will give something back to the members, NOW. I recommend a Committee be formed to develop this idea into a rewarding program.

There are many things going on all the time in the Association on a daily basis. Many mentioned above like the Patrolling magazine, Assn. web site, RMF meetings, RHOF selection boards in the Assn. so we can narrow down the 6 packets to 3 to submit. The reunion is something that has to be monitored constantly. Membership is growing daily. Our relations with the 3 Batt's has never been better and is improving constantly. They know whom we are and that we do things for them. I recently made a decision to seek a Unit Director for 1/75 that

was located directly near the 1/75 compound. It has proven to work well in the 2/75 and 3/75 cases. We still need a UD that is located near the Regimental HQ. We have a HQ/75 UD but he lives in England. We are getting active guys joining now. We are working on relations with the VA on several fronts. We are approaching major businesses as sponsors to ease our operating costs. We are setting new standards with this Family Fund and doing good things for families. Our finances are better than ever. The web site is sound and looking good. The future of the Association is in your hands. The next slate of Officers are already lined up and coming up to speed. The continued success of the Association depends on one of you who are reading this now. One of you will work up the intestinal fortitude to step up to the plate and continue it along for YOUR own 2-year term. I wish you luck and continued success. Just leave the Association in better shape than in which you found it. Farewell.

Emmett!!!

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen

Hello Members, Friends and Families.

All is well in Palm, Pa. The weather is beginning to break into summer and puts me in the mood for a Ranger Reunion.

Since last year's Reunion in Seattle, Wa, I think I've been to Columbus, Ga seven times and I never get tired of it. There is always something Emmett has to do and it makes me feel like I'm really doing something by being there for the big decisions. Seriously, the President of the association is really a very busy man and needs as much help as anyone can give. So I beacon all with the desire to be involved, to step forward and help the unit directors and the association officers with anything you can do.

We are always in need of fresh ideas and improved ways of doing business. While all statements are heard, not all are implemented. Do not take this in a negative context. It is just that every leader has to make decisions, sometimes not the best ones but none the less, a decision. Reduce your ideas to text, submit them, and then let the process begin. The important thing is to not let a different outcome discourage you. Keep on plugging. Rules and bylaws are modified, it seems, every two years. Get your ideas in with plenty of time for discussion.

We have very few Rangers left, who served in WW2. One is Ben Defoe; he would like to hear from any Ranger who has the time to talk. Ben can be reached at 509-722-6817. He was one of the few remaining Darby Rangers and to say

the least, is a very interesting fellow to talk with.

This past April, I had the honor to attend the Airborne Man of the Year awards banquet. Don Keller was the recipient this year for the 75thRRA, and I was his date! It is run by Don Lassen, editor of the "Static Line" magazine. Mr. Lassen does a pretty good job and needs to be commended for a job well done. It was the day of Dons, as the guest of honor was the one and only Don King. It was noted that he has donated large sums of money to the armed forces for athletic equipment. I'm sure Mr. King finds a young fight prospect here and there but still, it is a very generous action on his part. I was all set to witness a loud boisterous, big haired, clown. WRONG! Don King is a gentleman. We always saw the showman, but in life seems to be a real American Gentleman and a true patriot.

To close I'd like to say that Steve Crabtree will be the logical candidate for president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Steve has been very involved in the Ranger Memorial from the onset of the project. I always thought he'd be the president long before this, but personal reasons would not permit it. Now is the time for us to give Steve our full support. He is a Ranger and will lead as such. See you all this July, in Beautiful Columbus, Ga. Remember to pre-register for the reunion as the first 300 are the only ones to get tickets to the Friday bar-b-que!

Bill Bullen

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

This will be a short column this month. Do I hear sighs of relief? We have been occupied with the upcoming Reunion/Rendezvous this coming July. Those things have a way of taking over everything else and demanding your attention. On top of that there is a magazine deadline. Mary Anne & I have been fairly social, (for us), the past few weeks. First, we went to Phoenix for the 30 year remembrance, (of the fall of South Vietnam). We were invited to the banquet on Saturday, 30 April, 2005, along with Joe Little of F Co. and his wife Heidi, and one of my people, Fred Fones who lives in the area, (more on him later). The affair was very moving; I had not realized how many patriotic South Vietnamese paid a terrible price for their beliefs. All had spent many years in 're-education' camps, (another way of saying concentration camps), one individual spent 17 years in one. I presented a check on behalf of the 75th RRA to the fund maintained to aid handicapped individuals still in Vietnam.

There was a ceremony the next day at the Phoenix, AZ, Vietnam Veterans Memorial in memory of the sacrifices made by the US and VN Armed Forces during the war. Ross Perot was in attendance and said some well chosen words. Some of us even got to meet him. While we were in Phoenix, we stayed with Mary Anne's Aunt and Uncle, John and Izzy. We used our frequent flyer miles for plane tickets and a rental car, so it was a cheap trip. And Izzy is a great cook. We did some touristy stuff in the area. What a beautiful part of the country! And thank you, John and Izzy for your hospitality.

We went out in the desert to visit Fred, who live about 30 – 40 miles from Phoenix. In the dessert. With no water, phone or electricity. He does have 2 dune buggies, 2 airplanes, 2 Porches (cars), a bunker, a mortar pit, a hanger for the airplanes and more boy toys than I've ever seen. He obviously believes in the old saying, "He who dies with the most toys, wins." We took the dune buggies out for a 25 – 30 mile trip into the desert. Great fun. He showed us an old turquoise mine and more saguaro (cactus) than I've ever seen. Deer, quail, roadrunners and plenty of snakes. I hadn't realized just how much life there was in the desert. Below are some photos of Fred's place.



View from the bunker to the mortar pit.



Mary Anne & dune buggy.



L to R; Mary Anne's uncle John Colledge, Fred Fones & me.



Fred's Bunker



Mary Anne about to take off.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Our next trip was to Valley Forge, PA, for Brad Bullen's graduation and commissioning. Brad is the son of our Vice President, Bill Bullen and his wife Donna, and was commissioned a 2LT in the US Army on 16 May, 2005. Brad's parents, grandparents, Mary Anne and I and Marc Thompson, B/75 Unit Director, who lives in the area. The day was perfect, sunny, not too hot, and Valley Forge Military Academy is located in a beautiful setting.

Brad not only graduated and received his commission, he also received the School's award for Military Achievement. Brad has been in a National Guard unit for some time. He was at Ft. Lewis last year during our reunion for his summer training. After that he attended jump school at Ft. Benning. We were also there for his graduation as reported in the September, 2004 issue of *Patrolling*. Below are some photos of the graduation.



Brad Bullen gets his first salute from his Dad.



And Bill gets his first dollar from Brad.

I have heard of a new Commission appointed by the President that will re-examine the meaning and the definition of 'Service Connection'. According to the information that I have, in order for service connection to be granted, the injury must have taken place during the course of a military duty. In other words, if an individual is guarding a convoy in Baghdad and gets his leg blown off, that's service connected. But, if he's on the way



Two generations of Army.



Brad, Jenna and Bill Bullen.



L to R; Me, Brad, Bill and Marc Thompson.

to the PX and the same thing happens, it's not service connected. What will they do, put the guy on the street to fend for himself, with no legs? The plan is also for this to be retroactive, all current cases of service connection will be re-examined if the Commissions' recommendations are followed. One effect of this would make service connection for PTSD virtually impossible to prove. We should all share our concerns with our elected representatives. This seems to me to be a blatant attempt on the part of the government to evade its responsibility for the damage caused to service people by its decision to wage war.

GOLD STAR...



Ed Note:

Sandy Rouse's husband Bill is under the weather with some health problems. He is undergoing chemo and Sandy has her hands full right now. She asked me to tell every one that her thoughts and prayers are with her, and I assured her that our thoughts and prayers are with her as well.

She also asked me to remind all of the following memorial service:

3/75 will have a memorial 10 am June 8 for Sergeant Michael O'Neill and Corporal William Amundson at the 3/75 Ranger Memorial in the Dawson Barracks Complex. This will be over by the time the magazine gets out, but we will have representatives there to present Gold Star certificates and Life Member pins.

APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT

By Steve Crabtree

The Presidency

I questioned Bill Bullen as to if he wanted to run for the Presidency of our organization some months ago. Only after he said that he wanted to stay on as our Vice President and had no ambition to run for the Presidency did I throw my hat in the ring. Bill has done an outstanding job as VP and I look forward to working with him and the rest of our officers in the coming two years. Two years?! I feel like I've just been drafted again! After working with Emmett, Terry, Rick

& Dana over the years, I have watched the high and lows of the office of the President of our association. I've seen each of them on the top of the world and I've seen each crushed by the weight of it. Emmett once commented to me that he would rather be half way through a two-year ass whoopin' than facing one. I feel that I will soon completely understand his statement.

Good-bye Emmett

We have been lucky over the years

with the caliber of Presidents we've had running the association. Emmett has not led by normal standards, he has set them! The accolades he deserves for a job well done could fill a book. Some of them are: The Bylaws rewrite, association financial stability, we have almost doubled our membership during his term, he solely took on the responsibility for our website, coordination with the Gold Star Program, open communication (monthly letters to the unit reps).....I could go

APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

on and on. The list of accomplishments he has done behind the lines could fill yet another book. He has commented that after the reunion he is going to find a cave somewhere, move in, pull a rock over the entrance and never resurface. Go ahead Emmett! I'll find the cave & get you back into the association's worker bee status. I only hope when my term is over in 2007 that the new President will say something like, "Crabs did a good job as our President but he's no Emmett."

Fort Benning Security

For those of you who do not have a DOD sticker on your vehicle, the security at Fort Benning has changed since our last reunion. You must now stop at the Visitor's Center directly before the main entrance at the end of I-185 and obtain a pass. You will need your current vehicle registration and a photo ID for every adult in the vehicle. Be sure to inform the guard how long you will be in the area so your pass can be valid for the length of your stay. There is no way of knowing how long the lines for passes will be as there are many events taking place at the Fort along with our reunion. I would plan on 30-60 minutes minimum.

I just received word that if you enter through the gate on south Lumpkin Road you will not have to go through obtaining a pass. It goes into the main post just like the others and is just as short a route. If you are going to the Ranger Training Brigade off of Highway

27, turn onto 8th Division Road and you again will not have to obtain a pass. Personally, I'm going to take the time to get a pass just to avoid any hassles.

Ranger Memorial

I have been attending the Board of Directors meetings for the Ranger Memorial foundation and will continue to do so until my plate gets too full. Is there anyone in the immediate area that wants to take over this mission?

The Boeing renege of \$13K has been paid and that issue is closed. My personal thanks goes out to the Unit Representatives and Officers that participated in this mission.

There is a movement by World Wide Army Rangers (WAR) to have a "Ranger Memorial" constructed at Arlington National Cemetery. There are both pros and cons about this idea. The national exposure that Rangers get would be greatly increased if there were a more public memorial and any additional exposure that the active Rangers receive can only benefit the Ranger Battalions. On the other side, another Ranger Memorial potentially would reduce funds received by the Fort Benning Memorial. Any of you that know me know that in my heart the Fort Benning Ranger Memorial is sacred ground. I would do nothing that would harm or endanger it. As movement for this new memorial progresses each of you will be polled if we, as a Ranger Association, will contribute to and

support this project. I have not yet made up my mind on the merit of this, but I assure you that the association will do whatever you decide.

Status of the Association

We have never been on more solid ground that we are right now. Our membership is at an all time high (and growing daily!). Patrolling is circulation outside only Rangers and is a magazine well respected (thank you John). We are financially sound with multiple accounts and \$80K in Treasury Bills. We support the Ranger Communities in their respective areas of the country. All of this and much, much more is going on daily and can only be attributed to the Officers of our association that we have elected. Emmett, Bill, John and Rich – You have done us proud. Thank you.

An old friend once said, "Each and every one of us should strive to make this world just a little better than when we entered it." I want to close with, "Each and every one of us should strive to make the 75th Ranger Regiment Association just a little better than when we entered it."

"Gentlemen, let's get on with the mission."

CRABS

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DISCLAIMER

DISCLAIMER: This series of articles entitled 'LEGISLATIVE HELP LINE' is meant to be an informative aid in assisting you in protecting your rights. It is also meant to keep you informed of the ever-changing legislative forum that may affect you. There is a caveat here. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is not allowed to assist you in this effort. Our Constitution has a stipulation that forbids this. 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, Emmett Hiltibrand - President

CRDP UPDATE 34: Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced another bill, H.R. 2076, that would provide immediate, full concurrent receipt to otherwise-qualifying retirees rated as "unemployable" by the VA. The bill also would expand eligibility under current law to include members with 40% and lower VA disability ratings in the 10-year phase-out of the disability offset to military retired pay. Under current law, disabled uniformed services retirees with 40% and lower disability ratings continue to forfeit one dollar of earned retired pay for each dollar of VA disability compensation. Those with "unemployable" ratings are compensated by the VA at the 100% disability rate, but DoD so far has not included them in implementing a new law that removed 100% disabled retirees from the 10-year phase-in and awarded them full concurrent receipt as of JAN 2005. This is the third in a series of bills Bilirakis has introduced in an effort to "move the ball" on concurrent receipt. H.R. 303 would

Non-binding language passed by the Senate expressing the sense of Congress that DoD should provide full, immediate concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation to otherwise qualifying retirees rated as "unemployable" by the VA was not included in H.R. 1268 as hoped. Sen. Reid has indicated that he intends to seek a statutory requirement for this in the 2006 Defense Authorization Act that will come up for Senate action later this month. Veterans impacted by this may want to remember in the next election the following Congressional Conferees who voted against the 100% IU Disabled Veterans:

1. SENATORS: Lucille Allard (R-CO) . Robert Bennett (R-UT) . Kit Bond (R-MO) . Sam Brownback (R-KS) . Conrad Burns (R-MT) . Robert Byrd (D-WV) . William Cochran (R-MS) . Larry Craig (R-ID) . Michael DeWine (R-OH) . Pete Domenici (R-NM) . Byron Dorgan (D-ND) . Richard Durbin (D-IL) . Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) . Judd Gregg (R-NH) . Tom Harkin (D-IA) . Tim Hutchinson (R-AR) . Inouye (D-HI) . Tim Johnson (D-SD) . Herbert Kohl (D-WI) . Mary Landrieu (D-LA) . Patrick Leahy (D-VT) . Mitch McConnell (R-KY) . Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) . Patty Murray (D-WA) . Henry Reid (D-NV) . Richard Shelby (R-AL) . Arlen Specter (R-PA) . Ted Stevens (R-AK)

2. REPRESENTATIVES: Henry Bonilla (R-TX) . Norman Dicks (D-WA) . Chet Edwards (D-TX) . David Hobson (R-OH) . Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) . Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) . Jerry Lewis (R-CA) . Nita Lowey (D-NY) . Mollohan (D-WV) . John Murtha (D-PA) . David Obey (D-WI) . Ralph Regula (R-OH) . Harold Rogers (R-KY) . Martin Sabo (D-MN) . Charles Taylor (R-NC) . Peter Visclosky (D-IN) . James Walsh (R-NY) . Frank Wolf (R-VA) . Bill Young (R-FL) [Source: MOAA Leg Up & Veterans Party of America msg 6 May 05++]

ILLEGAL ALIENS INCLUDED IN MEDICARE LAW:

Veterans who have been fighting for increased health care benefits in a time of alleged budget restraints were surprised when the Bush administration announced 9 May 05 that it would start paying hospitals and doctors for providing emergency care to illegal immigrants. The money, totaling \$1 billion, will be available for services provided from 9 May 05 through September 2008. Congress provided it as part of the 2003 law that expanded Medicare to cover prescription drugs, but the new payments have nothing to do with the Medicare program. Members of Congress from Border States, including had sought the money. They said the treatment of illegal immigrants imposed a huge financial burden on many hospitals, which are required to provide emergency care to patients who need it, regardless of their immigration status or ability to pay. Under the new program, hospitals are supposed to ask patients for certain documents to substantiate claims for pay

VA BUDGET 2006 UPDATE 05: Responding to the \$990 million increase in next year's congressional budget proposal for the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system, VFW commander John Furgess charged, "This is a budget that's headed in the wrong direction." The VA estimates it needs annual increases of 12 to 14% just to keep pace with inflation and other uncontrollable expenses, and the \$990 million budget figure represents an increase of only 3.6 percent over fiscal 2005. This proposal will have virtually no impact in the VA health care being provided to those returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, where modern medical care and body-armor advances are saving more lives, but often at the cost of limbs and other traumatic injuries. The budget recommendation went to the

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

House and Senate Appropriations Committees which will consider actual funding. [Source: Armed Forces News 13 May 05]

USFSPA LAWSUIT UPDATE 08: The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia dismissed three of four claims made by the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act (USFSPA) Litigation Support Group (ULSG), a group of 2,500 military retirees formed to challenge the 1982 law that affects the division of military retirement pay in divorce cases. Judge James Cacheris ruled against ULSG in three legal challenges:

1. Substantive due process - that USFSPA denies veterans "substantive due process" because it applies retroactively to service members who joined the military before the law was enacted;

2. Uniformity - that parts of the law are unconstitutional because they allow state courts to vary interpretations of the federal law; and

3. Equal protection - that the law denies equal protection because it treats men differently from women since ex-military spouses are predominantly female.

Cacheris said a Senate report on the legislation actually shows that the congressional intent in enacting the statute was to allow the division of military retirement pay of a married service member upon divorce, and was in no way motivated by gender discrimination. His decision to continue allowing retirement pay to be viewed as marital property was in acknowledgment of the contributions military spouses made to our country's defense. Cacheris referred to the Senate report's description of frequent military reassignment moves and special pressures placed on spouses as homemakers, which often makes it difficult for them to pursue careers affording independent economic security, job skills and pension protection.

Judge Cacheris did allow ULSG to proceed on its claim that the law fails to provide "procedural due process" on the claims aspects of the lawsuit. These involve the assertion that servicemembers lack appropriate channels to challenge FSPA outcomes, to appeal inappropriate state court applications of the law, or to compel DFAS to handle payment/overpayment/recoupment issues in a fair and timely manner. The group contends that while state courts issuing divorce decrees have to comply with the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, which affords a variety of financial protections to service members, there is no mechanism for troops to later challenge whether the provisions were, in fact, observed by the state court. ULSG also argues that the law insufficiently protects retirees from frivolous, abusive or fraudulent court filings, or from proceedings in state courts that lack jurisdiction over the member.

VA GRAVE LOCATOR: The VA has launched a National Gravesite Locator website that allows the public to easily find gravesite locations of deceased friends and family members. The online database, www.cwm.v.gov, contains more than three million electronic records of veterans and dependents buried in VA's 120 national cemeteries since the Civil War. Records from 1999 to the present are included from some state cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery. Updated nightly, the site displays

name, dates of birth and death, period of military service, branch of service and rank if known, the cemetery's location and phone number, and the grave's precise location in the cemetery. [Source: American Veteran Magazine Fall 04]

PTSD ECSTASY TREATMENT: Medical researchers studying treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder are looking for traumatized war veterans to see if the medically supervised use of the drug Ecstasy can improve their condition when other therapies have failed. Ecstasy, a popular recreational drug whose active ingredient is 3/4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) is listed on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act's list of dangerous drugs with no recognized medical value. It is illegal except for use in specifically approved research. A new private study aims to explore whether MDMA can be safely given to people with PTSD to reduce their symptoms. The lead researcher, Dr. Michael Mithoefer of Mount Pleasant, S.C. noted it is unclear if the Pentagon would allow active-duty troops to take part in the small private study, which has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. His guess is it would be people who are out of the military who would be included in the study.

ASHES TO DIAMONDS: Nowadays it is fairly common for veterans to elect cremation in place of burial. It saves your loved one's money and allows your remains to be placed or moved to wherever they desire. If you would like to take one additional step you can have your ashes turned into diamonds for your loved ones. The cost is not much greater than the combined cost of a funeral, burial, and plot purchase and leaves a lasting heirloom for generations to come. At www.lifegem.com can be found a new process offered by LifeGem with pictures of what is possible to produce and complete guidelines on how to proceed. They will provide a certified, high quality diamond created from the carbon of a previously cremated or newly deceased loved one. LifeGem diamonds are considered real diamonds and are identical in every aspect to natural diamonds inclusive of flaws. They have the same brilliance, fire, and hardness as any high quality diamond you may find at Tiffany's.

VETERANS LEGACY FOUNDATION (VVLFF): A group of former POWs, concerned and frustrated with the lack of public understanding of the Vietnam War and the negative image of those who served there, has embarked on a mission to tell the American people the truth about what really happened in Vietnam. Their organization named the Vietnam Veterans Legacy Foundation (VVLFF) will be led by Col. George E. "Bud" Day, a Medal of Honor recipient and former POW who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and is the Air Force's most highly decorated combat veteran. Col. Day said, "The false history of Vietnam has been used to demoralize our troops in combat, undermine the public's confidence in U.S. foreign policy and weaken our national security. Radical leftists such as Jane Fonda lied about the war 35 years ago, and are still lying about it today. The goal of the VVLFF is to continue the work of countering more than three decades of misinformation and propaganda, and to set the record straight."

Service Connection Under Scrutiny

A new commission has been formed which could remove the presumption of disability and also could cause reduction or changes in the ability to apply for benefits. I recommend everyone read closely this statement by Mr. Surratt and inform your congressman and senators, and VSOs about your concerns about this new committee.

Subject: statement_surratt_092303 - DAV

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans

STATEMENT OF RICK SURRATT DEPUTY NATIONAL
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the members of the Disabled American Veterans, their families, and all members of the Armed Forces and their families, I want to thank you for convening this hearing and allowing us to state our deep concerns about a plan by the leadership of the House of Representatives to greatly restrict the terms under which service-incurred disabilities would be given service-connected status. This is an issue of paramount importance to disabled veterans and servicemembers, who will be our future veterans.

This House plan would have our Government renounce all responsibility to compensate and care for members of the Armed Forces disabled in the line of duty, except under extremely restricted circumstances. This move would abandon the fundamental principles of our Nation's relationship between its citizens and the veterans who have made extraordinary sacrifices in their behalf. For a veteran who suffers service-connected disability, our Government has deemed it our moral obligation to provide the disabled veteran a range of benefits designed to ease the economic and other losses and disadvantages incurred as a consequence of serving his or her country. These benefits include compensation, medical care, and vocational rehabilitation. Other special benefits are provided to the most severely disabled veterans and to the survivors of veterans whose deaths are from service-connected causes. The House plan would bring these benefit programs to an end for the majority of our future disabled veterans and their families and would essentially deny increased compensation for many current disabled veterans when their disabilities worsen.

Under current law, the term "service-connected" means generally, "with respect to disability or death, that such disability was incurred or aggravated, or that the death resulted from a disability incurred or aggravated, in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service." 38 U.S.C.A. § 101(16) (West 2002). An injury or disease incurred "during" military service "will be deemed to have been incurred in the line of duty" unless the disability was caused by the veteran's own misconduct or abuse of alcohol or drugs, or was incurred while absent without permission or while confined by military or civilian authorities for serious crimes." 38 U.S.C.A. § 105 (West 2002). Based on equitable considerations, several named "chronic" diseases may be presumed service connected because of their sometimes insidious onset and clinical manifestation within

relatively short periods of time following service. Others may be presumed service connected based on the likelihood of a causal connection between the specified disabilities and certain circumstances of military service or exposure to certain hazards during service. These include tropical diseases for veterans who had service in areas where such diseases were endemic; diseases suffered by former prisoners of war from malnutrition, unsanitary conditions, physical hardships or abuse, and mental hardships or abuse; radiation-related disabilities for veterans who were exposed to radiation during service; diseases associated with exposure to herbicides used during the war in Vietnam; and disabilities peculiar to veterans who had service in the Persian Gulf War. 38 U.S.C.A. §§ 1112, 1116, 1117, 1118 (West 2002). In addition, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs presumes certain diseases are service connected when suffered by veterans who, during service, were > exposed to mustard gas and Lewisite. 38 C.F.R. § 3.316 (2002). Thus, disabilities are service connected under current law when incurred, aggravated, or presumed incurred or aggravated during or by military service. While service connection may be established based on a demonstrated or presumed cause-and-effect relationship, service-related causation is not required where there is evidence of a condition during service or a presumptive period. Under current law, disabilities of onset coincident with military service may be service connected without necessity to establish and prove a causal link between the performance of military duties, per se, and the disability. If the disability is of service origin, it is deemed attributable to service-related factors. "Service connection connotes many factors but basically it means that the facts, shown by evidence, establish that a particular injury or disease resulting in disability was incurred coincident with service in the Armed Forces, or if preexisting such service, was aggravated therein." 38 C.F.R. § 3.303(a) (2002) (emphasis added).

Clearly, Congress fully understood and intended this equitable and practical basis to compensate veterans for a wide range of disabilities for which the extraordinary rigors and hardships of military service can fairly be assumed to have played a precipitating or aggravating role, although the very nature of the circumstances of military service coupled with imperfect science make proof of causation extremely difficult or impossible in many instances. "Congress has designed and fully intends to maintain a beneficial non-adversarial system of veterans benefits. This is particularly true of service-connected disability compensation where the element of cause and effect has been totally by-passed in favor of a simple temporal relationship between the incurrence of the disability and the period of active duty." H.R. Rep. No. 100-963, at 13 (1988).

Under the draft proposal of the House leadership, service connection would be granted only where the disability is from: (1) "[i]njuries directly resulting from the performance of official military duties," and (2) "[i]llnesses directly resulting from exposure to the causes of the illness while performing official military duties or directly resulting from exposure to the causes of the illness at the duty location to which the member is assigned." (Emphasis added.) Excluded from the scope of service connection under this restricted standard would be (1) "injuries that are sustained while not performing official military duties," and (2) "illnesses determined to be relating to aging and/or preexisting medical conditions of the member." The proposed scheme

narrowly defines “official military duties” as including: (1) “[d]uties performed in an official government capacity directly related to those functions and scope of duties associated with the occupational skill assigned to the member,” (2) “[o]ther actions or functions in an official government capacity that the member was ordered to execute by a member (or civilian supervisor) of senior grade or rank or in a senior or superior position, or a member that is designated by such as senior individual to give the member instructions, to include unspecified preparatory or follow-on actions and functions,” and (3) “duties that result in qualified combat-related disabilities as defined in section 1413a of title 10, [United States Code].” Essentially all other activities of military service fall under a broad exclusion from the definition of “official military duties,” even events that occur during duty hours. Excluded are “actions and time periods unrelated to official government business to include travel to and from the member’s home and permanent duty station, meals, and other activities selected and carried out by the member at an official duty location and during hours designated as duty hours for the member.”

Disability may arise in the course of military service but not be susceptible to strict proof that it was the proximate result of performing activities of the member’s specific military occupation, as opposed to engaging in the wide range of activities typical of service in the Armed Forces. The current terms for service connection provide both an equitable and sensible approach because it is often impossible to disassociate the disability from service-related factors, even while the veteran is unable to establish a definite causation. It is generally recognized that the cause of disease may be multifactorial. Therefore, disability incurred in the line of duty is sometimes not directly due to a job injury or traceable to known causes, but certainly may be due to subtle or less obvious factors inherent in the Armed Forces environment.

Mental illnesses present a good example of disabilities that can properly be service connected under current law but would not qualify for service connection in many cases under the proposed new standards. Under the proposed change, how will it be fairly determined whether a mental illness that begins during military service is attributable to the performance of duties only, as opposed to (1) the stresses of the military environment generally to include the stresses associated with the performance of military duties combined with the stresses of serving in certain generally stressful military environments, (2) the emotional strain of serving away from home and family or in isolated duty stations, or (3) psychological stressors or factors totally unrelated to the military environment? Under the House plan, would service connection for mental illness be in order if it were clearly shown to have been partially caused by the performance of military duties and partially caused by other stresses of the military environment? In addition, it is being recognized more and more that mental stress plays a role in physical health. How will the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) properly adjudicate complex questions of service connection for physical illnesses that are not directly shown to be related to performance of military duties but may have been triggered or intensified by the stressors of combat, terrors of a prisoner of war experiences, or the anxieties of highly stressful military occupations?

If service connection were currently subject to proof of service causation, Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from very real but poorly understood, undiagnosed illnesses would be left without compensation or medical treatment. Although a discrete group

having the common experience of presence in a geographical region at the same period in time suffers from a syndrome comprising a commonality of symptoms, the link between the syndrome and the common experience is only circumstantial. It follows that there currently is no possibility of ascertaining whether these illnesses are directly due to the performance of military job functions or whether mere presence in the region, both on and off duty, could have caused them. The true nature of disease is unknown, and thus its cause or causes are unknown. With the additional exclusions included in the House plan, it is not at all clear that conditions such as these will be deemed by VA to qualify for service connection within the ambit of 10 U.S.C.A. § 1413a (West Supp. 2003) (“Qualifying combat-related disability”).

In a variety of other situations, it will be very difficult for veterans to prove that they were exposed to the causes of their diseases while performing military duties on the job as opposed to having been exposed while off duty. For example, how will a veteran prove that he was exposed to asbestos on a Navy ship only while performing his job functions as opposed to exposure in off duty hours? How will a veteran who contracted malaria in a tropical region prove that the mosquito bit him or her while performing military duties. How will the veteran who develops Lyme disease after field training prove that the tick that transmitted the disease bit him or her while performing military duties rather than while taking a rest break or sleeping in a tent?

Numerous other similar examples can be foreseen, particularly with respect to the question of whether the causes underlying a whole range of infectious or degenerative diseases were solely attributable to the performance of military job functions, attributable to the overall military environment (including the stresses and rigors of military service generally), attributable to both the environment within the confines of the military facility and off-base living facilities, or attributable to both military occupational functions and off-duty recreational activities. For many in our Armed Forces who have military occupations that require them to stay in top physical condition, the line between what is performance of duty and recreation is blurred, if not nonexistent. If service connection is to be denied for the soldier who injures his knee playing special services basketball, is it also to be denied for the sailor who, at the encouragement or direction of her superiors, injures her knee participating in authorized recreational or sports activities while stationed on an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf? Or is it also to be denied for the marine who injures his knee while keeping in shape in the exercise room in the foreign embassy where he is stationed?

Consider the circumstances in which servicemembers were killed and disabled from a terrorist attack on their barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. Most were probably not performing military duties at the time. Consider the circumstances in which soldiers were the victims of the terrorist attack on a Berlin nightclub. In a strict sense, that was not performance of duty. On the other hand, unlike a civilian job, those soldiers were at the disposal of the Army 24 hours a day and were placed at risk because of military service. Military life, like civilian living, involves work, recreation, commuting between work and home, but in the Armed Forces these are all the performance of duty in the broader sense, especially when the service member is located in a military community or is isolated on a foreign station.

The radical House plan will have other far-reaching implications. There will be no presumptive service connection for “chronic

diseases” because service connection is based on a presumption that the chronic disease has its onset during military service. Inasmuch as there is no evidence of the disease during service, it follows that the disease cannot be linked to the performance of military duties. As noted, presumptive service connection for illnesses attributed to service in the Persian Gulf is in doubt under this plan. The same difficulty exists in proving that exposure to herbicides and radiation during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki occurred solely in connection with the performance of military duties.

The House’s draft plan also expressly excludes from disabilities subject to service connection “illnesses determined to be related to aging and/or preexisting medical conditions of the member.” This indicates there will be no service connection by reason of aggravation. An individual could enter service with some minimal defect that did not disqualify the person for military service and have that disability aggravated by superimposed injury during service to an extent that it disqualified the member from further military service and resulted in total disability, but service connection would not be in order. The veteran would be sent home to fend for himself or herself.

Because the House plan would apply to new claims for service connection and evaluations of existing service-connected disabilities, veterans who suffer worsening of their service-connected disabilities could receive no increased ratings unless they could prove their already service-connected disabilities were the direct result of the performance of duty.

A service member who was paralyzed, for example, due to medical malpractice by a military physician would be without any remedy or benefits. A disability incurred in connection with military medical treatment would not meet the performance-of-duty requirement, and the member would be barred under *Feres v. United States*, 340 U.S. 135 (1950) (the “Feres doctrine”) from bringing a tort action to recover damages from the Government. Here again, the disabled veteran would be left to his or her own means to survive.

The House plan would plunge service members into an extremely precarious position. Members of the Armed Forces have no real ability to obtain disability insurance from commercial insurers. Even if such insurance were available to them, the price would be prohibitive given the increased risks inherent in military service. Only the Federal Government is in a position to bear this risk and it should without question.

Another incidental adverse effect would impact disability retirement from military service. Compensation is often elected in lieu of military disability retirement. Service members who become disabled before completion of military careers are now eligible for disability retirement from the Armed Forces. Many of these disability retirees find it advantageous to elect to receive disability compensation. However, neither military retirement nor disability compensation would be available under the proposed plan unless the disability was due to the performance of military duties. Other Federal and private sector disability retirement programs do not require that the disability be job related.

Because entitlement to most benefits for veterans’ dependents and survivors is derived from the veterans’ service-connected status, the House plan would therefore also have a major adverse impact on veterans’ families. It is unclear how it might impact disability and other benefits under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, provided to Vietnam veterans’ children who suffer from spina

bifida.

Beyond these more readily recognizable adverse effects, this change has the potential to cause myriad unforeseen and unintended consequences for veterans, service members, veterans’ and service members’ families, and for VA. For VA, numerous adverse consequences are easily foreseeable.

The “line of duty” standard dispenses with many complex issues related to disability causation. It is where the claim for service connection rests on proof of causation that VA now has its most complex and administratively burdensome adjudications. These complex adjudications involve proof of service connection for disabilities not shown during service or any presumptive period, such as, posttraumatic stress disorder, asbestosis, non-presumptive radiogenic diseases, and others. These cases demand a much greater investment of VA time and resources to resolve. To impose a causation requirement upon all new disabilities and claims for increase will complicate VA’s work beyond belief. It will generate untold numbers of disputes about causation, and the innumerable factual nuances in questions of causation will make fair and uniform determinations on this element of claims near impossible to achieve. Because this change would strike at the very foundation of veterans’ disability benefits, it would require a virtual rewrite of title 38, United States Code, and title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

The change would likely have similar adverse consequences for the Armed Forces. With the knowledge that military service generally involves far greater risks of injury than civilian careers, that this increased risk of disability is borne by the service member personally rather than the Government, and that the Government will have no hesitation in sending the service member into perilous situations that expose the service member to all manner of known and unforeseen hazards, potential recruits would be wise to consider other alternatives to military service. Although it is not a primary concern of this Committee, it bears noting that this proposed change might cause substantial decline in military enlistments and reenlistments.

This proposal to leave it to this Nation’s sons and daughters to serve in our Armed Forces at their own risk is simply indefensible. It is a bad idea for numerous reasons. Its only object seems to be abrogation of the Government’s responsibility to its service members and veterans. We urge the members of this Committee to take the lead in opposing this ill-advised scheme.

Editor’ Note

This seems to be an attempt on the part of the Government to side step liability to members of the Military and Veterans in general, for the injuries that they are suffering, have suffered and will suffer. This would have a far greater effect on members of the Special Operation Community, than service members in general. Remember, this study is retroactive. The recommendations can affect the benefits that all of us receive at the present time. We all might want to contact our Senators and Representatives, I know I am.

H E A L T H

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.

Diabetic Care at the VA

Submitted By: Bill Anton

Aug 16, 2004 5:00 pm US/Eastern

PHILADELPHIA (AP) The long-maligned Department of Veterans Affairs health care system provides diabetic patients with better care than commercial organizations, according to a new study. Researchers compared the care received by about 1,300 diabetics in five VA medical centers with 6,900 diabetics in eight commercial managed care groups. They matched the two groups by geographic region and used complex statistical sampling methods to make the demographics of the groups equivalent.

Compared to their managed care counterparts, diabetes patients treated by VA doctors more often received the recommended annual blood tests (93 percent vs. 83 percent), eye exams (91 percent vs. 75 percent); and foot exams (98 percent vs. 84 percent). The VA group also received more cholesterol testing (79 percent vs. 63 percent) and had better control of their cholesterol levels as a result, according to the study.

The paper appears in Tuesday's issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*. It was funded by the VA, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Diseases.

"The VA has made great strides in the past 10 years," said Dr. Eve A. Kerr, the study's lead author, of the VA in Ann Arbor, Mich., and the University of Michigan. "What this tells us is that a nationally funded health care system can provide excellent quality of care."

Both groups of patients reported similarly high levels of satisfaction for the care they received.

VA patients often are older, poorer, sicker and more likely to be male than patients in managed care, but Kerr said that the statistics were adjusted to accommodate the variations.

"We've tried to take into account as many of those differences as we could. ... The results are adjusted

so we're comparing apples to apples," she said. She also acknowledged that because the research looked at eight managed care organizations in five regions of the country, the results might not apply everywhere.

In 1995, the VA began to transform itself from a hospital operator to a health care provider that relies on community-based medical and residential facilities and outpatient services. It also implemented electronic data collection to uniformly gather and store patient information, established treatment standards and monitored whether goals were being met.

Managed care also has been changing the way it treats people with chronic illnesses, said Susan Pisano, spokeswoman for America's Health Insurance Plans, an industry group.

"This study is encouraging because it shows that if you focus on scientific evidence, reward good performance and follow guidelines, quality improves. These are the very same approaches that managed care has advocated and advanced," she said. "These have been approaches that are increasingly emphasized ... we will continue to see a continued upward trend in the quality (of care) as a result."

The challenge now is finding ways to apply some of the VA's successes in improving chronic disease treatment to smaller health care groups and private practices where most Americans are treated, according to an editorial accompanying the study.

More study is needed to see whether such marked differences are similar with patients with ailments other than diabetes, said Dr. Sheldon Greenfield and Sherrie Kaplan of the University of California, Irvine, who were not connected to the study.

"It's an almost heroic effort, what the VA has done," Greenfield said. "Many of the elements that it has implemented can be brought to other settings."

The VA in 2003 treated about 4.8 million patients at its health care facilities, which includes outpatient clinics, nursing homes and residential rehabilitation programs and more than 150 hospitals.

H E A L T H

Plan Backfires- VA Fast Letter Boost Claims

Submitted By: Mary Anne Colledge
February 22, 2005

Top Guns with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are going on the offensive to prevent veterans from getting service connected disability for HEPATITIS C transmitted by air gun shots before, during, and after the Vietnam War. Three decades after the end of the war, hundreds of thousands of brave men and women who served their country are dying, and the Bush Administration is fighting their attempts to get pensions and adequate VA medical treatment. An estimated 95% of all claims are denied, despite reliable scientific evidence. In April 2002, a delegation of members representing the HEPATITIS C Movement for Awareness (HMA) and HCVets.com, a HEPATITIS C military claims support organization for families, went to Washington DC on a mission to educate representative concerning HEPATITIS C related issues.

The delegation had appointments with Congressional and Veterans Affairs representatives. One of these meetings was with Lawrence Deyton MSPH, MD Chief Consultant, Public Health Strategic Health Care Group, for the VA. Members met specifically with Dr. Deyton to express concern regarding transmission methods for the HEPATITIS C virus listed by the VA, and the need to reform qualifications for testing Veterans. Those attending the VA will not get tested because they did not use drugs or become an alcoholic, risk factors used to qualify patients for testing. Members requested Dr. Deyton include reused needles, vials, syringes and air guns in this determination to test Veterans. Dr. Deyton acknowledged these risks, stating "his hands were tied". He stated, "Anyone receiving air gun injections, should get tested for HEPATITIS C." Deyton did not just say "Veterans", says Ed Wendt, Vietnam era Veteran, transplant survivor and HMA's Government Relations Director. Deyton implied "everyone" receiving shots administered by the now defunct style air guns, should be tested. HMA published Dr. Deyton's quote in an upcoming newsletter which resulted in a Veteran service connected for HEPATITIS C at the regional VA level. The decision was based on that quote, plus other evidence submitted that demonstrated the products used to sanitize & disinfect medical and dental equipment, did not kill the HEPATITIS C virus.

In order to counteract the decision and avoid accountability for the 2 plus million service related infections, the National VA office, in charge of the regional office that approved the claim, issued a "Fast Track" letter, a sort of report, to all regional offices, calling Dr. Deyton's quote, a misquote. But, Wendt, says, "we did not misquote Dr. Deyton as the allegations

suggest in the VA Fast letter." "Members were very clear on what they heard." Further quotes were made by Dr. Deyton to the Kansas City Star's investigative report Mike McGraw. Dr. Deyton is quoted as saying, "it's possible the devices could transmit HEPATITIS C: Deyton continues, "I am sure that, with the right degree of misuse, the devices could become contaminated." In the Fast Track letter, Carolyn F. Hunt, Acting Director, for Compensation and Pension Service states: "...needles (and other objects that puncture the skin) are contaminated with HCV infected blood and are then used by others, HCV can be transmitted. HCV can potentially be transmitted with reuse of needles for tattoos, body piercing, and acupuncture.", ".....infections may have come from blood-contaminated cuts or wounds, contaminated medical equipment or multi-dose vials of medications."

Vaccinations were routinely given with multi-dose vials and reused needles. Injection given by the air guns included HEPATITIS B vaccine; responsible for the outbreak of AIDS in New York City, in which an astounding 64% of the men who got the vaccine developed AIDS and other blood-borne viruses. Access is not available for testing stored patients blood samples for HEPATITIS C infection rate. The U.S. Department of Justice is keeping this information "classified" and "unavailable" for public research and investigation.. Ms. Hunt also states, "Blood-contaminated cuts or wounds can spread HEPATITIS C". says, "This statement speaks volumes", says Harry Hooks, Vietnam combat Veteran and manager of HCVets.com. "Mechanics, or others at risk for cuts, that shared rags to wipe the wound, could be at risk. HEPATITIS C lives for weeks after the blood has dried. It can be reconstituted and transmit to others."

In the letter, Ms. Hunt continues to say "It is essential that the report upon which the determination of service connection is made includes a full discussion of all modes of transmission, and a rationale as to why the examiner believes the air gun was the source of the veteran's HEPATITIS C." But Hooks says, "Veterans have submitted convincing scientific studies, military reports and physicians letters in support with their claims, showing the only risk for their HEPATITIS C infection was the service." Evidence submitted, such as the "Vaccines in the Military:" A Department of Defense-Wide Review of Vaccine Policy and practice; an Infectious Diseases Control Subcommittee of the Armed forces Epidemiological Board review presented in August 1999. Page 61 discusses the Paris Island Air Force inspection in which inspectors indirectly observing high volume recruit immunization using jet injectors. It was noted "jet injector nozzles were frequently contaminated with blood, yet sterilization practices were frequently inadequate or not followed." The complete report can be viewed here Military Veterans have also submitted government testimony in support of their claims. Such as the statement by Robert Harrington, owner of the company PED-O-JET, maker of the military air guns used on the troops. During a meeting

HEALTH

with the FDA, VA and others, he states “if the gun was not wiped off, it could contaminated 31 out of 100 patients.” “All people that served in the military know the air guns were not wiped off for military application”, says Hooks. “The VA would prefer if veterans evidence was not included”, Hooks continues, “according to correspondence with a Pittsburgh VA, the VA has a staff of medical personnel to review information and provide judgment based on their training and research. The problem is, say’s Hooks, “to the best of my knowledge, no one’s training these adjustors about HEPATITIS C transmission. I think the denial rate for VA claims proves that.” “One thing is very clear”, says Tricia Lupole, National Director for HMA, “It’s the VA lacking rationale, the VA denied service connection to one Veteran shot in the chest in Vietnam in 1968 and transfused. He died from HCV liver cancer in 2003. Another patient was hospitalized with HEPATITIS during military service and the VA claims his HEPATITIS C is not service connected. Yet another, denied because he fell within the group that, according to the VA, has “no clue” how the virus was transmitted; virtually ignoring every statement Ms. Hunt made. A claim recently denied, would not acknowledge the fact the Veteran found a buddy stationed with him during most of his service. The buddy also has the same strain of HEPATITIS C. The virus has many different types of strains, called genotypes. There are 6 different genotypes and over 50 subtypes within those strains. The state and federal court system use a test to determine “same source” infection when exposure to the virus occurs though hospital neglect, meaning that science can tell if people were infected by the same source. But, the VA will not run this test or accept any evidence to support it. We’re not going to let the VA get away with this.” Lupole says, “Despite the attempts to portray HCVets.com an unreliable source, the letter works to the Veterans advantage because it acknowledges possible ways for transmitting the virus previously denied by the VA claims adjusters Claims that are pending or previously denied, should consider this as critical evidence to include. More information on service related transmission methods for the HEPATITIS C virus can be found at <http://hcvets.com> DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Benefits Administration Washington, D.C. 20420 June 29, 2004 Director (00/21)

In Reply Refer To: 211 All VA Regional Offices
Fast Letter 04-13

SUBJ: Relationship Between Immunization with Jet Injectors and HEPATITIS C Infection as it Relates to Service Connection
BACKGROUND: In August 2003, one regional office issued a rating decision granting service connection for HEPATITIS C virus (HCV) infection as the result of immunization with a “jet air gun.” A misleading statement, incorrectly ascribed to Lawrence Deyton MSPH, MD Chief Consultant, Public Health Strategic Health Care Group, US Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington,†DC is posted on the Internet (<http://www.hcvets.com/>). On this site, the following is

incorrectly ascribed to Dr. Deyton: “Anyone who had inoculations with the jet injector were [sic] at risk of having HEPATITIS C and should be tested.”

KEY POINTS:• HCV is spread primarily by contact with blood and blood products. The highest prevalence of HCV infection is among those with repeated, direct percutaneous (through the skin) exposures to blood (e.g., injection drug users, recipients of blood transfusions before screening of the blood supply began in 1992, and people with hemophilia who were treated with clotting factor concentrates before 1987).

- Since the 1990’s, injection drug use has been the principal mode of transmission of HCV. Because of screening procedures, HCV is now only rarely transmitted by blood product transfusion or organ transplant. Clotting factor concentrates are processed in such a way that the virus is inactivated; these viral inactivation procedures have virtually eliminated clotting factor concentrates as a source for HCV.

- Population studies suggest HCV can be sexually transmitted. However, the chance for sexual transmission of HEPATITIS C is well below comparable rates for HIV/AIDS or HEPATITIS B infection. Researchers studied five groups of monogamous couples, in which only one was infected with HCV. Less than five percent of the uninfected partners became infected with HCV during the time periods studied.

- Occupational exposure to HCV may occur in the health care setting through accidental needle sticks. A veteran may have been exposed to HCV during the course of his or her duties as a military corpsman, a medical worker, or as a consequence of being a combat veteran.

- When needles (and other objects that puncture the skin) are contaminated with HCV infected blood and are then used by others, HCV can be transmitted. HCV can potentially be transmitted with reuse of needles for tattoos, body piercing, and acupuncture.

- The HEPATITIS B virus is heartier and more readily transmitted than HEPATITIS C. While there is at least one case report of HEPATITIS B being transmitted by an airgun injection, thus far, there have been no case reports of HCV being transmitted by an airgun transmission.

- The source of infection is unknown in about 10 percent of acute HCV cases and in 30 percent of chronic HCV cases. These infections may have come from blood-contaminated cuts or wounds, contaminated medical equipment or multi-dose vials of medications.

CONCLUSION: The large majority of HCV infections can be accounted for by known modes of transmission, primarily transfusion of blood products before 1992, and injection drug use. Despite the lack of any scientific evidence to document transmission of HCV with airgun injectors, it is biologically plausible. It is essential that the report upon which the determination of service connection is made includes a full discussion of all modes of transmission, and a rationale as to why the examiner believes the airgun was the source of the

HEALTH

veteran's HEPATITIS C.

/s Carolyn F. Hunt Acting Director Compensation and Pension Service **VA claim approved for service connected for HEPATITIS C based solely on the airguns.**

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLEVELAND REGIONAL OFFICE Tiger Team Remand Unit P.O. Box 998020 Cleveland, Ohio 44199-8020 Rating Decision August 5, 2003

INTRODUCTION The records reflect that the veteran served during the Vietnam Era in the Army from August 25, 1967 to April 17, 1971. The Board of Veterans Appeals remanded the case on December 27, 2001; and based upon a review of the evidence listed below, the following decision(s) were made in the claim.

DECISION Service-connection for HEPATITIS C is granted with an evaluation of 10 percent effective April 17, 2000.

EVIDENCE VA Fonn 21-526, Application for Compensation and/or Pension received April 12, 2002' Service Medical Records from the National Personnel Records Center Outpatient treatment reports from the VA Medical Center, Buffalo for the period of August 1999 through October 2000 Medical Records from 1996 through 1999 DD Form 214 , Article submitted entitled "Risk Factors for HEPATITIS C Virus Infection in United States Blood Donors", Statement received from the Veteran on January 29, 2001 Board of Veterans Appeals' Order dated December 27, 2001 VA Form 4138, Statement in Support of a Claim received January 8, 2002 with attachment . Medical Records .from for' the period of May 30, 1995 through March 22, 2000 Response from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) dated August 2, 2002 . VA Examination dated June 5, 2003 and Hospital for the period of 'REASONS FOR DECISION Service-connection for HEPATITIS C. Service-connection for HEPATITIS C has been established as directly related to military service. -This decision is based upon the VA examiner's opinion dated June 5, 2003 coupled with the supporting evidence of articles relative to jet inoculations submitted by', the veteran. ,Specifically, the V A examiner provided a causal relationship finding that the veteran's HEPATITIS C currently diagnosed was incurred in service as a result of the jet inoculations given therein. Moreover, the examiner relied upon these articles which note that due to cross-contamination, anyone who had inoculations with Jet injectors were at risk for having HEPATITIS C and should be tested.' Further, the veteran denied having incurred any of the known risk factors subsequent to service, such as N drug use; blood transfusions; tattoos; surgeries, or needle sticks. Accordingly, service-connection is granted as a result of the evidence of record. 'An evaluation of 10 percent is assigned from April 17, 2000. This date is being used, because it is the date of the veteran's original claim for service-connection that was

subsequently denied, and timely appealed to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. An evaluation of 10 percent is assigned for

chronic liver disease without cirrhosis; but with intermittent fatigue, malaise, and anorexia, or; incapacitating episodes (with . symptoms such as fatigue, malaise, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, arthralgia, and right upper quadrant pain) having a total duration of at least one week, but less than two weeks, during the past 12-monthperiod. In this case, the most recent VA opinion of June 2003 was merely a review of records contained in the claims file, and thus, no objective or subjective evidence was obtained that could be used for evaluation purposes. However, the medical records o coupled with the outpatient treatment records from the V A Medical Center, Buffalo do provide such evidence. Specifically, these records demonstrate that prior to inception of the claim, the veteran was placed on Interferon, but due to complications of the medication, it was .ceased. . Subsequently, between 1998 and 1999, he remained asymptomatic for the disease. However, right around inception of this claim in 2000; the. notes indicate that the veteran's viral load started to rise. Subsequently, he was placed on Infergen, 15 mg three times per week. A note of September 2000, indicates that, at that time, the veteran complained of incurring flu-like symptoms for a day after the shot is given. Also, between March 2000 and September 2000, he had lost 20 pounds of weight due to these problems. Accordingly, based upon these complaints, an evaluation of 10 percent is assigned. . A higher evaluation of 20 percent is not warranted at this time, because there has been no evidence submitted demonstrating that the veteran suffers from chronic liver disease without cirrhosis, but with daily fatigue malaise and anorexia (without weight loss C?r . hepatomegaly), requiring dietary restriction or continuous medication, or; incapacitating episodes (with symptoms such as fatigue; malaise, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, art algia, and right upper quadrant pain) having a total duration of at least two weeks, but less than four weeks, during the past 12-month period.

REFERENCES: . Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Pensions, Bonuses and Veterans' Relief contains the regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs which govern entitlement to all veteran benefits. For additional information regarding applicable laws and . regulations, please consult your local library, or visit us at our web site, Www.va.gov.

REUNION

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

**2005 REUNION
6 THRU 10 JULY 2005
REGISTRATION FORM**

Yes, I will attend the reunion at Ft Benning, Ga, 6 – 10 July, 2005.

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

UNIT AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I will be accompanied by _____ guests;

NAMES: _____

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON @ \$30.00 \$ _____

BANQUET TICKETS # _____ @ \$25.00 \$ _____

TOTAL PAID..... \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association (75thRRA).

Mail to: 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 10970

Baltimore, MD 21234

Make your reservations now. Call the Holiday Inn North, Columbus, GA. Local phone number for reservations is 706-324-0231. National Reservation number is 800-465-4329. Our banquet will be at the Iron Works. The Holiday Inn North, Columbus, GA offers complimentary shuttle service, lounge, restaurant, pool, free parking and other amenities.

REUNION

2005 REUNION INFORMATION

OUR HOTEL THIS YEAR IS THE HOLIDAY INN NORTH, LOCATED NEAR THE AIRPORT. They offer free shuttle service to & from the airport.

DATES: 6 THRU 10 JULY, 2005

BANQUET: BANQUET IS SCHEDULED FOR 9 JULY, 2005. WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH SOME VERY INTERESTING SPEAKERS FOR THIS REUNION.



Mike Durant of Blackhawk Down fame will be a guest Speaker at our Reunion in Columbus, GA in July, 2005.

ROOM RATES: \$69.00 PER NIGHT AT THE HOLIDAY INN. THESE RATES ARE GOOD A COUPLE OF DAYS PRIOR AND AFTER OUR REUNION DATES. Make reservations ASAP. We have a number of rooms blocked, when they are gone, they are gone. We will list overflow hotels in the next issue and on the web site.

The Reunion registration fee is \$30.00 per person and the Banquet cost is \$25.00 per meal, and is scheduled for Saturday Evening, 9 July, 2005. Registration fee and banquet cost must be paid with registration. (See registration form, previous page. Checks or Visa & Master Card information may be sent to:

75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc,
John Chester, Secretary
PO Box 10970
Baltimore, MD 21234

If you have questions call 410-426-1391; e-mail john.chester3@verizon.net

I look forward to seeing you there. Bring the family, we will have “non-reunion” activities for those who wish to do the tourist thing in the Columbus/Ft Benning area.

RLTW & Sua Sponte
Emmett Hiltibrand
President, 75th Ranger regiment Association, Inc.
(706) 323-5426
e-mail: ranger2c@mchsi.com
www.75thrra.com

2005 75th RRA Reunion – Ft Benning – 6-10 July, 2005- BE THERE!!

FEATURE ARTICLES

A note from the 10th Sergeant Major of the Regiment

Rangers, Members of the Association, family and friends of Rangers,

My time as the Regimental Sergeant Major is coming to a close. It has been the busiest time of my 27+ years in the Army. From being ammo bearer for an M-60 in 2/75 to being the RSM has been an adventure to say the least. Before I PCS I'd like to share some thoughts and update you on what the Rangers have been doing lately.

When I returned to the Regiment in July of 2002 as the 3/75 CSM after being out of the Rangers for 16 years I realized that although the equipment and some tactics had changed slightly that the mindset and heart of an Airborne Ranger was as stout as ever. The new Ranger coming into the Regiment is as good as any generation of Rangers who have ever served. They are coming to the Rangers in an all volunteer military to an all volunteer unit in time of war, knowing they will go in to harm's way. Ranger's actions in combat reflect their commitment to this nation. The haircut standards and beret color may have changed, but the heart of the Ranger is the same and they still live the Ranger creed.

We have lost 11 Rangers on my watch (during my time as 3/75 CSM and RSM), 7 from hostile action, 1 from fratricide, 2 from accidents forward and 1 from a training accident in the rear. Each one took a piece of my soul. May God bless and protect the families they left behind to Charlie Mike.

Below are a few of the changes we've made in the Regiment and a few facts on just how busy the Regiment has been since the GWOT started.

The Regiment is continuously transforming to improve our capabilities based on lessons learned in combat. Our highly motivated and experienced Rangers are given all of the necessary time and resources with which to train toward clear-cut goals and objectives. Our Rangers will continue to train and stand ready to answer the call to support the Global War on Terrorism and any other future missions. Rangers are highly trained in urban combat and operate primarily at night, maximizing the advantages of state-of-the-art technology for night vision and target acquisition.

The Ranger Indoctrination (RIP) course has been lengthened to four weeks and the Ranger Orientation Program (ROP) has been lengthened to three weeks. Both include more marksmanship and battle drills to better prepare new Rangers for immediate deployment to combat.

Ranger companies are running additional training forward in Afghanistan and Iraq to better ensure the new Rangers are prepared to join their platoons. This training covers more

marksmanship, battle drills and rough terrain driving skills.

The 75th Ranger Regiment has not broken contact with the enemy since September 11, 2001. From the initial parachute assault into Afghanistan to the initial assault in Iraq, to the Rangers currently deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Rangers continue to lead the way. The entire Regiment has been deployed 4 times since the start of the war and approximately 40% of the unit is deployed at all times. More than 70% of the Rangers have conducted multiple combat deployments and many are on their 5th or 6th deployment since 2001.

In support of the Global War on Terrorism, the 75th Ranger Regiment has conducted a myriad of complex joint special operations with almost every special operations and conventional force in a wide spectrum of terrain and conditions. Rangers have conducted raids in terrain that no other unit could or would go during the Global War on Terrorism.

Rangers have conducted raids from the 10,000-foot mountains in Afghanistan to the urban sprawl of Baghdad in support of the Global War on Terrorism. They have captured and killed hundreds of terrorists. Over the last 3 years the Ranger Regiment has conducted seven combat jumps (two of which were HALO insertions), hundreds of air assault raids and thousands of direct action to raids to kill or capture high value targets.

Rangers continue operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan and are conducting daily direct action raids to kill or capture terrorists.

I want to thank all of you for your service in combat and support to our Rangers and their families. As you well know, loyal unwavering support at home is key to morale. Knowing that support comes from men and families who have lived the Ranger legacy makes it even more special.

I will never forget the men of the Regiment and they will always hold the key terrain in my heart (dug in on the military crest and reverse slope, of course).

I wish them all Godspeed and good hunting.

Rangers Lead the Way!

Respectfully,
Greg Birch

10th Sergeant Major of the Regiment

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Rangers awarded Silver Star, Bronze Star with Valor device

Spc. Sarah Scully

I Corps Public Affairs

FORT LEWIS, Wash. (USASOC News Service, March 30, 2005)

- For nearly a decade, they shared rigorous training and lasting camaraderie. Among family, they shared childhood dreams of serving their country. And on March 21, they shared a moment of recognition. Staff Sgt. Justin Viene and Staff Sgt. Jesse Walker stood on a stage at Fort Lewis, Wash. before hundreds of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment comrades-in-arms just months after making critical decisions during an attack instigated by Afghani insurgents. Their individual performances led to Gen. Bryan Brown, the commanding general of U.S. Special Operations Command, to award a Silver Star to Viene and a Bronze Star with Valor device to Walker. "These awards are not expensive to buy," said Brown, "but they are really expensive to earn - they are huge in their significance."

By choosing to show courage instead of fear when ambushed by enemy mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, they led squads of fellow Rangers to victory and safety.

"Fear is a reaction," said Brown. "But they made a decision of courage. "Years of growing up playing Soldier, combined with years of Ranger training, all culminated in one event where the two men used their collective skills to survive and defeat the enemy.

While out on patrol near the Pakistani border, the two squad-team leaders and their Rangers had to react to an ambush - something they had done many times in training.

But this time, the opposing forces weren't using blanks. Although Walker had experienced an intense battle before during his earlier combat deployments, Viene said it was the first time in five deployments he had been in a big firefight. "It was kind of surreal

for a minute - it didn't really sink in that it was happening. It all happened really fast," said Viene. "To see the dirt kicking up beside you and realize that they're shooting at you. The training just took over," he said. "Time just slowed down." While Viene grabbed two of his men and vaulted up a hill firing a squad automatic weapon at the enemy, Walker took care of wounded soldiers, set up security and worked the radios to communicate their situation. "I grabbed the rest of the guys we had there and got them on the machine guns, suppressing the enemy so Viene could move up the hill," said Walker. "I did what we were trained to do," he said. And that's the advice both he and Viene give to younger Rangers in preparation for similar situations - excel at marksmanship, battle drills, medical training and physical fitness. All four elements combined to protect the Rangers' lives, and that emphasis on training is something family members use for reassurance when their sons, husbands and brothers deploy to a combat zone. Sue Bloemer watched her son build forts and dig trenches in her backyard as a boy. And she watched Viene stand at attention during the ceremony and shake the hand of his commanding general. "I'm just one real proud mom," she said. "He always said he wanted to be a Soldier, and he said he wanted to be the best." Repeatedly denying that they did anything special and continually insisting that they only did their job, both Viene and Walker contribute their leadership success to daily training and the men who served with them. "He doesn't like the attention, but he really deserves it," said Staff Sgt. Sarah Walker, his wife and a Soldier assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade. "He's done amazing things as a Soldier - I'm really proud of him." "We didn't do it to get an award," said Viene. "It's just icing on the cake."

"YOU CAN TELL WE'RE GETTING OLD"

(Submitted by "F" company's Dan Nate)

Years ago I asked my Dad why he read the obituary column from our local newspaper every night. Even when he supplied me with a good, sensible answer, it still seemed a strange thing to do, at least to me.

Of course, NOW, older, maybe "some" wiser, I know why, and find myself doing the same thing. Unfortunately I am finding more and more people my OWN age within those pages, and many even younger!

The other day was one that made me glad for "the habit", for a change. It seems that a Reverend Walter Halloran passed away, March 1st, 2005. According to the article: "Wauwatosa, Wisconsin....The Rev. Walter Halloran, a priest who took part in an exorcism that spawned the book and movie, "The Exorcist", died Tuesday night at a Jesuit retirement home. He was 83.

He was the last living Jesuit assisting in the 1949 exorcism at a psychiatric unit in St. Louis. Halloran was a 27-year old Jesuit scholastic at St. Louis University when a priest called him

to the psychiatric wing at Alexian Brothers Hospital. There the Rev. William S. Bowdern was trying to help a 14 year old boy who he believed was possessed by a demon, and he needed a strong man to help control the boy. A third Jesuit, the Rev. William Van Roo, also was there.

A three-paragraph news account of the incident inspired William Peter Blatty to write "The Exorcist" in 1971.

NOW COMES THE REALLY INTERESTING PART "HALLORAN EARNED TWO (2) BRONZE STARS FOR SERVING AS A PARATROOPER CHAPLAIN DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, THE OLDEST AIRBORNE CHAPLAIN AT THE TIME!!"

I have a feeling that had "TOP" known that HALLORAN was around, he'd have had him over to the company area to take care of a few of us, know what I mean? I grew up under the tutelage of the Jesuits while living in South America; Jesuits and Maryknoll priests, with Sacred Heart Nuns to boot. Kinda made going to 'nam easier I think. Sure made boot camp a piece of cake!!

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Vietnam War Facts

Facts, Statistics, Fake Warrior Numbers, and Myths Dispelled

Submitted by: Bill Anton

ED Note: This was run last issue under H Co's heading. I received so many requests that we are running it again as a feature.

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.
2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam
 Vietnam Veterans represented **9.7%** of their generation.
240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War
 The **first man to die** in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.
58,148 were killed in Vietnam
75,000 were severely disabled
23,214 were 100% disabled
5,283 lost limbs
1,081 sustained multiple amputations
 Of those killed, **61%** were younger than 21
11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old
 Of those killed, **17,539** were married
 Average age of men killed: **23.1 years**
 Five men killed in Vietnam were only **16 years old**.
 The oldest man killed was **62 years old**.
 As of January 15, 2004, there are **1,875 Americans still unaccounted for** from the Vietnam War
97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged
91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served
74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome
 Vietnam veterans have a **lower unemployment rate** than the same non-vet age groups.
 Vietnam veterans' personal income **exceeds** that of our non-veteran age group by **more than 18 percent**.
87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.
 There is **no difference** in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study)
 Vietnam Veterans are **less likely to be in prison** - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.
85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

Interesting Census Stats and "Been There" Wanabees:

1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures).

~ During that same Census count, the number of

Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was: 9,492,958.

~ As of the current Census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: **1,002,511**. This is hard to believe, losing nearly **711,000** between '95 and '00. That's **390 per day**. During this Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is: **13,853,027**. By this census, **FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE Vietnam vets are not.**

The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by The War Library originally reported with errors that **2,709,918** U.S. military personnel as having served in-country. Corrections and confirmations to this errored index resulted in the addition of **358** U.S. military personnel confirmed to have served in Vietnam but not originally listed by the Department of Defense. (All names are currently on file and accessible 24/7/365).

Isolated atrocities committed by American Soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy.

Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front **assassinated 36,725** Vietnamese and **abducted another 58,499**. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers.

- Nixon Presidential Papers

Common Myths Dispelled:

Myth: Common Belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted.

Fact: 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

Myth: The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from **50,000 to 100,000** - 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population.

Fact: Mortality studies show that **9,000** is a better estimate. "The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, **the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans' group.**

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Myth: Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

Fact: 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book "All That We Can Be," said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam "and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia - a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war."

Myth: Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

Fact: Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat. 79% had a high school education or better.

Here are statistics from the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF) as of November 1993. The CACF is the basis for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall): Average age of **58,148** killed in Vietnam was **23.11 years**. (Although **58,169** names are in the Nov. 93 database, only 58,148 have both event date and birth date. Event date is used instead of declared dead date for some of those who were listed as missing in action)

	Deaths	Average Age
Total:	58,148	23.11 years
Enlisted:	50,274	22.37 years
Officers:	6,598	28.43 years
Warrants:	1,276	24.73 years
E1:	525	20.34 years
11B MOS:	18,465	22.55 years

Myth: The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

Fact: Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

Myth: The Common belief is that the domino theory was proved false.

Fact: The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca

Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries that won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

Myth: The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II.

Fact: The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about **40 days of combat in four years**. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about **240 days of combat in one year** thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were **300 percent higher** than in World War II75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was **less than one hour**. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24 hours, died. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 and the Geneva Accords or 1962 would secure the border).

Myth: Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972.....shown a million times on American television....was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang.

Fact: No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the AP photographer, Nick Ut, who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three day battle between the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) who occupied the village of Trang Bang and the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. Recent reports in the news media that an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. "We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF," according to Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc's brothers were killed in this incident. They were Kim's cousins not her brothers.

Myth: The United States lost the war in Vietnam.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Fact: The American military was not defeated in Vietnam. The American military did not lose a battle of any consequence. From a military standpoint, **it was almost an unprecedented performance.** General Westmoreland quoting Douglas Pike, a professor at the University of California, Berkley a renowned expert on the Vietnam War). This included **Tet 68, which was a major military defeat for the VC and NVA.**

THE UNITED STATES DID NOT LOSE THE WAR IN VIETNAM, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE DID. Read on.....

The fall of Saigon happened 30 April 1975, two years **AFTER** the American military left Vietnam. The last American troops departed in their entirety 29 March 1973.

How could we lose a war we had already stopped fighting? We fought to an agreed stalemate. The peace settlement was signed in Paris on 27 January 1973. It called for release of all U.S. prisoners, withdrawal of U.S. forces, limitation of both sides' forces inside South Vietnam and a commitment to peaceful reunification. The 140,000 evacuees in April 1975 during the fall of Saigon consisted almost entirely of civilians and Vietnamese military, NOT American military running for their lives. There were almost twice as many casualties in Southeast Asia (primarily Cambodia) the first two years after the fall of Saigon in 1975 then there were during the ten years the U.S. was involved in Vietnam. **Thanks for the perceived loss and the countless assassinations and torture visited upon Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians goes mainly to the American media and their undying support-by-misrepresentation of the anti-War movement in the United States.**

As with much of the Vietnam War, the news media misreported and misinterpreted the 1968 Tet Offensive. It was reported as

an overwhelming success for the Communist forces and a decided defeat for the U.S. forces. **Nothing could be further from the truth.** Despite initial victories by the Communists forces, the Tet Offensive resulted in a major defeat of those forces. General Vo Nguyen Giap, the designer of the Tet Offensive, is considered by some as ranking with Wellington, Grant, Lee and MacArthur as a great commander. Still, militarily, the Tet Offensive was a total defeat of the Communist forces on all fronts. It resulted in the death of some 45,000 NVA troops and the complete, if not total destruction of the Viet Cong elements in South Vietnam. The Organization of the Viet Cong Units in the South never recovered. The Tet Offensive succeeded on only one front and that was the News front and the political arena. This was another example in the Vietnam War of an inaccuracy becoming the perceived truth. **However inaccurately reported, the News Media made the Tet Offensive famous.**

"Vietnam History"

<http://4dw.net/jqueen/history.html>

VIETNAM REMEMBERED

<http://remembervietnam.homestead.com/>

Top 100 Vietnam Veterans WebSites

<http://www.topsitelists.com/start/vietnamvet/topsites.html>

"18th Engineers"

<http://4dw.net/jqueen/truth.html>

Movie Review: We Were Soldier s (Once....and Young)

<http://remembervietnam.homestead.com/idrrang.html>

Airborne Man of the Year

By: Bill Bullen

Every year around the middle of April, *Static Line* magazine's "Man of the Year" award banquet occurs.. Almost every Airborne Association in the US has a nominee and they receive said award... This year the 75th RRA's nominee recipient was CSM Donald Keller, from K Company.

Don was the First Sergeant for K Company from April of 1969 to May of 1970.

During his tenure, the accomplishments of K Company Rangers were too numerous to remember, but included the moving of K Co from the direction of the Division G-2 to the Division G-3. This gave us the ability to have the Division's assets at hand. Everyone is well aware that the G-3 had the birds, and this was our life line. Here was one thing that our predecessors had to fight for at all times. John Chester was the detachment



commander for the 4th Inf Div LRPS and can attest to this fact. Also, Don made a line of communication between the Division's

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



Don Keller CSM (ret), K/75 1SGT, '69-'70 with Don Lassen, editor "Static Line" magazine.

G-4 and K Company, this got us the beans and bullets. More important was the training program emplaced, we had a Ranger Training program which weeded out recruits who wanted to be and could be members of the largest Ranger Company in Viet Nam.

Prior to his time in K Co Don was an Airborne trooper from his time of enlistment 1952. He spent several years in the 82nd Airborne Div and the 101st. He was instrumental in the design of



Don Keller with Don King, guest speaker at the "Airborne Man of the Year" awards.

the great 101st Recondo Training program at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. From there he went back to the 82nd then on to Ethiopia to train the Ethiopian Army's airborne troops. At this time, in that part of the world, there was a lot of unrest, Don was a part of the effort to bring order to it. Most likely, I have no idea of what else he was involved in, but I do know this man lived the life and still breaths the air of an Airborne Trooper.

PSU VETS MEMORIAL A TRUE WINNER

Article and Photos By Rick Fulton

PITTSBURG, KANSAS — Southeast Kansas is usually a very peaceful place, located far from big city activity, and is a long ways away from such places as Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam and Korea. We all know about Vietnam but many forget we fought a second time in Korea while the Vietnam War was underway, and took losses there greater than those who fell later in the 1990-1991 Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Yet, here in this Ozark-like corner of Kansas, remembering all the terrible struggles of the 20th Century, and now those of the 21st Century, there is, nonetheless, a very special place that has been established to honor all veterans of United States Military Services, and to remember their many different kinds of sacrifices.

To set this up, let me tell you that I served between the Cuban Missile Crisis and the mission which protected freedom in Haiti in 1995. As I think about all the many great folks I met in those years, two names in particular stand out. Rick Ramsey and John Kopfer. I will never forget either of them. Rick was the first gent I met upon arrival in-country, 1 October 1967. We lived in the same hooch on Tan Son Nhut. He was three bunks down from me. You remember how GIs were over there. We shared a lot of memories and experiences. Sergeant Ramsey was very short, the

day the 122mm rocket came screeching in over 7th Air Force Headquarters Building, point detonated on the roof of the former base exchange, and sprayed chunks of metal the length of the 7AF DXI Combat News Branch.

That morning, to show us what a "short timer" he was, and how soon he would be joining his wife and child in Japan for the next USAF assignment, he did not wear fatigues but instead put on a 1505 uniform, complete with low quarters, name tag and ribbons. Of course, we all teased him fairly hard about doing so. That was the day our friend Rick Ramsey died. He was killed by enemy fire, and every one in the same building with him was wounded. I and several others were in a building near by. We ran to where the rocket had exploded, and tried the best we could to help, but in Rick's case there was nothing that could be done.

Now, as for John, he wasn't even supposed to be at Tan Son Nhut. He arrived in-country and was in-processing for an assignment as a photo journalist at Binh Thuy when the Tet attack began. All routine movements were halted and John was shipped to DXI for a temporary assignment until things calmed down.

He was with us the first night after the initial assault when there was a very large fire fight just outside the Tan Son Nhut perimeter wire — tracers going every which way, a red flare going up, then a green one, and — the Air Force being the Air

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



Force — none of us was armed with anything more lethal than a few sheath knives and some bunk bed extender pipes. We all thought Charley was going to break through, and prepared to get it on. John stayed cool, in spite of the big eyes we all had that night. The enemy attack was fortunately stopped short of the wire, yet it was such an intense battle. Tracer went every where. It was like a boil on the face of the night.

The next day, and for the next couple weeks, John Kopfer worked hard at every task that came his way. I know that for a fact because, for those two weeks, I was the airman's sergeant. John was mortally wounded by another rocket two hours later on the same afternoon that Rick was killed.

For years, I did not talk about either of them, nor what had happened that day, but I never forgot them.

The mission of the folks assigned to DXI was the combat news business. We reported about all the different types of USAF activity in Southeast Asia. We flew a lot, ourselves, hooking rides aboard such planes as AC-47s and later AC-119s, and we were out in the different corps areas on the ground with people using the air support we documented. In late February 1968, after Rick and John were killed, DXI had lost its capability in I Corps so I was sent up there for a TDY that included activity around the DaNang Air Base perimeter, inside Hue, up at Dong Ha, and even over at Khe Sanh for a couple days in late March during the 1968 siege. I corps was a nasty place; indeed, all of Vietnam was in 1968 — and 7AF Combat News teams saw a lot of it, in a lot of different situations and circumstances, some from the air and some from the ground, from one end of that war to the other. In covering the war, we saw a lot of very good people sacrifice so much.

The day I started talking to others about my friends, Rick and John, was when I saw they truly were being remembered in the right way. Their names are on panel 40-E of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC, the memorial designed by Maya Ying Lin. That memorial was dedicated in 1982. One of those present was a

Vietnam Vet by the name of John Devitt. He and some friends were so impressed by The Wall that they created half-scale models of it, on aluminum, that have toured the Nation ever since. The first of these, displaying the names of the more than 58,000 countrymen who fell in Southeast Asia, went on display in Tyler, Texas in 1984, and the next twenty years was set up on courthouse squares all over the Nation, including in Girard, Kansas, the Crawford County seat, located not far from Pittsburg. It was there in the early 1990s that Mr. Devitt learned that Pittsburg State University, a Kansas Board of Regents school, was considering the construction of a veterans memorial as a tribute to all vets.

This and that happened and it was not long before the foundation group doing the planning work found itself in possession of a very finely detailed half-scale model of what had become a national treasure. It took twelve years to bring all the plans to fruition, and to gather the money, find the architects, and line up university and community support. It was not an easy thing. When I first found out about what was planned, I was not impressed. That is because I remembered being a PSU student in 1969 and in the early 1970s when veterans of Vietnam were not welcomed and often not well treated. That is a fact. It struck me that all PSU was trying to do was to crassly cash in on the wave of patriotism sweeping the Nation after 9-11. Frankly, my first thought was political partisanship, and it made me very angry; so angry I went to a meeting of the Pittsburg City Council to argue against city support of the project.

But it was kind of hard to argue against the slow and steady manner of people like Jim AuBuchon and Jim Bishop, community leaders who were Vietnam vets themselves, and who continued to stay the course in development of the memorial. I discovered I believed them to be serious about the proposal, and for all the right reasons. It was not a politically partisan action, and it was not being done for the wrong reasons. Oh yes, lots of objections surfaced, like anti-war professors using it to continue their personal vendettas against those of us who served, and like it being isolated, not well policed, and simply a place where beer cans and skateboards would be plentiful. Quietly, forcefully, Bishop, AuBuchon and others of the foundation addressed the concerns as they kept what came to be a \$1-point-3 million dollar project on track. Incidentally, most of that \$1.3 million primarily came from private sources.

Construction started the summer of 2003, and the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial honoring all veterans of the Nation who served in all the services and in all the times of conflict and of uneasy peace in between them came into existence the spring of 2004.

Wichita architect J. Samuel Frey, AIA says that the Veterans Memorial is "...a permanent physical reminder that Pittsburg State University honors the individuals who answered the call to their country—the United States of America." This philosophy is further reinforced by the words carved on the eternal flame

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



tower upon which the “Moving Wall” (now part of a very solid concrete structure) is centered. Here is the quote: “Pittsburg State University honors our sons and daughters who answered the call of the Nation. We are ever grateful for their many sacrifices in peace and war, that freedom would prevail.”

A heavy thought, and all the more remarkable because of coming from an institution that had generally either ignored or else whose members had consciously and deliberately worked to the detriment of Vietnam veterans. At least some of them had.

But times change, people grow up, and because of people like Jim Bishop and Jim AuBuchon and so many others who served with them, fears of dishonor and abuse were put to rest as an amazing, quiet, restful, thoughtful place was created. Let me tell you about it.

First of all, location.

Look at a map. There is this major interstate highway (I-44) that serves as part of the important linkage between New York City and Los Angeles, California. It goes right through Joplin, Missouri which is about thirty miles from Pittsburg which also lies in almost equal distances, 150 miles or so, from Wichita and from Kansas City. When you get to Pittsburg, you will find a progressive and friendly city with all the amenities any traveler might need. The Memorial is located at 1909 South Rouse, on university property, across the street from a large and absolutely remarkable structure, the PSU Technology Center. Just to the south of the memorial is the site where a large Army National Guard Readiness Center is planned.

What you see first are mounds of earth with 50 state flags blowing in the Kansas breeze just above them. The mounds are actually two interlocking earthen crescent forms which amount to the formation of an earthen bowl. It is inside this bowl where the Moving Wall has been erected. Also inside it are bronze sculptures honoring all the Nation’s Veterans, commissioned to

and accomplished by Kansas artist Constance Ernatt. Also inside the bowl — a place of peace and reflection — is the tower of the eternal flame, a reflecting pool, and a 275 seat concrete amphitheater. Everything is oriented facing to the north to allow this Memorial to be presented in the same general context as the original Vietnam Wall in Washington.

Between the amphitheater and the reflecting pool is an area called the Walk of Honor, a place where there are engraved granite pavers honoring individual veterans. They are in two sizes, eight by eight and a foot square, and cost \$125 for the smaller one and \$250 for the larger one. A person wanting to have their name engraved, or a family member wishing to honor a departed individual, does not have to have an association with the university — just be a veteran! Right now there are about 1,800 of these and it is like reading a US Military History Book to browse among them. The proceeds from the pavers goes to the care and maintenance of the Memorial.

The entrance way to the bowl faces a large parking lot. Here there are flags of the USA, the State of Kansas, the university, and the very special flag remembering those who remain missing in action. Here are the five seals of the US Military Services, and also memorial benches and memorial tree plantings. The memorial is well lighted and well policed, with patrols of the University Police Department, a state police agency, frequently seen.

In the area of and near the Memorial, no smoking or use of other tobacco products is allowed, nor is food and drink permitted. Skateboards, bicycles, scooters and motor scooters are taboo, and this is properly enforced. The university has applied for a grant to establish a computerized informational kiosk at the site. The memorial is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and all events scheduled for the amphitheater must be compatible and in congruence with the overall purpose, and be properly reflective of the central values of duty, service and sacrifice.

Anyone desiring more information about the PSU Veterans Memorial can call the PSU Office of University Advancement at (620) 235-4762. Those desiring information about the pavers can call the PSU Office of University Development at (620) 235-4768. There is a site on line that can be accessed at www.psuvtmemorial.org for additional information and details. The director of the PSU Veterans Memorial is a former Vietnam War captain who has been in on this project from the start. That is Dr. Jim AuBuchon, PSU Vice President for University Advancement who is a retired USAR brigadier general. His phone number is (620) 235-4757 and his e-mail address is jaubucho@pittstate.edu.

This memorial was established on Memorial Day 2004. Former US Senator Bob Dole, who the day before had been in Washington DC to participate in the dedication of the Nation’s World War Two Memorial, had quickly boarded a flight after that ceremony and came home to Kansas, specifically to be the

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



keynote speaker at the dedication. This World War II hero spoke to an overflow crowd of more than 4,000 mostly mid western military veterans and their families. When he was finished speaking, there was not a dry eye in the crowd, nor among the many military members and veterans who had brought in static displays for the occasion.

I am glad I was wrong about the criticism initially given of the project because it is truly a winner. So as you drive on the interstate across the Nation, and find yourself in southwest Missouri, please remember the PSU Veterans Memorial, featuring the "Moving Wall," and come see us in Pittsburg,

Kansas ! You will be glad you made the trip.

RLTW, for the rest of us! —

ABOUT RICK FULTON

Rick Fulton is a retired civilian employee of the US Army. He was installation public affairs officer at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah when Ranger desert phase was conducted there in the mid-1980s. He enlisted in the Air Force when he was 17 and was a sentry dog handler in Libya and then at a SAC base, before re-enlistment and cross training into the information field. He spent 13 months as a journalist in Korea, then volunteered for photojournalism duty in Vietnam, serving not quite two years there, October 1967-September 1969. After active service, Rick attended Pittsburg State University, during which time he was an Infantryman in the Kansas Army National Guard. He later served in the Infantry squad of a cavalry troop of the Texas Army National Guard, and in PSYOP and Civil Affairs units of the United States Army Reserves. As an Army civilian, Rick was editor of the newspaper at Fort Leavenworth, Fort Hood newspaper editor, public information official for III Corps, and speech writer in Korea for several general officers. His Army Public Affairs career ended at Fort Jackson, South Carolina where he had served as chief of community and media relations. Now retired, he and his family live in Pittsburg, Kansas, and he works in Parsons as a part time community college history instructor.

30 Year Remembrance

BY: John Chester and Joe Little

Photos by John Chester & Joe Little

At 8:55 AM on April 30, 1975 the last Americans, 10 marines from the US Embassy departed Saigon, concluding the United States' presence in Viet Nam. North Vietnamese troops poured into Saigon while encountering little resistance. By 11:00 AM the red & blue flag of North Viet Nam flew from the presidential palace and President Duong Van Minh broadcast a message of unconditional surrender. At 11:30 AM NVA tanks smashed through the gates of the Presidential Palace. The war was over.

The Phoenix, Arizona Vietnamese community hosted a 30 year remembrance dinner on April 30, 2005. Attendees from the 75th RRA were Walt Saunders, Rod Wijas, Fred Fones, Joe Little and his wife Heidi and John Chester and his wife Mary Anne. Mike Martin, unit director of the BDQ was also in attendance. One of the original organizers of the event was a member of the Vietnamese Rangers, (BDQ). The next day there was a memorial

ceremony at the Phoenix Viet Nam Veterans memorial. Ross Perot was in attendance and spoke at the event. Below are some photographs of the events.



Joe Little and Ross Perot

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



John Chester, Mary Anne Colledge, Fred Fones and Walt Saunders



Joe Little and Mike Martin with 2 other former Rangers.



FREE DUES



ATTENTION ALL ACTIVE DUTY 75TH RANGER REGIMENT MEMBERS IN GRADE E-5 AND BELOW:

For a limited time, the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. is offering ONE (1) YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIPS to active duty 75th Ranger Regiment personnel in grade E-5 and below. Simply complete the membership application below and send to posted address NLT 30 Jun. '05. Your free membership will remain valid through 30 Jun. '06. DON'T DELAY ACTING ON THIS OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY!!



75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10970
Baltimore, MD 21234

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

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

UNITS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS

REMARKS: _____

VISA or MASTERCARD # _____ EXP. DATE: _____

CHECK ONE: NEW APPLICATION _____ RENEWAL _____ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER _____

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

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Roger Brown



By: Bill Acebes

I have a big pair of boots to fill – Ranger Roger Brown stepped up to the plate and took over as the Regiment Representative of this Organization. I will do my best for OUR organization. I will gladly accept any input/articles any of YOU may want to submit about the 1st Battalion.

The Battalion has returned from another deployment. They are preparing to go on Stand down which is justly deserved. They have been conducting Motorcycle run company get together's and in general getting equipment prepared for training.

Charlie Company reunion is scheduled for August in North Georgia – Ranger Ed Chamberlain is the point man for this. This activity is scheduled for 19-21 August.

TAOR is on Lake Hartwell between Toccoa and Lavonia off GA route 17. Saturday will be the primary operations day and night. Friday for travel and initial icebreaker and PCC, Sat main event, Sunday is AAR, recovery and travel. If you are interested, contact me at acebes175@hotmail.com and I will forward any new information that I have.

This year is the 25th Anniversary of Operation Eagle Claw (Desert One to some). As many of you now know, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion played a large role in that mission. Our hats are off to all of those who participated. Enjoy the many reunions that are taking place to commemorate the mission.

The Battalion Ball is scheduled for Friday, 3 June; followed by Ranger Rendezvous at Fort Benning in July.

Old Rangers have been gathering at Range Control Fort Stewart. Mike Etheridge, Ken Turner, Sam



Humes, Joe Caliguerrri, Ranger Foraker, Bill Acebes. We may change the name soon to RANGER CONTROL. The skills of these rangers are an asset preparing mobilizing units for deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Congratulations to this year's Ranger Hall of Fame inductees and former 1st Battalion rangers (Col Keneally; BG Grange; CSM Laye).

Ranger Pete Schetrompf and his wife Carol are doing great things in the Vietnam Veterans of America group. Carol is our local group's Secretary but is Georgia's State Vice President of Vietnam Veterans – Pete is tagging along on her coattails.

We (myself, Joe Caligiuire, Pete) are in contact with Ranger Steve Cochran, Bravo Company, 76-78. Steve was in an accident and is now a "mechanized" Ranger. He gets around pretty good and is happy to be back in contact with Rangers. Once in a while, we go to his house for lunch – and the stories and lies begin.

Until the next time; keep your powder dry and your hatchet sharp.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Rich Hecht



Ranger Russell Vanarsdale passed away of a heart attack on 24 February 2005. His wife, son and daughter of Gig Harbor, WA survive him.

Rich Hecht asked me to write a few words about the passing of Ranger Russ Vanarsdale. A lot of people knew Russ better than I did. They ranged with him when rangers wore OG 107s, did HALO ops with him when there was a battalion HALO team. They jumped into combat with him in 89. I didn't know Russ until I had been out of the Army for over 5 years. I came across Ranger Mac McElrath's web page last year. He had posted that Russ was looking for help in raising funds for the 2004 Ranger Ball. I called Russ and offered my help. When you talk to Russ you remember that life may take the scroll off your shoulder, but never out of your heart. Russ was determined to make sure that when Battalion returned from combat operations, Ranger Ball was going to be taken care of. Russ made it happen. Rangers and their guests attended the ball for free. Not a small task to finance a formal affair for about 1,000 people. For all that he did, Russ was recognized by COL Bailey and awarded a bayonet captured from Iraq and a Commander/CSM coin of Ranger Excellence. Russ then gave the bayonet and coin to my wife, telling her that she had done more to support the ball than he had. Russ was a man who never stopped living the creed. Even after the Army he made it his mission to serve his fellow Rangers and their families.

Russ's next project was to provide bronze memorial markers for SGT Blessing and CPL Tillman, both KIA in the war on terror. Just prior to his death Russ was in the process of procuring a memorial wall on the quad for all 2/75 Rangers killed in action and training.



As life goes on I tend to forget the hardships of being a Ranger. Whenever I talked to Russ he reminded me how blessed I was to have had the honor and privilege to serve as and be in the presence of Rangers.

Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan to get 16 Strykers

By Sean D. Naylor
Times staff writer

The Army is giving 16 Stryker vehicles to the 75th Ranger Regiment for use in Afghanistan later this year. This is the first time that the medium-weight, wheeled armored vehicle has been fielded to a unit other than one of the six formations designated to become "Stryker Brigade Combat Teams," or SBCTs. The Stryker has been used extensively in Iraq, but the Rangers' deployment to Afghanistan will mark the first occasion that the Stryker has seen action in that country.

The 75th Ranger Regiment is the Army's most elite airborne infantry outfit. It is headquartered at Fort Benning, Ga., and its three battalions are stationed at Fort Benning, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and Fort Lewis,

Wash.

"The Rangers have been looking to upgrade for some time and now, during the war, is a great opportunity," said a senior special operations officer. "I don't see it as a mission change, just another tool to prosecute the mission from a protected, versatile mobility platform." The Rangers have seen the value of the Stryker in urban operations when working side-by-side with Stryker units in Iraq, the officer said.

In a brief interview on Feb. 18 at the Association of the U.S. Army winter symposium in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Gen. Bryan Brown, head of U.S. Special Operations Command, emphasized that the initiative did not reflect a larger shift toward armored vehicle operations on the part of the Rangers. No decision on whether to expand the initiative beyond the initial 16 Strykers would be taken before 2/75 returned from Afghanistan and the command had a chance to evaluate the lessons learned from the deployment, he said.

Despite the sudden demand for 16 of the vehicles for the Rangers, the Army plans to keep all other units on schedule to receive their Strykers, although it's not clear how exactly that will be accomplished.

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

Unit Director - John R. Edmunds



3rd Ranger Battalion LTC John T. Keneally Memorial Edition

3d Ranger Battalion, Unit Director.

I would like to take this opportunity to honor LTC Keneally for his dedication and sacrifice for our country. We are truly blessed to live in a nation where men and women like LTC Keneally give their all for our freedom and security.

LTC Keneally is a former Commander of 3d Ranger Battalion and lost his life on a training mission. LTC Keneally be will inducted into the Ranger Hall Of Fame on 7 July 2005.

In this issue of Patrolling magazine we are highlighting three areas of recognition for 3d Ranger Battalion and the departure ceremony for RSM Birch, a former 3d Ranger Battalion CSM.

I want thank Ms. Kimberly Laudano, 75th Ranger Regiment PAO; SSG Bartucca, 3d Ranger Battalion S-5; and the USASOC news service for their contribution to the Patrolling magazine.

RLTW

John R. Edmunds

3d Ranger Battalion soldiers recognized for combat service in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Rangers Lead The Way, John Edmunds

RELEASE NUMBER: 050310-02

DATE POSTED: March 10, 2005

Army Rangers recognized for outstanding combat service

By Kim Laudano

75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs Office

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, March 10, 2005) — Three awards for combat valor were among those presented to Army Rangers during a ceremony here March 8. Brig. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, commanding general, U.S. Army Infantry Center, recognized eight Rangers with combat awards, including a Bronze Star Medal with valor device, two Army Commendation Medals with valor devices, two Bronze Star Medals, two Joint Service Commendation Medals, a Department of the Air Force Commendation Medal and a Department of the Navy Commendation Medal. All the Soldiers are assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment here. The awards recognized the Rangers for accomplishments during missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and



Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“It is an honor to represent the Army in presenting these awards to the Rangers here today,” said Freakley. “The 75th Ranger Regiment sets the standard for the Army to follow and the justification for these awards is representative of how the Rangers continue to lead the way in combat.”

A Ranger team sergeant was presented the Bronze Star with Valor device for actions during a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to his award citation, the Ranger’s leadership under fire helped defeat a coordinated enemy attack on an objective.

A Ranger team leader was presented an Army Commendation Medal with Valor device for actions during a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to his award citation, the Ranger’s actions and courage under direct enemy fire assisted his fellow comrades to defend their position against a numerically superior force. His decisiveness and quick actions ensured that the Rangers will never leave a fallen comrade. A Ranger was presented an Army Commendation Medal with Valor device for actions during a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to his award citation, the Ranger’s action and courage under direct enemy fire assisted his fellow comrades to initiate accurate and lethal fire into an unsuspecting numerically superior enemy force.

Also in attendance was Lt. Col. Jeff Bannister, deputy commander, 75th Ranger Regiment. He said it is not only important to recognize the overall contributions of the 75th Ranger Regiment to the Global War on Terrorism, but also the individual acts of valor and achievement.

“So much of what Rangers do in support of the Global War on Terrorism goes untold because of the nature of our job in the special operations community,” Bannister said. “These ceremonies are an opportunity to remind Rangers that we know they are working hard, making significant contributions and that we truly appreciate their hard work and dedication.”

“The heart and dedication of our Rangers is what continues to make this organization successful in the missions we support for the Global War on Terrorism,” Bannister added. “These Rangers have deployed multiple times with the regiment and are continuing to make significant contributions to the success of the missions we support. Their actions in combat reflect their commitment to this nation.”

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

At the request of the Soldiers who received the awards, their names have been withheld.

3d Ranger Battalion soldiers win team match in All-Army Small Arms Championships.

Rangers Lead The Way, John Edmunds

RELEASE NUMBER: 050318-01

DATE POSTED: MARCH 18, 2004

Rangers win team match in All-Army Small Arms Championships

By Paula J. Randall Pagán

U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Accessions Support Brigade

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, March 18, 2005) — Four sniper platoon Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment were victorious in the first team match of the All-Army Small Arms Championships here March 16.

The team of Staff Sgt. Jared Van Aalst, Staff Sgt. Robby D. Johnson, Sgt. Joel S. Micholick and Spc. Michael G. Kase won the Sergeant Major of the Army Rifle Team Match with a score of 819 points out of a possible 1,000 points.

Van Aalst had the highest individual score of the 120 competitors in the rifle team match scoring 231 points out of a possible 250. He also took second place, only one point behind the winner, in the Open Category match March 14 and third place in the Chief of Staff of the Army Rifle Match March 15.

Individual Rangers have also placed in Novice Category matches. Pfc. Lee L. Vampola, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, won the match on March 14, scoring 208 points. Micholick took a close second scoring 206 points. Micholick then took first place in the same category on March 15, scoring 197.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is hosting the All-Army Small Arms Championships in conjunction with the U.S. Army Infantry Center through March 24. The two-week competition includes rifle, pistol and long-range events.

A copy of the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship schedule is available on the USAMU website at <http://www.usamu.com>.

3d Ranger Battalion awarded for Combat Streamer in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Rangers Lead The Way, John Edmunds

RELEASE NUMBER: 050413-01

DATE POSTED: APRIL 13, 2005

Ranger battalion awarded combat streamer

By Kim Laudano

75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs Office

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, April 13, 2005) — The 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment was awarded a combat streamer for their contributions in support of the Global War on Terrorism during a ceremony here April 7.

Combat streamers recognize a unit's actions and contributions during combat, explained Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Walker, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. The streamer will be carried with the battalion colors and company guidons for a year when operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism conclude.

Each company was also awarded a combat streamer. This marked the third combat streamer for Company B, 3rd Ranger Battalion since 1984. Company B was previously awarded a combat streamer for contributions in support of operations in Somalia.

Outgoing regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Alfred Birch presented the unit streamer to Walker. Birch also presented each company's streamer to their first sergeants.

Walker said it was fitting that Birch presented the streamer to the battalion and to its companies because Birch led 3rd Ranger Battalion as command sergeant major during the battalion's first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This was only the second time the entire battalion was awarded a combat streamer since the unit's inception in 1984. The first combat streamer was for contributions in support of Operation Just Cause in Panama.



CSM Walker, CSM 3D Ranger Battalion and RSM Birch, RSM 75th Ranger Regiment during ceremony.

RSM Birch used the 5 B's in public speaking, "Be Brief Brother Be Brief." RSM Birch commented that his service with 3d Ranger Battalion was the highlight of his career



LTC Castles, Commander 3d Ranger Battalion present RSM Birch with the Order of Saint Maurice.



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

Unit Director - Tom Brizendine



No Submission



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson



We have some news from the hinterlands... one of the primary reasons that some of our commo has been down is that Ranger Stutsman has been out of communication for a while with a little bit of cancer. He had large areas of melanoma removed from his head, and has had other priorities than getting his computer operational again. Richard is ok, but will miss the reunion. Contact the unit director for his new (unlisted) phone number, if desired.

Ed White has opened his potter's shop and kiln, and is expanding the number of galleries where his work is shown. He is recovering well from his shoulder surgery, but due to time constraints in getting all this going, Ed was unable to attend the reunion last year, and will, unfortunately, miss it again this year.

VII Corps LRRPS held a reunion in the Washington area, reported on here separately by Kirk Gibson.

REUNION UPDATE:

We know that several of you are headed to Operation Homecoming, and as such will not be attending the RRA reunion this year. For the rest of you, please check the website if you are interested, or look for the reunion info elsewhere in this issue of Patrolling. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

The website has a link to the reunion registration on the front page.

REFORGER, 1971 (as told by DirtyEddie White):

In the fall of 1971, B/75 was deployed to Germany for the REFORGER exercises as part of the VII Corps forces. This REFORGER exercise was the first in which B Company was deployed to Europe for the US (according to my information), and involved a lot of recent returnees for Vietnam newly assigned to the company. Half the company was assigned to the opposing forces (OPFOR), and half to the VII Corps defending forces. Exercise participants were to wear identifying armbands (either orange or blue), to differentiate them while in the field. This article primarily covers one patrol involved in the exercise, which included Ed White, Joe Griesi, Art Osier, Rangers Murray and Norton.

After arriving in Europe, the company was quartered in tents in the woods, and after a week or so without a shower, they smelled pretty ripe, according to some of the participants. After this first week in the woods, the teams were given an opportunity for a shower, and were trucked to a shower point. Ed White was the patrol leader, and instructed the team to secure armbands, which would identify them as members of both the defending and opposing forces. His instructions were... "I don't care how you do it, but get a full set of the armbands from both sides, so we can move with impunity, if we have to." The shower point presented a perfect opportunity to fulfill their instructions, and upon their departure, they were armed with a full-team set of armbands from both sides in the exercise.

Once the exercise began, the patrol was deployed to the field with instructions to proceed to a particular set of map coordinates, observe, and record bumper numbers. The team "would be laying dog on the side of the roads to do it..." until they received instructions to proceed to another set of coordinates and repeat the same activity. They had been in the field for about 3 days or so and were on a half-moon shaped hillside with a large sandy area at the bottom observing the area. Near mid-morning, a large number of vehicles began to arrive and deploy near the sandy area, and soon afterwards a chopper landed with an identifying 3 stars on it. A jeep arrived at the chopper, retrieved some of the occupants and departed. The chopper, vehicles, and forces at the bottom of the hill were part of the 1st Infantry Division, the forces on the "other side" for the REFORGER exercise.

Now, being Rangers, and not ones to pass up such a golden opportunity to observe the enemy forces at closer range, the team changed their armbands to the same color as the forces at the bottom of the hill, left their position, and strolled down to talk to the crew of the chopper. Once they had engaged the helicopter crew in conversation, they informed the crew that they were now the team's prisoners, and disarmed them. Upon receipt of this information the pilot commented, "Oh, this is going to be really funny...." and chuckled, and sat back to watch the developments.

The team had been running low on water, so Joe Griesi took

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

advantage of the opportunity to flag down a deuce-and-a-half water truck passing by, they refilled their canteens, and they now had plenty of water. About that time, a jeep arrived with the G2 CSM for the 1ST Infantry Division, so the team captured him too, and he was, in their words... “madder than a hornet...”

Not too long afterwards, the original jeep, which had departed the chopper with some of the arriving occupants, was observed returning to the area. The team deployed, standing, on either side of the road, and awaited its arrival. There were two primary occupants of the jeep, Lieutenant General Mearns (the Problem Commander, in charge of the Exercise that year), and Brigadier General Flanagan, commander of the 1ST Infantry Division. As they drove up in the jeep, BG Flanagan was saying to LTG Mearns “I don’t know why we have these blankety-blank Rangers here... don’t know why we brought them over... they haven’t done a thing so far...”

Joe Griesi had served under General Flanagan previously, and was not overly fond of the General (and vice-versa), so he said to PL White... “Let me do the talking... I’ve been waiting a long time for this...”

The jeep rolled up to the Rangers, slowed, and the Generals were informed of something to the effect of “... we’re some of those blanking Rangers you were just talking about, Sir, and you are our prisoners...”

General Flanagan apparently did not receive this news well, and began to discolor, as he replied... “How can you people be here?... How come I didn’t know you were here?...” He was, evidently, not particularly happy with being taken prisoner in the middle of his own TOC area.

PL White informed the Generals that the team would be requisitioning the helicopter in order to effect a rapid departure from the area with their most important prisoners, since their position was now compromised. General Mearns then told the Patrol Leader...

“Now, listen Sergeant, I’m all in favor of your actions here, but I can’t let you take the chopper...” ...Because General Mearns was there, he considered that he and General Flanagan were in “administrative mode”, and he had other duties to attend to as the Problem Commander, which required the use of the helicopter. General Mearns then wrote an official note, which essentially got BG Flanagan off the hook for being captured in the middle of his own TOC, and provided it to both the General and the Rangers.

The team did, however, liberate General Mearns and Flanagan’s stars from their uniforms, as well as the chevrons from the G2 CSM, and secured a one-over-everything map from the pilot, and informed General Mearns that they would then E&E on foot from the area. General Mearns secured General Flanagan’s agreement that he would give the Ranger team a two-hour head start before deploying his forces to capture them. As the team

studied the map, they indicated to each other that they would head north towards the woodline, and further north from there.

After the negotiations were over, the team departed the area with their newly-acquired stars and chevrons, canteens full, and headed north into the woodline. Once concealed from view, they promptly doubled back and headed south, away from the route the enemy forces expected they would take. There was however, one minor deficiency in their gear. Ranger Murray was stung by a bee, and was found to be highly allergic to bee stings (this was determined because Ranger Murray proceeded to go into anaphylactic shock, and couldn’t breathe). No one had known that Murray was allergic, or they would have been carrying an additional bee-sting kit, but now they needed to treat him immediately. The team returned to a nearby road, flagged down a passing jeep, and informed the occupants that it was a medical emergency, and they needed to get the Ranger to a hospital posthaste. The jeep promptly took them to the 1ST Division’s field hospital, where they got Ranger Murray treated, secured his gear, and proceeded to quietly survey and reconnoiter the TOC.

Since half the Ranger Company had been assigned to each of the forces in the exercise, Lt. Harris from the Ranger Company was one of those assigned to the other side... and he was there in the TOC, but gave no sign to anyone that he recognized them, or that anything was out of place. It was about this time that General Flanagan radioed his HQ (in this TOC) that he had been captured by a bunch of Rangers, and that his unit needed to go out and capture them, with his anticipated course of their movement north from the TOC. The TOC came alive with a flurry of activity, with plans made and units being dispatched to find the Ranger team that had captured the General and Sergeant Major, and the Patrol was promptly detailed to be one of the units that would scour the surrounding area for the offending Ranger team.

According to Ed White... “We never did manage to find ourselves, no matter how hard we looked, so after a while, we gave up. We booked, and headed to Heidelberg, where our HQ was, and reported in. And, it seems that it never occurred to those guys that we were running around changing armbands as necessary to ensure our safety and freedom of movement. To Lt. Harris’s credit, he never did say a thing to anyone at that TOC about us ...”

After they arrived in Heidelberg and reported in, the First Sergeant (1SG Gooden) put them in an area where they could crash, and let them know that Murray was OK....

There was a large shower area at the rest area, and as PL White was in taking a shower to remove the field grime, there was a Lt. Col. in the shower talking about the Rangers who had captured General Flanagan... including the comment “...you KNOW they’re out looking for THAT guy...”. Ed laughed, finished his shower, and left.

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

EPILOGUE

This was the same exercise when, after the exercise was over, the Rangers were “relaxing” at the E1-9 club in Grafenvohr, and got into a slight altercation with the same 1st Infantry troops. There have been many stories repeated over the years from people who were present in the club, both from the Ranger Company, as well as the 1st ID. As one (unnamed) attendee from the 1st ID said ... “those stinkin’ Rangers are crazy...all I wanted to do was get out of there as quick as possible, but there were a lot of bodies in my way...”

In the interest of brevity, and because we have been asked to include something about the E-club altercation in the magazine, here are some of the highlights... The company was living in tents after the conclusion of the exercise. A Group of the EM headed down to the club for a few beers, after having played a rather vigorous game of football against the 1st ID guys earlier in the day (Ed White needed 8 or 9 stitches to his face after that game).

After entering the club and setting up some tables as a group, there were some minor “food fight” and other activities, which displeased the local hosts. An MP approached 1SG Gooden, and informed him that his black beret was not authorized headgear in the European theater. So the 1SG stood up, put his beret on, and asked “are you gonna take it off of me...(young man)...?”, whereupon the MP declined to do so, and beat a hasty retreat out the door. As time went on, there were large amounts of beer consumed, and everyone was looking forward to returning to Ft. Carson after the exercise.

The club held about 250 people, and about 60-70 of the occupants were Rangers. Some of the 3rd Platoon boys set up one of the company sweatshirts on the back of a chair facing a table, and were chanting ditties such as “Legs s**k...”, and other things designed to endear them to the 1stID attendees at the club. After this, and several other provocations, tensions began to run a little high, and the Sergeant-at-Arms for the club took SFC Tichenor (Whispering Pines) aside, into his office, and asked “... sergeant, can’t you control your people...?”... whereupon Whispering Pines, being in need of relief, proceeded to return some of the liquid refreshments into the desk drawer of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and asserted that he thought their people were being controlled just fine.

After he returned to the body of the club, one thing led to another, and it started. As the fight continued, the 1stID guys were getting the worst of it, and the MP’s came charging in the front door of the club, nightsticks drawn. Once they saw what was going on, they returned their nightsticks to their rings and backed out the door of the club, to await and gather up the participants outside as they departed.

Ranger Housemans was later discovered outside the back door of

the club with a large pile of unconscious bodies at the bottom of the steps... it seems that if anyone attempted to E&E out the back, the promptly dispatched them to the pile. There was also one of the go-go dancers from the club in the pile, but nobody could ever get Housemans to admit that he had dispatched her accidentally along with the rest of the fleeing infantrymen.

The MP’s had driven to the club in their sedans, and Ranger Hensley was quietly walking around liberating their keys from the vehicles, tossing them onto the adjoining golf course, so that as they left they would have no operational transportation.

The company had sent a group of trucks over to the club, so all the Rangers were collected into that set of trucks, and when full, returned to the company bivouac area.

PAYBACK

Needless to say, the 1st ID was not all that pleased with the Ranger’s assistance in the exercise, and as the company got ready to return to the States, a senior NCO and junior officer showed up at the bivouac area. They had been using kerosene stoves for cooking during the exercise, and were told that leaking kerosene had contaminated the area, and no-one could leave until the contamination was remediated.

So, the company made it into a game. All the contaminated soil was scooped up into 30-gallon metal trash cans, and the men made it into a relay race to see who could clean there area and replace the removed soil with new, clean soil the fastest.

The visitors stood and watched the whole exercise unbelievably, seeing their plans to delay the unit’s departure

dissipate. In the meantime, Charlie Burtnett and Ed White relieved the visitor’s jeep of several dozen doughnuts, which were stored in the back, and distributed them to the troops after the departure of the environmentally conscious delegation. They then boarded the plane to the States.



Recon patrol that captured “enemy” general during Exercise REFORGER in the fall of 1971. (left to right) back row, Rangers White, Griesi — holding 3-star rank pin from LTG Mearns, Murray — holding 1st ID CSM chevrons. Front row, Ranger Norton, umpire Noonan and Ranger Osier.

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

VII Corps LRRPs hold Sixth Reunion

On May 11-14, 2005 the VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) Assn. held its sixth reunion in Arlington, VA, just outside Washington, DC. As a tribute to the man who founded the company and served as its first CO, the reunion was dubbed, "A Salute to Colonel Maltese." Col Maltese and his wife Jane, who live in nearby Alexandria, were the honored attendees, and over the course of the few days we were there, they recalled many humorous stories of their years with the LRRPs. Those who served under him and after he departed all got to hear first hand what it took to form the company, steal Airborne soldiers from other Airborne outfits such as the 504 and 505, secure equipment and transportation and establish training facilities all over Europe.

Our field HQ and R&R area was the Days Inn Arlington, just outside of Ft. Myer. From there the thirty-odd LRRPs and wives reconnoitered the major war memorials in Washington, DC, Arlington National Cemetery, the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue), and the 3d Infantry Regiment "Old Guard" Museum and Caisson facilities at Ft. Myer. The DC area proved to be a true test of the navigational skills we all learned as LRRPs. We once again proved to ourselves that there are many ways to reach our destination, but somehow we always arrived on target on time.

After visiting the WWII and Korean War Memorials, we assembled near "The Wall" at the statue of three Vietnam War soldiers, where we held a memorial for the twelve VII Corps LRRPs who gave their lives in that conflict. After each name was called out three times, one of us responded with the name as "killed in action" on the date of his death and a small flag, bearing his name, was placed in a wreath at the base of the statue. The service was conducted by pastor and former LRRP Dewayne Stutler, assisted by some school children in the vicinity who served as bearers of the Colors, and by LRRP Sam Storey, who sang a hymn. It was a solemn occasion which attracted several passers by, all of whom left misty-eyed.

At the Marine Corps Memorial on Wednesday, a ceremony had just concluded, and we had the opportunity to talk with some of the Marines dressed in their pretty dress uniforms. One of them, MSG Goodwyn, invited us to come to the Evening Parade at the

Washington Marine Barracks which we accepted, not really knowing what to anticipate. However, after an unexpectedly long excursion through what must have been most of DC, we finally arrived at the Barracks where we were escorted to the grandstand. Just before the parade, which included the famous Marine Corps "Silent Drill," we were asked to move, and were escorted to the VIP seating area, and afterward were invited to the Staff NCO Club for snacks and drinks. The whole experience was a complete treat!

Among our attendees were



LRRP Wreath at base of Vietnam Memorial

several of the "original" LRRPs who served under former Major Maltese, including our first COMMO Officer, Col (RET) E. D. Bingham, who rode his Harley up from Alabama! Other originals were Theo Knaak, Rowe Attaway, Jim Craig, Jim Handlin, Bill Hill, Dick Roach, Joe Touchon and Don Wagaman. Also present were Col (RET) Ed Mitchell, who served as VII Corps liaison to the LRRP Co., Col (RET) Ed Jentz, who commanded the 3rd ID LRRPs in the early 1960's, and Mrs. Betty Garbers, widow of Maj (RET) Frank Garbers, first Operations Officer and later CO of the VII Corps LRRP Co. On Thursday evening we honored Col Maltese at a dinner in the Rathskeller of the Old Europe Restaurant in DC, reminiscent of many of the places we all knew in Germany. The evening was comprised of wonderful German food, many toasts and stories, some singing of German drinking songs inspired by appropriate beverages, and the presentation of a framed certificate of appreciation to Col. Maltese. On Saturday afternoon, Col and Mrs. Maltese hosted us for lunch at the Hunan Royale Restaurant in Alexandria, and back to their house for a few drinks afterward. In true LRRP fashion, we "left no beer behind," and retreated to our field HQ for the evening.

The morning was crisp and clear as I dressed for the ride to honor those who are lost. I put on my leather vest. It also honors a lost hero veteran, my Dad, Joe Gawronski. My Father was a tail gunner on a B-24 that flew the 'Hump' to support Merrell's Marauders in the China-Burma-India Theater. He is now flying in that BIG B-24 in the sky. I wear his CBI from his leather jacket, with his Silver Gunnery Wings above the patch. I was a Tail gunner in 1st Platoon in Charlie Rangers. Reflecting the Military over the years, my Fathers ~ Mind ~ in conflicts ~ the hundreds of years of Warfare (thanks to the History Channel). The times...the places... the

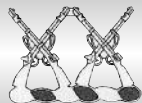


Colonel Maltese with his LRRPs

MISSING...POW/MIA...the number is staggering! The History of the National League of POW/MIA Families' and the

At our Association business meeting on Saturday morning, we covered several topics which will be sent to all members. Among the most important issues were the adoption of Fisher House (see <http://www.fisherhouse.org/>) as our designated charity, and the decision of Colorado Springs, CO as the site of next year's reunion. The VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) reunion broke camp on Sunday morning, taking nothing but more nice memories with us. We look forward to next year, and hope that many who have not yet been able to attend one will come and enjoy it as much as this year's first timers.

See you on the Drop Zone!



C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Steve 'Doc' Gove



The morning was crisp and clear as I dressed for the ride to honor those who are lost. I put on my leather vest. It also honors a lost hero veteran, my Dad, Joe Gawronski. My Father was a tail gunner on a B-24 that flew the 'Hump' to support Merrell's Marauders in the China-Burma-India Theater. He is now flying in that BIG B-24 in the sky. I wear his CBI from his leather jacket, with his Silver Gunnery Wings above the patch.

I was a Tail gunner in 1st Platoon in Charlie Rangers. Reflecting the Military over the years, my Fathers ~ Mind ~ in conflicts ~ the hundreds of years of Warfare (thanks to the History Channel). The times...the places... the MISSING...POW/MIA...the number is staggering! The History of the National League of POW/MIA Families' and the POW/MIA Flag is not known by many, (Hell, I did NOT know) even us Veterans. In 1971 Mrs. Michael Hoff, wife of a MIA and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. She was prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida Times. Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Amin & Company which had made the banner for the newest member of the United Nations, The People's Republic of China, as part of their policy to provide flags to all United Nations Members States. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, and, he alone with Amin's advertising agency designed a flag to represent our missing men. Following the League's approval, the flag was manufactured for distribution. March 9, 1989, an Official League flag, which flew over the White House on 1988, POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the US Capital rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of a bipartisan Congressional support, the leaders of both Houses' hosted the installation ceremony On August 10, 1990. The 101st Congress passed US Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA Flag and described it *"as a symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of the Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation"*

My mind was sorta numb as I sat astride my bike as it was warming up. The ride to Columbus was uneventful, really, nonexistent as I headed to the Rally Point. About a hundred bikes were parked as I idled across the parking lot, and shown where to park. I picked up my T-shirt and ambled up the steps of the stadium. The Post Chaplin Blessed us and all the POW/MIAs

that were not accounted for. The Rangers put on one hell of a demonstration. SGM Jan Stegeman *a Harley Rider too* gave us the route and some last minute instruction. We fired up the bikes and headed towards FT. Benning! About two hundred fifty of all description headed down the road escorted by the different police

units from the military, local, and across the river. IT'S really a GREAT feeling to be BEHIND the flashing blue lights, and not seeing them in MY rear view mirror!! The MP's escorted us through Ft. Benning ~ past the Jump Towers ~ Air-Borne Memorial ~ the CG's home. ON Veterans Highway we crossed the Chattahoochee River and the Phoenix City Police escorted us through town, and the future site of the third POW/MIA Memorial site. Returning to Columbus the ride ended at the Government Building down town Columbus, Georgia. This is the site for the first of three monuments dedicated to our POW/MIAs.

Comments were made by the Commanding General of Ft. Benning, BG Benjamin C. Freakley. The Mayor of Columbus, Mayor Robert S. Poydasheff. The Command Sergeant

Major of the US Army Infantry School, CSM Mike Kelso. Last was the President of the Ft. Benning Sergeants Major Association, SGM Jan Stegeman ~ the driving force for the Tri-Community POW/MIA Freedom Ride.

SGM Jan Stegeman~YOU DID GOOD!!

The Bugler from the Ft. Benning Infantry Center played "Taps" ~ END OF CEREMONIES

Footnote: A lot of the rides that supported this event **are** retired military.



**D/75****Unit Director - John Kingeter***No Submission***E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP****Unit Director - Robert Copeland**

By Bob Copeland

Well the reunion is over and it was the biggest yet and we all had a great time in Orlando. Emory and Shirley Parrish along with Ken Mellick and both their families and friends made this an outstanding reunion. On behalf of the unit members, families and friends I wish to express my appreciation to all those who made this a reunion to remember!! Our thanks also go out to all the business in the Orlando area who contributed to this event!! I will be sending out personal letters to all our donors and friends who contributed to the success of this not to be forgotten event.

Tyrone Muse organized and conducted the Memorial Service and once again did an outstanding job!! Brent Gulick gave some insightful comments on men who served and made the ultimate sacrifice. Rangers such as Bob Bryan and Mark Toschik both KIA in 1970 and gave us pause for reflection on all our KIA's who gave their all and then some. Rick Stetson read the Roll Call and the unit members who were stand ins replied "HERE SIR" and approached the Memorial where they lighted a candle in their memory and then delivered a slow salute before breaking off. Tyrone asked in his address that we all bow our heads and remember all our fallen comrades and deceased unit members at the opening of the ceremony. As always it was a solemn occasion with tears being shed by many in remembrance of these HONORED WARRIORS. Some came early and some came late to this ceremony and we all must understand that those who came late had no intention of being irreverent. It is extremely difficult for some of our members to attend the memorial ceremony as emotions run high. Some stand outside the door and enter only when they feel that they have prepared themselves emotionally to deal with this heart wrenching event and the memories that flood back into their minds which are painful and emotionally upsetting. Our KIA's are honored as they gave their lives up to the sacrifice while others returned home and suffered untimely demises. Many of our members received wounds to their bodies from shrapnel and gunshot and received a purple heart to honor their sacrifice in battle and continue to this day to suffer from these wounds, while others received wounds from which they will never, heal, to their minds and emotional well being by way of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The combat of war and the

stressful and emotional events have touched us all in one way or another and we must remember not only those who we respectfully honor at the Memorial Ceremony, who gave the ultimate sacrifice, but also all those who served and were wounded either physically or emotionally, or both and continue to fight the war even 35 years after the fall of the Republic of South Vietnam. The next time you see one of our members or family members enter the Memorial Ceremony late, approach him or her, take their hand and welcome them and quietly and sincerely thank them for coming!! Life is not always run by the time, on the watch, on the wrist, but also by the internal clock, which tells that person, that they are ready to take that hesitant first step. I trust this will help to answer the question of timing voiced to me by a few members at the reunion and I wish to thank them for bring this to my attention so that I had the opportunity to address this in more fully, in thoughtful detail.

The business meeting went well and within the allowed time limit. I expressed my desire to have anyone who was attending and serious about running for the Unit Director to put their name forward but none were forthcoming. I am honored to serve the Company E members having been elected for another term of two years but must, as I stated at this reunion, respectfully decline any further nominations.

"Please start planning now for putting names forward at the 2006 Reunion for a new Unit Director." I was first elected as Unit Director at the Dallas Reunion so this will be my 4th term of office. I hope over the coming two years to nominate fallen unit KIA's to the US MOUNTAIN RANGER ASSOC., "FALLEN RANGER MEMORIAL" as well as present more Gold Star Mother Certificates in honor of our fallen comrades. Both Jonesy and I will continue to seek out our missing unit members with your help and hopefully copies of orders which we hope you will locate and send along to us. We will also continue to stress the importance of contributing to the Ranger Family Fund so that we continue to lead the way within the 75th Ranger Regt. Assoc. We will also encourage you to join the 75th Ranger Regt. Assoc as their is strength in numbers. Further duties will include 75th Ranger Regt. Patrolling Articles as well as attending reunions and doing Assoc. business as a Unit Director, etc. etc. The next Reunion will be held in Orlando again with Ken Mellick as Point Man and Emory and Shirley Parrish assisting them. The Reunion for 2009 will be held in



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

California with Ron Tessensohn as Point Man.

I wish to congratulate Jonesy on being once again elected to the office of Unit Secretary/Treasurer and of course Newsletter Editor. Well done Jonesy and thanks for all you have done over all the preceding years of service to the Unit!!

Having put to sea in two separate fishing boats we were able to return to the hospitality room with a sizable catch of fish from both boats 1 and 2. The hotel prepared the catch and it was eaten by the reunion attendees.

The Banquet was a great success and I believe there were 107 people present (Jonesy will publish the exact number). The M/C was our own Roy Barley (past President of the 75th Ranger Regt. Assoc.) who did a stellar job!! Roy also, along with past 75th RGR Regt. Presidents Roy Nelson, Rick Ehrler and Terry Roderick(P Co.), presented a Gold Star Mother Certificate on behalf of KIA Joseph P. Castagna to his brother and sister,(Mother of Joseph deceased). This was a moving experience for all present and I later expressed the Units pleasure in having the siblings of our fallen comrade and their families join our Ranger/Lrp/Lrrp Family and attend all reunions and events as family members. Roy Barley had accompanied Joe's sister at the Memorial Service to light a candle and Honor her brother. This too was a moving event!

Thanks were expressed by me to all the donors who supported the Reunion and especially Emory and Shirley Parrish, Ken Mellick and Tyrone Muse, to whom I presented limited edition Wild Life Prints-"Lone Survivor" by John Hebert, Artist, as a personal gift from myself and my wife Catherine. I also expressed thanks as well to their families and friends who assisted them and donated to the reunion. A special thankyou went out to Cindy, daughter of Emory and Shirley Parrish for manning the door to the hospitality room and selling tickets for the draws at the Banquet. Flowers were presented by Tyrone Muse to Shirley Parrish, signed copies of a design used for the reunion T shirts designed by Ron Tessensohn were presented by him to myself, Jonesy Jones, Emory and Shirley Parrish and Tyrone Muse. At the closing of the ceremony I expressed our appreciation for all that Roy Barley had done in his capacity of Master of Ceremonies. Unit Members and their families returned to the Hospitality Room and patio area for some drinks and comradery.

On Sunday morning many people ment in the Ramada Plaza and Inn Restaurant to have breakfast and say their farewell. HOOAH!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

Well that's all the news I have for now so stay safe and I hope all have a safe trip home! To all our sick or injured members we hope you get well soon. To the Vessels family we express our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of this fine Ranger/Lrp/Lrrp.

To Emmett Hiltibrand outgoing President of the 75th Ranger Regt. Assoc. we thank you for all your hard work and wish you

a well deserved retirement!!

Rick Stetson read a letter from Joan Bellwood, addressed to all E Co. members, as well as family and friend attendees, at the banquet, expressing her gratitude to all, for welcoming her and her family into our Ranger Family. Joan expressed in the letter how much we all have come to mean to her and her family, which I am sure touched all present. Thank you Joan for having Rick pass on to us kind words and thoughts, which I can say, we wholeheartedly reciprocate. Please accept our thanks to you, your son Erik and of course your Gold Star Mother Catherine, we missed you all at our gathering this year and hope to see you all at the next Reunion in Orlando in 2007!!

Thanks go our to all those who donated Silent Auction items during the Reunion which added considerable cash to our Unit Fund. You know who you are and the names are too numerous to list, your great people, HOOAH!! RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

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





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

Unit Director - Joe Little



Well men, we are gearing up for another Rendezvous in Columbus, GA. Hope everyone has plans on showing up, and possibly meeting someone we have not seen for many years which seems to be the case every time we get together.

This Time we have some special events taking place. On July 7th after RHOF which is from 1330-1530 we will gather at the Ranger Memorial for **Fred Stuckey's wedding to Tresina at 1530-1800 and Emmett will be wearing a Tux.**

The following day is Friday the 8th and we will all have our traditional BBQ at Country's BBQ in Columbus with special rate of about \$9 per person.

In addition we will have our unit business meeting at 0800 on Saturday July 9th before the Association meeting. We will have awards and special recognition for some of our members along with special presentation of the dicky-doo award. Marshall is working on a ball cap for us to vote on as our unit cap. Presentations about fund raising for our unit by Dan Nate, Marshall Huckaby and any ideas from membership are welcome at this time. David Regenthal has a film project for our unit to present; and much more so please be early.

During that time, Rebecca Hiltibrand has arranged for horse back riding for the wives/girlfriends that want to go while we are attending our meetings. Please contact her through Emmett for reservations.

My wife is also making a quilt, a labor of love and a true work of art for raffle that is looking great. I am also having a custom walking stick made up for raffle it is in art galleries in Phoenix. This one is honoring all LRRP through Rangers with an exceptional case.

We are now listed on the plaque at the Ranger Memorial as friends of the Ranger Memorial as units 25th ID LRRP and F Co 50th Inf. LRP and I am not sure the third line was added as F Co 75th Ranger as requested, that part was still on the drawing board, however we will see later. We now have correct spellings for all our KIA and added new bricks for the following. All begin with Ranger before the name.

GREGORY KELLY- 25th DIV (LRRP) KIA 4/5/68 (corrected spelling)

ROBERT E CAMP-Co F, 75th INF (RGR)

STEVE MOREY- Co F, 50th INF (LRP)

FRANK L ROBINS- 25th DIV (LRRP)

LORENZO SEWELL-Co F. 50th INF (LRP) KIA 8/18/68

DAVID C JACOB Co F. 75th INF (RGR)

Thanks to many of you that sent in contributions to help so that

our men will always be remembered, and as result of your contributions, the Ranger Memorial Fund has honored our unit by listing us on the plaque as friends of the memorial.

I received a letter from and spoke to Harvey L. Lameman. Some of you may recall when he was at the re-union in Colorado Springs with his family. While we spoke, he mentioned how much he enjoys reading Patrolling Magazine from cover to cover. He also commented on

Wanting to hear from the men, he served with in country.

Well he just recently under gone some surgery on his throat for some tumor growth and asked for a letter about his service and the spraying of Agent Orange in our AO that the VA requested for his claim. I of course became enraged that the VA would ask for proof, however as many know if we do not respond they also do not respond. There are regulations that of acceptance of contamination for all who set foot in Vietnam and some of us are not aware that is all it takes if we have certain known illnesses that relate to contamination. However, some of the staff that makes decisions concerning our exposure are not up to date on some of the material that is published by the VA or CDC. For those that are not aware our unit was in the heaviest



concentration of Agent Orange spraying in all of Vietnam. I have a spray map and listing of base camps by exposure days and amounts sprayed, thanks to Dan Nate. Cu Chi is #1 and Dau Tieng is #2 with Tay Ninh as #9. If any need a map and exposure list please let Dan or me know and we will respond ASAP. As some may know, I work for the Vet Center and will assist all veterans especially those of our unit and association to get beyond some of the red tape. Filing for service connection is important, because if death is a result of service connection there are benefits paid to spouse within certain parameters. Therefore, please read some info that Dan has published in this magazine and



Capt Ponzillo in LRRP Uniform

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

look at the web site about Agent Orange. Ron Leonard from 25th Aviation has some excellent material on their web site as well. 25th Aviation.com

I am always grateful when I have someone that is willing to send me something to put in Patrolling about our unit, since I do not consider myself a writer nor do I feel that everyone wants to read about just one person's experiences. I know many have experienced the heavy and lighter side of their time in our unit; and it would be nice to hear from some of you. You can send articles to me via email jclittle@direcway.com or snail mail and I will retype for publication as long as I can read the handwriting. The following is from Gene Tucker 1966 LRRP. He is currently on the mend from surgery and our prayers are with him.

“YOU BET YOUR LIFE”

In April or May 1966 the following soldiers were en-route to Nha Trang South Viet Nam for training with the 5th Special Forces group (A), Project Delta. We were bound for LRRP training as a LRRP unit for the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi RVN.

Capt. Ponzillo, Mark Commander
1st Lt. Traxler, Gerald Executive Officer

Team Members

Howerton, Hugh M.	SGT.
Spicer, Jerry D.	SGT.
Tucker, Eugene G.	SGT.
White, Charles	SGT.
Perry, Nathaniel	SP/4
Herrmann, Irvin K.	SGT.
Williams, Clyde D.	SSG.
Dunlap, James A.	SSG.
Freeman, Larry A.	SSG.
Call, James E.	SGT.
Dunn, Ronald D.	
Arp, James	
Elliot John	
Montgomery, Harold III	
Newton, Bobby G.	

Brantley, William had injured his ankle as I recall and had to remain at Cu Chi until the next class.



XO 1st LT. Gerald Traxler on the beach on the island



Our first class en-route to Nha Trang

The training lasted about four weeks and members of Project Delta a long-range reconnaissance Unit for Special Forces, trained us in techniques of long-range recon, surveillance, prisoner snatch, ambush, and communication skills. We were trained in many other military skills such as map reading, demolitions, medical, repelling, stealth, coordinating with US, Korean, and Vietnamese units, and call for supporting fires. We had training in all these skills prior to our arrival and these were advanced skills and refresher skills. These soldiers trained us during their down time, no rest for the weary.

We in addition were given physical training daily. We learned and practiced immediate action drills until we could do them without thinking. After training, for nearly three weeks in the class room and close in areas we were given a break. We were taken to a small island just off the coast of South Viet Nam in the Nha Trang area. We had to clear the island and then we had a full day of rest and relaxation there.



Our tents at Nha Trang

While there, I was swimming just off shore. I stepped on a sea urchin, which is a spiny (Thorny) creature. This animal uses these spines for protection and they have a mild poison that wards off its enemies. It is used to stun prey so that they may eat it.

When I stepped on it the pain began immediately. The thorns entered from the bottom of the foot of course. They are as thorns on a thorn bush, small and pointy at the top and grow more round as they go toward the bottom. That meant that they had to work their way through my foot from bottom to top. As the thorn began to come out the top of my foot I would attempt to remove it by

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

pulling but they were brittle and would only break off. Therefore they took many days, nearly a week to come out, causing pain the entire time.

The executive officer Gerald Traxler was on shore near by. He immediately came to investigate when I sounded the alarm (Cried out in pain). He examined my foot and administered what first aid that he could.

The mess sergeant at the Delta Project mess hall gave me a bucket and a case of lemons. He said to squeeze the lemons in the bucket and soak my foot. The acid did assist in dissolving the spines. It was however as mentioned previously a slow painful process.

They last week of out training was an actual mission (Long range) in the Nha Trang area of operations. We had our five-man team and one 5th Special Forces Delta Project NCO as an advisor. Capt. Ponzillo and Major “Bo” Baker the S3 of the project had asked me if I felt that I could go on the mission. Well, I was not going to have to go through all that tortuous training again so I naturally said that I could.

My teammates were concerned about my health and as to whether I would jeopardize the mission after all the mission before graduation is called “YOU BET YOUR LIFE”. I must say it was not easy to move on that foot but, I was determined to make it and I was glad that I did. We conducted our mission successfully and graduated the course.

To this day when I go swimming in the ocean I ask about sea urchins. I don’t want that pain again ever.

Gene Tucker

LRRP 1966

25th Inf. Div.



Our entire unit at Nha Trang during LRRP Training



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

Unit Director - Tom Nash



SPENCER THE 2ND

Those of us in this Association of veterans in our unit are at an age when it becomes more difficult to avoid the cynicism of the times (as frequently expressed in our news media) and still remain optimistic about the vagaries of life. Then too, we lose friends and family; friends and family become ill; and disappointments – many of them great – must be weathered. The business of life can indeed be taxing. But occasionally, you run across a small vignette – a small slice of life – something that goes against the grain – that has a certain quiet power and dignity to it. It’s the kind of thing that can reinforce your faith in the human race or which has the transcendent ability to affirm life when such an affirmation is most needed. I recently had such a moment, and I thought that you might feel the same way.



I’ve written here of my admiration for the men of E51 LRS. I’ve come to know a number of them, albeit only through emails, and through some of the stories they are living. They are doing in the Global War on Terrorism much the same thing that we did in a different corner of the world, in a different war, and at a different time. The long and the short of it is that we have much in common with these men some 35-40 years removed.

I’ve also written about Spc. Spencer Timothy Karol of E51 and the E51 LRS Team 2-1 mission on which Spc. Karol lost his life in Iraq. It’s been a year and a half since I first came across his name, when I received a couple of emails from Spc. Karol’s comrades from E-51 in Iraq shortly after his death. Over the ensuing year and a half, I feel like I’ve come to know Spc. Karol and the other men of E51 in a way,

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

from the manner in which his loss was handled and absorbed by his teammates and family, and the dedication of his comrades and teammates to ensure that Spc. Karol was properly memorialized. And then there was that picture of him that graced the cover of "Patrolling" a few months back. I don't think I've ever seen a photo of a man prouder to be wearing the uniform than Spencer Karol in that photo. Seeing him as a living breathing person drew me further into his story, as did the failed efforts to secure a Memorial Stone for him at the US Army Ranger Memorial in Fort Benning.

Karol's team leader – Ssg. Dominik Kepa - performed admirably and with great courage the day that Karol lost his life, rallying the wounded of the team, collecting Karol's remains, and leading the team, virtually weaponless, back to their base without the transportation that brought them to the field in the first place. (If the events of that mission are unfamiliar to you, you can review them in the winter 2004 issue of *Patrolling* magazine under the G Company heading.) Ssg. Kepa was unable to travel with Spencer Karol's remains back to Woodruff, Arizona to present them to Karol's mom – that duty fell to Captain Kelly, E51's XO and Sfc. Todd Galliand, Team 2-1's former team leader. But, Ssg. Kepa has stayed in touch with Karol's mom - Mrs. Bridget Madison. A couple of weeks following Spencer Karol's death, Ssg. Kepa received a 14-day leave. In addition to spending some time with his wife Monica, Ssg. Kepa was drawn to Woodruff to see Mrs. Madison and to share with her, some of the events of Spencer's life with the unit and how he died.

And nine months after Ssg. Kepa's brief leave, Dominik and Monica found themselves, on July 8, 2004, the proud parents of a baby boy. And because of Dominick's friendship with Spencer, and because of the bonds they had forged in Iraq, the newborn was named after Spencer, i.e., Spencer Timothy Kepa. And, to complete this circle of life, Dominik and Monica asked Mrs. Madison – Spencer Karol's mom - to be the young Spencer's godmother. The baptism took place on April 3, 2005 at the JFK Memorial chapel at Fort Bragg. Young Spencer's uncle – Lucas Oracz – was godfather, but I believe that Spencer has a company full of "godfathers" in Germany where E51 is currently stationed.

One thing I don't want to do here is, by omission, somehow forget that the war in Iraq continues and that E51 will be in the thick of it, or in any way forget the hundreds of other soldiers, sailors and Marines who have given their lives in this cause. Nor do I want to suggest that this small event in

the overall panoply of life, while nonetheless important, somehow rationalizes the magnitude of the loss of our best and brightest in Iraq. It does however remind us that there are hundreds, or thousands, of stories of courage and valor like Spencer Karol's and Dominik Kepa's emanating from Iraq and Afghanistan, in which people try to pick up the frayed strands of their lives and move forward with them, and that life goes on.

Tom Nash



Monica, Spencer Timothy and Dominik Kepa.



Mrs. Bridget Madison - Spencer Karol's mom with Spencer Timothy Kepa



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

Unit Director - William Anton



1st CAVALRY LRRP's FIRST CASUALTIES

By PFC Bill Carpenter

Most grunts who served in Viet Nam have a lot more, and better, stories than I, especially the LRRP/Rangers. In the big picture, this story is small potatoes. It was a big deal to six of us. I was only in one firefight before coming home. The average infantryman who pulled a full one-year tour would be in about 10 battles. The average LRRP would pull 30-40 missions in a year, half of these would end with a "hot extraction".

5 January 1967

CARPENTER, WILLIAM D RA16887249

Asg to: 90th Repl Bn APO SF 96307

Aval date: 15 Mar 67

I arrive in Viet Nam after the winter monsoon season. On March 20, 1967, I am assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. I figured a grunt is a grunt, so it doesn't matter where I go. I am just glad I am not a Marine in I corps. They are getting the shit shot out of them.

During the "Welcome to Viet Nam" training there is a demonstration on how quick Medivac can get the wounded to a hospital. Why do they make a big deal out of this? Do they expect a lot of us to be wounded? One night we are put out on the green line, perimeter duty, with M-14's and one clip of ammo. A little better than spit wads and rubber bands, but not much better. A single clip of ammo doesn't last very long in a firefight.

We are told during the indoctrination that very few of the women are whores, and most of the whores have VD. A staff sergeant tells us, "When you kill a Chinese or Russian, not if you kill a Chinese or Russian, because if you are in enough firefights you will kill one. When you kill a Chinese or Russian, don't tell anyone, all it will do is cause you a lot of paperwork. Everyone knows they are here."

While I am at the 1st Cav's replacement depot, Captain James comes down and gives us a little talk about joining the division's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) unit. I think, why not, at least I will be with some good troops to keep me out of trouble. Military rule number 1, never volunteer. Why did I volunteer for LRRP? It just seemed like the thing to do at the time. So I talk to Captain James. I have to come up with an instant sales pitch for this job interview. What I tell him is that the West Virginia hills are very much like the Viet Nam hills, and I had been running ridges all of my life. I also say that I have

probably spent two or three years of my life camping out, so sleeping on the ground in the rain is not new to me.

On March 28, 1967 I report to Co. A, 1st Bn, 8th Cav at LZ English. The company is on perimeter duty for a new artillery firebase on top of a hill near English. We can look across the Bong Song Plains and see the South China Sea. Beautiful. We spend most of our time clearing the green line, laying concertina wire and building bunkers. There is no serious action during the week I am there.

3 April 1967

CARPENTER, WILLIAM D RA 16887249

Atch to: 191st MI Det

Purpose: for dy with Div LRRP Co

Six of us came to LRRP together. We have to set up our own GP tent. It takes a few days to "requisition" canvas cots for us to sleep on. Until then the unit was 18 men. After the war, they take the unofficial name "The Original 18". The new guys are to become Team 3 after we complete training. The idea of pulling a mission with five other new guys scares me.

The unit is a detachment, working directly under division headquarters. We are a bunch of orphans looking for a home, "The James Gang", named after Captain Jim James. Lt. Ron Hall is the XO and SFC Fred Kelly is the First Sergeant. Sometime during the second week of April 1967, the unit becomes HHC G-2, LRRP. I think the unit got a TO&E with that. In January 1969, the unit becomes Company H (Ranger), 75th Regiment.

Special Forces had worked out the principle of long range patrolling, but the entire idea of a division LRRP unit is new. There is a lot of resistance to this change from the higher ranks. "We didn't do it this way in WW II or

Korea, why change?" Answer, "This is a different kind of war." Most of the NCO's are ranger trained, but it is all OJT for the enlisted ranks.

Team 1 had been pulling missions since January, and Team 2 since February. Some of the kinks have been worked out. They are the first 1st Cav "Ghosts". They must be doing something right; there has not been any serious contact, yet.

For the next two weeks, SFC Kelly tries to teach us everything he knows. The training is very intense. "Let me try that again." "Don't have time, gotta go on." The running winds me, but running is supposed to wind you. Lt. Hall did like to run. Two-a-days in football were a lot harder than the physical part of the training. I had a lot of civilian experience in topog maps and first aid, so no problem there. I do not know radios and the idea of calling in an artillery strike scares me.



H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP (CONTINUED)

About the third week of April, about 8-10 new guys come in to start training for team 4.

Team 1 is down to four members, so at the end of training, Bill Carpenter and David Ives join Team 1. John Simones is the team leader and Doug Fletcher the ATL. The other two team members are Art Guerrero and Geoff Koper, medic.

John had been in the Marine Force Recon before coming over to the army. Doug had been with 2/8 Cav before LRRP, and had earned a silver star in the A Shau Valley. Art had been with 1/7 Cav, Custer's old outfit, and also had a silver star from the A Shau Valley. Geoff is a combat medic. All of them had been in country for several months before coming to LRRP. They have pulled about 10 missions as a team. Good people, they will take care of this newbie.

Team 1, four old pros and two new guys, is inserted at dusk on Thursday, 20 April 1967. We are put in close to the head of a stream. We are to more or less follow this stream and see what we could see. See what you see, hear what you hear, smell what you smell, and think before you act. The stream runs to the southwest. The closest US army troops are at An Khe, about 15 kilometers south of us. The nearest friendlies are at Kan Nak, some 7-8 km away. Kan Nak is where the stream we are on empties into the Song Ba. The Green Berets had a base there at one time, but there is only an irregular force there now, who may even be VC. Don't depend on them. Our E&E plan is to head for Kan Nak.

We are outside of artillery cover. Because of the mountains, radio contact is difficult. There are no radio relay points. We are to report in morning and evening. Most of the time, base has to put a chopper in the air for radio contact.

This is not going to be like hunting back home, the squirrels shoot back.

On Friday we go through a lot of elephant grass, 7-8 feet tall. The word "leach" takes on a whole new meaning for me. The elephant grass is loaded with them. Walk, pick off six or eight leaches, walk, pick off six or eight leaches. We hear someone cutting wood, nothing out of line. I hear a hen cackling, and am told that they run wild in the jungle. This is not West Virginia, chickens do not mean people.

On Saturday morning, we move from some open timber to some pretty thick new-growth jungle. We go slow to keep quiet, we can't see more than 10-15 feet in any direction. We eat the first meal of the day. We are low on water, so Art and I take the canteens down to the stream to fill them. The stream is about 20 meters away.

Art and I encounter a major trail, a "high speed runner". The tall timber keeps the trail well hidden from aircraft. You had to be on the ground to see it. Finding things like this is LRRP's job. This "trail" is wide enough, and smooth enough, to drive a jeep on it. This means this trail has a lot of foot traffic, not just someone going to grandma's house.

There is a little hooch set on low stilts by the trail. The trail goes close to the hooch and curves around the hill below it. There are several firing positions in an arch on the downhill side of the hooch, overlooking the trail. The opening/door to the hooch is on the uphill side. Don't see any people around.

Art decides to check the hooch out. His web gear makes him

about three feet wide. We have left our packs with the rest of the team. Art sees some paper on a shelf inside the hooch. I pull security while he goes after the papers. He gets stuck in the door. I hear voices, not in English, from the other side of the hooch, about 10 feet away. I let Art know we have company. He is stuck in the door, he finally gets free, soundlessly. He tells me to take off while he pulls rear security. The "high speeder" is between us and the cover of the jungle.

"Think before you act". Not this time, I have a split-second mental lapse that will be fatal for David Ives. I take off too fast, and hit the brush too hard. This by a guy who spent his life in the woods and knows how to not spook wild animals. Art is watching the people, he says later that there was a woman and some men; the woman had something in her hand. When I hit the brush, she screams and throws the item in the air.

Everyone knows what happens when you make a woman mad. She turns to the men in her life, father, brothers, uncles, etc. and says, "What are you going to do about it"? I always tell everyone that the reason I was wounded is that I got a woman mad at me. Never make a woman mad, she will get even.

We get us back to the other four guys. There is the 20 questions situation on why it took us so long to go 20 meters to get some water. We call in a sitrep.

We are on the NW side of the stream. There is a clearing on the hillside across the stream from us. It is big enough to get a chopper in. John decides to move over beside the field and set up for the night. We can hear someone following us as we move; we have a "trailer". When we get over by the field, we button hook to see if we can pick up our trailer. We set in the ambush for a while, but see nothing. It is getting late by now anyway. When it is darker we move about 20 yards to a different position that John had checked out before we button hooked. We are in a little cove with open timber on one side and the open field up the hill from us. There is heavy brush on the other two sides.

We can hear them getting into position during the night. Or is it a wild boar out there? Better to think it is Charlie and be ready. It now seems strange, but I sleep well that night, knowing that Charlie was out there and could hit us at any time. You get tired humping 100 lbs. through the jungle all day. I don't know how Geoff does it. He weighs about 150 lbs. Will Charlie try to crawl up on us during the night? I am wondering what it will be like to kill a man with a knife in hand-to-hand combat. I feel inadequately trained. Today I realize, a person can be trained on how to kill, but they cannot be trained to kill. Just do it.

I keep remembering one of the war stories of the time. A Special Forces guy was on a patrol like this, they hear Charlie crawling in on them, he rested the end of his rifle on his foot, when Charlie touches his foot, he shoots him.

It is Sunday, April 23, 1967. David and I have the 5-7 a.m. shift. I am not a morning person; I never have been a morning person. I sit up against my pack, which is in turn leaning against a tree. Don't sit up, it's easier to see you, too much target, but if I lay down I may go to sleep. Why do all of the Hollywood battles begin at dawn?

There is another problem. Either the LRP rations, or the malaria pills, have given me a diarrhea. This is a quandary. It is about 6:00 a.m.; the sun is just coming up. I tell Dave, pick up my rifle

H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP (CONTINUED)

and some toilet paper and walk far enough away from the other guys and take care of the diarrhea. It is LRRP policy to not initiate contact. Perhaps all we have is a trailer. If I see someone, will I shoot before they do?

No problem, I don't see anyone, but I don't look too hard either. We know they are there, why look.

I go back to sitting against my pack while the other guys stir a little, ready to start another day. The next thing I know, I am laying about 8 feet down the hill from my pack. A hand grenade has blown me down the hill. I have just become LRRP's first WIA. I had heard nothing, I felt no pain, but I am dazed and knew I have been hit. Shrapnel has chewed up my face and left arm. My pack and the tree have taken most of the blast.

I crawl back up the hill to my weapon, ammunition and pack. As I get to the pack, a burst from an automatic weapon hits the ground in front of me. A lot of dirt and rocks kick up into my face. I think, "Whow, Just like in the movies." Weeks later I realized that one of the rocks is really a .45 caliber round which bounced off the ground, went through my lower left jaw, through the roof of my mouth and stops about 7 inch from my brain. It breaks my jaw, along with taking out about 8 teeth. The nerve to my left ear is severed along with several nerves to my left cheek. The impact of the bullet knocks me out. After this, events are flashes of consciousness a few seconds long. I do not know in what order they occur.

I am trying to cover my sector and return fire, but I cannot see. I feel a lump under my left eye. Months later I realized that the lump is what is left of my eye and lower eyelid. If I put a little pressure on the lump, I get a little dizzy, but for a moment I can see some. I think, with the right pressure I will be able to see to return fire.

I try to raise my rifle to return fire, but my left hand is too weak to support it. I realize that a lot of the muscles of my left forearm are hanging in shreds. So I take my right hand and shove the muscles back where they belong. Do I think they would stay there? I don't know. It doesn't work, so I prop up my left arm, and rifle with my right hand, but when I move my right hand to the trigger, the rifle sinks, I need three hands.

Dave and I share a poncho to sleep on. We are literally shoulder-to-shoulder. The grenade exploded on Dave's side of me. Some time in there, I realize that Dave is dead. I guess it is because he is lying there on his back, not moving. I do not see any wounds on him. Geoff said later that Dave lived long enough to get the radio operational. Art said later that Dave was shot through the head. I don't know, maybe the grenade didn't get him and he was shot while working with the radio. I just know that Dave is dead. I am passing in and out of consciousness. Art reaches up and yanks on my foot to wake me. The nerve damage from the bullet and the grenade concussion has almost deafened me, but I heard Art tell me to get the radio to him. I tell him I can't see to return fire. He said he knows that, so get the radio. I say Dave's dead. He said he knows that, that is why I need to get the radio to him. Dave's pack with the radio in it is on the other side of Dave. So I crawl on top of Dave to reach his pack. This pack, with radio, weighs 80-90 lbs. I am lying on my chest, I reach out with my right hand and grab the pack to drag it down to Art. Gee, I can't pick it up. So I grab the pack and try to slide it down to Art. Try

lying on your chest, then reach out with one hand and move an 80 lbs. canvas container. I do not get it all the way to Art.

I know that both Art and Geoff have been wounded. How do I know this? John and Doug are down the hill from me, I assume they are ok. Don't worry about what is going on behind you; take care of your sector. I made that mistake on a training maneuver at Ft. Myers, know better now. Training helps.

Where is the fear? No time for that, do your job, the other guys' lives depend on you.

"That is, you can't, you know, tune in"

"But it's all right"

"That is, I think it's not too bad."

(from the Beatles' song, "Strawberry Fields Forever")

I got the following note from Geoff in 2000, 33 years later:

If the following is not some dream cooked up when I was a little out of it, I remember that when we arrived at the spot where we were attacked the next morning, Art and I laid down on a slope facing uphill behind the root of a very large tree that was next to us and that created a depression on the downhill side that was about 10" or so high; Ives was laying down to our front without any protection. You were behind a tree, to his left. When the shooting started we were screened by the fact that we were laying behind the tree root. At first both Art and I thought that there was firing coming from our rear (downslope as well as from our front) and he fired at least one M79 round in that direction. We then concentrated on the fire to our front. Now, our tree root gave us a problem, in order for Art to aim and fire he had to raise himself up higher than the root and he exposed himself - I believe that this is when he was shot in the arm. By now Ives had been shot at least once and was asking for help (even though he attempted to assemble the PRC25 whip antenna). When I tried to climb over the root I was shot in the chest that stopped me cold for some time (it could have been seconds or minutes - I don't remember). When I finally managed to crawl to him he was dead and the firing had slackened off to almost nothing. John and Fletcher were by this time making sure that there were no more live VC to our front and since I was now next to the radio I started to talk to An Khe (Ives had managed to get the radio going before he died). I was not as coherent as I thought I was and John took the set from me not long after I started talking. An interesting sidelight to all of this is that when we got into position the night before, Art and I were laying right over the wild animal trail that we had followed into the clearing. That night while I was on watch (Art was also awake) and it was pitch black we heard a rustling noise coming from somewhere down trail from us. It kept getting closer and louder and we could now hear snorting along with the rustling. Art whispered to me that it was a wild boar and while I was still prone pointed my CAR15 in the direction of the ever-increasing noises. Art, who was lying next to me, laid his CAR on my hip and pointed in the same direction. We could still see nothing but we decided that we would have to fire if it got much closer. However, at the last minute the boar (if indeed it was one) seemed to hesitate (maybe it smelled us) and moved off downslope into the brush. I have thought about whether or not our firing at the whatever it was

H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP (CONTINUED)

could have either sprung the ambush prematurely (and saved us from being fired at when it was light and we were good targets) and possibly saved Ives who I don't think that they could have seen then.

I think what ultimately saved us was the fact that while you, Art, Ives and I were located in a group John and Doug were set up to our right and might have been as much as 10' away. When the VC checked us out at first light they may have thought that the four of us to their front constituted the whole group and did not realize that Fletcher and Simones existed until they began a heavy fire into their flank. I have an image of John and Doug standing and firing on full automatic across our front and into the ambush. I give John and Doug all of the credit in the world for fighting like tigers when the heat was on and giving us the chance to survive.

*Merry Christmas,
Geoff*

Art had been shot through both legs by the enemy behind us and through the left shoulder but he was still able to use "JoJo", the sawed-off M-79 "chucker". Art told me later that the enemy had tried a human wave assault. He fired an M-79 HE round into the line. It hit a woman in the chest. The head went up, the arms went out, the legs kept running, and the trunk disappeared. Try living with that memory.

I come to; Doug is carrying me to the chopper. He has me in his arms like a baby. Wait a minute, I weigh 225-230, Doug is about 6'2" and 210 lbs or so, but not big enough to carry me alone. But he is doing it. John is walking beside him. Is he carrying some one too? I don't know, I don't care, its over!! Wait a minute; I have my rifle in my left hand. My right side is toward Doug. The rifle is dangling down. Is the weapon on safe? What if the trigger catches a branch and a bullet hits someone? I'd better check the safe. I can't lift my left arm, so I move my right hand to check the rifle. Doug says, "It's ok, it's over, it's over." His voice is so calm, like a father comforting a child with a bad dream. I don't remember actually being loaded on the chopper. I come to, it is so cool. I lift my head and see my blood on the chopper floor. Hey, if I can see my own blood, I am going to make it, I am alive. I look out the side of the chopper at the forest below; so green, so quiet, so calm, just like my West Virginia hills. It would be fun to walk in the woods to watch the squirrels play in the trees. Maybe I can take the dog out this weekend and let it run a coon. I see feet to my left; there is a pool of blood around the feet. Someone is sitting on the bench. It is Art, he says, "It's ok, it's over, it's over, lay back down." At sometime I raise my head and look to my right, I see another pair of feet, no blood; I try to lift my head to see a face, I can't. Somehow I know this is Geoff. Where are John, Doug, and Dave? I guess they are taking another chopper. They would not leave Dave.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM
APR 25 67

Mr and Mrs Ova M Carpenter, don't phone, report delivery
The secretary of the navy has asked me to express his deep regret

that your son, PFC William D. Carpenter was placed on the seriously ill list in Vietnam on 23 April 67 as the result of gunshot wounds to left arm, left thigh, buttocks, facial fractures and loss of left eye. He was on reconnaissance patrol when hit by hostile small arms fire. In the judgement of the attending physician, his condition is of such severity that there is cause for concern, but no imminent danger of life.

I come to again; they are taking me off the chopper. They pull me out and put me on a stretcher lying on the ground. A female in OD green fatigues, with short curly red hair and freckles bends over me. She smiles and I think I smile back. She is talking, but not to me. Little Orphan Annie is in the army. It's ok, it's over, it's over.

I come to; they are using scissors to cut my clothes off of me. Don't take my boots, I want to keep my boots, only guys who have "been there" have jungle boots.

I come to, I am on a gurney being wheeled down a hallway, someone is holding my hand.

I come to, they are putting me on an x-ray table, they lay me on my chest and extend my head forward. They then rest my chin on the table. PAIN, "You stupid son-of-bitch, the jaw is broken, this really hurts, pad my jaw some way." This is the first time I have felt any pain. I don't care whom this private is talking to or what their rank is. They padded my chin to do the x-ray.

I come to, Capt. James and Lt. Hall are standing by my bed. Privates salute officers, I sit up and salute them. Apparently John was with them but I don't see him. I come to again and say "Hi, Sir" and go back to sleep. I think the captain visits me several times.

A Donut Dollie wakes me up, — would you like to write a letter home? — I can't, my hand is messed up. — I will write it for you — I don't know what to write. — I'm sure you will think of something. I talk a little and go to sleep, she is still standing there when I wake up. This is repeated several times. I don't know how long it takes to write that letter.

"Nothing is real,"

"And nothing to get hung about."

"Strawberry Fields Forever"

28 April 1967

CARPENTER, WILLIAM D RA16887249

Awarded: Purple Heart

Reason: For wounds received in connection with military operations against a hostile force.

As soon as I am staying conscious for a while, I am put on a stretcher and loaded on a plane. The plane is gutted, and has metal racks to hold stretchers. We are stacked three high. I leave country completely naked, I have my pocketknife, my Buck hunting knife, and one dog tag in a bag on my stretcher. Why do I have only one dog tag? What happened to the other one? These three items are my entire memorabilia from VN, except for some shrapnel and one flattened rifle slug.

I am headed for a hospital in Japan, but it is full, so they send me to the hospital in Camp Zama. This will be my fifth temporary duty station in two months. My mail will never find me. The

H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP (CONTINUED)

next day, a Japanese woman comes in to change the bed. She grabs the sheet on me and pulls it down, and screams. I am still naked. Someone brings me some pajamas.

At some time, I need to pee. I grab my IV stand and use it as a cane. The bathroom is only 2-3 beds away. I'm LRRP, I can walk that far. An E-6 medic is sitting at a desk at the other end of the room. He yells, where are you going? I tell him. Back in bed, I will bring you a pee jug.

A medic wakes me up. He wants me to sit up so they can x-ray my chest. They have brought a portable machine to my bed instead of wheeling me to x-ray. Nice of them to do that. Why do you want to x-ray me? You are not breathing well and you have a fever over 103. I don't know what ever came of that.

It is May 20, I am at the debarkation center in Japan, waiting for my flight home. I am 45 lbs. lighter than I was a month ago. They still have me in a bed. Up walks Geoff; he's headed home, too. How did he know I was here? He is ambulatory, but walks with a slump and has some difficulty breathing. The round had gone in his shoulder and ended up in the pelvic area, it did a lot of damage in between. But we are both alive. There is some small talk, and he leaves to catch his flight. What do you say to someone you had shared a look at death with, and survived? We do not communicate again for 32 years.

A bunch of us "walking wounded" are sitting on benches waiting to board the plane. An air force one-star general comes up and shakes each man's hand and says, "Thank you". When he comes to me, I stand up and come to attention. He tells me to sit back down, "I am here to salute you." Some officers cared.

On May 23, 1967, my birthday, the plane I am on lands in Denver. I am home. Happy Birthday Bill. A major gets on the plane, he is looking for Private Carpenter. What did I do this time? Majors do not escort privates. I am the first off the plane. Standing at the bottom of the ramp is my family. Really happy

birthday Bill. My sister-in-law has basically raised hell with everyone until she finds out when I am coming home. "I'm sorry ma'am, we can not release that information." The Red Cross gets the information for her.

John, Doug, Art, and Dave all get Silver Stars and Geoff and I get Bronze Stars for this mission. Why did I get the Bronze Star? The only constructive thing I did was try to get the radio to Art. What I really did was get the shit shot out of a team. I guess six guys who are nine miles from home when they take on a bunch of the bad guys deserve something.

There is a very interesting postscript to this that I still cannot explain. In the fall of 1968, I am married and in college. One afternoon I receive a phone call from a woman who says she is Geoff's mother. She asked if I am the Bill Carpenter who had been in LRRP with Geoff Koper. Yes, I am. She said Geoff had died from his wounds. Geoff was from Princeton, NJ. I am in Ft. Collins, CO. Art had kept track of people and told me that Geoff was in college. How did she find me? I didn't ask.

Not very many people knew the connection between the two of us. I was speechless. My war is over; no more people are going to die in "my war". We are both safe in the real world. I made a few comments, but can't remember what else was said. I thanked her for calling me and hung up. This was before called ID and all of that stuff. After I hung up, I realized that I did not even know where to send flowers. Going to the funeral was out of the question.

Well, Geoff had not died. I still do not know who made the phone call, or why. A Denver newspaper had an article about Art a few weeks before. Geoff and I were mentioned. Perhaps some sicko war protestor wanted to try to extend their mental instability to me. It never occurred to them that the biggest opponent to war is the person being shot at.



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

Unit Director - David Flores



By: David Flores, Unit Director

Hello all, just to let you know, I am the new guy, (FNG if you will) writing for our 1st Infantry Division LRRP/Ranger unit as its newly-elected Unit Director. I have a tough act to follow: Dave Hill and Barry Crabtree did outstanding work. This will be my first try at doing something like this, but I will do my best.

NEWS OF THE DAY: F Company 52nd Infantry/I Company 75th Infantry had their reunion 26 March-3 April. We hold ours every other year, and we move it's location around based on who wants to take on the task of organizing the reunion. This year we went to Louisiana, Lake Arthur, to be exact. Harry Suire and his wife Shyron live and work there. It was very obvious to all who attended that Harry and Shyron worked very hard for the rest of us. We all had one hellava good time. For those of our members that could not attend, I would like to give a short rundown of what we did. A total of 24 members showed, many with their wives.

Wednesday – Bar-B-Que at Lake Arthur Park, with pork meat, beef, bread, cakes and lots of other great stuff. Lots of help with cooking from the Suire family and their friends. Later we had drinks and dancing at the local bar. That would be "LA BAR" Great place!

Thursday – Fish fry / crawfish boil @ the park. Again the food was exceptional! 300 pounds of crawfish, shrimp, cat fish, corn on the cobb, red potatoes, beer, music and friends. Again, lots of help from the Suire family and family friends. Returning to the hotel, we held our traditional tequila toasts to those brother LRRPs and Rangers we lost during the Big Red One's years of combat in Vietnam.

Friday – This was our banquet dinner night. Before dinner though, the ladies went shopping and the boys went to Harry's sister's house to do some fishing in her private pond. The menu for dinner was lots of southern fixings. It was a seafood delight. Harry, Shyron, and their many family and friends who were hosting us, were roundly saluted. We also introduced and welcomed the sister and brother-in-law of one of our fallen Team

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

Leaders (Jackie Glen Leisure, KIA 12 May 1968). Patsy Beauchamp and her husband, Woody, had traveled from their home in northern Mississippi to be with us in Jennings and meet some of the men who had had the privilege of knowing and serving with her brother Jackie in 1967-68. We then were treated to some excellent music. Seems two guys just wanted to make some music for our party—no charge. They were very talented guys; the music was great! Again, a reflection of the great community support for our LRRP/Ranger veterans and their families.

Saturday – Harry took us out on his shrimp boat. It was a four hour tour and we did not get lost. We had the best to lead us, Harry (who just happens to be, among other things, a long-time licensed and experienced tugboat skipper on the Mississippi River and Gulf Coast). We traveled out on the lake, then up the river through the bayou. The drinks were good too. No wind—just one great day on the water. We even spotted a few “gators” lying on logs (posing just for us no doubt; perhaps hoping one or more of the novice watermen might go for a swim). Harry even let our new Unit President, Bob ‘Buzz’ Busby, “take the con” for quite a while, and he did a great job, not running aground even once.

Sunday – We had our final breakfast together and then time for everyone to head home. For those that were not able to attend, we look forward to seeing you at our next reunion. I hope that putting forth what we did shows the fun we have and that it’s not just old stories again. There is a lot of good that comes from these reunions, not only for the vets, but also for their wives and loved ones. So come to our next reunion and have some fun.

HATS OFF TO LAKE ARTHUR AND JENNINGS, LOUISIANA

I would like to share something else with you, something that I noticed at this reunion. Lake Arthur is a small town, and it’s been around a long time. The bar we drank at, “LA BAR”, was like stepping back in time. I don’t think much has changed in that bar since it first opened. What a great bar! Best damn Bloody Marys too! I must give a big thanks to Harry and Shyron Suire, who’s hard work made things go smoothly. Seems the rest of the Suire family and friends from the town all helped with this reunion. Beer was donated by Harry’s brother. Cooking, fishing, and getting the crawfish, was done by friends or family. The town put out a banner for us, I was told, “it’s for you veterans” Lots of, “thank yous” too. There it is, down home America, the USA, what many have fought and died for. We even had a contingent of Louisiana State Police staying at our hotel (they truly were there on other business, not to keep an eye on us), so the perimeter was mighty secure.

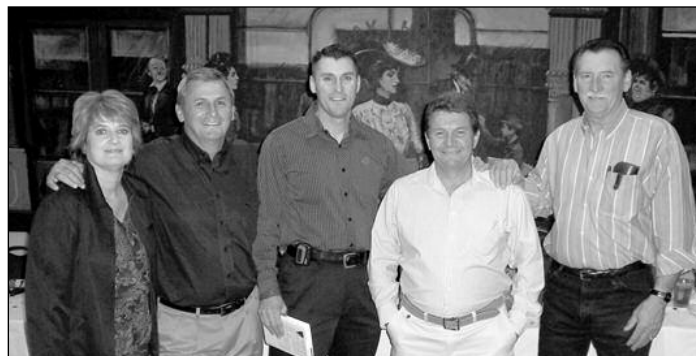
It can most likely be said, that this is the way it is all across America. Hopefully all the LRRP/Ranger Reunions of every unit

receive similar treatment and respect wherever they are held. It was easy to see this closeness, where everyone helps. In large towns you don’t see it much. In closing, we the members of F Company 52nd Infantry / I Company 75th Infantry Rangers, would like to give a very special “Thank You!” to Harry & Shyron, and all of their family and friends that helped with cooking and giving of their time for us. Also, “Thanks” to the towns of Lake Arthur and Jennings, Louisiana. It was an absolute pleasure visiting both of those fine communities.

MACV RECONDO SCHOOL. Does that get your attention? I think everyone that was in a LURP/RANGER Company has heard of the school. Thought I would give a little info on the school.

MACV Recondo school was run by the 5th Special Forces Group, located at Nha Trang. This was in the Central Highlands area. The school ran it’s first class 15 Sept. 1966. The course was three weeks long and the average dropout rate was 30% per class. The school graduated 3,357 out of 5,395 who started. The school held it’s last graduation ceremony on 31 Dec. 1970. Most of the students that came to the school had prior field experience. The first two weeks of the school were comprised of both physical and classroom training. Some of the classroom sessions were combined with outside training like repelling or helicopter insertions or extractions.

Explosives/demolitions and boat training was also fit into the first two weeks. The PT was the standard military exercises, along with some very tough runs with a nice thirty-pound sandbag the instructors would put in your rucksack. Oh yeah, you ran with all your web gear, magazines, water-filled canteens, etc. The instructors would weigh your sandbag before and after the runs.



“Some of host families”: L-R Toni Suire, Jerry Suire, Darrell LeVergne Jr., Harry Suire, Darrell LeVergne Sr.

They did this (weighing) when we would do repelling too, just to make sure we didn’t lighten the load. We had one final run to stay in, 7 miles. I know there was a time limit, but I don’t remember what it was. I thought the run was farther! The sand bag is how all Recondo School graduates got that wear mark on their back.

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



“Presentation of Plaque to Patsy Beachamp”: Standing L-R Woody Beachamp, Jerry Davis, Patsy Beachamp, John Tapia, Berry Crabtree



“All LRRPs and Rangers in attendance at Jennings Reunion”



“Our Generous and Gracious Hosts: Shyron and Harry “Frenchy” Suire”

It stayed there for quite awhile too! Competition was always present. Army, Navy Seals, Marine Force Recon, Air Force Commandos, and Koreans—seems someone always wanted to be first for their unit and their unit first among all others. The Seals, Marines, and the Koreans pretty much took the lead as competitors. Army and Air Force pretty much just wanted to get

through the school.

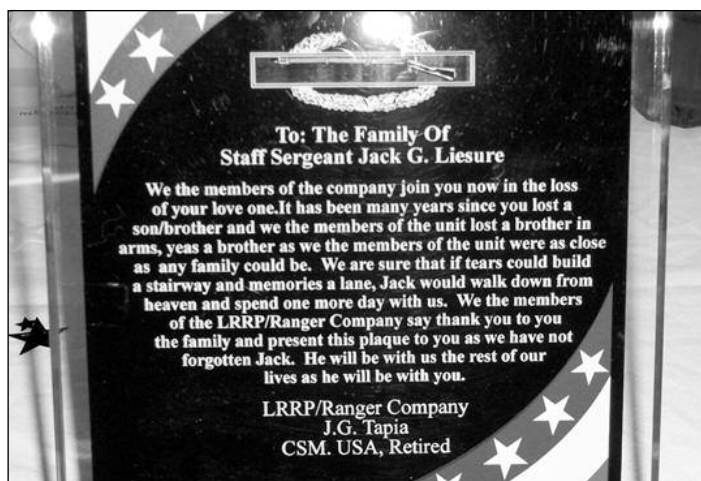
The last week of the school was spent out in the field, patrolling (under actual combat conditions). This was when we put what we had been taught into use. Each person took his turn being team leader, under the watchful eye of the instructor. The instructor would then grade each student on his performance, choices, and actions. Generally we spent about four days in the field to accomplish this. It wasn't out of the ordinary to make contact and be extracted. Sometimes teams were sent back into another location or you stayed in and wanted for all the other teams to come back. If you were lucky, your team got the latter choice.



“LRRP/Ranger Wives Preparing to Feed the Lake Arthur revelers: L-R Shyron Suire, Sharel Busby, Brenda Wiggins, Angie Linn”



“LA Bar (Lake Arthur) All to ourselves: Standing L-R Dave Hill, Randy King, Lyn Caig, Dave Flores, Don Hildebrandt, John Candiloro, Bob Busby, Carter Linn, Jerry Rush (background), Julian Rincon, Brenda Wiggins”



“Plaque presented to The Beachamps, Gold Star Family”

Once all teams returned to the school, we were debriefed as to our performance, and then, finally, graduation.

The school was damn hard physically and you had to learn a lot in a short time. Once we returned to our companies, we would share what we had been taught and hopefully make our operations better. Pretty much all Recondo School graduates became team leaders once back with their companies. I graduated on 16 Nov. 68, Recondo #1603.

Recondo School had ONE thing that put it apart from ALL other schools in the military, or the world for that matter. When we went out on that final training phase, IT WAS FOR REAL!! No

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

blank bullets, no fake enemy soldiers, screw up and somebody could get hurt.

The info about Recondo School was taken from two books, by Tom Halliwell.

He was the historian of the Green Berets at the time I spoke with him.

If you wish to get the two books, here's the info.

Radix Press, 2314 Cheshire Ln.
Houston, Tx. 77018
713-683-9076

I hope it won't take me too long to get the hang of what my job is as Unit Director. I'll take all the help that's thrown my way. If I can just match Dave and Barry's work, I'll be quite happy.



"Ready for Reunion Dinner: L-R Brenda Wiggins, Deborah Gay, Ramona Catherwood, Sharel Busby, Shyron Suire"



L to R: Flores(sitting), Markovitch(standing), Arenas (sitting, with hat on) Washington(standing, far right). Maybe Cervantes, sitting between Flores and Markovitch. Guy to right of Arenas is also from company, don't know his name.



Markovitch repelling



Upside down Korean, White Horse Div.



Demolition class on island in South China Sea. Don't remember name of island.



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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk



As we remember the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe and the upcoming anniversary of the Victory over Japan, I reflect on the great sacrifice of our Fathers and Grandfathers, their families and all Americans who gave so much of themselves to support them. If not for the American Soldier all of Europe and Asia would have fallen under the boot heels of tyranny. It cannot be stressed enough, they really did "Save the

World". To storm the Beaches of Normandy and the islands of the South Pacific into literal walls of death is almost incomprehensible to me. We owe them a debt that we cannot repay.

I hope to see all of you at the upcoming reunion. If you haven't made your arrangements you better "git er done". We need to be thinking about if and where you want to have a mini-reunion next year. Another item that needs our attention is our bank account. At present we have about seven hundred dollars. 560.00 dollars was paid out for memorial bricks for four of our KIA's. We traditionally give one thousand dollars to the Christmas fund every year so these funds need to be replenished soon. Please remember to help any of your Brothers as you can, if they need help from the rest of us then let me know. I'll keep this short so we can include a tribute to another Brother gone on to a green LZ. Sgt. Theodore "Ted" Yasui, We salute you and your Brothers will miss you.

Rodger Crunk / Unit Rep.

THE PASSING OF A BROTHER SGT. THEODORE (TED)YASUI

Ted Yasui died on Sunday, 13 February in a car accident in San Francisco. When faced with the choice of colliding with another car full of people, Ted chose a cement pole and died on impact. Sgt. Yasui was a member of 2nd Bde. LRRP's from April 1968 to

February 1969. He pulled 41 missions in all - 30 as team leader; and never lost a teammate. He will be missed.

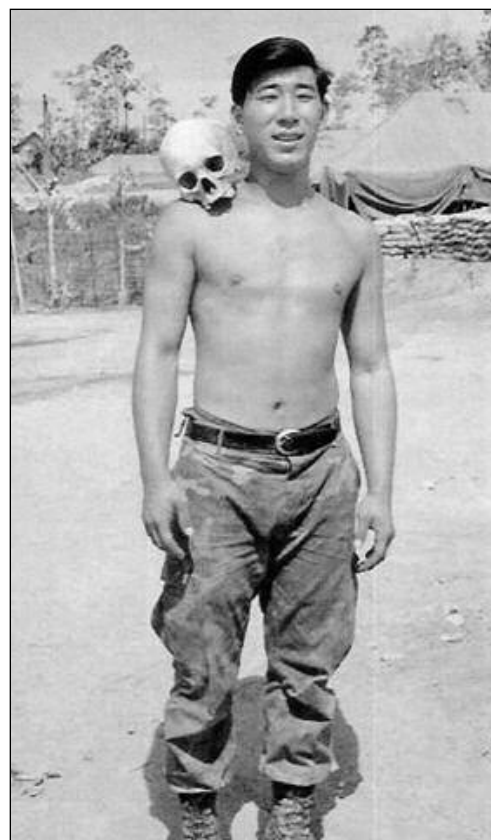
Nick Banks

I attended Ted Yasui's funeral, along with four other 2nd BDE LRRPs, Nick Banks, Brad Finch, Tom Fretwell and Robert Stack. We met Ted's mother, Mrs Sienery Kwak and her husband Norman, who presently live in Daly City, California. We also met Ted's daughter, Lindsey Yasui and her husband Mike Jacobson, and their young daughter Leleiona, of Honolulu, Hawaii.

After the eulogy, Brad Finch delivered a touching tribute, on behalf of the 2nd BDE LRRPs. A seven soldier contingent, with rifles came to fire a salute. They were all Master Sergeants and one young woman, who was a Buck Sergeant. They were all very impressive, and distinguished soldiers.



For those who may not know, Ted was an active Boy Scout, as a Hawaiian youngster, and told his family that many things he learned there helped him, during his service in Vietnam. A man who works for the Boy Scouts, was driving by, in uniform, and saw the soldiers. He



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



stopped and offered to play taps, on his bugle. God does work in mysterious ways.

Many of you will remember Ted as a man, with a beautiful smile, who treated everyone as a brother. He was that and more. During the sharing of the day I learned many things about Ted, that I didn't know. As a boy, he learned to box, from his father and uncles, who were distinguished boxers known as the "Fighting Yasui Brothers." He was also an accomplished surfer who, after the war, taught his brother LRRPs to ride the waves. Ted was also involved in real estate and the stock market. He was a man who loved math and numbers. He was an avid fisherman, who filled his mother's freezer with trout. He loved and respected deeply the men, with whom he served. In his heart, and whole being, he was a patriot.

At the end of the service, the American flag, which had draped the casket, was folded and presented to his daughter. The family expressed gratitude for attendance of the LRRPs, who served as pall bearers, and for the Honor Guard of soldiers. Mr. and Mrs. Kwak invited the LRRPs and the bugler to a luncheon at the Mandarin Garden Restaurant. Mrs. Kwak, during the service and later at the luncheon, said that Ted often told her, that his service with the LRRPs and his friendships with the men from our unit, were the most important thing of his life. I was pleased that we were able to be there and represent that important aspect of his life.

Sincerely,
Marvin L. Sinclair "Marty"
2nd Bde, LRRP, 1968

I am saddened to hear of the unfortunate demise of Ted Yasui. My condolences to his family and friends. He has gone to join GRITS (Great Ranger In The Sky as all LRRP's are known & belong to the Ranger Clan). We will come to join Ted Yasui and all those we left behind, but not yet. I salute (IVSIV) Ted Yasui. RIP LRRP. - Jake

Holy God, Ted as a soldier in The U. S. Army, was extraordinary, one of exemplary courage, one that displayed love, dedication, commitment, true leadership, and love of country. Your Word assures us that no one enters the heavenly home by works alone on earth. No, unless it is done in faith and to your glory, it is all for naught. Ted's works were genuinely from the heart, one that would suffer and die for another, which was shown in Vietnam, and on the American highway where met his demise. As character would have it, when faced with the life and death situation, he out of love for others, did give his. We know Ted is with you in the home of peace, home of love, home of joy. Where there will never be suffering nor tears forevermore. He followed your Son's example; he died to allow others life. We pray for peace to his family and also for those in the other car, that surely feel torment. No greater love has a man that this, to give his life for a friend. How-much more for strangers? He did die a "HERO" death. Rest brother and thanks for your contribution to our country, in and out of the service.

Bob Smyers

Page 8

IVY LEAF

Forty-One Times Later:**LRP Retells Last Mission**

By SP5 [illegible]

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — The members of the 4th Division Long Range Patrol (LRP) team had been in the ready tent for two hours. They sat on cots which served as seats and prepared their equipment for the mission.

Sergeant Theodore Yasui of Waipahu, Hawaii, had gone to the tent 41 times, first as a team member, and now as a team leader.

This was his last mission as an Ivy LRP because his tour in Vietnam was almost over.

"The things that a LRP must know, the same things I learned during my tour, can't be learned from books and in classes," the sergeant said.

"You learn the things you have to know by going out on missions and hope you don't forget anything.

Same Ground Rules

"You see, we fight this war on the same ground rules as the Viet Cong—in small groups, traveling lightly and we don't let people know we're around.

"The tactics we use differ with each situation so a LRP has to be imaginative, cool and have confidence in his ability, and these things can't be taught.

"You know, each time I go out I learn something about the enemy and the environment we fight in.

"I mean, they don't say, 'Look Yasui, this is the way it is and this is the way it's got to be done,' but you watch and listen to the guys that have been around and if you're smart, you don't forget what they do."

The team leader grabbed his gear and headed for the jeep.

As they approached the pad, the helicopter which would insert the team sat waiting, its rotors whipping the humid, still air.

Gives 'Thumbs Up'

First Lieutenant Philip Richey of Eugene, Ore., the 2nd Brigade LRP platoon leader, gave "thumbs up" and the chopper lifted off, carrying Sergeant Yasui's team to a hill, south of a firebase to observe suspected enemy troop concentrations.

The ship barely touched ground before it sprang into the air again and already the LRPs were heading for cover.

"Our job was to watch for the enemy," Sergeant Yasui recounted after he returned.

"It wasn't long before we spotted the first Viet Cong.

"My observer called me up to his position and told me he had spotted a Charlie about 5,000 meters to our northwest. I took the binoculars and sure enough there he was, standing up in a clump of bushes.

"I called artillery on the radio and asked them to give me a smoke round at the location and a few moments later, it came screaming down right on top of him."

"This must have really shaken them up because three of them started running into the open. I called in more artillery and we were right on the money.

"My observer saw a large group of VC running down a stream, trying to get away from our artillery like they always do, and I put in every battery I could lay my hands on.

Plane Spots Six

"The light observation plane circling overhead reported six of the enemy killed."

Darkness was quickly enveloping the hills around the LRP team when contact was finally broken, but Sergeant Yasui knew the quiet wouldn't last long.

"They (the Viet Cong) knew someone called in the artillery and they had a pretty good idea where that someone was," Sergeant Yasui continued.

"We started hearing bamboo crack and one of my men came running to me with a report that he had seen one enemy half way up the hill.

"We had Spooky on station so I asked him to make a run on our visitor.

"Then I looked out and saw a tree I didn't remember was there before. I looked away as Spooky made his first pass and when my eyes returned to the spot, the tree wasn't there anymore. I knew the VC were on the hill with us.

"I ordered my men to move off the hill and take up a position in a deserted bunker. Then I got on the radio and called Spooky right on our previous position.

"We all huddled in that small bunker listening to that hill dance from the miniguns," smiled Sergeant Yasui.

Sergeant Yasui's last mission ended five days later when he and his team were picked up and returned to the forward area of the Highlander Brigade, after relaying enemy locations to artillery batteries and spotter planes, robbing the enemy of his most prized weapon—surprise.

PFCIC



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

Unit Director - Randall White



Coming events

By the time you read this, the June reunion of the 101st LRRP/Rangers in Branson MO. will be over. For those who missed it, all I can say is too bad. At this point in May it's shaping up to be a good one. Held in concert with "Operation Homecoming" it looks to be one of the largest gatherings of Vietnam vets ever held. There are a ton of activities planned, along with the election of new officers for the 101st LRA. I'll give all the details in the next issue of Patrolling.

The 75th RRA reunion is just around the corner in July, and should be another stellar event with all the activities being planned by those officers and former members who live in the Columbus area. Our own David Grange will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame during the week of festivities. Again, look for a full report in the next issue of Patrolling.

During the past few years I've attempted to build the most complete roster of names of men who served in one of the units as has ever been compiled. I started with the rosters built by the three founding members and other early association directors, and then over the years obtained more "in country" orders from former members, and a few rosters from the NARA at St. Louis. The result is the listing of names that is displayed at our web site. Just about the time I think I've gathered all the names that can be found; a new one will pop up. A good example of this is the information sent to me by Bob Wynn. Bob was with the group of men who were assigned to the 3/1st Cav and eventually went to the 3/5th Cav when L Company stood down at the end of 1971. Bob had a copy of orders showing all those assigned from L Company to the Cav....the second half of the orders. The copy Bob was issued covers the names starting with M and through Z. Someplace out there are orders covering A through M. There were about 7-8 new names found on just that one set of orders from Bob. I realize that some of these guys might not have been in the unit very long, but they are our people regardless. Just as important as the names on these old orders are the service numbers of these individuals. These are the key to finding our "lost dogs" and offering them the chance to come home. This coming fall/winter, Billy Nix, Ron Edwards and I plan on doing an extensive search for these unfound men using the service numbers and a search engine that we hope will turn up the addresses of many of these guys. (Sorry guys, but I refuse to be strapped indoors to a computer during the short summer months in the UP) If anyone has copies of orders laying in a box or a drawer that you've never sent in copies of, please get copies to Billy, Ron or myself. If you know the whereabouts of one of our lost members, please get his contact information to one of us. The plan is to contact as many members as we can find in time for the 20th anniversary of the 1986 reunion at Fort Campbell, the reunion which eventually resulted in the forming of the 75th RRA. Look for the 2006 reunion to be a big one.

June is dues time for both associations. Do not procrastinate on getting your payment in, or you run the risk of missing an issue of Patrolling. The \$25 dues for the 75th RRA can be mailed to John Chester (contact info in this magazine), and the \$20 dues for the 101st LRA can be mailed to Linda Cox, 111 Smokey Rock Road, Bailey CO. 80421.

If you can spare a few bucks, don't forget to contribute to the 75th RRA Members Fund and/or the Family Fund. Emmett has done an excellent job at starting these projects and they continue to grow in both scope and the number of people we touch. This might be his most worthwhile contribution to our organization as president. Good job Emmett!

Another fairly new concept that Emmett has started is a "State Coordinator" function. He'd like to find one or two members from each state to act as a liaison for members from that particular state who might be in need or facing a death or other hardship. The position has no responsibilities as to the day to day operation of the association, and your services would only be called into play on an case by case as needed basis. Please step forward and get your toes wet and help the association out. You may never be asked to do a thing, but we need to know we have people in place willing to spend a little time and effort when called upon.

For years there have been questions about one 101st KIA that has bothered me. Harry Jerome Edwards is listed this way; Start of Tour: Thursday, January 20, 1972 Date of Casualty: Thursday, January 20, 1972 Age at time of loss: 19 Casualty type: (A3) Hostile, died while missing Reason: Air loss - Crashed on land (Helicopter, non-crew)

Now I know that L Company was deactivated on November 24th 1971. So how could Edwards have been killed in 1972 while serving with L Company? This question pulled at me for years, until I started helping Hugh Mills, author of "Scout Pilot" research some areas of his latest book. Seems that Hugh did two tours, his first tour is written about in

"Scout Pilot" and his second tour covered in his as of yet unreleased book. I knew that Edwards was killed in a helicopter crash, but with what unit and how? Bob Wynn was with D 3/5th Cav at the same time as Hugh. I hooked Bob and Hugh up, and between them I got the full story and how it happened. Edwards was with D Troop and was killed when his helicopter was shot down while performing a rescue mission of an F-4 pilot. I won't steal Hugh's story, so look for the complete story in Hugh's book when it is released. Even though Edwards was with D 3/5th when killed, we've carried him on the rolls of the L Company KIAs for years. I guess that nobody knew the story. There may be at least one and maybe more that are not listed as L Company KIAs, but were former members who were killed with D Troop later on. For now I prefer to let Harry stay on our list of L Company KIAs, after all, he was one of us at one time. Some time back I proposed building a separate list of those killed while supporting our operations or who were killed after serving in one of our units and were KIA with another unit. I've identified at least 17 more men who fall into this category, but I just haven't found the time to sort it all out and compile their information. Maybe someday I can get it done....just not enough time in the day for everything, and still have a life...J See 'yall this summer at a reunion.

Randy White

e-mail: ranwhite@jamadots.com

The 101st LRRP/Ranger web site;

<http://www.lcompanyranger.com/index.html>



M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Steve Houghton



By Steve Houghton

Hello to all my fellow my 71st LRP- M Company Ranger brethren. It's hard to believe but another year has passed and a "Reunion" is upon us. By the time this issue arrives the event should be just days away. I'm hoping all your plans are coming together and you can attend. I know too, that things don't always work out, so all of you who can't make it, well; we will drink a toast to next time. But the fact is, none of us are getting any younger, and who knows who'll be around for the next one. So if there is any way you can swing it, get your butt to Benning this July 6-10th.

The Vietnam experience is as varied as the men who were there. For some it seems like yesterday, for others perhaps eons ago. The people we served with are part of us now. Our experiences and memories have played a part in making us who we are today. From time to time I've gotten the old photos out and wondered what ever became of (insert whatever name you will here). I'm sure that's not to uncommon for most of us, you probably have done the same thing. I made an attempt to reconnect, or at least to establish contact with the men I served with both, during my state side and Vietnam

service. I have to say it's been very rewarding to me. Most of the men I reestablished contact with were happy to do so. Some I've had just an initial contact with, and others have been more involved, but they've all been positive. The Ft Lewis reunion last summer was my first reunion. Circumstances kept me from

the others that have come and gone since I joined the association. Even though no one I actually served with made that reunion, it still was a very rewarding experience. I made friends with Ron Piper and Bob Sampson, men who served with my buddies, who couldn't make it to Lewis. We ran out of time before we ran out of stuff to talk about.

The point I'm making, is show up at Benning! You'll not regret it. Maybe we'll see someone we served with, or maybe we'll just make a new friend.

Look at a few of these photos submitted by Ron Harper.....photos of men he served with. You may not know THESE guys, but I'll bet you know some you've wondered about all these

years.

Sorry for the short article..... It will be better next issue.
Steve Houghton





N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



One of the most highly regarded team leaders in the history of the 173rd LRRP/74th Inf/N Rangers was SSgt Alain Tremblay. He served two years in the 173rd before joining 74th Inf and was a team leader for COL Bob Carroll when he took over A/1/503rd after he left command of 173rd LRRP. Ranger Roger Brown wrote me that COL Carroll has the highest regard for Tremblay.

His niece and nephew, Suzanne Bruno and Ken Weiler have requested information on their uncle and should like to be contacted by anyone that knew him. Suzanne's phone number is 516 378-6470 and her e-mail is Ncpdgreen@aol.com and his e-mail is kweiler@suscom.net.

He family sent me the information that he was born Alain Joseph Tremblay in January of 1938 in Quebec, Canada. I had heard that he had been a monk and his family wrote that he entered the Trappist Order of monks at Graymore, NY in the late 1950's/early 1960's but left the orders to join the Army and airborne. He was killed in the Bong Son region on patrol in July 1968 and his grave stone is carved a large rendering of his beloved curled Airborne wings and his favorite saying "Smile, Jesus Loves You".



I should myself like information on Tremblay for a future article for Patrolling. I have heard from Ranger Roger Brown, Doc Clark and Schoonover on Tremblay. The below is extracted from e-mail I have received from Doc Clark.

"A couple of comments about your uncle, nicknamed : "Sgt Rock". Quite a man. Though I never ran a mission with him, we knew each other quite well and I can tell you the following. You

probably know of his extended tours of duty. When I met him he had been in country for several years. This speaks volumes to the man's intentions and beliefs. He was very organized with meticulous attention to detail. The thing I remember most about Rock was his sense of mission and purpose for being there. He was a devoted fighter of communist aggression as were many, and truly believed in our mission as did many of us. The thing that was different about Rock was how calm, pragmatic and at peace with himself as he was with all that went on, both in the field and in the rear. There was a calm about him and in his presence you felt the compassion and philanthropy of this man. Always the commensurate student he could talk about or listen to any subject and give it great thought. One of the nicest, most pleasant individuals I have ever known. He loved to travel, and read. Always seemed much more wise than his years to me. You all should be very proud of your uncle, he rose to the cream of the crop, and faced dangers beyond the comprehension of most individuals, in conditions that far and out weigh any that have been portayed..."

"...As you know my memory ebbs and flows as does the Merced River, or a meaningless creek of snow melt trickling over some wall in the Sierras. I am mailing you two pictures I have. One is a slide with Rock on the right and the other is in the mud at Dak To. The philanthropic ways and genuine care Rock demonstrated to the locals and fellow Americans in all actions and mannerisms, speaks volumes as to the nature of the man. I will scan my slides for more. I believe Garfield Wagner, was a close friend of Rock and team member if I am not mistaken. Lt Van Winkle I believe knew him well. Where he was killed in the Bong Son area was an absolute crap hole, old boobie traps, coords of all LZs wired and the center of long standing, deep rooted hatred of all foreigners. I always felt that a high degree of Vietnamese criminal activity was centered in that place. Bad things happened there, in the town, in the field and as result of changing tactics and re-defined use of LRRP teams, a significant increase in casualties occurred.

"News from the Front"

Received this from SGM Horne.

Reed

I'm glad to be anywhere but behind a desk at this point in my career. As anyone who knows me, knows I'm no hero, but I initially was disappointed not to have an Iraq or



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

Afghanistan assignment. I kinda felt like the last kid picked for a baseball team. However, as seemingly often is the case, my initial assessment was in error. I figure that every soldier that stays on extended tours here keeps other soldiers from being on a "tour merry-go-round", and hopefully affords them additional time with their loved ones. The US Army is one of the few elements here that is doing good things and are keeping folks from being taken from their beds and killed. I work with the POLUKRBAT (Polish-Ukrainian Battalion) and find them to be outstanding soldiers (most are RECCE & Airborne). Their Officers speak English better than most of the folks from my rural county back in Ohio. There are no shortage of bad guys here, but I would say that there are more criminals (i.e. weapons and drug smugglers, human traffickers, and just plain mafia types), than terrorists. The situation is antagonized by some of the ethnic prejudices. The prejudices aren't timeless, as folks are led to believe. Given the 50 (+) years our country has been struggling with prejudices, spending a few years in Kosovo to diminish "stupid hatred" seems reasonable and certainly justified (of course this comes from a guy who still firmly believes that we should never have pulled out of Viet Nam). I'm now outside the TOC and working on the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) between Kosovo and Serbia proper. I have a small team that works the area to coordinate security with the Serbian military and negate bad guys operating across the ABL. I'm not humping a large ruck, but

at least I'm out in the countryside. The mountains here remind me of the southern rockies (although not as tall). The villagers in the mountains, Kosovo Serbs and Albanians alike, are decent hard working folks that would give you the shirt off their back if you needed it. I can't walk by a home in the woods without being offered coffee and home made fruit juice. I don't have much use for the cities here, but then I don't have much use for the one's back in the USA either. I reckon they at least provide a place for baseball teams to call home. I figure this is where I'm meant to be for now. I extended for another year, as I figure this is where the Army needs me to be or they wouldn't have asked me to stay. I'm probably not the soldier I was physically when I was with November Company, but then I'm not 20 anymore. I firmly believe I'm contributing to the young soldiers and NCO's to ensure they know what "right looks like". I still make my men write home with pen and paper and make them share their mail with fellows soldiers who don't receive letters (although they in this day of EMAIL and cell phones it is probably outdated). Well, I've rambled enough. I hope you can use some of this. Take care Reed and thanks for all you do for us old Rangers. Jeff

Sergeants Major Jeff Horne MULTI-NATIONAL BRIGADE (East) Joint Implementation Commission SGM for the Balkans "Sua Sponte"



O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael Feller



Ambush & Friendly Fire Part 1

Once upon a time, in a distant country, a long time ago, there we were in the jungles and over grown rice paddies of South Vietnam having a good time.. Team 1/7, Company O (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne), attached to the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, was comprised of the following team members at the time of this remembrance: SSG Michael (Brazza) Frazier (Team Leader), SGT Bill (Teacup) Houser (Assistant Team Leader). SP4 Margarito (Chico) Hernandez, SP4 Chuck (Priest) Luczynski. SP4 Henry (Reed) Bonvillian, and SP4 Anthony (Tony) Quinata who was from Guam.

With exception of Tony, we had all served in Co F (Long Range Patrol) 51st Infantry (Airborne) and had much experience in playing the LRP game. Most of us were Reconnaissance and Commando (RECONDO) qualified and Frazier, Chico, and I were Sniper qualified by the 82nd. Of course, we were all Airborne qualified both in parachuting and in attitude.

This story is a combination of remembrances from myself, Mike Frazier, Chico Hernandez, and Chuck Luczynski, all of whom, of course, have slightly different memories as to the facts. So, I was told by my team mates to just write the story as best I could. I told them I would not send this

in to the 75th Ranger Regiments magazine 'Patrolling' without their consent. If you are reading this, it will be because our team authorized the writing.

We believe it was either August or September of 1969 that SSG Frazier came to us with a 'Warning Order'. We were to be inserted into an area called "The Iron Triangle" along a medium size river that flowed into the Song Saigon river, along with 2 other teams. The purpose of the mission was to act as a blocking force for an armored operation that was making a major sweep of the area on the other side of 'our' river. In short, the 82nd was the anvil, we were to be the hammer to ambush those enemy troops that would be trying to escape the sweep by crossing 'our' river. SSG Frazier advised us to carry extra amounts of weapons, ammo, Claymore mines, and water.

All 3 teams were picked up from the Company O (Ranger) area and trucked to the staging site where we were put on Armored Personnel Carriers (APC's) for the first part of the insertion. This, to us from Co F (LRP) 51st Inf (Abn), was a very strange way of being inserted. We arrived at the staging area and proceeded to board the APC's.

None of us would get into an APC. We put our very heavy rucksacks in the APC and rode on top.. The APC to us represented some kind of 'death trap' as we LRP's/Rangers had to be free to move fast if we had to. We had to be completely in tune



O/75 - 78TH LRP (CONTINUED)

with our surroundings at all times and we would not be able to know what was going on from inside an APC.

The APCs drove down a narrow dirt road with heavy forest on either side, not jungle, and proceeded to a place where there was some sort of building and some South Vietnamese Army artillery. We debarked the APCs under the unwanted supervision of an 82nd Lieutenant.. This was also a strange circumstance for our team. We took orders from Frazier, no body else. We were then directed to follow a platoon size element of the 82nd down through the tall weeds to the medium size river. Some one, not us, had put a rope across the river and the 82nd guys went first across the river using the rope. Wearing only web gear and small packs they had no problem making the crossing. However, our teams were carrying upwards of 100 lb rucksacks and the rope slackened under the weight. 'Reed' Bonvillian, while trying to forge the river, cut himself on his machete and was bleeding so badly he had to be relieved and excused from the mission.

We were down to a 5 man team and minus the fire power of a 6th man.

'Chico' Hernandez , as the rope stretched more, went under the water. Fortunately he didn't panic. While under the water, Chico kept a consistent hand over hand on the rope. His determination resulted in the fact that he made it close enough to the other side where he was helped out of the river, still alive. SSG Frazier had some problems too as he was carrying the PRC-25 radio as well as his beloved secondary weapon the M-79 in addition to his combat load. Unfortunately his M-79 grenade launcher was lost in the river crossing. 'Priest' had a hard time, but he made it without incident. So did Tony. I had a terrible time during the crossing, but made it OK. I must state that we former Co F (LRP) troops did not understand this type of insertion at all. Helicopters could have dropped us off in the Area Of Operation (AO) on the far side of this river without going through all this macho man scenario. We were used to maintaining complete stealth to keep us alive and being there with the regular troops from the 82nd made us feel uncomfortable and vulnerable. Even worse, it made us feel like we were back in the 'real Army' as opposed to being Company F Lerps.

Once on the other side of the river the platoon of 82nd troops moved on down the river. Co O Ranger's 3 teams were dropped off at different locations down the medium size river and relatively not so far apart, perhaps a half 'click' or less. We'd crossed several canals leading into the river and finally Frazier got caught in the mud along a rice paddy berm and gave the order to set up our position there. I do not know why he picked that spot, but the end results will speak for themselves. Frazier knew his stuff. He'd been with the 173rd, Co F (LRP) as a team leader, now Co O (Ranger). We trusted his leadership without question. We set up in a basic L shape tactical way for an ambush. Chico, Priest, and Frazier were set up facing the river to look for targets of opportunity. Tony and I were set up on the long L side of the canal.. Our job was to assist the guys set up for ambush and provide a surveillance for any enemy that may come at us from the rear of our position. The focus of the team was on the river figuring that the odds were slim of having enemy troops come at

us from the opposite direction.

Sometime later, which didn't seem like a long time, Tony, Priest, and I were standing up for some reason, SSG Frazier was on the radio calling in a Situation Report (SITREP).. I don't know why, but I glanced over at Chico who was motioning with his hands in a rapid way. I also saw the look on his face. He took his fingers and slanted his eyes, put up 2 fingers, and pointed towards us. Chico was the eyes and ears of our team. What he told us without talking was that there were 2 VC across the canal from us. He knew that it would only be moments until the VC saw us standing up and probably would have fired us up. With absolute faith in Chico's assessment I wheeled around and opened up on full automatic without having a target in sight. Tony opened up too. Chico couldn't take the shot because the 3 of us were directly in his line of fire. Tony immediately went on the attack. He charged the canal screaming at the VC to stop or be killed. At the time, neither one of us had a target. Tony jumped into the canal in his haste to get to the other side, make a visual sighting, and take the shot. Unfortunately, the canal was deeper than we thought and Tony went straight to the bottom. Frazier and 'Priest' jumped into the canal and hauled him out of the water while I kept them covered. Unfortunately, Tony had lost his M-16 rifle to the canal and the enemy got away clean. .

Immediately following that incident 'Priest' saw a 3rd VC in the river who was hurriedly trying to retreat to the far side of the river. 'Priest' opened up on full automatic and missed. The enemy kept swimming for the tall weeds and brush on the far side of the river. Frazier had a scope on his M-16, and as the enemy soldier tried to hide in the weeds, only his head was visible above water and almost concealed in the overgrowth around him Frazier took the shot firing 3 times on semi-auto and killed the VC with a perfect shot pattern to the head.

Following these events we finally were able to set up for the dark of night still following the plan of an L shape ambush geared toward the river and we put out Claymore Mines in places Frazier thought to be of tactical significance. We were camouflaged to the hilt, including fresh cut foliage from the trees and bushes. Chico on the far right of the L, Frazier and Priest to the left in the middle of the L, Tony and I at the end of the L facing the overgrown rice paddies as a sort of rear security. Frazier called in a Situation Report to the 82nd LT and was told that they had spotted 3 VC, one of whom was carrying something orange. They had engaged the enemy, however, they were unsuccessful. The 82nd LT told Frazier that he wanted a physical body count and that we would have to retrieve the dead enemy soldier from across the river. Frazier told him that it would be taken care of in the morning, for obvious reasons. We all knew that none of us was going to swim that river and retrieve a dead VC at dusk so some LT could report a body count. We found it to be unbelievable but figured that we'd wait till morning, then decide what to do with our dead VC across the river,

That first night was very overcast. Apparently something was going on quite a way off from behind our position. Flares were being dropped in some AO that wasn't ours. Anybody whose been there, done that, and got the T-shirt knows that parachute flares don't really shed a lot of light on you,

but they sure help in the dark. The flares being dropped in this case were a long way off and gave a sort of 'psychedelic' view of our 'back yard', meaning the rice paddy I was responsible for watching. We secured for the night. Frazier assigned the guard watch times and of course, none of us slept anyway, ever, at night.

The night sounds of the boonies took over with the usual sounds. Through the eternal buzz of thousands of mosquitoes, we heard the familiar sounds of the lizards scurrying through the tree branches above us, and the river rats approaching to feast on the dehydrated food packets in our rucksacks, just enough to ruin them. The leeches would appear on us later as an itch, but they could be dealt with in the morning. Though the night sounds of our AO seemed normal, in the distance the sounds and the flares indicated that possibly we would face another contact that night from the back yard. There was no talking between team members, we were all aware of the situation. We were also aware that the whole world knew where we were from our contact earlier and based on past experience working for the 82nd, we knew that there would be no back-up support from them or their helicopters. The only help we'd get if needed would be from the 2 other Co O Teams up river from us.

Time passed, the dark of a Vietnam night engulfed us. Later, I thought I'd heard something in the overgrown rice paddy to my front. I didn't move at all, but rather kept my mind, eyes, and ears on that unfamiliar night sound. The sound I heard was a muffled sound, a sucking sound, it had a rhythm to it. It stopped, then started again. This sound was not a normal sound of the night. It was the sound of someone moving out there one step at a time and withdrawing his foot from the mud below. I came alert and alive very quickly. None of us had good cover for being approached from our own side of the river.

The light from the distant flares assisted me in locating the source of the sound. To my immediate right line of sight I saw something shiny, focused in, but couldn't get a clear sighting on the subject. It seemed to be more like a reflection off of something that didn't fit. Then, under the lights of the distant flares I saw other movement towards us in the paddy. Finally the muffled noise was right in front of me at about 15 feet away. What tipped me off to his presence was the light from the flares shining off of his wet back. He was the point man for the VC behind him and he was right in front of me. I couldn't tell if anyone else had seen him as we did not speak to each other after dark and we were just a little bit too far apart to whisper. Besides, it was too late for that. This VC was heading exactly in the direction of where Chico was set up. Cautiously I raised my M-16 to fire at the silhouette before me. I thought I had my rifle set on automatic. I fired and found out that I was on semi-automatic. I saw my 2 tracers go either side of the guy. That had to be the cleanest miss of the war at 15 feet. Fortunately the rest of the team was wide awake and had also detected the movement. When I fired the response was immediate from everybody. As a team we sprayed the entire area with a blanket of fire one would not believe.. Tony, who was weaponless, threw out grenades. We received incoming fire from the enemy whose rounds hit the tree branches above where Chico was stationed. Priest had had

enough and yelled "TNT going out" and we all ceased fire and got our noses deep in the dirt. As was his nature, 'Priest' used to carry 1/4 or 1/2 pound blocks of TNT on him with 3 inch nails taped on to them. Needless to say, when the TNT went out the contact was over.

Frazier was on the radio with 'Higher Command' and was told to make a sweep of the area. We all thought this was a rather insane and potentially deadly order. The 82nd LT, who was no where near our position/situation, wanted us to make a sweep in the dead of night, in a overgrown rice paddy, right after a contact? After a brief team discussion about this Frazier told me to call in artillery flares over our location. I knew right away that his intent was to follow the order. I called in the request and it took only moments for the artillery flares to crackle over our heads. Frazier, Chico, and 'Priest' went out for a look-see. I manned the radio in case the worst happened. On that sweep they found a large hole from 'Priests' TNT with an NVA rucksack, an AK-47, an ammo pouch, some documents and a small orange inner tube. The immediate area surrounding the mini crater appeared multi colored as if someone had really been sick to their stomach. 'Priest' thought his TNT charge had actually and literally blown the guy to pieces. SSG Frazier called off the sweep. He was perfectly happy to continue the sweep at first light and so advised our SITREP to the 82nd LT.

Following all of this we passed that first night very wired up. Nobody slept. I remained in my position watching, listening, nervous. The flares in the distance disappeared from the sky and we went back into the black of night. I can't speak for the others but I spent the whole night trying to come up with some positive thinking. I finally made up my mind that the odds of getting hit again were slim. Our 2 contacts had been with 3 VC each. I thought that if there were any more VC out there they were traveling in small groups and really confused due to all the 82nd operations that were going on. At least we wouldn't get stuck in combat with a large enemy force. I also felt that we'd put out so much fire during our contact that the VC probably figured that we were a much larger force than 5 Lerp/Rangers. They would try to avoid us.

Day 2:

The night passed without further incident and dawn came right on time. At first light Frazier was very excited. He felt that the unplanned bushwhack of the night before had to result in more than we got. He took with him 2 other team members and conducted another sweep of the over grown rice paddy. Sure enough, we found another AK-47 rifle, a hammock, and miscellaneous other items. So, by this time, we had racked up 1 VC KIA, 1VC KIA (probable) 2 AK-47 rifles, and a variety of enemy gear. It was the thought that we had so scared the VC with the fury of our unplanned ambush that they simply discarded their weapons, equipment, and basically ran their ass off out of our AO.

The next order of business was to acquire the body of the dead VC on the other side of the river. It was clear that none of us were going to swim the river and drag the poor VC back to our side, at least without a rope, which we didn't have. Never failing in his missions and using his creativity Frazier got on the

radio with the other two teams up river and explained the situation. No team had a rope, however, 1 team had a lot of Claymore Mine wire. Frazier figured that would work and 2 men from that team were dispatched to our position and arrived without incident. Once they arrived with the wire it was time to figure out just who was going to make the swim across and tie the wire onto the dead VC so he could be hauled back to our side of the river. SSG Frazier asked: "OK, whose going" and he looked at each one of us. I knew Frazier well. He didn't give the order, but I felt that he fully expected me to volunteer. Fortunately SP4 Jim Fenner from the other team volunteered and off he went into the river. We all kept a sharp watch on Fenner and kept him covered. Fortunately nothing happened and he made it. He tied the Claymore wire on our VC and immediately swam quickly back to our side of the river. We then set about the task of hauling the VC body back to our side and were successful. The VC had a 'death grip' on his AK-47 and it took a couple of guys to separate him from his weapon once he was retrieved.

I'd like to pause for a moment in this story to state that the actions of Jim Fenner on that day required an awful lot of bravery. We on Team 1/7, to this day, admire his bravery.

Frazier radioed the 82nd LT and told him we had the body, another AK, & miscellaneous stuff. The LT was pleased and said he'd be stopping at our location later.

We noticed that the water level in the canal had gone down due to the tide. Priest and Frazier went into the canal and retrieved Tony's M-16 rifle. Later in the morning of the second day we were graced by the expected visit from the 82nd LT. He viewed the body of our dead VC, all the commie rifles and equipment we'd acquired, and then told Frazier to toss the dead body into the river, which we did. He also told Frazier that the mission had now changed and we were to link up with the other 2 teams up river and move to the "Big Blue" which was the Song Saigon river and an awful long way down stream from where we were considering the weight of our rucksacks. At the intersection of the rivers we would be picked up by River Patrol Boats and reinserted up river on the Song Saigon. We did not know what our assignment would be at that point. Then to our great appreciation, the Platoon of 82nd troops left the area and were extracted.

SSG Frazier being the ranking NCO of the 3 teams, called the other teams on the radio and requested a meeting of the teams. The purpose was to coordinate the 3 teams linking up and continuing mission as ordered. This meeting would take place tomorrow morning, our 3rd day.

Fortunately, the 2nd night in our AO passed with out incident.

3rd Day:

Relatively early in the morning of the 3rd day the representatives from the other teams were heading our way. SGT Lambert and SP4 Jamie Hernandez. Chico was supposed to identify them so that we didn't initiate contact on our own people as they would be coming towards his position along the berm running along our side of the river.

Suddenly, we heard the spiraling sound of an artillery shell and sure enough, it landed on the other side of our river.

Almost immediately, another artillery round came in and landed in the river right in front of us. Frazier yelled "they're walking them in, get down!!!" He got on the radio in the attempt to find out who was firing artillery at us and excitedly requested a 'cease fire' order. While Frazier was on the radio another artillery round came in very close to Chico.

As Chico put it: "We were sitting ducks! We had no where to go, no place to hide, and if we had moved at all we'd probably have become part of the landscape in Vietnam forever. The rounds continued to get closer and closer. I saw Lambert and Jamie Hernandez walking towards my position. When the next round came in it hit and exploded beyond my position between myself and Jamie and Lambert. They both disappeared from sight, and after the smoke, mud, and everything else had cleared, both SGT Lambert and Jamie had been wounded by the blast."

Frazier was on the radio still trying to call in a 'cease fire' plus calling in a Medivac for the wounded. The artillery finally stopped. Of course, working for the 82nd, there were no Medivac helicopters available as they were all "committed" somewhere else. It turned out that some high ranking officer in the 82nd flew out in a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) and extracted the wounded. Both men survived, thank God. If anyone reading this has been under friendly fire from our own artillery, they know the helpless feeling that goes with it. We were simply lucky which we called "Lerp Luck".

The 3 teams did link up. Counting the loss of Reed, and 2 wounded in the friendly artillery fire, there were 14 Rangers remaining. We organized and headed down our river for the Song Saigon River under the command of Frazier. It was a long and tedious journey carrying our heavy rucksacks, and, for the most part, uneventful. We crossed many canals in route. At one point we saw a building off to our left which looked pretty much destroyed by the war. Out of Lerp curiosity we had to check it out. Frazier didn't want to risk anyone to a mistake so he fired Chico's M-79 at the building hitting a tree right above what was left of the roof. It was his way of saying "Hello" to any bad guys that might have been hiding out in the place. 3 of us went for a look-see following that. Nobody there, not much of anything there. I did find a porcelain elephant with a Buddha riding on it. I 'liberated' it and tied it on to my rucksack in order to send it to my Mom following this assignment.

We continued down river and intersected with the Song Saigon. Frazier called in the Situation Report and told them we were in place. Then we simply waited for the Patrol Boats. while we waited we feasted on our dehydrated LRP packets, and in general, took a break secure in the belief that no enemy would hit us at that location. After all, 14 LRP/Rangers in the same place at the same time? We could have fought off a company of VC if we had to play defense.

When we heard the sound of the Patrol Boats we threw out a smoke grenade and they came into the shore and picked us up. At that time we learned that we were to be reinserted about 2 miles up river on the Song Saigon to provide reconnaissance of that area.

That concluded Part 1 of this assignment, Wait till you read what happened next in Part 2. Totally unbelievable, but true. Bill (Teacup) Houser



P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Bill Davis



Summer Patrolling Papa Company

"Lest We Forget"

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

We are coming up to our Reunion at Fort Benning. I hope that we have a good turn out. From the information that I have received it looks like we are going to have one of our largest turn outs yet. If you haven't made your plans to attend do so if at all possible. You will find all the information needed in this issue to make your plans to attend.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Ft. Benning with my brother. He is a civilian who wanted to have an idea of what it was like to be a Ranger. We were honored to have one of the best guides of the Fort possible, Duke DuShane. He took us to the Ranger Memorial, (which he was instrumental in designing) the Airborne Memorial and the Ranger Training Battalion, which is where the Ranger Hall of Fame is located. For the few of you who may not know Duke (although I find it hard to believe there are many who don't) a brief bio follows. Ranger Cyrille J. "Duke" Dushane was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 1997 for his extraordinary valor in combat, his longtime service to his country, and his contributions to the entire Ranger community for many years. During his three tours in Vietnam, he was twice awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor during ground combat operations. While serving with the Company P Rangers of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) he served as a Ranger team leader, Operations Sergeant, and company First Sergeant. Prior to this assignment, he served tours in Vietnam with the famous 1st Cavalry Division and with the 118th Aviation Company as a helicopter door gunner. This was quite an experience for both my brother and me, and want to take this opportunity to thank Duke!!



There is also another Reunion in the works in August. The Co. F 51st.

Inf.LRP Airborne Reunion 05 will be held in Nashville, Tenn. from Wednesday, Aug.17th. thru Saturday, Aug.20th. 2005, so clear those dates on your calendar and make your reservations early. The site of the reunion will be the Radison Hotel at Opryland. A special rate has been established at \$69.00 per night. Individual reservations must be called in by Monday July 18,2005 in order to obtain the above rate. For reservations contact the hotel directly Radison Hotel at Opryland, 2401 Music Valley Drive, Nashville,Tenn. 37214., (615)889-0800 or (800)333-3333 and make your reservations under Co. F.51st. Infantry LRP to get the contracted rate

Any Questions can be directed to:

Dave Barfield
P.O. Box 148656
Nashville, Tenn. 37214
(615)367-4570 (615)430-3614

Dave has given some further information that I would like to pass along. His info is as follows: No registration fees Everyone just

books their on reservation with the hotel I will have a schedule of suggested events with the packet that everyone will get when they arrive.....Everything is pay as you go.....everyone is free to do what they want while they are here but scheduled events will be planned.....We are located across the street from The Opryland Hotel, Opry Mills Mall, and the Grand Ole Opry.....Across the street from Nightlife Restaurant and Showcase which has live country music show each night.....Cracker Barrel across the street and Greyline tours across the street if anyone wants to take a day tour of many things available such as some of the country music stars homes. There is a free shuttle that leaves

the hotel each 30 minutes up until 9PM that takes you to the Unbelievable Opryland Hotel and Opry Mills Mall.....Wed evening I have planned as a group to see the Opryland Hotel and End up at Opry Mills to a place called Jullians.....It has 3 restaurants in side with billiard rooms and bowling lanes inside.....It leads out to the mall with everything you can imagine

including 20 inside theaters.....Thur.A drawing for give aways.....Some will go to the Parthanon.....other's to Andrew Jackson's House which is close.....A group Business meeting for the guys later that afternoon and wind up Thursday with a group meal at the 101st Airborne Restaurant which is in Nashville. Friday we have a trip to the lake planned on a 70 foot two decker boat. This is almost finalized and we will eat while we are on the boat. We are trying to work it out where there is no cost for this event. Friday nite we will either go to the American Legion as a group for Karaoke or have entertainment in our



P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

Hospitality Room at our Hotel....We have a large Room available to us the entire time.....I am working on having a special visitor or two during this event. Sat Individual events during the day.....Sat evening Downtown to Famous 2nd Avenue with a visit to world famous Tootsie's Lounge.....Where the opy stars hang out. There are other events in the works but the schedule want be complete until a little later on when I have a better idea of the number attending.....The Hotel is First class.....Indoor swimming pool and exercise room.....In house Applebees Restaurant and walking distance to 6 different restaurants and lounges. The women will love the unbelievable Oprymills Mall, They can spend an entire day there and still not see it all.....and the shuttle takes them to and from. Less than a mile from our Hotel.....there is a show club called Nightlife which has live shows there on Friday and Sat nites.....At the Oprymills Mall across the street there is a place called Gibson Guitar Showcase.....You can actually watch them



make the Gibson Guitar and they have a showroom with entertainment at night. Last night me and 10 friends watched a 4 hour Tribute to Elvis Presley. There were 9 Elvis's there from all over the country, 2 from Canada which performed....At the end, they were all presented with 2,000.00 Gibson Guitars. It was a hoot. So don't worry there is plenty to do in Nashville. If we get bored during the day, My Good friend operates a pontoon boat rental and I have a pontoon boat on the water....We can pack up and hang out on the lake which is only 10 minutes from the hotel. I have tried to plan things that will not be costly to the guys

because I know the trip and room can be expensive. Each day there will be a free drawing where I will be giving away some free meals at some of the eating locations walking distance from the hotel. I think you will have a great time here, trust me, just get here. Dave's phone is above, his email is Rangerdave0007@aol.com.

It looks like there will be a lot of the old timers there, so for some good stories and fellowship, you all might want to try and make this one.

Finally I wanted to pass on the information I gathered regarding a mission that took place on June 6, 1970. I want to preface this by saying that although there were fourteen Rangers on the ground that day, I could only come up with seven names, and there were large discrepancies on what happened and the logistics of the mission. If there are any of you out there who were on this mission, and remember the facts I relate, please don't hesitate to get in touch and perhaps we can fill in the holes. If I can get enough new information, I'd be happy to do an update in a future issue. I also want to particularly thank Dave McNulty for all the information he provided

The mission started as a result of intelligence gathered by Aqua-

Boy sensors that were dropped from aircraft. They were light activated and could pick up voices from a distance of 1000 yards. The area that was to be worked was deemed to be so active that we went in with a heavy team. In actuality, it was two teams. One Team Leader was Dave Gates, and the other Dave McNulty.. I was ATL for McNulty's team and Jay Lutz was also on our team. Roger Cassidy was on Dave Gates team. These are the only names I could come up with that were originally placed on the ground.

We hadn't been on the ground long when Jay Lutz, who had taken up the point from Gates team came upon a bunker complex that had recently been abandoned. The decision was made to destroy that complex. A chemical NCO specialist, an EOD specialist and two Rangers, Jerry Cornelius and Richard Polski were sent in with C-4, Det-Cord and crystal CS gas in order to eliminate that complex. The crystal CS was brought in because to just detonate those bunkers without saturating them with the gas would have resulted in them being almost immediately rebuilt.

The complex was wired with the Det-Cord with each bunker having a charge of C-4 and the gas. It had been completed and we were ready to vacate the area when there was a premature explosion causing the entire complex to ignite. Cpt. Ferguson was in the air and thought that all on the ground were lost. The common theory was that it was detonated when the EOD specialist was taking the scraps of the explosives that one of his frags was dislodged causing the explosion.

As a result the Chemical specialist and the EOD specialist were killed, and Jay Lutz was severely injured. Most of us on the ground were injured to one extent or another. Polski and McNulty stayed on the ground to retrieve what was left of the EOD personnel. They did so at great personal risk as by this time we were taking sporadic fire, but Rangers leave no one behind. It was a horrific day for Papa Company. Again if any can provide more details it would be greatly appreciated.

In Ranger Brotherhood,
Bill Davis





D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Tom Blandford



Our reunion will be in the place that we took our Airborne training and combat training for Viet Nam. Especially if you have not been back since 1968, you will experience a feeling of pride and accomplishment of the time you were there.

D 151 Association Events for 2005

MAY 30: Memorial Day: Participate in a local event, with a fellow Vet.

JULY 6-10: Reunion at Fort Benning.

AUG. 27-28: Mount Comfort Indiana Air Show, plans for D-151 mini-reunion at the air show.

SEPT. 11: Gravesite services: 1:00 for Klieber; 2:00 for Worley; then Greenfield VFW.

SEPT. 16-8: Kokomo Viet Nam Vet Reunion

SEPT. 29-30: Bus trip to D.C.

NOV. 11: 10:00 Veterans Day Parade in Indy

D- 151 Reunion at Ft. Benning Activities

D-151 and D-75th Memorial Ceremony at Ranger Hall of Fame.

Dedication of William Butler Warrior/LRS School [TBA].

D-151 Association Meeting - Tour of Ft. Benning - Fee \$ 20.00

Most of us have been able to reserve rooms at the Holiday Inn North, Columbus GA. That's where we will have our registration and association meeting. You don't have to pre-register for the D-151 functions but we'll need to know if you going so we can plan accordingly.

Historical book to include D-151

There is a historian that is writing a book about the National Guard in Viet Nam. One chapter will be about us. He is a reputable author. If you want to help have our story told, then contact him to participate. He will send a questionnaire to you. It's easy to complete. I encourage you to participate. Contact John Listman, 703-317-9437, PO box 9043, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Mount Comfort Indiana Air Show

AUG. 27-28: Mount Comfort Indiana Air Show. Plan for this D-151 mini-reunion at the air show.

You'll want to put this one your calendar. The air show is a very popular event and we will be guests of honor. That's free admission, free parking with shuttle, a tent and refreshments. They expect participation by a group with Hueys and Cobras. We'll get more details out to you later.

Bus trip to D.C.

The VVMC Anderson Indiana Chapter will have a bus going to Washington D.C. (leaving Sept. 28 and returning Sept. 30) to visit "The Wall" and tour D.C. Jon Ellis is the contact person

for this. The cost is \$130, which includes the bus fare, 5 meals, pop, beer and water. Hotel is additional: Call Ramada Inn in Morgantown W.V. to make reservations [Telephone 1-800-834-9766]. A block of rooms is reserved in the name of Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club and is \$125 for two nights with two people. Send check or money order to: VHV, M/C PO Box 1081, Anderson, IN 46012 by August 1 to reserve your place on the bus. It's a great trip with a great bunch of guys. Jon's number is 765-622-1926.

New members

A warm welcome to the men that joined us in Nam and took over for us. We trained these men, like we were trained by F/51st, and they went on to make us proud. They still recall us as "crazy M Fs", which they also became. Several of them will attend the 75th RRA Reunion and participate in the joint D/151 & D/75th memorial ceremony at the Ranger Hall Of Fame. I met them at the 2004 75th RRA in Seattle, Washington, and I look forward to seeing them again.

Dave Capik: Came to us in October 69, was on Team 1-5 with Viccaro.

Frank Park: Came to us in October 69, was on team 1-5 with Viccaro.

Marciano Martinez (also known as Tonto): Joined us in October 69, was in second platoon.

Richard (Bear) Papp: Joined us October 69, Jerry (Frenchy) Greene: Joined us October 69, Team 1-4.

Randy (Rusty) Hawk: Joined us in October 69, Died Dec. 15, 2004.



Condolences

Our condolences go to Rusty Hawk's family. I only knew Rusty from two 75th RRA reunions but got to like him very much and will miss him. Rusty joined us in Nam mid-year and was in second platoon.

Operation Support Our Troops

Brenda Manis is still involved in sending food and personal necessities to our deployed troops. She could really use your donations to pay for mailing expenses. Just \$15.00 pays for a 40 pound package of material. Please send a contribution if you can, to:

Brenda Manis
605 Turnberry Lane
Yorktown, IN 47396
Email: "chasbren@comcast.net"

Quartermaster

Tedd Dunn is our quartermaster. He has D-151 shirts, caps,

D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

pins, rings and other items for sale. Reach him at: 9591 N. CR 600W, Middletown, IN 47356. Telephone: 765-354-4058.

Email announcements

Get on Zita Moore's email list so you will be up to date on our unit activities and reports from Iraq about our LRS guys. Email address: "zita.moore@us.army.mil"

Interview for documentary film about D-151

Greg Brown has a film company and is interested in making a documentary about our unit. Greg's brother, Allen, served with us. I think he was in second platoon. I remember going on an "in- country" R&R to Vung Tau with him. Greg would like to interview some of us. If you want to be interviewed on film, call Greg. Telephone: 765-977-3363.

Website

Check out our website: "http://www.IndianaRangers.org"

For VA assistance

If you were going to file for VA Service connection benefits, you would be best off contacting a veterans group "service

representative". For Indiana, use either DAV (317-226-7928) or AMVETS (317-226-7919)—both are at the Federal Building: 575 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

See you at Benning. RLTW Out: Tom Blandford.

Tom Blandford, 317-846-6374. 5882 Hollow Oak Trail, Carmel, IN 46033

Email: tomblandford300@hotmail.com

D151 DUES AND REGISTRATION FORM

Make check payable to Co. D 151st Infantry Association
Mail to Treasurer: Gary Bussell, 5000 W. Connie Dr., Muncie, IN 47304

Dues are \$12.00 per year \$ _____

Registration for Reunion \$20.00 _____

Name _____

Number of reunion attendees _____

Cell phone number (optional) _____

**F/51 LRP**

Unit Director - Russell Dillon



Operation Uniontown III

Part 2

Operation Uniontown ran from February 10, 1968 to March 16, 1968. This portion takes up with missions from February 11, 1968

TEAM 15 (light 6 man) was inserted into their LZ on February 11, 1968 at 1752HRS (5:52 PM). At 1754HRS (5:54 PM) the insertion helicopter, Shadow 3, reported seeing chickens in the LZ and the belly gunner reported seeing 2 Vietcong about 200 meters on the West side of the LZ. At the same time Team 15 reported seeing 2 Vietcong on the East side of the LZ. The gun-ships were called in and made firing runs from the North to the South on the East and West sides of the LZ and a fake extraction of Team 15 was made at 1802HRS (6:02 PM). At 1830HRS (6:30 PM) Team 15 reported a safe insertion. At 1855HRS (5:55 PM) Team 15 reported that 4 Vietcong were moving toward their location from the North, Northwest. The Vietcong stopped and checked out the area around the LZ then moved out of the area. On February 12th Team 15 reported that they had reached their main objective. At 1740HRS (5:40 PM) Team 15 reported hearing four shots being fired about 200 meters East of their position. The shots happened



between 1700HRS through 1720HRS (5:00 PM through 5:20 PM). On February 13th at 0738HRS (7:38 AM) Team 15 was extracted.

TEAM 22 (light 6 man) was inserted into the 3/11 ACR perimeter on February 13, 1968 at 1750HRS (5:50 PM). On February 14th Team 22 separated from the 3/11 ACR perimeter. At 1015HRS (10:15 AM) Team 22 reported a well used trail that had tracks that appeared to be 4 to 5 hours old. At 1034HRS (10:34 AM) Team 22 reported woodcutters about 30 to 40 meters West of their position. At 1129HRS (11:29 AM) Team 22 reported another well used trail running North to South to the East of the teams location. At 1243HRS (12:43 PM) Team 22 reported movement on the trail to his East. At 1440HRS (2:40 PM) Team 22 reported they were 20 meters from the trail and heard ox carts, but could not see them. At 1705HRS (5:05 PM) Team 22 reported they were going to RON (Remain Over Night) 50 meters South of an East to West trail that the team had found. On February 15th at 0640HRS (6:40 AM) Team 22 reported that at 0100HRS (1:00 AM) that they heard voices and movement on the trail 50 meters North of their position. At 0855HRS (8:55 AM) Team 22 reported a footpath about 15 meters long running North from the East, West trail that lead to a reinforced bunker with rifle firing slits facing the East West trail. At 0906HRS (9:06 AM) Team 22 reported many small trails like

F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

those found in a base camp. At 0915HRS (9:15 AM) Team 22 reported finding dry wood shaped like a lean-to that was about 10 feet high by 15 feet long. At 1000HRS (10:00 AM) Team 22 reported hearing 4 S.A. (Small Arms) shots about 300 meters North of their position and 2 more small arms shots about 400 meters North, Northwest of their position. At 1035HRS (10:35 AM) Team 22 reported movement to their front and to their rear. At 1109HRS (11:09 AM) Team 22 reported another small arms shot about 250 meters West, Northwest of their location. At 1131HRS (11:31 AM) Team 22 reported 1 squad of Vietcong about 10 meters from their location moving East to West on the trail. At 1150HRS (11:50 AM) Team 22 reported 1 Vietcong with his weapon slung and wearing civilian clothes and wearing a straw hat moving East to West on the trail. At 1151HRS (11:51 AM) Team 22 reported movement of an estimated 6 to 8 personnel heading West along the trail. On February 16th at 0610HRS (6:10 AM) Team 22 reported hearing a large bell about 400 meters north of their position. At 0630HRS (6:30 AM) Team 22 again heard a large bell and dogs barking about 400 meters North of their location. At 0902HRS (9:02 AM) Team 22 reported 1 Vietcong 10 meters North of their position and were setting up to capture him but the Vietcong moved out of their area. At 1026HRS (10:26 AM) Team 22 reported small arms fire about 600 meters South, Southwest of their position. At 1609HRS (4:09 PM) Team 22 reported a North to South trail with tire tracks, footprints, and boot prints. The trail was wide enough to support a 4 abreast column. On February 17th at 1715HRS (5:15 PM) Team 22 was extracted.

Team 23 (light 6 man) was inserted into 3/11 ACR perimeter on February 13, 1968 at 1750HRS (5:50 PM). At 1928HRS (7:28 PM) Team 23 reported they had moved to a new location with 3/11 ACR element. On February 14th at 0801HRS (8:01 AM) Team 23 reported they had moved North of 3/11ACR's perimeter to the teams present location. At 1245HRS (12:45 PM) Team 23 reported hearing chickens about 75 to 100 meters Northeast of their location. During the day of February 15th Team 23 reported negative enemy activity. On February 16th at 0840HRS (8:40 AM) Team 23 reported automatic weapons fire about 1500 to 2000 meters South of their location. On February 16th Team 23 was extracted with negative enemy activity.

Team 32 (light 6 man) was inserted into their LZ on February 17, 1968 at 1713HRS (5:13 PM). At 1726HRS (5:26 PM) Team 32 reported a safe insertion. On February 18th at 1406HRS (2:06 PM) Team 32 reported 1 team member with an infection on his gums who was in great pain and requested that the team member be extracted. At 1448HRS (2:48 PM) Team 32 reported 1 Vietcong had walked up and saw the patrol and turned around and returned to the East. The Vietcong personnel wore a khaki shirt, black pants and carried a carbine rifle. At 1731HRS (5:31 PM) the sick team member was extracted. During February 19th Team 32 reported negative activity. On February 20th at 0815HRS (8:15 AM) Team 32 reported another team member with a toothache. At 1319HRS (1:19 PM) Team 32 was extracted.

Team 47 (light 6 man) was inserted into their LZ on February 18, 1968 at 1730HRS (5:30 PM). At 1735HRS (5:35 PM) Team 47 reported a safe insertion. On February 19th at 0430HRS (4:30 AM) Team 47 reported 1 Vietcong 20 meters East of their position. At 0715HRS (7:15 AM) Team 47 reported many chickens 300 meters Southeast of their position. At 1010HRS (10:10 AM) Team 47 reported crossing a well-used trail running North to South. At 1450HRS (2:50 PM) "Shadow 20" was over Team 47's location and reported to the team that he spotted a campfire and could smell the strong odor of food cooking. Team 47 moved towards the location of the campfire to check the area out and found a footpath that the team leader felt lead to the Vietcong bivouac area. At 1558HRS (3:58 PM) Team 47 reported seeing chickens but they did not smell any food cooking. At this time Team 47 proceeded to their main objective. On February 20th at 0715HRS (7:15 AM) Team 47 reported 1 Vietcong, whom they believed to be a LZ watcher, 300 meters South of the teams location and that the person was moving to the East. At 0910HRS (9:10 AM) Team 47 reported 2 Vietcong, 1 person with a carbine and the 2nd person carrying a small machine gun, 25 meters South of Team 47's location. At 0927HRS (9:27 AM) Team 47 reported that they smelled food cooking. At 0945HRS (9:45 AM) Team 47 reported the same 2 Vietcong 25 meters to the teams South. At 1020HRS (10:20 AM) Team 47 reported 6 Vietcong moving in on them from the East, South and West. At 1031HRS (10:31 AM) Team 47 reported there were now 9 to 11 Vietcong around the teams location. At 1033HRS (10:33 AM) the gun-ships were in position and started making their runs. At 1045HRS (10:45 AM) Team 47 reported that the Vietcong were wearing brown uniforms with SKS or Ak-47 rifles. At 1104HRS (11:04 AM) Team 47 reported movement 30 meters Northwest of their location, but they were not in contact yet. At 1119HRS (11:19 AM) a reaction force made up of tanks and armored personal carriers were sent to help Team 47. At 1139HRS (11:39 AM) Team 47 reported hearing someone crying about 30 to 40 meters Northwest of their location. At 1209HRS (12:09 PM) Team 47 reported movement 40 meters Northeast of their location and had the gun-ships make a run on the location of the movement. At 1220HRS (12:20 PM) Team 47 reported more movement 40 meters to the teams South Southeast and had the gun-ships make a pass on the location. At 1247HRS (12:47 PM) Team 47 reported that they had linked up with the reaction force and was extracted by the reaction force. Result of the contact was 1 m-48 tank destroyed, no U.S. casualties and an unknown number of Vietcong casualties.

Team 45 (6 man light) was inserted into their secondary LZ on February 20, 1968 at 1736HRS (5:36 PM) because of chickens in the primary LZ and a campfire nearby. At 1743HRS (5:43 PM) Team 45 reported a safe insertion. At 1802HRS (6:02 PM) Team 45 reported they were in contact and had 1 team member slightly wounded. At 1810HRS (6:10 PM) Team 45 reported enemy movement, of an unknown size, 150 meters North, Northwest of the team's location. At 1815HRS (6:15 PM) Team 45 reported that there were 2 secondary explosions after the gun-ships had made their runs 100 meters East of the team's position. At

F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

1817HRS (6:17 PM) Team reported that the gun-ships had received ground fire 2 to 3 times as the gun-ships made their runs. At 1828HRS (6:28 PM) Team 45 reported the sound of people packing-up and moving 150 meters North, Northwest of the teams location. Upon Team 45's report, gun-ships were again called into the enemy area. At 1840HRS (6:40 PM) Team 45 was extracted. Results of the mission were 1 U.S. wounded in action, and an unknown number of Vietcong casualties. Artillery was fired into the area with secondary explosions occurring.

Team 37 (6 man light) was inserted into their LZ on February 17, 1968 at 1709HRS (5:09 PM). At 1715HRS (5:15 PM) Team 37 reported a safe insertion. On February 11th at 1111HRS (11:11 AM) Team 37 reported 2 Vietcong on an East West trail to the teams North. At 1112HRS (11:12 AM) Team 37 reported 4 more Vietcong and at 1118HRS (11:18 AM) Team 37 reported 7 more Vietcong had passed on the trail. All the Vietcong were wearing tiger suits and moving slowly from East to West on the trail. At 1130HRS (11:30 AM) Team 37 reported 4 more Vietcong North of the teams location, 2 were sitting on the either side of the trail and the others had moved to the rear of the team. At 1143HRS (11:43 AM) Team 37 reported 2 Vietcong to the teams North and 2 Vietcong to their South. At 1720HRS (5:20 PM) Team 37 reported AK-47 fire 600 meters to 800 meters South Southwest of the teams location. On February 19th and 20th Team 37 reported negative enemy activity. On February 21st at 0828HRS (8:28 AM) Team 37 was extracted.

Team 25 (6 man light) was inserted into their LZ on February 17, 1968 at 1729HRS (5:29 PM). At 1748HRS (5:48 PM) Team 25 reported a safe insertion. On February 18th at 0128HRS (1:28AM) Team 25 reported automatic weapons and mortar fire 300 meters North of the teams location. At 0131HRS (1:31 AM) Team 25 reported more mortar fire that was being fired to the North. At 0145HRS (1:45 AM) Team 25 again reported more mortar fire again being fired to the North. At 0244HRS (2:44 AM) Team 25 reported that they could hear heavy mortars and small arms (automatic weapons fire in the area of Fire Support Base Anderson. On February 19th at 0930HRS (9:30 AM) Team

25 reported 2 boys and 6 cows passed 50 meters to the teams Southeast. On February 20th Team 25 reported 8 or 9 Vietcong passed through their position moving from the Northeast to the Southwest. On February 21st at 0835HRS (8:35 AM) Team 25 was extracted.

Team 29 (6 man light) was inserted into their LZ on February 17, 1968 at 1735HRS (5:35 PM). At 1735HRS (5:35 PM) Team 29 reported a safe insertion. At 2026HRS (8:26 PM) Team 29 reported a large explosion 500 to 600 meters southwest of the teams location. At 2100HRS (11:00 PM) Team 29 reported a large volume of small arms fire 400 to 500 meters Northeast of the teams position. On February 18th at 0123HRS (1:23 AM) Team 29 reported small arms fire 200 meters West of the teams location. At 0124HRS (1:24 AM) Team 29 reported mortars firing 300 to 400 meters Northeast of the teams location and impacting to the Southeast of the teams position. At 1058HRS (10:58 AM) Team 29 reported that they were moving farther North because the trail at their current position was unused. At 1437HRS (2:37 PM) Team 29 was on the move and at 1549HRS (3:45 PM) Team 29 had gone 100 meters to their North and reported finding a trail along which wood had been cut. At 1931HRS (7:31 PM) Team 29 reported automatic weapons fire about 1000 meters to their East. During February 19th Team 29 reported negative activity at their location. On February 20th at 2125HRS (9:25 PM) Team 29 reported a large explosion 2000 to 3000 meters West of the teams location. On February 21st at 0845HRS (8:45 AM) Team 29 was extracted without incident.

Team 34 (6 man light) was inserted into their LZ on February 20, 1968 at 1729HRS (5:29 PM). On February 23rd at 1850HRS (6:50 PM) Team 34 reported 15 Vietcong had crossed the trail next to the team's location and were moving to surround the team. Team 34 initiated contact and the gun-ships were called in and made their gun runs. At 1904HRS (7:04 PM) Team 34 was extracted. After the extraction artillery was called into the area. The North Vietnam regulars were dressed in black and wore steel helmets, and light green fatigues and did not return Team 34's fire.



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

Mike McClintock, Unit Director

Somehow my submittal for the last issue of Patrolling got lost in transmission and is still probably floating around in cyberspace. For that I apologize to the old LRRPs of the 3rd ID. This week COL (ret.) Ed Jentz is in Washington, D.C. at the VII Corps LRRP reunion. CPT Jentz was our first CO and worked closely with our VII Corps compatriots. I am looking forward to his report on the festivities.

On a sad note, both SGM (ret.) Mike Tardif and SFC (ret.) Gordon Saint recently lost their wives of many years. Our

hearts go out to these fine gentlemen, as their wives were lovely ladies and they will be missed.

As some of you know, I have been following the activities of the Texas A&M University and their archeological survey of the Pointe du Hoc (D-Day) battlefield site. The following information comes from the University's student newspaper, the Daily Aggie:

Again this summer, a multi-disciplinary team from Texas A&M University's Historic Resources Imaging Laboratory (HRIL) will play the role of battlefield detectives as they survey and

LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID (CONTINUED)

document the historic Pointe du Hoc site in France in an effort to generate a comprehensive site record that will serve as a valuable reference for World War II historians and for future preservation and educational initiatives.

On June 6, 1944, Col. James Earl Rudder, who would later become president of Texas A&M, led elements of the U.S. Army's Second Ranger Battalion to victory in one of the greatest feats of the Normandy invasion, the perilous assault on German gun emplacements at Pointe du Hoc—a sheer promontory towering more than 100 feet above a narrow, pebble-strewn shore between Omaha and Utah beaches. When finally reinforced by advancing troops, only 90 of the soldiers who started the mission were still able to fight, and nearly 80 of their comrades had lost their lives.

“Ultimately, we want to create a visualization of the site showing it as it is now, as it was on D-Day, and what it was like in the weeks preceding the Allied invasion,” explained Richard Burt, a Texas A&M construction science professor participating in the HRIL project. “Much like the History Channel show, ‘Battlefield Detectives,’ our team of architects, surveyors, archeologists and military historians will use forensic methodology to accurately recreate the Pointe du Hoc D-Day scenario.”

Though designated as a “Class A Historic Site” by the French Government in 1955 and transferred to the care of the American Battle Monuments Commission in 1979, Burt said there has been very little historic interpretation of the Pointe du Hoc site. Furthermore, because many important areas and structures on the battlefield are quickly succumbing to erosion, the HRIL project has taken on a sense of urgency.

The Texas A&M Pointe du Hoc team includes two architecture professors with extensive historic documentation experience. HRIL Director David Woodcock will guide the team led by Bob Warden, who recently directed the Historic American Buildings Survey of Montezuma Castle, a prehistoric cliff dwelling in Arizona. Other Texas A&M faculty on the Pointe du Hoc team are Bruce Dickson, professor of anthropology and archaeology; Mark Everett, professor of geology and geophysics; and James Bradford, associate professor of history and the group's military historian.

“Unless prompt action is taken to preserve the key elements at the Pointe du Hoc Historic site,” Burt said, “information regarding its importance to the success of the military actions on D-Day will be irretrievably lost to historians, future

generations, and particularly to the memory of the brave soldiers who gave their lives there.”

A site reconnaissance conducted last summer by the HRIL team revealed that many of the remaining buildings and structures have not been identified. And, because of erosion, the observation post that played a critically important role in the 1944 battle has been inaccessible to the public since 2001.

“This is troubling to Texans, and especially to Aggies,” Burt said, “because the now inaccessible observation post is the spot where the French government erected a memorial honoring Col. Rudder and his battalion.”

Another unique link between the Pointe du Hoc battlefield and the Lone Star State was the role played in the fight by the Battleship Texas, which Burt said is responsible, in part, for the heavily cratered terrain that remains at the site today. He said the HRIL team's site survey, together with analysis of wartime aerial reconnaissance photographs, will help determine which craters were

dug by the battleship's 14-inch guns, and which ones resulted from the heavy bombing that preceded the invasion. The maps produced by the team will also provide a valuable resource for reconstructing the Pointe du Hoc events from existing first-hand accounts of the battle.

The HRIL team launched the next phase of their project immediately after the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, on June 6, 2004. In the fanfare surrounding previous D-Day anniversaries, the Pointe du Hoc site has served as a backdrop for two U.S. presidents. On the 40th anniversary of D-Day, President Ronald Reagan stood at the now threatened observation post and recalled U.S. commando's heroic feat, “Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns.” Ten years later, at the same site, President Bill Clinton said, “We stand on sacred soil. Fifty years ago at this place a miracle of liberation began. On that morning, democracy's forces landed to end the enslavement of Europe.”

Though the HRIL team has applied for funding assistance, the multi-year project is currently moving forward with small donations gathered from a variety of sources. Anyone interested in supporting the project, preserving this historically significant battlefield and honoring the sacrifice of Rudder's heroic rangers, should contact Richard Burt at rburt@neo.tamu.edu or (979) 845-0994.





ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Mike Martin



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Amid the desert sands, the saguaros (cactus), and the desiccating heat, the lone coyote sentinel maintained his vigil as the vanguard of the Vietnamese Rangers (BDQs), and their Ranger Advisors (Co Vans), moved into the Phoenix area of Arizona...lengthening shadows covered the retrograde movements of the scurrying "sidewinder" and the beaded Gila monster seeking shelter from the livid gleam of the sun and away from these legendary warriors in maroon berets and woodland pattern uniforms; the "30th Year Remembrance" historical gathering had began—it was 30 April 2005, the Vietnam War ended three decades prior, on 30 April 1975....

Headquarters for this commemorative event was the centrally located Hyatt Regency Hotel; intell reports confirmed that the "locals" were awed by the number of resupply drops of cognac (nectar of Indochina) and its consumption by these old "China-hands".

I have limited my remarks to allow ample space for a few reunion photographs, but I will note a few pertinent facts: this memorable reunion was held jointly with the Counterparts and other Veteran groups; highlights were the Vietnamese Ranger lunch and dinner hosted by Lam Q. Bui, the companionship and elegant speech by General ED Scholes on Saturday 30 April, and Ross Perot's comments at the Viet Nam Memorial, downtown Phoenix on Sunday 1 May 2005.

The Remembrance theme, **TOGETHER THEN—TOGETHER NOW**, was evident as aged Rangers relived their combat experiences and renewed relationships with long lost Vietnamese counterparts. General Le Minh Dao, who spent over 17 years in a Communist reeducation camp, made a lasting impression on all who attended....

John Chester, Fred Fones and Joe Little from the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, represented all members as John presented a check to the Vietnamese Rangers to be used to help disabled Ranger Veterans still living in Vietnam. The Vietnamese were deeply touched by



this compassionate gesture.

RANGER ADVISOR HISTORY

Our efforts to document our U.S. Army Ranger Advisory history received a tangible boost from Colonel Clarence K.K. Chinn, Commander Ranger Training Brigade, who has agreed to provide recognition of our service in the Ranger Hall of Fame booklet (over 33 Rangers who served as Ranger Advisors in Vietnam, have been inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame) and, also, to display our BDQ Patch with scroll, within the Ranger units' time-line in the brigade headquarters at Fort Benning. The Biet Dong Quan and their U.S. Combat Ranger Advisors, salutes you, Colonel Chinn....

PRESIDENT 75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Twice, Emmett W. Hiltibrand has shouldered the mantle of leadership position of President, 75th Ranger Regiment Assn. in a most professional and can-do manner. To lead from behind is like trying to push a string...this was not Emmett's problem; most of the time he was too far to the front, Ha-Ha. Emmett, from all the BDQs we thank you for your support and the friendship of you and Rebecca!

QUOTES

If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

..Romans 12:20

The circling seasons come and go,
Spirits dawn and autumns set,
And winter, with its drifted snow,
Repay the summer's debt:
And song of birds and hint of bloom
Are gay and bright as when,
Those gallant lads rode to their doom
Long since with Mosby's men.
..Read at a Mosby's Ranger reunion; from
Mosby-Gray ghost of the Confederacy by
Jonathan Daniels 1959.

SHOOT LOW, I'll see you on the High
Ground.... Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit
Director



Rangers Harris L. Parker, (left), Robbie Robinson, (center), and MG Edison E. Scholes, (right).



The past fades – the spirit lives on...Vietnamese Color Guard at the Vietnam Memorial, Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in downtown Phoenix.



Ross Perot, (left) and Ranger MG Ed Scholes (right), Vietnam Remembrance Day – Sunday, May 1, 2005.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)



From left to right; Hong M. Ngo, Nguyen Thanh Chuan, Mike Martin & Ross Perot.



BDQ Advisor Henry Neal, left, with his son Larry McNeal.



Ranger Veterans (BDQ'S & Co Vans) with wives; Saturday April 30, 2005, reception dinner.

Honoring the Wives

Tonight we are here to remember a special time in history.

We honor the men who took up arms and answered their call to duty. Going off to fight for their country.

Many of these men did not return. For them, their call to duty was ended. But, their families were left. Wives and children that still lived on.

Many other men were taken and imprisoned. They too left wives and children that still lived on.

It was left to the wives of these brave men to carry on. Keeping together the families, raising the children, sacrificing so many ways, and to be both mother and father.

No doubt there are many, many stories that could be told what these ladies did for their love and devotion to their husbands and families.

The men here tonight, wish to present the wives with a flower, as a token of remembrance. Thanking them for the love and devotion given to their husbands through the years. May this also be the wives that are not here this evening for this occasion.

Remember this night. And to all of the wives and husbands...

Together then... Together now... Together forever...

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Smyers

FROM GOD

During my prayer time on June 16, 2002, I was praising the Father in heaven. In fact it was the day set aside to recognize our father on earth. I had been in prayer nearly one hour, suddenly like a flash of light I was showed these figures, and a view of the landscape where the vision would occur. All the figures and the landscape represent the happenings and the role of each.

These are the figures given to me. First a fox, then a wolf, then a owl. Following this I was showed a beautiful valley with a river, the water was a heavenly blue and very calm. There was a flock of sheep near the water, they appeared to be peaceful and very calm. My position was from the top of a hill overlooking the valley, and as I was scanning the valley, I noticed below me on the side of the hill, there stood a pure white lamb. It was standing on a ledge that jutted out from the hill. It was watching over the flock of sheep below.

Then out of no where came the fox, and entered the flock of sheep. I ask the Lord to show me what it all meant. To my surprise I was told the fox represented the "False Prophet". The fox is described as a sly and crafty animal. In appearance it has a beauty of its own. He is slim and presents himself as a peaceful animal, meaning no harm to anyone, but under the skin is found an animal that can be vicious and is a thief, as well as deceitful. He comes to bring false security and to entice the flock, (THE CHURCH OF CHRIST) that have allow their sense of threat to become dull, they have gotten fat, and complacent. Once he has them under his control, enters the wolf. The wolf is is a wild animal that is very fierce, and is always on the hunt for whom he may devour. The wolf is "Satan" in the person of the antichrist, seeking whom he may devour. He, like the fox, appears as one of the sheep in order not to create distrust and fear.

The owl, a night bird that is peaceful and is thought of as being wise. The owl represents the Bible, and in it are the instructions for all peoples of the earth in order for them to understand the will, the ways, the principles, and the promises of God. While in the world, all are instructed to love one another, and live in peace.

The "sheep" is the Church below the ridge laying by the water. They are resting in peace from their labors in the earth, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These are seasoned Christians that have already faced the deceit and lies of the devil, they can not be moved. The lamb on the ridge jutting out from the hill, is the "LORD JESUS CHRIST" and he has come to gather in his sheep.

The last picture given to me was of Jesus, leading his sheep through the valley of the shadow of death...i.e, I take this as a sign to be about God's work, as time is drawing near to Christ return to take his people.

I received this over three years ago, but only now, am I privileged to share it.

Bob Smyers, Chaplain of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association

Interesting reading: Daniel Chapter 12, Ezekiel chapter 38, Mathew chapter 24, 2 Timothy chapter 3:1-7, Book of Revelations. King James is difficult reading. Suggest New American Standard,, New King James, New International Version, etc.

BOOK REVIEW

Achilles In Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character

For seven years after returning from Vietnam, I would have denied that PTSD even existed, let alone that I might suffer from it. However, my own actions did lead me to have to admit that “something” was wrong. I became involved in a “rap group” and was part of the group for six months and then moved on. John, the counselor, advised me to do something to continue the healing process. I began to “self medicate” with books. I read everything I could find about Vietnam and LRRP units in Vietnam. My brother gave me a book about Vietnam with the inscription “To my big brother, trying to make sense of it all”. At that moment, I realized that reading really was a healing thing for me.

Several months ago I was told of a book that has since become one of the most important I have read. The title is enough to run most sane people off, but give it a chance. This is a great book with much to offer those who served in the LRRP/ Ranger units in Vietnam.

Achilles In Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character by Jonathan Shay, M.D., and P.H.D. Is an uncommonly practical book with a very academic title! Dr. Shay is a psychiatrist who has worked with Vietnam vets for many years. It is apparent from the very beginning of the book that he listened in a way that few have ever listened to us. He writes with humor, honesty and insight. He begins the book with a caution to vets to be careful and to “take care of your self as you read the book. He cautions family and friend not to think that they would “know what it is like” when they have read the book. Shay states that there is no substitute for listening. This is not a warm fuzzy book, but then dealing with combat stress isn’t either!

The book compares the experiences of the Vietnam vet to those of the soldiers in

the Iliad. This may seem to be a real stretch, but there are just too many things that make too much sense to ignore! In part one of the book, Shay discusses the ideal of betrayal of “what’s right”. “Achilles experience of betrayal of “what’s right” and his reactions to it, are identical to those of American soldiers in Vietnam” (page 3). The book quotes Vets and then from the Iliad to make the connections. In fact, the first quote in the book occurs on the first page of the text and is from a LRRP! As you read this now, you probably understand Shay’s concept of “what’s right”. You may be able to identify when that was betrayed for you. For Achilles, it was when his king, Agamemnon, took for himself the spoils of war due to Achilles. In this case it was a woman, Briseis. The effects of this action are the basis most of the rest of Part I. The things that we share as brothers at arms are clearly dealt with in this section. Death of comrades, grief and warrior rage and what happens when “what’s right” is betrayed.

Part 2 of the book deals with the results of the destruction of the social and moral fiber of the army and the society that creates it. In the interest of brevity, I will not attempt a review of this section except to say that I found more answers in the section that I found in all of the other books on Vietnam than I have read.

Section 3 addresses the damage to the moral fiber in men who experience combat, but more importantly it addresses what we can do about it. Unlike so many books on the subject, this book is practical and helpful to Vets and those that love them. Shay profoundly understands that war is an evil thing and that it is also probably inevitable. He makes a strong case for changes in our selves and in our system that will allow us and those who are

presently in combat to return to the lives they once had with the least amount of damage possible. His work with the military today has resulted in some very significant and positive changes in how the military deals with combat trauma. Shay says that healing that would allow us to return to what we were (before Nam) is probably not possible, but we can return to a point that allows us to be productive and valuable members of our families and our society. Shay states what many of us know in this Association. We have to create our own narrative about our own war and share it with those who will listen. He also tells us something important about how to help those who are now returning to what we all called “the world”.

I have read the book through three times in the last 3 months. It is highlighted; underlined and the margins are full of notes. My daughter read the book at Christmas. My eldest daughter has it now. While we have always had a good relationship, we now have a basis for talking about the war and “my war” that was never possible before. Please don’t let the title discourage you. The book is well worth the effort.

The book is available at most major bookstores. You may have to order it. (ISBN0-684-81321-1)

John, I emailed Dr. Shay concerning this review. He is excited about the idea and was very positive about the 75th RRA and the work that is done within the organizations. He presently works for the Dept. of Defense and specifically is involved in trying to prevent as much of the damage as is possible to our troops serving today. I think he was a big factor in the rotation of whole units into Iraq as opposed to the way it was done in Nam.

T A P S

Kevin J. Flaherty Second Brigade, 4th Infantry Division LRRP. Died March 25, 2005, in Quincy MA. Kevin was a life member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. He is survived by his wife, Patricia and 3 children.

Russ Van Arsdale 2/75 Died of a heart attack on February 24, 2005. He is survived by his wife and a son and daughter.

Theodore 'Ted' Yasui 4th ID, 2nd BDE LRRPS. Died 13 February, 2005 as a result of a traffic accident. He is survived by a daughter and grand children.

MAY GOD GRANT THESE RANGERS THE PEACE OF ONE WHO HAS SERVED HIS COUNTRY FAITHFULLY AND WELL.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIAL

During this reporting period regret to inform that eight Air Force special operators were lost when a C-130 crashed on 31 March in Albania; these included Captains Todd R. Bracy, James S. Cronin, and Surrender C. Kothakota; First Lieutenant Ray C. Owens Jr.; Chief Master Sergeant Lawrence B. Gray; Technical Sergeants James R. Henry and Glenn P. Lastes; and Staff Sergeant Patrick R. Pentico.

Special Forces Staff Sergeant Allen C. Johnson was killed in action on 26 April in Afghanistan.

Memorials were purchased for Major General Salve H. Matheson who commanded the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and later the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in the Republic of Vietnam; Sergeant Major Robert H. 'Sam' Bass, formerly with MACVSOG; and by Al Farnum for all Special Forces KIA/MIA.

A \$10K donation was gratefully received from AMTI who has contracts with USSOCOM at MacDill AFB, Florida.

I am pleased to report that renovations to the Memorial have been completed, and the headers to the wall replaced and repainted.

Geoff Barker

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS



Marauder's Magic

By Sgt. DAVE RICHARDSON,
YANK Staff Correspondent. From
Yank, the Army Weekly British
Edition Vol. 3, No. 14, Sept. 17 1944

There's been plenty of hocus-pocus
in this jungle war ever since

Merrill's Marauders first popped up here.

The magic show started within a week of the Marauders' arrival in Burma. The night before their first sneak around Jap strong points, a Jap reconnaissance plane droned over the Marauders' bivouac area. Before they could stamp out all their campfires, the plane had spotted the position.

Next morning, when the Marauders pulled out Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill ordered a few men to stay behind. For several nights they lit campfires in the original bivouac area. And each night the Jap plane returned to circle the area again, its pilot apparently satisfying himself that whoever was camped there hadn't moved.

Meanwhile the main body of Marauders marched steadily into enemy territory over little used native trails, lighting no fires or even cigarettes after dark. When they finally bumped into startled enemy outposts, they were well behind Jap lines.

The Marauders opened their bag of tricks again during an eight-day battle on a hill named Nhpum Ga. One night a Marauder unit set up part of its perimeter only a stone's throw from camouflaged Jap machine-gun positions. Anxious to check on the location of these emplacements, but not wanting to risk men prowling around in the darkness, the Marauders shoved a pack mule out in front of the perimeter and started him walking toward the Japs.

As the animal rustled through the jungle underbrush, the Japs figured it was a patrol and opened up with their machine guns, thereby revealing their positions. Next morning the Marauders outflanked the Jap pocket and wiped it out.

They found the mule lying dead a few feet from one of the machine guns, its hind quarters neatly butchered. The hungry Japs, cut off from supplies, had eaten Missouri mule steak before dying for the Emperor.

Speaking of animals, the Japs thought up a slick way to guard themselves against Marauder booby traps along the narrow jungle trails. They sent dogs down the trails ahead of their patrols to trip the booby-trap wires. But a Marauder pioneer and demolition platoon countered this move by rigging up the traps in relays. After that, when a Jap dog romped down a trail a dozen yards or so in front of a patrol and tripped a booby-trap wire, nothing happened to the dog, but traps exploded at intervals all the way back down the hill, killing or wounding some of the enemy. Even after the Japs discovered this trick, there was little they could do about it they had to stick to jungle trails or risk getting lost.

The old power of suggestion helped beat the Japs at another stage of the campaign. for several days the Marauders had been trying to break through a pocket of Japs dug in strongly on a razor-backed ridge along the only trail in the area. The steep sides of the ridge made outflanking next to impossible. The only way to get through was by frontal attack, and this was costing the Marauders a number of casualties. They pounded away with mortars, raked the ridge with machine guns and BARS, and staged one attack after another. But the going was painfully slow a few yards a day.

One night the Marauders decided to try another method. A few men and mules set out on the trail leading up to Marauder forward positions from the rear. The men smoked tell-tale cigarettes, talked in loud voices and jiggled the mule saddles to make plenty of noise. Each time they reached the front, the men doused their cigarettes, turned around and silently withdrew to their starting points. Then they began all over again, keeping it up for three hours.

When the Marauders attacked the ridge again the next day, they pushed through easily. Only a couple of Japs were still there; the rest had pulled out. They had been fooled into thinking that all the noise and movement of the night before were reinforcements for a big attack. One of the most valuable tricks in the Marauder repertoire was a variation of the Statue of Liberty play in football. It was used in attacking a series of Jap strong points on high ground.

The CP long-range radio called for air support to soften up the Jap hill positions. Soon some P-40s came roaring over. Directed by air-ground radio, they went to work on the Japs, dive-bombing and strafing enemy emplacements on the crest of the hill. After each pass they zoomed up, circled around and attacked again.

The Japs scrambled down the back of the hill and huddled there for protection while the bombs and tracers chewed up their positions. But as soon as the planes finished their dives and roared away, the Japs crawled right back up the hill again and resisted the Marauder advance as stubbornly as before. This went on for several days, with the Japs defending one hill after another in the same way against air and ground attack. All that beautiful air support didn't seem to help much.

Then a Marauder officer suggested the Statue of Liberty play. He radioed the planes to make a few fake passes after they had completed their regular bombing and strafing runs. The pilots dived their ships at the emplacements just as though they were going to let loose with 500 pound bombs or .50 caliber slugs, but they pulled out without doing a thing except scare the hell out of the Japs.

Up the hill came the unsuspecting Japs to reoccupy their old positions. As soon as the planes began these passes, the forward Marauder platoon had rushed up the hill and climbed into the vacated Jap positions. When the dummy passes ended and the planes went away, the fun began. Up the hill came the unsuspecting Japs to reoccupy their positions. The Marauders cut them down with automatic-weapons fire.

From the Merrill's Marauders website with permission of Phil Piazza, president of Merrill's Marauders association.



The 4th Ranger Battalion
Activated 8 June 1943 Inactivated 24 Oct 1944

My short, but vivid memories served with F Company of the 1st Ranger Battalion were now history. We survived the Arzew landing with a surprise attack taking out the big coastal guns on the high ground overlooking the Bay of Arzew. The French called this Superiur with Ft. Du Nord to the right. We trained night and day at Arzew until we were called for a mission in Tunisia. The object mission was Sened Station, a raid with Companies A, E, and F. The Battalion was airlifted to an airport near Gafsa. We had very little information about this raid other than to get about ten prisoners and wipe out this outpost. I called this one a good mission; it was what we had been trained for.

We were saddened at the loss of Elmer Garrison, F Company.

After the Tunisia campaign on April 19, the battalion returned to Nemours to form up two new battalions to be known as the 3rd and 4th Rangers. E and F companies were to form the 4th Battalion. Captain Roy Murray with Captain Walter Nye as his executive officer, was in command of the 4th Battalion. We were now getting many volunteers to complete the battalions and get ready for our next mission, which was Sicily.

On boarding ship, I was struck down with an appendix attack. Dr. Hardenbrook ordered me taken off this ship to a station hospital in Oran, where I had surgery. The next news I heard was that the Rangers had landed in Gela, Sicily on July 10, 1943. This was where my good friend Walter Wojcik lost his life when a mine exploded on the beach.

After my one-week hospital stay and month long recovery period, it appeared that no attempt was going to be made for me to rejoin the 4th Ranger Battalion. That was the way the Replacement Centers operated. I decided to go AWOL with three other soldiers. We got to Palermo, Sicily where we commandeered a car, got some C-rations and Jerry cans with gas. We struck out to look for the 4th Battalion, which we found near Caltanissetta. The 4th Battalion was now outfitting and getting ready for the Italian invasion. Again, we trained night and day for who knows what lay ahead.

Our next mission was the beachhead at Maiori, Italy. The 4th Battalion landed after midnight September 9, 1943 and occupied the town. Quickly, the 1st and 3rd Battalions passed through the town and occupied the high ground overlooking the plains of Naples and Mt. Vesuvio. The 1st and 3rd occupied the Chiunzi Pass area and stayed there about three weeks where many battles were fought. The 4th Battalion occupied the extreme left flank of the Lattari Mountains, where it stayed about three weeks. The element of surprise was the Rangers answer to a good mission.

Finally, the 8th Army reached us and the Germans pulled back to the winter line north of the Volturno River. We had a brief rest in Naples, then were pulled back to Sorrento for rest and refitting. The 4th Battalion occupied a large schoolhouse and the Tramontano Hotel. We had a good time there; the food and weather were both better. Also, we had a few trips to the Isle of Capri.

Some soldiers were fighting malaria and jaundice. I came down with jaundice about October 15th and it laid me low. The

The 2nd Ranger Battalion (CONTINUED)

medics said to eat white bread and candy. I hadn't seen either of those since the States.

Our next mission was on November 4th to cross the Volturno River to occupy Mt. Cannavinelle and prevent German forces from getting through the hairpin curve on Highway 6 going to Venefro. We were told three U.S. divisions were to cross the Volturno and make an envelopment on our positions to relieve us on the 4th or 5th of November 1943.

Captain Nye, with E and F companies in his command, led us to our next objective, which we reached by sun-up. At 6:30 a.m. on November 4th, we had the two companies take a break to eat and smoke in a draw near our objective. Captain Nye and I cut the wire to take their OP out. It was probably occupied, but we didn't check it out. We didn't go far as we saw three German companies coming up the hill towards us. They stopped when they saw us, about 200 yards away.

Captain Nye said, "Don, you cover me and I will indicate they should surrender." About one minute later, they went right and left into fire position. Nye, the radio operator and I got over the ridge and dropped back about 200 yards in a good defensive position. We decided to bring E Company up. When they got to us, I sent one platoon to the left flank where Captain Nye was and one platoon was with me to watch the right flank. It wasn't long before the Germans came over the ridge in the wide open. I would guess there were about fifty men. They were company front and coming over open terrain. At 100 yards, I gave the order to fire. The Germans stopped and ran off the hill below the ridgeline. They left their casualties behind.

About fifteen minutes later, below us on Highway 6, tanks and armor moved up and took us under fire with 88 shells. Again, the Germans sent their companies against us and again the Rangers turned them back. This time, I had two wounded men in a draw below me. I went down to see what I could do. They were in bad shape. I was just about to give them morphine when I looked up to find I was covered by eight Germans. Behind them were Lodge, Ryan, and Rodriguez with their hands up. They had run out of ammo and were flanked and taken prisoner. I had to help carry wounded Germans as I was led to Venafro.

We came to a building where inside about 50 Germans lay on the ground. My captor, who had a Luger barrel to my neck, said, "Look!" They wanted me to see their casualties. Shortly, a German lieutenant who spoke good English, came up and said, "Are you Lt. Frederick?" I said, "Yes." He held out his hand and said, "Congratulations on the firefight we had today." He then asked why so many of his men were shot through the head. I said, "You came at us three times and then dropped back to Hill 689 where you had prepared positions. This was the only target my men had." He said that was true. Then he told my captors to get me some food and anything else I could use. We shook hands and he said, "Tomorrow, I may be in your position."

I believe this lieutenant probably saved my life by showing up when he did. They were going to fly me to Berlin, but due to weather conditions, we took a boxcar with eight British officers to Berlin. My war was now over, or was it just starting?" This was not a good mission-no air, artillery, or tank support. You don't fight tanks with M-1 rifles.

I was in solitary confinement a month, then sent to officer camp in Poland. It was here that I met Captain "Bing" Evans, Captain Kitchens, Lt. Teal, and other Ranger officers who told me about how the Anzio campaign ended. After 17 months, on January 21, 1945, we started walking back into Germany. My diary says it was about 576 miles before we reached Hammelburg, Germany. It was there I was liberated by Captain Baum of the 4th Armored Division, and recaptured. The war was soon to end.

Col. Murray spent a week at my home in 1998. We re-fought many battles, some good missions and some bad. He sent me a 4th Ranger cap after this and I treasure it. A good Battalion C.O. for the 4th Rangers and I was glad to be under his command. - Contributed by Donald S. Frederick 1st & 4th Ranger Battalion. Ranger Frederick was a POW at Oflag 64, (an officers POW camp) for 18 months.

From the RBA website with permission of Tom Herring, Secretary of the RBA



RICA is hosting an All Ranger Roundup in St. Louis, MO, on 20, 21, & 22 Oct **2005** at the Marriott West Hotel. This is one of the very best hotels. It is oriented to serving the corporate world but is interested in servicing military reunions and especially the Army Rangers. For Reservations call 1-800-352-1175 and mention **Ranger Roundup**

Rooms normally cost over \$100.00 in this hotel, and ones like it. RICA has negotiated a deal wherein we Rangers will pay only \$59.00 + tax per night for the three nights listed above. Actually, the rooms cost more but RICA is paying the additional amount for the 3 nights of 20, 21, & 22 Oct 05. For the three days prior and the three days after the Roundup, we Rangers may secure a room for \$70.00 + tax per night. So, if you desire to come, up to 3 days early, or stay 3 days after you still will get a great deal for those nights.

This event could very well serve as the annual business meeting for any association. RICA is planning a schedule with a banquet, military honors, etc. that will allow plenty of time to have unit meetings (extra meeting rooms are available), go sightseeing, and offers ample free time to do whatever. There will be at least two topics in which all will be invited to discuss during an All-Ranger meeting: The Ranger Monument at the Arlington National Cemetery and the All Ranger Roundup in Fairbanks Alaska in June of 2006.

This is an excerpt from the book by Col. Robert W. Black "A Ranger Born" published by Random House Publishing Group. This part of the book recounts his experience as a young enlisted Ranger on the sea trip to combat in the Korean War

A troopship is an instrument of torture. Canvas cots suspended from chains hung in vertical rows from the steel bulkheads. They were arranged eight cots high with so little space between that we had to slide into these cots sideways. The canvas on the cot above would sag under the weight of its occupant, leaving only inches of free space. Troop compartments were barren of any aspect of comfort, and the stench of oil was nauseating.

The pitch and roll of the ships movement was an immediate cause of misery. Men were vomiting before we left the harbor. I found this amusing. As we entered the ocean waves, I walked among my retching comrades with an air of smug superiority. The latrine resembled a scene from Dante's *Inferno*. The combined stink of vomit, feces, urine, and oil was an assault on the nostrils. Men knelt over commodes and urinals, heaving putrid streams from their bodies; others staggered about groaning and cursing, trying to push their comrades from position and, failing that, throwing up on the deck or other men. Their faces had the wan and pasty look of the dying, and some were proclaiming that they only wanted life to end.

Robed in the arrogance of youth, I stood in this latrine, took an orange from my pocket, peeled it, and began to eat in front of these seasick men. Within moments my stomach revolted and I was among them, pushing and shoving as I frantically searched for a place to empty my guts.

I was sick for several days as our gray ship carved its way through the deep swells of the Pacific. We sailed alone and, when I began to care about my surroundings, I was astounded at the vast, rolling, empty sea. The Pacific Ocean is gigantic and our travel was slow. There was ample time to think about what lay ahead. Our future was in battle and some of us would die. It would, of course, be someone else who would give his life, but there was always a nagging voice that predicted personal doom. Surrounded by hundreds of other men, we visited private islands of thought. A person can be mighty lonely in a crowd.

Within the platoon, our bonding ebbed and flowed according to our interests of the moment. I shared Pennsylvania memories with Nick Tisak. Len Wiggins and I talked about climbing together. Doc Gregory and I learned to talk rationally about the Civil War; and Howard Weitzell knew about women. I sang and laughed with E.C. Rivera and Harry Trout, Ken Erb, Wendy Washburn, Jimmy White, and John West were men I enjoyed talking with. On shipboard Tony Velo and I shared our dreams. Tony Velo's dress uniform fit like another layer of skin. He was immaculate in his appearance, a handsome young man whose ambition was to open a clothing store. We were a happy few, all brother Rangers, intensely proud of our volunteer spirit and the hardship and challenge that we endured to be part of this unique bond.

There are other justly proud American units whose men have done all that is possible for our nation, but none of these units have histories that predate the founding of the United States. From the earliest days of American history, Rangers have led the way. We shared the common bond that the American Rangers are a river of valor through time. Even during the immensity of World War II, only some five thousand men carried the proud title of Ranger. Now we would enlarge this magnificent tradition on the battlefields of Korea. Honed to a fine edge of physical fitness, we spent many hours on

Ranger Inf Co. ABN (CONTINUED)

shipboard doing a variety of physical exercises. We cleaned and recleaned weapons and reviewed tactical procedures

Sharing the crowded confines of our troopship was a battalion of US Marines. They were well trained, physically fit, and intensely proud of their great tradition. As a small service relying heavily on navy funds, the Marine Corps did not hide from the public eye. Marines are not given to adopting the military fad of the moment, and they project a constant image of hard training. The eagle, globe, and anchor that they wear are earned. One of their traditions seems to be to speak badly of the army at every opportunity. Of necessity, the army is much larger than the marines, and not all army units are going to measure up to the caliber of the more carefully selected marines. Nevertheless, many units of the army can stand tall in any company. The US Marine division fighting in Korea did a superb job on their part of the battlefield, but there were six US Army divisions and several Republic of Korea divisions spread across the front, and where the front moved depended upon everyone.

The marines of this battalion thought of themselves as elite troops. They looked with disdain on the army. We Rangers did not look upon the marines as an elite organization because there were divisions of marines, and a division might be 17,000 to 20,000 men. We felt that anyone could get into an outfit that large. Five companies of Rangers fighting in Korea meant a total of some 750 Rangers fighting to the front of all the army divisions on line. "Now *that* is elite," we told them.

Words flew back and forth. Ranger Chet Wolfe would taunt the Marines with the old Texas Ranger slogan, "One riot, one Ranger." We did not intermingle, and walked stifflegged around one another with hackles raised. We were young, proud, and ready to fight. The uneasy peace was broken when it was announced over the ship's loudspeakers that a movie would be shown belowdecks. Anxious to see the film, we Rangers stood in line waiting and waiting, expressing our impatience by lowing like cattle. At length a hatch opened and a marine sergeant informed us that there was no room for anyone else to see the film, which was already in progress. Much more familiar with the shipboard life than we, the marines had entered the compartment by another hatch and were sitting there, smug in the satisfaction that they had outwitted men of the army. This was a miscalculation.

A very large Ranger took that marine sergeant by the throat and we charged into the theater with fists and boots flying. There were no niceties of combat. Although smaller in number, we had the advantages of surprise and that most of the marines were sitting. They fought a delaying action, regrouped, and counterattacked. Other Rangers arrived and we committed this reserve force to action. We were all having a great time until the voice of authority crackled from the loudspeaker. The captain of the ship sent Ranger and marine officers to the scene of the fray and both sides were required to shut up, cool off, and sit down crowded together. The movie was restarted. I don't recall the title. The film was anticlimactic. Many men wore the marks of the fight for several days. Oddly, the fight resulted in a mutual respect and bonding. Marines and Rangers started talking to each other and searching for other men from the same town or state.

Excerpt by permission of "Ranger" Bob Black



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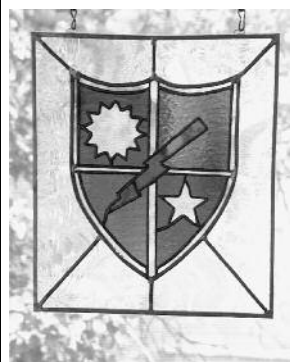
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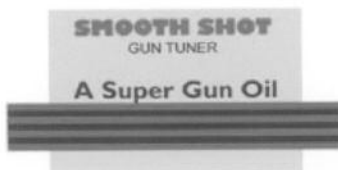
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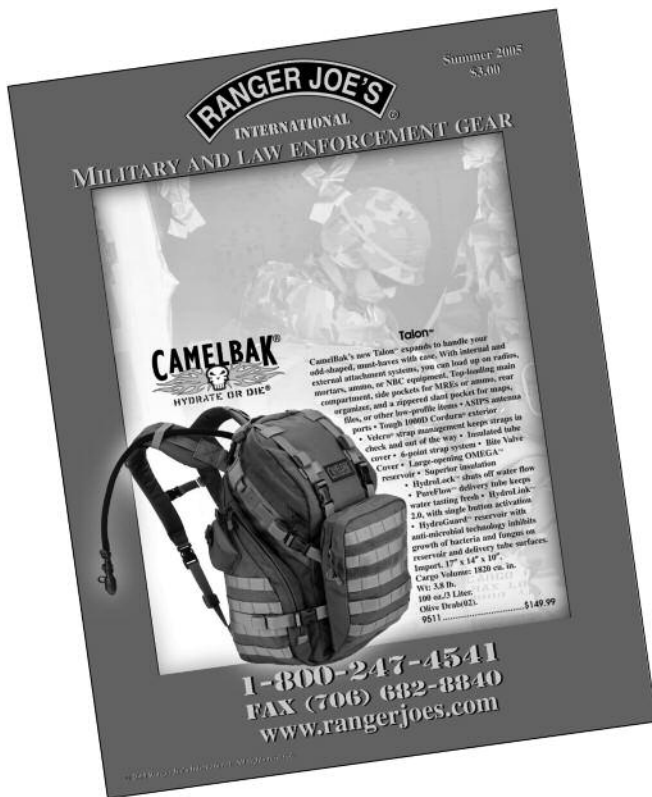
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