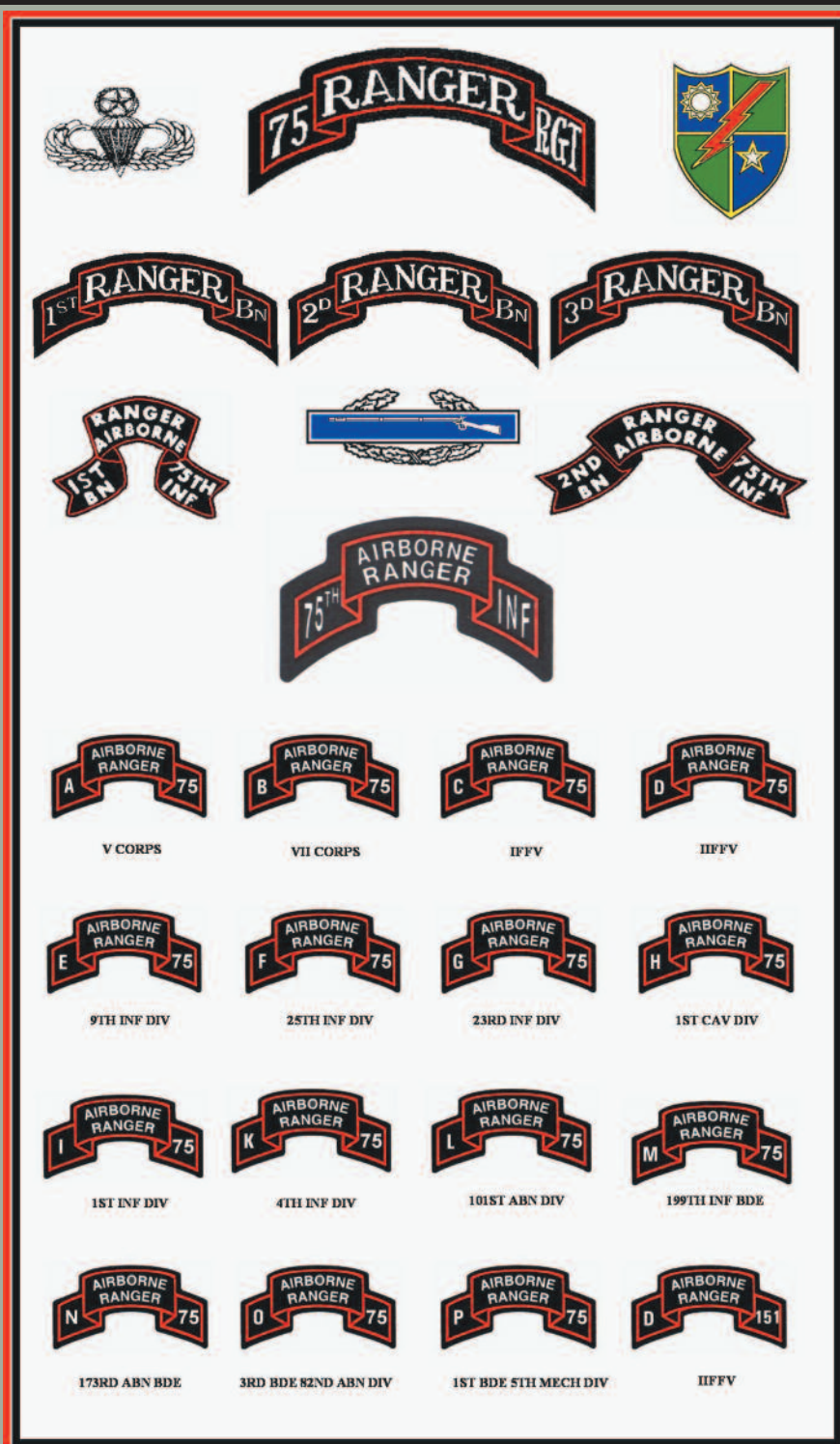


PATROLLING

SPRING 2005 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 19 ISSUE IV



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

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

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WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

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. john.chester3@verizon.net

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

Not sure where to begin but to tell you this is going to be short. Just about 4 months to the reunion and all is going along smoothly. One more issue of Patrolling for us to get out under my term. David Cummings, our reunion coordinator is working hard for us. Mike Martin will be participating on our behalf at the upcoming Ranger Hall Of Fame selection board. Steve Crabtree is working to get all the brick issues cleared up at the Ranger Memorial. Tom Gage is making headway in managing the State Coordinator position. I've got about four separate people now involved in working on the Association web site. We sure could use some more help here. I also want to thank Dave Hill for jumping in and help John with the Patrolling magazine.

What is significant about the above paragraph? Volunteers are doing it. We are getting more and more members willing to step forward and help the Association run and provide services for the members and the community. If you see an area that interests you that we already have going or one that needs to be started, contact us through your Unit Director and volunteer to help. We will not ask more of you than you're willing to give and we will be a better Association with more people involved. There are lots that need to be done and plenty to go around. John Chester continues to put out a marvelous publication here in the Patrolling magazine. Our Treasurer just finished balancing our books and we are financially sound.

I wrote an article contained in this issue about the Family Fund. Please be sure to read it. I tried to make it informative and the cards inserted by John are very heart warming. That program alone makes us giants amongst other noble men. We just about have a completed set of new Officers who have stepped up and are willing to run next year. If I have just one parting advice to give this Association, that is to look closely at the Officers you elect, question them and

once voted in support them fully. If you think you can do a better job then run for office. Talk is cheap but actions speak louder. Don't be the tail wagging the dog. There are a lot of qualified people out there that just need a little budge to get off their duff and make a difference. When I come out of office this time, I will not run again nor will I take back the web site. It was just too much for too long. I did what I could and it was a labor of love. It is very rewarding seeing ones accomplishments come in the form of helping your Brother in some form or another.

We've lined up Mike Durant to be our guest speaker at the reunion banquet and Keni Thomas of the band Corn Bread to sign while we are there. There will be a mass tactical parachute jump with as much as they can muster of the three Ranger Battalions jumping onto Fryer DZ. There will be all sorts of Ranger events, a Ranger Hall Of Fame induction, a Rangers In Action demonstration, a Ranger Regiment change of command with a pass in review of the Regiment. If you've never seen one, this is a great sight. There will be a BBQ down at Lawson Army Airfield as usual and we are planning our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning. Our Banquet will be Saturday night and Sunday as our day to say our goodbyes. There is information in this magazine about the reunion and it should be up on the web site soon.

I hope that as many of you as possible can join us this year. These reunions are food for the soul. I want to thank each and every one of you who have ever served in a leadership position in this Association for your contribution. I also want to thank those of you who have joined our ranks as members and who have given so much of your time and effort. You've got a great spirit and an enormous heart. Thanks.

Emmett

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**By Bill Bullen**

Fellow Rangers Families and Friends,

We need to get the word from the Unit Directors to the members on all issues pertaining to Association business. If this means, as a Unit Director, I talk individually to each member, so be it. We are for the most part, civilians, therefore any communication directly with any active Army component, is not an option. We can say anything to anyone we please, but if we expect results we need to use proper channels. These channels must be, from the members to the U.D., then to the President of the Association. The President will then channel the concern to the proper person. This is what the military calls a chain of command. If the chain of command is broken then we, as an Association are broken. I sincerely don't mean to be a wise guy about this, I'm merely restating what we all have known and may stray from once in a while. It's the old adage, "the head needs to know what the tail is doing".

Our Reunion 2005 is going to be timed around the Regimental change of command. I realize there are several other events happening this summer, but this should be the one to make, if you can only make one. This is going to be a good one. Everyone involved has been working very hard at it. Emmett Hiltibrand and Steve Crabtree have been especially busy. So let's make an effort to support them any way possible. Maybe as members you could talk to the Unit Director and let them know what you'd like to see or do. Also offer to help, the association can always use help at the reunions.

Pass the word. Give your fellow LRP's or Rangers a call and make sure they are going to be there in July. If a friend needs help, talk to the Unit Director and find out if there is something he or the Association can do, this is what we are about.

Our Association, has grown, and developed into something really good since its inception as a small LRP reunion. Billy Nix, Bob Gilbert and the other fellows from the 101st who started this whole thing, could not have perceived the magnitude of what it has become, but I thank you gentlemen for doing so. I personally have had real closure concerning a lot of issues, due directly to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

Many of the things I do could certainly be done

in a better, more politically correct manner. I think this goes for a lot of the officers past and present, but, I do believe, overall, the efforts have been and are motivated by good intentions, across the board. Differences will occur in any organization, this is why we have a 2 year term, and an election process. If you feel it is time for change, then do so by the democratic system we have in place. Don't go off half cocked, not knowing fully what you are talking about, just to score a shot. I for one, I am open to criticism and suggestions, and I know the President and Secretary are also. We have had our share of disagreements, but we talk things out and get them rectified. Most of the time we never hear anything until someone thinks we've 'screwed the pooch'. It would be nice to have dialogue before this happens, but without input your minds can not be read. Let us hear from you.

To let you know, my son will be commissioned this May and hopes to continue his education in North Carolina. Needless to say I'm very proud of him. But honestly, I don't see why a young man or woman would want to stick his or her neck out in a situation like we have right now. The Army is different now, to a lot of us "not like the old days". But this has been true for 300 years. Still these young people enlist and serve proudly, we need to take care of them. We also need to take care of their families. This is done by several avenues, one of which is the Family Fund. Also talk with, Sandee Rouse, Gold Star Mother Advocate and Sandy Harris, Gold Star Wife Advocate. See what you can do for them. While you're at it, take care of yourselves. Talk with Dan Nate our Association VA Advocate or John Chester, these fellows both have extensive knowledge on dealings with the VA and handling your PTSD claims.

Enough for now,

"R-24

OUT"

William B Bullen

VP 75th RRA

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

As I write this, a news program in the background is informing us that an individual in California stopped his car on a commuter railroad line, in an apparent suicide attempt, then, changed his mind and ran away, leaving the car on the tracks. The subsequent derailment caused the deaths of 11 or 12 people on the commuter train. The District Attorney for that County announced that he would seek the death penalty for murder in the case. He then added that, due to the depression of the person charged with the crime, he was under a **suicide watch!!!** Am I the only one that sees something wrong here? We are seriously going to keep this guy alive, so that a couple of million dollars and many years later, we can kill him? Why not just give him a few feet of rope & let him alone?

Enough of this ranting. We have a good issue this month. There is a great story by our Chaplain, Bob Smeyers who finds a sick duck and fixes it with.....what else.....duct tape! It is a good story, don't miss it. If you only read your own Unit Reports, you should read H Company's report by Bill Anton. All you ever wanted to know about the myths and statistics of the Vietnam War are covered in a logical and rational manner. It's a must read.

We also have a slate of Officers lined up for the next election this July in Columbus. See the Web site and Magazine News section. Speaking of the Web Site, we lost another Web Master. Due to personal and business reasons, S. J. 'Peter' Parker is unable to continue the web master duties of the Association. I understand how difficult it is sometime to do work that is uncompensated, often unappreciated, indeed that is sometimes subject to the most acrimonious and vitriolic attacks that I have ever experienced. All because the individual was engaged in an activity that he really believed was in the best interest of the Association. I don't know why this happens, but there seems to be a fringe in any organization that will never be satisfied with anything the regime that is in at the time does. These are the same people who never have a constructive idea or suggestion. They can only tell you what's wrong, not how to fix it. These are the same individuals who seem to feel the need to do a bit of "Crest Thumping" along the way. To hear them talk, anyone who was not with them or did what they did, was a piece of crap, and what the other folk in the Association accomplished wouldn't amount to a hill of spit.

I admit to a certain amount of bias on my part toward my unit and my people. However, I don't believe that that gives me the right to denigrate or minimize the contribution that all the other LRRP'S, LRP'S and Rangers made to the various conflicts that we were involved in. I am reminded of Orwell's "Animal Farm." All of us are equal, but some of us seem to feel more equal than others.

Every once in a while something happens that makes it all worthwhile. Read the first article in the feature section. It contains a number of letters of thanks from the families of some of the young Rangers that received Christmas gifts through the Association from the Family Fund. One little boy was so grateful

that his little sister got a present. He wasn't even concerned about his present, only that his little sister got one. I showed the letter to my mother and I saw tears in her eyes. I'm thinking of recruiting this kid for the next Secretary.

When Emmett recruited (?) me as editor back in 2000, we discussed what our goals should be. We were almost immediately engulfed in the black beret issue and then the bylaws change and then there were financial concerns, and then the position the magazine should take, or indeed if the magazine should take a position, and then the web site collapsed, and we needed to deal with that. The one constant through all of the above was that, among all the appointed and elected officers, the goal was always to protect the interests of the Association. The whole Association. When asked my opinion in those days, I would not give it; I was not an elected officer. I would give a legal opinion, or point out consequences, but I believe that all the decisions should be made by the people elected to make those decisions.

The other constant during those years, (and at the present time), was to always take the high road. We will not engage in petty disputes, vengeful behavior or invective aimed at any individual or group. We did that with the Beret issue. We fought it as long as we could. When it became apparent the Eric Shinseki was not going to reverse himself (surprise, surprise) we shut up. When the other Association Presidents went to the ceremony to accept the tan beret, Emmett abstained, saying he earned a black beret, not a tan one. The high road. To this day we have not uttered a word about the issue. (Until now.)

At the beginning of this, I said enough ranting. This time I really mean it. Some of the issues that we must deal with at this year's membership meeting are the long range goals of the Association. We have a considerable amount of money in our Treasury, what should be the purpose of these funds. We are adjusting our bylaws again to better reflect the needs of an evolving, developing organization. We are closing on 2,000 active members. We mail magazines to people all over the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. We are making a difference in the lives of our members through education relative to health needs, legislation, and through counseling in Veterans Affairs benefits and programs. I would hate to see all this go down the toilet.

We have a potential pool of thousands of new members, those men coming from the Ranger Regiment and the Battalion. Most of these young men have combat experience in Afghanistan and Iraq. Do you really think that they won't be prey to most of the problems that us older folk have experienced? I think that this Association will become more relevant as these conflicts continue because these men, thank God, will not be treated as those of us returning from Vietnam were treated. And that's because we won't allow that to happen. That's one of the major strengths of our Association.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE**By Richard K. Benner****Treasurer's Report**

The Association is enjoying fine financial health. Our members continue to be extremely generous, and we have been able to support the three active Ranger Battalions and 75th Ranger Regiment Hqs with several programs throughout the past year. At present a Finance Committee is considering alternatives for managing and protecting the funds that we have. We are getting very low interest rates on the money market funds and we are looking at municipal bonds of varying terms that will maximize our gains with a minimum of risk. Here is a breakdown of the funds on hand:

Money Market..... \$ 22,140.00 (Yield is .75%, that's less than 1%)

Checking Accounts..... \$ 87,819.00 (No interest paid)

Family Fund Account..... \$ 28,727.21 (No interest paid)

The above Family Fund balance is after each Battalion was given \$3,000.00 and the Regimental Hqs was given \$1,200.00 for the children at Christmas, (a total of \$10,200.00). We also bought a number of turkeys for members of Hq Co, 75th, at Thanksgiving. We will also purchase turkeys at Christmas. We have financially

aided family members in order that they could visit wounded Rangers in the hospital, and will continue to aid the various Family Readiness Groups attached to each Battalion. The above balance in the checking accounts reflects an expenditure of \$13,360.00 for bricks at the Ranger Memorial, funds that were originally to have been paid by Boeing through a matching fund program. That program was terminated without any notice being given. Since the bricks were ordered by the Association in good faith and provided by the Ranger Memorial Fund in good faith and the expectation of being paid, the Elected Officers concluded that the only honorable thing to do was to pay the balance.

We have sent a proposal to the Board of Directors, (Unit Directors & Past Presidents), that, if approved, will enable us to place the bulk of our funds into Treasury Bills or Municipal Bonds. We will accomplish this through a brokerage account with Morgan Stanley, a brokerage house. They are insured by the Security Investment Protection Corporation, (SIPC), similar to the FDIC. We believe that this investment vehicle, while secure, will maximize the return on our money. It is possible to arrange it so that there will be three signatures required to cash in one of the bills or bonds, one of them being the Secretary Or Treasurer and the other two coming from the Finance Committee, which will become a Standing Committee. (See the Secretary's column for more details)

APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT**By Steve Crabtree****Spencer T Karol**

I met with General Ken Leuer (ret), Colonel Ralph Puckett (ret) CO of the RTB Colonel K.K. Chinn, Billy Ledbetter & SFC Todd Galliand on 19 November 2004 to discuss the Karol brick issue. Ledbetter & Galliand are both former members of E/51 LRS. Unfortunately the RMF has different criteria for "membership" than does the RHOF. Lineage need only be proven in order for one to be inducted into the RHOF but, after Vietnam, one must be a tabbed Ranger in order to have a brick at the RM. I went as far as to seek Congressional help from Jim Marshall (former Vietnam Airborne Ranger) and was told,

"At the direction of the Congressman, Mike Bindell in our Washington office contacted the Army Ranger Association for their guidance on

the memorial brick request. Our Washington office heard back from the association yesterday and unfortunately, they advised our office that they couldn't support the brick request for Spc. Karol. The association explained that during Vietnam, any service member who performed any kind of Ranger duty was coded in the system as a Ranger. The Army changed this policy for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and only those who go through the Ranger training can be coded as Rangers. I am sorry our inquiry was not more favorable."

A donation was made to the RMF in the name of Karol and they have agreed to engrave in the 2005 "Friends of the Rangers Marker," **G/75 Ranger – E/51 LRP in memory of Spencer T Karol**. I realize that this is not the answer that we all wanted but it is a fair compromise.

Boeing Renege

I assume that most of you know that after the merger with McDonnell Douglas, the Boeing Company refused to honor the last three requests for matching funds back in May of 1998. I contacted the Presidents of both Boeing and the Endowment Foundation. They both responded with no better reason than, "We no longer give matching funds to memorials." The matching funds had been clearly marked to go into the RMF's Educational Endowment Fund to educate the family members of Rangers killed in combat or training. They rejected the request solely because the name "Memorial" was in the title of the receiving organization. Had the request been made in the name of San Diego State University, Tijuana Tech or the

APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Worldwide University of Proctology, the request would have been granted. In the last six months I have polled the officers and Unit Directors of our organization as to what to do about the \$13,640 that was unpaid to the RMF. The response was unanimous, "Pay the money to the RMF and have Boeing removed from the "Friends" marker." I walked the Memorial with Ken Leuer last weekend. Looking at the "Friends" marker, there is no way to remove Boeing without seriously disfiguring the marker. We decided to just let the name stay there.

Ranger Memorial Corrections

I have asked the Unit Directors to check their KIAs at the RMF's website (<http://www.rangermemorial.org>) for errors. Many have responded, some have not. The RMF has agreed to make any need corrections without charge at the next engraving. This is your last chance to have corrections made without cost. If

you know of any that need to be made, contact me before 17 May 2005. We must give the RMF time to make these changes prior to the reunion in July. I may be reached at stephen.crabtree@lmco.com, cogranger@bnellsouth.net, 770 494 5599 (w), or 678 524 5223 (h). Once this date passes, we will have to pay the \$45 fee to have bricks corrected.

75th Ranger Regiment Association Presidency

Perhaps I need my head examined but yesterday I sent out:

Emmett, et al:

This is formal notification that I am running for the Presidency of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. My qualifications are: with G Company Ranger Association: President, Chairman of the Board, Board Member, Concessions Officer and with the 75th RRA: VP of Operations (appointed),

Liaison to the Ranger Memorial Foundation, Unit Representative and Brick Chairman. I was one of the guest speakers at the 1992 50th Birthday of the Rangers Reunion at Fort Benning. I sincerely hope that the void left by my leaving the VP of Operations will be filled by Tom Robison, Corporate Counsel of G Company. I have known Tom since 1990 and have the highest respect for him. Tom was severely wounded in February of 1969 and spent 18 months in a VA Hospital recovering from the traumatic amputation of his leg. He then went on to earn his college degree and graduated from Law School. Tom has since dedicated his law career to helping children rather than chasing the almighty dollar. I personally prepared the packet nominating Tom for the Ranger Hall of Fame. I ask you all to support Tom, should he decide to run. Hope to see you all in July.

Rangers Lead the Way!
Steve Crabtree (CRABS)

Poetic Justice.

You media pansies may squeal and may squirm,
But a fighting man knows that the way to confirm
That some jihadist bastard is truly dead,
Is a brain-tappin' round fired into his head.

To hell with some wienie with his journalist degree
Safe away from the combat, tryin' to tell me
I should check him for breathing, examine his eyes
Nope, I'm punchin' his ticket to Muj paradise.

To hell with you wimps from your Ivy League schools,
Sittin' far from the war tellin' me about rules
And preaching to me your wrong-headed contention
That I should observe the Geneva Convention,

Which doesn't apply to a terrorist scum
so evil and cruel their own people run from,
Cold-blooded killers who love to behead,

Shove that mother' Geneva, I'm leaving em dead.

You slick talkingheads may preach, preen and prattle,
But you're damn well not here in the thick of the battle.

It's chaotic, confusing, it all comes at you fast,
So it's Muj checking out, because I'm going to last.

Yeah, I'll last through this fight and send his ass away

To his fat ugly virgins while I'm still in play.

If you journalist wienies think that's cold, cruel and crass,

Then pucker up sweeties. Kiss a fighting man's ass.

Russ Vaughn

2d Bn, 327th Parachute Infantry Regiment 101st
Airborne Division

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

SGLI UPDATE 04: Senator Jeff Sessions (Ala.), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has introduced legislation S. 77 that would dramatically expand death benefits for military survivors. Senator Joseph Lieberman (CT) is a chief co-sponsor of the bill. Senator Sessions stated that the bill would increase the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) maximum benefit to \$400,000 from its current maximum of \$250,000. Of that coverage \$150,000 would be provided at no cost to service members once they enter a combat zone. There is no free coverage under current law. The legislation would also raise the death gratuity from \$12,420 for military personnel killed in combat to \$100,000 and the death gratuity increase would be retroactive to cover those killed while deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Combined, the three increases would cost about \$460 million, and it is unclear where the money would come from. [Source: FRA News Bytes 15 JAN 05]

VA LASER EYE SURGERY UPDATE 01: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has ended a five-month-old policy that permitted optometrists to perform laser eye surgery at its health care facilities under the supervision of ophthalmologists. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs decision was a reluctant one but experts could not come up with an implementation plan agreeable to both specialties. Traditionally, ophthalmologists perform eye surgery, while optometrists conduct visual examinations. In VA, health professionals can only perform services identified by professional licenses issued by each state. Oklahoma is the only state in the nation that licenses properly trained optometrists in their state to perform laser eye surgery. In August, VA began permitting optometrists with licenses authorizing laser eye surgery to perform those procedures under the supervision of an ophthalmologist. However, a VA panel with representatives from both professions has been unable to reach an agreement on how this supervision would actually take place. VA currently operates 157 hospitals, 134 nursing homes, 42 residential rehabilitation treatment programs, and 862 outpatient clinics. The new policy is effective immediately at all

facilities providing laser eye surgery. [Source: VA News Release 18 DEC 04]

BUDGET SHORTFALLS BLAMED ON RETIREES: The 25 JAN 05 Wall Street Journal issue carried a front-page story "As Benefits for Veterans Climb, Military Spending Feels Freeze." The story talks about the arguments made by Pentagon officials that military retirees are taking budget money that military leaders want to use to help troops fighting today. It noted the assertions of Dr. David Chu who is the Pentagon's Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness during their interview. He stated that the amounts have gotten to the point where they are hurtful. They are taking away from the nation's ability to defend itself and improving retiree and survivor benefits does not affect active duty retention. The story asserts that Congress, feeling the pressure by veterans groups has boosted retiree and survivor benefits including TRICARE For Life, concurrent receipt, and SBP. It is difficult to believe that the words of Dr. Hue are the official position of the Pentagon or just a case of foot in mouth disease. However, after six days the Pentagon's public relations office has not made any news releases that commented on or disputed Dr. Chu's assertions which have enraged veteran groups throughout the country.

Issues about military benefits should be publicly aired, but assertions that increased spending on benefits for military retirees and widows is taking money from weapons or other active duty funding needs or off base. Congress over the past two years has passed legislation specifying that no money for TRICARE For Life or concurrent receipt is to come out of the DoD budget, but is to come from elsewhere in the Treasury. Regarding retention the Joint Chiefs of Staff fought to repeal retirement cuts in the late 1990s after those cuts were found to be contributing to serious retention and readiness problems. The Joint Chiefs also told Congress at the time that they supported retiree health care fixes, because active duty troops know that they'll be retired someday, too. The troops are smart and can see through a "give them bonuses now and cut their future benefits" philosophy; that's exactly what gave rise to the retention and

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

readiness crises of the late 1970s and late 1990s, after years of erosion of benefits. Congress has demonstrated time and again that it will provide funding to meet the needs of both our active duty forces and our military retirees and survivors. If any Administration chooses to impose internal funding limitations or budget trade-offs that is in direct conflict with the intent of statutes passed by Congress and signed into law that were written specifically to prevent that from happening. The WSJ article points out why the Military Coalition of fraternal organizations have a responsibility to help ensure that retention lessons learned

under previous administrations aren't lost as leadership changes, independent of any particular Administration's budget-driven proposals. VADM Ryan's (President of the MOAA) recently wrote an article on this issue in their magazine titled "Freedom Isn't Free" which addresses precisely that point. It can be read at www.moaa.org/Magazine/CurrentEdition/presidents_page.asp. The Wall Street Journal article can be viewed at <http://webreprints.djreprints.com/1156160669825.html>. [Source: Various JAN 05]

Senators question adequacy of budget for veterans

BY: Robert Pear, New York Times
16/02/2005

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 - Senators of both parties said on Tuesday that President Bush's budget for veterans' health care would not provide enough money to maintain services at current levels, much less care for thousands of veterans streaming back to the United States from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Five veterans groups, including the American Legion, denounced a proposal in Mr. Bush's budget that would double the co-payment charged to many veterans for prescription drugs and require some to pay a new fee of \$250 a year for the privilege of using government health care.

Senator Larry E. Craig, Republican of Idaho, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, said the Department of Veterans Affairs would need more than the \$30.7 billion for medical care in Mr. Bush's budget just "to maintain current levels of service" in 2006.

Mr. Craig said at a committee hearing that the White House was seeking an increase of less than one-half of 1 percent in the appropriation for veterans' medical care. He also noted that the administration wanted to save \$606 million by restricting eligibility for nursing home care.

Senator Daniel K. Akaka of Hawaii, the senior Democrat on the committee, said a goal of the proposed fees and co-payments was to make it "prohibitively expensive" for some people to use V.A. clinics and hospitals, which are widely respected for quality of care. The new charges, Mr. Akaka said, would lead more than 192,000 people to drop out of the veterans health care system.

Senator Patty Murray, Democrat of Washington, said, "Serving veterans is part of the cost of war, but there's not one dime for veterans" in the \$81.9 billion request that Mr. Bush sent Congress on Monday to cover the costs of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite such criticism, the proposals for higher co-payments and the \$250 enrollment fee are not necessarily dead. Congress rejected such ideas in the last two years, but in the current fiscal climate, Mr. Craig said, "I intend to consider these proposals afresh."

Representative Steve Buyer, Republican of Indiana, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, indicated he was open to the ideas. Laura J. Zuckerman, a spokeswoman for Mr. Buyer, said he saw the proposals as a way to "bring balance, fairness and equity into the system."

The president's budget would save \$293 million by reducing federal payments for state-run homes that provide veterans with

long-term care. It would also save more than \$100 million with a one-year hiatus in federal spending for construction and renovation of such homes.

Dennis M. Cullinan, legislative director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, told Congress that the federal programs for state veterans' homes dated to the Civil War.

"These cuts, at a time when demand for V.A. long-term care services is on the rise with a rapidly aging veteran population, are unconscionable and reprehensible," Mr. Cullinan said.

Mr. Bush would increase the co-payment for a month's supply of a prescription drug to \$15, from \$7. Jim Nicholson, the secretary of veterans affairs, said the co-payment and the new enrollment fee would apply mainly to veterans in lower-priority categories, those who have higher incomes and do not have service-related disabilities.

Peter S. Gaytan, director of health care and benefits at the American Legion, told Congress that the Bush administration was trying to "balance the V.A. budget on the backs of America's veterans."

Richard B. Fuller, legislative director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, said, "The idea of one veteran having to pay for the care of other veterans is complete anathema."

Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin, acting under secretary of veterans affairs, said the medical staff of the department would be reduced by 3,700 employees under the president's budget. About 194,000 employees now provide medical care.

Senator James M. Jeffords, independent of Vermont, said the priorities in the president's budget did not match the needs. The budget, Mr. Jeffords said, would require cuts in some veterans' programs, but "does not reduce expensive tax cuts given to the richest segment of society."

Mr. Nicholson said the budget showed a strong commitment to veterans, but he added: "We have to make tough decisions. We have to set priorities."

In providing care, he said, the department will focus on "those who are disabled because of their military service, those who are down on their luck, those who are poor and those who have chronic illnesses or special conditions like spinal cord injury."

Mr. Craig said he detected "unanimous concern on the part of this committee that the budget has some inadequacies." The need to provide care to veterans is increasing, he said, because improvements in military medicine are saving the lives of many service members whose injuries would have proved fatal in previous wars.

HEALTH

DISCLAIMER

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

“LONG TIME PASSING:

Vietnam and the Haunted Generation”

Written by: Ms. Myra MacPherson

(Formerly a long time political writer for the Washington Post; New York Times; Washington Star; Miami Herald; and Nation Magazine, among others.)

“LONG TIME PASSING” was published in 1984 by Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc. 1540 Broadway, New York, New York 10036. ISBN 0-385-47016-9.

The Following is a Quote taken from pages 188-189. This quote was made by Dr. John F. Wilson, author of THE FORGOTTEN WARRIOR PROJECT, which was commissioned and funded by a forty-five thousand dollar grant by the Disabled American Veterans. This study was to be one of the foremost major studies of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder among Vietnam Combat Veterans. It’s penetrating studies and analysis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder among Veterans was to become influential in the acceptance of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a “bona fide Psychological malady”, and the precursor to the psychological malady of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder being entered into the 1980 edition of the DSM III – (Diagnostic and Statistics Manual, Third Edition).

“In an eloquent testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs in 1980, Dr. John F. Wilson tried to further the understanding of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.” (Myra MacPherson.)

“If you were demonic and powerful enough to want to make someone “crazy” following a war like Vietnam, what would be the worst set of social, economic, political, and psychological conditions you could create for a returnee?

“First, you would send a young man fresh out of high school to an unpopular, controversial guerrilla war far away from home. Expose him to intensely stressful events, some so horrible that it would be impossible to really talk about them later to anyone else except for fellow ‘survivors.’ To insure maximal stress, you would create a one-year tour of duty during which the combatant flies to and from the war zone singly, *without* a cohesive, intact, and emotionally supportive unit with high morale. You would also create the one – year rotation to instill a ‘survivor mentality’ which would undercut the process of ideological commitment to winning the war and seeing it as noble cause. Then at DEROS [Date of Expected Return from Overseas Service] you would rapidly remove the combatant and *singly* return him to his front porch *without* an opportunity to sort out the meaning of

the experiences with the men in his unit. No homecoming welcome or victory parades. Ah, but yet, since you are demonic enough, you make sure that the veteran is stigmatized and portrayed to the public as a ‘drug-crazed psychopathic killer.’ By virtue of careful selection by the Selective Service System, the veteran would be unable to easily reenter the mainstream of society because he is undereducated and lacks marketable job skills.”

“Further, since the war itself was so difficult, you would want to make sure that there were no supportive systems in society for him, especially among health professionals at VA hospitals who would find his nightmares and residual war-related anxieties unintelligible. Finally you want to establish a GI Bill with inadequate benefits to pay for education and job training, coupled with an economy of high inflation and unemployment.”

“Last, but not least, you would want him to *feel* isolated, stigmatized, unappreciated, and exploited for volunteering to serve his country.”

“Tragically, of course, this scenario is not fictitious; it was the homecoming for most Vietnam Veteran.”

Dr. John F. Wilson interviewed close to a thousand Veterans and has cataloged his findings in the DAV-commissioned “Forgotten Warrior” project.

“The disorder [in PTSD] is the impeded blockage of that normal sorting out, recovery process.” “...violence is far from the hallmark of PTSD. Suicidal attempts are far more frequent among Veterans than attempts to harm others, note PTSD experts”

Depression Doubles Stroke Death Risk

Symptoms of Depression Raise Risks
of Heart Disease, Stroke

By Jennifer Warner

WebMD Medical News Reviewed By Charlotte Grayson, MD

on Tuesday, November 30, 2004

Nov. 30, 2004 — Men with persistent symptoms of depression may be twice as likely to die of a stroke as well as face greater risks of heart disease compared with men with little or no depression symptoms, according to a new study.

Researchers say the study is one of the largest to look at the association between depression and heart disease and stroke. The results suggest that a dramatic increase in stroke risk may be behind the higher risk of cardiovascular-related deaths found among people with

H E A L T H

depression.

The studies so far on the issue of depression and death risk, particularly risk of death from cardiovascular disease, have been inconclusive. About half of previous studies related to risk of death and depression have found that having depression increases the risk of death, but nearly a quarter have shown the reverse, and the remainder had conflicting results.

Depression Symptoms Linked to Stroke Risk

In the study, researchers followed nearly 13,000 men from across the U.S. who participated in the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention (MRFIT) Trial. The men were an average of 46 years old at the start of the study and were considered to have an above-average risk of heart disease due to various risk factors, but none of them had evidence of heart disease.

In the sixth year of the study, the men answered a questionnaire to assess their depressive symptoms. The symptoms were rated on a four-point scale, with zero meaning they rarely experienced depressive symptoms and three meaning they experienced symptoms most of the time.

During the next 19 years, researchers tracked deaths and the cause of death among the men.

Even Mild Depression May Be Risky

After adjusting for age, blood pressure, and other factors that may have affected the results, researchers found that men in the top one-fifth of depression scores were:

15% more likely to have died of any cause

21% more likely to have died due to heart disease

Twice as likely to have died due to stroke compared with men in the lowest fifth of depression scores

The results appear in the Nov. 29 issue of *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association*.

Researchers say although 22% of these men had developed heart disease by the time they filled out the depression questionnaire, the relationship between depression and heart disease death risk was consistent regardless of the men's history of heart disease.

Even Mild Depression May Be Risky

"Because of the size of MRFIT, we were able to look at depression as a continuous measure in our analysis, which led to another significant finding: that even mild depressive symptoms were associated with an increased risk of stroke death compared to subjects with no depressive symptoms at all," says researcher Karen A. Matthews, PhD, professor of psychiatry, psychology, and epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh, in a news release.

However, researchers say the study did not rule out the possibility that "silent" or undetected strokes may have contributed to the increased risk of heart disease deaths associated with depressive symptoms.

"That is a real possibility because silent strokes, by definition, are not detected clinically, but might well produce depression and predict fatal stroke later because having one stroke increases the risks of having another," says researcher Brooks B. Gump, PhD, MPH, associate professor of psychology

at the State University of New York at Oswego, in the release.

SOURCES: Brooks, B. *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association*, News release, American Heart Association.

DANDY-WALKER SYNDROME SERVICE-CONNECTED (SUBMITTED BY "F" COMPANY'S DAN NATE)

This morning I received a call from Ken Cook, a Vietnam veteran from Idaho whom I have worked with since 1999 in trying to get his son Michael's medical condition service-connected. Michael is severely impaired due to a condition called Dandy-Walker Syndrome, which means cystic structures existing in his brain. Ken reported the good news that Michael has been awarded the highest classification rate from the Veterans Administration, which will provide \$1,440.00 per month over Michael's lifetime.

This is a monumental decision because it expands the definition of neural-tube defects to include conditions OTHER than just SPINA BIFIDA.

According to the reviewing neurologist, Dr. Genet D'Arcy, "As a neurologist, I would have to state that it would be my opinion that neural-tube defects felt to be etiologically related to a teratogen should ALL be included and not just one, as that does not make embryologic-logical sense. As Dandy-Walker is, by most authors, felt to be a neural-tube defect, it would be the opinion of this examiner that if the CHILD carries this diagnosis that he DOES in fact have a neural-tube defect and therefore has an analogous disorder to SPINA BIFIDA.....

Dandy-Walker is, in the opinion of this examiner, a neural-tube defect, and therefore it is as likely as not that MICHAEL is warranted for compensation on the qualification as a diagnosis related to SPINA BIFIDA and PRESUMED AGENT ORANGE exposure on the part of the father while serving in VIETNAM."

In this opinion, other neurological conditions including lissencephaly, microgyria and agenesis of the corpus callosum are also mentioned as related to Dandy-Walker cysts and thus within the spectrum of neural-tube defects.

In another case, Michele Jones versus Principi (00-669), a paralyzed VIETNAM veteran won compensation for his daughter who was born with encephalocele, also a neural-tube defect.

It is the opinion of this writer that we need to get the word out to the veteran community about these awards so that other families with qualifying children can apply for compensation.

References: Dr. D'Arcy; Betty Mekdeci, Executive Director of BIRTH DEFECT RESEARCH for CHILDREN; www.birthdefects.org; 407/895-0802...fax:407/895-0824.

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!!

Bylaws Change

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE EXISTING BY LAWS THEY ARE TO BE VOTED ON AT THE REUNION THIS SUMMER OR YOU MAY RECORD YOUR VOTE BY COMPLETING THE OFFICIAL BALLOT ON THE INSIDE BACK PAGE OF THE OUTER COVER. THIS IS THE ONLY BALLOT THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED, IT MUST HAVE YOUR MAILING LABEL ON IT.

Proposed 2005 changes to the 75th Ranger Regiment Associations Bylaws.

Regular font is how it is written in the Bylaws now.

Font with a strike through is what is to be either removed or changed enough that it is not relevant any more.

Bold font is what will be replacing the struck through font or what is to be added.

Italics are to explain why the change is needed.

Article V

SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment

A. 1st Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974.

B. 2nd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974.

C. 3rd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1984.

D. 75th Ranger Regiment HQ's Company, activated in 1984.

~~E. 75th Ranger Regiment, designated in 1986, and all subordinate, assigned and attached units.~~

The words ~~E. 75th Ranger Regiment, designated in 1986, and all subordinate, assigned and attached units.~~ are struck because this is partially a redundant statement and do we really want to add to our rolls the attached Transportation and Field Mess Hall units just because they were attached.

SECTION 7: Long Range Surveillance

Any Long Range

Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element that was deployed to Vietnam **as listed in Section 2, 3 or 4 above.**

There has not been a problem with this section but the potential is present for a membership application to come in from ~~us~~ say the 11th Armored Cav. Regt. As SECTION 7 is written right now they could apply and there is nothing we have to prevent this. This just cleans this portion up.

ARTICLE XI

OFFICES

SECTION 2: The following Executive Offices are established: (Elected)

a. President: Chairman / Chief Executive Officer

b. **1st** Vice President: ~~Programs / Protocol /~~ Membership Recruitment / Vice Chairman

c. **2nd** Vice President: **Programs / Protocol**

c. Secretary: Administration and Membership

d. Treasurer: Chief Financial Officer

This Association has gotten big enough now that we need more people at the top doing day-to-day Association business. Either the challenges of the position are scaring away candidates or we are riding these horses in the ground. Too often, I see that it boils down to primarily the President and the Secretary carrying the load of the Association business. Plus the people previously filling the Vice Presidents position have not always done what was needed. The Vice Presidents position should be the training and breeding ground for potential Presidents of the Association. Creating an additional position here allows us twice the chance of getting one of these men to ascend into that position.

SECTION 6: (Elected Offices)

a. (Officers) - All Executive Officers are members of the Board Of Directors. All Executive Officers are elected into office during National Reunions for a two-year term ~~only~~. The President may not succeed himself as President **or any other Executive office**. The Vice-Presidents, ~~may be elected as the President but may not succeed himself as Vice-~~

Bylaws Change

~~President.~~ The Secretary and / or the Treasurer may succeed themselves in their existing offices for as many terms as the General Membership will allow.

The word ~~only~~ is struck because it really only previously applied to the President and Vice President positions. By removing the restriction to the Vice-Presidents, it now only applies to the President. It seems as over killed to leave it in there. The words ~~or any other Executive office~~ is my offering to prevent the President from running for his office or any other elected office. I'm open to suggestions to stronger wording to make it absolutely clear that only the President may be in office for only one 2 year term.

The words ~~may be elected as the President but may not succeed himself as Vice President.~~ The ~~are~~ are struck to allow either of the Vice Presidents to run as long as the membership will allow them to run. If we get a good man in there, who is doing a good job, and likes it, but does not have the desire to ever run for the office of President, why not allow him to serve the membership in that office for as long as he can. It would be an encouragement for a potential President to know he has good experienced Vice Presidents in there to help him.

The ~~s~~ are added to the words Vice Presidents and offices to denote the plural term of two Vice Presidents.

ARTICLE XII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 2: The 1st Vice President

- a. The Vice President will assume duties of the President during his absence, or in the event of his death, incapacity, removal, or resignation.
- ~~b. Is responsible for Programs and Protocol.~~
- b. Chair ad-hoc committees.
- c. Recommend guest speakers for the reunion.
- d. Perform other duties as directed by the President.

SECTION 3: The 2nd Vice President

- a. The Vice President will assume duties of the 1st Vice President during his absence, or in the event of his death, incapacity, removal, or resignation.
- b. Is responsible for Programs and Protocol.
- c. Chair ad-hoc committees.
- d. Perform other duties as directed by the President.

Section 2 and 3 will be similar but slightly different in terms of responsibility. Basically, it's splitting up the old Vice Presidents responsibilities and allowing the flexibility to assign them each separate duties down the road as unforeseen requirements present themselves. There is no reason we could not have more than 2 Vice Presidents later on but let's have the need for the position first before we create the position. I feel we can create the one additional position now and employ both of them effectively. Most importantly is the prospect of having two candidates for potential President in the hopper. Secondly is the ability for two men helping out the President with duties and task as they arise as witnessed by the ~~d~~ provision above. The 1st Vice President is senior to the 2nd and therefore the 1st is first in line to replace the President and the 2nd would step up into the vacant 1st position as witnessed by the difference in wording in ~~a~~. The 1st Vice President retains the guest speaker roll. The ~~Is responsible for Programs and Protocol.~~ portion is moved down to the 2nd Vice President. Naturally, the numbering for Secretary (4) and Treasurer (5) will have to be adjusted if this is approved.

Emmett W. Hiltibrand
Strength & Honor
RLTW

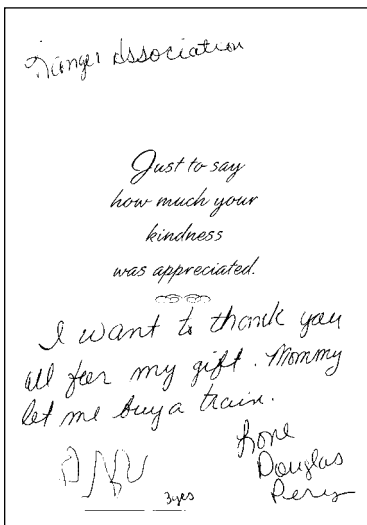
FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



Rangers or assisting a mother to be with her wounded son while he recovers from his wounds. This is what we do. This is who we are. I only wish something like this was available for your families when you guys were in Vietnam and our families needed this sort of help. It wasn't available then when needed but is needed now and you guys are making it happen. You have broken from tradition and set a new course for unselfish humanity amongst men.

In the first year of this program we tried to give all the collected donations to the Regimental Commanders wife but the JAG (Staff Judge Advocate) said that neither she or the Family Readiness Group could have this much money in their accounts. So we opened up a separate account at our bank so that the Family Fund monies would not be commingled with our Association operating funds. The Association has since the very beginning managed these monies for them. The Associations Elected Officers have been sparingly and painstakingly disbursing these funds for 5 years now. The Association has not siphoned off a penny for this service. We have kept meticulous records and can account for every penny taken in and disbursed out. I see no real time immediate solution for doing this any other way beyond that what we have

been doing. We are getting smarter as time goes on. We have also successfully gotten the leaders of the Family Readiness Group more involved in overseeing this disbursement process. I will tell you that the Officers of this Association feel just a little uncomfortable making decision on who will and who will not receive funds and what is or is not a righteous purchase. With the help of the FRG's our stress level are much lower now.



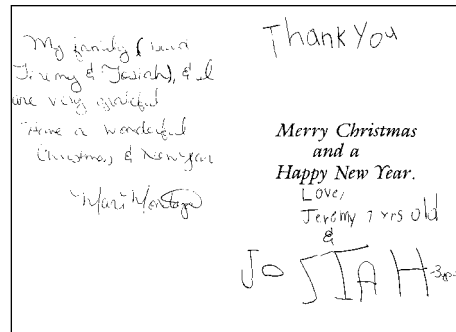
This is a good program. This is a good thing you guys are doing and you should be proud of what you have become apart of. We are helping real time families right now. Families are

Dear Mr. Hiltibrand -

On behalf of my 2 children, I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Also, please know that our family is blessed to be associated with such kind and generous people. God Bless you this holiday season & the coming years. Again, thank you for their gift cards - I will get them something they will enjoy.

Sincerely,
Amy Kbreatch (& family)

Many of you send in donations and ask to remain anonymous. We honor that and never place an amount but we at least try to list the names of who have given donations to say 'Thank You'. Some whole units empty their entire units treasurers every year into the Fund except for a small operating amount. One guy wrote John a note along with his donation, apologizing for only being able to donate a certain amount but explained that he had been out of work for two years. You guys have once again set the level of the bar and no one else has



in need and you guys are there for them. You guys have a great big generous heart and I promise not to divulge your secret. Opps. I guess I just did. OK, so fire me.

even come close to reaching it. You set the bar in Vietnam and now you continue to make a difference. It truly has been a pleasure serving as President of such a fine group of men.

This year in just a short time in office, we have helped a mother be with her wounded son. We've helped a family go to Arlington National Cemetery to bury their son and we provided a herd of turkey's for families that otherwise would not have had one. And let us not forget that we made Christmas come true for a lot of deserving children. Oh, and don't forget that 'Johnny's' mom was able to get him the train he so wanted.

Keep it up men. It's a good thing you are doing and you are doing it well. No amount is too little. Send in what ever you feel comfortable with. It all goes into the pot and is disbursed out when needed.

Emmett W. Hiltibrand – President, 75th Ranger Regiment Association

Dear Ranger Association,

It was a wonderful surprise to open the mailbox to find an envelope with such a thoughtful message & three gift cards for our children. Please know that we appreciate your generosity & kindness very much during this Christmas season. My husband & I have been with the Rangers since 1993, and they (all associated with them) never cease to amaze us with how Rangers support one another. Thank you again.

Rangers lead the way
God Bless You & your family,
Donna Crews

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Gold Star Presentation

By: Steve Crabtree

Presenting a Gold Star Mother's Plaque is not the most enjoyable task. I remember the escort who brought my girlfriend's brother's body back from Vietnam. He told stories of being shot at by the family members. What would I be in for? What do you say to a mother who has lost her son in combat?



Bridget Madison displaying her Gold Star Mother's Plaque honoring her son, Spencer Timothy Karol KIA 6 Oct 2003.

These are just a few of the thoughts I had during my 2 1/2 hour drive up to Morongo Valley from San Diego.

Bridget Madison was standing in front of her ranch style home as I drove up. She could not have been more hospitable and invited me in to see the house. After meeting the dogs, cats and the cockatoo, she took me on a tour. The ranch was located at the base of a hill and had a beautiful view of the valley below.

The walls were lined with Hollywood posters of her dad's, Guy Madison's, movies. I really took a step back in time when I saw the Wild Bill Hickok posters on the walls. Roy, Gene, Andy, and The Duke were all there along with most of my early favorite



The walls of Ms. Madison's home are lined with tributes to her late father, Guy Madison, best known for playing Wild Bill Hickok in 1950's Hollywood westerns.

cowboy actors. Then we went into the guesthouse. The walls were lined with pictures and mementos of her son, Spencer. She told me of the visit from SSG Dominik Kepa, who had been on the fateful mission with her son and how much she appreciated his taking the time to come and see her. She told me of how much her son loved what he was doing. I told her that his unit was completely voluntary and that he wasn't "assigned" to his LRS unit but volunteered to do so. I don't know how she kept her composure because I was tearing up as she spoke.

We went out for lunch and chatted for about an hour. We then went back to her home and I presented her with her lifetime membership to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and her 75th RRA Gold Star Mother's Pin. I told her of the Ranger Memorial's refusal to allow Spencer to have a brick, as he was not a "tabbed" Ranger. Spencer's Unit, E Company, 51st Infantry LRS, is a direct descendant from G Company Ranger, 75th Infantry and E Company, 51st Infantry LRP. I will never give up fighting until Spencer has his brick at the Ranger Memorial because "Rangers don't leave anyone behind."

In closing I would personally thank SSG Dominik Kepa for the time and comfort he has given Bridget. She is a fantastic person, one I am proud to have the honor of meeting and, yes, Dominik, your name is tattooed on her left arm.

CRABS OUT.



Bridget Madison displaying her Gold Star Mother's Plaque in front of an oil painting of her actor father.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 1967-THIS TREE WAS SENT TO US FROM THE USA

NOTE: THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE LEAVING FOR PATROL

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT STANDING

SP4 JIMMY J BOYKINS

SSGT JOHN BURKE JR

SGT JOSEPH M FORMELIO

SGT MANUEL TORRES

SGT DON C PERRY (BEHIND TREE)

SFC TERRY W VANCE

SP4 JENNINGS W ROBINSON

5GT FRANK J HARPER'

KNEELING /

SGT ROBERT M MAXSON

SGT EUGENE N SLYZUIK

SP5 RICHARD D VINCENT

SGT REECE L MARPLE (PICTURE CUT OFF)

BEHIND SP5 VINCENT

SP4 ROBERT D STEELE

NOTE:

SGT DON C. PERRY DID NOT-PATROL WITH US, HE WAS BELLY MAN



PHOTO FURNISHED BY: John Burke, Jr. F/51

Geoffrey Finds a Home

By: Bill Bullen

Don Keller's wife Ellen, (Don was the First Sgt. of K Co), had been under the weather when we visited Tacoma for the 75th RRA reunion last year. Before the reunion Donna and I spent some time in California with Tom Sove and his wife. During the course of our California tour, we discovered Geoffrey, a five foot tall stuffed giraffe. I immediately thought of Ellen Keller and her collection of stuffed animals. I also thought that he might have a cheering effect on her. But how to get it to her from the left coast? Donna reminded me that John Chester and Mary Anne were driving out from Maryland. And that they had a pick up truck with a covered bed. I called John on his cell phone and he said that he'd find room for Geoffrey. I bought him and took him to Tacoma. After the reunion I retrieved him from John and stopped at Don and Ellen's house in Fayetteville on my way to Ft Benning to see my son Brad graduate from Jump School.

Hey guys, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness, and for Geoffrey. I was overwhelmed by both his size and your giving. I've collected various stuffed animals over the years and they occupy their own special space somewhere in our home. Those spaces are special shelves that accommodate their size. Noe Geoffrey on the other hand, will require some thought and will be working on that for some time to come as can be seen in the photo. My heart felt thanks goes to every one of you, and with Geoffrey's size I'll have a constant reminder of all of you.

Ellen Keller



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

NEW JERSEY and THE PURPLE HEART

(submitted by “F” company’s Dan Nate)

Of the 464 men who received the Medal of Honor for Valor during World War II, sixteen (16) were New Jerseyans. Until January of 2005, two (2) of the (16) were still alive and active. However, this year, Mr. Nicholas Oresko, 87, of Tenafly, NJ is the “sole surviving member” of that elite group. Stephen Gregg, 90, the “other” recipient, passed away just 2 weeks ago. Oddly enough, both of the last of the group were from Bayonne.

As a Master Sgt. in the Army on Jan. 23, 1945, Oresko was leading a platoon pinned-down by enemy fire from two bunkers in Germany. When Oresko signaled his men to advance, no one budged from the trench but him. Oresko got close enough to lob a grenade into one of the enemy bunkers, then shot those that tried to escape. Wounded in the hip by machine-gun fire from the second bunker, Oresko crawled on until he could toss a grenade into the hole concealing the Germans who had shot him. Before the day was done, Oresko had killed twelve (12) enemy soldiers. “I HAD A DECISION TO MAKE AND I DID NOT LOOK BACK,” Oresko said.

The photograph on the cover shows Sgt. Nicholas Oresko and his wife seated with “F” company’s Dan Nate, New Jersey’s State Surgeon for the M.O.P.H., enjoying the Military Order of the Purple Heart’s “GEORGE WASHINGTON ANNUAL DINNER”, held at the Officer’s Club at Fort Monmouth, NJ, sponsored by then State Commander, and former “F” company member, Rich O. Martin.



Team 2-1, 1968, my first team. Memford Apodaca, Ho Van Minh, our 1st Kit Carson Scout of former NVA lineage, and Warren Nycum. I am kneeling in front of them. This is behind the 2nd platoon hootch, at Cu Chi.

Rear row, left to right: Evans, Bill; unknown; unknown; Porter, Rodney; Mott, David. Front row: Singman, Norton; Nate, Dan, (T/L); Appleman, Robert, and Damron, Darrell. This was a “heavy team” as we used during PBR insertion missions and such, in 1969, under Team # 2-2.

At this time we still called the teams by (1) the platoon #, which was (2), and the team placement #, which could have been 1 through 8, depending on wounded, R&R, or rotation.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Quilt to be Presented at Reunion

By: John Chester

I received an e-mail from Roy Boatman. It seems that N/75 will be raffling off a quilt at the reunion. For those of you who may not be attending the reunion, you can still get in on the action. Contact information for Roy is shown below. N/75 also will be donating a quilt to the Association, to be displayed at subsequent reunions. I agree with Roy, I made the quilt the cover of the magazine. Thanks Roy.

Roy wrote that “We (173rd LRRP - 74th LRP- N/75 plan on raffling a quilt (new *quilt*). If you could and have room can you put a picture of it in the next Patrolling Issue. Fact is, it would make a good cover page in my opinion.

The hanging quilt will be approximately 7 ft x 8ft. Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be done at the Banquet after the colors are retired. If anyone desires tickets that cannot or isn't attending please have them send me a letter and we will send them the ticket stubs.

I also need a 5 minute period to present a quilt to the association on my units behalf that we would like to see shown (in a safe place) at each subsequent reunion. I will send a copy of it under separate email. It should be passed from secretary to secretary. This quilt is similar to the one being raffled but includes a few more graphics and different arrangement (slightly). The significance of the one presented is that it includes all of the Ranger units of the association including the SSI on the Battalions at different times in history. This may make the current Active Duty Rangers feel more a part of the association. Any questions comments or otherwise please let me know!

Roy Boatman

1456 Lula Long Road

Elizabethtown, NC 28337

910-588-6009

Close Combat Badge

ARLINGTON, Va. — After 60 years of debate, Army officials have finally decided to create a badge for non-infantry soldiers that recognizes their direct participation in ground combat.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker presented the new Close Combat Badge, or CCB, to a cadre of senior officers Friday, during a regularly scheduled meeting of four-star Army generals, according to Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, an Army personnel spokesman.

The new badge will be the equivalent of the Army's Combat Infantry Badge, which was created in 1943.

The CIB, in the form of a rifle surrounded by a wreath, is reserved for infantry and Special Forces soldiers only.

The Close Combat Badge will be awarded to soldiers with military occupational specialties in armor, the cavalry, combat engineering, and field artillery. Officers must have a branch or specialty recognized in Army regulations as “having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat.”

The CCB will be presented only to soldiers who are engaged in active ground combat, moving to contact and destroy the enemy with direct fire.

All soldiers are allowed to wear their unit patch on their right shoulder as a “combat patch” after spending 30 days in an authorized combat theater.

While prestigious, however, the wear of this unit patch as a combat designator does not necessarily indicate that the wearer was involved in direct ground fighting.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

That is the purpose of the Combat Infantry Badge and a Combat Medical Badge, which is reserved for Army, Navy and Air Force medics. These were the only two Army symbols that indicate that the wearer has come under direct enemy fire.

Combat badges are different from military medals. Medals and the ribbons that represent them are worn only on a soldier's mess dress and Class "A" and "B" uniforms, never on battle dress uniforms.

But the badges, which are rectangular pieces of metal when worn on the dress or Class "A" and "B" uniforms, are also worn as a fabric patch above the right-hand breast pocket of the BDUs — acting as a "visual recognition of close combat" whenever a soldier is in uniform, Hilferty said.

The creation of the new Close Combat Badge closes a debate that soldiers have been "talking about since the 1940s," when the CIB was established, Hilferty said in a Monday telephone interview.

Soldiers and their leaders have argued over the years that the infantry and Special Forces are not the only two branches of the Army that get into firefights.

The Army has periodically reviewed the criteria for the Combat Infantry Badge, but it wasn't until the conventional wars in Iraq and Afghanistan turned into insurgencies that the non-infantry soldiers' point of view gained increased momentum.

So, at the request of commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan, last year Schoomaker approved the creation of a task force to look at creating a new combat badge to widen the pool of soldiers that will be recognized for the combat participation. More details about the new Close Combat Badge, including its design and the procedure for soldiers to request the award, will be unveiled later this week, Hilferty said.

Army officials said they are hoping that Lt. Gen. Franklin L. "Buster" Hagenbeck, the Army's chief of personnel, will personally announce those details.

A March administrative message will follow that formally outlines the exact rules and regulations,

officials said.

The new badge should be available this fall through unit supply and also for purchase in military clothing sales stores.

Proposed criteria for the Army's new Close Combat Badge

Who is eligible?: Colonel or below for officers; all enlisted soldiers are eligible.

Enlisted soldiers must have a Military Occupational Specialty in Armor or Cavalry (CMF 19), Artillery (CMF 13), or Combat Engineer (CMF 12).

Officers must have a branch or specialty officially recognized in Army Regulation 611-1 as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat."

Soldiers must be:

Assigned or attached to an Army brigade or smaller unit that is purposely organized to routinely conduct close combat operations and engage in direct combat, in accordance with existing Army rules and policy.

Under fire while engaged in active ground combat, to moving into contact and destroy the enemy with direct fire. Battle or campaign participation is not sufficient to qualify for this award; the unit must have been in active ground combat.

Additional eligible personnel:

If all other criteria are met, eligibility may include other services and foreign soldiers assigned to Army units of brigade and below.

Effective date: Sept. 11, 2001 (retroactive)

Note: As of Feb. 14, this criterion was "pre-decisional," meaning that it has not yet been fully approved by Army or Defense Department officials.

Source: U.S. Army

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	ZIP PLUS
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



Our first Battalion Commander (Major General Ret. Kenneth Leur) will be inducted into the Chatahoochee Hall of Fame, along with four other former athletes from the Columbus Georgia area on March 19th. 2005. General Leur has been inducted into 3 other halls of fame to include the Ranger Hall of Fame.

APPOINTMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL KARL EIKENBERRY TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced that the President nominated Major General Karl W Eikenberry for appointment to the rank of Lieutenant General and assignment as commander, Combined Forces Command, Kabul Afghanistan. Eikenberry is currently serving as the director, J-5, United States Pacific Command in Hawaii. Eikenberry was platoon leader of 2nd. platoon and weapons platoon bco. 75-77.

THIS IS A REQUEST FROM PAT MAREK (MOTHER OF RANGER MATT COMMONS) KIA 3/4/02

Greetings to my Ranger and Army acquaintances. I would like to introduce you to a new non-profit organization in which I am involved. An article about this organization was published in the Air Force Times and we have been barraged with orders and requests on how to volunteer. I am not selling you anything, just asking that you please visit this site. For those of you who are Rangers of the 1/75th you will recognize the pictures heading the web page. The pictures are of Ranger Matt Commons' funeral and the memorial ceremony held in Savannah for the three Rangers killed in the Battle of Takur Ghar. Any publicity we can get would be much appreciated. Additionally, if anyone is or knows of an attorney that would like to volunteer their services, we can use that too. We are all donating funding to get things started. Please feel free to contact me if you want further information. 720-981-4157 (web site) <http://www.honorthefallen.org>

DEPARTING RANGER

Retired First Sergeant Rick Hopkins passed away in December 2004. I do not know the cause of Rick's death. Ranger Hopkins was in the Battalion from 74-76. He was the Platoon Sergeant of the 2nd. Platoon Bco. God bless his soul.





2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Rich Hecht



By: Rich Hecht

I start off this issue with sad news about the deaths of two brother Rangers. The first is PFC Nathan Stahl, who died on September 21, 2004 in Iraq, when the vehicle he was in was hit by an IED. He was from Highland, Indiana. The second is PFC. Devin Peguero, who was killed in training at Ft. Lewis on December 16, 2004. Ranger Peguero was killed during a live fire building clearing exercise. He was from Chino Hills, CA.

In some better news, our Association was able to donate \$3000 to each of the battalions during the Christmas Holiday. Below is a letter of thanks from Chaplain Struecker.

With this issue of Patrolling comes a reminder to renew your membership dues. I always found it hard to remember to send in my payment unless I do it right away. It is also a good time to get that buddy of your who is always mooching your copy of Patrolling to pony up for his own membership. This summer the Association is having another reunion at Ft. Benning, to match our reunion to the change of command of Regiment. There should be more details in this issue or on the web site. You can't attend unless your dues are current.

Here is some news from 2/75. The Regiment is supposed to change to the new style of BDUs (called ACUs) some time in the future, but not until there are enough uniforms to outfit everyone. They have also begun to receive new web gear that is specific to the Rangers. I will have more info on both and hopefully pictures in a later issue. Training continues as it always does, even with the ongoing real world deployments. The Battalion travels to scenic Yakima on a regular basis and partakes in joint training exercises, but are not doing rotations such as JRTC.

As you read this, the Battalion should have its S5 shop up and running on-line. If it is up, I will have sent out the news on the 2/75 email update list and posted in the Guest Book.

The Association web site continues to improve. If you haven't visited in a while, please make a post in the guest book. If you have pictures of your time in the Battalion, that can be published, please send them in so we can all share. The attached picture here is of me during the 2/75 30th Anniversary in October 2004 at Ft. Lewis. The Ranger Crest and quote was added by the photographer, Ranger Ken Kovac.

Thanks for the Christmas gifts

The Rangers and families of 2nd Ranger Battalion want to sincerely thank the 75th Ranger Regiment Association for the very generous donations this Christmas.

We were absolutely impressed by your generous gifts. You provided \$3000 to assist Ranger families this holiday season. To my knowledge this was the single largest Christmas donation this battalion has ever received.

2nd Ranger Battalion conducted a very successful Christmas party with some of your generous gifts. On December 22nd we had almost 300 Rangers and their families members at a party held on Fort Lewis. The Christmas tree, decorations and some of the food was purchased with the 75th RRA gifts.

Santa Clause was the biggest success at the Christmas party. The battalion purchased a Santa suit with the 75th RRA gifts that First Lieutenant Kang wore during the party. Each child that sat on Santa's lap received a \$10 gift certificate for the Post Exchange. Additional, the

75th RRA gifts made it possible for the battalion to purchase door prizes for children who attended the Christmas party. In all, no child left the Christmas party without a gift certificate and many also received a door prize before the evening was over.

The remainder of the 75th RRA money was distributed in the form of Post Exchange gift certificates to each of the companies for lower income Rangers to purchase Christmas gifts for their children.

Please let everyone know that their generous donations this Christmas brought a lot of smiles and made for a Christmas party that people will talk about all year long.





3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - John R. Edmunds



3rd Ranger Battalion
SGT Michael C. O'Neill, Memorial Edition
3rd Ranger Battalion, Unit Director.

Rangers, this the second issue of Patrolling magazine we are recognizing a fallen ranger.

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

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of SGT O'Neill. May God Bless you and heal your pain, Matthew 11:28.

I thank Ms. Kimberly Laudano, 75th Ranger Regiment PAO, for her support.

RLTW
John R. Edmunds



Words From the Heart

Then I began to move my hands over the Wall -
over names I did not know,
slow at first, and then faster, almost frantically -
at first not knowing why -
but then knowing -
I was looking for one name,
I was looking for the one groove my hands would
know the best,
the one that would confirm what I always knew
to be true but was afraid to admit,
a name that wasn't there but should have been-
mine.

It was that realization, that surprise,
when it all rushed in, the horribleness too horrible to
remember -
too awful to forget -
When it all came back in on me - overwhelming me,
forcing me to face what I could not accept
The source of my guilt, my one great sin -

I had lived, I had survived. I came back...

I left the Wall.
I ascended out of that deep, dark hole a different
person.
Tired, emotionally exhausted,
I stood there looking back where I had been.
I knew my pain had not magically left me -
I carry it with me today - but I carry it, it no longer
carries me.
This was the healing I could not find before -
The Wall told me my name was not there
and said go live your life, you do not belong here.
And so I do, live my life now, beyond the Wall.

Patrick Overton, Ph.D.
Columbia, MO
excerpt from The Healing Wall



75TH RANGER REGIMENT

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>

SGT. MICHAEL C. O'NEILL

Died on Nov. 21, 2004

Operation Enduring Freedom

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my Ranger Regiment... - FIRST STANZA OF THE RANGER CREED

Sgt. Michael C. O'Neill, 22, was an infantryman assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga.

He died Nov. 21, 2004, at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany from non-combat related injuries suffered Nov. 17 in Afghanistan. He was medically evacuated to Germany on Nov. 18.

A native of Mansfield, Ohio, O'Neill deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom last month — his third OEF deployment since 2002. He had also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

After graduating from Mansfield High School, O'Neill entered the Army in June 2001 and completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning as an infantryman. After graduating from the Basic Airborne Course there in November, he was assigned to the Ranger Training Detachment, 75th Ranger Regt.



O'Neill graduated from the Ranger Indoctrination Program in December 2001 and was then assigned to 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt., where he served as an automatic rifleman.

His military education includes the U.S. Army Ranger Course, Basic Airborne Course, Team Leader Course and Primary Leadership Development Course.

O'Neill's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Expert Infantryman Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge and Ranger Tab.

O'Neill is survived by his parents, George and Holly O'Neill, and his brother, George K. O'Neill, all of Mansfield, Ohio.

As a Ranger, Sgt. Michael O'Neill distinguished himself as a member of the Army's premier light infantry unit, traveled to all corners of the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism and fought valiantly to "*uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps*" of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

- RANGERS LEAD THE WAY! -



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

Unit Director - Tom Brizendine



A/75, Co D/17 LRP, V Corps LRRP Co, USA LRRP Co (Abn) 3779

By: Ronald Dahle

Roots

I get a big smile periodically while cruising through the 75th RRA website at many of the postings. Recently I became particularly amused at some of the comments made about the *Old, Fat, and Toothless* LRRP's. Well after reading comments, which included the aforementioned adjectives, it didn't take too long to realize that I was one of them that things that was being referenced. I caught myself getting irritated, and then I realized that there was indeed a grain of truth in the statements, as after all I do have false teeth, I am overweight, and although I don't often consider it I am in my 60's, which some would consider old (I say that because I can well remember when I never expected to reach 60, as I really considered that ancient) and I have already had 1 knee replaced. And then I thought of a lot of my friends and damned if they weren't in the same boat. Oh, by the way we were also LRRP's making the prerequisites complete. In fact we were part of the first LRRP companies in the Army, whose lineage, by the way, leads directly to the 75th RRA. I remember Russ Grazier and myself were number 18 and 19 in the LRRP Company in Wildflecken when we reported in, having been diverted to the company while enroute the 10th SFGA in Bad Toelz. It was an outfit quite unlike anything we had ever seen, (especially coming from the 101st Airborne) sort of rag tag

and unorthodox. Initially we questioned saluting the raising of the company flag at reveille. We soon became very proud to do that, and felt sorry for the leggs on post that had no unit pride or spirit.

We didn't have much equipment, but we figured out how to do our



Russ Grazier and X-33

much better, but they made do and continued. We quickly realized that we were the best damn soldiers on base. As far as doing our job, well we were creating the guidelines and framework which would go on to become the



Ron Dahle in transmitter van

doctrine for LRRP units for years to come. We went to whatever schools existed in Germany at the time, we built our own code rooms for IMC training, and spent what seemed to be an inordinate amount of time in the field, we had privates on "Killer Patrols" that knew more about Eastern block "Order of Battle" than a lot of the Corps level G-2 types. Yup, we got good, in fact we got damn good!

Although there were a lot of Airborne units in Europe at the time, the V Corps LRRP Company, was selected to represent the US Army at the 20th Anniversary celebration of D day in France, further testimony to the fact that we were recognized as being a top shelf organization.

The company was relocated to CONUS, and served attached to several different units at Ft. Benning, GA. and Ft. Hood Texas during its transit through time. In all cases it excelled, and yes as can well be expected had it's turbulent times while attached.



Original Company

job and complete our mission with what we had. Many of our commo vans were old, in disrepair and pieced together with whatever we could come up with. The patrols equipment wasn't



The Company at Normandy

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

One of the lesser-understood aspects of the company arises from the fact that although it was active during the time frame most units were rotating to Vietnam the company stayed stateside. This was due to the company was always subordinate to V Corps in Germany. We had an ongoing real world mission in Europe that required a manning level, which would allow us to deploy immediately to support the European Command. While the unit never went to Nam, virtually everyone that stayed in from the original company served several tours. The stateside iterations of the company, A/75 and Co D/17 LRRP, was comprised of a very high percentage of returning Nam vets, many of whom were coming in from Ranger or Special Forces units. So, pundits you can relax a bit, knowing that the old, *fat, and toothless* LRRP's you reference probably paid their dues, and when you see one feel free to smile at him, I'm sure he will smile back.

Commo Training

Article by Mike Cantrell, A/75

During the 1972 to 1973 time frame someone at A Co envisioned our communications sucking wind in a combat environment. The need was for long range, secure communications to transmit intelligence information from behind enemy lines to the unit to be forwarded for action to higher headquarters. Now these were my recollections of how things went, been a long time. The job of training radio operators fell under SFC Keafer, a very professional soldier. Team leaders submitted names of trainees to be speed radio operators. SFC Keafer set up our initial training. He ordered up an SF team which came to Ft Hood and taught us net operations, extensive training on secure communications, radio deception, radio direction finding, radio wave propagation, Morse code and the use of "specialized commo equipment". Our training ran approximately two weeks, if I remember correctly. On completion of the SF training, we were sent to the base troop schools for Morse code training and operation of some fairly large

radio equipment. Completion of the course qualified us as radio telegraph operators. Our newly learned techniques were put to use in the field during exercises and for transmitting intelligence from our five man teams to the unit rear on Reforger. The radio we used was the AN/PRC 74B am radio with skywave antennas. I do remember that must have been why Merrill's Marauders had mules to carry all that heavy gear. From my point of view, the training was some of the best I had in the Army and worked very well in the field.

Cantrell A75

Editors note: This type of commo training was not that uncommon during this time frame, as the Army had all but totally discounted any comprehensive IMC based training, as it was no longer in use except by LRRP's and Special Forces. These units had to rely on themselves for the training then needed. Even your Nam LRP's and Rangers had gone to voice commo. rkd

Sick Call

Tom Brezindine appears to be well on the mend from his problems over the last several months.

Sonny Osteen's wife is recovering from a bad bout with bronchitis, our prayers

and thoughts are with them.

Ron Dahle has undergone a complete knee replacement, and is doing well. Will post an article on the experience in a future issue.

Larry Montague's penis straightening operation was a success, (we are taking his word for that). He is now contemplating knee replacements.

New members

The 3779 LRRP website has been discovered by 5 members of D/17 LRP, and we are really looking forward to exchanging tales with them, and try filling in some of the gaps in the company's history.

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson



VII Corps Reunion

The VII Corps LRRP Association will be holding a reunion in Arlington, Virginia from May 11-14th, 2005. They planned the reunion there to honor and accommodate Colonel Edward Maltese, the unit founder, who lives in the area. During the reunion period, they will be visiting the various memorials and other points of interest in the Washington area. Anyone interested in attending should contact Kirk Gibson (President of the VII Corps LRRP Association) at his addresses at the end of this article. I'm certain that if any of the C/58 or B Company guys were in the area and wanted to drop in that they would receive an appropriate welcome. We will include an after-action

report in the next issue, hopefully including photos.

2005 RRA Reunion

The information that I have right now is that this year's reunion is presumably planned for early-July at Fort Benning (July 6-10?). I'm certain that there will be other references to that in the magazine, so please check the appropriate section for the official reunion info. Several Rangers and LRRP's have already told me that they plan to be there, as will I. There will probably also be information posted on the website for the reunion also, so check there if you do most of your communication online.

Again, if anyone who plans to attend the reunion at Ft. Benning

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

would like to volunteer to be the quasi-official unit photographer, please contact me, as I could sure use the help. A good photographer I am not.

Website and Roster update

We've been trying to concentrate on getting all the info on the website gathered so we can post it, including a more complete Unit History, roster, and photographs. If you have seen the website, you know that hundreds of Rangers were members of this unit at various times, and we still haven't compiled a complete roster. We have located or contacted well over one hundred members to date, and this effort is ongoing. If you have any information about the current whereabouts of other members, please pass it on to us, and we will attempt to contact them, get their consent to add them to the contact and distribution list, and perhaps get them to join the association.

By the time you read this, you may also have noticed the updated website, along with the additional "deceased" revisions to the roster. RIP. If anyone has any other information concerning unit members who are now deceased, please contact the unit director. We also got several other good leads for more members of the company at the reunion. Also, please contact me with your email address if I do not already have it.

I hope to post the revised and expanded Unit History by the end of March, incorporating the info we received from Bill Ramsdell, as well as others.

More on the Website:

If you happen to visit the website, you will notice that there is a new section in the "Unit History" area which includes the names of the:

Company Commanders
First Sergeants
Platoon Leaders
Platoon Sergeants

Now, even for all the people who were in B Company when I was there, my memory is not THAT good. I am currently compiling a list of the men who filled the above-mentioned slots both from memory and the documentation I have so far. What we need from all of you is any other information that could possibly fill out the roster, including approximate dates (if you remember them, if not, send 'em in anyway). This is to include the VII Corps and C/58 personnel also. I will post a partial list prior to the end of March, so if your name is not included, please don't take offense. Just contact us and send a correction, and we'll get it posted.

Website photos:

We have received photos from Mike Hines, Steve Bump, Richard

Stutsman, myself, and probably a couple others for inclusion on the website. Those should be posted by mid-March. We are trying to "mine" the CD's I received from Sam Rodriguez to place some of the VII Corps photos from the CD on the website in the same timeframe also.

Memorial Tributes - redux

Please contact me with any information you would like included in the memorial tributes to the deceased members of the company, including CSM Joe Gooden, Bill Wilson, and Melvin Stewart. I will assume the responsibility for compiling and editing the information. I am in the process of determining whether we can post this type of information somewhere on the website, or if we would need to place it elsewhere. It's difficult to assemble all the biographical information concerning someone without help from those who knew them best.

Unfortunately, we have also determined that many of our past company members are now talking to the Big Ranger in the Sky. We will continue to update the website roster with the names of those we have determined to be deceased. If you have any anecdotes, remembrances or tributes you would like to make about any of them, please forward them to me and we'll find a place and a way to accommodate that. I've been verifying the SSN's of the members against the public deceased index, because we don't want to prematurely declare someone to be out of operation.

VII Corps LRRP CD – hoping to expand to B Company also

The LRRPs have put together a CD including unit histories, photos, copies of orders, etc. which is extremely well done. We would like to include the B Company material of the same nature, and are collecting it to include in the unit history CD. We are still looking for photos, copies of orders, unit history information, and any other things pertinent to the unit. We have already begun collecting quite a bit of this information, and would like to have all of you search through your footlockers and trunks for more that we can share. Anyone interested in a copy of the CD contact either Kirk Gibson (address at end) or Sam Rodriguez (through either Kirk or myself).

B Company Sweatshirts, Reissued

Do you remember the black sweatshirts we used to wear to PT? Both Mike Hines and Christopherson showed up in August with theirs on. Cheryl Visel of Airborne Supply now has the patterns for the B Company sweatshirts and T-shirts, and will be able to provide them to all who are interested. Cheryl says she would be able to have them reproduced for us in either silkscreened or embroidered versions on both sweats and tees.

Her website can be found at: <http://www.airbornesupply.net/>

She had a large selection of various sweats, shirts, hats, rings,



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

jewelry, and other items available at the reunion, and it was all good quality. She carries a large selection of military items, and offers VII Corps LRRP, B Company, and 75th RRA items to all past members at her site. If you don't own a computer, truck on down to the local library and hop on one of the publicly-accessible computers to look her up, as well as the association website. If you don't have access to either one, call me or send me a USPS snail mail and I'll hook you up.

HEARD FROM

Mike Hines, Richard Stutsman, Ed White, Daddy Haugh, John Henry Voyles, Rob Beals, Joe Griesi, Mike Pichette (via website), Steve Gamble, Stan Harrell, Wild Bill Ramsdell, John Toney (via website).

Mike Hines still has another hip surgery to go through, but plans to be at the reunion. Ed White has been a little gimped up by his shoulder, but is getting it taken care of.

We should also note the passing of CSM (ret.) Rusty Hawks of D/151. Received a call from Errol Hansen on Christmas Eve reporting his passing, and believe that the D/151 folks will refer to that. Those of you who were at the last reunion may have had a chance to meet Rusty. He will be missed.

Mike Hines also made sure that we all heard of Bob Cantu's recent (last week) hospital visit (Bob was in N Co. and A Co., and attended the joint A CO.-B Co. exercise at Ft. Carson in the 1972-1973 neighborhood). He's out of the hospital now... Thanks, Mike.

Patrolling Magazine Information

This publication of the Association is published quarterly, and one of the responsibilities of the unit director is to solicit, gather, and submit articles for Patrolling. Please briefly review this edition and any past editions and see what sorts of articles or contributions you all can make. By the way, all you guys who told me that articles were in the mill and soon to be forthcoming, it's time for me to hear from you.

Please consider sending me photos, articles, remembrances, and memorial tributes for publication. This magazine and association is yours, and the more input from all of you, the

better it will represent all of you.

CONTACTING US

I apologize for any of you who emailed me in the past 2-3 months and haven't received a reply. Evidently, some of the emails I was sending or replying to were not going through due to an erroneous email "blacklist". That will have been rectified by the time you read this article, and you will have been receiving the renewed unit email updates as well.

Please call or email me or any of us (Richard Stutsman, Ed White) with any questions relating to the Association, Patrolling magazine, or any other things you can think of. We'll do our best to help and answer all questions, and if we don't know the answer, we'll direct you to someone who does. Questions and information regarding VII Corps LRRPs are best directed to Kirk Gibson, except for submissions to the Patrolling magazine, which should come to me (don't worry, guys, I'll be pestering you, too...).

Until Next Time...

See you at the Reunion

Thompson Out.

B/75 & C/58 & VII Corps LRRP CONTACT INFO

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VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN)

Reference: VII CORPS LRRP CO (ABN) ASSN TRAINING DIRECTIVES

1a. dated 8 December 2004, and 2a dated 5 January 2005

Subject: Reunion planning update and barracks accommodations

Dates: May 11 - 14, 2005

Headquarters: Motel - Days Inn, Arlington John Fisher and Kirk Gibson have done our reconnaissance of the premises and conclude that they are not as bad as some places where LRRPs have slept. The 82d Airborne Assn and other Airborne and police organizations have used it for their reunions, so we figured it could handle the LRRPs. Their website is <http://arlingtondaysinn.com/home/> There are also nearby refreshment opportunities, reminiscent of the Rod and Gun Club.

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

For reservations you must contact the Days Inn at 703-525-0300 X 368 and talk to Jan Boothe or e-mail her at 5321@hotel.cendant.com. Do it soon, as rooms are going fast.

Training Agenda - Tentative: Presently, we plan a day in DC to include significant memorials. Also, we are trying to organize a jump with a nearby club.

Wednesday: Arrive and mingle. Greet Col Maltese

Thursday: DC tours, Changing of the Guard at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Friday: Jump (hopefully). Other activities are being developed for those not interested in gravity.

Saturday: Morning open. Afternoon and evening, cookout at Maltese Kaserne.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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Work (410) 721-1858
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TAPS for LTC (RET) Edward M. Hunt, who slipped into the final DZ on October 3, 2004 in Hershey, PA. He served as an enlisted man during World War II, and jumped into both Normandy and Holland with E Co 502PIR, 101st Airborne. He was awarded the Silver Star for his heroism during combat in Bastogne. After the war, he returned to civilian life, but rejoined the Army in 1948. By 1951, Hunt had risen to 1st Sgt and, having been recognized as one of the top five percent of enlisted soldiers, was eligible for a direct commission to 2LT. He served in Korea and in 1960, as a captain, was assigned to Germany where in 1961 he volunteered for the new VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) and was accepted as XO. He became our second CO and was promoted to Major when the company founder, Major Maltese was promoted to LTC and was reassigned.





FOUND: SSG Verlon Johnson. He has been living in temporary quarters near Pensacola, FL since his house and possessions on Santa Rosa beach were destroyed last summer by a hurricane that hit the Pensacola area hard.



LRRP CD VII has been completed by Sam Rodriguez. It can be obtained by contacting Sam at samrodrig@hotmail.com and forwarding a contribution to Kirk Gibson, Treasurer. There is a lot of new information about the history of the company, including retrieved documents from the LTC (RET) Edward M. Hunt, our second CO and COL (RET) Ellis D. Bingham, our first COMMO Officer.



LRRP HISTORY is being recorded by James Gebhardt of the Combat Studies Institute, Fort Leavenworth, KS. With the help of several LRRPS, he has been able to trace and document the history of LRRP activities from the early 1960's through the Vietnam War, with much of the information derived from the footlocker of Major Hunt and the closet of Captain Bingham, both of whom made important presentations at the Pentagon in the mid-'60's.

	<p>C/75 - E/20 LRP Unit Director - Steve 'Doc' Gove</p>	
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No Submission

	<p>D/75 Unit Director - John Kingeter</p>	
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No Submission

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

By Bob Copeland

Well it was a wonderful Christmas as I cruised with my family off the island of Tahiti and visited several South Pacific Islands. Apart from it being extremely hot and humid it was a very relaxing vacation. On arriving back home it was on the other hand extremely dry and cold and now I look forward to an early spring and the trip to Orlando for the E Co. Reunion. The last



email I had from Jonesy listed 45 names, so it would appear, the list will continue to grow and we will have, along with the family members a large and exciting gathering. If you haven't notified Emory Parrish yet and sent in your registration fee please do so soonest, we hope to see an even larger turnout at this reunion than we had at the last gathering.

We were all sad to hear that Wayne Fentress passed on suddenly and he will be missed by all who knew him!! Our condolences go out to Mrs. Fentress and the Fentress Family members and friends. Thanks go out to all those who assisted the family during this difficult time for them and attended Waynes' funeral. Thanks Jonesy for sending the Card and flowers to the family. To all those who have experienced ill health or have been in hospital our prayers go out to you for a speedy recovery.

To our Gold Star Mothers and Families we hope you had a Merry Christmas and will enjoy a prosperous New Year. Please join us at our next Company Reunion in Orlando, FL, in May and the 75th Ranger Regt. Assn. Reunion in July 2005.

For those of you who have not as yet joined the 75th Ranger Regt. Assn. or renewed your membership, please do so. The Assn. is strong but will grow stronger with each and every new member. Let's keep the RANGER/LRP/LRRP BROTHERHOOD ALIVE AND WELL BY JOINING NOW!!!! HOOAH!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

As our Reunion is at the same time as the US Mountain Ranger Assn, Fallen Ranger Memorial Ceremony, at the 5th RTB OPEN HOUSE in Dahlen, Ga. I have not submitted any names for this honor for 2005. It has been our practice, to have the family of the Fallen Warrior attend the ceremony, along with unit members, which would not have been possible due to the timing of our Company Reunion this year. I will submit a Fallen

Warrior for the year 2006 and will attend if our nominee for the Fallen Ranger Memorial is selected to be one of the six to be honored next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the US MOUNTAIN RANGER ASSN for honoring our Fallen Warriors who have been successfully selected over the past years and accept our regrets for not being able to attend to honor the Fallen Ranger Warriors who have been selected to be honored for 2005.

And now a belated Christmas Poem which I wrote to compare the experience at home or as we called it the World to that of a combat soldier at War In Country:

CHRISTMAS HERE AND THERE

THOUGHTS OF HOME FILL THE MIND
EVER PRESENT SOUNDS OF WAR
AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE MANKIND
MONSOONS RAGE, ROCKETS ROAR
SCENTS OF SEASONS PAST REMEMBERED
NAPALM BURSTS, SCORCHED EARTH AND SKIN
FABLED TREE FROM GROUND DISMEMBERED
CRIES OF PAIN FROM NEW FOUND KIN
LIGHTS BURN BRIGHT WITH WARMTH THEY GLOW
FLARES ILLUMINATE THE KILLING ZONE
SOFTLY FALLS THE NEW MORN SNOW
FALLEN COMRADES LIE AND MOAN
CHRISTMAS CAROLS, CHIMMING BELLS
CALLS FOR MEDICS, HURRY PLEASE
SHOPPERS SCURRY, JOYOUS NOEL
PRAYING PADRES ON BENDED KNEES
GIFTS ABOUND, SURROUND THE TREE
BODY BAGS STACKED AND TAGED
ANXIOUS FACE, IS THAT FOR ME
DUSTOFFS LIFTOFF WITH THOSE NOT BAGED
CHURCHES FILL, CANDLES GLEAM
SOLDIERS GATHER, STERN AND STEADY
PRAYERS FOR PEACE REIGN SUPREME
MOVE ON OUT AT THE READY

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

THE STALKER

THERE IS A TIME WHEN YOUNG MEN DIE
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WON'T BE DENIED
THEIR LUST FOR LIFE IS PUT ASIDE
AND WITH GREAT FEAR THEY MUST ABIDE
THE TIMELESS TIDES OF WAR

BENEATH STEEL HELMETS WALK YOUNG MEN
IN A HOMELESS LAND DEVOID OF FRIENDS
THE CONSTANT THREAT OF DEATH DRAWS NEAR

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

THE EVER PRESENT SMELL OF FEAR
HANGS ON THE BREEZE THAT LIGHTLY BLOWS
THE SMELL OF BODIES DECOMPOSED
BENEATH THE SOLDIERS NOSE

IN THE FAR OFF DISTANCE THUNDER ROARS
A GRIM REMINDER OF THEIR CHORE
TO KILL THE ENEMY OR BE KILLED
THE NIGHT TAKES ON A SUDDEN CHILL
FOR DEATH WAITES CLOSELY BY

THE SKY GLOWS RED, THE SHRAPNEL FLIES
THE COBRA GUNSHIPS FILL THE SKIES
THE TRACERS ARCH IN RED AND GREEN
THE CANNONS BURST, THE ROCKETS SCREAM
THEN SILENCE FILLS THE NIGHT

THE CRIES OF WOUNDED MEN BREAK THROUGH
THIS EERIE STILLNESS THAT INTRUDES
IN HELPLESSNESS THEY LIE AND WAIT
THE MEDIC OR THE PEARLY GATE
UNDER DEATHS WATCHFUL EYE

THE REAPER STALKS THE BATTLEFIELD
HE SEEKS THE YOUNGEST MEN TO YIELD
THEIR LIVES UP TO THE SACRIFICE
NOT HAVING TASTED THE FRUITS OF LIFE

THEY SURRENDER TO THEIR FATE

THESE POOR LOST SOULS WHO NOW MUST ROAM
IN THIS STRANGE LAND SO FAR FROM HOME
THE LOVED ONES LEFT IN DEEP REMORSE
NO CHANCE FOR TIME TO CHANGE THEIR COURSE
FOR DEATH HAS WROUGHT ITS SHROUD

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

Well folks it's time to sign off again but not before a thank all those who gave so generously to the RANGER FAMILY FUND and made a Merry Christmas for many young children of our active duty Rangers and their families. Let's do it even bigger and better next year!! This fund also helps many Ranger Families throughout the year. You're a great bunch and what you do is greatly appreciated!!! Stay safe and keep the faith, see you all in Orlando for the E Company Reunion, HOOAH!!! RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!! Remember to call a friend and remind them to attend the Reunion!!

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




F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP
Unit Director - Joe Little




Hello to all LRRPs and LRRPets or Rangers and Rangerets. Yeah I am still on some good meds after my back surgery, however I am doing well. I just do not like wearing the body brace for 16 weeks. In addition, Mark Ponzillo and his counterpart Jo started giving my new precious bride some pointers on how to take control of me while I am on the mend. There seems to be some implication that some of us are controllers of some type; hmmm I wonder if that is true.

Some of you may have heard that Ray Armstrong was involved in a roll over accident. Apparently, he was a passenger and his mother lost control of the car and they did a roll over while Ray was napping and was not prepared for the PLF part. Ray ended up in a Reno hospital with four, that is 1,2,3,4, broken vertebra in his neck broken. I spoke to him tonight and he is on the mend, he just does not like wearing the cervical brace, he is also on some good meds.



Taps

Franklin Leroy Robbins,
Aurora, 58, died Monday,

December 20, 2004 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was born November 25, 1946 in Aurora, the son of Glen Robbins and Juanita Griffin. Frank lived in the Aurora community his entire life and was a 1964 graduate of Aurora High School. Frank was a Green Beret in the Army, serving in Vietnam. He was a lifetime member of the VFW, a member of the NRA and a competition shooter. Frank



worked for Wilson's Combat Arms as a technical advisor. On October 2, 2004 he married Dewana Foster in Monett. She survives at home. Additional survivors include three daughters Christine, Megan and Selena Koehler and one son, Trevor Koehler all of Aurora; one brother in Oklahoma and a host of friends. His parents preceded

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



him in death. Services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, December 23rd in the Crafton-Cantrell Funeral Home, Aurora. Burial will be in the Maple Park Cemetery with full military honors. Visitation is 6 to 8 p.m. today in the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the family.

I want to thank Bill Boyd for representing our unit and presenting our plaque that Marshall Huckaby designed to Dewana and having a wreath made up and set on his final resting place. Frank was part of the class of "66" 25th ID LRRP he served 8/66 - 8/67. He will be missed.

Marshal wrote this piece about reunions and it caused me to reflect on my first attendance. I landed in Columbus Georgia at about 8 PM picked up my rental car and went to the wrong hotel. I went to the other hotel where all the WWII Rangers were staying and I surely felt out of place, so I picked up the phone and called the other hotel and eureka, the RVN units were staying there. Maybe I should say this was the 1992 reunion the 50th anniversary the big one. I jump back into the rental and drive to the host hotel, the clerk at the desk pointed me to the hospitality room. Now I have felt fear before, but this was the longest walk I had taken in a long time and it was only about fifty feet. I walked in the room and hardly anyone was there one of the guys pointed me towards the sign-in sheets on a table. I looked through all of them then I started to feel mixed emotions as I saw F/Co Rangers and many names I recognized. I was told everyone was on the second floor where the beer was. I started my journey to the elevator with my bag following me, and then I decided to escape; as I headed towards the lobby doors a voice from the past yelled "hey Little" I knew that voice and did not want to turn. He said, "Glad you could make it" Bill Mrkvicka said with a smile and an out stretched hand then a hug. Bill knew I was leaving and never said a word. I am now glad he stopped me from leaving, however at the time I wasn't sure.

I share this little bit to let everyone know we are all nervous/anxious about attending our first time. I found the camaraderie was tops so why was I afraid of the unknown, I do not know. Two years later, I attended again. I came to breakfast and as I entered the room, another voice from the past hit me. It was Frag, (Dennis Hackamack) I came to his table and he stood

up and without a word we hugged and the tears followed. We were on quite a few missions together and the joy was too much for me, thus the tears for another brother. When I reflect on the first time I attended, I am thankful Bill just happened to stop me from exiting, and opening another chapter in my life. I find it difficult to miss our reunions because I meet old friends and make new ones each time.

I have made plans for us to have a separate meeting room at the hotel so we can conduct business and plan some events for the future. We also have some presentations to make to some special individuals. So please let me know if you plan on attending so I can reserve a large enough room. As I understand, we will be slotted for one of two rooms for our meeting and I want the big room for 25th ID LRRP – F/Co 50th LRP-F/75th. I hope to see all that showed up at Colorado Springs that was a great gathering, thanks to Mike Rohly.

Your friend and brother
Joe Little



Reunions . . . You and I have an obligation.

In 1995, I went to my first ever reunion. It was for the ? Cav, 25th ID being held in Columbia SC. I did not want to go and yet I did not want to miss it. I had retired some 14 years earlier and had pretty well "put the Army behind me". But on occasion I had a yearning to see some of my comrades and often wondered how they were doing, or if they were even still alive or had they returned to Vietnam as I did and maybe weren't as lucky as I had been. I served with the 9th ID, 1st ID, and 1st Avn Bde in 68 - 69, and with MACV 70 - 71.

I got to the reunion hotel and felt out place because except for the flight crews who flew us, I did know anybody. One of the first persons I met was easily recognizable. SP 5 Millsap had been Maj Squires crew chief. In the next few days I met more ? Cav folks, but no LRRPs and although the reunion was interesting, I was still missing something.

In 1996 was living in Alabama and got wind of the 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion in Seattle. I had somehow made contact with Emmett Hiltibrand and picked him up at a meeting point and we traveled together to the Atlanta Airport and then to Seattle. At the SETAC Airport, Charlie Rose met me and we went to the hotel together. In the next few days, I met Bill Mrvicka, Dave Reganthal, Joe Little, Dan Nate, some others, and I met Dave Jacobs and his family. The next few days took me back many, many years and although I had not served with most of those guys, in my heart I knew them.

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

For the next few months I felt more “fulfilled” than I had in years, but there was still a yearning to see those I served with. After countless of emails and telephone calls, I slowly got in contact with “my guys”. Those LRRPs I served with in 1966 & 1967, all except for Capt “P” (Ponzillo). I really did not look very hard for him because after he left the 25th ID and returned to SF, he was killed, and I already had enough ghosts in my life. I got a call one day, I guess it was in 1998, that a Mark Ponzillo was living in North Atlanta and only about 20 miles from where I lived. I reluctantly made the call and after some verbal jousting between us, I realized that he was indeed not a ghost and he realized that the only thing I wanted was to see him. Since that day, we have become hard and fast friends (at least as friendly as retired Lt Col and a retired First Sergeant can be). In the intervening years, more and more of our friend have come to the reunions and after each one, I meet someone I did not know before, but afterward is now my friend.

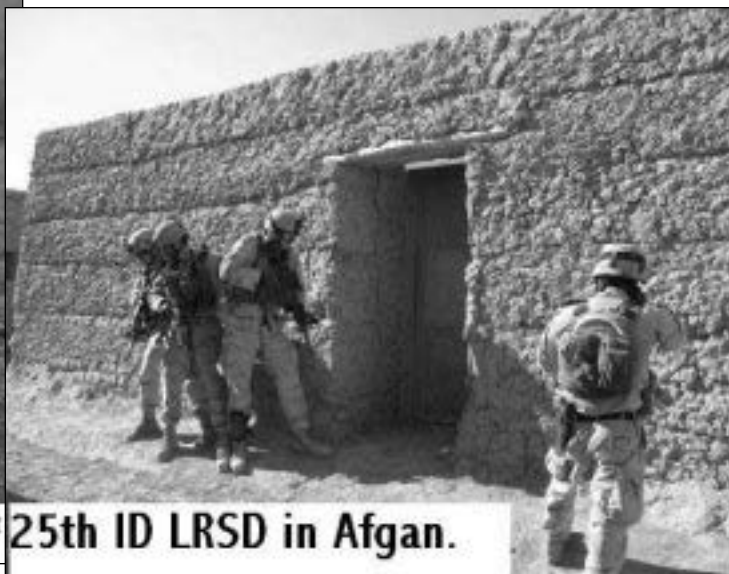
I still have that yearning however. There are still some guys I

want to see and I still wonder how they are. As long as they remain out of my life, the yearning will continue to be a part of my life. I feel I have an obligation to find them, and they have an obligation to be found.

I turn 62 in August and although I am still working and am in fairly good health, I know that I’ll never have the health I once had and that I have a life insurance policy that is waiting to be cashed. However, before I reach that point, I need to have that yearning taken care of. That can happen in 2005 when the 75th Ranger Regiment reunion is held in Ft. Benning and maybe, . . . just maybe, you will be there.

As I said, I have an obligation to find you . . . and you have an obligation to be found. See you at Ft. Benning.

Your Friend, Marshall Huckaby
“Huck”



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

Unit Director - Tom nash

*No Submission***H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP**

Unit Director - William Anton



Vietnam War Facts

Facts, Statistics, Fake Warrior Numbers, and Myths Dispelled

Submitted by: Bill Anton

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



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

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.**

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)

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Average Age</u>
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

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

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.

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>



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

Unit Director - David Hill



Dave Hill, Unit Director

I hope all of you are getting through this tough winter in good form. We just recently moved from Northern California to a new home in Northern Nevada (just east of Lake Tahoe), and I really had no idea that the “desert” could get so cold. [Maybe the fact that this desert is at 4800-ft. elevation should have been an indicator]. Not nearly as cold as what many of you experience every year, but a tad colder than this California boy has been used to in the past. I was down “popping some caps” at our local rifle range earlier this week and could hardly make

my numb fingers fumble rounds into the magazine. It makes me look forward all that much more to our unit’s 2005 Reunion, which will be held in the relatively warm clime of Jennings, Louisiana (a bit east of Lake Charles) 27 March-3 April. Our reunion site is moved around the country each time, to make it as fair as possible to our veterans, who themselves are scattered throughout these United States. The last one, held in Tucson, Arizona in 2003, was a great success. It was well attended by LRRP/LRP/Ranger veterans and their wives, and we were also honored to host the families of two of our brothers we lost in Vietnam. They got to know some of the guys that had patrolled

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with and revered their sons, brothers or nephews in Vietnam. They also got to meet men who, though they had not directly known their relative, had nonetheless known of and respected them and had served our nation in the same challenging combat role. Just as importantly, we got to know them. We hope to again have one or more families of our fallen brothers in attendance at our Louisiana reunion, and it will again be a highlight of the event. The families of those LRRPs and Rangers whom we lost in Vietnam are, and always will be, part of our LRRP/Ranger family as well. By the time you get this issue of *Patrolling*, the reunion will be imminent, so hopefully your reservations are in place. For detailed information on the Reunion, its agenda and lodging information go to our unit website: <http://www.F52I75.org>. Even if you have to make last minute arrangements, please do so; it will be worth the effort for you and us. Some pictures of the Tucson Reunion accompany this article. Make sure you are a part of this year's Reunion pictures.

As part of our biennial unit reunion, new officers will be elected. Among those will be my replacement, our new 1st Infantry Division Unit Director. It has been my good fortune and an honor and privilege to serve as our unit's UD and be part of the 75th RRA board for these past two years. I believe that it has been a productive two years for 75th RRA and was glad to have had the opportunity to actively participate in it. Many challenges remain ahead for 75th RRA, and always will, but no group of veterans is better suited to

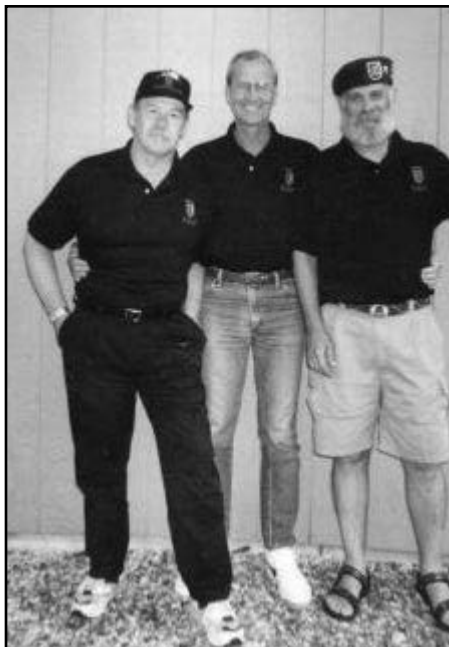
"Charlie Mike" [Carry on with Mission] into the future and constantly improve our organization. I would urge all of you to attend the national reunions of 75th RRA, be active in the organization and, perhaps, yourselves, to serve as Unit Directors or as elected or appointed officers of 75th RRA. Not only will you be ensuring the continuing excellence of the organization, but you will find it personally enriching as well. After all,

you were a volunteer in the first place to be a LRRP or Ranger. It was a wise and fortuitous decision then, and would again be in this case.

Your next opportunity to attend a 75th RRA Reunion will be July 6-10, 2005, at Ft. Benning, Georgia. For many of us, this will be the first time at Benning since we trained there (so many years ago), for others, the first time ever at this huge post.

I cannot emphasize too much how great it is to meet, talk and mingle with guys from our unit and those of all the other LRRP/LRP/Ranger units that served in Vietnam. Many of our experiences are similar, but differences in time period and/or the operational areas in which we served make for interesting discussions. Politics have even been known to come up from time to time (and like all matters, Rangers are just as passionate about their politics as their other pursuits). One of the highlights of any 75th RRA Reunion is having the opportunity to meet and support the brave young men who are the currently serving 75th Airborne Rangers. With Ft. Benning being the home not only of 75th Ranger Regimental HQ, but also that of its

"3rd Batt", there should be many of them around. They will be putting on demos, possibly conducting a change-of-command ceremony, and just as importantly, will drop by the



1999 1st Div. Branson Reunion: L-R, Dave Hill, Larry Taylor (Cobra Pilot), Paul Elsner



Standing Down in Lai Khe, 1968: L-R, Paul Elsner, Bill Cohn, Dave Hill, Tom McMahon, John Pool

Reunion to meet the LRRP and Ranger vets and perhaps hoist a beer or two with us. One of the highlights of the week is always the formal dinner. Our comrades lost, both in the war and since, are remembered and saluted by all. Make the time to attend. You won't regret it.

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

In Memory of Robert “Paul” Elsner

While we will always mourn those brothers we lost in Vietnam, we have also lost some since then. One of the greatest losses



Family of Ranger Robert Roossien, KIA 1969: Mother Roossien third from Left, with daughter and sons to her left.

effecting me and the rest of our unit occurred last year—the sudden passing of Robert “Paul” Elsner. We were advised that Paul died of lung cancer on June 24, 2004. Though he had known that he was terminally ill, he had nonetheless kept his condition to himself, apparently not wanting to burden us with his condition (though we would have jumped to support him any way we could). As always, he was thinking of us rather than himself. Paul was my Team Leader, great friend and a



Family of LRRP Bill Cohn, KIA 1968. L-R: Robert Cohn (brother), his wife and daughter.

brother to us all. He died near Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, where he had worked for many years. He was only 56. Paul was a charter member of Co.F/52nd Inf. (LRP). He volunteered for LRRPs in late 1967, transferring from his initial assignment as an M-60 machine-gunner in the Big Red One's 2nd Bn/2nd Inf. (Mech). He was soon a graduate of the MACV Recondo School and began running missions in late 1967. He was constantly in heavy action; the veteran of countless long range patrol missions, until he DEROS'd in late 1968. As our brother Ranger Jim Savage has noted, Paul helped set the precedent—or at least served to strengthen—the LRRP/Ranger principal

that it is always the Team Leader on the ground that runs the mission. While serving as Assistant Team Leader (ATL) on Spc.5 George Knowlton's Team Wildcat 3 in November 1967, the team had become heavily engaged with a large Vietcong force and surrounded. Spc. 5 Knowlton became wounded and incapacitated early in the fight, leaving the leadership to Paul. Paul quickly brought in artillery from multiple batteries of 8 inch, 155mm and 105mm batteries and kept them adjusted tightly around the team for the next hours, eventually silencing enemy fire on the team's position. Finally, with no further enemy fire or movement being detected, Elsner had their Kit Carson scout move out of their position and reconnoiter round the team to ascertain if the area was now secure enough to get an extraction ship or at least a “dust off” (medevac helicopter) into their position to take Spc.5 Knowlton into Lai Khe Basecamp. When the scout reported all was clear, Elsner called for the extraction ship to come in and make the pickup. The F Co. Commanding Officer, flying overhead in his command and control (C & C) helicopter, also made repeated passes over the LRRPs without drawing enemy fire. With helicopter gunships of D Troop 1st Squ/4th Cav also overhead to provide cover if needed, Paul was now certain that a safe extraction was possible. However, before the pickup could be made, the 1st Infantry Division Commanding General (CG), now flying over the scene in his (C&C) helicopter countermanded Elsner's request. Hay instead ordered Elsner and the team to pickup up Spc.5 Knowlton (who was then just barely hanging on to life), and move to what he viewed as a more secure pickup zone (PZ), located approximately a kilometer the east of the team's position. Elsner inveighed upon the general to let the extraction take place in their current location, as requested. He reiterated to the general Knowlton's precarious state. He further advised him that with Knowlton being over 6 ft. and weighing 220 lbs. (none of the rest of the team topping 150 lbs), moving through the heavy brush (and possible additional enemy positions) while carrying him would be unduly risky to Knowlton and the rest of the team, if even possible at all. He also noted that the PZ selected by the general was in the same direction that the enemy had fled when they broke contact with the team. With multiple batteries of artillery already registered (pre-sighted) round their current position and gunships overhead, and a badly wounded team leader, Paul decided that their current position



LRRP-Ranger Veterans at Tucson Reunion

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

**LRRP-Ranger Ladies at Tucson Reunion**

was where they needed to remain until extracted or reinforced. Long story short, Paul ultimately and directly refused to move the team unless extracted, and kept it in place until the next morning, when it was reinforced by a couple of companies of the division's line infantry. Upon his return to Lai Khe, though supported by his own commanding officer and others, Paul faced a courts martial for "refusing the direct order of a superior officer" (the general) because he had decided it was imprudent, under the circumstances the team faced, to move to a far-off extraction point while attempting to carry Spc.5 Knowlton (who had died during the night). Paul ultimately was found "Not Guilty" by the courts martial, a seeming vindication of his actions that night and a validation of the "Team Leader is the mission leader" principal. A general, flying at 2,000 ft. in the dark, was in no position to assess the situation of a LRRP team on the ground, in heavy cover, trying to keep one of their wounded alive. Our team leaders and assistant team leaders had gone through the finest of training (MACV Recondo School) and were placed in such leadership positions because they had earned the privilege and responsibility to be leaders. It was not the first or last time that command "overcontrolling" interfered with LRRP operations, but it was not allowed to prevail in this particular case.

Paul was soon returned to duty and became an Assistant Team Leader (ATL) on Team Wildcat 2 in early 1968, serving under his friend and fellow 2/2 Mech transferee, Team Leader Ron Luse. In May 1968, he succeeded Ron to become Wildcat 2's Team Leader (TL). As a member of Team Wildcat 2 during that period, I was privileged to serve under and with Paul and our previous TL, Ron Luse. Paul was a skilled, innovative,

**Some 1st Div. LRRPs and Rangers at Tucson Reunion.**

courageous and steadfast warrior and leader. Among his many exploits as a LRP was his leading our team out of a trap on June 18, 1968, without a loss, culminating in our team's emergency extraction on the outside of a Cobra gunship. During the course of his Vietnam tour, Paul was awarded the Silver Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster for Second Award), the Bronze Star Medal (with V device), and the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB). He was a natural born LRRP and would not have had it any other way. Though born and raised in New York City, he took to the rice paddies and jungles of Vietnam's III Corps military zone like a life-long woodsman.

Paul's life took many paths in the years since Vietnam. He was a man of many interests and devout beliefs right to the end. A voracious reader and philosophizer, he could (and did) interchangeably quote from Sun Tzu, the teachings of Buddha, or the writings of Nietzsche and others, as the occasion required. He was attempting to write the history of our unit, from its Civil War origins through the Vietnam War, when death overtook him. Paul was extremely active in veterans' rights issues and had just initiated a PTSD recovery program designed to help veterans, such as himself, who still suffered from PTSD. As always, he was thinking of his brother veterans and their welfare. Paul is survived by his only living relative, his son Joshua. I know I speak for all the veterans in our unit when I say that Paul was our cherished Teammate, Friend and Brother and all of us and the rest of the LRRP/Ranger community will miss him.

Rangers (and LRRPs) Lead the Way
—Dave



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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk



By: Rodger Crunk

It's time to write another Patrolling Article and as usual I have put it off as long as possible. I'm sure our editor loves getting this stuff at the last minute. It's not my favorite thing because I'm just not good at it. I'll take up most of our space with pictures of some people and places that some of you are sure to remember.

There will be some minor by-law changes to vote on so cast your ballot. It's your Association and that's how we do things. I encourage everyone to make the effort to attend the upcoming Reunion. It's always a rewarding time. Be sure to get your room reservations made ASAP. There are a limited number of rooms available at the Holiday Inn. Call the Hotel direct. 706-324-0231.

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

If you call the 800 reservation number you'll be told that it's booked up. They don't know about the block of rooms set aside for the Assoc. so get in early.

Below is my favorite quote by Theodore Roosevelt. Seems appropriate for a group such as ours. If any of you have something you want to write for Patrolling or pictures you want to share, get it to me and I'll include it in my submission. It's our forum and we can use it.

It is not the critic that counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds should have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place will never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt

A few weeks ago I was contacted by James Brannon from West Virginia. He was looking for anyone who knew his twin brother Joe in Vietnam. I had this elusive memory but could not put a face to the name so he sent me a CD with several pictures which I recognized. He was in another Platoon so I didn't know him well, except as another Brother doing a hard job. James said his Brother died in 1992. It's always sad to hear of another of our number who is no longer with us. Bill Bullen reminded me that Joe's nickname was Tanker because he had been in Armor in Germany.

So James please know that Joe "Tanker" Brannon is remembered as a true Brother of K/Co, 75th Rangers. If any of you knew Joe you can contact James also. His contact info is listed below.

By: Bill Bullen
Joe "Tanker" Brannon, took me under his wing when I first came to K/75. We were

pulling missions for Dave Flannery who was in It Posthelnic's Platoon. As I recall, our PSG was Julius Gates, later to become

CSM of the Army. The fellow who ran the big picture was 1SG Don Keller.

Don Keller took a big chance on me as a recruit and Tanker tried his best to make sure it was not a bad bet. As a slack man on most missions, Tanker was a very thorough guy, he'd see things no one else would, because of his attention to detail and the position in formation. Although I only pulled but five or six missions with him, Tanker had a big influence on my future performance with the Rangers.



Claymore, Cruz, Sgt Mott

In the rear, on stand-down, Tanker was a gregarious fellow. He always liked to sing along with anyone playing the guitar. Being a poor mountain man from West Virginia, he'd joke about the first real pair of shoes he had was issued to him in basic RPL depot. Just knowing Joe Brannon for the short time I did, I know his death was a great loss for his loved ones. I've had the pleasure of rekindling a friendship with Tanker's twin brother James. James was in the 1/10 Cav and visited with us at the Company AO. If you'd care to you can contact James Brannon at:

mgwjsb@frontiernet.net

Personal Information:

Address:
P.O. Box 232
Frankford, WV
24938
Phone: 304-497-2474

I'm sure James and Tanker's children would be happy to hear from anyone who knew Joseph "Tanker" Brannon.

William B. Bullen
(Ichabod)



Siglow Noble, Doss POW Mission



Edgar Webb's team LZ Snipe, 1970



Joe "Tanker" Brannon 30 May, 1970



Winter at the White House

It's mid February and its cold here in 'da U.P. The snow is crotch deep and the temperature is in the single digits for a high, but the sun is shining and its snowing...go figure. Winters are long here in the north woods, and cabin fever starts to set in after about the third month of a six month long winter. I don't ice fish and snowmobiles are just money pits...been there and done that. Besides, after working outdoors all day, my idea of relaxation is not sitting on a bucket on a frozen lake. Previous back surgery and arthritis rule out any type of winter "sport" such as skiing or skating, so I've become a computer addict. More precisely I developed a quest for the photos and history of

the men who served in one of the 101st LRRP/Ranger incarnations in Vietnam. So I beg, cajole, plead and then borrow the priceless photos from the men who I'm in contact with who served in one of these units. Those who are willing send me their photo albums and I carefully scan every item that relates to their Vietnam experience, always treating their property as if it was my own. After all the pictures and orders are scanned, I make them a copy on a CD and mail everything back priority mail, delivery confirmation. Copies of everything are saved on my computer and I also burn a CD for a backup. So far this winter I've scanned about 1300 photos and slides. Yes I can scan slides and film using a dedicated Polaroid 35/LE slide scanner. Time has not been kind to most of the slides I scan. They're turning dark with age and dust and finger prints abound, but with a lot of work they can be restored. The key is to get digital copies now before they deteriorate beyond help, which is fast approaching for many of the 40 year old slides. The paper photos suffer their own type of aging problems. Scratches and finger prints, water damage, tears, fading and stickum' stains from the paper used in the old original Vietnam era photo albums most of these collections reside in. Never mind that over the years many photos have been lost, stolen, "borrowed" and not returned, destroyed in fires, kept by ex-wives and in one case left in a motel and then thrown out by the cleaning lady. I'm sure there are other tales of losses, but these are a few of the situations I'm familiar with. Though the photos belong to individuals, the history they contain belongs to every one of the men whose image is lost when one of these pictures is lost forever. They are irreplaceable and I am conscious of that fact every time I scan an image. Besides the face on the images, there are the place and the equipment that was photographed by everyone. The fire bases are our Vietnam version of the towns that made the 101st famous in WWII. Places

like Tuy Hoa, FSB Birmingham, and Ripcord, Khe Sahn and the A Shau Valley will live in history as our battlefields. For those who study our history now and in the future, they'll want and need to know what these places looked like during the war, and the photos sitting in old packed away collections show these places. Helicopters were our mounts into battle and they all had their own personality, just ask any pilot, crew chief or door gunner. Their name was their tail number and their history also needs to be collected. Thanks to Mike Sloniker and Gary Rousch, The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association has done a lot of that

collecting of history from records and "Gold Book" information, but there aren't many photos linking the tail numbers to the ship's history and how it links to the 101st LRRP/Rangers. When I can scan a photo that shows the tail number of a ship, I pass a copy on to the VHPA and they then have a helicopter "face" with a name. Those who might have crewed that ship can be brought back together thanks to the modern computer. So while the snow builds and the winter drags on, I scan. My efforts are a win-win situation for all. As I find time I touch up the photos and when I finish enough images to open a web page for an individual, I post his photos at our web site. I still work everyday, write these articles and handle the unit director's duties with the 75th RRA, manage the web site, request records from the National Archives and scan and mail back photos. Guess it's a good thing winters are long up here in 'da U.P. If I live to retire, I hope I'll find the time after retirement to continue working on the photos and posting more at the web site as I clean them up. I've probably already got enough to

last a lifetime, but I know I've only touched the tip of the iceberg and there are many faces I've never seen. There are literally thousands of photos of the 101st LRRP/Rangers waiting to be scanned and saved for posterity, or waiting to be lost or destroyed by some unthinking individual. Which category do your photos fall into? Someday when my burnout limit is reached, the eyes can no longer see the screen or when health forces my departure from my web master duties my job will be done. The preservation of your history in photographs. Someday the CDs containing all the photos, the orders and records I've collected, and our web site will be presented to the 101st Airborne's Donald Pratt Museum for perpetual care and keeping. None of the images can be duplicated without the owner's permission and Pratt does a fine job at guarding the rights of the owners. When the new museum is opened at Campbell, look for an expanded



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

section of displays concerning our history and that of the 101st in Vietnam. Of the thousands of photos I've scanned, I've never lost, stolen, or damaged a single picture. The wife works at the post office and returns are snap. The post office has also never lost a package I've mailed back priority mail, delivery confirmation. There is no charge from me for scanning or postage, it's a labor of love. Until then, what about those photos you said you were going to let me scan? I haven't received them yet....yeah I know, the checks in the mail.

Reunion time is coming and by the time you get this magazine, rooms at both the 101st LRRP/Ranger reunion in Branson and the 75th RRA reunion in Columbus will either be in short supply or gone....you snooze you loose.

The Branson reunion:

The 101st LRRP/Rangers, our 2/17th Cav brothers, the Kingmen and the Comancheros need to book their rooms and register with Operation Homecoming USA for the Welcome Home event in June. Time to sign up for the reunion in Branson this summer. No more procrastinating. When the rooms are gone, registrations will be terminated. Booking a room alone is not an assurance of registration. There is a \$100 per adult registration fee which covers all transportation throughout the event and admission to the Grand Finale on Saturday. The registration fee is NOT a requirement to attend the event. It is only a requirement if you wish to use the mass transit system and attend the big event on Saturday. Every other event Operation Homecoming USA is putting on is open to any attendees. Don't wait until the last minute on this one, guys, or you won't be attending this event. I highly recommend that we put together a dinner/show on the Branson Belle riverboat on Tuesday evening or Wednesday evening as a group. Great show with a great meal. Someone needs to organize it if you want to attend. The banquet is being set up at the banquet room at the Ramada for Thursday evening. Best caterer in Branson will handle the food. We'll set

up our own bar. You'll love the hospitality room. If you guys miss this event, you're going to regret it in the morning. We now have six air shows scheduled. Call me at 417-336-5719 if you have any questions. You can call 1-888-265-VETS to register with Operation Homecoming USA. You can call 1-417-334-1000 to register for the Ramada Inn. 72 of the 248 rooms are already booked. The codes are "101st LRRP/Ranger", "2/17th Cav", "Kingsmen", or "Comancheros". Nothing else will get you in there at the \$59.95 per night price. See you all in June.

Operation Homecoming web site:
<http://www.operationhomecomingusa.com/>

I'll be bringing any of the remaining L Company Afghans to Branson, and I'll also have the new F-58 Afghans for sale during the reunion. These are full sized blankets and will sell for 50 bucks each....first come, first serve. They look great on an office or den wall and are American made products. Check the orderly room at the web site for information and a photo.

Look for information for the July 2005, 75th Ranger Reunion in other sections of this magazine.

On a sadder note I received the following information in early February. Philip Byron died of a heart attack on 1/29/05. Philip was a team leader with F-58 LRP in 1968. He was buried on 2/22/05 in Bourne Mass. at the National Cemetery.

If I had a photo of Philip I'd include one for this article, but someone has it sitting in their photo album in a closet, waiting for it to be lost. Hope I'll see you at a reunion this summer, and bring those photos.

Randy Whjite
N 4256 Powell Lake Road
Wetmore, MI 49895

906 387-2318
ranwhite@jamadots.com
Web site: <http://www.lcompanyranger.com/index.html>



M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Steve Houghton



By Steve Houghton

"Greetings to all my 71st LRP – M Company Ranger Brethren". Hopefully this unit article finds you all well and up to you're eyes in plans to attend the Reunion at Ft Benning this July 6-10 2005. It will be here before you know it, so if you haven't made the reservations by now.... get with it. I'm looking forward to seeing some of you I haven't seen since choppering out of Firebase Barbara in Feb 69.

We've found another "Lrrp" from those days.... James Hell. James is currently living in the Seattle area. He found us (the

association) after the reunion out there last summer. I've talked to him a couple of times on the phone and at this date he is planning to attend the Benning shindig. Hope to see you there James!

Lt. Ron Harper has been sending me some stories and photos from his time in the unit. I think everyone enjoys me passing on these new contacts. Since I'm not aware of any newsworthy items concerning our current members I'm going to include the latest from Ron and James.

The following is an email I received from James:

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



“ Hello, Steve. It was really good talking to you. I talked to Wolf and Hunt.

I thank you for getting me Wolf’s phone #. I’m looking for Rick

Wintermute’s phone #. I know you are busy putting a house together Right now, I know what that’s like. When you have the time, if you could email or call me at 425-743-9840. I’d appreciate it. Thanks much.

James Hell

P.S. I’ve made reservations for the reunion. It will be really good to see all you guys after all these years.”

So it looks like James is making plans to attend the Benning Reunion. Hope to see you there James

The following is a story Lt. Ron Harper sent me.

Here is another photo you may find interesting. It’s a Bronze Star Awards ceremony with General Bennett. The three men on the left are being honored. (I’m assuming Ron is on the far right) I was XO and temporary CO when we moved from the rice paddies “Pineapple” area, into the jungle AO operating out of Xuan Loc/ Blackhorse. I convinced the General to let us run two training missions to familiarize ourselves with the new AO and to change our operations from the “Pineapple” VC only style of operations.

The first mission resulted in two enemy killed and no “Lrrps” getting a scratch. Enemy rucksacks delighted S-2. On the second mission, a heavy team was added, made up from two regular teams with the addition of M-60’s. On the initial insertion, the chopper pilot said there were large piles of supplies visible. I quickly aborted that insertion. Instead I

inserted a light team and a heavy team about a 1 -1/2 clicks to the north to check out the supply cache to the south. The team immediately reported a heavily used fresh trail, and the advanced light team was soon surprised by a heavy NVA force. Dropping their rucksacks, they ran for their lives back toward the heavy team. Hearing the contact, the heavy team set up on the far edge of a clearing. The NVA, thinking they were chasing after a light 5-6-man team spread out and started a sweep to overwhelm and destroy the light team. They ran right into the heavy team plus the light team and were decimated. The first air cavalry on the scene reported many blood trails and bodies being dragged from the scene. They had a good time. After an infantry platoon arrived, they found one enemy soldier in the river hanging on to a tree branch. M Company was credited with 10 enemy KIA, but best of all no “Lrrp” suffered so much as a hangnail! The three men on the left were awarded Bronze medals with V device for their part in the action.

The general would now allow me on the ground during this time period, not until Lt. Watson became XO, and then we alternated missions. Because of the success of these two missions, Col. Ripley adopted the “Lrrps” as his personal unit. His support and help is another story altogether, but anything we needed we got. Also, the harassment and jealousy back at Frenzel Jones stopped because of Col. Ripley.

It was at this time that only Captains were allowed to command company size units.

Because of the men’s efforts they allowed me to keep command.

These Rangers were outstanding men and it was an honor to lead them. There were some volunteers who only made one mission and were so terrified, the team leaders, who had authority, ship them out.

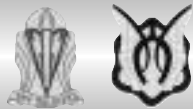
I understand Lt. Watson was injured or killed after I left Vietnam. I sure wish I knew the whole story and if he’s still alive.

Thanks Ron for your recollections.

Well this is it for this issue. Hope to see you at the Reunion.

Steve Houghton





N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



By: Reed Cundiff

Have heard from Vladimir Jakovenko, Roger Brown, Tom Eckhoff, Mike Hines, Roy Boatman, Pat Tadina, Chris Christenson, Roy Boatman, Frank Vansevers, Rudy Teodosio, Frank Vansevers, Doc Clark, Dave Walker, Mike Hines, Jeff Horne, Art Silsby, Charlie Kankel, Dana, Larry Cole, Larry Jones, Dave Liebersbach, Sid Smith, Bill Ricca, Tom Zaruba, and Hal Hermann

Tie-in with current 74th LRS Detachment

There was an e-mail from Emmett a few months ago suggesting that the Association Units work at tying in with their current active duty descendants. We had been discussing this since the 2003 RHOF and I was able to get in contact with the current 1st Sgt of the unit, SFC Scott Brzanski about three weeks ago. He is all for it. The unit is pretty much in the field at this time preparing for deployment. Am sending them a subscription to Patrolling magazine. The folks I have contacted are 100% for this linkage. Tom Eckhoff sent me two photos of

CO and 1st Sgt of 74th LRS, one from his days with the unit and the other taken recently.



BY RANGER ROGER BROWN

In November of 2004 I attended a Ranger Graduation for Sergeant Raul Cantu. Sergeant Cantu is assigned to the 82nd. Airborne Division and is a Rifle Squad Leader. Sergeant Cantu is the son of his proud father (Bob Cantu). Cantu was with us in 70-71. Bob was on SSG. Borja's team when BJ was killed in April 71. Ranger Cantu had to wrap BJ'S body in a poncho and I know that loss of a great American still lives in Cantu's mind as well as the rest of us that knew SSG Borja. We all affectionately referred to him as BJ.



Cantu's wife called earlier today and told me that Cantu has been admitted to the VA hospital in San Antonio Texas. for heart problems. Cantu was one of my ATL'S in Nco. 70-71.

Mike Hines wrote that Cantu is doing well at home now.

Mike also sent a few photos from the N Ranger days. Names for the photos would be appreciated



Tony Schoonover wrote a while back to say that we might think about doing an open water kayak trip in Alaska. Tom "Zeke" Zaruba is an Alaskan native and wrote back when I mentioned this idea to him.

Dear fish bait! Kayak trip up the inside passage huh? Take a look at this and see if you really want to "Free Willie" before you and

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



Schoonie paddle your aging asses up here. *The video shows a kayak being dumped by a large whale* Those of us that have survived this place for 60+ years have only done so by not making too many bad back to nature choices. That is partly the reason we

go trout fishing with a .375 H&H (or better) and fishing in the biggest goddamn boat we can afford. Hope to see you here this summer greenie. Zeke

Makes one wonder what Alaskans carry when they do go hunting.

Randy White, Unit Director for L Rangers, sent me a few photos that Harold Kaiama sent him recently. I believe this photo was taken the day that we received our olive drab berets (which a number of us still believe wer made of wornout Army blankets). I can only remember Velmon Phillips, Al Ward (retired SF CSM) and Flynn although I do remember all the faces.

(early LRRP photo)

Pat Tadina is back from the sandbox for a few weeks and he recently got together with Roy Boatman for dinner.

Roy wrote that "We (173rd LRRP - 74th LRP- N/75 plan on raffling a quilt (new *quilt*). If you could and have room can you

put a picture of it in the next Patrolling Issue. Fact is, it would make a good cover page in my opinion.

The hanging quilt will be approximately 7 ft x 8ft. Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be done at the Banquet after the colors are retired. If anyone desires tickets that cannot or isn't attending please have them send me a letter and we will send them the ticket stubs.

I also need a 5 minute period to present a quilt to the association on my units behalf that we would like to see shown (in a safe place) at each subsequent reunion. I will send a copy of it under separate email. It should be passed from secretary to secretary. This quilt is similar to the one being raffled but includes a few more graphics and different arrangement (slightly). The significance of the one presented is that it includes all of the Ranger units of the association including the SSI on the Battalions at different times in history. This may make the current Active Duty Rangers feel more a part of the association. Any questions comments or otherwise please let me know!

Roy Boatman
1456 Lula Long Road
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
910-588-6009

Sergeant Major Jeff Horne, jeff.horne@us.army.mil is still in Bosnia and is loving his last deployment. He has promised a writeup of his activities for the next issue.





O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael Feller



To all who shall see these presents, greetings. Mike Feller has taken over the task of being Co O (Ranger) 75th Inf (Abn) Unit Director and Representative to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and I, for one, am grateful to him for accepting the assignment and responsibilities that go with the thankless job.

In the attempt to assist him in his endeavor I've been asked to write an article (War Story) about one specific assignment that 3 Teams from Co O participated in and I'm asking for a little help. Our Team, 1/7, was comprised of SSG Mike Frazier, Bill Houser, Chico Hernandez, Henry Bonvillian, Chuck Luczynski, and Tony Quinata.

To jar your memory, we were all inserted, believe it or not, via APC's and immediately had to cross a medium size river using a rope that 'someone?' already had in place and then assumed our individual Teams positions to act as a blocking force (bushwhack) of any enemy troops that were fleeing this massive armored sweep of the area on the other side of the river. I have some photo's of the other Team's members and for sure, Jim Fenner, Gunther Walner, Ron Klumper. Other possibilities are Steve Miles, Jamie Hernandez, Wilson? Two members of the other Teams were wounded by 'friendly' artillery fire during this mission and we believe Jamie Hernandez was one of them.

Team 1/7 made contact twice killing 1 VC and later that night with VC on our side of the river. We got 1 VC KIA and 3 AK's out of the event and misc other goodies they were carrying. Later in the mission all 3 Teams linked up and humped to the big river, Song Saigon, and were taken up river and reinserted. More stuff happened at our new location with all 14 of us staying in a bombed out building.

Here's the questions: What were the Team numbers of the other 2 Teams involved in this, and, who else might have been on those teams? I'd like to include everybody who was there in my 'War Story' for Patrolling Magazine. If you can help me out I'd appreciate it. I'm known as a pretty decent writer, but I'm certainly not a professional writer like some of us turned out to be.

Bill 'Teacup' Houser, (630) 323-0031 or E Mail to Teakup17@aol.com, Thanks.

A few days ago I received an Email reference the arctic phase of O Company's history; the gent wrote that he had several jumps in different terrains but was yet to jump in deep snow. This got me to thinking of a conversation I had with one of the Arctic

Rangers concerning Arctic LRP operations.

It seems that a normal equipment jump for a mission turned into an ordeal when a blizzard blew in stranding the team in west central Alaska. Food fuel and equipment for the duration of the mission plus two exhausted teams that had to go into the survival mode for a few days. The only casualty in the ordeal was a wandering caribou, but it could have been far worse.

A snow jump is like most any jump, but a deep snow takes more preparation. First don't forget your snowshoes you'll never make it to the turn-in and assembly areas. Then there's the part about not laying anything down. But all in all a strait Hollywood hop-n-pop isn't bad. Now a CENMT is a different story in deep snow, and when tied in with training or tactical mission it's a whole new world. When the average ambient temperature is -45F things can change in a hurry and usually not for the better.

Arctic phenomenon is pretty much a see it to understand thing but I'll try to explain as best I can. First there the stranding changes. Long Arctic nights. Ok its dark things take a little longer but it'll be light in about 16 hours. Blizzards and snowstorms. We all understand this cold, wind, and snow generally blinding conditions that could also bury a small group in their tracks. Nothing special so far we'll move on to ice fog and hoar frost both conditions are similar as they seem to

grow on you hoar frost is like an intense version of the frost on your lawn only it grows and grows and keeps growing the frost starts to look like new snow only in around and under things. The ice fog also grows, usually due to moisture being introduced into freeze-dried air, by large groups or mechanical devices. First the fog marks a possession with its cloud of ice crystals then it starts to grow, and soon entire valleys are covered. Did I mention that it is still 50 below and the icy fog, like any fog, is creeping under your layers as well as blocking out the sky and any objects under it. Well enough about dark things. Let's talk about whiteout. Any driver north of the Mason-Dixon will tell you about whiteout. It's that swirling snow behind a semi or caused by winds. Well, not Arctic White-out. It is caused when air has freeze-dried to the point it no longer bends light. Intense sunlight reflected by snow and ice begins to block colors. The effect is like living suspended in a ping-pong ball over a white spotlight. No sky, no horizon, even solid colored objects disappear in about 30 feet. Sunglasses stop the snow-blindness that would occur but do nothing to restore color to your world. The up side is, it won't last past sundown. The intense sunlight also is warming on exposed skin. So depending on how much skin you care to expose at 40 below you can get a nice tan.

Another arctic treasure that one must see to understand is Cold Soak. When molecules are exposed to temps of around 40-50 below for days on end they slow to the point that the element they make up no longer retains its characteristics. Rubber becomes like cast iron and iron glass. Radio batteries go into a



O/75 - 78TH LRP (CONTINUED)

chemical coma that only use can hold off so spares must be worn under parkas. Solid objects brought to room temp will take 10-15 days to reach the point that they can be handled comfortably. At sub zero temps changing a handset with out a glove can brand fingertips. That innocent little getting caught on the iron rail trick, deadly. Once trapped the object, in order to gain the heat it craves will draw it from your flesh freezing it solid in minutes. Just the act of getting a drink of water becomes a chore even the Arctic canteen tends to freeze wearing it under the parka helps. But there is no way to carry a refill. Water must be melted from snow or ice. If available the ice is great as the snowmelt ratio is at least 10-1. A related problem comes from the fact that breathing frigid air dulls the thirst reflex. No slack from Ma Nature. In the cold you still expel as much water as you would in other conditions. The 3-foot ice cycle attached to the bottom of

each ski mask will attest to that

What is the number one cold injury? You guessed it; dehydration followed by bowel impaction, then burns. I once knew a guy, while on leave went to the Legion Post with his Father-in-law. The old timers got to telling war stories. When asked for the bravest thing the young Lt had ever done he replied, "I took a shit at 55 below," he didn't buy another drink that night. Don't think for a minute that frozen flesh, snow blindness or even freezing to death won't mess you up; they're just avoided more as a habit.

There we have a brief overview of conditions presented to any one moving around the Arctic. And the number one hassle during deep snow airborne operations? Trying to figure out how the hell to do a PLF in ass deep snow

Later, Feller

Announcing The First Annual

O RANGER 75 INF [LRP]

Rendezvous

Labor Day Weekend

September 3, 4&5

Come early stay late no problem

No pre registration

No sign up fee

No Memberships [must be on roster or present documentation]

RSVP would be appreciated however not a prerequisite to attendance

Would also like feed back as to special request or requirements etc.

Note; gathering will be in a primitive camp area in near northern section of Mannistee National forest. Nearby lodgings are available as well as many interesting sites to include the Lake Michigan shoreline and Little River Casino, the Manistee, Little Manistee and Pine Rivers. Also a Private range as well as access to the North Country Hiking Trail. Self-contained units are welcome as are under the stars campers [and some where in between]

For Info and locations 231-848-4948 michigami@kaltelnet.net



P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Bill Davis



The following is a letter that I cajoled from Bob Dowd. I can't thank him enough. He has meant a lot to me personally, as if it weren't for his website, I don't know if I would have ever been in touch with the Men of the Company and the Association. This has become one of the more important aspects of my life. I hope this might be an inspiration for some of you to help me out in the future, if not with letters, but at least some memories I can pass along. The letter is as follows:

Dear Bill,

You know Bill; you're a typical Army Ranger through and through. Meaning, you never give up. All right my friend, since you are insisting that I give you something for the Patrolling Magazine, I will honor your request since it might inspire others to reach out in some way and get involved. The 75th RRA is a great organization and the work that Emmett has done and continues to do to this day is vital to the organizations continued existence far into the future. With regards to their (75th RRA Website). I know he (Emmett) is currently overwhelmed with lots of work to complete for that site. And I am sure he can use the help, should others out there that are interested in preserving its' existence step up to the challenge. I can tell you my friend; I have answered his (Emmett's) call, and am currently helping him out with the website. So, I know that if I can get involved, than so should others out there too. If they want this organization to be around for a long time when we are both gone, then the time is now. Tomorrow may be too late my friend. So I encourage anyone that is interested, please call upon your Unit Director and let him know, and I am sure he can point them in the right direction.

All right, where do I start? You know this is hard for someone to write about himself or herself. Just trying to find the appropriate words and trying to not leave anything out will be a challenge in and of itself.

My name is Robert Dowd Sr, and I am 46 years old. I am the Brother of "Thomas Joseph Dowd" who was killed in Quang Tri

Province, South Vietnam on December 21, 1969. I was only 11 years old when my Brother and his Ranger Team were killed on that chopper that crashed on that ill-fated day. Only one survivor from Tommy's Team made it that day, which is Larry Smith.



I can tell you Larry Smith is an inspiration to me. He has come over many hurdles these past 35 years since that day. And only Larry and the Lord know what he must have went through to get to this day. The road to recovery is always a long one, and for Larry I am sure he is finally well on his way to recovery. At least I hope he is. Also, I thank the lord every day for placing Larry Smith in my life. Funny, speaking of Larry, when my phone rang the other night and my son told me some man is on the phone for me, he said it was a guy named Larry Smith. Well, I almost knocked my son over to get to that phone. I was so enthralled to hear from him again. It has been awhile

since we last spoke, but if I needed to talk to anyone at the very moment, I can assure you it was who the Lord wanted me to talk to. Praise the Lord for answering many of my prayers. Unfortunately, I'd rather not put what we spoke about in here. I hope you don't mind. But it was all good I can assure you. It was just a little conversation between a Yankee (Northern Boy) and Rebel (Southern Boy). And I don't mean that in a negative way. It is kind of a joke between Larry and me.

All right Bill, to continue where I left off. You have my name and my age and you also know who I am. So, when I was younger I never had the opportunity to know my Brother Tommy like I would have wanted to. But these things happen. Growing up in a family of 11, it is hard sometimes knowing who is who, let alone trying to deal with the many different personalities is a task in and of it self.

But we were normal for the most part. We were not a very close family as we have gotten got older. Everyone kind of went their own ways, and picked who they wanted to associate themselves with, inside this "my" normal family. hehe But that is ok, my family wasn't any different than the next door neighbors.



P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)



I joined the Army Reserves in 1978 and was a 12B (C o m b a t Engineer). I did my initial 6 year enlistment and then got out. After being out for a while, and the fact that I missed the Army so much, I decided to

give it another shot. I rejoined the Army Reserves and became a 94B (Drill Instructor Candidate), which I did for two years. After that, I decided the Army wasn't going to offer me anything better, so I left and took a break for a while. In 1991, I decided to join the Air National Guard in New Jersey. I was assigned to the 177th Fighter Wing, 119th Fighter Squadron. I worked in a section called Life Support. Basically, it was my job to ensure that all of the Pilots' flying equipment was in good working



order. Helmets, G-Suits, Harness's, G-Vests, Night Vision Goggles, etc... Lots more in this area, but you get the gist of what I was responsible for. We did other things like teach the pilots combat survivor and water survivor skills, how to properly eject from an aircraft and how to survive a POW Interrogation. So, everything that we taught the pilots we had to go to school for ourselves. There was Instructor School, Water Survivor School, Combat Survivor and POW School. And when you taught these lessons to the pilots, you were not just reading something out of a textbook. We were school trained just like they (pilots) were. Now I was with the 177th Fight Wing for 13 years and just left there this past June 2004. I am currently serving with the 514th Air Mobility Wing, 88th Aerial Port

Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. I work in an area call Air Transportation. Basically it is our job to make sure equipment and troops get to where they need to be, when they need to be there. In a nutshell, I am coming up on 22 years of service to my country, but for some odd reason the Army lost 4 of my years. Hmmm, how did they do that? So I have another two years to complete to get my official 20 years in service. After that, I think that I may just call it quits. Don't get me wrong, I love serving in the military and my country. But, I did my time and been to many places I don't wish on anyone, and I think it will be time to let younger Airmen take over and move up within the ranks. Bill, I have only one regret in my life, and that is that I didn't follow in my Brother's footsteps and become an Army Ranger myself. But again, I think the Lord wanted for me to go down another path less traveled if you know what I mean. Ok, enough said on that subject. Moving on...

I was married for 19 ? years and am now divorced. I have three wonderful children who I love and adore; Jennifer 19, Jacqueline 16 and Robert Jr who is 14. They make me very proud as their Father. And I will always be here for them, that goes without saying.

Did I stray off of the subject as to what you really wanted from me Bill? I think I may have. hehe Ok, I started thinking about this venture back in 1997, about doing something for my Brother Tommy and his Team. It would be something that would be around for a long time even when I am gone. And that is when I decided on doing the website as a tribute to their memories. So I went out and bought some software and got a host to house my site when I finished it. Since posting the site out on the Internet in 1998, I decided to add to the site and pay tribute to a lot more than just Ranger Team 1-6.

There is Team 1-8, Rangers KIA in Grenada (which I am still looking for photos for these men to complete their page) Rangers KIA in Panama (need more pictures there to complete as well) and Somalia. I have added all the Rangers that were KIA in Vietnam (when I am done with helping Emmett on all the KIA on the 75th RRA Site, I will link everyone's name "personal profiles" to that site) and I also added a page for the Rangers KIT (Killed in Training). So as one can see, Ranger Team 1-6's



P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

Website if far from done. And to think that I only had to build it and place it up there on the Internet and forget about it. Boy was I wrong. Besides, my conscience will not let me forget that there is a lot more information out there that needs to be found and placed on the Internet for all to see and know about. People like these men should never be forgotten, "NEVER!!".

And that is why I do what I do Bill. It is the love I have for not only my Brother Tommy, but for all of the Army Rangers out there. Need I say more? The lord has blessed me in so many ways one cannot imagine, so it is my way of helping out my fellow man. It is kind of like passing on his message if you know what I mean.

Bill, if there is anything further that you require from me, please don't hesitate to ask. I don't like to brag nor boast about anything in my life, because I am no more different than the next person. Cause that is how I am. But if you think this message from me for the Patrolling Magazine will inspire others out there to get involved, than I am all for it. And I applaud all of you who are currently involved each and everyday. Keep up the good work guys/gals.

God Bless you all, keep up the great work that you do. I hopefully will be seeing you guys at the Ranger Reunion in July at Ft. Benning.

In Ranger Brotherhood,

Bob Dowd

Webmaster for: www.rangerteam16.com

P.S. There is one more thing that I would like to say to everyone out there: For all of you out there that haven't gotten involved as of yet, please remember this is your organization too. If you want the 75th RRA to be around for a long time to come, then you need to start getting involved.

The time that you spend doing nothing today, could have made the difference in someone else's life tomorrow, if you only just redirected some of your efforts in the right direction

I also would like to pass along the struggles of one our Warriors, Bobby Turner. He contracted Hepatitis C while serving. He has been in the VA facility in Portland since August. He and his wife Gail are awaiting a new liver for him. It has been a struggle as he has one of the rarest blood types which makes it extremely difficult to find a donor. They are staying in Portland as it would not be realistic to get the call for a donor, and make it to Portland.

They have been getting support from our Ranger Family. Tom and Emily Holtey made it to Tucson just before the Turner's trip to Portland. Tom also sent Bobby a number of pictures. Terry Roderick sent him our Company guidon, which Bobby finds to be a daily inspiration. Duke DuShane sent him some Company stickers which Bobby enjoyed greatly. I had the honor to stop by in Portland to visit them briefly on my way to the Ranger

Reunion. That was quite an honor.

Remember Bobby and Gail in your hearts and prayers as they deal with these health issues. Just a reminder, if you served in any of the Company's AO's, you were exposed to great amounts of Agent Orange. If you have not done so yet, get to the VA for your checkup. My checkup was thorough and very professional. Don't wait, time is of the essence.

Last but not least, Bobby and Gail would appreciate hearing from all of you. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. There number is 503-220-8262 ext. 33962. Their extension may have changed by the time this issue is out, but you should be able to contact them through the main number. Gail also informed me that phone card donations have been made, and they need to be used. She encourages folks to call. Then she can return the call on those cards. If they don't use then, they lose them, so give them a call

Finally Bobby has been working out to get in the best physical shape he can. He wanted to pass along a message to Charles Pickering. He's feeling good enough to open up a can of whip-ass on him anytime.

In Ranger Brotherhood,

Bill Davis





D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Tom Blandford



Happy New Year, I hope 2005 will be happy and healthful for you and yours.

2005 will be more memorable if you attend the D-151 Reunion at Fort Benning. 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. You'll be looked on by the current Rangers as the living embodiment of courage and toughness. They can relate to the hard training and the horrific situations of combat. I guarantee you that you will have a fun and very worthwhile experience. One of our events will be the dedication of the William Butler LRS/Warrior Training Center. There will also be enjoyable activities for the wives and children.

D 151 Association Events for 2005

APR 10 1:00: Smith gravesite service followed by 2:00 Association Meeting "Reunion Planning" at Morristown American Legion.

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 4 1:00: Klieber/Worley at 2:00 gravesite services, then Greenfield VFW.

SEPT 16 – 18: Kokomo All Nam Vet Reunion

SEPT 29-29-30: Bus trip to Washington, 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.

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.

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 (1-800-834-9766). A block of rooms is in the name of Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club and is \$125. for 2 nights for 2 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.

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.

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 expense. 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

Email announcements

Get on Zita Moore's email list so you will be up to date on our unit activities.

Email address: zita.moore@us.army.mil

See you at Benning!

RLTW

Out: Tom

Blandford.





F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon



Operation Uniontown III

Part 1

Operation Uniontown III and Boxsprings ran from February 10, 1968 through March 27, 1968. The areas that the teams worked in included Uniontown, Columbus, North Uniontown, Upshur, and Harrisburg. F/51 LRP was under operational control of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade during these two Operations. The team's missions were dependent on their size; a 6 member (light) team was used basically as a light reconnaissance unit watching river and trail activity. While 12 member (heavy) teams performed the same missions as the light 6 man teams with the addition of possibly capturing a POW (Prisoner Of War). A reaction force was to be used to exploit team sightings or if a team got into contact.

During the length of Operation Uniontown III and Boxsprings F/51 LRP's ran 91 patrols with 26 being 12 man (heavy, 2 teams) making for a total of 117 teams that were committed to the operations. During operations Uniontown III and Boxsprings there was a total of 91 VC (Vietcong)/ NVA (North Vietnamese Army) sightings, there was a total of 33 enemy contacts, a total of 40 emergency extractions. The reaction force was committed 3 times to extract F/51 LRP teams and committed 7 times exploit team sightings. The results of team contacts and artillery fire resulted in a total of 74 VC/NVA probable killed. Over the course of operation Uniontown III/ Boxsprings F/51 LRP teams captured 5 AK-47 rifles, 1 Chicom pistol, 4 POW's and 14 detainees. Other equipment captured included VC/ NVA web gear, a Chicom CS grenade, and complete set of surveying equipment (transit, tripod, and documentation) that were Russian made. The following is part 1 of a multi-part summary of F/51 LRP teams during Operation Uniontown III and Box Springs.

Team 46 (light) was inserted into their LZ on February 10th at 0737HRS (7:37 AM). At 0858HRS (8:58 AM) Team 46 reported finding a well used trail running East to West about 55 meters East Northeast of the LZ. At 0915HRS (9:15 AM) Team 46 reported another heavily used trail 90 meters East Northeast of their LZ and also a 2' X 2' hole at this location. At 0918HRS (9:18 AM) Team 46 reported movement coming from the Southeast on the East to West trail. At 0922HRS (9:22 AM) Team 46 reported a rifle shot on the trail to the East about 250 meters East-Northeast from the team. At 0953HRS (9:53 AM) Team 46 reported that the movement had stopped about 100 meters from their position. At 0957HRS (9:57 AM) Team 46 reported more movement about 100 meters West of their

location. At 0959HRS (9:59 AM) Team 46 reported being between two trails that seemed to intersect to their North and that they also had movement to the South of their location. At 1011HRS (10:11 AM) Team 46 reported sighting 1 VC 25 meters to their North. At 1023HRS (10:23 AM) Team 46 reported that the movement was moving back to the North of their position. At 1026HRS (10:26 AM) Team 46 reported that they had movement on 3 sides and that the team was moving 25 meters to a better position. At 1044HRS (10:44 AM) Team 46 reported they still had movement to their South. At 1107HRS (11:07 AM) Team 46 reported they had moved 250 meters North then 200 meters East and the movement followed them. At 1114HRS (11:14 AM) Team 46 reported a good LZ 25 meters East of their location. At 1119HRS (11:19 AM) Team 46 reported that movement of an unknown size was closing in on them from the Southwest. At 1431HRS (2:12 PM) Team 46 reported more movement. At 1504HRS (3:04 PM) Team 46 reported hearing a weapon drop. At 1545HRS (3:45 PM) Team 46 reported that

they were surrounded and were hearing a thumping noise. At 1908HRS (7:08 PM) Team 46 reported the VC were moving in and they were about to make contact. At 1912HRS (7:12 PM) Team 46 reported that the VC were 25 meters from their position and that the VC were wearing black pajamas and were moving rapidly towards the team. At 1915HRS (7:15 PM) Team 46 requested assistance. At 1921HRS (7:21 PM) the C & C (Command and Control) helicopter and the gun-ships were on station. At 1928HRS (7:28 PM) Team 46 blew their claymores and moved to the selected LZ. At 1935HRS (7:35 PM) the gun-ships started their passes. At 1941HRS (7:41 PM) while Team 46 was being extracted, the

extraction helicopters and gun-ships all drew ground fire. After the extraction, artillery was called in and 24 rounds were fired into the area.

Team 14 (light) was inserted into their LZ at 1729HRS (5:29 PM) on February 10, 1968. At 1958HRS (5:58 PM). At 1958HRS (7:58 PM) Team 14 reported 4 VC coming into their area. At 2010HRS (8:10 PM) Team 14 blew their claymores on an estimated VC platoon that was moving over the team's location. As the team was heading towards the LZ the team used their M-72 LAW, small arms and grenades to keep the VC away from them. While the gun-ships were rearming the C&C (Command and Control) helicopter used their door gunners to put down suppression fire. At 2023HRS (8:23 PM) the gun-ships made their first passes and at 2024HRS (8:24 PM) during the extraction of Team 14 the team, the extraction helicopters and the gun-ships received heavy small arms, and automatic weapons fire. The results of the heavy contact resulted in 9 VC KIA by count and 3 VC probable KIA. All the VC had black pajamas and web gear but no rucksacks. After the extraction, Firebase



F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

Tricorner was contacted and 36 artillery rounds were fired into the area.

Team 11 (light) was inserted into their LZ on February 10, 1968 at 1728HRS (5:28 PM). At 1802HRS (6:02 PM) Team 11 reported they were in their RON (Remain Overnight) position. At 1959HRS (7:02 PM) Team 11 reported hearing small arms fire about 400 meters North of their location. At 2004HRS (8:04 PM) Team 11 reported that small arms fire was coming toward their location. At 2009HRS (8:09 PM) Team 11 reported small arms fire about 150 meters to the North of their position that sounded like AK-47's and M-2 carbines but the firing was not directed at them. At 2032HRS (8:32 PM) Team 11 reported movement about 50 meters a trail to their South. At 2042HRS (8:42 PM) Team 11 reported that the movement had left the area and also reported hearing small explosions were Team 14 was extracted. At 2055HRS (8:55 PM) Team 11 reported movement to their South and at 2104HRS (9:04 PM) that the movement had stopped. On February 11th at 0712HRS (7:12 AM) Team 11 reported hearing chopping and voices all night about 50 meters Northwest of their location, the noises continued this morning only coming from the North and East of the teams location. At 1437HRS (2:37 PM) Team 11 reported voices talking about 50 meters South of their location. At 1502HRS (3:02 PM) Team 11 reported movement about 50 meters to the East of their location. At 1658HRS (4:58 PM) Team 11 reported 1 VC came on the trail South of their position and saw their claymores and turned around and headed back the direction he had come. At 1800HRS (6:00 PM) Team 11 reported he still had movement about 25 meters from to the South of their location. At 1905HRS (7:05 PM) Team 11 reported that the VC had fired 6 shots and that the VC were moving in on them. At 1909HRS (7:09 PM) Team 11 reported that they had killed 1 VC and had moved North across the trail. At 1910HRS (7:10 PM) Team 11 reported that the contact had ceased and at 1916HRS (7:16 PM) the team had moved 25 to 30 meters North across a trail and saw 3 more VC and were able to kill at least one of them. At 1955HRS (7:55 PM) Team 11 was extracted. Results of their mission included 1 VC KIA, and 2 possible KIA.

Team 42 (light 6 man) was inserted into their LZ on February 10, 1968 at 0749HRS (7:09 PM). At 1005HRS (10:00 AM) Team 42 reported a bunker complex about 100 meters Northeast of their location, but no movement was seen around the bunker complex. At 1049HRS (10:49 AM) Team 42 reported a 10 feet to 12 feet wide hand-cut trail running East to West. At 1426HRS (2:46 PM) Team 42 reported hearing strange noises about 50 meters Northeast of their location. At 1539HRS (3:39 PM) Team 42 reported they had moved to higher ground to establish communications with Alpha relay station. At 1850HRS (6:50 PM) Team 42 reported weak but readable communications with Alpha relay station. On February 11th at 1452HRS (2:52 PM) Team 42 reported their position as being next to an ox trail running North to South with many trails running Northeast to Southwest. At 1603HRS (4:03 PM) Team 42 was instructed to proceed to their insertion LZ for extraction. At 1610HRS (4:10

PM) Team 42 reported that a claymore had accidentally detonated and wounded 1 team member and were requesting a Dustoff (medical helicopter). At 1617HRS (4:17 PM) Team 42 reported they were unable to move the wounded team member and requested a McGuire extraction. At 1642HRS (4:42 PM) Team 42 was extracted by McGuire rig and the wounded team member was sent to 24th Evacuation Hospital. Results of the mission were 1 U.S. WIA (Wounded In Action).

Team 44 (light 6 man) was inserted into their LZ on February 10, 1968 at 0742HRS (7:42 AM). At 0922HRS (9:22 AM) Team 44 reported a recently used trail running North to South. At 0940HRS (9:40 AM) Team 44 reported the trail was large and broke off to the Northeast. At 1045HRS (10:45 AM) Team 44 reported hearing wild chickens about 50 meters to the Northeast of their location. At 1419HRS (2:19 PM) Team 44 reported hearing voices and canteens rattling across a stream from their location. At 1427HRS (2:27 PM) Team 44 reported seeing 1 man moving East to West about 30 meters North of their position. At 1433HRS (2:43 PM) team 44 reported hearing hammering noise about 50 meters Northeast of their position. At 1436HRS (2:36 PM) Team 44 reported a ladder leading to a platform about 400 meters North of their position. At 1441HRS (2:41 PM) Team 44 reported personal moving towards them from the South about 285 meters from their position. The team leader decided to hold at his position until the movement stops and then would continue his mission. On February 11th Team 44 was still setup in their previous location. On February 12th at 1532HRS (3:32 PM) Team 44 reported that they had 1 team member with heat stroke who was extracted at 1626HRS (4:26 PM). At 1807HRS (6:07 PM) Team 44 reported hearing chickens across the river from their position. On February 13th at 0819HRS (8:19 AM) Team 44 was extracted. The main result from the mission was 1 US heat casualty.

Team 12 (light 6 man) was inserted into their LZ on February 10, 1968 at 1719HRS (5:19 PM). On February 11th at 0706HRS (7:06 AM) Team 12 reported they were set up along a trail. On February 12th at 0715HRS (7:15 AM) Team 12 reported hearing what sounded like elephants about 200 to 300 meters East Southeast of their position. The team also reported hearing what sounded like someone building something about 100 meters West of their position. At 1408HRS (2:08 PM) Team 12 reported they were at a trail intersection. At 1432HRS (2:32 PM) Aloft (air communications aircraft) informed Team 12 that there was a tunnel entrance about 50 meters Northeast of their position. Team 12 upon checking out the area found that it was a cache point that had not been used for about a week. The team also reported elephant feces all around the tunnel area. On February 13th at 0835HRS (8:35 AM) Team 12 was extracted without incident.

Team 26 (light 6 man) was inserted into their LZ on February 11, 1968 at 1743HRS (5:43 PM). At 1823HRS (6:23 PM) Team 26 reported a safe insertion. At 1937HRS (7:37 PM) Team 26

F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

reported 2 men moving South of their LZ about 50 meters from their position. On February 12th at 0737HRS (7:37 AM) Team 26 reported hearing voices about 100 meters South Southeast from their position. At 0843HRS (8:43 PM) Team 26 reported hearing an engine running about 500 meters North of their location. Team 26 seemed to think it could possibly be a base camp as they saw a ? ton truck about 300 meters from their location. At 1436HRS (2:36 PM) Team 26 reported hearing banging and wood chopping about 100 meters Southwest of their location. At 1509HRS (3:09 PM) Team 26 reported seeing 2 men East of their LZ moving to the East. At 1534HRS (3:34 PM) Team 26 reported hearing noises about 100 meters to the North and South of their location. At 1722HRS (5:22 PM) Team 26 reported movement about 25 meters South-Southeast of their location. The movement turned out to be a group of monkeys. At 2133HRS (9:33 PM) Team 26 reported hearing rocket fire about 400 to 500 meters Northeast of their location. The rockets were going from the Northeast to the Southwest with about 40 rounds being fired. It was discovered that the artillery was friendly fire. On February 13th at 0810HRS (8:10 AM) Team 26 was extracted with negative results as to enemy movement.

Co. F 51st Inf. LRP Airborne Reunion

The Co F 51st Info LRP Airborne Reunion 05 will be held in Nashville, Tennessee from Wednesday, August 17 through Saturday, August 20, 2005 so clear those dates on your calendar and make your reservations early. The site of the reunion will be the Radisson 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 Radisson Hotel at Opryland, 2401 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214. (615) 889-0800 or (800) 333-333 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, Tennessee 37214 (615) 367-4570 (615) 430.3622



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

No Submission



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Mike Martin



BY: Mike Martin

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

The raindrops that fell on the roof during the night sounded like the tapping of a conductor's baton before an opera begins—I'm writing this at the table conveniently near the door of the kitchen; narrow framed windows let in only a thin slice of gray early dawn light. Sitting in silence, listening to the rain,

I have allowed tea poured from a green porcelain pot to become cold...like most old soldiers' my thoughts run the gamut of my military mind, like shadows emerging from low-running ridgelines just before dusk, but this is the moment when all such opiates wear off....

In this interlude of meandering reminiscence, I will render an **INTSUM** on the eve of the Year of the Rooster, 2005. Tet, or the Vietnamese New Year, is on February 9th this year; Tet does not fall on the same day every year in the



solar calendar.

For most Vietnam veterans, "Tet" recall the Tet Offensive of 1968, but for the Vietnamese it is the most celebrated traditional festival. Tet (Tet Nguyen Dan) means Festival of the First Morning of the year, which falls between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox—it is similar to the Chinese New Year.

Many of the Vietnamese Rangers (BDQ) will take part in city parades in Los Angeles, San Jose and Houston, also festivities in Atlanta and other major cities. The sounds of firecrackers will prevail in the place of incoming rounds as was the case in 1968.

BIET DONG QUAN after APRIL 30-1975

With our 30 Year Remembrance reunion (Phoenix, Arizona) on

30 April-1 May 2005, I have taken this opportunity to provide an insight into the epoch of captivity endured by most of our Biet Dong Quan brothers in the reeducation camps after the fall of Saigon in 1975, with excerpts from the Maroon Berets publication and Prisoner Steps, Chanh-Trung; roughly translated by Hieu D. Vu;

In the final days of South Vietnam, the City of Saigon was defended by at least three Ranger groups, the last and the

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)



Ranger John Quinn with the 203 Company of the ARVN 20th Special (Ranger) Battalion, November, 1962; Quinn was the Senior Advisor, he retired as a Major General. The CO, LT Tam is on his right and the ISG, Tdu, is on his left.

largest fighting force of the Republic of South Vietnam. With Major General Do-Ke-Giai, commander of the Rangers, still in his office the Rangers fought gallantly “side by side” and held their positions until they received orders to lay down their arms. It was around noon 30 April 1975.

The Rangers had done their duty—to the end—for the country, and as a result ended up in the reeducation camps (so called by the communists, actually they were forced labor camps) as the largest military group and they served longer internment time, compared with internees from other branches of the RVN Armed Forces.

One Ranger used his skill as a barber to gain access into sections of the camps to find other Rangers. When he found Major Tran thanh Thuan, a former ranger who later became a commander of a Regional Force battalion he asked:

“Are there any of our Rangers’ here?
I’m checking for who is absent! Present too....

Major General Do Ke Giai is probably in the area for generals. The colonels are all here...Kiet, Truong, Lieu, etc., and the lieutenant colonels are here; I’m still checking, very few escaped.”

One day, while walking past the section for colonels, he saw

an old gray haired man in a black uniform, with a trash container in one hand and a broom in the other; he was sweeping the floor. He recognized the old man immediately, Brigadier General

Phan Xuan Nhuan, former commander of the Rangers and the 1st Infantry Division: “General, I am Sy, the security officer of the Ranger High Command.

Ah, Ah! I remember, you are still in good shape.

Why are you here? Where are ‘Our Generals’?

You don’t remember, I was degraded and forced into retirement, so I had to report with the colonels. They make me do all the dirty work.

Where are ‘Our Generals’? Are they dead?

Some are here, some committed suicide. For your info: Colonel Ho Ngoc Can, the provincial chief of Chuong Thien Province was killed. He was a former Ranger Battalion Commander; a brave and heroic man, he fought until the last minutes in his provincial compound. Captured, then executed... ‘They’ tied a rope around his neck and onto a jeep, then pulled his body around the town. Finally they let his wife bury him.”

One Ranger from the 5th Recon Ranger Company, 5th Ranger Group, recalled his memory while serving his time in the camp. I felt pain in my heart to think of Major Tran Dinh Tu (CO of the 38th Ranger Battalion, he refused to lay down his arms, fighting until he ran out of ammunition then, executed by the enemy with his own bayonet) and other Rangers who died on the last fighting day...even I knew that every war must come to an end!



“Living off the Land”... Rangers from the 20th Battalion, December, 1962, display their prowess in survival with a pig’s head and a full plumage rooster.



SFC McQueen with bed roll on the right, and the 20th Ranger BN Commander, CPT Hanh is on his right with raised arm, December, 1962. Captain Vo Huu Hanh was killed in action as a Colonel in 1975 near Ban Me Thuot. His whole adult life was combat; his young son was called “Ranger Man”.

Surprised to see one another in the concentration camps, but this time not in their woodland uniforms and without their maroon berets. Meeting old comrades, looking at each other, feeling pain; thinking of a future that seemed doom. At first they met comrades from the same Group, then in the same Military Region

(Corps), later Rangers came from everywhere, even from the Ranger High Command, the training centers, and the border ranger battalions.

As during the war, the Rangers in the reeducation camps depended on one another for survival. They shared everything—a banana, a handful of cooked rice, a tea spoon

of sugar; even cigarette butts. The Rangers looked after each other as brothers...one would give a part of his ration for another Ranger who was weak or sick, unable to go work in the fields. The hunger played a vital part in the camps but we didn’t bow our heads in front of the victors or compromised our comrades or others for favors and food. I never forgot my group commander, LTC Le Bao Toan when he hid a pineapple

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)



Comrades in Arms: Major General Giai Ke Do, the last Commander of the Vietnamese Rangers, spent 17 years in a Communist reeducation camp, (at right) confers with another old soldier.

inside his shirt and gave it to me when we were serving in the Nam Ha Camp (North Vietnam). The value of a gift so small as a fist but his heart was as big as a mountain.

There was not much the Rangers could do while in the hands of the enemy, but they continued to fight with their spirit. Some Rangers in the camps tried to escape: Captain Nguyen Ngoc Cuong —Company Commander, 51st Ranger Battalion—made an escape and made it to a refugee camp in Malaysia. LTC Hoa, commander of the 35th battalion tried with others but failed; because of his size and bearing, he was vigorously beaten. Major Vuong Mong Long, former commander of the 82nd battalion and well known as a Ranger, tried four times to escape. Each time he was caught, he was beaten severely breaking his ribs. First Lieutenant Mai Van Tong was recapture, beaten and placed in isolation underground; his comrades from the 22nd Ranger Group—Dai and Kiet sneaked food to him. LTC Tong Viet Lac former commander of the 6th Ranger Group was caught while attempting to escape...the guards locked him in a connex container until the 26th of June 1976, when he was handcuffed and transported with other internees to North Vietnam by ship.

On the trip to North Vietnam, the internees were compressed, 500 men in one compartment 35x20 meters at the bottom of the ship. LTC Dinh of the

Marines died on the ship.

The Ranger spirit paid off, most of them survived the painful, gut wrenching experience of the Forced Labor Camps. Their Ranger spirit continued in America and other countries they moved to; they stuck together and formed associations for reunification and support of newly arrived ranger families. They also collect money to help disable Rangers and those who still live in Vietnam. The Ranger Associations contribute to a great part in all activities in the Vietnamese communities across the United States.

SICK CALL

Several of our Co Vans have had some health problems and some required

operations; they include: Rangers' Bobby Jackson, Willard Langdon, Roy Davidson, Rod Wijas, and Tex Wandke. We thank General Scholes and General Woodall and all who showed concern and support for these warriors....

BDQ REUNION

The camaraderie of the Co Vans and the BDQs will be evident at our "get together" in Phoenix (Arizona) on 30 April and 1 May 05; reflections of the reunion will be in the next issue of Patrolling. Many of you have responded to the invitations...if you failed to receive one you may call me or Mr Bui Lam at 1-888-829-4145. This 30th Year Remembrance reunion may well be the last chance that we have to celebrate our support and gratitude for each other, "We" the brotherhood of the Biet Dong Quan....

CONTEMPLATIONS

Insurrection is a machine that makes no noise.

...TROTSKY

There is no hunting like the hunting of man, and those who have hunted armed men long enough and like it, never care for anything else thereafter.

...Ernest Hemingway

The mouse dreams dreams that would terrify the cat.

...Old Armenian Proverb

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

Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit Director



Ranger Bobby Jackson greeting Rangers at a BDQ reunion in Texas.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Smyers

TRUE STORY

This is a true story as it happened to me and God is my witness. For anyone to accept it as truth would be to accept that I am one of integrity, or perhaps full of hogwash. However if one looks closely one would see a terrific display of God's work. Well, here we go. One morning in 1999, I was out on my patio having coffee and I noticed a mother duck with several half-grown ducklings following behind her and one appeared to be having trouble keeping up with the rest. Taking a closer look I saw the problem; the duckling had a broken leg and was barely able to hobble along, but try it did. This was a very sad scene and I wanted to help it or it might not survive. Now we all know wild ducks tend to be very skeptical of humans and four legged animals. Remember that God said in the Bible he cared about all his creation, humans and beasts (the word beast is inclusive of all wild life) of the field. His Word goes on to say that we all breathe the same air and all will one day return to the dust of the earth. Being alone, I called out to God saying; "God, when I catch the duckling, will you cause it to be calm and cooperative?" After this I caught the duckling and took it in on the patio. It was already calm and I laid it on the table on its side, and slowly moved my hands away and it lay perfectly still! I went in the garage and got DUCT TAPE. Yes, man's favorite "fix-it-all"—duct tape. When I came out the duckling was still lying where I had left her. Thus I went to work making the splint and she never moved, but remained perfectly still throughout the ordeal. Having done what I could, I took the duckling back to her family. Occasionally I would see the family and the injured one was showing improvement. Still limping, but keeping up pretty good. Several weeks passed and I had not seen the ducks nor had I given it any thought. Then one evening Wanda and I were sitting at the dinner table and we heard a quiet knock on the door. I got up to see who it was. When I opened the door I could not believe my eyes! It was the duckling! Now a full-grown duck, it was her pecking on the door that had sounded like a knock. She was standing on the second step quacking, as if to greet me. I said: "Wanda, you are not going to believe this, it is the duckling I helped weeks ago." I was able to identify her because she still had some duct tape around her leg. I went to the patio and opened the door, and without hesitation she came, showing no fear whatsoever. I was able to remove the duct tape without a squabble. It was like we were old friends. Being the softy I am, I crumbled up some bread for her to eat. This was not to be the end of our relationship. Everyday she would come and I would let her on the patio to eat and visit. Her beak was always moving as if she was talking to me. When she did this, I notice she always looked up at me. Often when I took a walk she followed along behind me, moving her beak and at times she would quack. Neighbors saw this and would say: "That duck acts like it's talking to you." I told them the story. Some would laugh and others showed a quiet interest. The duck hung around my house everyday until about dusk, then it went off to be with the other ducks for the night. Come morning she'd be right back pecking on the door and if I did not come to the front door, she would go around and peck on the back bedroom door. How she knew I was still in bed and how she knew where I was in the house, is still a mystery to me. This went on for about a year. Then one day she came and was acting sickly and I could only ask God to heal her. I could not get her to eat and the life I had seen in her seemed to be gone. She just stood, kind of hunkered over, in total silence. This went on for about three days and then she never came again. Later I found out why? A person in the neighborhood had been poisoning the ducks, and mine had fallen victim. Many people laugh at this story because it sounds so unreal, but it happened. Her life and my actions serve as a lesson of how God brought a human and a fowl from the air together to show his unconditional love through me. I was able to feel for the duckling and considered not that it was a duck or a human, but that it needed help. Faith was shown as I called to God for help to do what I could not do—cause the duck to be calm. It was a test of my faith to see if God would concern himself in such matters, and he did. I am sure he wants those reading this story to recognize God's love for all creation. In His Word he says he sees every lowly sparrow fall to the earth. If He is this concerned for a lowly sparrow, how much more he must care for us. Truly we saw prayer answered. God honored his promise to hear and respond. We also saw the later prayer for her healing not answered. Why? Only God knows. I do know he has a plan for all our lives. Just maybe he was testing my faith as to how I would react when confronted with this type situation. He did honor me for my part by having the duck return later, as a show of thanks. "Love your neighbor as yourself." The duck was in a sense my neighbor and had a need. Thanks for letting me share.

Bob Smyers, Chaplain for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association

T A P S

SSG Stanley W. Borusiewicz Sr

From: Michael McKenney, CT Coordinator

It is with a heavy heart and pen that I write to inform the Ranger Community that it has lost one of its own. SSG Stanley W. Borusiewicz Sr., 1st Ranger Company, Korean War died October 18th, 2004 in Naugatuck Connecticut. Stanley was born on November 30th, 1932, in New York City. He worked at State Cutters and Grinders UniRoyal Inc. until he retired. SSG Borusiewicz was a Korean War Veteran having served with 1st Ranger Company, 82nd Airborne, 187th Reg. Combat Team, and 2nd Inf. Division. He

was a member of the CT National Guard, a Life Member of the VFW Crusader Post 1946, The D.A.V. Chapter # 11, The Infantry Companies of Korea and the American Legion Post 200. Stanley Jr. delivered the eulogy at his father's funeral with touching and humorous stories about his military life. At the wake he told me a story about his father; When asked by his commander why he had stayed so long in Korea he said "Well I have seen my friends come and go but no one every asked me if I wanted to go home, so I just stayed Sir." I did not have the pleasure of meeting SSG Borusiewicz before he passed away, but on

numerous occasions I met his son and family. I, along with 3 other Connecticut Rangers, paid our respects in the capacity of honor guard. With the help of the Ranger Association and Bob Black, I was able to present SSG Borusiewicz's Black Beret on behalf of the Ranger community to his family as I presented them the American Flag. This was a great personal honor. Thank you to all who made that moment possible. So when you do your pushups tonight gentlemen, do an extra one for SSG Stanley W. Borusiewicz Sr, 1st Ranger Company, Airborne Ranger in the sky.

In Memory of CSM (Ret.) Russell Keith Hawk Jr. "Rusty"

August 21, 1949 to December 15, 2004;
Born - Long Beach California

Lord, those of us who knew Rusty are so thankful you allowed us to be graced by his being among them. He was a Warrior, with D. Co. 151st LRRP's & D. Co. 75th Rangers. All Glory belongs to you Lord, but you said; Honor is due where Honor is due; Help us never to forget, nor allow others to forget warriors like Rusty Hawk. He is survived by his dad, Keith Hawk Sr.; step-mom, Betty Hawk; and brother, Joe Hawk and wife Lou Hawk; sons Matthew and Shane Hawk; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.



Rusty was a member of the famed Long Range Patrol Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment with lineage back to the Merrill Marauders. Men of this unit were loved and respected by others outside the unit, but also a little envied. All would like to wear the uniform that depicted one who was either a little crazy or had guts of steel. I would prefer to say we had guts of steel, courage, commitment {to get the mission accomplished no matter what, and unbelievable bravery and a love for our fellow Rangers.

He now is where all Rangers go. May the road rise to meet you; May the wind be always at your back; May the sun shine warm upon your back; May the rain fall soft upon your path, and until we meet again my friend, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

You didn't deserve what you went through brother, and so He gave you rest, God's garden must be beautiful, He only takes the best. And when I saw you sleeping so peaceful and free from pain, I could not wish you back to suffer that again.

Rest in Peace Rusty forever more,

Your Brother and Friend Bear

Some of Rusty's military awards were Silver Star, 3 Bronze Stars with V device, 4 Army Commendation Medals with V device, Combat Infantryman Badge, Air



Rusty Hawk – Vietnam – 1968, 69, 70. D Co, 151 LRRP, D Co, 75th INF,(Ranger).

Medal and numerous others. Rusty was buried with full and complete military honors. Firing detail consisted of Daniel Hawk, Jeff Lundblad and Howard Brown, Ray Weeler-Rangers Dave Capik, Mikel Gaylor and Bear Papp.

One last thing to say, the whole community of Davis Creek poured out respect and love for this honorable man-Thank you. A big thank you to Ginger and Dave Capik for all they did and their gracious hospitality.

MAY GOD GRANT THIS RANGER

TAPS (CONTINUED)



Dave Capik, Speedy Gonzales, Earl B. Hanson, Bear Papp & Ray Wheeler. Foreground: Rusty's Bike.



Shane, Lou & Rusty Hawk, Reunion 1998 at Ft Benning, GA.

THE PEACE OF ONE WHO HAS
SERVED HIS COUNTRY FAITHFULLY
AND WELL.



Rusty Hawk on his property, December 1, 2004.

Carlos (Loco) Sepulveda

February 2, 2005, in Annaheim, CA. A longtime school administrator, lawyer and champion of Hispanic studies, Mr. Sepulveda was a member of C Co., 75th INF, (Ranger). You were always there when someone needed help or words of guidance. You took me in as your family. You are my best friend and brother, and you will be missed by many. It has been an honor to share these adventures with you over the years. We will always be the Three Amigos. Time is a blink of the eye, see you soon.

Smokey Wells
USSOCOM Rep



*Jesus Peralta, Smokey Wells, Carlos (Loco) Sepulveda
Photo taken in Bong Son, Vietnam, 1992*

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS



The Dead End Kids

These tough veterans claimed they volunteered for Merrill's Marauders to get back home from the Pacific. But they found themselves instead killing more Japs in Burma and liking it.

**By Sgt. DAVE RICHARDSON - YANK
Staff Correspondent
(from Yank the Army Weekly British
Edition Vol 3. No. 3) July 2 1944**

Things were a little too quiet, even for a Sunday. After all, there should have been some fireworks by now, considering that part of the Jap 18th Division was dug in on one side of the muddy 40-foot-wide Nambyu River and our unit of Merrill's Marauders was on the other.

"Looks to me," observed a BAR man as he stripped his gun for cleaning, "like the lull before the storm. The Japs won't take this lying down." He didn't know how right he was.

The Marauders had just completed a 75-mile end run around enemy positions in the Hukawng Valley and now our unit was only 200 yards from Walawbum. We had met only small resistance from Jap patrols during our march. But surely the Japs would stand and fight us here. The native village of Walawbum was the bottleneck through which all supplies had to flow to their front-line troops, 15 miles to the north.

Across the river from us was a pretty tough bunch of Japs. We could hear their trucks pulling up, and every once in a while we could spot a few of them for a fleeting instant as we moved through the dense jungle. These were the Japs who had smashed their way into Singapore two years before and now had succeeded in slowing the Chinese drive down this valley to a measly 10-mile gain in the last month. They were fighting a stubborn delaying action from well-chosen positions, falling back from foxhole to foxhole, pillbox to pillbox.

On our side of the river were some Marauders known as the Dead End Kids. This was an appropriate nickname for this unit of Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill's volunteer American raiders. They had already fought the Japs in the jungles of Guadalcanal, New Guinea and New Georgia. They had joined the Marauders after President Roosevelt had issued a call to their outfits for volunteers for an "extremely hazardous" jungle fighting mission in another theater.

"Most of us guys volunteered," one of them explained,

"because we figured we might get back to the States for training first. We had all been overseas 18 to 24 months at that time and we wanted to get home. Don't get the idea that we volunteered just because we were itching to fight the Japs again."

I would have believed that statement if I hadn't heard Brig. Gen. Merrill say, a few hours earlier, that the Dead End Kids had been begging all day for permission to attack Walawbum. And if I hadn't come to know them in training camp.

The-Dead End Kids wound up in India for training instead of in the States. At Christmas time they went AWOL in droves, popping up in several Indian cities to spend wads of dough that had been useless during their months in the Pacific jungles. When they returned to camp, broke but happy, they were reduced to privates. But they didn't give a damn.

They hated the GI routine of garrison life, standing formations and inspections, shooting on the ranges and going on field problems. They broke the monotony by disappearing alone into the woods and shooting deer, then bringing back the venison for a change of chow.

On training problems with other Marauder units, most of whom were proud of their preparation for combat in the jungles of Panama, Trinidad, or Puerto Rico, the Dead End Kids confused and harassed their make-believe enemy with screwball tactics they had picked up while fighting the Japs. At night they would sit around their tents and bitch about "parade-ground soldiering" or reminisce about their fighting exploits.

"Combat," as one of them put it, seems to seduce a guy. He's scared as hell while he's in it, but get him back in garrison and he'll start longing for those foxholes and shellings and bombings."

This Sunday afternoon the Dead End Kids had patrols out across the river to the north and south of Walawbum. As the patrols returned, they reported that the Japs were digging artillery and mortars into position and bringing up truckloads of men and ammunition from the south.

But the night was just as peaceful as the day had been. Next morning at 0930 hours, Sgt. Andrew B. Pung of Maiden, Mass., a mortar observer, shinnied up a tree to a perch 40 feet above the river from which he could look down across a grassy clearing on the other bank.

Pung had a walkie-talkie radio with him. Soon he reported seeing some telephone wires and several emplacements at the edge of the grassy clearing. Then his routine report changed to an excited one. He forgot all about radio etiquette. "Listen, he blurted into the microphone, There's a bunch of Japs coming out of the jungle and into this grass across the river. A big bunch. Get ready for an attack. I'll tell you when they're near enough to open fire."

The Dead End Kids jumped into their holes all along the riverbank. Bullets were clicked into chambers and machine-

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS (CONTINUED)

gun bolts pulled back twice to cock them. Pung sent firing data to the mortars as crews ripped open shell cases. Minutes ticked by. There was a tense silence.

GIVE it to em, yelled Pung from his perch. The Japs had crossed the clearing to within 35 yards of the opposite riverbank. They were now in plain sight. Machine guns, BARB, mortars and rifles opened up in a deafening deluge of fire. Shrieks and yells came back from the field. Then the Japs began returning the fire. Their 90-mm mortar shells soared over the river and burst in trees behind the Dead End Kids. Shrapnel and bullets hummed through the brush.

Up in the tree some of the lead knocked off Pung's canteen and splattered all around him. He dropped the walkie-talkie and shinnied down.

The Dead End Kids were dug in on a bluff along the riverbank, a couple of dozen feet higher than the grassy clearing on the opposite bank where the Japs were advancing in spread-out skirmisher formation. This high ground was natural cover; the Japs were firing into the bluff or high over the Marauders' heads. The Americans just lay in their holes and blasted away.

Wave after wave of Japs poured out of the jungle and into the clearing, running and diving and creeping and crawling. Many of them carried machine guns and ammunition boxes. Some, probably the officers and noncoms, yelled "Susume! Susume!" which means "advance." Others shrieked "Banzai," the familiar battle cry.

In a few minutes Jap bodies lay sprawled on the field in little bunches. The Dead End Kids could hear the wounded crying and moaning. But the Japs kept coming, at least a company of them.

The Dead End Kids were happy. They yelled at their machine gunners and BAR men to "Mow down that bunch over there boy!" and then shouted "Atta boy," as they concentrated their rifle fire on single targets. Pfc. George Fisher Jr of Napoleon, Ohio, spit a gob of tobacco juice every time his M1 got a Jap.

"Those little bastards must think we're amateurs at this jungle-fighting stuff," grinned 1st Lt. Victor J. (Able) Weingartner of St. Albans N. Y., commanding the platoon in the center of the American positions along the riverbank. "Banzai charges might have terrified the civilians in Singapore, but they're nothing but good moving target practice for us."

Lt. Weingartner was considered one of the most daring leaders of Dead End Kid patrols. Characteristically, he insisted on wearing into action the same dirty mechanic's cap that brought him through New Georgia unscathed, he willingly paid a \$100 fine for not wearing a helmet at the last showdown inspection before the Marauders started their 200-mile march into battle.

Half an hour after the Jap attack began, it halted abruptly. But the Dead End Kids knew that the Japs would try again.

Almost as soon as the attack ended. Jap artillery boomed several hundred yards back in the jungle. The shells whistled overhead and landed a half-mile behind the Americans, near a rice paddy. This field had been used in the previous two days as a landing area for Piper Cubs evacuating a few wounded, and as a dropping area for transport planes supplying the Marauders with rations and ammunition. Jap mortars threw a few shells into the American positions the rest of the morning.

In the afternoon the good news came that another unit of Marauders had thrown a road block on the main enemy supply route from Walawbum to the front. With Walawbum threatened by the Dead End Kids' position and with the supply route blocked, the stubborn Jap defenses 15 miles northward had collapsed. As the Japs streamed back to reinforce the Walawbum garrison, the Chinese began driving through to relieve the Marauders and make a large-scale attack. As a hit-and-run raider outfit. The Marauders were supposed to keep their positions only until relieved by Chinese divisions with the men, and large weapons needed to do the main attacking. The Chinese were expected within 24 hours.

But a lot could happen in 24 hours. The Dead End Kids cleaned their guns, opened more ammunition and placed men every three or four feet along the riverbank. While they worked they could hear the Japs digging, driving up more trucks full of men and ammunition and wheeling in their artillery closer.

At 1645 hours the broiling Burma sun had sunk low in the sky. It glared into the faces of the Dead End Kids as they kept their eyes focused on the field across the river. The attack would have to come from the field again because the terrain was unsuitable at other places along the river, where the banks were too high or the jungle too dense for a field of fire. And it came. Two Jap heavy machine guns hammered away like woodpeckers from the flanks of the field. Artillery and mortar fire increased. Knee mortars started clicking out grenades at close range.

The Japs really attacked this time. They came in waves that were wider and more frequent than the first attack. And they had better support from weapons of all kinds, placed nearer the river. In each wave were several two-man teams lugging heavy machine guns. As soon as one team was hit, another ran out and grabbed its gun, only to die within a few steps.

Again the machine gunners and BAR men did most of the killing for the Marauders. They raked each wave with fire. But the Japs surged on across the field until they fell. A few of them even reached the river before they were hit. but nobody crossed. This time there was at least a battalion of Japs attacking the Dead End Kids.

And this time the Japs were more accurate with their fire. Bullets sped only a few feet over the Americans heads. Practically every leaf and every tree was marked by the fire. Some of the stuff barely cleared the bank and did some

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS (CONTINUED)

damage. Bullets smashed two BAR magazines on the bank of the foxhole where T-5 Bernard Strasbaugh of Lewisburg, Kansas was stretched. Another bullet nicked his helmet. Strasbaugh was in the center of the attack, firing as fast as he could shove magazines into his weapon. When he spotted five Japs in a group running toward a dropped machine gun, he stood up, riddled them with fire and flopped down again. He hit the ground just soon enough to escape a burst of fire. "All a guy has to do to get a Purple Heart here is stand up for 10 seconds," he muttered.

Pfc. Clayton E. Hall of Strawn, Texas, had a close call at his machine gun on the right flank. A knee-mortar shell burst only three yards in front of him. Then two bullets pierced the water jacket on his gun. With his machine-gun corporal Joseph Diorio of Cleveland, Ohio, Hall managed to keep the gun going by pouring water into the jacket from every available canteen. He burned his hands on the red-hot jacket doing it, but the gun fired 4,000 rounds in 45 minutes.

Back at the Dead End Kids' CP, Maj. L. L. Lew of Baker, Oregon, the unit commander, received a message saying that the Chinese would relieve his unit around midnight. It was then 1730 hours.

The Dead End Kids were running low on ammunition. Men started shouting back and forth above the din "Hey, you got a spare clip of M1?" From the left flank came a request for every available hand grenade. A unit there, commanded by Maj. Edwin J. Briggs of La Grande, Arizona, was being attacked by Japs who had infiltrated through the jungles from the south.

As ammunition ran out, the tension increased. Dusk turned to darkness, but the Jeeps still fired furiously and attacked fanatically. Their bullet riddled bodies littered the field from the edge of the jungle to the river. The wounded screamed.

Then, as suddenly as the morning attack had ceased, the dusk battle halted. Both sides stopped firing. The silence was broken by a Dead End Kid who rose to his feet on the river bank, cupped his hands to his mouth and yelled: "Come on, you little bastards. Come and get your lead!"

A Jap yelled back. The tension was broken. To a man? the Dead End Kids scrambled to their feet, stood along the riverbank and shouted cuss words at the Japs. From the other bank came only a few bursts of light machine-gun fire. The Japs, too, must have run out of ammunition.

Now they removed their wounded from the field in the dark. The Americans could hear the wooden sound of litters being carried through the brush and the terrifying cries of the wounded as they disappeared in the jungle.

Among the Dead End Kids, thanks to the natural protection of the high riverbank and to the dug-in emplacements, there had been only three casualties all day. But several pack mules, which carried mortars, radios and ammunition, had been wounded or killed by mortar shells.

The little remaining ammunition was doled out equally. A patrol from Maj. Briggs' outfit south of the Dead End Kids brought up some more BAR and machine-gun ammunition.

At 2000 hours T/Sgt. Jim Ballard of Spokane, Wash., chief of the unit radio section, entered the perimeter, leading a mule pack train loaded with all kinds of ammunition. He had tried to contact Brig. Gen. Merrill's CP early in the attack, but couldn't get it on the radio. So he had taken Maj. Lew's message requesting more ammunition and run back four miles to another Marauder unit over a dark trail flanked by Jap patrols and through Jap shelling part of the way. He brought back the ammunition mule train through an even more severe shelling.

The hours dragged on and a heavy fog set in. A few Japs had sneaked across the river and were booby trapping trails in the vicinity. Across the river the Japs seemed to be getting reinforcements and ammunition again for another attack.

While some of the men peered through the mist at the field across the river, others dozed off in their foxholes, with their heads propped on horseshoe-type packs. The Dead End Kids weren't cocky or swaggering tonight: they were exhausted from the tension of the two attacks.

Finally the expected message came: "Withdraw at 0200 hours to join Marauder CP. Chinese are taking over your position."

The weary Dead End Kids put on their packs and moved silently Indian-file out of their perimeter with their pack mules.

A little way down the trail another column passed the Americans, going in the opposite direction. It was the Chinese.

Megwaw, ting hao' they grinned as they plodded past the Dead End Kids. They meant: "Americans are okay." A Chinese divisional commander later put it another way: "Your unit," he said: "made it possible for us to gain more ground in one week than we covered all last month."

One of the Dead End Kids, after returning the Chinese greeting, turned and said to the man behind him: "You know, I could almost kiss those guys, they look so good to me now." He wasn't the only one who felt that way.

Next morning an official report reached Merrill's Marauders that one of their units, as the first American infantrymen to fight a battle on the continent of Asia, had left 800 Japanese dead on the field near Walawbum.

Hearing this, a cocky, swaggering bunch of Americans swung along the jungle trail toward an area where they could rest for two days before going on another mission behind Jap lines. The Dead End Kids were back in their element.

From the Merrill's Marauders website with permission of Phil Piazza



RBA's 2004 Reunion in Fort Wayne, IN was a great success with more than 100 WWII Rangers attending amid a total attendance in excess of 300 persons, including several Ranger veterans of Korea, Viet Nam, and the Gulf War.

The 2005 RBA Reunion will be in Phoenix, AZ the last week of October. Rangers of all eras are invited to join with us at their pleasure. For details, contact RBA Secretary Tom Herring at 8205 Tifton Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226 or email: teh5rgr@aol.com.

RBA's ranks continue to wilt from deaths at advanced ages - as are all WWII veterans. Those still remaining continue to join in the camaraderie as they can. The RBA roster still includes more than 1200 WWII Rangers who maintain periodic contact. - Tom Herring

The 3rd Ranger Battalion

Activated 25 May 1943 Inactivated 15 Aug 1944

At the end of it's small part in the Tunisian Campaign in late April 1943, the 1st Ranger Battalion entrained for Nemours, a tiny coastal port near the Western boundary of Algeria with French Morocco, and there, with volunteers from units then in North Africa, formed the Third, Fourth and reconstituted First Ranger Battalions under Colonel William Orlando Darby. The Third, cadred by A and B of the Old First, was led by Herman Dammer who had the legs and stamina of a Bactrian camel.

It opened Sicilian doors for Truscott's 3rd Division from Licata West to near Marsala. During this phase, the Battalion accounted for thrice its numbers in enemy casualties, at small cost to itself.

At one point, the Battalion topped a ridge to look down upon the left flank of a medium artillery battalion firing at elements of the Third Division. At once, the mortar squads set up and waited for orders to fire... and waited. And the more they waited, the more pissed off they became, having toted their abominable loads over endless mountains in Sicilian summer heat. Finally, one of the less-disciplined gunners let one "slip". Thereupon the other squads loosed ranging shots also, one of which hit the Italian artillery ammunition, detonating it with a horrendous roar, completely destroying the enemy unit (each gunner claimed it was "his" round that lit the dump). Shortly afterwards, as half the battalion advanced in extended order down a wide clear slope, an enemy convoy of trucks, cars, armored vehicles, and motorcycles came tearing along a metaled road which bisected the slope, and at that instant, had Rangers on either side of it. Most of the enemy column was brought to the ground.

Bypassing Agrigento, the Battalion continued in extended order all the way to Porto Empedocle, disposing of weak opposition here and there along the way. Here it met its first German opposition and took a hundred Germans, along with nearly a thousand Italian prisoners. Immediately after its occupation of the port, it came under the fire of "The Philly", the cruiser USS Philadelphia. Spelling out "USA" and "Yank" with barrels and bales on the docks, men of the Third coaxed Philly's spotter plane to the surface of the harbor, where it provided Colonel Dammer with a flight to the ship, and a longboat full of welcome Navy chow.

After nominal actions through Sciacia and Marsala, the Third joined the First and Fourth for rest and refit near the small town of Corleone which, although unknown to the Rangers then, subsequently became known to all as the nerve center of the Mafia.

Within a few days, a call came to Darby from the Third Division's General Truscott, for a battalion to secure his right flank as he fought up the North shore towards Messina. Offered the better rested First, Truscott demurred and specified the Third. The battalion then, with the aid of newly issued mules, toiled over the mountainous terrain all the way to Messina and entered that city, among the first of the Allies to do so, beating Montgomery, who was coming up the East shore, by a couple of days.

Now, it was back to Corleone, to prep for Salerno, where the Third, as part of Ranger Force, followed the Fourth and First into the beach at Maiori, on the extreme left flank of the main Allied forces at Salerno. The First and Third went quickly through the town and 12K up the road to Chiunzi Pass. The leading elements of the First left the road two thirds of the way, to occupy the heights dominated by Monte St. Angelo (1200m). The Third occupied Chiunzi Pass and the ridges to either side overlooking the main road from Naples to Salerno. The Rangers were the only units of the invading force which attained their initial objectives. This was

The 2nd Ranger Battalion (CONTINUED)

because the Germans had taken over the Italian defenses, and fiercely contested the landings, at Salerno and Vietri sul Mare, against the U.S. Corps under General Dawley, the British Corps under General McCreery, and Two Commandos at Vietri. Opposition was such that, Mark Clark, commanding General of the 5th Army, contemplated withdrawal after the fourth day. Arguably, such may have happened except for the highly successful Ranger operation, which interdicted enemy travel on the principal road from Naples to Salerno.

The first to arrive at the Pass stood on a graveled shelf, gasping equally from the ascent and from the startling sight of a fire pulsing high up and far away in the dark. At dawn, the fire dims, and through the mist, a great mountain rises from the plain. It's the massive bulk of il Vesuvio erupting fire, smoke and ash as he's done since long before Etruscans, Greeks, Romans, and Italians peopled his slopes, and whom he's oft entertained with spectacular pyrotechnics. From time to time, he's gassed, suffocated, incinerated, and buried them. On September 9, 1943, he again has the stage! Brilliant beacon for the Luftwaffe, Allied bombers, and aiming point for the guns of the great fleet of warships accompanying the transports and landing craft riding calm seas off Salerno, and about to deposit 140,000 men upon the Continent.

With the Rangers was a unit of 4.2 Chemical mortars and both field artillery and Naval artillery observers. With the Plain of Naples, the main road curving along the narrow valley, through Pagani, Nocera Inferiore, Nocera Superiore, Cava, and around the feet of Monte Chiunzi and St. Angelo, in plain view, the Rangers and their observers directed mortar and Naval fire upon the roads from the first day, aided in no small measure by the initiative of Corporal Fox. Willie, on his own initiative, descended into Nocera, contacted demoralized Italians and obtained maps showing significant targets for gunfire. For the daylight hours, that road was "Closed". The Herman Goering division, charged with that flank, tried time after time to breach the thin Ranger lines spread over miles of ridges, but were defeated by the stubborn defenders which included, after a time, Paratroops and a 36th Division combat team. When the main Allied breakout occurred, it came through the Ranger positions, contrary to and much later than called for in the invasion plan.

The pass included a two-story farmhouse built right into the West wall of the Pass, with two of its exterior walls being part of the mountain's solid limestone. It eventually proved impervious to direct hits and sheltered quite effectively the forward HQ of The Force, a principal OP, and the aid station attended by Doc Shuster. Late in this action, Sergeant-Major Scotty Munro answered the phone, "Fort Shuster!" It remains so to those of the Third Battalion to this day.

After rest and refit in Naples and elsewhere, the Third joined the others, already in action on the Volturno, and against prepared German positions in greatly advantageous defensive emplacements in the mountains. The Rangers suffered many casualties during these mountain advances, and in late November, were sent back to Pozzuoli (near Naples) to refit and train for the landing at Anzio. In mid-January, the Rangers landed against opposition at Anzio. After some nine days fighting, increasing opposition on the forward line of the beachhead, they were assembled for an infiltration to Cisterna di Littorio. The First and Third went through the German lines in single files on either side of the stream in the Pontano ditch, a part of the drainage system of the Pontine marshes which stretch northerly from Anzio to the Alban hills. Shortly before they attained Cisterna, the First and Third met their end, the same aided by a strange fortune! The Pontano ditch was designated by Kesserling, the German commander, as the dividing line between two divisions, which arrived at the front during the evening before the Ranger attempts on Cisterna. When the forces collided, the Rangers were mostly in two long files, dictated by the travel up the ditch, and had difficulty in assembling effectively. Major Alvah Miller, the Third commander was killed with the first shot, and the commander of the First disabled soon after. It gradually became clear that they were surrounded by vastly superior forces, and after a fight lasting late in the day, were finally cut in pieces, all attempts at aid (from the Fourth Battalion and the Third Division) failing.

Epilogue:

Revisionist historians, most in swaddling clothes when Rangers' ramps went down, and who, obviously plagiarizing one another, state that the Rangers were ambushed at Cisterna. Certainly that Kraut shouting fire orders to his battery as the Rangers stole past did not know such a trap was to be sprung. It is safe to conclude also that the hundreds of bivouaced Krauts just rolling out of their blankets at the first shots, as Rangers sprang shooting from the ditch, were ignorant of such an elaborate and clever plan. And if it were an ambush, how come it took all day for two divisions to cream about seven hundred? No, Carlo D'Estes got it right; the two divisions moving in the night before, dictated the result without any divination by the Krauts of the intended Ranger infiltration. Likewise, a British writer suggests— preposterously! Darby stopped short of his objective— Pagani— at Chiunzi. The documentation shows conclusively that Darby's assigned objectives were those reached before daylight! To have continued to Pagani or Nocera would have been asinine and at odds with the whole purpose of the planned operations centered at Chiunzi Pass. Moreover, an analysis of this writer's reasons for his conclusions demonstrates a gross deficiency in map reading, stating critical heights and distances (as between the Pass and Nocera, for instance) wrongly by a factor of minus three, and quite ignores the significance of the rugged terrain between the Pass and Nocera demonstrated by the differences in the airline and road distance—one mile to 13 miles. - *Contributed by Carl Harrison Lehmann 1st & 3rd Battalion*

From the RBA website with permission Tom Herring, Association Secretary



By Ranger Bob Black

The Ranger Monument at Fort Benning is a significant accomplishment at a location that since 1950 has been centerpiece of Ranger activities. For 55 years Fort Benning has been a homecoming for the American Ranger, but the history of the American Ranger dates to the early 1600's. The Ranger birthplace could be said to be the eastern forests of the early American colonial period. American Rangers fought six wars before the United States was formed.

From that beginning Ranger activities have come to be global in their scope. Our brotherhood fought and died coast to coast and around the world.

The National Cemetery at Arlington is the centerpiece of American military interment. Arlington is at our national capitol, the location of our unknown soldiers. It is a treasure of these United States. Many Rangers are buried at Arlington National Cemetery and many more are being interred there each year.

Some of us desire to construct a monument to the American Ranger at Arlington National Cemetery. An Arlington Monument would be a companion to the one at Benning. One is mostly seen by the Ranger community the other would be more visible to the American public.

What is the purpose of a monument? Obviously to have people remember. What people? Are we only interested in those who come to Fort Benning remembering? How many of our countrymen do that? Columbus, Georgia and Fort Benning are good communities but not significant on the national tourism scene. The problem has increased since 9-11 and the resultant difficulty of getting on military posts. The Benning Monument is a beautiful memorial that is seen by relatively few people and gets little publicity outside the Ranger Community.

All of us who are for the construction of an Arlington Monument support the one at Benning and we support the young Rangers on active duty. For example, the Korean War Rangers recently donated \$2,000.00 that the Ranger Regiment Association can use to purchase stones at the monument to commemorate those who lost their lives in Afghanistan or Iraq. Some years ago we raised \$20,000 and purchased the Regimental Bowl for our Regiment. We pay for awards for serving Rangers. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association donates \$500.00 to each Ranger Ball (Battalion and Regiment.) They give \$2,500 to each Battalion for Children's Christmas, contribute to monument stones, family travel for KIA/WIA, provide awards and much more. All Rangers Associations contribute. We are not under the control of any one on or off active duty at Fort Benning or Columbus. We contribute not because we have to but because we care.

Rangers are capable of having more than one expression of our service and sacrifice and we want to see a Ranger Monument at Arlington because we care.

Many major cities in these United States have a Holocaust Museum, though the genocide took place in Europe and the United States was not involved. There are a goodly number of copies of the Vietnam Memorial scattered about the country, North and South most towns have Civil War monuments and you can find monuments to the 17th Pennsylvania and the 7th Michigan Cavalry, the 23rd Ohio and many other Civil War units repeated on their battle fields.

Arlington National Cemetery is a special place to all Americans. There are many Rangers buried there including over 40 from the Korean War. Presidents go to Arlington and heads of state. Some four million visitors visit Arlington each year, more than go to Gettysburg Battlefield. There are tour mobiles and guides who lecture about the various monuments as they drive visitors about. An America Ranger monument at Arlington that outlines our service to America since the 1600's would give the American public a knowledge they do not now possess

I never imagined that the Ranger Black Beret would be taken. I did not believe that Fort Dix, New Jersey would be closed. Threats change, concepts change and military needs change. Though the Rangers existed since the early 1600's they have seldom been part of the active army in peacetime. The Ranger Regiment is expensive to maintain. There have always been those who believe that a well trained Infantry Regiment could do the job. Rangers know better, but the belief lingers and as we saw with the Black Beret, one Chief of Staff can make the change. Right now we have Rangers and Fort Benning and may for some time, but what about 25 years from now, 50 or 100 years from now. One hundred years is not even a grain of sand on the shore of history. There is no guarantee that protects Fort Benning from closure in the future. But they will not dig up the dead of Arlington and move them, that would be sacrilege

The reason for a Ranger Monument at Arlington is to honor our dead at the centerpiece of American remembrance. There are some who see an Arlington monument as a threat to the one at Benning. That is their privilege and it is their right not to participate, but this is an effort to honor our dead. It would be unseemly of any Ranger in or out of uniform to attempt to block our effort. If we fail it should not be because brother Rangers acted against us.



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*Must RSVP & Pay NLT 15May05

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HOUSTON OAKS (Country Club) – HOCKLEY, TX (25 mi W of Houston on HWY 290)

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101st Airborne Division Association Reunion

The 101st Airborne Division (Screaming Eagles) will hold its annual reunion from 10 to 14 August, 2005, in Tampa, FL, at the Double Tree Hotel. We will honor the Desert Storm Eagles.

For info: Contact Jim Joiner at (813) 645-8777; E-mail at mjoiner@aol.com or

Junglejim327@juno.com

Membership Information

A MEMBERSHIP YEAR in the association runs from 1 July this year to 30 June next year and the mailing label on your "Patrolling" will always reflect your dues status. For example if above your name on the label it says "0628 2004" it means your membership number is 0628 and your dues were paid through **30 June of 2004**. Annual dues are \$25 and you may pay them at any time during the membership year or if you want to pay ahead you can pay for multiple years. Check your address label now and see when your membership year ends. **WE WILL BE MAILING STATEMENTS THIS YEAR. EVEN IF YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER, YOU WILL GET A STATEMENT.** Life Membership is \$250 and can be paid by check in up to five monthly installments or by credit card. Mail your dues to: **75th Ranger Regt. Assoc., P. O. Box 10970, Baltimore, MD 21234**. If you have a question on your membership status you may contact me at that address, or email: john.chester3@verizon.net or call (410) 426-1391. The following have joined, rejoined, or became Life Members in the association since the last issue of "Patrolling".

LIFE MEMBERS

Robert Eppens	RGT	Grant S. Cooper	RGT
Roderick C. Weiss		James P Godbolt, Jr.	9 th Inf Div
John T. Ledbeater	B/75	Joseph F. Connolly II	BDQ
Kevin J. Gilbert	RGT	Donald L. Rucker	101 st Abn Div
Roy S. Dixon	4 th Inf Div	Stephen D. Mattoon	RGT
Steven O Woodson	1 st FFV	Tyrone V. Woods	101 st Abn Div

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Richard (Herd) Nelson	D75	Tad W. A. Richardson	RGT
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William D. Miller	BDQ	Daniel R. Brown	1 st Cav Div
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ACKERSON	GENE L.	101ST ABN DIV
BLANKENSHIP	JAMES	9TH INF DIV
GLEN (dau of J. Lutz)	KAREN	5TH MECH
FEE	KARL	BDQ
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HARTMERE	MICHAEL	VII CORPS
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These are the contributors as of the time the magazine went to print. Later contributors will be shown in later issues.

STATE ADVOCATE

Since the last issue of the Patrolling Magazine there has been a number of Rangers step forward and become state coordinators. Rosters should be in their hands in the next week with the names of their state membership. Thanks for stepping-up. However, there are still a number of states needing a state coordinator.

You know that each of us feels we won't require the support of the association for ourselves or our family. I wish this were true. Last month a 54 year old member died of a heart attack and each month other members are hospitalized and need words and acts of support. Present day Rangers in Iraq and Afghanistan depart their unit early with disabling injuries and some for making the supreme sacrifice. These proud Rangers need our support; a visit, heartfelt word of encouragement or even a phone call means so much coming from a fellow Ranger.

A state coordinator normally spends only a few hours or less a month arranging for local association members to visit needy Rangers and their families. In addition the state coordinator contacts state members to renew and recruit new membership into the association. Some state coordinators have extended efforts beyond these basic responsibilities by organizing color guards for official functions and funerals, held family membership get togethers and helped members file for VA benefits and disability.

Room in this Patrolling magazine issue is limited. So rather than provide a roster of state coordinator vacancies I'll just extend a request that you contact me;

Tom Gage, 1424 Francis Station Drive, Knoxville, TN 37909, (865) 693-3293, or thegages@comcast.net.

A Message from Connecticut State Coordinator Michael "Doc" McKenney - for issue March 2005

Rangers,

What an honor it is to represent the great state of Connecticut here in Patrolling. First let me tell you a bit about myself. I was a Combat Medic with 2/75 C Co from 95 – 97, the 250th FST from 97 – 98 both at Ft. Lewis, WA and with 4th RTB at Fort Benning from 98 – 2000. After an injury ended that fun I came home to Connecticut wondering what to do with all of this training that I had that wouldn't land me in jail in this tiny state that I had to make home again. After a few years of, how do I say this, figuring out my life, I plunged into the world of entrepreneurship and opened my own business of custom cabinetry and woodworking, something my grandfather and father puttered in and passed along that love to me. So welcome to the world of business loans, taxes, employees, advertising, and praying the phone rings. But so far so good. Vicki and I have been running strong with it for 2 ½ years now and although there are days when we each live on Tylenol, it's great. And when I get the itch to go play again, she is there to hit me on the side of the head and remind me that the electric bill is due on Monday and I need to get back to my radial arm saw.

Well, if you missed the Ranger Reunion in Tacoma in July, you missed a hell of a time. We did the quiet B&B thing the week before it. My other half had never been out west so I pulled out all the stops and had a blast. A helo ride into Mt. St. Helens was an event, and an expensive dinner at the Space Needle blew our minds, but the highlight of the trip was the jump I made with the VII Corps LLRPs. And I thought I did crazy stuff when I was in – those guys were nuts. What a great group of men - I can't wait to see them again. To Bill Hill, Kirk Gibson, Ted Knaak, Lee Sharon and their whole crew, CT Rangers send their regards. But the highlight to all who witnessed this was Ben Defoe's first solo jump. For those of you who don't know, Ben was a Pointe Du Hoc graduate and even though we held our breaths as he landed, what a feeling to watch him. To Ben, I personally salute you. Can't wait to share the sky with you again. And Dana, I will eat breakfast and toast my orange juice with you any day at the mess hall. I must say that after hanging out with those young guys at Ft. Lewis who are now in my old boots, I felt a bit old. Glad to know we have such great young men carrying on our traditions. They were great to us with the ghost crew that they had and even took the time to take us out on the range. And fellow Rangers, make sure that if you are going to let your better half learn how to shoot automatic weapons that you learn to pick up your dirty laundry once you get home. Just a thought.

To my CT guys – continue to keep in touch as I do with you, we hope that you all attend some of the functions that we are coming up with to keep the State of Connecticut on their toes when we Rangers get together.

To any Ranger thinking about being a Rep for your State - Just do it. I promise it's not hard, it won't hurt and look we get a cool space to write our thoughts in Patrolling. Our fearless leader Emmett asked that I spell out what we do here to get the job done. After getting the roster from the secretary we sent out a mailing introducing myself, a questionnaire about them (with a SASE to make it easy) – asking if they would like to be part of a 75th Honor Guard that we are starting here or if they would like to plan a jump, any new info, kids, spouses, email, you know the usual. After that we updated Regiments list and email them periodic updates that I get. From there I made phone calls to say hi, made calls needing honor guard guys for detail, send out Christmas cards, and are having a dinner in February. The word is out that I'm coordinating this, and through the grapevine I am now receiving emails and calls from a few new men. Here is an interesting way we rounded up one Ranger.... Vicki was at Lowes one day thinking she was being stalked by a guy in a pickup. She had on her 2/75th Ranger baseball cap. He saw it from across the parking lot, drove up towards her and was thrilled to see her and find out who she was. So guys, we round them up any way we can here in Connecticut. Even sending our women out as bait. But seriously, if your state doesn't have a coordinator, volunteer; you will be amazed at the great Brothers you get to meet. God Bless the Rangers deployed in harms way and God Bless this great nation. RLTW Doc McKenney

STATE COORDINATORS

First let me say thanks to those of you that have responded to the need for State Coordinators. For those of you State Coordinators who have not received the roster of association members within your state it will shortly arrive. There is still a need for State Coordinators in more than thirty states. So please take a moment of your time and contact me for more information. The time required to be a State Coordinator is minimal for the most part. In larger states Assistant State Coordinators have been and will continue to be recruited to overcome the vast distance that a single coordinator would be required to travel and serve. Below are the volunteers and vacancies of remaining State Coordinators. Lets step up so that this vacancy roster is not required. You do not have to be the actual State Coordinator to sign on.

State Advocate - Tom Gage, 1424 Francis Station Drive, Knoxville, TN 37909, (865) 693-3293, thegages@comcast.net

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State Coordinator

Alaska

State Coordinator

Arizona

State Coordinator

Arkansas

State Coordinator

California

State Coordinator – Bill Davis

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State Coordinator

Connecticut/Rhode Island

State Coordinator- Mike McKenny

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State Coordinator

Georgia

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State Coordinator

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State Coordinator

Illinois

State Coordinator – Ken Kovac

Indiana

State Coordinator – Thomas Pease

Iowa

State Coordinator

Kansas

State Coordinator – Bill Sloyer

Kentucky

State Coordinator – Steve Meade

Louisiana

State Coordinator

Maine

State Coordinator – Edwin Howe

Maryland/Delaware/Wash DC

State Coordinator

Massachusetts

State Coordinator

Michigan

State Coordinator- Brian Radcliffe

Minnesota

State Coordinator – John Henry Berg

Mississippi

State Coordinator

Missouri

State Coordinator

Montana

State Coordinator

Nebraska

State Coordinator

Nevada

State Coordinator – Harry Bell

New Jersey

State Coordinator

New Hampshire

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New Mexico

State Coordinator

New York

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Wyoming

State Coordinator

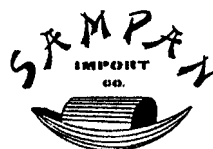
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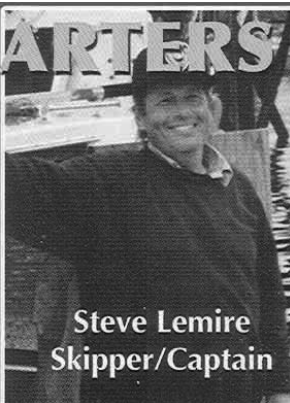
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SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIAL UPDATE — FEBRUARY 2005

The toll of special operations forces continues to increase as the ongoing battles against global terrorism continue to be waged.

Operation IRAQI FREEDOM also resulted in losing two Special Operations Civil Affairs personnel; **Lieutenant Colonel Mark Phelan** and **Major Charles R. Soltes Jr** were both killed in action on 13 October, and two days later we lost **Sergeant Michael G. Owens** and **Specialist Jonathan J. Santos** both assigned to Company B, 9th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne).

Ranger Corporal William M. Amundson of the 3rd Ranger Battalion became a non-hostile battle casualty and died in Afghanistan on 19 October.

On 8 November **Specialist Bryan L. Freeman** of the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion was killed in action in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sergeant First Class Pedro A. Munoz of the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) died on 2 January in Shindand, Afghanistan from wounds received on 1 January when his patrol encountered enemy fire.

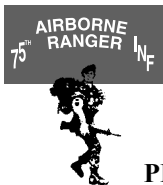
Sergeant Jeremy R. Wright with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) was killed on 3 January after his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Asabadad, Afghanistan.

Non-hostile memorials included the late **Major General Salve H. Matheson**, former commander of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and commander of the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division in the Republic of Vietnam.

Master Sergeant Tony Love who served with FOB II Reconnaissance and Command and Control South Snakebite during 1968 and 1969 while assigned to MACV Studies and Observation Group (MACVSOG).

Sergeant Major Robert H. (Sam) Bass, also a former member of MACVSOG recently passed away, and was memorialized by members of Chapter 21, Special Forces Association.

Geoff Barker



75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc
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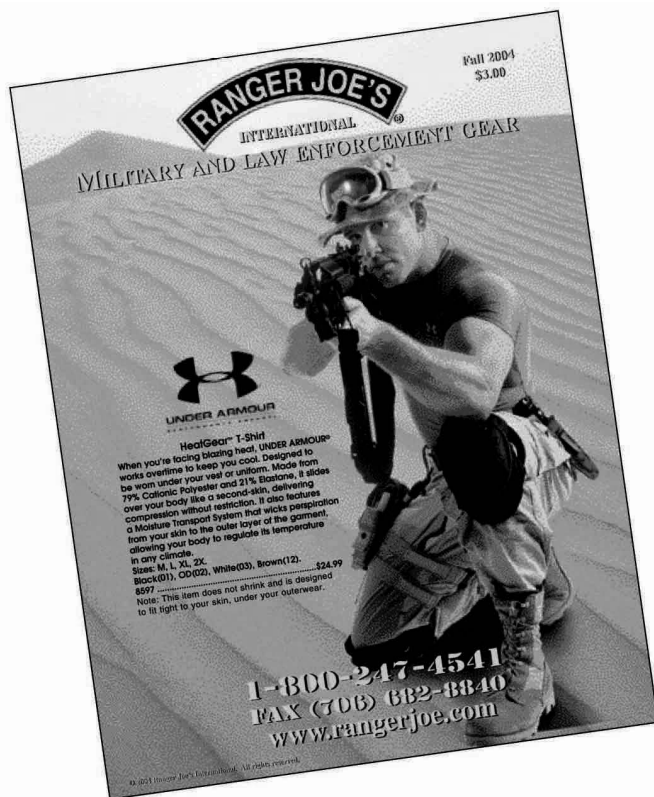
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