

PATROLLING

SUMMER 2006 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 21 ISSUE I



*Best Ranger Competition – 2006 – Helocast
Photo by J. Chester*

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



WHO WE ARE: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501 (c) corporation, registered in the State of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F/58, (LRP) and L/75 (Ranger). The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY. (See story, this issue, Feature Articles).

OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible 75th Infantry Rangers, and members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Companies, Long Range Patrol Companies, Ranger Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan; members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the 75th Ranger Regiment.
2. To sustain the Association. *Unlike the WWII Battalions and Merrill's Marauders, the 75RRA accepts members and former members of the Active Ranger Battalions. By doing so we are perpetuating the association. It will not "die off" as these two organizations someday will.*
4. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd,



and 3rd Ranger Battalions, successor units, or additions to the Regiment.

WHAT WE DO:

During the last five years we have provided financial support to the young men of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Each year, through contributions from our members and some outside sources, we have provided about \$4,000.00 to each of the three Ranger Battalions and \$2,000.00 to the Regimental HQ. These funds enabled the families of the junior enlisted men, (E-5 & below) to get certificates for toys for the children and turkeys for Christmas dinner.

We have funded trips for families to visit their wounded sons and husbands while they were in the hospital. We have purchased a learning program software for the son of one young Ranger who had a brain tumor removed. The Army took care of the surgery, but no means existed to purchase the learning program. We fund the purchase of several awards for graduates of RIP and Ranger School.

We have bi-annual reunions and business meetings. Our Officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents, Secretary & Treasurer), are elected at this business meeting. This reunion coincides with the 75th Ranger Regiment's Ranger Rendezvous, and is at Columbus,

GA. (Ft. Benning). We have off year reunions at various locations around the country.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

- A. V Corp (LRRP)
- B. VII Corp (LRRP)
- C. 9th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- D. 25th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- E. 196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
- F. 1st Cav. Div. (LRRP)
- G. 1st Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- H. 4th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- I. 101st Abn. Div., 1st Bde. (LRRP)
- J. 199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
- K. 173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)
- L. 3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

- A. Co D (LRP) 17th Inf.
- B. Co E (LRP) 20th Inf.
- C. Co E (LRP) 30th Inf.
- D. Co E (LRP) 50th Inf.
- E. Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.
- F. Co E (LRP) 51st Inf.
- G. Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.
- H. Co E (LRP) 52nd Inf.
- I. Co F (LRP) 52nd Inf.

- J. Co C (LRP) 58th Inf.
- K. Co E (LRP) 58th Inf.
- L. Co F (LRP) 58th Inf.
- M. 70th Inf. DET (LRP)
- N. 71st Inf. DET (LRP)
- O. 74th Inf. DET (LRP)
- P. 78th Inf. DET (LRP)
- Q. 79th Inf. DET (LRP)
- R. Co D (LRP) 151st Inf.

SECTION 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

- A. Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- B. Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- C. Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- D. Co D (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- E. Co E (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- F. Co F (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- G. Co G (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- H. Co H (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- I. Co I (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- J. Co K (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- K. Co L (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- L. Co M (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- M. Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- N. Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- O. Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- P. Co D (RANGER)

151st Inf.

SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

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.

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.



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

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

POSTMASTER

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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.

MAGAZINE

When I became editor in September, 2000 one of the goals I articulated was to have the magazine pay for itself. As a result of advertising and donations, we now have two of the four issues each year paid for, (printing and mailing). If you or anyone you know would consider a card size ad in *Patrolling*, please contact me. An ad in the magazine, with a link on our website to you is \$150.00 for 4 issues, (one year), or \$100.00 for the magazine ad alone.

John Chester

WEB SITE

Due, in no small part to the cooperation of the Unit Directors, things are shaping up. We are now able to make application on-line, pay or renew dues and, at the suggestion of a couple of members have added the capability to pay for Life Membership as well. As far as I can tell, the KIA lists are up to date and the Unit Director information is accurate. I have attempted to post current notices for the individual units conducting reunions or other functions throughout this year.

About the time you get your next issue (Fall '06) of the *Patrolling Magazine* I will have switched us over to the new format. To facilitate that deadline, I would ask that any remaining updates from Unit Directors reach me NLT July 31st (there is no requirement to wait until then if you are so inclined, (hint, hint). I am betting on you - that the director or his able assistant will see to it that the message is appropriate to what you wish to say to your members, that there is a mug shot, current address information, and that all your KIA's who we honor are properly represented by name, unit, Wall location, and date. When the change begins there will be a period of time during which changes will not be possible because I will be testing, tweaking, and running down broken links or items that have somehow been overlooked. There is a possibility that a few features may be phased in as we go but all the top priority pages will be up and running as they are now.

Please help me do the best job for you-don't be bashful . . . that's funny if you think about it, a bashful Ranger? Sometimes a miss-spelled word can seem insignificant - it's not to me, because your website, how it looks, and what it says, represents you. Thank you for your encouragement and constructive criticism.

David Regenthal

Notice

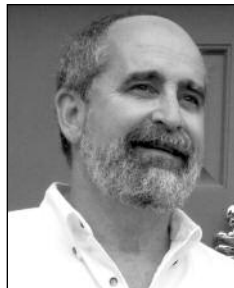
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Stephen Crabtree

2007 Officers

It is hard to imagine but the current association officer's terms are half over. I will be stepping down next June according to our by-



**Stephen
Crabtree**

laws and Bill Bullen has decided to run for the Presidency. Bill has served us well for the last four years as our 1st Vice President. Bill Postelnic will be throwing his name into the hat for 1st Vice President. Bill served with Company K Ranger in Vietnam and retired from the reserves in 1989 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Reuben Silverling has already started campaigning for reelection as our Treasurer. John Chester wants to stay on as Editor of Patrolling and Association Secretary. Tom Robison will be stepping down as our 2nd Vice President so we'll be needing a replacement for Tom. Any takers?

Letters to Patrolling

We have received two letters to the Editor of Patrolling Magazine since inception. Oddly enough both were somewhat derogatory. The first was answered in our last issue. The second was answered directly to the author due to the content of the letter. We will continue to print both your letters and our responses provided that the content does not insult any of our membership, their beliefs, our country or the US Army.

Battalion Dedication Ceremony



On March 8, 2006, the 3d Ranger Battalion commemorated the sacrifice of five Rangers killed in action or training over the past year on the 3d Battalion Ranger Memorial in the Dawson Barracks Complex. Bill Dodge was contacted by the 3rd Battalion S-4 officer (CPT Robert MacLean) who requested us to help fund family travel to the Dedication Ceremony. John Chester sent a check out of our Family Fund account after approval of all of our association's officers. Immediately after the ceremony a reception was held in the battalion headquarters for family members, friends of the Rangers and invited guests. Bill and I attended as representatives of the 75RRA. We then had lunch in the Battalion mess. I couldn't believe the meal: Steak, Lobster and King Crab legs. I didn't realize that the new Army ate that well. Bill and I both were contemplating reenlisting.



Ranger KIA's

I regret to inform you that the 75th Ranger Regiment lost two men from wounds sustained from small arms fire while conducting combat operations in western Iraq on March 18, 2006. Both men were from the 2nd Battalion.

Sergeant Dale G. Brehm, 22, was a rifleman, grenadier and team leader. Staff Sergeant Ricardo Barraza, 24, had served every position of a Ranger rifle squad and was a squad leader. Both men were six-time veterans of the Global War on Terrorism. Both had deployed three times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, and both had deployed three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brehm entered the Army on 15 Feb 2001 after graduating from Turlock High School in Turlock, CA. He completed One Station Unit Training, airborne school and Ranger Indoctrination at Fort Benning, GA. He is survived by his wife Raini Brehm, of Steilacoom, WA., his father and stepmother William and Linda Brehm, of Turlock, CA, and his mother, Laura Williams, of Riverbank, CA.

After graduating from Shafter High School in Shafter, CA., Barraza volunteered for military service and entered the Army on 5 Aug 1999. He also completed One Station Unit Training, airborne school and Ranger Indoctrination at Fort Benning, GA. He is survived by his parents, Francisco and Nina Barraza, and two sisters, Amanda and Rachael of Shafter, CA., his fiancé, Maghan K. Herrington of Yakima, WA. He is also survived by another sister, Jamie Barraza and a brother, Frankie of Sunnyside, WA.

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-

National Ranger Memorial

When we finished raising the money to put our Vietnam KIAs in the Ranger Memorial I looked into the Somalia KIAs. I was really proud to find out the present day Rangers had already purchased bricks for their own KIAs. I was contacted by Bill Dodge about putting in the four 2005 Iraqi KIAs so I contacted the NRMF. Joe Leuer sent me the list of bricks purchased for the 2006 engraving.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The Ranger Regiment is following in our footsteps and leaving nobody behind. My sincere thanks and gratitude goes out to Major Wesley MacMullen and the men of the 75 Ranger Regiment for remembering the following fallen Rangers:

JOHN M. HENDERSON	3/75 RGR RGT
DAMIAN J. GARZA	3/75 RGR RGT
TIMOTHY M. SHEA	3/75 RGR RGT
BRIAN C. HARRISON	3/75 RGR RGT
BLAKE W. SAMODELL	2/75 RGR RGT
KEVIN K. P. CARDENAS	2/75 RGR RGT
RICARDO BARRAZA	CO A 2/75 RGR RGT
DALE G. M. BREHM	CO A 2/75 RGR RGT

Our individual units also purchased the following bricks:

EARL L. TOOMEY	196TH LIB (LRRP)
CECIL A. CROSBY	196TH LIB (LRRP)
JOHN ROWLAND	25TH DIV (LRRP)
WARREN C. NYCUM	CO F 75TH INF (RGR)
DENNIE D. CALLAHAN	CO F 75TH INF (RGR)
DAVID R. REGENTHAL	CO F 75TH INF (RGR)

The following units will be added to the 2006 Friends of the Rangers Marker:

25TH DIV LRRP
E/51 G/75 LRRP/RANGER ASSOCIATION
CO F 50TH INF & CO F 75TH INF (RGR)
THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
BILL & SANDEE ROUSE 75RRA GOLD STAR MOTHER ADVOCATES

Airborne Man of the Year

H/75's nominee, CSM (RET) James W. Kraft, was selected for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association Airborne Man of the Year. CSM Kraft served in Vietnam with both Company E, 52 Infantry and Company H, 75th Infantry Ranger. He is a Master Parachutist with over 800 military parachute jumps and served as an instructor at the Airborne Department, FT Benning, GA. CSM Kraft was a member of the United States Army Military Parachute Team - also known as the "Golden Knights" at FT Bragg, NC.

Ranger Hall of Fame

The 2006 Ranger Hall of Fame inductees (random order) are: Robert L. Bryan (75RRA Nominee), John K. Singlaub, Michael B. Ranger, Michael J. Nardotti, William F. Kernan, Kevin P. Connell, John G. Van Houten, James A. Gardner (MOH Recipient), Albert C. Welch, Brian M. Pentecost, James C. Marshall, Thomas E. Herring, Charles F. Walters, Harold L. Barber, Charles L. Carrier, Eugene H. Madison, John R. Alison (Honorary Nomination) and John H. Miller (Tom Hanks) (Honorary Nomination).

Many have inquired as to why Tom Hanks received an honorary nomination. Tom played the fictional character Ranger Captain John Miller in "Saving Private Ryan." He was selected for

honorary induction for his work on that film, the series "Band of Brothers," the tremendous speech he gave at the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC, and for his support of the military while most of Hollywood would gladly replace President Bush with Osamma Ben Ladden.

I made a tremendous mistake with the packets for induction to the RHOF this year and take full responsibility for what happened. BG Ed Scholes', Earl Toomey's and Roy Boatman's packets were not on the ballot for this year's selections. I was trying to submit as many men as possible for induction. Instead of having our committee rate the six packets we received and submitting the three best, I asked Dave Grange, Danny Jacks and Duke DuShane, all RHOF inductees, to submit their candidates in lieu of submitting only three from the 75RRA. What I should have done was have the 75RRA committee rate the six submitted packets and select three for submission to the RHOF. Then and only then had any of these packets not been selected for submission, I should have asked the RHOF member to submit their respective packet. There is no way of telling if Scholes, Toomey and Boatman would have made the cut in the 75RRA but most certainly at least one would have. You have my word that this will never happen again.

Let's not procrastinate, start thinking about next year (2007). The bylaws for induction have been revised. I have put together the instructions for putting a RHOF packet together and sent them out to the association officers and Unit Representatives. It's available for anyone who wants to submit a packet. Unfortunately I didn't receive it in time to send it out this year. December 1st 2006 is the drop dead date for submitting packets to me. That gives me about 6 weeks to send them out for grading and deciding on which three will be passed on to the RHOF Executive Board. Any member of our association may submit a packet but it must be submitted to me via your respective Unit Representative. Any packet submitted by a RHOF member may be submitted directly to: Ranger Hall of Fame Executive Board; Attn: SFC Xavier Burns, RS5; 6400 Infantry Brigade Loop; Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-4625. This year the drop dead date for submitting packets to RHOF was 10 January. The date has not been set for next year.

Best Ranger Competition

Congratulations to SFC John Sheaffer and SPC Mikhail Venikov representing the 75th Ranger Regiment, winners of the 2006 Best Ranger Competition.

Bill Bullen, his wife Donna, John Chester, his wife Maryanne, my wife Lori and I attended the BCR in March. After four days of Media blitz, in processing, medical exams, briefings, inspections, instructions, etc. the competition started on Friday and lasted until Sunday. The agenda was (note sleep breaks!):

Friday, April 21, 2006

0600-0900 RPRA (Malvesti Field)
0640-0830 Push Ups / Chin Ups (Malvesti Field)
0650-1100 Pugil Sticks (Malvesti Field)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

1215-1500 Spot Jump (Lee DZ)
 1300-1630 Machinegun Range (Malone 12)
 1400-1800 Stress Shoot (Malone 17)
 1500-1900 Litter Carry (Coombs DZ)
 2100-2400 Foot March (Malone Ranges)

Saturday, April 22, 2006

0001-0600 Foot March (Malone Ranges)
 0030-0200 Night Shoot (Malone 16)
 0130-0430 Weapons Assembly (McBride's Bridge)
 0800-1730 Day Ranger Stakes (Todd Field)
 2000-2400 Orienteering (Camp Darby)

Sunday, April 23, 2006

0001-0600 Orienteering (Camp Darby)
 0800-1100 Darby Queen (Camp Darby)
 1130-1500 WCT/Helocast/Swim (Hurley Hill)
 1530-1630 Buddy Run (Vic Camp Rogers)
 1530-1900 Super Supper (RTB HQ)

Monday, April 24, 2006

1000-1100 Awards Ceremony (General Cody, Guest Speaker)
 (Ranger Memorial)

John, Mary Anne, Lori and I were at the finish line cheering on the finishers. 27 teams started the competition, 15 finished. We were surprised to see the competitors (after showers) at the Super Supper immediately after the competition. Had it been me I would have been fast asleep in my bunk. When the last team crossed the finish line I turned to John & asked him if he wanted to enter the contest with me next year. He chickened out! Any takers out there? For more information go to:

<https://www.infantry.army.mil/bestrangercompetition/index.htm>

Ranger Ball 12 May 2006

Lori and I attended the Ranger Ball at the Ironworks in Columbus on May 12th. What a party. There must have been 300-400 people in attendance. Lori even got me out on the dance floor but she couldn't coax Duke DuShane out. All in attendance had a great time.



Rangers and their wives enjoying the Ranger Ball.



CSM Dennis Smith, Ranger Special Troops Battalion and Colonel Paul J. LaCamera, Commander, 75th Ranger Regiment ensuring the potency and consumeability of the Ranger Punch. A favorite drink from every war was poured into a vat and topped off with rattle snake venom. It really wasn't that bad.

FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen

From the First Vice President: May 14, 2006

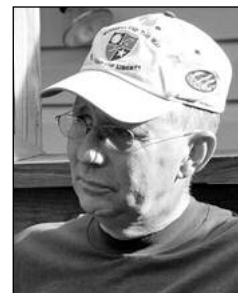
The past few months have been hectic to say the least. A number of us attended the 23rd David Grange Jr., Best Ranger Competition. It was a very spectator friendly competition, a little spread out but still a lot of fun. There was a new event in place, Pugel Fights; I had not witnessed this event since I had my brains scrambled by a fellow from DC in 1968. The twist was; the event took place on a balance beam.

At the sponsors' dinner we sat with Bob Gilbert and Walt Saunders. Listening to these guys and learning about the cold war army prior to and during Viet Nam was to say the least, very interesting, not to say how the Ranger training had evolved during Bob's tenure as NCOIC. We all need to find the time to sit

and talk with these Senior Soldiers, with them will go all the stories and history, unless we gather it now.

The wheels are turning for the 75th RRA elections in 2007. Anyone interested in throwing their name in the hat for office need to do so soon. We need new blood and new ideas, without these, the same old practices seem to go stale. Please consider and become involved.

John Chester and Reuben Siverling have devised a financial situation, which makes our funds safe, accessible and transferable from one regime to the next. We are getting a competitive rate on our deposits



Bill Bullen

FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

unlike sitting in a minimum interest bearing savings account somewhere.

Donna and I had a surprise visit by Emmett Hiltibrand' and his lovely wife Rebecca. Emmett is looking a little like a corn fed Willie Nelson. Don't know where they've been and don't know where they're going, but I sure had a nice time visiting with them both. When Emmett said he was going to disappear he was not

kidding! Just be prepared, he may make a night jump into your AO with little or no warning!

Until the next time, bring in a new member, RLTW.

Bill Bullen

SECOND-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tom Robison

By: Tom Robison

The vast majority of Americans take freedom for granted. Even some of us who have felt the sting of battle in our nation's wars tend to do the same. Even now, when our country is at war, few Americans seem concerned with the sacrifices that are being made by the members of our military. Even fewer are concerned with the long-term effects the war will have on those returning from battle. As we so well know, those effects will have a permanent impact on all that served. This lack of concern is not out of apathy but of ignorance.

Veterans tend to keep their problems to themselves. We are reluctant to share our pain and suffering with those who have not experienced combat's death and destruction. In so doing, we are paying a disservice to those veterans who follow especially those who carry the scars of war, both mental and physical. It is not enough to comfort members of our generation. We must reach out

and provide comfort, understanding and support to all those who answered the call to arms. We must educate those who are ignorant of the sacrifices that have and will be made in protecting our nation's freedoms. This is not just our responsibility it is indeed our duty. This duty will not end with the war. It will end with the last veteran standing.

Don't become complacent. Become actively involved in your Association. In so doing your efforts will be multiplied ten fold. Our Association is dedicated to helping not only our own members but all those who are suffering and in need.

Rangers, Lead the Way!



Tom Robison

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

At the end of last year, there was to be an 'examination' of some 75,000 odd veterans diagnosed with PTSD in order to see if there was any fraud involved in the granting of benefits. That was later dropped. Then there was another 'study' that was, in effect, an attempt to re-define not only PTSD, but the concept of service connection itself. This one is ongoing at this time. Then there was yet another 'study' involving Vets that received both VA Compensation & Social Security. As I was wrapping up this issue the study outlined in the next paragraph was announced, and almost at the same time

was the news that the VA records of 26.5 million veterans had been stolen from a VA employee's home. (Those records are not to be removed from government offices.) Is it just me, or does it seem that there is an open season on veterans? See explanations below.

I just heard of another VA "Study". This time they are not trying

to re-define 'PTSD' or 'Service Connected'. No, now they are going to 'Study' veterans who receive both compensation from the VA for a service connected disability and disability compensation from Social Security. The purpose of the "study" of course is to off-set the VA compensation from the Social Security benefits, in other words, reduce the VA compensation by the amount of the Social Security Payments. It seems like every time I turn around, there is another move afoot to lessen or undermine veteran's benefits. There is a reason for this.

Most of the people I know and have daily contact with are veterans of LRRP, LRP or Ranger units. They are passionate about their service and they are, for the most part, patriotic and passionate about our country. That is all as it should be. But there is one problem. Most of us are also very narrow minded, with a complete lack of understanding of the other side of the aisle. We are about equally divided between Liberal & Conservative, and we really don't have the slightest idea what motivates the other side. (Maybe it's just honest regard & concern for our country). I can't tell you how many times someone has called or come up to me and said something like, "I really love old So & So, but how



John Chester

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)



Jelly Roll acted as chef & let me free to schmooze a little.



Rod Wijas & Joe Little enjoy a libation & a bite.



Walt Sanders, Fred Fones, Rick Ellerslie & Mark Ponzillo.

the hell can he support _____, (pick your party). There is one huge thing that all politicians have in common. They are politicians. And to stay in power, (which is the obvious goal of all politicians), they must be elected or re-elected. Our electoral process is one of the worst ever devised, it is run by money, special interest groups, money, corporate interests, money, political action committees, money, lobbyists for foreign



On our Memorial Day trip to the Wall, the only parking place we could find was guess where? Fred can be seen rendering the LRRP Salute.



Reflections; Ken Hess was KIA 7 months after I left country. He was one of mine in E/58.

governments to which we give money, who then use it to buy our politicians to give them more money, and finally, money. Many times the process does not embrace doing the most good, but pissing off as few people as possible. When legislation is proposed, the negative impact on discrete groups is studied. If the negative result impacts only a small group, the political repercussions will be small. If the group is large, the repercussions will be large.

Historically the Veteran's lobby has been large. But now we have a problem. We are shrinking. Veterans of the WW II & Korean War era are dying at the rate of thousands per week. Vietnam Veterans are also dying at a rate that is far ahead of their contemporaries. At present only four tenths of 1% of the population is in uniform. * Not a very large voting block, is it? What will our country do if the politicians make military life so unattractive that no one will join the military? Reinstate the draft?

As a group, veterans are becoming one of the most under

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)



Clockwise from 9 o'clock; Bill Mrkvicka, Bill Brantley, Marshall Huckaby, Joe Gentile & Jeff Bond.

represented special interest groups going. And it will only get worse. When spending bills are enacted and someone looks around for a cost saver, where do you think the politicians will look first. The group with the least voting impact of course. And that means, in the very near future, us. What can we do about it? We need to have influence beyond our numbers. I have joined every service organization I'm eligible to join. I am a member of the VFW, DAV, MOPH, and the American Legion. These are the biggest lobbyists, and have historically had the most influence.

I have determined that I am going to vote against every incumbent politician in the up coming elections, regardless of the party they represent. If the race has no incumbent, I will vote against the incumbent party. It ain't like the guys in there are



Clockwise from 9 o'clock; Bill Mrkvicka, Joe Gentile, Dave Regenthal & Jeff Bond

doing us any favors, how much worse can it get?

On a happier note, we had a cookout on the Sunday before Memorial Day and a bunch of the folk going to the Wall in Washington, DC came to the house. Brian Radcliffe (Jelly Roll) came down from Michigan and Fred Fones came from Arizona. I want to thank both of them for pitching in (both money & labor) to help make it a success. I have enclosed some photos.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Reuben Siverling



**Reuben
Siverling**

As John stated in the Spring 2006 edition, there was plenty of activity during the winter months to keep him from getting much sleep. Invoices, membership, gifts, mailings, Family Fund receipts and distribution, etc., etc. We all owe John a huge debt of gratitude for his diligence and, stewardship, and accountability for fiscal responsibility. (John, don't even think about editing out the preceding sentence!). Our funds are secure, our bills are paid, and we're earning money on our deposits as opposed to being frustrated with trivial interest rates and lack of response from our banking relationships. Again, my thanks to Dave Regenthal and John Chester for the installation and activation of Pay Pal. Great work gentlemen!. In capsule form, as of April 30, 2006 our funds balances total just under

\$132,000.00. Included in that total are the Family Fund Account of \$28,150.71 and the General Operating Account of \$66,788.71. All funds except the operating account are in relatively high yield interest earning accounts. At an immediate glance, it should be intuitively clear that our messages pleading for volunteers and members' input should not go unheeded. We are sovereign, secure and accountable and are still seeking input from those who wanted to form a Finance Committee to provide input to the Officers of the Association. Don't let us make financial decisions in a vacuum.

Along with that information, I am introducing to you Ms Jodi McCollum, Personal Banker, Great Western Bank. Jodi is completely enthralled with the sacrifices and camaraderie of the Rangers and on her own personal time at her own expense wants to be a valuable resource volunteer for the benefit of all of us. She has even adopted the title of RIT (Ranger in Training). Shortly after our 75th RRA Reunion 2005 at Ft. Banning, Jodi volunteered to assist the 75th RRA Officers and the Association

TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

by setting up all the finance accounts on QuickBooks. She and John are now able to communicate daily on-line regarding any matters pertaining to the various accounts. John makes daily entries regarding the accounts into either Excel or QuickBooks. By internet entries into Jodi's system at her home and at the bank, there now is on-time, on-line accountability of all accounts. We are still working out some of the kinks but should have a very smooth reporting system in just a matter of a few more weeks. Jodi has no authority to withdraw, transfer, or write checks on any of the Association Accounts. Thanks Jodi and John, you are making the duties as your Treasurer very pleasant.

During recent months, I have accepted a Vice President position with Great Western Bank, a family owned bank home based in Omaha, Nebraska with 20 + branches in Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri and a total of more than \$1 billion in assets. Large enough to serve us yet small enough to need us. We have three offices here in the Kansas City area and are expanding slowly and methodically. During the past weeks, with approval of your officers, we have moved \$97,000.00 from nearly dormant accounts at Columbus, Georgia into high yield FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit at Great Western Bank. I certainly don't wish the following statement to be self serving but it needs to be said. The Association now has their own Personal Banker, a volunteer accountant with on-line accountability from her personal residence, and a direct line to the Treasurer of the Association and Vice President of the bank, charged with the fiscal security and accountability for all the Association Funds. I'll insert my contact information at the end of this article in the event that it is not submitted in time for a change on the cover of the magazine.

In a related matter, we have received a letter from MSG Kevin S. Deary, Memorial Project Officer, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Washington informing us of the 2nd BATT's intention to design and erect "a memorial to honor fallen Rangers who have died both in training and combat since the

formation of the modern day 2nd Ranger Battalion in October, 1974." Your officers have been requested to assist the 2nd Battalion, 75th Rangers in setting up an account through the 75th RRA to hold funds received through donations to the memorial fund. This appears to be a logical and feasible request since the 2nd Battalion has not yet established a "Charitable Gift,-Tax Deductible (501 C- 3)" organization for the purposes of receiving and distributing funds. Their funds are to be set up in a completely separate account(s) from the 75th RRA accounts and we accept no responsibility for how the funds are received or disbursed. We are to be, in essence and reality, a secure depository source for their funds. Your Association Officers and the various members of 2nd BATT are working out the details concerning legal, charitable contributions, IRS considerations, fiscal responsibility and a multitude of other issues that must be addressed. In brief, neither the 2nd BATT nor your Association is moving forward with this with blinders on. We commend the fine Rangers and Families of the 2nd Battalion for initiating the efforts to pay tribute to those who have given of their own accord the supreme sacrifice. In all likelihood there is more information about the memorial and the funds in other articles of this Patrolling issue.

Now my writings are getting too long. Looking forward to seeing some (many) of you in Branson or San Antonio later this year. Thanks Roger Crunk, Unit Director K/75-E/58 LRP-4th Div LRRP and John Chester and the Branson connection for all your efforts in keeping us in contact. Also thanks to "Crabs", Tom Robison, and Bill Bullen for being the stand-up Association Officers that you are. I appreciate the opportunity of serving with you.

rsiverling@kc.rr.com

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Cell # (816) 221-7777



75th RRA Reunion, Summer 2005: L to R Front, Mike Hines, ?, Ron Wafer, Raul Cantu (Bob Cantu's son), Jack Ramsland, ?, Bob Cantu; Back, ?, Ron Woolay, Dave Walker.



One of our Associate Members, BDQ member Tan Dung Nguyen & Wife

GOLD STAR...



Hello

If you are surprised I am back ,soooooo am I! My retirement turned into a Sabatical.

I have always said that I am here because this is where God wants me. It appears that I was mistaken when I thought he was done with me here.

I want to thank all of you who wrote and sent cards to thank me when I was leaving. Your words touched my heart and soul. You gave me much more credit than I deserve.

It has and will continue to be my Honor to serve the men and Families of the 75th RRA and the 75th Ranger Regiment. I will forever be indebted to you for this opportunity.

Ironically I am writing this on Mothers Day, (Sorry John, I am always one of the last minute deadline people) I received an e-card from Bridget Madison today What she wrote set me to thinking about my role and your role. She wrote "To the Mother that Mothers many Mothers." That's what this is all about. We collectively as Ranger families need to nurture and provide aid & comfort whenever and where ever needed.

I now consider myself in stage 2 of this Mission. With your help and continued support we will move forward.

I believe there is a great deal of work out there for us to do and families to serve. I welcome your input on how to achieve our goal of "NO GOLD STAR

FAMILIES FORGOTTEN OR LEFT BEHIND."

Over the summer as you have reunions and get together's I would like the unit directors to poll the members as to what you feel will help this program to grow and become more vital.

Dean Stanley wrote:

"The true calling of a Christian is not to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way."

I will look forward to your comments.

Have a wonderful, safe and Blessed summer.

God Bless each of you and RLTW

Sandee

PRESS RELEASE: Two Rangers killed in Iraq
 U.S. Army Special Operations Command FORT LEWIS, Wash. (USASOC News Service, Mar. 21, 2006) — Two Army Rangers assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment died recently in western Iraq of wounds sustained while conducting combat operations.

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Barraza and Sgt. Dale G. M. Brehm, both assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Rgt., Fort Lewis, Wash., were killed by enemy small arms fire during the mission. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these men.

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, Steve Crabtree - President

VA DATA PRIVACY BREACH:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) issued a statement advising that a GS-14 senior-level 60 year old career employee working as an information technology specialist in the Office of Policy took home electronic data in his laptop computer from the DVA which was subsequently stolen in a home burglary. Also stolen was an external hard drive containing a duplicate portion of some of the data. Subsequent investigation disclosed the employee had routinely been taking such data home since 2003. Removal of the data from the department headquarters is in violation of VA policies and the employee has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of a VA OIG investigation. This data contained identifying information on veterans who have had dealings with the VA. Included were the unencrypted names and birth dates as well as some disability ratings of 26.5 million vets and 100 spouses of which 19.6 million also contained social security numbers. The data did not include any of VA's electronic health records nor any financial information. Appropriate law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the VA Inspector General's office, have launched full-scale investigations into this matter. Authorities believe it is unlikely the perpetrators targeted the equipment taken because of any knowledge of their data contents. It is possible the burglars initially were unaware of the information which they possess or of how to make use of it but with all the public media about the theft it is unlikely they still are not aware.

The VA is taking all possible steps to protect and inform veterans. The DVA became aware of this incident on 3 MAY when the employee reported it and notified the local police indicating only a few hundred files had been stolen. When the magnitude of the files involved was determined the FBI was brought in on 17 MAY. DVA did not commence notifying veterans through mass media until 20 MAY. DVA is working with members of Congress, the news media, veterans' service organizations, and other government agencies to help ensure that veterans and their families are aware of the situation and of the steps they may take to protect themselves from misuse of their personal information. To enhance this effort they will send out individual notification letters to veterans to every extent

possible. Through other government agencies, the DVA has set up a manned call center that veterans may call to get information about this situation and learn more about consumer identity protections.

That toll free number is 1(800) 333-4636. The call center operates from 0800 to 2100 (EDT) Mon thru Sat. It will operate as long as it is needed and is capable of handling more than 250,000 calls a day. Veterans can also obtain additional info on dealing with identity theft at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an emergency hearing on the issue 25 MAY. [Source: TREA Leg Up & VFW Washington Weekly 22 May 06 ++]

VA DATA PRIVACY BREACH UPDATE 01: The following is provided to answer questions and suggest actions that veterans may want to take as a result of the recent theft from the VA of 26.5 million veteran's names, social security numbers, and birth dates:

1. At this point there is no evidence that any missing data has been used illegally. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs is asking all veterans to be extra vigilant and to carefully monitor bank statements, credit card statements and any statements relating to recent financial transactions. If you notice unusual or suspicious activity, you should report it immediately to the financial institution involved and contact the Federal Trade Commission for further guidance.
2. The information was stolen from a VA employee's home on 3 MAY 06. If the data has been misused or otherwise used to commit fraud or identity theft crimes, it is likely that veterans may notice suspicious activity during the month of May. Law enforcement officials reported several burglaries in the area and they do not believe the stolen information was targeted.
3. The VA strongly recommends that veterans closely monitor their financial statements and review the guidelines provided at www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo.shtml.
4. The VA does not believe that it is necessary to contact financial institutions or cancel credit cards and bank accounts, unless you detect suspicious activity.
5. No electronic medical records were compromised. Data applied to veterans separating from the military since 1975 and

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

may have included data on veterans who separated before 1975 but who submitted a claim for VA benefits. The data lost is primarily limited to an individual's name, date of birth, social security number, in some cases their spouse's information, as well as some disability ratings. However, this information could still be of potential use to identity thieves.

6. The VA is working with the President's Identity Theft Task Force, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to investigate this data breach and to develop safeguards against similar incidents. The Department of Veterans Affairs has directed all VA employees complete the "VA Cyber Security Awareness Training Course" and complete the separate "General Employee Privacy Awareness Course" by 30 JUN 06. In addition, the Department of Veterans Affairs will immediately be conducting an inventory and review of all current positions requiring access to sensitive VA data and require all employees requiring access to sensitive VA data to undergo an updated National Agency Check and Inquiries (NACI) and/or a Minimum Background Investigation (MBI) depending on the level of access required by the responsibilities associated with their position. Appropriate law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, have launched full-scale investigations into this matter.

7. The DVA has set up a special website www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo.shtml and a toll-free telephone number 1(800) 333-4636 for veterans that feature up-to-date news and information. At the website you can request daily, weekly, or monthly updates on the VA security situation to be sent to you by email [Source: TREA Leg Up & VFW Washington Weekly 22 May 06 ++]

MEMORIAL DAY HISTORY:

On 20 MAY Americans celebrated Memorial Day. It is important to remember this day is not just the traditional start of summertime fun, but also a time to honor the service members who have given their lives for our country. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on 30 MAY 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On 5 MAY 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that: The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the

more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery. In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo (which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866) because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags. By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. Memorial Day should not be confused with our 11 NOV Veterans Day which is the day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead. Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually. Several Southern states continue to set aside a special day for honoring the Confederate dead, which is usually called Confederate Memorial Day:

- . Mississippi: Last Monday in April
- . Alabama: Fourth Monday in April
- . Georgia: April 26
- . North Carolina: May 10
- . South Carolina: May 10
- . Louisiana: June 3
- . Tennessee (Confederate Decoration Day): June 3
- . Texas (Confederate Heroes Day): January 19
- . Virginia: Last Monday in May

Refer to

www.historychannel.com/exhibits/memorial/?page=home for additional information on Memorial Day and other U.S. military historical events. [Source: National Military Family Association newsletter 23 May 06 ++]

VET SBA OFFICE CLOSED:

Sen. John Kerry (D- MA) n 24 MAY voiced his concerns about two severe actions (not publicly announced) taken by the Bush Administration turning its back on the veteran's community during a time of war. Without consultation or notification, the Bush Administration has closed its office at the Small Business Administration (SBA) solely dedicated to helping veteran-owned small businesses gain access to federal contracts. Information on what this office provides to vets can be found at www.sba.gov/vets/news.html. The Administration has also informed the Veterans Advisory Committee, another group dedicated to helping veteran small business owners that their charter will not be extended and instead will expire this SEP 06. These unprecedented moves hurt America's veteran entrepreneurs and raise serious questions about the Administration's commitment to comply with federal law.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

In closing the contracting assistance office, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has eliminated the one office solely dedicated to implementing a law that requires 3% of all federal contracting dollars to be awarded to service-disabled veteran owned firms. The government has failed to meet this goal and has also failed to develop and support the Veteran's Advisory Committee, as required by law passed in 1999. Last year, the federal government awarded just 0.38% of contract dollars to companies owned by service-disabled veterans, costing them nearly \$9 billion in lost contracts. Reaction to date on the closing has been:

- Joe Wynn, President of the VETs Group and executive member of the Task Force for Veterans Entrepreneurship (TFVE), said, "Despite the best efforts of the Task Force and other veteran's groups to work with the SBA to help make the Veterans Procurement Program under PL 108-183 become a success for the government and for the service disabled veteran business owners that it was designed to serve, the SBA continues to demonstrate a seemingly disregard for carrying out the President's Executive Order, 13-360, which instructed the SBA to provide information, federal procurement training, and assistance to increase participation in federal contracting for service disabled veteran business owners."

- Bob Hesser, also a member of TFVE, and President of Vetpreneur, LLC a Service- Disabled Veteran-Owned small business said, "During the short time the SBA's Veteran's office existed there were meaningful actions that gave us a belief that someone cared. I am just not sure of that today!"

- The ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Small Business Sen. John Kerry (D- MA) on 24 MAY said, "This complete lack of commitment to our veterans is really appalling, especially just before Memorial Day . It is shameful that in a time of war, the Administration saw fit to abandon our commitment to those who have honorably served our country - and the brave men and women serving today who will be the proud veterans of tomorrow. Now, it should be our turn to serve them, by protecting their personal information and by providing them with opportunities to start a business, or rekindle businesses that are struggling from recent deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan".

The SBA has also failed to respond to a letter sent on 27 FEB 06 from Senator Kerry and Senator Daniel Akaka (D- Hawaii), Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, regarding their role in implementing the Veteran's Benefits Act of 2003. [Source: Vet Advocate Carl Young msg 24 May 06 carlhandup@cox.net]

COLA 2007 UPDATE 02:

In mid-May, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the APR 06 monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for recipients of military and federal civilian retired pay, VA disability compensation, federal survivor annuities, and Social Security. The CPI rose another full percentage point in March, for a total of 2.3% growth so far this fiscal year. Again, energy cost increases of 4.2% from March to April were the dominant

reason for the increase. Month-by-month figures and historical inflation data are available at www.moaa.org/lac/lac_issues_list/lac_issues_fully_retired/lac_issues_second_career_cola.htm. [Source: MOAA Leg Up 19 May 06]

VDBC UPDATE 05:

During its May 18-19 hearing in Arlington, VA, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission members and veterans' service organization representatives exchanged views on whether Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) awards should be considered in assessing VA and military compensation amounts for service-disabled veterans. The commission, chartered by Congress to study the benefits that are provided to compensate and assist veterans and their survivors for disabilities and deaths attributable to military service, is now scheduled to provide their final report in October 2007.

Over the past two months, the commission had failed to reach an internal consensus on whether to collect SSDI data. This week's hearing gave military and veterans' organization VSO representatives the opportunity to comment. In response the following points were inputted:

1) SSDI is an independent Social Security insurance program that all American workers pay for through payroll tax "premiums." As such, it serves a different purpose than compensation earned through service and sacrifice for the Nation.

2) Vet organizations are strongly opposed to offsetting VA disability compensation by SSDI, just as they believe it is inappropriate to offset retired pay for VA disability compensation or to offset Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments. In the case of SSDI, the statute has always prohibited any such offset to military retirement or veterans' disability benefits.

3) Congress established the commission at the same time it acted to eliminate the disability offset to retired pay for 100% disabled retirees - the only group that might qualify for SSDI. In that context, it would be the ultimate irony for the commission to investigate whether there should be a new offset to these members' disability compensation where none existed before.

After considering all of the organizations' inputs, the commission by a vote of 11 to 2 decided that it should get more information on SSDI. However, the commissioners took pains to emphasize that they do not intend to consider SSDI as a possible offset to VA disability compensation. Rather, the commission may consider possible options to improve coverage for disabled veterans, such as waiving the normal requirement to have paid 40 quarters of Social Security payroll taxes to be eligible for SSDI. However, all VSO representatives noted that once the door was open and the data collected, no assurance could be made regarding how the data could be used by others. In recent weeks, several major VSO leaders publicly expressed their deep concerns over this matter and the "slippery slope" created by the commission's effort to seek personal SSDI data. Additional information on the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission is available at www.vetscommission.org.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

[Source: MOAA Leg Up 19 May 06 ++]

AFRC ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Armed Forces Recreation Centers (AFRC) provide luxurious accommodations at very affordable prices in some of the world's top vacation destinations. At the Army's website www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/recreationcenters/tips.asp you can obtain tips for planning your next vacation at an AFRC plus site descriptions, phone numbers, rate information and eligibility of use for the following AFRCs throughout the world:

Shades of Green Resort — Orlando, Florida: This is a military-owned resort within Walt Disney World. This resort makes the Central Florida vacation experience affordable for those who utilize it. Shades of Green is walking distance to two of Walt Disney World Resort PGA championship golf courses and a nine-hole executive course. Guests are provided transportation to all Walt Disney World attractions and early entry into select attractions.

Hale Koa Hotel — Honolulu, Hawaii : The Hale Koa hotel or "House of the Warrior," is an impressive resort destination situated on 72 tropical acres on the beach at Waikiki. It is located about 10 miles from the Honolulu International Airport.

New Sanno Hotel — Tokyo, Japan: This facility operated by the US Navy, is located in downtown Tokyo. It offers recently-upgraded amenities, such as a swimming pool, recreational facilities, a Navy Exchange, and other services designed for military travelers. Patronage of New Sanno Hotel is regulated and controlled by the Status of Forces Agreement. Eligibility is limited to:

- Active duty U.S. military personnel and their dependents
- DoD US civilian employees / dependents duty stationed in Japan or traveling to / via Japan on official DoD orders.
- US civilian employees / dependents stationed outside Japan and on EML orders to / thru Japan.
- Contractors / dependents on DoD orders to execute contracts for the US Armed Forces stationed in Japan.
- US Embassy Tokyo personnel and individuals administratively attached to US Embassy Tokyo, (USFJ Policy Ltr 30 - 6).
- US military retirees and dependents when accompanied by retiree sponsor.
- Bona fide house guests of authorized patrons.

Dragon Hill Lodge — Seoul, Korea: This facility is operated by the US Army in support of personnel assigned or employed by the U.S. Forces Korea, their family members and guests. Eligibility is extended to: Active duty, retired military, dependents, DOD civilians and all foreign non-Korean military with orders to USFK. All must present either DD Form 1173 or DD Form 2. Reservations are accepted 24 hours a day.

Edelweiss Lodge and Resort — Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany: This facility offers a vacation retreat designed exclusively for active duty military members, DoD civilians and retirees, complete with everything you would expect from a world-class resort. Long revered as one of the most desirable destinations in the Bavarian Alps and Germany's premiere winter and summer sports center, the Garmisch-Partenkirchen

area is an idyllic location nestled at the foot of sweeping Alpine vistas. Edelweiss Lodge and Resort authorized patrons include United States active-duty military members, military retirees, military reservists on active-duty, national guardsmen on active-duty, current Department of Defense civilian employees assigned to EUCOM, foreign military currently on orders assigned to a U.S. military installation and the family members of authorized patrons. [Source: Military.Com Travel Benefits May 06]

VA CLAIM REPRESENTATION:

In 1862 with the Civil War raging Congress passed a law prohibiting a lawyer from charging more than \$5 to help a veteran with his claim. In 1864 the limit was raised by Congress to \$10 where it stayed for approximately 120 years. As a result of that low fee, few attorneys helped veterans with their claims. Under current law, all 24 million living veterans are prohibited from hiring a lawyer to help them navigate the Veterans Affairs system. In 1988, the law was changed which created a situation in which lawyers could be retained, but not paid until after the adjudication and appeals process is completed within the VA. The net result of the change is that veterans do not retain an attorney until after their case has been lost and they have often spent at least 3 years in the VA appeal process. Under the current appeals system, about 85% of veterans choose to be represented by Veterans' Service Organizations or state veterans agency personnel which is allowed. In an effort to provide freedom of choice in representation the Veterans' Choice of Representation Act of 2006 (S.2694) has been introduced by Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs & Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC).

The Craig-Graham legislation seeks to allow veterans to use the services of an attorney at the beginning of the process. This would put veterans into a similar situation other Americans have, for example: If you have a dispute with Social Security regarding your benefits, you can hire an attorney to represent you; or if you have a dispute with the IRS, you can hire an attorney to represent you; or if you raise cows or sheep, and have a permit to graze those animals on federal land but you run into a dispute with federal officials, you can hire an attorney to represent you before the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. Language in the Craig-Graham bill would allow VA to set up a payment structure like the Social Security system, where an attorney could only be paid either 20% of past due benefits or a set dollar amount specified by VA, whichever is lower. The change does not require the use of an attorney but would simply allow veterans that option if they so choose.

Sen. Craig's office is looking for veteran feedback on this legislation. You can send your comments to Amanda Meredith, a staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs at amanda_meredith@vetaff.senate.gov. [Source: Sen. Larry Craig's Communication Director's msg 14 May 06 ++]

VETERANS' DISABILITY BENEFITS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2006

Ray Wilburn
Executive Director
(202) 756-7729

**Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission Reaches A Decision on
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Data Collection**

In a show of hands vote of 11 to 2 at its May 19th public meeting, the Commission agreed to adopt a motion to clarify that there would be no mention or question of an offset of VA or SSDI benefits and to limit data collection from the Social Security Administration and SSDI in several key ways.

The motion explicitly directs the Commission to move forward with a study of SSDI benefits for the sole purpose of improving access and timeliness of these benefits to veterans. To accomplish this task, the Commission granted its contract research firm, the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), permission to proceed with the collection of aggregate data that does **not** include income or medical diagnostic matching.

Rather than individual data, the SSDI aggregate data would be used to consider possible global recommendations, such as waivers if a veteran has less than six quarters of SSDI eligibility, or possibly to expedite reviews for veterans already service-connected by VA or for those medically retired from the military. Other key considerations would be to understand the effects on quality of life for disabled veterans and to understand utilization rates of SSDI by veterans.

The goals of the Commission, once CNA has conducted its data collection and analysis, are to improve outreach, expedite the SSDI application and examination process, and to explore federal certification, which could lead to a single disability exam for all veterans.

The motion and related documents may be viewed on the Commission's website at: <http://www.vetscommission.org/whatsnew.htm>.

Anyone interested in the SSDI or other veterans' benefits issues is invited to attend future Commission public meetings and present oral statements to the Commission. Oral presentations will be limited to no more than five minutes. Interested parties are also encouraged to provide written comments for review by the Commission by email to: veterans@vetscommission.intranets.com or by regular post to Mr. Ray Wilburn, Executive Director, Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, 1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004.

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H E A L T H

DISCLAIMER

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

GET WHAT YOU'VE GOT COMING TO YOU !

BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

SUBMITTED BY DAN NATE, F CO. LRRP, 25TH INF.DIVISION

To get what you're entitled to, you must thoroughly understand what "service-connected disability" means. It's not always what you think.

If an illness, injury or other physical or mental trouble is service-connected, this of course means more in medical, hospital and dental rights and privileges, compensation payments and possibly in the survivor benefits for your widow, children and other dependants after your death.

The first thing to get straight is that a service-connected disability covers many things, even mental illness, hypertension and suicide under some circumstances. You have a chance to "ground" or prove that what you are claiming really happened, and happened as you write or say it occurred. A claim sent into the VA, does NOT give you a lot of latitude. You don't have the correct information, or have NOT entered the VA HealthCare System, you can be sure that it will be "DENIED" as soon as possible, which means at least (1) one full year lost, maybe more, awaiting their decision. IF you made the mistake of filing your own claim, rather than use a trained, certified Veteran's Service Officer, you probably included ALL of your "on-hand" back-up information to file a complete claim, right? Xin Loi, Brother.

No sooner than receiving your claim, and giving it a cursory examination at most, they, the powers that be, those who are ruled by TITLE 38, are just going to kick it back as DENIED. There will be additional pages added to your "non-grounded claim" that will attempt to explain, maybe, just why your claim is NOT a WELL-GROUNDED ONE, and there will be a light-blue page which is your next step. You are now going to send in your "NOTICE OF DISAGREEMENT" with their decision, on this page. They give you (1) one year to begin this process....BUT, remember back on line # 16, when I asked if you had sent in ALL pertinent information leading to your injury? Well, IF you did, you have (1) one year to GET MORE BACK-UP MATERIAL, and send it in as part of your appeal package. This can go on for awhile; as long as you filed your NOTICE of DISAGREEMENT" within the allocated (1) one year time table. For your own safety, never send the ENTIRE INFORMATIONAL PACKET in with your initial claim, or you have nothing with which to continue the battle. Always save some information for this DENIAL. I do believe that this is how the VA accomplishes several things, for their own good, not yours.

A - they hope you'll get discouraged and just plain QUIT.

B - They will think you're as dumb as WE were, and that you'll have sent them ALL of your information, and here's the real KICKER. The VA will NOT accept already submitted information from a claim, to use in your appeal. Your appeal MUST be comprised of ENTIRELY NEW ITEMS, none of which were submitted previously. This can discourage one. NOW is the time to call your buds and see who remembers what, for your sake. You will have already mailed your intention to "fight" their decision, and now you have to scrounge for articles, old Dr. notes, prescriptions, everything. BUT, never send it ALL. Always save enough to help you start ANOTHER appeal, if this one fails. DO NOT SUBMIT ALL OF YOUR PROOF!!!

Here is what I find interesting, and almost unlawful. According to the VA's "BIBLE", TITLE 38, "If you ask for information, help and assistance in making a well-grounded appeal".....the VA, by it's own law, MUST send you helpful material and ASSIST YOU in appealing their decision????

Working with the VA for the 75th RRA has been the most frustrating, grueling, matter I have ever had to deal with. Don't even get me started.

We can't dislike them, because our fate is now in their hands; we need them, and they know it.

The first (1st) appeal in VA history was by seven veterans blinded from drinking "torpedo juice" in the Philipines, when liquor was scarce. And THEY WON THEIR CASE!!!!!!

Drug addiction and alcoholism, including organic diseases secondary to the chronic use of alcohol, may be service-connected if determined to be in the line of duty and not willful misconduct. A Staff man who became addicted to

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drugs while assigned to a SAIGON Headquarters unit isn't likely to receive consideration. But a GI constantly out-on-patrol in the jungles of South Vietnam could conceivably make a very good case if his psychological condition led him to drugs. The injury or illness need not have been caused by your wartime duty in order to count as service-connected. That is, an illness or physical disability can be service-connected if it existed years before you entered military service. It is only necessary that there be no omission or denial made by you prior to entering said service., if asked.

And last, but not least, at all.....Copy machines are cheap. Folders are cheap. Pens are cheap. With each piece of paper you intend to save or use to "build" a case or an appeal on, make sure you make six (6) copies of it. And each time you send one (1) out, copy it's replacement first,

And put it in it's appropriately marked folder. And don't stack your folders, but box'em or file-holder them. This will display the title of each folder, AND keep the contents where they belong, INSIDE the folder.

I cannot tell you how many times I have sent and re-sent the same people the same information, each and every time they

requested it. Someday I won't be here...then what? And for your appeal, really go through the 75th's website health section. It's easy, and the links go right to the source you request. If you don't use it, we spent some money, but ol'Emmett, he was working on that thing 23 hours a day...for us, Brothers, to USE. USE IT!

Claims and appeals are necessary items to pursue. You have to have VA disability money coming to you for at least your last five (5) years, if you wish for your surviving family to continue receiving your check(s). This, of course is in a "flux-state" presently. The Government is changing, and changing the benefits rules as we have had to come to understand them. Before we are way out there, alone, again, like we were when we came home; no one to help us or advise us, as they didn't care.

I received this information from Ray Cromley, in December of 1970. I have six (6) copies available, in a manila folder, two (2) feet away from this computer. I love pc's but don't trust them. My folder system works for me. Hope for you too. God Bless. Your Brother, Dan Nate. RLTW.

Push to cut Benefits for Vets who get VA and Social Security Compensation

Vets' Commission Chair, General Terry Scott wants to study if vets should get VA compensation and Social Security disability at the same time with the aim of reducing benefits. In an unconstitutional move, he asks Congress to interpret its own law so he would have the power to launch study.

The next step in dismantling veterans' benefits could be a payment reduction, known as an offset, for veterans receiving disability compensation and Social Security. The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC) was established by Public Law 108-136 and signed into being by President Bush in November 2003. The VDBC's charter states they are to study "whether a veteran's disability or death should be compensated" and at what level if any. Since the VDBC was first established it was obvious to veterans and veterans' service organizations (VSOs) that the Commission had one thing in mind and that was cutting veterans' benefits. The VDBC is made up of 13 political appointees. Four were appointed by Democratic Members of

Congress, four more by Republican Members and the other five by President Bush. The VDBC is truly a 9-4 politically-stacked deck even though they like to refer to themselves as bipartisan. The legality of the VDBC has been questioned by some VSOs.

As the VDBC's meetings progressed, veterans began to notice a "secretive" quality to the workings of the Commission. Last fall the VDBC issued a list of questions they would study. They asked for input and gave veterans just a few days, over a Holiday weekend, to respond. The questions signaled the direction of the VDBC. One question was: "Does the disability benefit provided affect a veteran's incentive to work?" Now, "secretive" has taken on a new meaning. In a recent editorial written by Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) we find: "Optimism was in short supply at the Commission's March 16-17 meeting as some of its members maneuvered to authorize collecting data about Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits paid to veterans who also receive VA disability compensation. That was done with a view toward an offset [reduction] of disability insurance if the veteran receives disability compensation from the VA." Wilson continues: "A move to sidestep proper procedures and hold a secret ballot on the matter was postponed, but the issue is expected to resurface at the commission's meeting in May. If so, it could lay the groundwork for cutting or eliminating veterans' benefits as a way of saving the government money. The idea that disability compensation is some kind of income security or welfare program cheapens the service and sacrifice of disabled veterans. That kind of thinking might also open the door to cutting off VA compensation when a disabled veteran becomes eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. Veterans' benefits are separate and distinct from Social Security, so

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receiving payments under both programs is not dual compensation for the same disability, as some have tried to argue.”

It appears the VDBC is about evenly split on the idea of studying the SSDI issue. But the Chairman, retired Army Lt. General Terry Scott, is adamant about getting this on the agenda and wants the power to move forward. And, he wants the help of Congress to push his agenda. Scott has taken the liberty of writing to Congress asking them to interpret their own law that established the VDBC. This presents a problem. It is unconstitutional for Congress to interpret its own laws. Congress passes laws and the courts interpret them. But, this hasn't stopped General Scott. In an email to the House and Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees, General Scott writes: “Some Commissioners believe that this charge [the VDBC's charter] should be interpreted broadly to mean all related benefits received by disabled veterans under the laws of the United States to include...SSDI payments...the Chairman would appreciate clarification of the intent of Congress in writing or in person during the next Commission public meeting May 19, 2006”

General Scott's unconstitutional request has raised major concerns among the VSOs. Christopher J. Clay, General Counsel for the DAV, has written to the four Chairmen involved. In part, Clay's letter states: “...[General Scott's] request, if honored...would violate one of the fundamental principles which have guided the government of the United States for more than

200 years. That principle is the separation of powers...Congress exercises the sole power to enact laws while the Judicial and Executive Branches have the power to say what those laws mean...neither a committee of either the House or Senate nor the full Congress may interpret a statute after it is enacted, without passing a new law...The DAV is unaware of any precedent for the congressional interpretations requested by the Commission Chairman. If the Committee responds to the Chairman's inquiry, it will set a precedent that the courts are no longer the sole arbiters of disputes over our laws.”

Now, veterans play the waiting game. Will any of the four Congressional Committees respond to General Scott's request and interpret their own law? Will General Scott get enough votes from VDBC members to push ahead with his idea to study a Social Security offset (reduction) for veterans' disability compensation? We will know by May 19. But, what we don't have to wait for is the fact that General Terry Scott and other members of the VDBC want to cut veterans' benefits and will try to hold secret votes and try to get Congress to, unconstitutionally, interpret its own laws. General Scott must be reminded that veterans' disability compensation is not welfare. It is not to be confused with welfare. It is not to be confused with any other sort of compensation. Veterans receive disability compensation because they earned it. Many earned it on the field of battle. They don't deserve to lose it in a Commission hearing.



75th RRA Reunion, Summer 2005: At table, L to R; Mike Hines, Willaim Wilkerson, Rudy Teodosio. Marc Thompson standing in doorway.



75th RRA Reunion, Summer 2005: L to R Rudy Teodosio, Bill Wilkerson, Ron Wafer, and Steve Lemire.

FEATURE ARTICLES

BEST RANGER COMPETITION – A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

Ed Note: The annual Best Ranger competition is a grueling contest of strength, endurance and will. It is supported solely by contribution and has a zero cost to the government or to the army, (save for the time of the competitors & graders). The following is a 'behind the scenes' scenario of the preparation involved.

Candyss Bryant: Contractor of The National Ranger Association, hired to raise funds for the Best Ranger Competition and the funds also help the DMOB, The Ranger Hall of Fame and other support functions.

In July/August I start to create a proposed plan of action for the next year's Best Ranger Competition. Once this proposed plan is approved, I prepare the appropriate materials to support the next year's competition by updating the BRC website, contribution packages, brochures, postcards, etc which is normally mailed in September/October to prior supporters, Ranger Friends and those expressing interest in supporting the Association. I like to mail and e-mail correspondence at least once a quarter throughout the year in order to stay in touch with our Ranger friends and supporters.

If a company is interested in its product to be used within the competition, it first has to be 'authorized for use' and made sure it can appropriately be given to our competitors. Once the product has been 'authorized for use', it is received, placed in inventory then transferred to the Association to be inventoried and stored in a safe place.

In January/February, I start organizing the competition's social functions. First, I have to finalize the selection of a host hotel and hospitality suite. Once that is done, I focus on the Friday night Ice Breaker, Saturday night dinner, and Sunday Super Supper. With each social function, I assist in negotiating prices, selection of menus and drinks, decorations, linens, and the gifts to be given to the supporters. Each event has its special break-down of things that must be done. Although time consuming, it is fun to organize.

In March, invitations to the various events are sent out. It is a time consuming task to figure out who will join us for each event, who their guests will be and how we can help to take care of them should they have special needs. At this point, everything starts to become a blur through the end of April. I am in daily communication with The RTB and The National Ranger Association to marry notes and make sure we are on the same page with all the different elements of the competition. As a result of local advertising, the general public starts to call with inquiries of what is going to happen and I must be available to answer their inquiries. This helps to have a great relationship with all the other organizers of the event.

Once April hits, my job is about staying organized, knowing who will be on site, making sure that everyone's requests are being met and insuring all the plans are going according to expectation.

Believe it or not, I begin planning for the next year's event directly after the close of the competition. Once the year is wrapped up, I start looking for a host hotel then start to formulate thoughts around what we can do for the next competition.

I personally stay I touch with former supporters throughout the year to keep them informed of current events of the Association, to answer their questions or to remind them that the competition date is fast approaching. It is very important to me to convey to each supporter they are a vital part to the Ranger Family. These one-on-one communications with former and prospective contributors has allowed me to develop very close, personal relationships with people from all over the world. The competition, in an essence, becomes a family reunion of sorts. This is such a rewarding aspect of my job.

Kathy Brown: Secretary To The Ranger Training Brigade

For my portion – I work all year on the mailing list for people who will be invited to the Best Ranger Competition and social events. Beginning in February, I start working closely with my S-1 shop, COL Chinn, Candyss and Selby Rollinson (Protocol) on the mailing list to ensure that we have every single person we can think of that should be invited on that list. Of course, as time nears, additions are constantly being added. This list, including FT. Benning personnel, is approximately 400 invites.

Once we have determined that the invite list is as complete as possible, the S-1 shop sends out the invitations. The RSVP person is ME!!! I take the responses to each event and post them. Knowledge of our guests helps me tremendously in asking the right questions, i.e., is housing needed; is an escort required; handicap requirements; etc. Plus, I get to hear a lot of wonderful stories about past history!! I also work closely with Protocol on the VIP requirements and housing issues. I couldn't do what I do without the support I receive from the Ranger Training Brigade personnel and the Protocol personnel of FT Benning.

As the Best Ranger Competition arrives, I work daily with Candyss and our S-1 shop on last minute RSVP's to ensure we know who will attend all events. I work with the assigned Escorts on needs of our guests and stay in touch with the escorts as the events progress. An example: I called SSG Marisin (escort to the WWII Rangers) to warn him that Todd Field was wet and slippery and to take special care of our WWII Rangers!! Another function of having an escort assigned is the opportunity it allows the group to attend functions they otherwise would not be able to attend. This was obvious with our WWII Rangers. Without an escort, it would have limited what they could do and which functions they could attend. They were very grateful to SSG Marisin for his time and energy during their stay. I try to personally meet as many of the guests as possible and check on them during the competition to make sure their needs are being met and answer any questions that might arise.

In other words, I HAVE A BLAST!!! This year's special treat was meeting several World War II Rangers - an absolute dream come true. My Grandmother was a registered nurse during WWII, caring for the wounded, and now I understand her love for these men and what they went through as soldiers of war! THEY ARE WONDERFUL!

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Every day brings a chance for you to draw in a breath, kick off your shoes, and DANCE!!”

KATHY BROWN

Once again the Discovery Military Channel is making a DVD of Best Ranger Competition. I understand the cost to be \$20/DVD with a \$5 shipping and handling fee (fee could change –check first). If interested contact Candyss Bryant @ (706) 718-9520 or by e-mail at candyssbryant@aol.com.

Best Ranger will be on TV next month

BY: Steve Crabtree

If you were among those who skipped the 2006 edition of the Best Ranger Competition in order to, say, watch golf on TV, then you'll get a second chance next month. No, Col. Clarence K.K. Chinn's Ranger Training Brigade isn't about to restage the event, which ended Sunday with Russian emigre Spc. Mikhail Venikov and Sgt. 1st Class John Sheaffer of the 75th Ranger Regiment thumping the field. But, you'll be able to watch highlights of the 60-hour endurance test June 15 from 8-11 p.m. on the Military Channel. And anyone who attended any session of the three-day event this year knows that cameras and boom mikes from the Military Channel were everywhere. This is the second year that the network has covered the event and if last year's coverage is any indication, the June airing will be special.

Among the hundreds who attended Sunday's final day of competition at Darby Queen, Victory Pond or the RTB complex were former post commanded Maj. Gen. Ken Leuer, founder of the "modern" Rangers, and Joe Rippetoe, whose son Ranger Capt. Russell Rippetoe was killed in Iraq in April, 2003. Joe had his picture taken with the winners and said he has a collection of himself with most of the past winners of the competition. Leuer spent time chatting with retired Lt. Gen. David E. Grange, Jr., who started the Ranger competition in 1982.

BRC Postscript: Erin Nash, whose husband Adam was part of



2004's winning team, wrote about the event for the post newspaper, the Bayonet ... 15 of the original 26 teams on Friday completed the event, up

Mary Anne, John, Steve, Lori & Dutch (our dog), at from 11 the Victory pond for the Best Ranger Competition.

previous year ... the 75th Ranger Regiment, coached by 1st Sgt. Eddie Noland, landed five teams in the top nine ... Sgt. 1st Class Allen Leonard of the RTB was not only the shortest of the

52 competitors at 5-3 but the oldest at age 42 ... there was no Team No. 13 in the competition ... the average size and weight of the field was 5-10 and 178 pounds ... Sgt. 1st Class Travis May was a DNF in 2005 because of an injury suffered during the spot jump but this time a healthy May, with Sgt. 1st Class Steven Viands, placed fourth overall ... Final Standings: 1. Venikov and Sheaffer, 75th Ranger Regiment,



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

1,304 points; 2. Capt. Joshua Eaton and Capt. Wesley Davidson, 11th Infantry Regiment, 1,200.5; 3. Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Young and Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Pittman, 75th Ranger Regiment, 1,184; 4. Sgt. 1st Class Steven Viands and Sgt. 1st Class Travis May, Ranger Training Brigade, 1,170.5; 5. 2nd Lt. Donovan Duke and 2nd Lt. John Agnew, 11th Infantry Regiment, 1,164; 6. Capt. Trace Trudell and 1st Lt. Patton Nix, U.S. Army Special Operations Command and 25th Infantry Division, 1,066 points; 7. Sgt. Keith Pierce and Spc. Bradley Spearing, 75th Ranger Regiment, 1,038 points; 8. Spc. Andrew Wallace and Sgt. Matthew Carey, 75th Ranger Regiment, 1,012; 9. Spc. Grady

Smalling and Sgt. Thomas Payne, 75th Ranger Regiment, 990; 10. Capt. Craig Polston and Capt. Peter Kim, 29th Infantry Regiment, 957.5; 11. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Allen and Sgt. 1st Class John Guadalupe, Ranger Training Brigade, 844 points; 12. Sgt. 1st Class Danny Tejeda and Capt. Larinzol Davis, 29th Infantry Regiment, 786 points; 13. Sgt. 1st Class Allen Leonard and Sgt. 1st Class Nathaniel Sebrén, Ranger Training Brigade, 709.5; 14. Capt. Stephen Murphy and Capt. Todd Bzdafka, U.S. Special Operations Command, 665.5 points; and 15. Sgt. Joseph Defer and Spc. Joshua Huff, Ranger Training Brigade, 651.



75th RRA “Airborne Man of the Year”

SGM Jim Kraft was the 2006 recipient of the “Airborne Man of the Year” for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. This prestigious award was presented at the “All Airborne” awards banquet on 22 April 2006 at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

SGM Kraft served as a Team Leader in both E/52d LRP and H/75 from December 1968 to 1969, and graduated from the MACV Recondo School.

SGM Kraft then served as an Airborne School Instructor “Black Hat”, and then was selected for the United States Army Military Parachute Team, commonly referred to as the “Golden Knights”. SGM Kraft served with the Golden Knights from 1973 to 1979 and has over 700 military parachute jumps.

SGM Kraft served as a Platoon Sergeant in the 2d Infantry Division, Korea, and as a 1SG in the 1/11 Infantry, Fort Carson, CO.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Jim Kraft then attended the Sergeants Major Academy in 1984, and was the youngest man in his class at age 34.

Further assignments included Instructor, U. S. Army First Sergeants Course, Sergeants Major Academy, and in the U.S. Army Inspector Generals Office.

Awards Include: Combat Infantrymans Badge, Master

Parachutist Badge, U.S. Army Military Freefall Badge, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" device (1st OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3rd OLC), and Air Medal.

SGM Kraft is married to Judy McCardle Kraft and is now a "Gentleman Farmer" in Virginia.



To the Center of What We Are

BY: Kit Jarrell

The rain had been coming down all weekend, and the clouds hung low and gray as Heidi and I stepped off the Metro at Arlington Cemetery on Sunday morning. We had been waiting for this trip to Washington D.C. for months. Heidi had never been able to see Arlington before, and I hadn't been there in over 10 years. We were excited, but underneath the excitement was a sort of recognizance, something deep and unspoken. It was a big deal to us, to be here in this place. It was a day neither of us will ever forget.

As we stepped into the Women in Military Service memorial, the Wall of the Fallen greeted us with rows upon rows of portraits, set in four groups curving around the wall: every military member killed in the war since the beginning, through the end of 1994. Hundreds of them, their faces and their sacrifices immortalized in oils and airbrushes. Many of them had little notes or letters propped up beside them, tokens of goodbye left by grieving family and friends.



I fought back tears as I looked over them one by one, taking in their faces and names and

hometowns. The bright-eyed young man from California who looked like he was no stranger to a surfboard, the broad face of a Marine NCO from the Midwest, the pretty woman who smiled proudly from her photo. Some of them were in groups with matching units and dates killed, together now as they were in their last moments. It was oddly comforting to me somehow to see them grouped that way, instead of alphabetically.

Each of them affected me, but a few of them are emblazoned in my mind forever. One husband and father's portrait had a small picture next to it. A little blond girl who looked to be about 3 or 4 was hugging his grave marker at Arlington, tiny arms barely wrapped around it, her cheek laid against the white stone. I lost control of my tears then, and said a silent prayer thanking the Lord for people like her daddy. It would be the first of many prayers I would say that day.

Near the end of the display, a face and a name caught my eye. HMC Julian Woods, age 22, was a Navy corpsman who



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



“ran through a hail of gun fire to the aid of a fallen Marine with his medical bag in one hand, and his pistol in the other,” says CPL Aaron Kuck, who fought with Woods at

Fallujah. As my eyes spilled over again, I realized that there were many more Marines here from that day, a whole group of them from the 1/3 who had fought together and died together. Knowing Aaron as a friend made this all the more real to me. I stepped back and took pictures of their faces, making a note to be sure and send these to my friend. They would mean a lot to him. Heidi and I composed ourselves and stepped out on our way to the cemetery, and as we passed the entrance, a sign told us that

“These are hallowed grounds.” Hallowed grounds, indeed. We walked the winding pavement past thousands and thousands of stones as far as the eye



could see, the cold air around us holding a sort of quiet reverence, seeming to insulate the cemetery from the busy world outside. Taking in the vastness of this sacred place, we couldn't help but notice the details as well. We passed a man who blotted tears from his eyes as he stood against the rope in front of a stone. His wife and child hung back a few steps, quietly waiting. We walked under white dogwood trees whose flowers fell like snowflakes over the silent stones. We commented quietly when we saw a name we recognized from history.

We finally came to the amphitheater that overlooks the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and our breath caught in our throats. This was the highlight of why we had come. We came around the corner and there he was: the lone guard, pacing silently, pausing only to face each direction in turn. The mat beneath his feet was worn, its path tread countless times by those sworn to guard the Tomb. We stayed to watch the changing of the guard twice, moving to the right side next to where they enter for the second one. We were within a foot of them as they passed, and their eyes never wavered to the hundreds of people who watched them,

breathless and waiting.

We stayed to watch a wreath laying ceremony, by now completely entranced at the rigidity of the Army's 3rd Regiment guards. Heidi and I had been able to focus on the beauty of their movements and the strength of their bearing enough to keep from crying, but as the ceremony wound to a close the bugler lifted his instrument. The haunting, plaintive notes of Taps filled the crisp air, and as we stood there with our hands on our heart, our faces shone with the tears of the thankful free. Heidi received a white rose from one of the wreaths, and we carried it with us to the next stop. We knew just the place for it.

The cab let us off near the Vietnam Wall, and we walked to a little stand holding the book of names. I wondered as we turned the well-worn pages how many people had stood there before us, tracing down

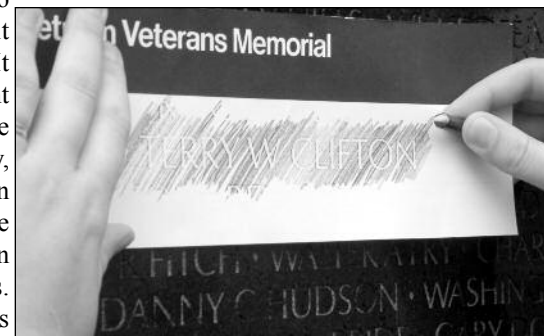
neat columns, searching for someone in the halls of the dead. Heidi and I were searching for four men we never knew,



from a war before our time, and yet my fingers shook slightly as I wrote down their location. We reached the panel 38 West? and I counted lines: 2, 4, 6, all the way to 15. There, I found him. Terry Clifton, member of the ill-fated Team 24 of 20 November 1968, one of the men whose death before I was born has affected me since I first heard their story a year ago. I traced the name with trembling fingers and felt a host of emotions as drops from the recent rain slid down into the engraving like silent tears.

Line 16 held Albert D. Contreras, Jr. Michael Dean Reiff and Art Heringhausen, Jr. were a few lines down. Each of them had a diamond in front of their names, signifying death in combat. Looking at this wall, it was suddenly real to me. It was tangible and permanent. Writing about these men, researching their last days so deeply has left us with a sense of knowing, a true understanding that they were more than abstracts, more than historical figures. They were people who our friends, their brothers-in-arms, loved deeply?and they were gone.

A volunteer came up and offered to trace the names for us, but we asked to do it ourselves. It was important to us, and we did it slowly, reflecting on the sacrifice these men made for us. The names came into



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

view on the paper, and for a moment I felt as though my heart would burst. It was sobering and heart wrenching and beautiful all at once. Heidi laid her rose at the foot of the panel, and its white purity stood out against the stark blackness of its background. It had come full circle for us now, and I silently thanked God that I had been able to come here and pay my respects to not just these four men, but all of the men whose names are immortalized on the wall.

We went on to see the World War II and Korean War Memorials, and each of them is more than beautiful. Their architecture is awe-inspiring, their inscriptions timeless, their truth absolute. One of them read as it faced a wall of innumerable golden stars, "Here we mark the price of freedom." The day we spent in the most sacred shrines of our country's history will live with me forever, for it takes me to the center of what I am.

I am an American, and because of the men and women who willingly bled for the red, white, and blue, I am free.

Ed Note:

Kit Jarrell is an Air Force flight line veteran, doing freelance writing while she finishes a degree in Aircraft Maintenance Technology. Heidi Theiss is an Army vet who is Airborne qualified, having first served as enlisted and then later commissioned. They write at euphoricreality.net about military issues, national security, and American politics.

The close-ups of the faces are 1/3 Marines killed in Fallujah in November 2004. (HMC Julian Woods, mentioned in the story, and the other members of his unit that were killed that day.)

STATE COORDINATOR – ADVOCATE

Congratulations:

The following persons have volunteered as State Coordinators for their state:

We need good men and women like these to support our Association.

Delaware, Charles R. (Rick) Laws

Hawaii, Dennis Kim

Illinois, Mike Wood

New Mexico, Reed Cundiff

Connecticut, Kat (Gold Star Wife)

California, Eduardo M. Tinoco

Louisiana, Ron Wafer

Florida, Bob McConnell

Florida, Richard Foster

Texas, Michael Clark

Hawaii, Michael Chu

Massachusetts Lazar Lazarov, III

Michigan, William M. Postelnic

Hawaii, Jim Brockmiller

Arizona, Michael Harris

Louisiana, Charles Graver

Minnesota, Mark Switzer

Texas, John Eder

Oregon, John Kiefel

BEHIND THE SCENES, YET IN THE FOREFRONT:

A Special Congratulations goes to Kevin Leppla (formerly 2/75) for his organizing and assisting in the services of Darby's Ranger "Ben Defoe". **"This is what it is all about!"** Ben Defoe set an example for all of us to follow and Kevin exhibited our true feelings and sacrifices for our brother ranger. Kevin lives in Washington and drove to Idaho for the service. He organized and guided the contingent to Idaho. When the active duty Rangers could not assist with the Color Guard he got one set up. Paul Hickson through Captain Andy Saslav (2/75) was able to locate two Rangers from the 2nd BN 75th Rangers who volunteered during their time off and they assisted in getting everything prepared for a wonderful service, a tribute to the friendship among Rangers past, present and future. **A job well done Kevin.**

The following folks assisted Kevin in getting the service prepared and conducting it in a dignified and professional manner. Most were from out of state and we can not thank them enough. I know how proud the family of Ben Defoe must have felt and they will remember you forever!

Mark Vance (formerly 2/75)

Paul Hickson (formerly 2/75)

Mark Vance supplied Boots, Helmet and a Rifle

Paul served as Master of Ceremonies

Kevin, Mark, Paul, Spec Peters, and Spec Heppner served as the color guard.

Rangers Peters and Heppner conducted the flag folding ceremony.

Also the guest speaker and ushers came from these dedicated men. **RLTW**

2nd Bn 75th Rangers

Captain Andy Saslav

Spec 4 Felipe Peters

Spec 4 Jonathan Heppner

(These are the two RANGERS that volunteered during their own off time)

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

National Guard Armory Grangeville, Idaho - provided an auditorium and logistical support

Let me not leave out Kevin's wife Margaret for all the support she gave the men and the family of Ben Defoe.

(This is what we are about, selflessness, pride and devotion to one another)

THE FOLLOWING STATES HAVE NO STATE COORDINATORS! We need more than one person in each state. So please volunteer for the following states, email me at egt12@adelphia.net or telephone me at 719-380-8277:

Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska,

New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming

We can use you even if we already have someone for your state, some states are quite large and you folks need to take vacation etc. With more than one person we can provide continuous coverage.

Be sure to read the "Patrolling" magazine so you can see who else is you're your state and then you folks can coordinate with each other for assistance. Anyone that volunteered before and would like a copy of the State coordinator guidelines please email me and I will send them to you. They were posted in the last issue of "Patrolling." Also the State Coordinator roster is in the magazine.

As stated above the roster has been posted in the Patrolling magazine. Many of the State Coordinators email addresses are not present. Please email me with your address if you have one. I am waiting for my email to fill up or phone to ring off the hook with volunteers. You would be able to work together if we were to get several State Coordinators in each state. That would be great. Your association needs you; more important your fellow LRRPs/ LRP/ Rangers and their families need you!

Now is the time to step up and be counted!

Gene Tucker

State Coordinator - Advocate

75th Ranger Regiment Association

STATE COORDINATOR GUIDELINES

The sole purpose for creating this concept is for the Association to have the flexibility to organize and coordinate critical activities geographically by State regardless of an individual's unit affiliation. Up to this point, the Association has not had the means to reach out to members by State, to coordinate funeral services, to visit sick members, the retention of current or lapsed members, the recruitment of new members or the solicitation of Corporate Sponsors within a given State, Region or locality.

This is a purely volunteer position and each State Coordinator serves at the discretion of the Association President. There is no reimbursement by the Association for any expenses incurred in the execution of these duties.

The following are a list of functions the State Coordinator may fulfill:

Organize and coordinate for funeral services by State.

Assist the families of deceased parties where possible.

Organize and coordinate visitation of incapacitated members by State.

Contact non-members within the State and assist and recruit them in joining the Association.

Contact members within the State whose membership has lapsed and assist them in renewing.

The State Coordinator may cross Unit boundaries and / or lines to fulfill the duties listed above in behalf of the Association. As a common courtesy, the State Coordinator should keep the Unit

Director informed concerning pertinent information of any given individual within that Unit. Also keep the State Coordinator - Advocate advised of assistance provided and actions taken. The State Coordinator will not share this information with third parties without the expressed permission of the Association President, Secretary, State Coordinator - Advocate or applicable member.

The responsibility and actions of the State Coordinator are essential and critical to the day-to-day operations of the Association. The ability for the Association to be able to reach members outside the normal chain of command or in conjunction with the Unit is paramount. The work sharing of funeral duties assures that no member is left to make the final walk to his grave a solitary one. The assistance in recruitment and retention of members assures the Association strength well in to the future. The potential impact that this position could have on the Association can only be a win / win situation.

Remember that each member assuming this responsibility is a direct representative of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and is displaying to the families, general public and interested parties the comradeship, love, concern and devotion that we have for each other. Contact the State Coordinator -Advocate if you have any questions or concerns.

Volunteering for the State Coordinator position is a new concept that can be as successful as the individual makes it. Those wishing to contribute to the success of the Association by filling these positions should contact the Association President or State Coordinator – Advocate as soon as possible. Volunteering, contributing and participation in these activities is rewarding.

Individual members within the State who do not wish to participate in this program should express their desires to the State Coordinator - Advocate as soon as possible and their name shall be exempted from the roster. This is purely a voluntary effort and by no means compulsory.

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Acebes



By: Bill Acebes

This newsletter is full of things about our active duty rangers and those about to retire. First of all a BIG thank you to LTG David Barno and good luck on your retirement. LTG Barno will retire and go to work at MacDill AFB, CENTCOM. Then CPT Barno was Commander of Charlie Company thru the Grenada Invasion and later as Commander, 2nd Ranger Battalion. Good Luck to him and his wonderful wife Susan.

LTC Augustus Fountain will retire on 2 June 2006; His last duty assignment is West Point; he will join the Research and Technology Directorate at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. He was the Chemical Officer of 1st BN; referred to in most meetings as "Choking Death".

Rangers not only do battle with the enemy; when time is available they train to do battle amongst themselves. In this case, SSG Jose R. Jimenez, Chemical NCO, Charlie Company, battled through increasing levels of competition from January through March. He earned a Gold Medal in the 2006 All Army Championships at Ft Huachuca, AZ; and individual and team Gold Medal at the 2006 Armed Forces Championships at Naval Station Ventura, CA; and competed in the 2006 US Army Boxing National Championships in Colorado Springs, CO. He will represent the United States in the World Military Championships this September in Germany. His ultimate goal is to compete in the 2008 Olympics. LEAD THE WAY RANGER!

The Battalion conducted its annual Expert Infantryman training and testing. 198 Rangers finished testing for the Expert Infantryman Badge which was conducted over a ten day course, with 33 different Infantry skills tested.

Banner Day Competition was conducted in Savannah's Daffin Park in April. This time blood was flowing in "friendly" competition. Bragging Rights were the objectives for the Combatives and tug of war competition.

Ranger Hall of Fame will be held 28-30 June at Fort Benning. Congratulations to Ranger Kevin Connell;



former member of Charlie Company, for his induction this year.

Last, but certainly not least; I want to recognize a third generation soldier; whose granddaddy (1LT retired Billie R. Wear) was a Korean War and Vietnam Veteran; Platoon Sergeant with A Company, 75th Infantry; and whose father (SFC retired B. Wear) served with B Company, 75th Infantry LRRP and as a member of A Company, 1st Battalion. SGT Anna Wear has served in combat with the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan, 18th Airborne Corps and is currently assigned to Germany. I don't know how those ugly old men could have such a pretty granddaughter/daughter. Plus she is an MP; something those two tried to stay out of the way of (picture attached).



Ranger Ball to be held 2 June.

Until the next time; keep your head down; powder dry; and see you on the high ground.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Rich Hecht



BY: Rich Hecht

We have lost two more brothers in the War On Terror.

RELEASE NUMBER: 060321-03

DATE POSTED: MARCH 21, 2006

PRESS RELEASE: Two Rangers

killed in Iraq U.S. Army Special Operations Command FORT LEWIS, Wash. (USASOC News Service, Mar. 21, 2006) — Two Army Rangers assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment died recently in western Iraq of wounds sustained while conducting combat operations.

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Barraza and Sgt. Dale G. M. Brehm, both assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Rgt., Fort Lewis, Wash., were killed by enemy small arms fire during the mission.

Barraza, 24, of Shafter, Calif., volunteered for military service and entered the Army in August 1999. After completing basic infantry, basic airborne and Ranger Indoctrination Training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Rgt., in March 2000. A Ranger squad leader, Barraza was a six-time veteran of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal with a two knot rope, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Korean Parachutist Wings, Jordanian Parachutist Wings, and Ranger Tab. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Barraza is survived by his parents, Francisco and Nina Barraza, and two sisters, Amanda and Rachael of Shafter, Calif., and his fiancé, Maghan K. Herrington of Yakima, Wash. He is also survived by another sister, Jamie Barraza and a brother, Frankie of Sunnyside, Wash.

Brehm, 22, of Turlock, Calif., volunteered for military service and entered the Army in February 2001. After completing basic infantry, basic airborne and Ranger Indoctrination Training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt., in October 2001. A Ranger team leader, Brehm was a six-time veteran of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge,

Parachutist Badge, Canadian Parachutist Wings, and Ranger Tab.

He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. Brehm is survived by his wife, Raini Brehm, of Steilacoom, Wash., his father, William Brehm, of Turlock, Calif., and his mother, Laura Williams, also of Turlock.

“Staff Sgt. Barraza fully embodied the Ranger Creed and took every opportunity to perform at the highest level,” said Maj. Jasper Jeffers. “Sgt. Brehm always demanded that the men around him gave nothing less than 100 percent with every task.”

As of May 2006 through a combination of your 75th RRA and the 75th Ranger Regiment, memorial bricks at the Ranger Monument are being purchased for Blake

Samodell, Devin Cardenas, Ricardo Barraza and Dale Brehm.

In some other good news, 2/75 has begun work on a memorial for all the Bn KIAs since 1974. A letter and image should appear elsewhere in this issue. A 2/75 specific memorial is long overdue and I hope each of you will make donation to this worthy cause. Nate Chapman Trail

Not far from where I live, there is a nice park where parents can take their kids to play, run around, ride bikes or walk the dog. There is a kids play area, a large play field and a paved trail. The trail area was dedicated on July 18th 2005 to former 2/75 Ranger Nate Chapman, who lived in South Hill. If you are ever in the South Hill area of Puyallup, Wa., please stop by and see this fine monument to a brother Ranger who has given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

SGM Mariano Leon-Guerrero (Retired)

When I arrived at Bn in April 1988, LTC. John Maher was the BC and SGM Mariano Leon-Guerrero was the senior enlisted man. It was SGM LG who impressed me the most. He wasn't the biggest guy, but he had a presence that impressed me greatly. There was something special about the way he wore his black beret, starched OG107 jungle fatigues and of course, his Go-Faster glasses that made you look up to him. It wasn't the uniform that made the man, it was the man that made the uniform.

Several months after I arrived, I had the chance to attend the Scout Swimmer course. Cool I thought, Ft. Pierce, Florida here I come! Hot sun, warm water, beaches, chicks...Well, I got my beaches, only we had to wear wetsuits as the course was an MTT held at American Lake! On the second day, our instructor tells us that we are going to do 500 flutter kicks. Great. Well, who is it that plops right down with us? SGM LG of course!

You never knew where he would show up, but knew that when he did, you really dug down deep so as not to let him down. Several months after that, Bn was down at Ft. Stewart, Ga. in preparation for Operation Just Cause. This was our first window to go. It was decided that myself and others, would take a PT test, fly back to



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)



Lewis to get our gear and then return to Benning to start Ranger School. During the run, LG had been out on the course cheering us on. I wasn't the fastest runner, but I wasn't the slowest. As I was heading to the finish line I could hear

footsteps behind me. I stole a quick glance over my shoulder to see SGM LG not only running behind me, but gaining! There was no way I was going to let the SGM run me down. I dropped into a gear I didn't know I had and nearly killed myself trying to get across the finish line. That was the kind of emotion that LG inspired in his boys. It wasn't fear, it was respect.

Last year, I was at a local high school conducting some unrelated business, when one of the office ladies says, "blahblahblah, LG, blahblahblah." Well, there is only ONE LG!

"Excuse me," I said. "Are talking about SGM LG?" "Yes" she replied, "do you know him? He's one of our counselors." I was nearly overtaken

by a brief moment of panic. Could I actually talk to LG in a casual way and not stand at Parade Rest?

Just this past week, our schedules were able to mesh and I had an interview with LG. It turns out I had nothing at all to fear as LG



is truly one of the nicest and most pleasant men I have ever met. I really wanted to know what he had been doing since his retirement and his thought in general.

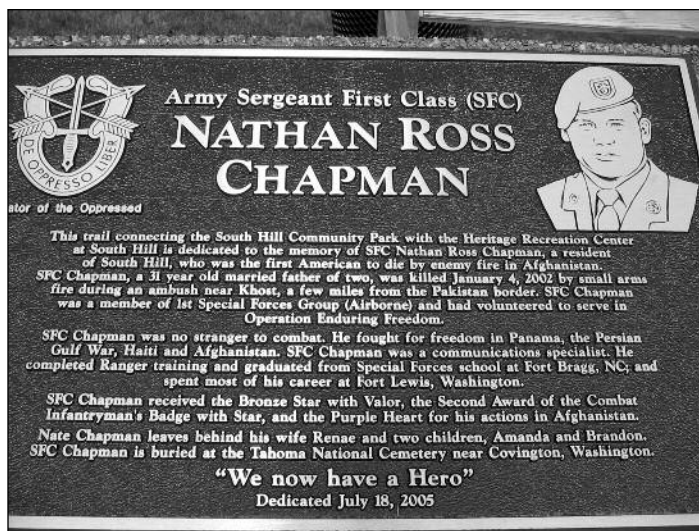
In 1997, Command Sergeant Major Mariano R.C. Leon-Guerrero was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his dedication and contributions to his country for twenty seven years. Command Sergeant Major Leon-Guerrero's career has

spanned from the Vietnam War to Operation Desert Storm. He has been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge with Bronze Star and the Bronze Star Medal. He served multiple tours with the 75th Ranger Regiment as Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Command Sergeant Major and Regimental Sergeant Major. He is the only Command Sergeant Major to be selected to serve as the Sergeant Major for 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions and the 75th Ranger Regiment. Command Sergeant Major Leon-Guerrero has always "Set the example for others to follow" and "Led the Way."

LG could have had a nice, quiet retirement, gotten in a lot of golf and hanging out with old Ranger buddies. But that is not the path he chose. LG decided to continue to learn and grow and pass on his leadership and guidance to a new group of people. He earned degrees in psychology, sociology, a teaching certificate and masters' degrees in educational techniques and guidance and counseling. What have YOU done since leaving Battalion? He taught classes at a local high school, helped to start their ROTC program and for the last few years has been a guidance counselor. While I'm pretty sure that he can't tell the students to "elevate their feet" on his desk, I have no doubt that the students assigned to LG respond pretty well to his lessons. He said that he regularly receives letters and emails from former students who have gone on to successful careers both in the military and the civilian world. How many of you keep in contact with your guidance counselors?

LG told me all about service. How every day was the "high point" because he got to spend the time with soldiers. How he wanted to maintain the "standards of excellence" and was nothing more than "simple pilgrim." LG told me a story about when he was four years old and his Godfather placed his garrison cap on his head and taught him how to salute. His Godfather was killed in Korea a short time later. He said that although he didn't realize it at the time, that he learned about the importance of service and sacrifice from that event in his life.

LG is a great example to all of us who served with him, worked for him or have just heard of him. To many young Rangers he is just a picture on a wall. To myself and many others, he will always "Lead the Way!"





3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Dodge



I start this director's message bidding farewell to Kim Laudano of the 75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs Office. Kim is moving on to be with her husband and we presume greener pastures. Reprinting Kim's articles of happenings within the regiment has always made things easier for posting articles to Patrolling Magazine. The fact that her articles have been cleared always saves us leg work for approval and of course any accompanying red tape. To Kim, we bid you a fond farewell and I personally thank you for supporting me in my efforts to report ranger life.

A couple of events took place just prior to our last printing deadline for Patrolling. On the 7th of March, 3d Battalion held a ceremony to award volunteers of the Family Readiness Group. The evening was hosted by Lieutenant Colonel & Mrs. John G. Castles at Riverside here at Ft. Benning. Riverside is the home of Ft. Benning's Commanding General. It was my hope to include photos from the event however, I missed attending because of an unexpected hospital stay.

The next morning on March 8th, 3d Battalion held a Battalion Dedication Ceremony to commemorate the sacrifice of the five Rangers killed in action or training over the past year at the 3d Battalion Ranger Memorial in the Dawson Barracks Complex. Lieutenant Colonel Castles cordially expressed his thanks for the support provided by the 75th RRA to the Rangers in general but specifically on that day for supporting the travel needs of family members so that they might attend the ceremony. He recognized the 75th RRA as an organization that truly supports the Rangers. I was humbled by his gratitude. The ceremony was particularly moving for me. Each fallen Ranger's name was repeated during roll call only to be answered, "He is no longer with us". It was a heart-wrenching and a heart warming ceremony. I believe it is fair to say the each of the families although grieving took special pride in knowing that their Ranger was loved and respected by his Ranger buddies and that their personal sacrifice would never be forgotten.

Summer is just around the corner. Hopefully, 3rd Battalion will be able to execute their Ranger Ball. They certainly deserve a fun night out. I really would like to encourage the growth of this organization. Consult your Ranger buddies and encourage them to support the boys by joining the 75th RRA. Consider sponsoring a friend even for a year. Remember that your membership helps support all Rangers. To continue to do good things for the rangers this association must grow.

Again I am thankful for the privilege to serve in this position. It is my honor to do so and let us never forget these great Americans who offer up their lives to make life better for us all.

RLTW

Bill Dodge, PMP



Ranger recognized for excellence by Surgeon General

By Kim Laudano

75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs Office

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, Mar. 27, 2006)

– An Army Ranger was presented the 2006 Surgeon General's Physician Assistant Recognition Award during a ceremony here Mar. 24.

Capt. John F. Detro, Physician Assistant, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, received the award for outstanding contributions to military medicine.

Detro was nominated for the award by Col. James R. Ficke, who was the Deputy Commander of Clinical Services at the 228th Combat Support Hospital during Detro's last combat deployment.

The Physician Assistant award is given to one active duty Army physician annually. Commanders nominate Soldiers for the award and then the submissions are reviewed by an appointed board that makes recommended selections for the Surgeon General to approve. A Soldier may only receive the award once in his or her career.

"(Capt. Detro) distinguished himself as one of the U.S. Army's finest medical providers while deployed with the (3rd Ranger) Battalion to northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from July through November 2005," he said in Detro's nomination packet. "He clearly exemplifies the selfless service, leadership and dedication that have given Army physician assistants their sterling reputation in combat casualty care."

During that deployment, Detro participated in more than 40 combat missions. His role was to provide immediate responsive casualty care if Soldiers were injured on en-route to, on or returning from an objective.

Sgt. Webster J. Slavens, a senior medic assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, also helped nominate Detro for the award. "Capt. Detro is an excellent physician assistant with a vast knowledge of his job," he said. "His most important concern is for his men."

Despite Capt. Detro already having one Purple Heart before this deployment, he refused to stay behind at the aid station during missions. "He went on many hazardous missions to provide the most medical coverage that he could," said Slavens.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

Detro's nomination packet described several such dangerous missions, one of which was highlighted during the ceremony. The element Detro was traveling with had just conducted a structure breach when troops were immediately injured by enemy gun and grenade fire. Detro rushed in to the room under enemy fire to treat seriously wounded Rangers. He protected the wounded from shrapnel by covering them with his body as grenades continued to explode in close proximity around them. Ignoring wounds he himself received, Detro helped to evacuate the injured Rangers from the objective to the medical transport aircraft. He then treated the Rangers en-route to the combat support hospital and stayed with the men into the next day to assist with patient care and surgeries.

"Even after receiving his second and third Purple Hearts during this deployment, he continued to run hazardous missions," Slavens explained. "This just showed his continuous commitment and concern for his men and their safety."

Detro said he was extremely honored to earn this award, especially because one of his medics helped to nominate him. "There are several outstanding physician assistants on the recipient list (for this award)...seeing the list of names on the Web site was very humbling."

In the 25 years that this recognition has been awarded, five recipients have been from the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Detro feels that the Army is full of physician assistants deserving this award. "They are leading the training of medics and first responders which has been critical in decreasing preventable deaths on the battlefield," he said. "This is important because a physician assistant is generally the first medical officer to see a combat patient."

In addition to combat experiences, Detro has also made contributions to the medical community as a leader through

academic training. He instilled this importance with each of his medics. "One product of this was that not one Ranger died during this intense combat deployment," said Ficke in Detro's nomination packet.

One of Detro's medical non-commissioned officers to whom he was a mentor, Slavens, was recognized as the 2005 U.S. Army Special Operations Command and U.S. Special Operations Command Medic of the Year.

Detro recognized the sacrifices of his family in support of his career. He currently lives in Columbus, Ga., with his wife Moraima. They have three children, Xaviera, Jose and Anthony, and two grandchildren, Mark and Micheala.

"My family has given a lot over the last 18 years and I am looking toward retirement," he said. "I could not see another place to be for that purpose than with the Army's finest fighting force. I feel extremely lucky to have served with such a great group of men."

Detro was recently selected to be the next 75th Ranger Regiment Physician Assistant.

-usasoc-

Capt. John F. Detro, Physician Assistant, 3rd battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, receives the Surgeon General's Physician Assistant Recognition award from Colonel William Tozier, Assistant Corps Chief, Physician Assistant Section, Army Medical Specialist Corps, during a ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga. (Courtesy photo)

Capt. John F. Detro, Physician Assistant, 3rd battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, receives the Surgeon General's Physician Assistant Recognition award from Colonel William Tozier, Assistant Corps Chief, Physician Assistant Section, Army Medical Specialist Corps, during a ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga. (Courtesy photo)



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

Unit Director - Ronald Dahle



TAPS

By Ronald Dahle

It is with a heavy heart that we extend our condolences to fellow 'Bandit', Chet Smith on the recent passing of his wife, JoAnne. The following information is provided by Chet.

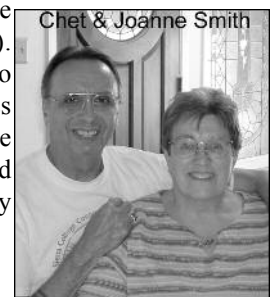
JoAnne Frances Smith, age 60 years, loving wife for 38 years of Chester R. Smith Jr., recently passed away, Easter Sunday, 4-16-06. JoAnne was born in Hoboken, NJ, and as a "military brat," spent much of her earlier years living in "upstate" New York; Bermuda; Chateaus, France; Ruislip, England, and graduated from Central High School, London, England, in 1963.

She fought a lengthy and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She is survived by her husband, Chester, daughter Kristi



Anne Smith, brother Richard Sayon, and Mother Stephanie Sayon. She was preceded in death by her father Joseph Victor Sayon (MSG, USAF, Retired).

JoAnne was known for her great culinary skills and gourmet cooking. "Brunch" at the Smith's was a much sought after invitation. She dearly loved the opportunities she had to meet various members and their spouses of the 3779th ("Band of Bandits") Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (V-Corps). Chester also wishes to express his gratitude for the condolences and support offered by the "Bandits."



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

SICK CALL

Get well wishes go out to Donna Brezindine, wife of Tom Brizindine, of A/75. Donna is recovering from surgery for Cancer of the kidney. The good news is that the doctors say they got it all and Donna is cancer free now.

I just talked to Ray Cardinal of the 3779th, LRP. Ray is recovering from lung cancer, they recently removed his left lung, after going the course with chemo-therapy. He is still weak naturally but otherwise is doing well. We send Ray our best wishes also.

3779th LRP

On a lighter note the last several months has seen a series of mini-reunions by bandits across the country. Ron Dahle hosted a 2 day SOS breakfast for Southeast I LRRPS, which was attended by Lee Farley, Henry Lightfoot, Paul Edwards and on day two John Simmons was able to make it from Pigeon Forge TN. The following photographs were taken during this mini. Group Photo, SOS Crew: Paul Edwards, Henry Lightfoot, Lee Farley, Ron Dahle.



John Simmons

Larry Montague did a wandering self guided mini reunion tour (we think he was freeloading) across the US and linked up with several Bandits enroute.

Tid Bits

Bandit Mike Martin was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Ranger Training Brigade recently at Ft. Benning, GA.



Lee Farley & Mike Martin

A/75th

Members from A/75 just completed their spring reunion and are conspicuous in what they are not saying. Eventually someone will slip and I will paste it all over these pages.

Now back to our 2 part Bio on: Ranger Cantrell

There.....

The new commander did not want to see Mr. Cantrell depart the unit for a year of temporary duty, but alas, the will of DA always prevails. Off to the Warrant Officer Advanced Course Advanced Course, Aviation Maintenance Officer/Maintenance Test Pilot Course for the UH60 Blackhawk enroute to Germany, oh what joy filled his heart, family time to the max and no trips to the woods. Needless to say, these courses were a piece of cake for a motivated Airborne Ranger. Almost a year TDY and the test pilot course completed, Mr. Cantrell received word he would be turned around to Ft Bragg to the same unit he departed because his wife had a medical condition which could not be treated in Europe. The Cantrell Family arrived back in Ft Bragg fresh off a year of temporary duty and just in time to be dropped at the guest house and Mr. Cantrell to draw his .38 and go to Operation Urgent Fury. His performance as a Test Pilot was flawless, needless to say, and he even flew unit missions on the Island. After all the years training for combat, it was rather disheartening seeing the enemy run in the face of an Aero Rifle Infantry Platoon and about seven cobra helicopters. After six weeks in the AO the unit was redeployed to Ft. Bragg, NC. The rest of the tour was business as usual.

Mike received a call from DA about six months out from the end of his tour at Ft. Bragg. He was informed he would be doing another stateside move to Ft. Hood, Texas, to be a member of one of the first active duty Apache Helicopter Units in the US Army. This was a good tour for Mr. Cantrell. The flight time was plenty because in addition to test pilot duties, he held one of the unit pilot slots thanks, to the new Army of Excellence. The three UH60A Blackhawk's assigned to the unit racked up a lot of flight time jumping forward refueling and rearming points and recovering them for deep penetration missions. The mission required a lot of single ship operations and night vision goggle

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

flight, almost all of their work was done at night. The unit was extremely proficient at this, which would come in handy at a later time. In between field trips it was business as usual, test flights, maintenance and the regular garrison days. One of the UH60 slots was assigned to a new and inexperienced young Lt who was also performing as the unit XO, S4, Gopher and a list of other duties new Lts seem to stack up. This equated to low flight time for a junior officer so anytime CWO Cantrell had a test flight going on, he tended to take the new Lt and make him do all the flying while he would record systems readings and operate test equipment. Mr. Cantrell got pretty good at instructing the younger guys in the finer points of test flights. During one visit from The Department Of Evaluation and Standardization (DOES) out of Ft. Rucker, Al., Mike took a no notice flight evaluation and was designated as a Department of the Army DOES Maintenance Test Flight Evaluator. Mr. Cantrell did not know what this immense title would gain him in the future but decided to keep it anyway. It just meant he could evaluate unit test pilots and recommend training programs to the unit commander for them. Six months after the illustrious designation, Mike's Commander informed him an aircraft would be showing up from Dallas, Texas which required our support in the maintenance area; the pilots had picked up a vibration in the aircraft. The aircraft showed up on station and Mr. Cantrell's crew performed the required actions to make it air worthy and released it to the pilots. This specific aircraft had numerous additional plugs hanging off of it that no other aircraft seemed to have and questions were not asked because answers could not be given on the strange configuration. A month later Mr. Cantrell received a letter of appreciation from a high ranking officer in a northern division for his efforts and support of said aircraft. Two months later Mr. Cantrell received a call from DA informing him that he was being transferred to Germany to fill a personnel slot for a UH60 Maintenance Evaluator in the USAREUR Aviation Safety and Standardization Board. Seems the new commander was the same guy who wrote the letter of appreciation to Mr. Cantrell for working on the UH60 from

Dallas.

Mike packed up his family and moved to Germany. This was a great assignment for Mr. Cantrell. After two years and travels all over Europe, one of the attack helicopter units stationed on the same base as Mr. Cantrell was deploying to the desert for Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. The UH60 Test Pilot for this unit had a medical condition and could not be deployed. Mike was assigned to this unit and deployed with them. Needless to say, the tactics practiced in Texas paid big dividends in the first desert war. Mike served in the desert war with many of the pilots he served with in Texas. After returning to Europe from Saudi Arabia, Mike received orders for a stateside transfer to 2nd Army in Atlanta, Georgia. This was an AC/RC Slot to work with Guard and Reserve Units in aviation maintenance. Most units under the guard and reserve components needed no help in this area, they were extremely good at what they did and in most cases were better than the active army side because their man hours were dedicated to aircraft and not distracters. On arrival to 2nd Army, Mike bought a home there based on information he was given by DA on the length of stay. Yes it happened to him too. Twenty six months later he was informed he was going on a short tour to Korea, unaccompanied. On completion of the short tour in Korea, he was assigned to the Flight Detachment at Ft Benning, Ga, did a deployment to Bosnia with the medevac unit station at Benning and then retired to Atlanta, Georgia.

Now...

Now Mr. Cantrell runs day care for his five grandchildren. He receives the rewards of a good mother on a daily basis and would not trade it for anything in the world, even flying again. Each morning Mr. Cantrell arises, he thanks the good Lord for those NCOs and Officers who guided his career and molded him when he was a younger man. Each and every one had an effect on his life and they will not be forgotten.

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson



A recent article in *Stars and Stripes* told of the 94th Engineer Battalion leaving Germany after a half-century there. In the early 1960's, they were stationed at Nellingen, where the VII Corps LRRPs were. The LRRPs ate at the 94th Mess Hall, but other than sharing hunger, there was not much love displayed between the two outfits. However, as "bad" as we thought we might have been, it seems the 94th has become an outfit worthy of our admiration.

Stars and Stripes reported, "The 94th, stationed in Germany since 1955, deployed to Kuwait in January 2003 and supported the 3rd Infantry Division's attack on Baghdad.



In January 2005, the battalion, known as the Wolverines, deployed to Mosul, Iraq, and returned to Germany in January of this year. This battalion executed over 200 full-spectrum combat engineering operations (last year in Iraq) that were strategically focused, precise and deliberate.

The 94th also secured 400 polling sites during Iraqi elections last year, designed and built 15 Iraqi police stations, built a combat outpost at Rawah and expanded detention facilities at several U.S. bases in and around Mosul."

CSM (RET) David L. Clark was the 1st Sergeant of the VII Corps LRRPs at the time we shared their mess in the early '60s. He

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

wrote the following to the VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) Association. Do you think we didn't have some fun back then?

"How many of you guys remember this unit (the 94th)? Most of you should. You kept me in trouble trying to keep you out of trouble for constantly kicking their asses or at least giving it a try. How many remember the basically all night fight, and Major Miller having a very early in the morning formation (before daylight) and taking us on a very long run as a type of punishment? I don't know if you all remember some of his words? I do. I quote: "Nobody really likes a dirty leg but you guys are going to stop trying to defeat an entire Battalion with just a Company!" Just in case those of you who participated in this particular dance, on this particular night, do not remember, I remind you that you went thru the 94th barracks flipping beds (at like 0200), and of course they woke up pretty mad and followed you all outside and that large parade field behind the 94th Eng Battalion became a battleground for about two hours. Half, or maybe most, of the fricking MPs in Stuttgart closed in on Nellingen that morning and everyone in all of 7th Corps who outranked me (and there were lots of them) chewed my ass for weeks. I really thought the Corps CSM was gonna have to be admitted to the hospital, and the more I tried to calm him down the worse it got. I finally did tell him, "You're gonna have a stroke man, lighten up." By the way, that didn't help a bit!! Anyway, just a little history. You men were OK. A pain in the ass sometimes, but pure gold most of the time. I guess I can admit some 40-odd years later that I was pretty proud of you that night (of course I didn't dare admit it) It did take some large balls, and just maybe a slight lack of brains, to attack an entire freaking Battalion in their nest. (Pat Smith and Rick Hathaway, you guys know anything about that night)?
Airborne dlc

To which Theo Knaak replied,
"Remember it well.

Still sweating from all the PT and running. I think the boys were on the way back from the EM Club. This is Lurp Lore at its best. Patty, maybe you can give us a little insight from the Perpetrators' view.? Fatback (Hathaway) will probably deny the whole affair. LOL. Living off post made us married guys miss all the fun but not the punishment."

Theo

And the aforementioned Master Private Rick "Fatback" Hathaway responded,

"Dear 1st Sgt.,

I profess to have no recollection of EVER kickin ANY legs asses!!.....O K After all these years, I should have the balls to tell the truth. So here goes.....McNasty (Patty Smith), Bluto (Richard Black), Workhorse (Stuart Lane) & Tomcat (Bob Miller) started the whole thing. (I was in the barracks BEFORE bedcheck, spitshinin' & reading Army manuals),

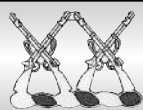
Respectfully submitted M/PVT Hathaway, Fat B.

PS I finally got to rat somebody out!"



Caption "Fatback Hathaway today, singing a love song at Karaoke Night at Hathaway's Tavern, Bloomfield, NJ. The next American Idol?"

At this time, we have not yet heard from the accused Patrick "McNasty" Smith or others.....



C/75 - E/20 LRP
Unit Director - Chuck Vaughn



Remembering "Okie"

Thomas Eugene Campbell
Captain and Helicopter Pilot,
US Army
Lawton, Oklahoma

November 1, 1944 to October 28, 1969

RANGER BROTHERS:

During my tour with Charlie Rangers from 7/69 to 7/70 I was involved in an incident during which I flew C&C while serving as our company's 4th Platoon Leader. Captain Tom Campbell, "Okie", was a friend to all of us in Charlie Rangers, and we who were in-country at the time and



C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

experienced his support knew him as a brave and always-on-the-target gunship pilot.

My Platoon was stationed at Phan Thiet while operating under the overall control of IFFV, First Field Force Vietnam. Our company

worked very closely with the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company Tiger Sharks and often relied on them heavily for close-in gunship support. This particular contact alert occurred late in the day and it was my turn to fly. As we left Ranger Point and headed north toward the team's AO, the sky turned cloudy as twilight approached.

I was riding the back seat of a Birdog with a very experienced O-1 pilot. Both the CWO pilot and I had experienced numerous flights around the large mountain that looked like a long-dead volcano which we affectionately referred to as the "Toilet Bowl." Okie was very quick to depart Phan Thiet and follow with his flight of gunships and a slick to support our pending exfil.

As the evening darkened and the clouds increased, we flew toward the gap between the Toilet Bowl and another familiar small range to the east that held one of our X-Ray radio relay stations and a fire base. We made it through the gap with no problem, flying low level under the cloud cover, but we soon lost contact with Okie. We continued on to the location where the team's contact required a night extraction involving no friendly casualties, primarily due to the help of the remaining Tiger Sharks and their accompanying slick.

However, during the return flight to Phan Thiet's PSP runway, the steady radio commo made it apparent that Okie was most probably lost. For the next 48 hours, beginning at daylight the next morning, it seemed sortie after sortie combed the entire southern II Corps area before his chopper was found as a black spot amidst the triple canopy covering the southeastern side of the Toilet Bowl.

I helped a team of volunteers rappel into the site, secure the bodies of Okie and his three crew members, and destroy

any documents, radio gear and anything else that was to be left behind. Apparently, the gunship had flown straight into the side of the mountain and exploded on impact. You may or may not have ever seen "Crispy Critters" but body-bagging one will leave a lasting memory, especially when one of the four was such a great friend and pilot as Captain Tom "Okie" Campbell. Even though native Texans sometimes think of Oklahomans as foreigners, there was never a better gunship driver that served our Ranger company than "Okie." We Rangers of Charlie Company join with his combat comrades from the 192nd AHC in Remembering Okie.

John Eder (L-T)

"IN MEMORY OF"

<i>SGT FREDERICK W. WEIDNER</i>	<i>KIA</i>
<i>MAY, 20, 1968</i>	<i>E/20/LRP</i>
<i>SSG EMORY M. SMITH</i>	<i>KIA</i>
<i>JUN, 13, 1968</i>	<i>E/20/LRP</i>
<i>SGT ERIC S. GOLD</i>	<i>KIA</i>
<i>JAN, 5, 1969</i>	<i>E/20/LRP</i>
<i>SGT PAUL R. JORDAN</i>	<i>KIA</i>
<i>JAN, 24, 1969</i>	<i>E/20/LRP</i>
<i>SGT DAVID W. PARKER</i>	<i>(KIT)*</i>
<i>FEB, 6, 1969</i>	<i>E/20/LRP &</i>
<i>C/75/RGR</i>	
<i>SGT ELTON R. VENABLE</i>	<i>KIA</i>
<i>FEB, 19, 1969</i>	<i>E/20/LRP & C/75/RGR</i>
<i>SSG RONALD W. CARDONA</i>	<i>KIA</i>
<i>JUL, 6, 1969</i>	<i>E/20/LRP & C/75/RGR</i>

"WE CAN NEVER FORGET"**"SUPPORT OUR TROOPS & REMEMBER OUR VETERANS"***** (KIT) KILLED IN TRAINING**

**1SG Joey "Brasso" Welsh USA RET
E CO (LRP) 20TH INF (A) &
C CO (RGR) 75TH INF (A)
Association Inc. Unit Historian**

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)



Tiger Shark Pilots - Mid-Summer 1969

Tom Campbell at front right.

A few Tiger Shark pilots pose in front of the gun platoon "hooch" during a break from combat operations. Those enjoying "Miller Time" were probably not standing primary or secondary alert on this particular day. Back row (left to right): WO1 Darell Koenig, 1LT Rich Zurawick (Zip), WO1 John Biddar (Mad John), WO1 Terry Custer (General). Front row (left to right) WO1 Don Hancock (Lizard), WO1 Greg Morrison (Froggie), and 1LT Tom Campbell (Okie).

Tom was lost on 28 October 1969, along with the rest of his crew, while covering an extraction of C Company, 75th Rangers. His valiant sacrifice will never be forgotten by his comrades in arms.

MAYBE I COULD HELP

By: Bill V. Holt, Col USA, Ret.

I was sitting in Pleiku far from the action about 1 May 1970. Our teams were employed to the west along the Cambodian border with limited communications and aviation support. We were developing the situation for the 4th Inf Division and we had taken some casualties. I wanted to be on the ground, but recognized that once committed with a team or reaction element, I lost the ability to direct or support the other deployed teams. It was a conflict that bothered me throughout the assignment.

When I heard that Sgt. Sharkey, a fine Canadian Team leader, had a man wounded and could not communicate, I grabbed a slick and a radio and briefed the crew that we would fly west of Pleijering, locate the team and provide emergency assistance if needed. As we approached the border area, I had marginal radio with a high relay and Sharkey. We were flying at 400' with some trees reaching up 150' to 200' and some open areas with only grass and brush cover. Sharkey sighted us and put out a mini smoke. I spotted it 300 meters to the rear so we did a 180 turn and started to look for a landing site.

At that point, we were either hit by 12.7 mm or had a major tail rotor strike. We went into a flat spin with rapid descent and the pilot pulled pitch at about 50' - just before we landed on top of an old abandoned hut. No one hurt, but slick destroyed. I

told the pilot to make one call and gather the crew, weapons and ammo and follow me to a thick grove 150 meters away. No radio contact with the team but fortunately no enemy looking for us either. Maybe some B-52 strikes and Air Cavalry actions earlier gave us a chance. I set the air crew in a good tight position and told them that I would find the team and return before dark. I left the radio with the crew, moved carefully and noted landmarks to get back to the crew. I thought to myself that this Ranger Team is probably more dangerous than the enemy an hour after the crash.

I listened for several minutes and thought I heard something. I decided to whistle - nothing pre-arranged, just several soft ones like calling your dog. Safeties clicked and a Ranger head appeared.

Shortly before dark, we had contact with a cavalry aircraft and hoisted our wounded team member up a tree and into the slick. We had some confidence that someone would return the following morning as our air crew was from the same unit. We organized a small perimeter and set the aircraft 7.62 MG and claymores to cover likely approaches.

At daylight Sharkey moved to the west to check the one quadrant we did not examine before dark. He discovered a hard-packed main supply route with all types of tire tracks. He told me this was his first ambush in Cambodia and he was looking forward to the action. I told him that our commo was marginal and support more than one hour away and that we would watch the road, exercise aerial fires but not plan to initiate ground contact. Shortly after this discussion, a three-hour procession of units, soldiers, crew, weapons and vehicles of all types passed within 75 meters of our position. My only concern was that some flank security or someone wandering off the route might find us.

We estimate we saw over five hundred enemy that morning before our pick up. As we headed back to Pleiku, we requested that the air cavalry scout the route to the south and attack what we had observed. At about 11 am and just east of Pleijering, I observed an intense light and directed the pilot to fly north and check. It was a slick that had crashed 30 to 60 minutes earlier and was burning. After landing, I deployed the team for security and put our slick airborne and told him to stay in contact. Although the fire was hot and cooking off ammunition, we recovered several crash victims, and after several minutes of search, I noticed movement 125' from the crash site and found a survivor, SGM Delk, who gave me the story. It was a slick with the USARV Engineer & SGM, an Engr. Bde Command team, an Engr Bn Command team and the air crew. The Major General had requested a low flight over the MSR from An Khe to Pleijering and they had been hit with automatic weapons fire shortly before the crash. The aircraft hit on the ground before lodging in a soft earthen trough. I understand he had a ruptured spleen, but no other serious injuries. We arranged for a recovery and medivac element to relieve us and we returned to Pleiku before dark.

Thinking back, a few questions come to me:

1. Should I have gone out to help Sharkey's team?
2. Would Sharkey's first ambush in Cambodia also have been his last?

**D/75****Unit Director - Richard "Bear" Papp**

Greetings to all:

First of all and most important, you all need to know its getting harder and harder to write these articles. If I don't hear from you all, then I am getting to the point where I don't know what to write. I am therefore, asking all my fellow Rangers from D Co, 75th to take a few minutes, let your thoughts drift back in time to beautiful Vietnam and the nice things we participated in. Put some of your memories on paper and send them to me. Pictures would be nice also.

Now, I would like to thank Steve Meade for the motivation and all the things he does for us. His idea about the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and taking charge of collecting (money) donations to purchase a granite paver stone in D Company's name. It will read:

**D Co 75th
Ranger Regt
Bien Hoa, VN
1969 – 1970**



*For those who fought for it
Life has a special flavor the protected
Will never know or understand.*



To all those who donated, thank you. Steve sent out the information to all of you. THANKS STEVE! I hope you had a good time in Arizona. I knew you'd talked to Herb Reichel a while back. For those of you that don't know him, he was with K Co, 75th. At the reunions he has set up the "Aid Station" in the morning. We call it the "Blue Bucket Chapel". They will have their little reunion in San Antonio, Texas this summer. He's planning on stopping here for a few hours. We are looking forward to spending some time together.

I have a couple of photos from our younger days in beautiful RVN. You will note we were younger then. Makes you wonder where the years have gone. Anyway, here is a couple of me, also one showing us in the back of our Warlord/Annie Fannie Huey, preparing and flying out to begin a mission. If you look closely, you will recognize Bill Fitzgerald and one of our pilots, which I believe is Mike Ort sitting in the right pilot seat. I am sad to report I learned from Carl Norris (Warlord 16) one of our associate members, that Mike passed away several years ago from MS. Mike is not the first one of our old comrades/Ranger Buddies that has departed before we thought it was time for them to go. I ask everyone to lets keep in touch with other. Let's keep the memories alive. We never know when its too late. Until we meet again.... This is **BEAR, OUT ... RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!**



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

By Bob Copeland

Well folks we had an excellent time in Dhlonega, Ga. at the 5th Ranger Training Bde Open House on 13 May 2006. At 10:30 hrs. we all attended the US Mountain Ranger Assoc. **FALLEN RANGER MEMORIAL** and honored our own Staff Sergeant Johnston Dunlop, KIA 16 April 1968 who was inducted into the **FALLEN RANGER MEMORIAL**. After I read the Induction Citation Hilan Jones, Johnston's best friend who served with him in Vietnam came forward to the podium and addressed the gathered Company E Unit Members as well as all those present. Jonesy spoke of the selfless acts of Johston, his love of life and his unit members, as well as his dedication to duty. Jonesy did a superior job of conveying the feeling of loss experienced by all, when Johnson gave his life, trying to prevent his comrade from falling into the hands of the enemy after he had been wounded. He then made sure on finding his comrade dead that he was evacuated from the contact. As a result of these selfless and brave acts Johnston was twice wounded and died as a result of his valorous efforts. Staff Sergeant Johnston Dunlop posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross for his exceptionally valorous actions on 16 April 1968. His name has been placed on a Street Sign along with 5 other honored Fallen Warriors. This sign will be moved from the Ceremonial area to a sign post on a bridge that crosses the Etowah River on Camp Frank D. Merrill. Every Student who has trained at Camp Frank D. Merrill has crossed this bridge at some time during his time in the mountains. As the Ranger students walk in the shadow of this sign, they can be inspired by the dedication to the "Ranger Way" that each man named there represents. You may view the Citation and picture of Staff Sgt Dunlop at www.usmountainranger.org. Those who attended also had the pleasure of taking in the Equipment Displays, Fun Runs, Rangers in Action Demonstrations and the comradery of all those who were present. After Jonesy had spoken I invited all Company E members present to stand and be recognized by those present at which time they received hardy applause from all those present.

I would now like to recognize all who attended and personally thank them on behalf of Company E and the US Mountain Ranger Association for there dedication to Honoring our **FALLEN WARRIOR STAFF SERGEANT JOHNSTON DUNLOP!!!!HOOAH, RANGERS/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!**

In attendance were the following unit members and unit family members: Bob Copeland, Hilan and Delores Jones, Clancy and Connie Matsuda, Matt Matsuda, Roy and Sharon Barley, Marshall Larsen, John Berg, Ken McConkey, Greg Foreman, Bob Hernandez, Doug McCallum, Elbert and Gayle Walden,

Kenny Walden, Ray and Joyce Sonnier, Freddie and Sherry Jenkins, Marty Finfrock, Bill Cheek, TomEgglton, Sal DiSciascio, Jimmy Booth and his son Jimmy and Rick Stetson. Unable to attend were Roy Nelson (in hospital for tests), Fred Wheeler and Kenneth McCarn.

While at Camp Frank D. Merrill some visited the displays, saw an impressive Rangers In Action Demonstration, visited the PX, attended the all ranks club, had breakfast in the Mess Hall for \$1.95 (what a deal), attended the Critter Cookout (US Mountain Ranger Assoc Members) and one of our own Rick Stetson ran and finished the 5K race(over difficult terrain-WELL DONE RICK!!!!HOOAH, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!!!!) Rick has participated in the Fun Run 4 times now!!

On Friday the 12th Doug MacCallum organized a trip by car to Helen an Alpine Village after breakfast, where we got time to tour the German venues and have a great lunch together. It was a sunny day and we didn't get rained on. After returning to the Days Inn we sat around the pool and visited with some refreshments. Six of the Ranger HALO jumpers who were staying at the motel joined us and we swapped some war stories and enjoyed each others company. A number of

us got together and had dinner at the Corkscrew Cafe in Dhlonega after the Open House and Fallen Ranger Memorial on Saturday. The meal was great and on finishing we returned to the motel and sat around the pool again until it started to rain heavily. We called it a night and arranged to meet at 08:00 hrs for breakfast and good-byes Sunday morning.

Thanks to all that attended and thanks Doug MacCallum for



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



arranging the accommodations and Jonesy for keeping us informed as to who was attending and encouraging all to come and honor our Fallen Warrior Johnson Dunlop.

The next event will be organized by Bob Hernandez and Ron Tessensohn in LA, I quote from Bob's email, "On behalf of the 9th Division, Ron "Tess" Tessensohn and Bob Hernandez would like to extend an invitation to all LRRP-RANGER UNITS to attend the up-coming mini reunion planned for this Aug. in L.A. This informal get together is to promote comradery between all our LRRP-RANGER brothers. There will be nothing formal, just causal with lots of beer, pizza "n" comradery. The reunion will be held at the Travel Lodge located near the L.A. International Airport, (L.A.X. South). The address is 1804 E. Sycamore Ave, El Segundo Ca. 90245. Call 310-615-1073 to make reservations. Mention 75th Rangers and the rate will be \$75 per nite. Rooms are booked for Aug. 10 thru 13. There is a shuttle service from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 4:30 p.m. till midnight. Please make your reservations early so we can add rooms as needed. Anyone with questions can call "Tess" at 310-710-4201 or Bob Hernandez at



reservations early so we can add rooms as needed. Anyone with questions can call "Tess" at 310-710-4201 or Bob Hernandez at

925-757-8729. I will email John Chester to see if we can get a write up in Patrolling, unless you have a better suggestion, thanks for the support in advance. Tess & Bob

Be at this Mini Reunion if you can and I am sure you will have a great time!!

Remember Welcome Home 2006 is scheduled to take place from the 11-18 June 2006 in Branson, Mo. and will also be the site of the 75th Ranger Regt. Mini Reunion for all who wish to get together for this off year gathering. This is not the official 75th Reunion and the 2007 Regular Reunion will be at Ft Benning, Ga. You can find the Welcome Home 2006 info on the 75th website at www.75thrra.org or by searching at www.welcomehome2006.com.

Ranger Sgt. Robert L. Bryan KIA 13 July 1970 will be honored at the RANGER HALL OF FAME on Thursday the 29th of June 2006. This ceremony will be conducted at 1:30 p.m.(13:30 Hrs) at Marshall Auditorium, Building 4, Ft Benning, Ga. This building is named Infantry Hall and is located close to the Ranger Memorial at Ft Benning. Please come and celebrate the Induction of our Fallen Ranger Brother. The Bryan Family will be in attendance and Robert's twin sister Rebecca will be receiving the Medallion on behalf of Sgt Bryan and the Bryan Family. There are many things to do at Ft Benning and in the surrounding area so please plan to attend the Ceremony and stay a few days and enjoy the comradery of the Bryan Family and your RANGER/LRP/LRRP BROTHERS. I will forward the itinerary of additional on post activities as soon as I receive it to Jonesy to be fanned out. I will be arriving on the 27th of June and checking in at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1500 Bradley Lake Blvd., Columbus, Ga. The reservation number is 706-660-1000. The RHOF

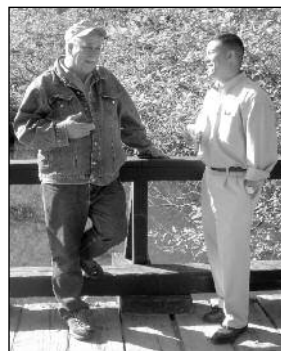
is in conjunction with the Ranger Rendezvous. I will be leaving on Sunday 2 July 2006. Come out and Honor our Fallen Warrior and Hero!!!! I look forward to seeing as many as can make it. Well that's about all I have for now except remember to schedule for the Company E Reunion in Orlando in 2007. I don't have the details yet but I will pass them along as soon as I get them. I believe it will be held in late April or early May. Ken Mellick is our point man for this Reunion and did an outstanding job along with the Parrish Family for the last reunion in Orlando. We will miss Emory in 2007 but will honor his service and friendship at the Memorial Ceremony with all our other Fallen Warriors. All



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



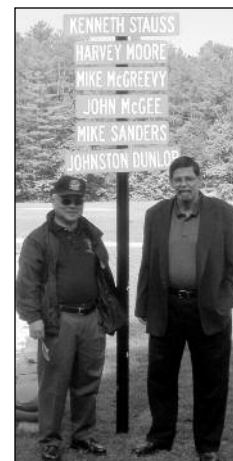
the best to you and yours till next time. STAY SAFE AND KEEP THE FAITH,



HOOAH!!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!

Bob Copeland
Unit Director

The following Photographs are from the E/75 Mini Reunion, US Mountain Ranger Association Fallen Ranger Memorial and 5th RTB Open House Camp Frank D. Merrill, Dahlonega, Ga. Honoring Staff Sgt. Johnston Dunlop Co. E 50 Inf LRP/E 75 Ranger, KIA 16 April 1968, Posthumously Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.





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

Unit Director - Joe Little



Hello to all; I haven't heard much lately from many of the members and that could be a good sign or I have had problems with my computer.

I know Memorial Day will be past when this is read; however there will be a group of our unit in DC to gather for some laughs and good food and most of all just some great company. We asked some to gather there this year to celebrate the fortieth year since formation of the 25th ID LRRP. I hope to have some good pictures to share in the next issue and share some of the events. Some of us will probably attend the USMC Parade with the silent drill team. There will be others riding in Rolling Thunder/Run to The Wall.

I purchased four Bricks for our members they are Warren Nycum, Dennie

Callahan, John Rowland and the last one is...Oh well they will know soner

Some important information has crossed my desk concerning an invite for those living in about seven states to have their claims reconsidered. The Vet Centers were asked to assist those individuals with the paper work for their claims. Now some might think this is a ploy to reduce compensation; however it is the opposite. The Department of Veterans Affairs has discovered those states (I failed to get the list at the time of this writing) are below the national average for amount of compensation compared to other states. So for certain claims and they are offering to increase compensation/increase percentage. I am sure if you receive letters do not trash them, but ask for advice from your local Vet Center since they were alerted to assist.

We started a new area "Where are they Now" and our first and only one to respond is Gene Tucker. So rather you reading about what I might have to say, I'll turn it over to Gene. The following is about The Communist Flag and then about the author.

Oh I almost forgot my new email address is jlittle@hughes.net
RLTW
Joe Little

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

I joined the 25th Infantry Division LRRPs in April 1966. One of the charter? Members. Attended LRRP School in Nha Trang at the Project Delta School for LRRPs. I was assigned as an assistant Patrol Leader. Members of my team were Hugh Howerton Patrol Leader, Gene Tucker Assistant Patrol leader. Jerry Spicer Senior scout and point man, Nathaniel Perry RTO and scout, and Charles White Scout.

I actually don't remember how or who recruited me to the LRRP. (CRS) I do recall that Hugh Howerton, Jerry Spicer and I all were in the 1st Bn 27th Infantry, B. Co. Mortar Platoon. Hugh was an E-6, Jerry and I were E-5s.

We left at the same time and later Lt. Gerald Traxler came to the LRRP as the XO. He also was from B. Company 1st Bn 27th Infantry. You will have to ask Jerry or Hugh about who or how we were recruited.



Gene Tucker then.



Gene Tucker now.

We did not have team numbers we were Howerton's team and I began there and left from the same team.

I am currently retired. I am currently the State Coordinator - Advocate for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. I go to Bally's Total Fitness everyday in hopes of being around a little longer.

I remained in the Army and retired in November 1984 as a First Sergeant of an Infantry Company at Fort Carson Colorado. I then went to school and received my AA in General Studies, Psychology, as a Social Work Technician (All three of these at the

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

same time by switching my electives around) and my Bachelors in Social Work. I worked for 12 years as a Social Worker with criminals in Colorado Springs.

I would like to find Nathaniel Perry and Chuck White. Then the entire team could take an after picture with that Communist flag.

Gene Tucker

If you would like to go to the following web site you can see the LRRPs pictured on the B-52 Project Delta web site in the 1966 pictures section. <http://www.projectdelta.net/>

THE COMMUNIST FLAG

I will endeavor to tell you how that communist flag came to belong to the unit. We did not have team numbers the LRRP Detachment was so new. Our team which consisted of myself Gene Tucker (SGT) Assistant Patrol Leader, Hugh Howerton (SSG) Patrol Leader, Jerry Spicer (SGT) Point Man, Perry, Nathaniel (SP/4) Radio Operator, and Charles White (SGT) Scout, departed on a mission to locate a Battalion of NVA situated about twenty miles North West of Cu Chi near Tay Ninh and North of the Bol loi Woods.

This mission began on the 7th or 8th of August 1966. Three (III) Corps Headquarters sought information on enemy units and movement in the area we were to recon. We were inserted by helicopter using the usual technique of false landings with us jumping out on one of them. It was last light and we went into our Security mode after running several yards into the wood line. This was our initial defensive position, everyone facing outward in a tight circle. We were all able to touch one another in case we needed to communicate. We certainly did not want to talk, as it was life or death. This way we were able to touch each other, use hand and arm signals and therefore not give away our position. It became so quiet that we could hear any movement around us and even our own breathing. I was afraid that the enemy would hear my heart pounding, it sounded like a bass drum to me. After about 30 minutes we moved off for several hundred yards and doubled back on our own trail. We were then able to determine if anyone had followed us, no one had so far. We set up our night defensive position (NDP) or remain over night (RON) position and attempted to get some rest. We placed out our "claymores" and got ready our hand grenades and magazines for our weapons. No one wanted to be fumbling for them during the dark while in a firefight. SP/4 Perry had the radio turned off; we did not turn it on until we were ready to use it. Using the radio was as a rule only done at a pre-arranged schedule so as to not have it give away our position. Team leader Howerton assigned us an hour and a half of security each. Needless to say we had company when we were pulling security. It was too difficult for us to get any uninterrupted sleep and most of us if not all remained awake. It was a long night with many familiar and not so familiar sounds to keep our interest peaked. One cannot describe the thoughts that go through your mind

when in situations such as this.

Well, things went well the first evening. We were all awake before first light and sent out two man patrols to insure that no one had moved up on us during the night. Security was provided and we gathered our claymores and policed our area. We did not want to leave any sign of our being there. We then moved out before first light so if we missed something and they attacked there would not be anyone. We then moved several hundred meters before we stopped to get our bearings and eat. Some of the team ate their PIR rations and prepared another for later use. PIR rations were made especially for Special Forces and/or Long Range Patrol units; they consisted of foods similar to what the Vietnamese ate. Little dried fish and rice for example. Therefore if we left or dropped some of the food it was similar to the enemies and may not give us away. The wrapping for the PIR's was usually written in Japanese and English also. We always kept our trash picked up and in our rucksacks.

We had some fairly reliable information from the III Corps and 25th Infantry Division G-2 that there was at least one Battalion of NVA in the area and we did not want them to have the chance to catch us unprepared. Jerry Spicer and Chuck White did a "clover leaf" recon around our position for added security before we began to move again. We searched all that day without any significant sightings but Spicer who was on point said several times that he had a feeling that we were close to enemy units. We always paid attention to any of our team that had a feeling such as this; we insured that we moved cautiously and quiet. It began to rain in the afternoon. The rain came down like a monsoon, hard and steady. We had ponchos but did not want to use them in the rain (they were made of a rubbery, plastic substance) for they caused entirely too much noise when the raindrops hit them. We needed to be able to hear any noise, movement, or sounds not conducive to the area. The rain could be a good time for the enemy to sneak up on us if they knew where we were. This also caused us to be extremely cautious not to leave tracks or broken grass, limbs, or any other sign for the enemy to track us by. Myself also being the rear guard had the job of covering our trail.

Several times during the day we doubled back on our own trail to see if we were being followed. When we stopped to watch our trail the rain made it miserable, as we sat in the rain it fell so hard that it completely soaked us and ran down our bodies like a river. The rain running down our bodies like that took away all of our body heat and we were constantly shaking from the cold. It was like sitting in a cold pond of water. We were concerned about hypothermia and not being able to shoot well because of the shaking. We found a wooded area for our RON and decided to watch a trail that was only a few meters away from us. The rain stopped around nine thirty or ten o'clock. It only took about an hour and a half for our cloths to dry out. That sure did make a difference in our attitude. Several times during the night we heard noises. We thought it was personnel or animals but were not sure which it was. The noises were faint and across an open area. Since we were hearing those noises we maintained fifty percent alert during the rest of the

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night. We were unable to determine just what they were; Howerton and I decided that we would move in the direction of the noise the next day. We also made sure each team member knew where we were located both on the ground and on the map.

The next day as we moved through the area we began to notice numerous signs of what we thought were several large enemy units of a battalion size or larger. The number of foot prints, ox cart tracks, and bicycle tracks were too numerous for the number of local populace in this particular area. We realized now what we were hearing the night before. The trail they used was under a heavy canopy of trees leaves; the footprints and tracks were deep in the earth leaving us to believe that they were carrying heavy loads of ammunition and equipment. There being only five of us we knew that we must put to use all the training that we had between us. We knew that we were placing our lives in each other's hands. This size of enemy unit or units could cause us more trouble than we could handle and our support was at least 40 minutes away. There was no artillery within range and only small outposts of Regional Forces (RF) and Popular Forces (PF) commonly known as RF-PF in the area guarding bridges or villages. They were not about to leave their defensive positions to aid anyone.

We decided to report on our usual situation report (sitrep) instead of stopping so close to the trails, besides if these units had radio triangulation capabilities we might give away our position using the radio too much. We knew that the larger NVA units had some very sophisticated equipment. The less chance we gave them to locate us the better. We moved farther into the wooded area away from the open areas. Soon we began to see even fresher signs of large-scale movement. We knew for sure now that there was more than one battalion of enemy troops in the area. Perry made this sitrep in a whisper. It was so low that I could hardly hear him and I was very close by him. After our sitrep we set up near a trail where we could watch it, we did so for a day but did not see any enemy. They had apparently moved out very quickly. We again moved during the night and put our RON on a small hill where we could see all around us and watch our own trail. Howerton and I decided that we should check around the edges of the rubber plantation the next day. We wanted to know if the NVA was using the plantations buildings and roads. There was no real rest this night either. Rarely did anyone get any rest during one of these missions. We again were up before first light, gathered our equipment and claymore mines. We moved out to prevent anyone from attacking us in case they found us during the night. We were aware that the NVA had some trackers in the area so we doubled back a ways on our own trail and watched it for a while.

The third day we began to hit the edge of a rubber plantation. Since it was a rubber plantation we moved very slow and cautious. It was extremely easy for us or anyone looking for us to see down the rows of rubber trees. There was no real cover or concealment. The rubber trees had been cut (leached) in order to allow the raw rubber to drip in small cans tied just below the small spout which was placed at the bottom of the leached area

and there were a lot of those cans being filled. We knew that there were civilians around and we now had to worry about the civilians that worked in the rubber plantation as well as the enemy soldiers.

Apparently we were not as stealthy as we thought we were. About 1530 hours we were startled when a VC began to run from a position about ten meters in front of us. Spicer had just stopped and we sensed that something might be wrong. We all seemed to know what the other team members were doing with out a word being spoken. We knew that he had heard or saw something. We later determined that we had surprised the enemy soldier and he had lay low until he felt that we were getting too close or perhaps he was asleep. I am not sure who was more surprised, the enemy courier or our team. In any case there certainly was fear in us all. Three of us fired at him when he pointed his weapon in our direction and we all fired one shot at the same time. He went down. Jerry Spicer being the point man was the first to his body. He was dead and was carrying a courier bag with a bullet hole in it I might add.

I being the assistant patrol leader immediately placed out security as the team leader (Hugh Howerton) accompanied Spicer began inspecting the enemy soldier and his belongings. Upon inspection they noticed that a courier bag near the dead enemy soldier contained what seemed like important information on troop positions and movements. There were maps and orders for battalion sized units. There was also inside the Couriers bag a communist flag (Russian). There appeared to be a couple of bullet holes in the flag. We covered the enemy soldier's body with earth as best we could; being a rubber plantation there was no foliage available.

We then moved out of the plantation, we knew that we had to get out of there because the enemy certainly must have heard the rifle fire. Also it was extremely important that we let the LRRP detachment know of our find and what we thought the importance of it to be. At approximately 1600 hours while we were reporting this information our security element, of which I was a member came under fire from a Viet Cong machinegun. They had managed to track us even though our rear security had attempted to cover our tracks.

While we were pinned down I saw Hugh Howerton and Jerry Spicer being taken under fire by the machinegun. Seeing them being fired upon and pinned down, I moved to a small clearing so that I could see the machine gun clearly and began to place fire on the machinegun, they were able to get free. The brush was very thick and breaking trail was not easy. We were making more noise than I wanted but we wanted to get as much distance from the enemy as possible.

We began to run and broadcast the words "Flaming Arrow", which was our emergency distress signal. These words would bring our helicopter support and our extraction bird. Since we were attached to "D" Troop ? Cav. we also had the Aerial rifle platoon on stand by. We were aware that we were in extreme

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difficulty and could use all the help available.

We were running from a large unit, size unknown but they sure were not afraid to make noise and they wanted us badly. It sounded like a swarm of hornets coming after us, the rifle fire was intense. Since they were not afraid to let anyone know where they were we felt that they knew the size of our patrol and they were not going to let us get away. They were moving fast behind us on our tails. As we fell back each member of the team remained back until all the others passed and then we fired one magazine on full automatic spraying the area behind us. We used every immediate action drill that we had practiced and they were still right there. If this kept up we certainly would be captured or killed. We were able to leave one booby-trapped rucksack behind and soon we heard the explosion of our hand grenade. Even this tactic did not slow them down. It appeared that they knew our tactics to get them off our backs. It took about 40 minutes for the D Troop gun ships to arrive on station.

We used the usual means to mark our advance and get them off our backs with the two smoke grenades. Perry threw one smoke grenade and the gun ships identified it. After we ran about a hundred yards I threw a second smoke grenade and the gun ships identified it. If we would have announced the color of our smoke the enemy had them also and could have thrown the same color, this would have confused D Troops aircraft and we might not have made it out. The gun ships gave us about thirty seconds to make a 90 degree turn and then they strafed with mini guns and used rockets along a straight line between the smoke grenades to get them off our backs. It slowed them down and gave us time to get a little distance away from them.

We ran for about another fifty yards to a small clearing for our extraction. It must have been a slash and burn area for someone because the grass was about shoulder height. There were still enough NVA to go around and they took the helicopter and the team under fire. Chuck White and I lay down a heavy volume of rifle fire on automatic with our M-16's while the others got on the helicopter. It was a miracle that no one got hit. I don't know to this day if the helicopters took a hit or not. The gun ships continued to fire all the miniguns and (ARA) aerial rocket artillery (rockets) that they had as Chuck and I got on with the rest of the team. Howerton, Perry, and Spicer were firing their M16's and the door gunners were firing their machineguns. That small space in the helicopter, even with all the enemy fire coming our way felt like a safe heaven.

We were all overjoyed at being safe and flying back to the base camp. Every one of us never said another word as we flew back to the base camp landing-pad. All you could see was that distant stare in our eyes. We did not have to say anything we were a team and understood each other's feelings.

We knew that there were many chances for us to become wounded or killed (KIA) during this mission but we had faith in our training and our brother soldiers in our team that we would make it out alive.

The entire LRRP detachment was waiting for us to land. We were

given a beer and taken to the Division G-2 for a debriefing. The G-2 took possession of the documents and the courier bag. Jerry Spicer kept the flag in his shirt but later during the debriefing turned it over. It was an indication that perhaps those units had Russian or Chinese advisors. We did not want to give it up and we let everyone know our desire. It was returned to us immediately after the debriefing. (I feel that Captain Ponzillo had something to do with that) We had confirmed that the NVA battalion that the G-2 had thought there was in fact there. And we also confirmed for III Corps that several other NVA units were present as identified from the documents. Order of battle and attack plans were also obtained; the NVA had to change most of them since they knew we had the documents.

All of this time we were attempting to get out of this situation Capt. Ponzillo and Bill Brantley were on the radio in the LRRP headquarters. They were in constant radio communications with our team, D. Troop ? Cav., the air extraction team, and Headquarters 25th Infantry Division, keeping them apprised of our situation and insuring that we were getting our support we needed to escape from the enemy and for the immediate extraction of our team.

There were several LRRP's along with the Cav's Aerial Rifle Platoon on those helicopters standing by to providing assistance and fire support during our extraction. The LRRP's not on duty always made it a practice to be available to assist the team in trouble. One of the LRRP's was in the command and control ship (C&C) directing the fire support and extraction; it was the XO Lt. Traxler since he had placed us in it was his duty to get us out. The radios were monitored all the while we were running but no one spoke unless we asked for something. They did not want to give us something else to think of except getting out of there with our lives. One thing we were all glad about was that the guys on the other end of our radio had been there and done that (LRRP's). They were one of our own. You'll never know how good it feels even if you are in a firefight and your life is on the line to know that another LRRP is there talking to you.

They understand your concerns and know how you feel. They will do everything they can to help you. They are a brother LRRP.

The information that we had captured later became vital to our conventional units during operation Attleboro in November 1966. Those enemy units mentioned earlier were moving fast in order to begin training and practicing for this operation. I believe that we must give the NVA credit for their determination and courage. They fought a very resolute and good battle. It was the largest and most fierce battle to date in the 25th Infantry Division area of operations (AO). The 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and several Special Forces Mike Forces were involved. The U.S. Air force participated with their C-130's and combat aircraft also. I won't attribute it to our information but the 25th Infantry Division and those other units fought well and inflicted an extremely massive amount of dead and wounded upon the NVA during this operation.

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When we returned we gave the flag to the LRRP detachment and it hung in the command Post. We had all taken a picture with the flag for our memories.

I later learned that Jerry Spicer had taken the flag home when he returned to the (World) United States and it now hangs on a wall in a VFW post in Denton, Texas.

Hugh Howerton and Jerry Spicer now live in Texas, Gene Tucker lives in Colorado and we have not been able to locate Perry and Chuck White. We are still looking for them. We want to get the entire team together again and perhaps we can all take another picture with that "Communist Flag". So Perry and Chuck White if you read this please contact Gene Tucker, Hugh Howerton, or Jerry Spicer. You may also leave a message on the web at www.lrrp.com.

Eugene G Tucker
(SGT E-5) Retired MSG/1SG
25th Infantry Division LRRP's 1966



The Communist Party flag at the reunion in Colorado Springs.



Gene with captured flag.



Team with captured Communist Party flag



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

Unit Director - Tom Nash



Sitrep
Long Range Recon Patrol
February 1968
TET

It didn't have a name when it began. Like Antietam, its significance would only be realized gradually, somewhere about half way through its happening. And then it *would* be given a name – the TET Offensive.

It began slowly at first – reports coming in from the patrols furthest out – ours and other LRRPS to the north in I Corps ... sightings of enemy movement, more than usual. And there was something different in what we were seeing this time. It wasn't VC. And it wasn't the usual NVA, shifting from one position to

another.

New cammies, disciplined movement, heavy weapons – all the characteristics of regulars moving into the line.

But not that many ... not yet.

They were doing a pretty good job of hiding what was coming in. Moving at night, small groups, about 8-10 men. One squad here, another a dozen clicks and three valleys away. But within a few days, our patrols were reporting more and more sightings. And I Corps and Americal G2 were beginning to come up with a pretty grim picture.

It looked like this might be developing into something But what? Were they planning to hit a particular unit? Or could this possibly be some kind of major offensive?

G2 called a meeting of company commanders, including myself as the LRRP commander, and briefed us on what they knew and

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

didn't know, mostly from LRRP and overflight reports.

G2 wanted blanket coverage – every patrol in the field. We didn't hold back even one in reserve.

My patrol left at dawn, and after about a 30-minute ride, jumped from the choppers and headed for the tree line. Our mission was to keep an eye on a fairly wide dirt trail about eight miles straight out in front of Chu Lai. Our patrols had spotted some NVA moving down through the valleys in this area, and they could pour a lot of troops down the larger valleys really quickly if they wanted.

Our LZ was about three clicks to the southwest, and it was going to take some serious climbing to reach our objective – a high mountain slope overlooking the trail about a mile below, winding its way through a large open valley some three kilometers long and a kilometer wide. (I know that a lot of you guys have been there, because it was always of serious concern and a watch zone for us.)

We reached the ridgeline that evening, just after sunset, coming up through the trees and brush on the backside. The top of the ridge was flat. No cover, just bare rock and dirt, about four yards wide.

We waited for it to grow a little darker, and then crawled across the ridge and down into the grass on the other side. There were no trees on this side, nothing to hide behind ... only the thick grass, dry and yellow now, sometimes only a couple of feet high, sometimes taller than our heads, sweeping down the mountain until it met the dark brush running along the stream in the valley below. On the other side of the stream lay the small village and then the trail.

... A light mist slips into the valley. Points of light flicker here and there in the village below. We can still make out the trail through the binoculars – running the full length of the valley, following the base of the mountains on the other side.

This is not a good position – nothing but grass between us and any fire we might draw, but I know from the recon I flew three days earlier that this is the only place we can get a good handle on the trail.

It's EENT, the first day. We settle in and watch.

I've forgotten most of the Army lingo, these so many years later, but not EENT or BMNT. Ending Evening Nautical Twilight, that moment when the last speck of light is gone and you've got the long, cold night stretching ahead of you, and the leaches. And Beginning Morning Nautical Twilight, that blessed moment when the mist starts to dissolve and the first warmth of daylight creeps into the trees.

Anyway, nothing happens this first night, except that G2 forwards a message over the radio. They want us to check out the village in the morning ... see if we can spot any NVA.

Now and then throughout the night, we hear the 'whump' ... 'whump' of the artillery our other patrols are calling in.

We start down the mountain a little before dawn, while the village is still buried in mist, taking a long sweep to the south

where we've got good cover coming down, and then cutting back north into the undergrowth bordering the stream.

Two hours later, we're just about there, some fifty yards south of the village, threading our way slowly, carefully, through the high grass and brush by the stream.

– Damn!! – It happens in a flash! Up comes a kid out of nowhere, right against the point man.

We stand there, frozen in time, the kid looking at us, we looking at him. The point man runs for the kid, tries to grab him. But he's gone.

Just one of those things; it happens.

"All right," I say quietly, "we're out of here. Let's go."

We swing back to the south, moving quickly. Then up the slope at the point where we've got good cover. We radio in that the patrol is compromised. They want to know if we want extraction.

Ordinarily, of course, we'd be out of there, moving on to a secondary objective or heading for the PZ.

But it's the trail that holds us. We just have the feeling that something's coming down.

"We're going to take a chance on staying," I say over the radio as we head up the hill. "We'll let you know if we have to make a run for it."

We head back north, to where we can see the trail again, and then settle into the grass about fifty yards from the top of the ridge. We don't like being this far down, because we'll be in the open if we have to make a run for the top. But we don't have much of a choice ... the grass up near the top is only about waist-high.

I have one man crawl over to the back side of the ridge, just to make sure we don't get any surprises from that direction. Our first rendezvous point, if we get scattered, is about 500 yards below him.

I'm thinking maybe we better set up some artillery cover. I'd talked to the arty unit before we left camp, showing them on the map where we'd be and the trail we'd be watching. And I'd planned to call in spotting rounds on this second day anyway, just to make sure we had the trail well-bracketed. But that was before this village fiasco.

If there are any NVA in the area, calling in the spotting rounds would probably convince them that we're still around, but we figure we have to go for it.

We try to make it look as random as possible, leaving plenty of time between rounds – a smoke puff up at the other end of the valley, another over on the other side of the mountain, another at the point where the trail first comes into the valley, another where the trail passes the village, another couple of puffs in the air about 75 yards below us, and so on for about two hours, until we're sure the arty's got the trail well-calibrated and we've also got some protective fire if we need it.

The sun is warm on our backs. It's about noon. We're in a pretty tight formation, about ten feet between each of us, so that we can communicate and concentrate our firepower if we need to.



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

The grass around us is about five to six feet high. Because of the slope of the ground, we can see the trail without standing up, but not the village or the base of the mountain.

And then all of a sudden, we hear a banging, clattering noise way down the mountain, about five hundred yards below us. And it's coming up the hill. I stand up so that I can just see through the grass. There are about a hundred of them, strung out in a long line, banging on tin plates and boards and cups and I don't know what all, raising a hell of a racket, trying to make us spook and run. And behind the line of paddy hats and black pajamas are the regulars, AK 47s at the ready, waiting for us to bolt.

The options are flying through my mind ... make a break for it ... call in the artillery ... just sit tight and hope we aren't spotted.

It's the trail that holds us, still. The NVA have been coming down most of the other major valleys around us – we can hear our guys calling in the artillery. Sooner or later, they're going to come down this trail as well.

And up they come, slowly, beating on their pans and boards.

I turn around to check the guys out. "All right," I whisper, "we'll hold. If they uncover us, let's blow the hell out of 'em and make it for the PZ." The radio man turns down the squelch all the way, quietly calls up the arty unit, and has them stand by with the defcons.

Then we all go flat on our backs, heads to the uphill side, rifles pointing belly-level at the grass in front of us. All we can see is a little blue sky above the top of the grass. They're getting closer. I grip my Thompson tightly, my finger on the trigger. My palms are sweating.

And then they stop, about twenty-five yards below us. We can hear them talking and yelling at one another. And then three or four of them come on up to the ridge, passing about thirty yards to the north of us. They stand on the ridge for a while, looking around and talking, and then they come back down. We can't see any of this, just hear it. And finally we hear them all going back down the mountain, their voices growing fainter. They must have figured we were hanging around the stream or were somewhere lower down the mountain. Either that or maybe they thought we'd cleared out once the kid saw us.

After a while, the adrenalin stops running and our heartbeats gradually settle down from about 300 beats a minute.

Everything's quiet. Just the dusty odor of grass, blue sky over our heads, a few wispy white clouds.

It's quiet the rest of the afternoon. The sun slides down behind the mountains and the mist starts coming back into the valley.

And then we see it.

A small fire in the trail, way up at the far end of the valley. We check it out with the binoculars – looks like cornstalks, tied up in kind of a teepee. After a moment, we see another little fire, further down the line. And then another.

I nod to our radio man, "Get the artillery on the phone, something's coming down."

But nothing. Just the mist growing thicker in the valley. And the cornstalk fires burning down to a red glow, and then dying out altogether.

Nothing.

But the cornstalks had to be some kind of signal. Why else would

someone set them on fire?

Darkness ... nothing ... the cold coming in against our bones.

– And then it's there! We see the first flashlight, clear up at the end of the valley, just the tiniest point of light moving down the trail, and then about five yards behind, another point of light, and then another, and another.

Our radio man is back on the phone.

We can hear the muffled noise far below, the sound of movement, some faint voices, as the long line of lights begins to pass the village below, stretching out for a half mile up the valley, moving past the village and on to the south. Through the binoculars, we can barely make out the men carrying the flashlights

I roll over on my back and look to the radio man – "Blow the shit out of 'em, Jim."

We'd have preferred to use air bursts, of course, but can't because we want to try to keep the shrapnel out of the village.

But it works out okay because of the smoke we'd called in and adjusted earlier. The arty guys have got the road dead cold. They begin at each end of the valley, marching the rounds as fast as they can toward the center. And then almost

immediately, another battery opens up and starts hitting the road right in the center – ba-whoom, ba-whoom, ba-whoom!

And then we're hearing artillery in other places too, way out in front of us, and somewhere behind us.

The valley floor's lit up from one end to the other – two miles of bursting shells and smoke ... and amid the thunder, we hear yelling and running.

And then it stops.

The radio man passes the handset to me. "How about it?" asks the voice on the other end.

"Really nice," I say.

"Well, we're moving on, then ... your guys are calling in all kinds of shit tonight."

The thunder of artillery is rolling through the hills all around, reflecting off the clouds like sheet lightning.

But it's completely dark in the valley now. The people in the village have snuffed out all of their candles and lamps. We hear an occasional shout here and there, but nothing more.

The acrid smell of gunpowder begins to drift up the slope.

We stay the night, just to keep an eye on things, relieving the guard on the back side every couple of hours.

And then, just before dawn, we head on back over the ridge and down toward the PZ.

There would be more fighting, of course, in the days that followed ... some heavy stuff by the infantry companies. But the big push, at least in our sector, was over.

A number of units up north took some pretty bad hits. But the Americal was mostly okay, and I came off patrol that next morning with quiet thankfulness. First, because the NVA never made it to our Division headquarters in Chu Lai. But more immediately and profoundly because every one of our patrols made it home.

And I can see them even now ... tired, smiling ... coming down the road, one patrol, and then another, and the guys who'd already got in ... whooping and cheering and running out to hug the guys just coming in. You did good, LRRPs. Real good.



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

Unit Director - William Anton



THE LAW

It was a usual day in the Company AO, about Mid-May '69, Rangers doing what they do when they are not in the bush.. The call came out of our TOC, "WE GOT A TEAM IN CONTACT!" The energies and adrenaline pumped as we all did our "magic" to recover the Team. They had made contact with a Company size unit of NVA. Grabbed my gear and PRC 77, jumped on the Mule, and headed for the revetments where my "Calvary Horse" a Slick from Charlie 1/9 Cav was already cranking. Gunships had already been "bounced" for the Team. Cobras from 1/9th Cav and 2/20th ARA (Blue Max). Response from those folks was never a problem or question. All they needed from us was a call and they hauled ass to the Team's AO to support. Tube Artillery was cranking. The remainder of the Company prepared for the worst and prayed for the best. Rangers grabbed their gear, which was always ready. Web gear, flack jackets, steel helmets with chin strap down. Everything that they would need if inserted into the "bee hive."

As I flew to the Team, it was a First Platoon Team, I monitored the radio, they already knew that I was in the air and how many minutes out from the PZ. The CO did his usual on the radio. "Watch your security, semi-automatic fire, keep me posted!" Capt. "P" had a way that calmed down folks even in the most trying times, "COMBAT!" Well the RTO reports that the PZ is "Hot" and they just suffered a KIA. The five man Team is down to four. As we approach the PZ we can see the Cobras and LOHs making their runs and it's a horrendous site. Miniguns and 2.75 rockets tearing up the area.

Another call from the RTO, "we have two WIAs." Wow! These guys are hurtin'. Smoke is popped and we slam into the PZ. I had told the Crew Chief to keep the door Gunner under control so we don't fire up the Team. It was a small PZ but seemed as big as a football field. We could see the green tracers, could see the muzzle flashes from the Mike 16s, AK 47s, hear the steady thunk of the "Chunker", and saw what I thought to be B-40 Rockets slamming into the area around the Team. I unassed the bird and beat feet towards the Team. As I approach the TL, I throw my claymore bag with M-16 Mags. Always carried about twenty extra. "Where's the dead guy?" I hollered. TL pointed to his right, towards the tree line. The guy with the Chunker turns and I throw a claymore bag full of HE at him.

I'm really "pumped" and as I streak toward the dead guy I see the ATL, Blanchard. He is lifting an extended LAW to his shoulder. I'm running about a hundred miles an hour and am right behind him as he squeezes down on the trigger mechanism. He sees the motion behind him, I turn my head away and wait for the backblast to blow my head off!! Nothing happens ! IT'S A DUD, A MISFIRE! Blanchard throws the LAW at the bad guys.

I reach the dead Ranger and flop down. Yes, he is surely dead. Let's go Regan, get your stuff in gear and get out of here. I try to pick him up so that I can hump him over my shoulder. No go, he's not so big but he's "Dead weight." So I laid down with my butt into his stomach, grabbed as much of his web gear and fatigues as I could and rolled over on my knees. Up and running for the Bird! The Team is still putting out suppressive fires and moving toward the bird. The wounded Rangers are doing OK and able to move on their own. Now comes the hard part. The terrain is much like that of the Florida swamp area. Humps of grass so that you can't really put

you feet down solidly. It seems as if every thing is in slow motion. I no longer hear the firing of the weapons. All I hear is the steady beat of the rotor blades. They seem to be a hundred miles away. Approaching the Slick, I wonder if I'll have the strength to finish the run. The Team has reached the Bird and are on board. As I near the Bird, the Door Gunner suddenly decides that he wants to get into the act. His M-60 is scaring the daylights out of me. He's firing directly over me and all I can think of is "oh no, they're right behind me and I aint going to make it!" I know in my heart that the bad guys are going to get me or the Door Gunner is going to "stitch" me with 7.62 rounds! I do a low crawl for the last yard or so. Hands reach out and grab my burden and haul me into the Slick as it lifts off from the PZ. The Team and the Door gunners are "coming out "HOT" and expend about a million rounds into the AO.

As I sit there with the Dead Ranger's head in my lap I think "Man, I can't even remember this guys name!" Blanchard is having a "Hissy Fit" about me and the close call with the LAW. He settles down and they start to look after the wounded Rangers. Only "Te Te" stuff. Nothing now but the routine Radio Calls to Slashing Talon 65 that we were out and on our way home. Crew Chief breaks out the cigarettes and we chill. Before we land I remember, This is Dan Arnold. Don't know much about him, I forget where he was from. He was a quiet, solid Ranger. I never got close to anyone during my tours in the 'Nam. Sometimes I think I should have done better, and spent time chit chatting with the Soldiers. That just wasn't my deal. I may be bad on names but I remember lots of faces. I daydream now and then and recall mostly the good times we had, like stealing Latrines from the civilian engineers, and stuff from Bien Hoa, (Requisitioning), and watching LURP the dog "bait" other dogs, and keep the rats under control, flying to Vung Tau to get a Ranger out of the Hoosegow. That's another TALE! I try to remember all the funny stuff. like running around the base road with the Ranger Trainees and terrorizing them. Hearing LURP the dog tearing thru mosquito nets in the billets at night chasing rats as big as cats. Then the scary stuff creeps into my mind. I'll never know how I survived. Yes I do know, it was because I was serving with the best Infantry outfit in Vietnam. Rangers who led the way. Thanks,. Jim RLW

Written by: Jim Regan



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

Unit Director - David Flores



Submitted by: Dave Flores, Unit Director
Article by Dave Hill and Ronnie Imel

Peter C. Lemon and the fight at FSB Illingworth

The 1st Infantry Division LRRP/LRP/Ranger unit is proud to number among its veterans not one, but two recipients of our nation's highest military combat award, the Medal of Honor. Robert D. Law was posthumously awarded "The Medal" for his actions in early 1969, and that mission was covered in a "Patrolling" article in 2005. However, some may not know that a Medal of Honor was also awarded to a second former I Co. Ranger in 1970, Peter C. Lemon. Although Pete Lemon, at the time of the action which led to his award, was proudly serving with 2nd Bn/8th Cav., 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), he had served most of his Vietnam tour as a Ranger in I Co./75th Inf. (Ranger), 1st Infantry Division.

That Pete Lemon would go on to succeed as he did in "The Cav" came as no surprise to his former Team Leader (TL), Sgt. Ronnie Imel. In Imel's words: "I first met Pete Lemon in our company area, as he had just volunteered to transfer to our unit in August, 1969. Pete Lemon was a happy looking guy, with a big smile generally on his face. He had a very self-confident look about him, and was both outgoing and eager to get started. As he came into the company, I immediately selected him to be on my team. I look back on that decision as one of the best ones made during my tour. Pete still needed to go to MACV Recondo School before joining the team in the field and while awaiting his departure he came to visit me in the NCO club one day for a little ritual we always undertook in those days. We had a drink together and I pointed out to Pete the large lizards that constantly crawled along the interior walls of the club. I told him that it would be part of his initiation to eat one of those lizards. He said that he would if I would. To this day, we argue over who actually ate the front end and who the back. But that lizard was eaten in total, then washed down with a beer. Pete passed through Recondo School with flying colors and came back to serve primarily on our team, along with Jim Secrest, Jim Kissinger, Ralph Lindsey, Steve Matsumoto and myself. All team members were much alike and the good chemistry got us through a number of tough scraps in the ensuing months. Pete also served on other teams as needed, to help new teams get off to a good start, providing his veteran skills while they learned how to accomplish their missions and still survive—but he was mostly with our team. Holding Pete back, as with the rest of the team, was like trying to hold back a herd of wild mustangs. They were strong, eager, cunning and self-motivated and could be counted upon to perform their missions with unflinching courage—as was expected of LRRPs and Rangers throughout the war.



As the 1st Infantry Division, as a whole, departed Vietnam, Pete was reassigned to the 1st Cavalry Division to finish his tour. I Co. left him, of necessity, rather than he voluntarily leaving I Co. I was not surprised when, after leaving our company, Pete became the recipient of the Medal of Honor, as he always did more than was expected of him and was always so willing to put his life on the line for his fellow troopers."

Setting the Scene

The Vietnam War continued to rage throughout 1969 and 1970. Though the earlier "high points" of "Tet 1968" and "Mini-Tet" in May, 1968 resulted in an estimated 170,000 Viet Cong (VC) and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) casualties (killed and wounded) and the loss of nearly 40,000 enemy weapons of all types, Hanoi was still committed to press its offensive. Thus widespread, savage nationwide attacks presaged Tet 1969, with as many enemy attacks as in 1968, and large contacts continued into the new year. The war in III Corps Combat Tactical Zone (CTZ) continued at a high rate, with no sign of let-up. Much of the continuing enemy initiative was launched out of its Cambodian sanctuary into the border areas adjacent to the Cambodian border. A high rate of men and supplies was pushed down the Ho Chi Minh Trail, then across into Vietnam through such "sanctuary" base areas with the names of "The Parrot's Beak", "The Fishhook", "The Angel Wing" and "The Dog's Head", west and northwest of Saigon.

Those border areas had seen countless bloody battles since 1965, and continued to be the main thoroughfares for enemy forces aimed, like a dagger, at Saigon. According to 1st Cavalry Division historian, J. D. Coleman (see *Incursion*, Coleman, J.D., St. Martins Press, c. 1991): "Much of this area was being used by the NVA to 'prepare the battlefield'—the careful pre-stocking of weapons, ammunition and food caches, medical aid stations, and the like. This process was what General Creighton Abrams termed 'pushing the enemy's logistical nose out in front of his combat force'. Abrams' concept was to cut off this nose, orienting on the enemy's 'systems' rather than simply his combat units." Whereas General Westmoreland's strategy had been to focus on "search-and-destroy" operations to eliminate the Communist enemy through battlefield attrition, Abrams' strategy would be one of interdiction—deny your enemy the means to fight, and he would soon be unable to fight. It proved to be the correct strategy, but one to which the VC and NVA would not easily accede.

Two US infantry divisions, the 1st Infantry Division ("The Big Red One") and the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") had long fought pitched battles throughout the III Corp CTZ and conducted numerous multi-battalion operations over the first four years of the war. However, since Tet 1969, Abrams had gradually pulled those divisions in closer to Saigon to provide

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

military support for the growing “pacification” programs north and west of the capitol. To re-deploy those divisions to the Cambodian border region to block infiltration routes would have been necessarily at the cost of the critical pacification initiative. Not willing to do that, Abrams instead determined that he needed to bring an additional division south to provide the needed border interdiction force. He called upon the Air Cav to fulfill that role. According to J. D. Coleman: “Abrams gave Forsythe (General George I. Forsythe, then Commanding Officer of the Air Cav) this mission: “Ride them with your spurs all the way down to the point where, if and when they do get down to the populated areas, they will be a relatively ineffective fighting force.”

Given that mission, The Cav immediately moved south from I Corps down into III Corps. They were soon to face a fierce and numerically superior enemy, and one operating close to its “neutral country” sanctuaries/supply bases, that could not be directly attacked (though that was to change in May, 1970, with the incursion into Cambodia by American and South Vietnamese forces).

Base-sharing with both the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions initially, the 1st Cav proceeded to establish nearly two-dozen fire-support bases (FSB) and Landing Zones (LZ) along the Cambodian border, from which to conduct its interdiction campaign. Ranging from LZ Mo, northeast of Loc Ninh down to LZ Barbara northwest of Saigon, Cav units blanketed the border region. Using small unit patrolling and “mechanical ambushes” (daisy-chained claymore mines used to booby-trap supply trails), the Cav units aggressively attacked the VC/NVA logistical system and the enemy troops moving down it. Numerous new trails and supply caches were identified and exploited and the renewed pressure upon the enemy did not go either unnoticed or unchallenged by him.

Over the course of the remainder of 1969 and early 1970, the VC/NVA, in response to this increased threat to their lifeline with their Cambodian supply base, lashed out sharply. One after the other, Cav FSBs and LZs came under sharp direct assaults and “assaults by fire” (artillery, mortar and rocket attacks). Many of these battles were close fought affairs, ending only after sufficient American artillery and aerial support could be brought to bear. On the night of 29 March, 1970, it was the turn of FSB Jay to feel the wrath of an increasingly desperate NVA. While Jay was held throughout the night, it was determined that it should be closed the next day. Now only FSB Illingworth, located just north of Jay and quite near the Cambodian border, was to anchor the Cav’s interdiction line in that region. It was at Illingworth that Pete Lemon and his fellow troopers of 2nd Bn/8th Cavalry were to show their mettle.

The Fight at FSB Illingworth and “The Medal”

Again according to Coleman: “Bob Shoemaker (then 1st Cav Chief of Staff) always maintained that the successful defense of the Cav’s firebases often turned on the heroic actions of one or two individuals. On the night of 1 April 1970 that hero’s spotlight shone on a tough Specialist Fourth Class named Peter C. Lemon. He had originally been in the 1st Infantry Division’s Ranger company, but when the Big Red One re-deployed [to the US], Lemon was reassigned to the 1st Cav to finish his one-year

tour. In the replacement depot, contemplating which outfit he would choose to join (he had a choice), he had spotted some of the hard-bitten members of the 2nd of the 8th recon platoon and opted for the assignment that led to his personal rendezvous with destiny. When the infantry assault started, Lemon, a big rawboned kid from Michigan, moved to a machine-gun position to assist the gunner. Just as a group of NVA sappers came into view, the machine gun jammed. The enemy, sensing the defensive weakness charged the position, throwing Chi-Com (potato masher) grenades and firing their AK-47s. Lemon used his M-16 to kill five of the enemy before his rifle jammed. He then went to a standby case of fragmentation grenades and threw them at the remaining enemy soldiers, slowing down their advance to the berm. When the machine gunner, who was desperately trying to repair the malfunction, was wounded, Lemon move back toward his comrade, only to have his way blocked by the fire of four NVA soldiers just outside the berm. Lemon threw a hand grenade, killing three, and now weaponless, dove over the berm and killed the remaining NVA soldier with his bare hands. Another group of enemy soldiers charged him, so he picked up an AK-47 and emptied the clip [sic], again slowing down the charge, but not before he was wounded in the side by shrapnel from a Chi-Com grenade. He then dove back over the berm to the machine-gun position, where he found that the gunner badly needed medical attention. He carried the man approximately 100 meters to the battalion aid station, and with the firebase still receiving withering fire, was wounded a second time on his way back to the berm. When he arrived at his old position, he found a number of enemy soldiers on top of the berm, one of them trying to operate the American M-60 machine gun. Lemon immediately engaged the group with fragmentation grenades, forcing them to fall back, then charged the North Vietnamese soldier with the machine gun, killing him with his bare hands. He quickly repaired the malfunction, and taking the machine gun to the top of the berm, he proceeded to lay down heavy fire at the attackers outside the berm. While he was firing, Lemon was wounded for the third time, lapsed into unconsciousness, and was evacuated to the aid station. Lemon recovered from his wounds, and in 1972 received the Medal of Honor from President Nixon.”

Pete Lemon, years later, was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He epitomizes the highest qualities of the American soldier and Ranger and we, as the LRRP/LRP/Ranger community, are privileged to call him “Brother”.

The Citation

Medal of Honor

Presentation: At the White House

By President Richard M. Nixon - Jun 15, 1971

Currently Living In Colorado

LEMON, PETER C.

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division

Place and date: Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam, 1 April 1970

Entered service at: Tawas City, Michigan

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Born: 5 June 1950, Toronto, Canada

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Lemon (then Sp4c.), Company E, distinguished himself while serving as an assistant machine gunner during the defense of Fire Support Base Illingworth. When the base came under heavy enemy attack, Sgt. Lemon engaged a numerically superior enemy with machine gun and rifle fire from his defensive position until both weapons malfunctioned. He then used hand grenades to fend off the intensified enemy attack launched in his direction. After eliminating all but 1 of the enemy soldiers in the immediate vicinity, he pursued and disposed of the remaining soldier in hand-to-hand combat. Despite fragment wounds from an exploding grenade, Sgt. Lemon regained his position, carried a more seriously wounded comrade to an aid station, and, as he returned, was wounded a second time by enemy fire. Disregarding his personal injuries, he moved to his position through a hail of small arms and grenade fire. Sgt. Lemon immediately realized that the defensive sector was in danger of being overrun by the enemy and unhesitatingly assaulted the enemy soldiers by throwing hand grenades and engaging in hand-to-hand combat. He was wounded yet a third time, but his determined efforts successfully drove the enemy from the position. Securing an operable machine gun, Sgt. Lemon stood

atop an embankment fully exposed to enemy fire, and placed effective fire upon the enemy until he collapsed from his multiple wounds and exhaustion. After regaining consciousness at the aid station, he refused medical evacuation until his more seriously wounded comrades had been evacuated. Sgt. Lemon's gallantry and extraordinary heroism, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army.



L-R, Seacrest, Kissinger, Lemon (MOH), Lindsey



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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk



By: Roger Crunk:

I have been under the weather since my accident in February, so I am going to remind you of the K/75 Reunion in San Antonio in July, and turn the rest of the column over to Tom Teeples.

Be sure that you mark your calendars for the 2006 75th (K Co.) Ranger Reunion in San Antonio, Texas...

Below is the information needed to make your reservations:

*Hotel: LaQuinta

*Dates: Wednesday, July 12th-16th, 2006

*Reservation Information: Call LaQuinta reservation #1-800-531-5900

*Reservation Request Information: 75th Army Ranger Party Reservation Block #64046440 (You must call by June 15, 2006, to be given the group rate.)

Additional Information: The rooms that are reserved are non-smoking rooms with two double beds at the price of \$66.00 per night. If you need to make any changes; such as smoking or a king size bed, please be sure that you tell them when you make your reservations. Be ready to have fun and



see the wonderful city of San Antonio, Texas...we will have maps, itineraries and plenty of time for visiting. If you want additional information you can email Stephanie Allen (Ray Allen's daughter) at sallen@houston.rr.com or Roger Crunk at rtrcrunk@aol.com

By: Tom Teeples

We were lucky to get an aerial reconnaissance the day before our upcoming mission. Team leader John Pike and I boarded the chopper not realizing the crew had been ferrying line troops most of the day. I guess that bores the hell out of them, as we were to find out later on in the flight. We headed southwest out of An Khe. It was a hot muggy day. Imagine that! The

moving air felt good though, and before long we were in the vicinity of the A.O. we would occupy on the ground the next day. We were able to check over our maps with the terrain, locating a suitable insertion point, and other key locations of interest. A huge valley, cutting deep in the middle of our four grid playground, had our attention too. I wondered what we might find down there. We were satisfied with our observations and let the pilot know we could head back. That is when we found out what a Bell Huey could really do, along with one bored cowboy pilot who had his hands on the stick. We buzzed over the jungle

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Here we are in our Sunday best. Note that we have the K CO shoulder patch. I still have the 1st BDE hat Band and 4th ID LRRP patch. I have tried to read my side kick's name tag. Help me out & get me some ID on him.



SPC 4 Tom Teeples, ATL Romeo 20
K CO Ranger



Tom Teeples, John Pike, Chuck Willard
Romeo 20



canopy so fast and so low, it blurred to where it looked like a fairway on a golf course. Then he jerked a vertical climb to a place high and cold far above the hot green earth below. Then just before I thought we would flip over backwards, he pitched the nose down into a dive. Whew! What a ride.

Well I better get to the story I really wanted to tell you. And this is about that next day's mission. And with it I

hope to maybe get some information from anyone out there who may have known one of us, or all four of us. I was a SPC4 at the time, and was Sgt. John Pike's A.T.L. He and I had run a number of missions together as 1st BDE LRRP'S, and we remained together through the redesignation into K CO. Rangers. As far as the other two members that were on the team that day, I can only recall the name of one. He was

Charles Willard, who, as I come to find out later, had unfortunately been KIA on another mission. The other guy, I can't for the life of me remember his name. That's where I could use your help. Anyway Willard and this guy were new. I believe it may have been their first mission. In any case it was their first time with Pike and I. We teamed up as Romeo Two Zero and took off together much the

same way Pike and I had done the previous day. Oh! And the weather was the same. Soon we were dropping down to the small clearing we picked out for our insertion. It was quick and all went well. As we moved into the wood line, the choppers could be heard fading off in the distance. We were astonished when not 100 meters in from the LZ a bunker complex loomed before us. If someone had been there we would have had a warm reception. Luckily they must have decided to take a walk. Everything was fresh and heavily used, with bunkers all over the place. The closer ones we could look right into their entrance. Others in the distance were clearly indicated as humps. Cooking articles and other like objects lay about between them. Pike was a full blood Apache Indian, and he like his ancestors could see things that I could not. But even I knew that day the bad guys hadn't left home for good, and would be back before long. We snaked our way along side a trail that led out of the complex, and crossed a small stream that ran north to south toward the big valley. We were not out of the bunker complex to far, when we decided to set up and watch traffic on the trail. Pike instructed the new guys to place out their claymores. He then began to call in on our situation, it had just started to sprinkle, when the new guys returned and informed us that the trail did not go straight to the West as we had thought, but turned and left us dangerously exposed to a good portion of it. We had to move. Too late, we could hear voices approaching. I drew my rifle up and locked on to the first NVA soldier that came into view, but there were more behind him, and they just kept coming. I believe I lost

Unidentified - John Pike - Tom Teeples



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count around 15 or 20. Then I thought our number was up, when one soldier stopped to reposition a small piece of plastic he was using to keep the rain off. As he did, he looked right at me. And I swear to this day he did see me, but from the grace of God he kept on walking. Pike still held the hand set to his ear, he never turned around. He didn't have to, I'm sure my face told him everything he needed to know, and my heart beat like one of his ceremonial drums back home. John did pick up a count of his own as they passed us he could see their back side. We also heard more moving into the complex south of us but could not see them. We were surrounded until the last pith helmet disappeared across the creek. They had come less than 20 meters of us, and the only concealment we had going for us was a fresh application of face paint, and camo fatigues. Carefully we moved to the other side of the trail, and at a distance we could safely call in some arty. They had hot steel for supper. We saw no more of them that night or the next day when we were pulled out so a line company could come in and mop up so to speak. I can't remember ever hearing the damage report. I remember during our debriefing, having a good laugh over the accuracy of our count. We each had a different count of how many we actually seen. We took an average that came to 30 something.

It was a mission that could have been even shorter than it was, and told only by the N.V.A. But for R-20 other missions lay ahead, and more bad guys to hunt down, and this story was ours.

I have not heard or seen anything of these team members, with the exception of Charles Willard, whose name is etched on the wall in D.C. where I had a chance to visit a few years ago, and pay my respects to him, and the other brave soldiers who gave their all.



DAVID AMBROSE FLANNERY

David Ambrose Flannery, 56, of Red Hill, died Tuesday, May 16, 2006 in Allentown. He was the husband of Linda S. (Weaver) Flannery for 30 years.

Born in Germantown, he was the son of the late John and Catherine (Lyons) Flannery.

Flannery served his country honorably as an Army Ranger during the Vietnam War, where he received two bronze stars and three Purple Hearts. A jewelry designer, he was the president of Keystone Findings in Telford until his illness in 1994.

He was a member of the National Ranger's Association and was a faithful benefactor of the St. Labre Indian School in South Dakota.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are two sons, Evan and Patrick; three brothers, John, Dennis and Eugene; and three sisters, Margaret Erbele; Kathleen, wife of James DiTanna; and Theresa Flannery.

A viewing will be held Friday, May 19, 2006 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Falk Funeral Home, Inc., 163 Main Street, Pennsylvania, followed by a funeral service.

Private condolences may be sent to the family at memorial@falkfuneralhomes.com.

The family suggests contributions in his memory be made to the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital, 543 St. John Street, Allentown, PA 18103.



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

Unit Director - Randall White



Adios

This will be my last article as your 101st LRRP/Ranger Representative to the 75th RRA. Six years is long enough and its time for someone else to step up to the plate. At the request of the members of the 101st LRA I held this job for an extra year and now it is time for me to move on. I'm making this move with more than a little regret, but Ron Edwards assures me the withdrawal symptoms will eventually pass. I've got way too many projects that need to be finished and attended to and I aint getting' any younger. Updating the web site and working on photos being just one of the duties that I've fallen behind on. Not to mention the workshop that I'm building, the two rooms downstairs that are not finished, and the 4 cars



waiting to be restored. I'll continue to maintain the web site as time permits (read winter), scan photos and slides, and be a POC for those who wander in from the wire. I'll add an email link at the web site to the new unit director, and will help him get started as best I can, but I need to scale back. Contact information will also be changed at the 75th RRA web site. By the time you receive this issue, our reunion will be history and these things should have taken place.

In 1999 after a ten year hiatus from all things Ranger and Vietnam during the late 80s and 90s, I made a simple phone call to say Hi to Bob Gilbert. Blinky was dying and I thought he should know. I never dreamed where that phone call and road would eventually lead. I renewed my membership in the 75th RRA and things just kinda' snowballed from there. At the time my teen age children were

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

trying to teach me how to email and surf the web, and during one of their lessons I came across the original L Company web site that Ron and Julie Edwards had built. The web site that has grown into what you now view as the 101st LRRP/Rangers of Vietnam. In early 2000 I received my first issue of Patrolling and was very impressed with what the simple news paper letter had become since the mid 80s. However I was disappointed to not see an article for the 101st men. I made plans to attend the 2000 Campbell reunion and inquired around if the job of unit director was available. I thought our people deserved an article in Patrolling and a simple letter every few months couldn't be all that hard to do. Shucks, it was only a two year term and maybe I could get the 101st ball rolling again. How naïve I was. With the blessing of the then new 101st LRA I took the job. Soon Ron Edwards came on board as the 75th RRA secretary and he and Julie decided they could no longer host the web site...would I be interested? Well sure, how hard could it be? I was assured by Julie that learning to host a web site was as easy as clicking a mouse. How naïve I was. After getting a few discs from Julie containing the web site and the program, I promptly crashed the web site. Images take up a lot of memory, and the kids were demanding time on "their" computer which I had hijacked, so I bought myself my own "latest, largest, fastest hi-tech 'puter" and transferred my files. After a couple months of struggle, the purchase of a few new programs and a learning curve, I rebuilt the site and had it somewhat working again. With a used scanner and some enhancement help from Tom Sweetnam new photos were added, but I needed to learn how to do the photo work in house. How hard could it be? Request photos from the guys, scan the old faded and wrinkled images, mail them back, a few mouse clicks, and presto! A better than new image. How naïve I was. It never dawned on me that the condition some of these photos were in was less than useable, and some of the photos our members took were slides (remember them). So a used slide scanner was purchased, which met installing a card to run it. The photo and imaging work led to a learning curve which continues to this day. As the web site became more visible, I decided we needed our own domain name and we needed to link up with other Vietnam 101st and LRRP/Ranger web sites. If you find a broken link, it is because these links change frequently and their web master don't let me know when they change their URL, or I just don't have the time to check them and keep them updated. How naïve.... Soon requests for information started coming in. Do you know so and so or where I can find him? My father served in L Company and never speaks about it, can you tell me more? I'm a collector and can I buy a patch?...the list is endless, but you get the picture. With all the requests for information from the outside, I developed my own thirst to learn more about our time in Vietnam. I decided that The National Archives might hold some interesting records, so I did a little research and wrote them a request. How hard could it be? Go to the drawer marked L Company Ranger, pull out a few pages of records and make me copies. How naïve I was. With a collection of records approaching 25,000 pages in four filing cabinets and many out of pocket dollars, I am no where close to quenching that thirst to learn more about the 101st in Vietnam. Requests from authors, historians, museums and individuals come in and I try to help as

best I can, but I just can't fill in all the blanks. There are simply too many pages of documents that I don't have, or are buried and can't be found at the NARA. As your unit director I felt it was important for me to attend every reunion to act as your representative. That included all of the 75th RRA and 101st LRA reunions, and an occasional 101st state reunion. Shucks, it couldn't be that hard or expensive, and it looked like a lot of fun. How naïve I was. With the exception of one 101st LRA reunion, I have attended all of them since 2000. It was a lot of fun, except the hangovers, and it wasn't all that hard to do, but it does get expensive. I still plan on making the occasional reunion, but summers are short here in 'da UP, my vacation time is limited, and I still have other projects to spend my money on before I retire. Did I mention I still work full time and I'm on call 7/24 as an electrical lineman for the power company? Don't tell my boss, but I took today off from work to finish this article....sick leave...J I'm not trying to make excuses, I'm just trying to explain some of my reasons for stepping back for a while. Bob might say I'm burned out (which might be true), but I'm just saying I need to adjust my priorities, tie up some loose ends and take a break. Maybe someday down the road you'll again let me have the honor of serving you. There are plenty of people from the 101st qualified to take over this mission as TL, and the men are older, wiser, fatter and easier to lead than those wild 20 year olds we had back in country. Who will step forward and say "send me?" The rewards more than outweigh the hardships I've ranted about above. I've had the chance to renew old friendships, make new ones, meet people I never dreamed of meeting, and a "couple" I'd rather have not met. I've met Generals and privates, the families of KIAs, MOH recipients, presidential candidates, RHOF members and I even had the privilege of spending an evening with the highest decorated ARVN of the Vietnam War. And to think a simple phone call led to all of this. How naïve I was. I hope Ron is right about the withdrawals passing. My heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who has helped during the past few years. Your friendship, brotherhood, encouragement and conversation means more to me than you'll ever know. The past few years have been a highlight of my life and it has truly been an honor.

Remember, keep your dues paid up and your contact information current if you move. Your brothers will be waiting for you on line or at one of our association reunions, and I'll still be at my current email address and the web site trying to get caught up. RLTW.

Steppin' Wolf, out.

Randy White

Email; ranwhite@jamadots.com

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

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M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Steve Houghton



By Steve Houghton

Here is hoping this issue of "Patrolling" finds all our members and their families doing well.

By the time you get this issue most of the news items will be old news since we all met at Branson, right! But realistically, I know we all won't make it there so here's the news items I have. Ron Piper flew his last commercial flight for American April 24th this year, ending a 37 year carrier in commercial aviation. It seems he hit the big 60, the mandatory retirement age

for airline pilots. He said it's a "bitch" getting old. He and the Misses immediately left for Mexico and three weeks of fun and sun. I'm sure none of us ever gave a moments thought to retirement the day we volunteered for the LRRPs.

Till next time
Steve



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 199th Infantry Brigade (Sep) (Light)
APO San Francisco 96279

SPECIAL ORDERS
NUMBER 51
EXTRACT
20 February 1969

11. TO 254. RSG dir as indic. NTL.

Rel fr asg: 71st Inf (LRP) 199th Inf Bde
Asg to: Co M 75th Inf 199th Inf Bde
Rept date: NA
BASD & BFXD: NVAL
ETS: NVAL
DEROS: NVAL
EDCSA: 1 Feb 69 (VOOG cfm)

LV data: NA
COA: NA
ADC: NVAL
No Depn: NVAL
Scty clnc: NVAL

Name	ASN	SSAN	GR	PMOS
AGUILAR, BRUCE E	RA18859602		SP4	11B2P
ARTHUR, DELMER J	RA11590987		SP4	11B2P
BAKER, DONALD G	RA14959694	(NVAL)	SP4	05B2P
BOSQUEZ, VICTOR M	RA1599010		SGT	11B4P
CARDWELL, STEPHEN F	US56715016		SP4	11B2P
CARLSON, ARTHUR P	RA27383317		SSG	11F40
DAVIS, WASH H	US54442103		SSG	11F4P
DESHAW, JOHN E	RA17607103		IFC	11B2P
EARLS, HENDSON	RA11802032		SGT	11B4P
ECHEVARRIA-GUASF, FELIX	RA29199679		SSG	76Y40
ERNIS, HARRY J JR	US51804340		PVTE1	11D10
EVANS, DONALD A	US53458311		WFC	11B10
FISHER, DANIEL A	US54823434		PFC	11B1P
FLETCHER, JAMES E	RA67115797		PFC	11B10
FLOWERS, MALCOM M	US53848496		PFC	11B10
FRAZIER, OZELLE	RA67106655		PFC	11B2P
FUCHE, JACK B D	US54968267		SP4	11B2P
FULTON, HERMAN L	US53704321		SP4	11B2P
GABRIA, ROBERT M	US56715924		SP4	11B2P
GARDNER, JOE R	US67098196		PVTE2	11B10
GERBER, DANIEL F	US51972275		SGT	11F40
GONZALES, TONY	RA15848807		PFC	11B10
GONZALEZ, RAFAEL A	US54834716		PFC	11B10
GREENE, ELMERT R	RA36788554	(NVAL)	SFC	11B4B
GREENWAY, CASEY F	US56432755		PFC	11B10
GROOM, PETER A	RA11538219		SGT	11B2P
HALL, LARRY D	US56432630		PVTE1	11D10
HARDIN, HUBBARD L JR	RA15845467		PFC	11B1P
HESLER, BRUCE A	RA68018721		PVTE2	11C10
HENDERLEITER, TIMOTHY J	RA16970008		SGT	11B4P
HOUGHTON, STEVEN D	US54974033		SGT	11F4P
HUNT, CHARLES D	RA13809692		SGT	11F4P
KANUHA, SEARELL	RA68054699		PFC	11B10
LUJAN, JOSEPH P S	RA10124287		PFC	11B1P
MATHIS, DAN JR	RA53173482		SSG	11B4B
MEANS, JERRY W	US53453384		SGT	11B4P
NORROW, ROYCE D	RA67115796		PFC	11B10
PEOPLES, THOMAS E	US67112160		PFC	11B10

Para 11 SC 51 DA Hqs 199th Inf Bde APO SF 96279 dtd 20 Feb 69 cont

PERKINS, KEITH H	US54403479		PFC	11B10
PLATECHER, JAMES E	RA16970743		SGT	11B4P
REID, ERNEST A	US67074010		SGT	11F4P
RICH, KIRK L	US54976498		SP4	11B2P
ROSADORAMOS, JOSE	US51978178		SP4	11B2P
ROSS, LUTHER T	US53704056		SP4	11B2P
RYAN, DENNIS R	US56459135		SP4	11B20
SCHOUBROEK, DAVID M	RA15979594		PFC	05B2P
SCHUT, DANIEL	US54973408		SP5	71W20
SKIRITCH, THOMAS J	RA68035333		PFC	11B10
TAFOLLA, EDWARD F	US56715248		PFC	11B1P
TOMLINSON, DWIGHT R	RA18919650		PFC	11B1P
UNTALAN, ROBERT R	US67001254		PFC	11B10
VARNNEY, DONALD R	RA11885361		SGT	11F40
WALD, JAMES D	US56714060		SP4	11B2P
WELTY, JOHN J	US51879570		SGT	11B4P
WIDMER, MICHAEL	RA15761963	(NVAL)	SGT	11B4P
WINTERMUTE, FREDERICK K	US54973836		SP4	11B2P
WOLFENBARGER, DAVID	US54667620		SGT	11B20
WORDEN, BENSON D	RA16623561		SP4	05B2P
WYATT, EDDIE C	US53703555	(NVAL)	SP4	11B2P
YOUNG, DAVID T	US53708371		SGT	11B4P

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

ARTHUR A. HARDY, JR
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

HAL W. DOWNEY
Major, AGC
Adjutant General

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N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



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We have lost three who served in N Rangers and its lineal ancestors

Major Young was the first platoon leader of the Pre-Provisional LRRPs when it was one of the organic platoons of E/1/17th Cavalry. If anyone has personal recollections or photos of Ed Young from the LRRP days, I would appreciate receiving them

Edward Michael Young August 9, 1940-April 14, 2006 **COLUMBUS, GA**—Ed Young's service to the United States Army began with his enlistment in 1961. He attended Infantry Officers Candidate Course in 1963 and graduated from the Ranger Course in 1965. Major Young served three tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam in 1965, 1968, and 1972. His tours included assignments with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 5th Special Forces Group, Detachment B52. While assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, 1LT Young served as the first commander of the Brigade's Long Range Patrol Platoon. Major Young's awards and decorations included three Bronze Stars for valor, the Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Wings, and Vietnamese Parachutist Wings. Mr. Young was a graduate of the University of Alabama and after he retired from the Army, he attended Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, AL. He practiced law in South Alabama.

I received the following from Tad Tadina recently. Tad is back in the sand pile.

Hey Reed

There was another guy died a few weeks ago from the company, Leonard "Scotty" Norwood. I went to the service this last Friday. He lived in Sanford NC and I did not know he died until one of my old troop's called me about it, also. Hopkins came to the service also, and he was also in the company.

I have been unable to reach Scotty Norwood's wife for information on his life and would greatly appreciate if those who knew him could contact me so that we can have a proper in memorium for him in Patrolling. Photographs and recollections would be greatly appreciated I should like to be able to write up something on Scotty similar to what I received from Larry Cole of LRRP Team 4 and Ranger Roger Brown.

Tribute to my Ranger Buddy Chris Christensen (Turtle). Chris was my ATL for 2 trips to Vietnam and my friend of 40 years. Chris passed away in April and I thought it was appropriate for me to purchase him a stone at the Ranger Memorial. To look up the stone of anyone, go online at www.rangermemorial.org



Ranger Roger Brown

The following is from Larry Cole.

Ronald Lee "Chris" Christenson passed away March 26, 2006. Known to his Ranger Brothers as Turtle, he was on his way home to Kalispell, Mt. from a prospecting trip to Arizona. Just outside of Nephi, Utah he pulled over to the side of the road to get his pickup and fifth wheel trailer as far off the roadway as he could, and called 911. Ten minutes later the Utah Highway Patrol arrived, but it was too late, Turtles heart had stopped.

Turtle served eighteen months with the 173rd Abn. Bde. LRRP, he was one of the "Originals", there in the very beginning when it was all just an experiment. He served on many Teams and spent the last year of this tour on Team 7 as Ranger Roger Browns Assistant Team Leader. He left Vietnam in January of 1967 to escort William Collins body home. He was then assigned to the 101st Abn. Div. At Ft.

Campbell where he met up with Ranger Brown once again as fellow instructors at Recondo School and decided to re-enlist to go back to Vietnam with F/58 Long Range Patrol. They were both recruited for the newly formed 101st Divisional LRRP by then Major Charles Beckwith. He, once again, served as Ranger Browns ATL, and then as Team Leader of his own Team.

After Turtles separation from the Army, he obtained a Bachelors Degree in

Criminal Justice and began a career in Law Enforcement. He spent 30 years with the Kalispell, Montana Police Dept. and retired as a Sergeant. But Turtles retirement from the police force didn't end his service to his Country. He sought and obtained a job as a contract security agent with Cochise and went to Iraq. A heart attack



Turtle

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

cut short his contract in Iraq, but this didn't slow him down. Aside from his prospecting adventures, he had recently purchased a 36' sail boat in Brooklyn, New York, and was planning on sailing it with his old LRRP Brother, Sid Smith, to Florida next month.

Sid Smith flew in from Florida, Dave Lange drove up from Southern California, and my wife Shelly and I drove over from Oregon, all of us arriving on March 31. With the help of Linda Brown in Columbus, GA., we linked up and visited briefly with Turtles wife Nancy. We then retired to the Kalispell VFW to toast a fallen Brother. What started as a somber remembrance soon became a celebration of Turtles life, most of the stories told were true, Turtles exploits didn't need any embellishment! Dave, Sid, and I participated in a Flag Ceremony, and Dave presented the Flag to Nancy Christenson. On display was a collage of pictures of Turtles life, from boy hood, through Vietnam, his career as a policeman, Iraq, and his retirement, that I found compelling was reminded of a line from the film, "The Garden of Stone". James Earl Jones lifts his glass to James Cahn and says,

"Here's to us, and those like us.....damned few left!"

Mike Hines sent in a write-up from N Ranger days. I believe this was in the 173rd Airborne Newspaper

Bravo Team of N Rangers was inserted into the Suoi Ca Valley on May 29, 1971 and was led by SSgt Walter Sogalow. They had moved in about 150 meters and set up at an observation point. The team heard Vietnamese voices about 50 meters east of their position and all of the team except the RTO, SP-4 Mike Hines dropped their rucksacks to investigate the voices. The point man, Sgt Terry Ziegenbein found himself face to face with three VC. He opened fire and dispatched them. This brought heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the high ground to their front. The

team had found a base camp and when the team attempted to withdraw, they found that they were surrounded. Major William Shippey, the Ranger company commander called for a reactionary force from A/2/503rd PIR. The parachute infantry platoon reactionary force was inserted about 150 meters from Bravo but were themselves pinned down with heavy casualties 100 meters southeast of Bravo.

Bravo then attempted to move to a better position but were pinned down at their initial contact area by heavy fire. Major Shippey was able to direct deployment of the remainder of A/503 from his helicopter and Bravo was able to withdraw back their rucksacks. The team was informed that the infantry were heavily engaged and could not move and that they were on their own until morning.

It rained heavily during the night. A lot of VC were observed searching for the team with flashlights. Team members PFC Chris Simmons and PFC Curtis Owens later stated that some of the VC walked within feet of their heads. Bravo contacted A/2/503rd before dawn and made arrangements to link up at first light. Both groups attempted to move towards each other but again drew heavy fire when they reached the area of the VC base camp. The team intentionally broke into two groups of three to infiltrate through the VC force. The first three were able to work through the undergrowth and join up with the infantry under heavy fire. The second three then attempted to join up and also came under heavy fire. SP-4 Don Bizado received three rounds through his rucksack and one in his hand. The team leader managed to bandage Bizado's wound and they were able to crawl the rest of the way to A/2/503rd. The infantry company and Bravo withdrew 400 meters and were able to call in artillery and air strikes.



O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael Feller



BY: Mike Feller

Moving through the 6-8' tall elephant grass was much like strolling in a cornfield. The concealed trails seeming much like cornrows. The tall stuff was much better than that knee-deep stuff we had just left. No way to move without being seen, save crawling. Tunnels and spider holes, on the other hand, were invisible until you stepped right in one. However that was behind us, now we were tracking through the tall stuff.

The rain packed sand showed each footprint as clearly as if left on a beach. Two average adults moving east, the afternoon sun would be no problem. The team had fallen back 20 meters, allowing the point man better hearing. They were moving silently, however the tall grass made listening more necessary than most times. Visibility twenty meters on the trail but only two on the sides.

Suddenly the tracks stop. No sign of brushout just sand. A whisper, rustle and fluttered movement, the weapon traverses in



that direction, trigger slack drawn off target acquired NO just a bird shifting passions in the shorter grass. Back off let him leave on his own, don't need the signature a startled bird would make. Look to where our feathered friend came, nothing, nothing but a clearing. Decision time, do we cross or skirt. Stepping closer, scanning the clearing. No sign save one wilted bush. Someone had camouflaged a trail, time to find out why.

The team is briefed, TL says go. The tail gunner will move around the clearing with the pointman, move the bush and replace it after the team moves through. So far the tailgunner has done a good job of trail management now point must slow down to allow even better

The team moves still eastward and the sun westward. Listening now more critical as the shadows began creeping into the lower grasses. Step, listen, look, step, voices, signal halt laughing, more talking. TL moves forward to be briefed by Pointman.

The team moves forward and sets up. The voices

O/75 - 78TH LRP (CONTINUED)

continue, it's decided point and a scout will move undetected to the voices, assess the situation and expedite accordingly. As the two move through the tall grass they encounter thick deadfall. Trying first to slip through, a noisy business quickly abandoned. Skirting the deadfall was impossible in the remaining daylight as it formed a ring around the voices and seemed to be an alarm system. To push through, foolhardy, the best one could hope for, scare the voices off, or get dusted while hung up in the tangle.

Withdrawing, the scouts brief the team, update the spot report. It appears the team will move off RON and check things out later. The grass to the south of the team begins to move. The

enemy apparently has decided to cooperate and take an evening stroll. Gun fire erupts as the enemy is about to step into the opening. The tailgunner was in contact apparently the team was in the middle of a rendezvous point.

The contact was brief and sweeps were made. The team moves off stopping to deliver a bundle of captured equipment to the chopper sent for that purpose. From there RON the Team can hear the PSYOPS choppers describing the event and promising the same would happen to all who did not surrender, for. "The Rangers are among you."



P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Bill Davis



Summer Patrolling Papa Company "Lest We Forget"

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

Summer is upon us with all the fun that can be. It looks as though there are going to be quite a few of us meeting at Cherokee NC. I am hoping that by mentioning the names of those who have committed, may be an encouragement for those of you all that haven't quite made up your minds.

I'll start with the obvious; I'll be arriving late Tuesday. Larry 'the Reb' Smith will be showing up on Sunday and will be our official greeter assuring that folks get checked in OK and nametags. Hopefully he will be quite busy!! The last count of rooms booked is 26, but from the number of contacts made, we could well have 60 rooms.

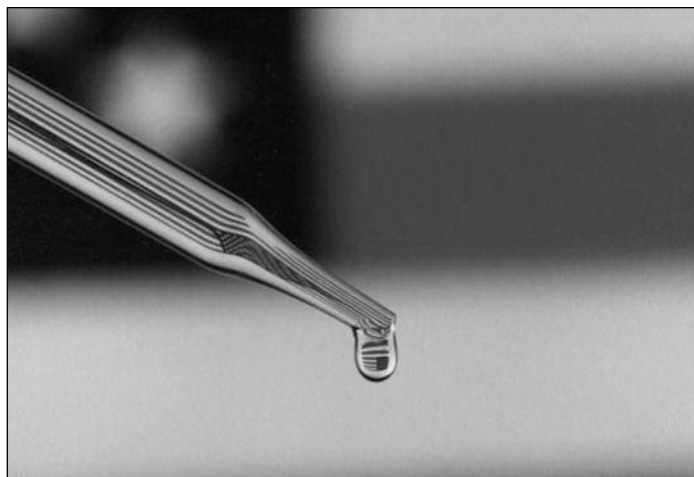
We have a number of regulars who plan on attending. Duke and Marion DuShane, Terry Roderick will be there, along with Clyde Tanner and his family, Eddie Johnston and his family. Terry



Bishop checked in and will be there. Steve Nash has made his reservations as have Rick and Sherrie Auten. I've been told that John and Bonnie Beckwith are coming in from Seattle, also Tom and Gaynelle Wilson. Jim Femiano has told me he is planning on attending. He'll have his bike, but this time he'll be towing it. Bobby Hampton, everyone's favorite chef, will be in attendance along with his cohort from Nashville, Dave Barfield. Ken Emmick and Steve Nash have also reserved their rooms. While I haven't had a firm confirmation I am anticipating Mary Rossi and Grace Mayer being their (probably with their grandkids again!) There are a few others I haven't had a confirmation from yet,

but am hoping to see, they are: Pat Patterson (hopefully with his mother and sister again), Dave McNulty and Bob Dowd. I know I'm leaving out a number in this category, but bear with me and my feeble memory.

There are a few others who are planning to attend who have either not been to one of our reunions or who haven't been out to play for some time. Capt. Hall with his wife Patsy will be in attendance (rumor has it that Capt. {LTC} Ferguson and his wife Donna are going to attempt to come). Frazier (Brother G) Burnette and his wife Peggy Sue have made reservations. It appears that we will be joined by the current CSM of the 3rd Ranger Battalion, Rick Merritt, and his family at our Reunion in Cherokee. Duke sat with his wife, Elizabeth, at the Regimental Ranger Ball and invited them and they have accepted. Larry Smith was in touch with the Kuykendall family. Paul was Papa Company's only Silver Star recipient and has been deceased for 25 years or so. His brother Doug, sister Rosemary and mother Nydia (who is nearly 80) are planning on attending. Spud Gaine informed us that William Neal's twin brother, son and another brother will be attending. Bill served a tour with Papa Company and was later KIA while serving as a door gunner on a subsequent tour. Last, but certainly not least, will be Garry (PhotoRanger) Norton. He has volunteered to scan pictures of those he has of those attending. He told me that he has ten photo albums he will be bringing along. It gave me the opportunity also to include



P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

pictures of Garry and some of his award winning photographs. (Besides I always liked the shot of him with the M-79.) I hope his photos will do him justice in Patrolling, but he'll certainly have copies with him at Cherokee. He also volunteered his e-mail address (photoranger@chesco.com) in case your name wasn't mentioned in this article, or you just want to remind him that you'd appreciate a copy. On that note, any pictures that any of you would care to share would be appreciated.

There will be three members who won't be able to make it to Cherokee as they are currently vacationing in Iraq doing odd jobs. They are Jerry Yonko, Jose Dominguez, and Frank Pickton. I'm in the process of getting CARE packages out to them but I am including their contact points in case anyone wants to drop them a line or anything else. jdmcm1@netscape.net is Jose's e-mail. That is all I have for him right now. The following is the information for the others.

Jerry Yonko

MWR H-Sites Area Manager

Morale Welfare and Recreation

LOGCAP III

Kellogg Brown and Root

Government Operations

H-2, FOB Diamondback

Jerry.Yonko@halliburton.com

Frank Pickton

RSO/DYN Corp

Embassy Annex

APO,AE. 09316

picktonf@hotmail.com

I just got through talking to Ted Tilson and he stopped by Cherokee just the other day to recon the area. Of course the casino is there, but there will be a myriad of things to do. There will be a whitewater rafting expedition. There are shops and museums. It is located in some of the most beautiful parts of the country, in the middle of the Great Smokey Mountains. There is a river running through the middle of town, with some of the best trout fishing going. A few miles away in Gatlinburg, TN, there is one of the larger Aquariums on the east coast. If you are up for it you can drive over the Great Smokey Mountains you come to Pigeon Forge. This is where Dollywood is located. Needless to say this is the Dolly Parton theme park. If you decide to make this 40 or so mile trip you will be treated to one of the most scenic drives in the country through the Great Smoky Mountains. This makes this the perfect setting a great one for all ages and tastes. Except for our dinner on Friday evening, we will wing it on the other activities.

Just a quick note for those who wish to imbibe alcoholic beverages. The Reservation is dry, and though there is a vote coming up to change that, our contact at the hotel said that there is no chance of any change. However the hotel has a brown bag license. You can have alcohol in your rooms. The hospitality room that we have is right off of the pool so we can have booze in the room and use plastic cups around the pool. As for the banquet I understand we can supply the beverages and the hotel staff can serve it.

On a bittersweet note I received a letter from Steve LaRock's mother after sending off my newsletter. She stated that both

Steve and his father passed from a long struggle with Diabetes a couple of years ago. The Company fund was used to buy a Stone for him in the Ranger Memorial. He may not have known of the Memorial or been too ill to act on it himself. His mother called me to thank me and I told her that no Ranger was left behind. It so happened her husband was a West Point grad and spent thirty years in the Army. She reminded me of the Academy's Motto. Duty Honor Country. It was really moving for her.

Finally, just another reminder that Bobby Turner is fighting the battle of his life. He and his wife Gail are being strong but for those of you knew Bobby and hell even if you didn't, give him a call. I'm sure he and Gail would both appreciate it. The number is **505-257-1461**. If you feel up to sending him a card the address is 142 **JUNIPER RD. RUIDOSO, NM 88345**.

In Ranger Brotherhood,

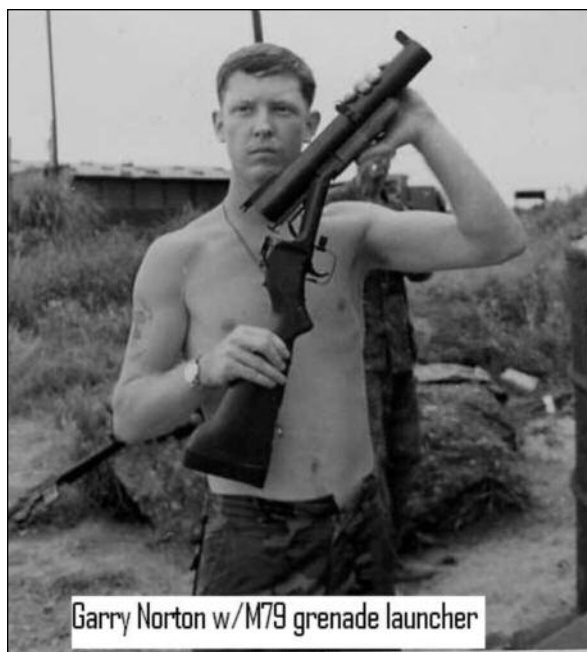
Bill Davis



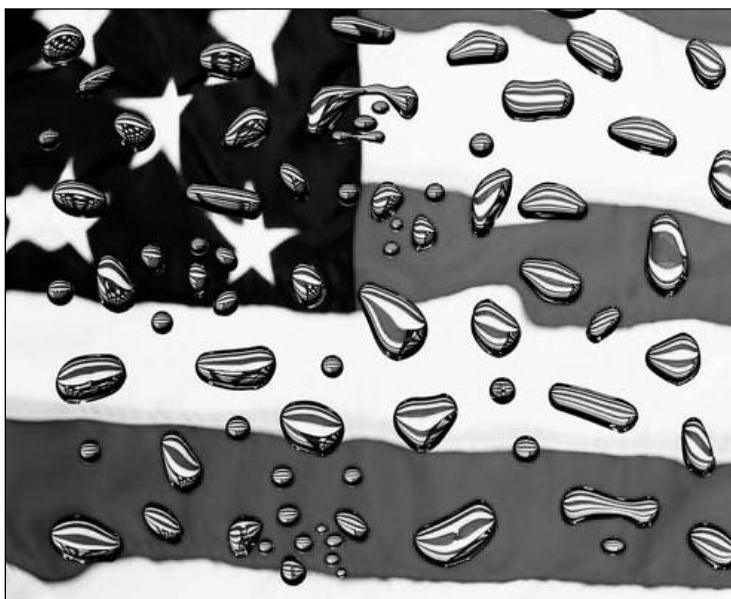
Garry (PhotoRanger) Norton after receiving award for his "Flag Droplet" photo



P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)



Garry Norton w/M79 grenade launcher

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Unit Director - Tom Blandford



From Tom Blandford,

Reunion at Camp Atterbury, this August 11, 12, 13 2006.

This year we'll be welcoming home the members of Co. D 151st LRS, from Afghanistan. We'll hear their war stories for a change. Reunion events will be a motorcycle ride on Friday the 11th. Golf outing on Friday and Hospitality Room. Saturday we'll watch a "jump", fire simulated weapons, dedicate the camp Atterbury Training School to Lt. Kleiber, have a business meeting and banquet, that's all Saturday. Sunday is breakfast and goodbyes. If you are a D151 Association member, you should have received a Reunion packet in the mail. **If you're not on the mailing list, send your registration fee to: Gary Bussell, D151 Treasurer, 5000 W. Connie Dr., Muncie IN 47304. The fee is \$28.00 plus \$28.00 for each guest over age 18. Deadline to register is August 3.** Dues are \$12.00 per year.

The motels are: Hampton Inn, Taylorsville IN, 812-526-5100, and Holiday Inn Express, Taylorsville, 812-526-9899. Ask for the "Military Price" of \$66.00. Camping is available at Johnson Cty Park Camp Grounds and the Camp Atterbury campgrounds 812-526-1116.

Health issue: - I have been diagnosed with Leukemia. Leukemia symptoms include: night sweats, frequent infections, feeling tired or weak, headache, bleeding and bruising easily, pain in bones or joints, swelling or discomfort in the abdomen (from an enlarged spleen), swollen lymph nodes (especially in the neck or armpit), weight loss. Doctors often find chronic leukemia during a

routine checkup, before there are symptoms. Symptoms are mild at first and get worse gradually in chronic leukemia. In acute leukemia, symptoms appear and get worse quickly. Leukemia is cancer of the white blood cells and treatment will be chemotherapy. Several forms of leukemia are service connected because it has been linked to exposure to Agent Orange.

My advice to you is to watch for symptoms and go to the doctor if you have some of them. I have some of the symptoms but not all of them. I don't know of anyone else from the unit that has been diagnosed with this, but please be aware of it. VA Benefit Issue - VA offices in Indiana and a few other states have "under awarded" veterans for service connected conditions compared to some states that have been more generous. The VA offices have not been consistent in determining awards. A letter has been sent to veterans receiving benefits from VA advising how to have their case reconsidered if the veteran feels the need. Contact your advocate (VA Service Representative) and discuss your situation.

Robert T. Smith Memorial Service was April 9, 2006 - There was a graveside memorial service for Robert T. Smith. There was fellowship at the Morristown American Legion following the service and a business meeting. We now have an official Chaplin,

Jim Johnson was elected and I'm sure he is the right man for the job. Since he wasn't in attendance, he was surprised to hear about his new post. No matter how much money I take to these events, I always seem to spend all of it on D 151 shirts, jackets and pins.



D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

Cabin Dedication to 151st Rangers - April 8, 2006 - MG Umbarger, The Adjutant General for Indiana, has set aside one of the cabins at Camp Atterbury as the "Company D 151st Infantry" cabin. It is dedicated to the 151st Airborne Infantry units of yesterday and today. Initially it was to be dedicated to Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry, however after a meeting with some members of the association, it was brought to MG Umbarger's attention that 151st LRS also had to be included. So, that's it for now. Make your reservation for the reunion NOW.

It's time for one of you b*****ds to send in an article for Patrolling. I know some of you have something worthwhile, please get to it. Thanks.

Tom Blandford – out.

The photo below is of the Memorial Service April 9th, 2006.



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon



OPERATION UNIONTOWN III PART 6

This part of Operation Uniontown III covers the period between March 4th of 1968 and March 16 of 1968. The dates of insertions and extractions follow the summary of operation reports and are not necessary in the order of insertions.

Team 35 was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 4th at 1500HRS (3:00 PM). During their time in the field Team 35 reported negative activity or sightings. On March 8th at 1325HRS (1:25 PM) Team 35 was extracted.

Team 29 was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 11th at 1659HRS (4:59 PM). The team was only in the field one day as the 199th Light Infantry changed areas they wanted F/51 LRP to check out. As a result Team 29 reported negative activity or sightings and on March 12th at 0837HRS (8:37 AM) Team 29 was extracted.

Team 24 was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 11th at 1315HRS (1:15 PM). At 1644HRS (4:44 PM) Team 24 reported hearing voices 50 meters West Southwest of the teams location. On March 12th at 1511HRS (3:11 PM) Team 24 reported being in contact with an estimated reinforced Vietcong squad. The contact lasted until 1532HRS (3:32 PM) with the result of 1 Vietcong killed (by Body Count) and 3 probably killed. The 1 Vietcong killed was carrying various documents that were recovered along with 1 AK-47 weapon. At 1535HRS (3:35 PM) Team 24 was extracted.

During the contact and the extraction, both the C&C (Command and Control) and the radio relay aircraft reported spotting groups of Vietcong in the area that the contact had occurred. Artillery and tactical air strikes were called into the area where Team 24 area with unknown results.



Team 36 was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 11th at 1526HRS (3:26 PM). At 1526HRS (3:26 PM) Team 36 reported seeing 1 NVA (North Vietnam Army) soldier 30 meters North Northeast of the teams location. This was the only sighting that Team 36 saw in their time in the area. On March 15th at 0839HRS (8:39 AM) Team 36 was extracted.

Team 23 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 11th at 1653HRS (4:53 PM). On March 12th at 2300HRS (11:00 PM) Team 23 reported spotting 4 Vietcong. On March 15th at 0847HRS (8:47 PM) Team 23 was extracted with no other sightings or contacts were reported.

Team 30 was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 11th at 1719HRS (5:19 PM). As soon as the first element landed they reported receiving one round of small arms fire. After the other element was landed and the team elements had linked up Team 30 searched the area with negative results. During the remainder of the teams stay they had negative other sightings or contacts. Team 30 was extracted on March 15th at 0823HRS (8:23 AM).

Team 12 was a 13 man heavy team that was inserted into their

F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

Area of Operation on March 12th at 1700HRS (5:00 PM). On March 13th at 2054HRS (8:54 PM) Team 12 reported hearing voices and movement that was probably a large party. Gun-ships were called in with unknown results. On March 14th at 0750HRS (7:50 AM) Team 12 reported making contact with an estimated 15 Vietcong. Results of the contact were 5 Vietcong killed, by body count, and 1 Ak-47 rifle recovered. Gun-ships made their runs and at 0844HRS (8:44 AM) Team 12 was linked up with an aero-rifle platoon, together they swept the area with negative results. At 1050HRS (10:50 AM) the gun-ships in the area spotted Vietcong in the area and made gun runs on them. At 1115HRS (11:15 AM) Team 12 was extracted.

Team 29 was a 13 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 14th at 1720HRS (5:20 PM). At 1837 HRS (6:37 PM) Team 29 reported hearing 1 rifle shot 150 meters approximately East Southeast of the teams location. The team requested a fire mission on the area of the shot and artillery fired 10 rounds into the area with unknown results. On March 15th at 0034HRS (12:34 AM) Team 29 reported an explosion 300 to 400 meters approximately North Northeast of the teams location. On March 15th at 0651HRS (6:51 AM) Team 29 reported seeing a fire approximately South-Southwest at an unknown distance from the teams location. At 1110HRS (11:10 AM) Team 29 reported hearing voices on a North South trail 100 meters west of the teams location. At 1227HRS (12:27 PM) Team 29 reported hearing an incoming rocket or mortar round being fired 300 to 400 meters approximately South Southeast of the teams location. The team called artillery in on the area of the rocket or mortar firing with unknown results. At 1409HRS (2:09 PM) Team 29 reported they were in contact with 5 NVA (North Vietnamese Army) personal. Results of the contact resulted in 1 NVA killed by body count and 1 possibly killed, 1 NVA uniform, canteen, sandals, wallet with personal papers and documents, 5 pounds of rice, a hammock, and 1 AK-47 magazine were recovered. Gun-ships were used to cover Team 29s extraction on March 15th at 1450HRS (2:50 PM), after the extraction artillery was called in on the area.

Team 12 was a 7 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 16th at 0833HRS (8:33 AM). At 1934HRS (7:34 PM) Team 7 reported being in contact as a grenade was thrown into their perimeter which resulted in negative casualties. At 1936HRS (7:36 PM) Team 12 reported movement to their South and that they had blown their claymores in that direction and fired small arms fire in the direction of the movement. At 1953HRS (7:53 PM) Team 12 reported they had blown the rest of their claymores and were moving to their LZ. Gun-ships covered the teams extraction which occurred at 2003HRS (8:03 PM). Results of the contact were 1 team member slightly wounded from concussion from the grenade that was thrown into the team's perimeter.

Team 15 was a 13 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 13th at 1212HRS (12:12 PM). On March 14th at 0230HRS (2:30 AM) Team 15 reported hearing a 2 ? ton truck and a 50 caliber machinegun 1000 meters to 2000

meters South Southwest of the team position. At 1517HRS (3:17 PM) Team 15 reported seeing 1 Vietcong. At 1526HRS (3:26 PM) Team 15 reported being in contact with an estimated 10 Vietcong. Gun-ships were called in to cover Team 15's extraction which occurred at 1559HRS (3:59 PM). After the extraction 13 rounds of artillery were fired into the area of the contact. Results of the contact were 1 Vietcong killed and 2 Vietcong probably killed.

Team 24 was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 15th at 1534HRS (3:34 PM). On March 16th at 1230HRS (12:30 PM) Team 24 reported hearing 3 explosions 250 meters approximately South Southwest of the team's position. On March 16th at 1650HRS (4:50 PM) Team 24 reported finding a well-used trail and old foxholes. On March 18th at 0839HRS (8:39 AM) Team 12 was extracted.

Team 34 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 15th at 1547HRS (3:47 PM). On March 16th at 0019HRS (12:19 AM) Team 34 reported movement 25 meters southwest of the team's position. Team 34 reported having movement around his area all night. On March 17th at 1132HRS (11:32 AM) Team 34 was extracted.

Team 15 was a 12 man heaving team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 16th at 1736HRS (5:36 PM). At 1804HRS (6:04 PM) Team 15 reported 2 Vietcong 40 meters West of the team's location and at the same time Team 15 reported hearing voices 300 meters South of the team's location. At 1820HRS (6:20 PM) Team 15 reported 1 Vietcong 30 meters approximately North-Northeast of the team's position. At 1850 Team 15 reported that they were being probed. At 1900Hrs (7:00 PM) Team 15 reported an unknown number of Vietcong moving 40 meters East of the teams location and moving in the teams location. At 1909HRS (7:09 PM) Team 15 reported that they had blown their claymores and initiated contact with at least 7 Vietcong. The gun-ships were called in to cover Team 15's extraction and reported receiving ground fire from the Vietcong. At 1914 (7:14 PM) Team 15 was extracted. Results of the contact were 1 Vietcong believed killed. Artillery was fired into the area of the contact with unknown results.

Operation Uniontown III was conducted in the following areas; the Catchers Mitt area, the area East of highway LTL 16, and the area North of Bien Hoa. F/51 was operating under the control of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. The missions consisted of long range reconnaissance, trail watch, and ambushes.



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

3rd Infantry Division LRRP Detachment

Mike McClintock, Unit Director

By the time you read this it will have been just about 42 years since the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment last put on their rucksacks and headed for the E. German border. There is no East Germany now, just as there is no Soviet Union, and at 62 years old, I too am looking at oblivion. Well, maybe not oblivion, but close to it with Social Security and Medicare looming on the horizon.

Damn, where did all the time go? And where have all the soldiers gone?

As I think back on those glorious summer days in Germany in 1962, I think of all the guys I served with back then. Most are still around, but many are not. Foremost among those who are gone now is SSG Robert "Red Dog" Schroeder.

Among those of us who knew him, he was considered to be one of the greatest Rangers of his day. Red Dog jumped into Nijmegen, Holland on September 17, 1944 with the 504th (?) Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. If my memory is correct, he was shot up pretty badly and spent the rest of the war recuperating. He once told me that he was discharged at the end of the war, but re-enlisted in the spring of 1950, just weeks before the Korean War broke out. He did say that this was bad timing! Schroeder served in Korea, where he was seriously wounded once again and returned to the States. I believe that it was shortly after this that he hooked up with the Ranger School at Fort Benning. He was there until the spring of 1961 when he was shipped off to Germany.

I first met him when he was assigned to D Co., 2nd Battle Group, 38th Infantry in Schweinfurt, Germany in the summer of 1961. He was a staff sergeant then, but someone said that he had been a master sergeant and instructor at the Ranger School and had gotten into some kind of altercation with a field grade officer and was sent to this particular leg infantry unit in Germany as his penance. He didn't stay with the 38th very long. In late 1961 he, along with a number of other Ranger NCOs from the 38th joined the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment in Bad Kissingen. I followed shortly thereafter. Upon arriving in Bad Kissingen, I was awed by the two Ranger officers, CPT Ed Jentz and 1LT John Peyton, and the number of Ranger NCOs in the detachment. All of us lowly PFCs and SP/4s were in awe of these guys, especially Red Dog. The up side of this was that we got some of the best training that a bunch of lowly legs ever had. We learned hand-to-hand combat, rock climbing and rappelling, how to cross streams on rope bridges that we built, map reading and land navigation, mines and booby traps. Basically all the good stuff that these guys had learned or taught at Ranger school. The down-side was PT and a morning run, every day, rain or shine, sleet or snow. Schroeder excelled at PT, especially the runs and pushups. Even with his bum shoulder he could do more one-arm pushups than any of the rest of us could with two. As good as he was at PT, Schroeder was even better in the field. I made the mistake of once saying to one

of my PFC buddies, the late Ron Scott, that I was glad that I was not on Schroeder's patrol as he was too hard core for me. Scott wasted no time in telling me what a dumbass I was, because, he said, he learned more field craft in three days in the field with Schroeder than he had learned in the last two years since joining the Army.

Bob Schroeder returned to CONUS in the fall of 1963, but not before seeing a bunch of us long-time-in-grade PFCs finally get our sergeants stripes. I returned home in early 1964 and did not see Red Dog again until March 1997, when I met him in Columbus, GA to plan our first 3rd ID LRRP reunion. By the time that we all got together for our reunion in Columbus, Schroeder had had a relapse with the cancer that he had beaten once before. He was too ill to come to the reunion, so we went to his

house, where his gracious wife Mary invited us in. He was in a lot of pain, but greeted us all very warmly. You could see him smile when we each introduced ourselves and told him how much he had influenced our lives. Retired MSG Robert Schroeder died several weeks later, but he left behind a legacy that lives on in the hearts and minds of the boys to men of the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment. As COL (Ret.) Ed Jentz says "those were the days." They truly were.



SSG Schroeder front row far left. McGeek second row far left. Officers are (l.) COL (ret.) Ed Jentz and (r.) LTC (ret.) John Peyton. SFC Mike Tardif to left of Jentz.



(PFC) Frank Wagner and SGM (ret.) Kent McMichael pay their respects to MSG Schroeder at his home in 1997.



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Mike Martin



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

As the sun's morning rays reflected off the cascading mountain streams and bathed in an adulation the hollows and meadows in a simmering reddish hue, soft "spring" breezes lightly brushed the leaves of the regional redbuds, dogwoods, and glossy mountain laurel of North Georgia; it was the first day of the U.S. Army Ranger Advisor reunion in Helen, Georgia. The masculine camaraderie and pride was evident as anecdotes, epigrams and old-fashioned stories were told by these Advisors to the Biet Dong Quan as they "kicked off" the reunion which would run from 11-14 May 2006.

The reunion would conclude with a most professional "Rangers in Action" demonstration at the Camp Frank D. Merrill Open House by members of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion and the legendary Critter cookout. Many of our Ranger Advisors have served as instructors in Ranger School...the Ranger Instructors are the stewards of the **Black and Gold Tab**—Guardians of professionalism and expertise that transcends the years...It is this historical lineage that binds all of us—past and present—and the significance of our revered military traditions; we were Rangers on the battlefields of Asia and our bonds and memories are seared in blood and sweat from those of us who wore the Mu Nau (Maroon Beret), "Americans and Vietnamese".

Due to the submission date (deadline) for this article conflicting with our reunion dates, photographs and an **INTSUM** of the occasion will appear in the next issue of the Patrolling.

The following are excerpts from an article in the Counterparts SITREP by member John B. Haseman on his visits to Vietnam...We thank John and Counterparts for permission to use the article.

VISIT VIETNAM – AS A TOURIST THIS TIME

I made my first trip back to Vietnam in 1996, shortly after resumption of diplomatic relations between the US and Vietnam (more of that trip later in this article). I have traveled to Vietnam as a member of group tours, on cruise ships, and on individual trips I arranged myself, altogether almost two dozen times. My most recent visit was early September 2005.

Vietnam is as beautiful as we all remember it from our tours there, as endlessly fascinating as many of us found it then, and—most importantly—very much different from that last wartime experience. Let me use my post-war travel experience to give you some pointers and suggestions for making your own return visit.

What will you find when you get to Vietnam? First, you'll be surprised because things have changed a lot. The population of what was once South Vietnam is more than double what it was in 1975. This means cities are bigger and sprawl further than you remember; small villages are now large towns, and once-hostile

jungle is now farmland. Veterans of fighting in the wilderness of the A Shau Valley were astonished to find that it is now a peaceful farming valley that is full of people and small villages. Secondly,

you will be astounded at the level of economic development in the cities, particularly in Saigon and Danang and some other cities in the South. While Vietnam is still a communist country, its government has delegated considerable economic policy decisions to each province and several of them have embraced the benefits of capitalist development. Saigon pulses with vibrant energy and is building a big-city skyline.

One of the main concerns of veterans is the reception they might get in Vietnam. Relax—it is totally friendly. In all of my visits, I have never encountered the slightest bit of animosity. Over half of

Vietnam's population was born after the war ended. While they have absorbed a slightly skewed version of history, there is no hostility toward the U.S. The Vietnamese like Americans; they see us as more friendly and outgoing than the French or Russians. Okay, so what won't you see? The small district town you lived in is now a big town and you might have to hunt for the location of your former advisory compound. In all probability your team house or SF camp is gone too. Some former U.S. and ARVN base camps and firebases are active Vietnamese military bases, which prohibit access, so you cannot get on to many of the large former U.S. division base camps.

The only sign of the advisory team houses in my two districts in the former Kien Hoa Province was an overgrown section of concrete foundation and a few bits of floor tile. The District Chiefs' houses and our TOC's were likewise gone. One district compound now houses a huge high school (this is good), and the other holds part of the district government complex. Our former province team compound in Ben Tre is now a hotel, and the province chief's house is now the provincial museum.

There are several travel companies that specialize in tours for Vietnam veterans. One of the pioneers in Vietnam travel for Americans is Global Spectrum in Fairfax, VA. I traveled three times with Global Spectrum and give it my highest recommendation. Ninety percent of their business is individualized travel for small groups and individuals. The company is committed to its relationship with Vietnam. For several years, Global Spectrum has been part of a cooperative foundation in Vietnam that supports a school in Quang Tri, and participates in many other programs to help the Vietnamese people.

If you don't want to take a tour from the U.S., you can travel to the main cities of Vietnam on your own and make detailed travel arrangements in Vietnam after you arrive. Many international carriers fly to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. United Airlines now flies daily flights from Chicago and San Francisco via Hong Kong to Ho Chi Minh City for as low as \$800 RT if you are a



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

member of their "SilverWings Plus" frequent flyer program (<http://www.silverwings.com>).

If you travel on your own to Saigon, I suggest that you arrange the details of your in-country travel with a reputable agency. I recommend Ann Tours, run by Tony Nong, a "Viet Kieu" who left Vietnam as a boy of 7 in 1975 and returned to become a successful businessman in Saigon. Tony's father was an ARVN Special Forces soldier killed in action in 1970. His mother worked for USAID and the U.S. Embassy. The company web site is <http://www.anntours.com>, email address is tony@ustradebiz.com.

Some Vietnam veterans made their first return trip on a cruise ship. Several cruise lines make regular trips between Hong Kong and Singapore, usually calling in Ha Long Bay (for the scenery as well as tours to Hanoi), Danang (excursions to Hue, or Hoi An), and Ho Chi Minh City. Seabourn Cruise Line, on which I have lectured for more than 10 years, is an excellent top-of-the-market small ship cruise line (200 passengers max) that I can personally vouch for, but other cruise companies also sail this route.

Whether you travel in a group tour, on a cruise ship, or by yourself or with friends and family, you will find Vietnam to be a very pleasant experience. This time the accommodations, food, and reception will be far better than you experienced years ago! Go now, and enjoy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AIRBORNE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS MUSEUM

I received a letter dated 14 March 2006, from Mr. John Duvall, Director, confirming a new exhibit covering U.S. Army Advisors to the Vietnamese Rangers. Major General (Ret) Ed Scholes has provided the exhibit with his uniform shirt that he wore while with the Vietnamese Rangers in I Corps. Jim Waters has given his BDQ beret that he wore while he was with the 42nd Biet Dong Quan. I have provided the museum with 48 photos (most of our members) to be used with the display. This was a major goal of mine and I thank John Duvall for his support...HOOAH!!!

CONTEMPLATIONS

Wounds of the flesh a surgeon's
Skill may heal,
But wounded honor's only cured
With steel.

"THE ART OF DUELLING," BY
'A TRAVELLER' – LONDON, 1836

Some men go skimming over the years of
Existence to sink into a placid grave,
Ignorant of life to the last, without
Ever having been made to see all it may
Contain of perfidy, of violence, and of terror.

—Joseph Conrad

SHOOT LOW, I'll see you on the High Ground.
Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit Director



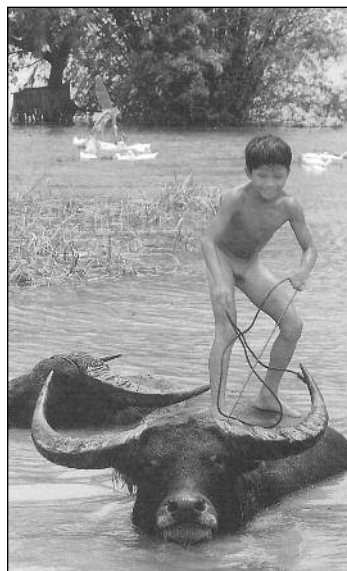
Signs of the Times" a European Brauhaus in Ho Chi Ming City (Saigon), would have been hard to imagine on my first tour in Nan, 1965...



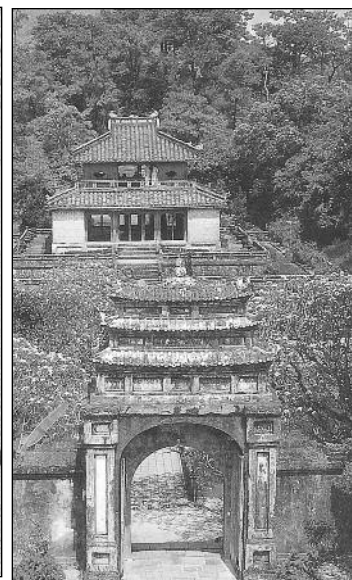
The senic beauty of Dalat, South Vietnam.



Dong Ba market in Hue, South Vietnam.



Flooding, water buffalo tended by Vietnamese children.



Emporer Ming Mang's mausoleum, Hue, South Vietnam

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Smyers

COULD LOVE BE THE ANSWER?

By: Bob Smyers

THROUGH OUT THE AGES MAN HAS ALWAYS HAD THE IDEA HE COULD BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD THROUGH THE WISDOM CREATED THROUGH FLESHY THINKING. WE SEEM TO ALWAYS HAVE MANY IDEAS AND POLITICAL SOLUTIONS, WHEN, IN FACT WE HAVE NEVER COME UP WITH THE RIGHT FORMULA. CONFLICT BEGAN LONG AGO IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, WHERE GOD STARTED HIS EARTHLY FAMILY. THEY WERE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY WITH ALL CREATION. EVERYTHING ONE COULD WANT HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR THEM, BUT IN COMES THE LAIR (satan) THAT DECEIVED ADAM AND EVE CAUSING THEM TO VIOLATE THE WILL OF GOD, BREAKING THE TRUST GOD HAD BETWEEN HE AND THEM. THEY WERE TOLD NOT TO EAT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL AND IF THEY DID THEY WOULD SURELY DIE. THE LIAR HOWEVER TOLD THEM, AND THEY BOUGHT IT, THAT THEY WOULD NOT SURELY DIE. HE TOLD THEM GOD DID NOT WANT THEM TO EAT FROM THE TREE OF GOOD AND EVIL, BECAUSE THEY WOULD BECOME LIKE GODS. WHEN GOD APPROACHED THEM AS TO WHAT THEY HAD DONE, THEY SAID, THE SERPENT ENTICED US AND WE BELIEVED HIM. THEY HAD COMMITTED THE FIRST SIN THAT WOULD BRING BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER. GOD THREW ADAM AND EVE OUT OF THE GARDEN OF LIFE AND LUXURY TO TOIL WITH THE GROUND FOR A LIVING. CURSING THEM AND THE EARTH. THE GARDEN WAS SHUT OFF TO THEM FOREVER. THE QUESTION COMING TO MANY READING THIS IS, I THOUGH GOD SAID THEY WOULD DIE, BUT HERE THEY ARE TRYING TO SCRATCH OUT A LIVING. THE LIFE IN THE FLESH STARTED IMMEDIATELY AGING. THEY WERE CREATED TO LIVE FOREVER, BUT FORFEITED IT BY BREAKING GOD'S WILL. NOW AS SOON AS ONE EXITS THE MOTHER'S WOMB HE BEGINS TO DIE A PHYSICAL DEATH. HOWEVER GOD WHEN HE SAID YOU WILL SURELY DIE DID NOT MEAN A PHYSICAL DEATH, NO; HE SPOKE OF THE SPIRITUAL DEATH, BEING SEPERATED FROM GOD ALMIGHTY FOR ALL ETERNITY. FROM THE DAY CAIN AND ABLE HAD THEIR FIGHT, RESULTING IN ABLE'S DEATH, TO THIS VERY SECOND, WAR HAS BEEN A MAINSTAY IN HUMAN HISTORY. MAN WILL ALWAYS CHASE AFTER FREEDOM, BUT IT IS LIKE TRYING TO CATCH THE WIND IN YOUR HAND, IT WILL FOREVER BE ELUSIVE. SO, WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

LISTEN TO WHAT GOD SAYS: WE ARE TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH, AND LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES.

THE KEY IS THE WORD LOVE! LISTEN TO HOW GOD DISCRIBES LOVE; GOD SAYS ONE MAY HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, AND UNDERSTAND ALL MISTERIES, AND ALL THE KNOWLEGDE, AND EVEN THE FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS, YET, WITHOUT LOVE, YOU ARE NOTHING. MANY MAY GIVE MONEY TO HELP FEED THE POOR OR GO OUT OF THEIR WAY FOR ANOTHER, BUT, UNLESS THEY ARE DOING IT IN LOVE, WHAT DO THEY PROFIT?

"LOVE" SUFFERS LONG AND IS KIND, "LOVE" ENVIES NOT, "LOVE" DOES NOT BOAST OR BRAG OF SELF, "LOVE" IN NOT PUFFED UP, "LOVE" DOES NOT BEHAVE IMPROPERLY, "LOVE" DOES NOT SEEK HER RIGHTS, "LOVE" IS NOT EASLIY PROVOKED, " LOVE" THINKS OR DOES NO EVIL, " LOVE" DOES NOT REJOICE IN INEQUITY, BUT REJOICES IN TRUTH, "LOVE" BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES FOR ALL THINGS, AND ENDURES ALL THINGS. "LOVE" NEVER FAILS! IF ONLY HUMANITY COULD "LOVE" THEIR NEIGHBOR AS THEMSELVES.

THANKS FOR ALLOWING ME TO SHARE.

BOB SMYERS, CHAPLAIN 75THRA. FORMER T/L/PSG 2ND BRIDAGE LRRP/LRP, 4th I.D.

REFERENCES: GENESIS CHAPTER 1-4, 1ST CORINTHAINS 13:-3-8, GALATIONS 5:-14. WITH PHARAHRASING.

T A P S . . .

Ranger Ben DeFoe's incredible weekend at the Western Chapter Meeting, San Luis Obispo, CA.

Ray and I picked up Ben DeFoe and Hollis Stabler Thursday, March 23, 2006, from San Francisco International Airport. Hollis arrived first; put him in the car and then left for Terminal 3 to find Ben. He was in the luggage area waiting for his suitcase telling stories to the wheelchair pusher. He had his tan beret on and commented while he was in the Seattle airport, men were shouting “hooah” and saluting him. He had a smile that could not be wiped off! He kept repeating “they saw the beret and knew I was a Ranger.”

Friday morning, our car full to the brim with wheelchairs and walkers, Ben said he'd ride with the nephew of Col. Darby “Darby Watkins”. I am not sure who was more excited: Ben or Darby. When we finally stopped for breakfast at NOON, Darby was beside himself with bliss — Ben had not stopped talking and Darby was taking in every word. I just laughed knowing the stories and what a great story teller Ben was. Ben hadn't been eating much lately but his appetite returned when he was with his Ranger family and said to the waitress: “I'll have a large order of biscuits and gravy and sausage. Much to everyone's surprise including Ben's: a heaping plate of overflowing biscuits and gravy arrived on plate number 1 – plate number 2 had 6 or was it 8 sausages. He didn't finish either plate but sure put a huge dent in them.

Once we arrived at the hotel, Ben continued his story telling, and could be overheard laughing and cussing and making his point. There were stories about his neighbors and the shot gun; and his wife, and how much he missed her, and someday would be by her side again. I asked how they stayed married. His reply was stellar Ben, with a gleam in his smile “I told her when we were in the house, that was her territory and she ruled. And, when we were outside, that was my territory and I ruled.” [Later I thought I could picture Ben saying “May, honey, let's go outside and talk” — Ben would have May in his the territory where he ruled!] He talked about his horse, his dog and his daughter Barbie who was coming to take him home and knew Barbie would take such good care of him. He talked about Kevin – the Second Battalion Ranger who saw action during the Panama-Grendada. Ranger Kevin who drove 6 hours just to cut Ben's lawn; made Ben stop cutting the wood pile since that was the reason Ben had asked for Kevin's help! Ben who wouldn't get off the tractor and kept “showing” Kevin how he wanted Kevin to plow the field. He said he didn't know what he would have done without Kevin. He talked about getting a new van with a lift; and his granddaughter and even said his son-in-law was a great guy. He was prime Ben, so full of life



and stories and showed us all that being with your brothers is pretty important!!

Sunday we tossed Hollis and Ben in the car and started on our 6-hour trip home,, with a side trip through Presidio Army Base, Monterey, California where Hollis gave us a history lesson of “that's where the barracks were; the parade ground; the water hole for the horses.” Ben and I sat in the back seat and he continued to talk and talk. Once we got to my house, I opened a can of soup and chile for Ben and Hollis. They ate while Ray and I unloaded the car to make room for everyone to “tour the city” that Hollis had not seen since 1943. Ben said he wanted to stay behind and rest, that was 5 PM. When we got home, Ben was still asleep; when we went to bed, he was still asleep; when we got up at 4 AM, he was still asleep. I woke Ben to get ready to go to the airport and he said he had been awake for an hour during the night with a coughing spell and chills. He was a little tired but got ready to go and put his new tan beret on his head.

We dropped Ben off first. I got his bagged checked; confirmed his seat and ordered a wheelchair. I waited inside the terminal with Ben until the wheelchair arrived. I saw a lady pushing a wheelchair and asked “who is that for”. Her sign read “Mr. Ditto.” Knowing the heavy accent of the men who ordered his wheelchair, looked at Ben who basically rolled his eyes and said That's him, Mr. Ditto. I started to laugh and Ben just shook his head. We hugged and I gave him a peck on the cheek and off I went to get Hollis squared away.

Ben touched many lives in many ways; Ray and I are deeply saddened, but take comfort from knowing how happy he was; what a grand weekend he had, and how much fun we just shared. You could not have asked for a better weekend for a Ranger than to spend his last weekend with his brothers.

Ray and Lynn Towne

T A P S . . . Continued

A True Warrior is Gone

Ronald Lee “Chris” Christenson passed away March 26, 2006. Known to his Ranger Brothers as Turtle, he was on his way home to Kalispell, Mt. from a prospecting trip to Arizona. Just outside of Nephi, Utah he pulled over to the side of the road to get his pickup and fifth wheel trailer as far off the roadway as he could, and called 911. Ten minutes later the Utah Highway Patrol arrived, but it was too late, Turtles heart had stopped.

Turtle served eighteen months with the 173rd Abn. Bde. LRRP, he was one of the “Originals”, there in the very beginning when it was all just an experiment. He served on many Teams and spent the last year of this tour on Team 7 as Ranger Roger Browns Assistant Team Leader. He left Vietnam in January of 1967 to escort William Collins body home. He was then assigned to the 101st Abn. Div. At Ft. Campbell where he met up with Ranger Brown once again and decided to re-enlist to go back to Vietnam with F/58 Long Range Patrol. He, once again, served as Ranger Browns ATL, and then as Team Leader of his own Team.

After Turtles separation from the Army, he obtained a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and began a career in law enforcement which lead him to his retirement from the Kalispell, Montana Police Dept. as a Sergeant. But Turtle’s retirement from the police force didn’t end his service to his Country and his fellow man. He sought and obtained a job as a contract security agent with Cochise and went to Iraq.

A heart attack cut short his contract in Iraq, but it didn’t slow him down. Aside from his prospecting adventures, he had recently purchased a 36’ sail boat in Brooklyn, New York, and was planning on sailing it with his old LRRP Brother, Sid Smith, to Florida next month.

Sid Smith flew in from Florida, Dave Lange drove up from Southern California, and my wife Shelly and I drove over from Oregon, all of us arriving on March, 31. With the help of Linda Brown in Columbus, GA., we linked up and visited briefly with Turtles wife Nancy. We then retired to the Kalispell VFW to toast a fallen Brother. What started as a somber remembrance soon became a celebration of Turtle’s life, most of the stories told were true, Turtle’s exploits didn’t need any embellishment!

A Memorial Service was held for Turtle in Kalispell on April 1. The Memorial Service and Wake was a continuation of the celebration of Turtles life. Sp4 Noni Balboa, Turtles son-in-law, Marine Cpl Tyler (I didn’t get his last name but he’s the one that stands to President Bush’s left when he boards or departs the “Marine 1” helicopter), Dave, Sid, and I participated in a Flag Ceremony, and Dave presented the Flag to Nancy Christenson. I was pretty proud that we all held it

together during the ceremony, but I did notice that the three of us all jumped when the first volley of the 21 Gun Salute was fired. On display was a collage of pictures of Turtles life, from boy hood, through Vietnam, his career as a policeman, Iraq, and his retirement, that I found compelling. After the Service the food was served and the first two rounds of drinks from the bar were on Turtle, just the way he wanted it. Celebrating Turtle’s life didn’t turn into a drunken fest, as some Wakes tend to, but rather a coming together of the 150 people in attendance to share happy memories of a life well lived. We did have to explain, several times, how the Mississippi Mud Turtle got his name. In toasting Turtle, I was reminded of a line from the film, “The Garden of Stone”. James Earl Jones lifts his glass to James Cahn and says, “Here’s to us, and those like us.....damned few left!”

I just got word that Ranger John P. Wood (C/58 and B/75), of Aransas Pass, TX, passed away on Saturday, March 4, of liver cancer.

Roy Bissey reports that Raymond Marty, a member of the association since 2002, has passed away. Ray was a WWII Ranger of the first, third and fourth battalions.

MAY GOD GRANT THESE RANGERS THE PEACE OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY FAITHFULLY AND WELL

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS



I recently ordered several books on Merrill's Marauders from Mr. Robert E. Passanisi, the Chairman / Historian of the Merrill's Marauders Association. Mr. Passanisi sent me the books and returned my check requesting it be used for Ranger Welfare (it has been contributed to the Ranger Family Fund). He also gave permission to make copies of the combat photographer DVD

"Approach to Myitkyina" with the 1962 "Merrill's Marauder" movie trailer for any Ranger requesting it. If you would like a copy of this DVD at no cost, just email, call, or write to me at: Ron Edwards, PO Box 921, Heflin, AL 36264. (256) 831-7146 redwards@cableone.net

This story is reprinted from the August 2005 issue of "The Burma News" with the permission of Mr. Robert E. Passanisi. John (Red) Acker was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in July 2004.

THE JOHN (RED) ACKER STORY

John Acker's describes the events in relation to the two Artillery pieces they received at Hsamshingyang from our Rear Echelon. As we (KCT) left Inkangantahng, on the withdrawal, we moved rather rapidly back through Warong, Auche. Kauri, Nhpum Ga and down hill to Hsamshingyang. On arrival at Hsamshingyang we set up a perimeter. As you probably know, at this time I was a S/Sgt in charge of Pack animals in (KCT). I believe that all of (KCT) bivouacked at Hsamshingyang on or about March 28th, 1944. As I remember, our perimeter surrounded a rather large aircraft landing strip for carrying our sick and wounded out to rear base hospitals. I remember that General Merrill got sick about this time and was evacuated, leaving Col. Hunter in command.

I believe, on the 29th of March, Major Briggs came by our positions on the perimeter and talked for a while. His intent was to check our positions, encourage moral and see how we were doing, in general. As we talked about the condition of 2nd Battalion which was surrounded, I mentioned the fact that we, former members of the 98th Field of Artillery, had been discussing our need for artillery. I told Major Briggs that if we had some guns we would fix the Japs up. His question was, "could we fire the guns if we had some?" We assured him that we could. There was nothing more said about it until the next day Major Briggs asked me to assemble men for two Gun Crews. I immediately let the word out and the old Artillery men became very excited. I asked Thomas Averett and George (Red) Lowe to be our Gun Chiefs. Averett (KCT) on Gun Crew #1 and Lowe (OCT) on Gun Crew #2. We needed eight men per Gun Crew besides our mule skinnners. Hoot Gibson came over as a radio man. Charles Thurman was to be used as an interpreter, if needed - he spoke Chinese. We had a total of 30 men as Gun Crew, packers, ammunition handlers and picket line guards.

On the 2nd of April we assembled at the drop area as the planes approached our position. We had been informed that the gun

pieces would be marked by different colored parachutes. As the drop was made, the men began immediately to claim the different pieces and take them to the designated areas. From the time of the drop, we had two guns assembled in 15 minutes. I had been asked by Col. Hunter to come to his quarters as soon

as the guns were in place. As I entered his tent, I noticed gun assembly instructions were spread out over his desk (better described as a card table). He was very pleased when I told him the guns were ready to fire. He put his assembly materials away and spread a map on the table and began to show me where the Japs' artillery pieces were located and asked if we could fire in that general area without endangering our troops at Nhpum Ga. I told him we could but would have to change the position of our guns as soon as possible before the Japs found our position and fired upon us. He said go ahead and fire. This would discourage the Japs and boost the morale of our troops at Nhpum Ga.

When we received the guns, no aiming-circle (an instrument used to set the two guns to fire parallel to each other) was with them. Hoot Gibson, whom I mentioned earlier, had a special compass, much better than the one I had. We used Gibson's compass to set our guns parallel. We usually set the guns about 30 feet apart to



John (Red) Acker 1944



Front Cent. Roy W. Ross, L-R, Willis S. Bates, Herb Riffe, Joe Martinez, John Miller, Clarence Howell, Rear- Red Seequars

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS (Continued)



Front L-R, Little Chief Ross, Ervin Mathis, Ed Wade, Author Linnemyer, George Harmon, Back L-R, George B. Lowe, Red Seequars

fire parallel. Using the compass and the map from Col. Hunter, we determined our line of fire and realized that we would be firing very close to our troops on the hill. We were going to fire into the area Auche, about 2,000 yards beyond Nhpum Ga, and about 4,000 yards from our position. I gave an order to fire with an elevation that would surely clear our troops on the hill and fall in the area of Auche. To do so, our order was to target firing elevation (whatever it was), setting a charge of three-and-three rounds. Our ammunition was designed with four bags of powder in each shell. By ordering charge three it meant our #5 gunner would remove one bag of powder from the shell, this would let us fire high enough to clear our troops on the hill, yet fall short enough to hit near our targets. It seemed to be effective because, as we opened fire, we caused the Japs to cease firing.

On the 2nd of April, the first day of firing, we let off about 30 rounds per gun moving from Base Deflection to the right and left and over and under our assimilated target. After this, we moved our guns to a better protected area. On the 3rd of April, with permission from Col. Hunter, we moved our guns up hill toward Nhpum Ga. It should be noted here that our pack saddles had been fitted to our mules and horses to carry flat, close-packed loads. In order to carry our gun pieces, the packing had to be adjusted to carry the gun pieces which were lengthier and didn't carry as well as a normal load. The gun barrel and tailpieces, for instance, were long and would cause a rocking and swaying motion on the animal. We must give recognition at this time to Sgt. Thompson (our Pack Master KCT), as he spent long hours adapting our Riggins to carry the guns. I believe he got Sgt. Anderson (Pack Master OCT) to help him make the change.

As we moved up the trail toward Nhpum Ga, we had 12 mules, our best suited for carrying the guns. We had eight mules loaded with ammunition and, I believe, four mules loaded with feed for the animals and one radio carrying animal. As we moved out, I got Cpl. George Harmon and Pfc. Charlie Clurman to move out ahead with me to find a suitable location for our guns. We found a place about 1,000 yards from Nhpum Ga. There was a nice bend in the trail to the left with a deep ravine to the right and Nhpum Ga hill directly in front of us. This was an ideal location

for our gun position. The enemy, with their flat-trajectory guns, could not fire low enough to hit us. Their shells would hit the hill in front of us. If they raised their elevation to clear the hill, their shells would go over our heads and into the ravine behind us. Believe me, they tried it. It gave us great confidence as we realized our advantage. We could adjust our elevation to go up and over the hill and drop on the target.

Shortly after we had located our gun area, our pack train arrived with our equipment. The Gun Crews immediately dug our guns in and set up. We established a Base-point and laid our guns in parallel. Our mule skinnners established a picket line directly behind us and the animals were tied up and fed. Our ammunition was placed handily near the guns and we were all set. By 3:00 pm on the third of April, we were firing in the direction of Auche. We had no forward observer at this time and the best we could do was fire off our map position. We were effective to the extent that we could stop the Japs from firing at the Battalion. We were firing blind with no one to report our effect. This continued for a day or two. On about the 6th of April, we were told that the Japs had moved their artillery up to Kauri, which was closer to Nhpum Ga. In order for our shells to go up over the hill and drop into the position of their guns, we had to reduce our load and raise our elevation. We were still firing blind, but it would cause the Japs to cease firing as they were afraid we could observe their position.

On about the 7th of April, as we fired just to keep the Jap artillery quiet, we received a call on our radio from a Captain from 1st Battalion. I don't recall all the facts, but he either said he was Captain White or a Captain from White Combat Team. Anyway, he was very excited as he asked our radio man to let him talk to me. Gibson, the radio man, said, "Hey Acker, I have a Captain on the radio and he's excited as hell." I took the radio and he said "I'm sitting along the trail between Kauri and Nhpum Ga and I can see the Jap artillery guns. You are firing about 400 yards behind them." Boy, what great news! I asked him if he knew anything about observing artillery fire and he said he did not. I asked him to watch for me and tell me what effect we had with the next round. We adjusted fire and he reported that we were two or three hundred feet short of the target, but right in line. On my next order to fire three rounds, elevation, etc., he reported we were right on target. The Japs were squealing and running all around. He watched as we pulverized the area and reported that we had destroyed their artillery. What a day! We never heard from that artillery again. This eased the pressure on the hill a lot. We realized that the 7th of April was Good Friday, and what a good Friday!

On the 8th of April, we had a visit from Major Briggs. He said KCT was making the push into Nhpum Ga that day and indicated there was no question about it. He wanted all the help we could give him. We still had no forward observer for our artillery. As Major Briggs and I talked, one of our Mule Skinnners, Robert L. Carr, stepped up and said he would go up front and observe for me. Knowing that Carr was a Mule Shoer with the 98th (F.A.) and not a forward observer, I was concerned. What do you do when you don't have the best? You go with the next best. As we talked, Major Briggs told me all he could about the area up front: thick growth, with about three yards between the Japs and

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS (Continued)

our troops. I could see the area of the trail from our gun position. In fact, the Japs had fired into our gun pits several times with small arms fire. We decided that when all was ready, and with orders from the front, we would begin firing.

In a short time, Carr came in on the radio and said he was just out in front of our forward lines and would like for us to fire a few rounds. Now we were firing point blank at the enemy, probably about 300 yards range. I took the radio and identified with Carr. We fired one round from Gun #2 because it was closer to our front. Carr said it fell well over behind the Jap front. I told him to stay down and be careful as we moved closer toward him. The next round burst in a tree and had little effect. I told Carr to watch closely as we were going to fire a fuse-delayed round. This means that the projectile would hit an object and explode a very split second later. It would hit a tree but would not explode until it was on the ground. Or, it would hit the ground and go into the ground and explode later. It was very effective.

When the next fuse-delayed round went in, Carr said to move in a little closer. The next round went into the fox hole with the Japs. When this happened, a Major Petito came in on the radio and very excitedly said, "You're on target! Fire Battery 100 rounds." Now this was not right, Battery 100 rounds means to fire 100 rounds into the same spot. I had a time with him and talked him down to 15 round. This heated our guns up a lot. Anyway, I got back in communication with Carr and he said we should direct our fire a few yards closer to our lines. As I cautioned him to be careful, he said, "move over ten yards and if you don't hear from me, you'll know you got too close." When we fired he said we were right on target and the Japs were squealing and running around. I told him to move back and we would clean it up. We pulverized the area with the help of our mortar fire.

In an hour I was able to go up and observe what we had done. We had fired about 200 rounds altogether and the effects were evident. There were Japs bodies up in the trees and flesh and body-parts were dropping to the ground. The fuse delay projectile had gone into the ground and dug the Japs out of their fox holes. The area was partially cleared of the trees, bamboo and low foliage. The results of the artillery and mortar fire were a complete success. The KCT troops had already moved up the trail toward Nhpum Ga in a clean-up effort. I am told they moved very cautiously and didn't encounter a lot of stiff resistance. One thing that may be interesting is that as they moved into the vacated Jap positions, they found the carcass of some of our mules or horses. The Japs had cut the better steaks and parts of the animals and used it for food.

It was Easter Sunday, April 9, 1944; what a memorable day. At 5:00 or 6:00 a.m., we received news that our KCT had walked into the perimeter of 2nd Battalion and had made contact with Col. McGee. Sometime later that day, the men of 2nd Battalion came walking past our gun positions, some carrying litters with their comrades on them and others helping their buddy by letting him lean on their arm or shoulder. It was a humbling site to see and to realize that we had been a part of helping.

When we realized victory, we fired a three-round salute from both guns in recognition of 2nd Battalion 5307 Composite Unit. I didn't realize it at the time, but my time was short with my dear friends of 3rd Battalion. I believe it was Monday, the 10th of

April, that Captain George G. Bonnyman was flown in to take command of the Field Artillery of the Marauders. Captain Bonnyman was a real soldier and gentleman. He reported in to me and gave me all the courtesy a man could expect. As we reported to him how we had handled the situation, he remarked that was exactly how he would have done it if he had been there. There was no lost time. Captain Bonnyman put me in charge of firing the guns. He took the responsibility of observing fire. He requested liaison planes to fly over the Jap positions which were now in the area of Auche and Warong. He would spot a group of the enemy or a convoy of trucks and call for artillery fire. We were delighted to oblige. At times he couldn't tell exactly when our rounds had landed and would call for a smoke round. This means when the projectile explodes, the smoke would boil up out of the jungle and would mark the spot of the round. This way he could move us up and down, right or left, until we hit the target. It was sure good to have our orders come back in the Field Artillery language.

This went on for three or four days, and on Thursday evening, April 13, Captain Bonnyman asked me if I would like to go up in the plane on Friday morning and observe fire. Now this was an opportunity for me. I had never been up in an airplane and looked forward to it. I had been trained to observe fire and felt confident that I could do a good job of it. Besides, I wanted to be able to pull the fire onto those little nips and watch them as we tore them apart. Anyway, I got my act together and left our Bivouac early Friday a.m. I walked down trail to Hamshingyang and when I got there the Piper Cub LS was waiting for me. The pilot introduced himself to me and we made our plans. He would normally fly in the rear cockpit, but due to my weighing more than he and having the field radio with me, he asked me to take the rear cockpit. We took off soon after my arrival at the plane. As we got into the air he immediately turned toward the hills intending to go over the peaks and observe the enemy area of Warong, Auche, Manpin and the trails leading to Kamaing. Our intent was to cripple the enemy as much as possible and to harass them all we could.

Well, we didn't do that this time. As we approached the hills, I noticed the pilot looked at me with a concerned look and as we looked up, I saw that we were headed into the hill. We crashed and the pilot was killed instantly. I regained my senses as I climbed out of the plane. I checked the pilot and knew he was dead. I took the radio from the plane and found the antenna broken off and could not contact our troops. I managed to patch the antenna and, being very thankful to a true and just God, I was able to contact a Patrol which had been sent to help me. Needless to say, I was given first aid at the airfield, loaded into an L6 Piper Cub plane, flown to a rear hospital at Shingbuiyang, then flown over the hump to 20th General Hospital at Ledo, India.

This is to the best of my recollection as to the way it was. John A. (Red) Acker - 5307/3BN/KCT



THE DAY I LOST MY RELIGION

James W. Gabaree A Co. 5th Ranger Bn.

The alarm sounded in the early hours of June 6, 1944; the loudspeaker blazed the words “wakey, wakey, yaveo, yavoe.” It was time to board the assault craft and leave our British mother ship for the assault on the French coast in a quest to free Europe from the grasp of the madman, Adolph Hitler.

The seas were extremely rough, waves so high that many times it seemed the assault craft was in a great hole surrounded by water. Rangers were seated on low benches on each side facing each other, and men straddled a low bench in the center facing the exit ramp, while a British officer and a seaman directed the craft from the front. This boat was an English design used for commando raids. It presented a low profile, unlike the American landing craft, and produced very little wake in the water; therefore its presence was hard to detect.

I was nineteen years old and was about to take part in an event that would affect the course of history, defeating those who would enslave humanity and rule the world by force. This day would change my life forever, if I lived to survive it. My youth would be sacrificed. I would be entering a world of kill, or be killed. Stress and fatigue would be tested to the limit of human endurance, a trial by fire. The emotional strain of not helping a fallen comrade in order to reach and accomplish your assigned mission would take its toll. Somewhere in the catacombs of my brain the horrible memories would lay dormant to be recalled when I would lie awake in the dark of night.

We were lowered into the wild waters of the English Channel in our landing craft assault boats. Some of the men were seasick and it was necessary to use our helmets to bail out the landing craft due to the tumultuous sea swells and the raging storm. Because of the rigorous training we had been given for this invasion of the Normandy coast, I was not frightened. We boarded the landing craft 10 to 12 miles from the beach, making us vulnerable to enemy fire from the big guns on Pointe du Hoc.

The landing area was fortified with mines and metal barriers to repel invading forces. The enemy had many fortifications and concealed underground connecting tunnels. Artillery and machine gun emplacements were strategically placed to kill men as they left their boats. German guns were also being fired parallel to the beach to achieve the maximum kill. Our navy and air force were bombing the beach creating smoke that concealed our landing area from us, causing much confusion. Casualties were heavy; American self-reliance came into play. Plans were scrapped, and on-the-spot decisions were made by individuals who saved the day.

I was a Bangalore torpedo man. A bangalore torpedo is a long metal tube filled with dynamite. Several of them would be connected together and slipped under the barbed wire to blow open a passage. My job was to precede the troops and blow up the land mines and barbed wire so the soldiers could advance. Once I set the fuse I would dive in the opposite direction. The subsequent explosion would lift me into the air and I would land on the ground in a dazed condition. I didn't stay dazed long as my life and the lives of my fellow Rangers depended on getting off the beach.

The command came to drop the ramp. I jumped into the water, which was knee deep, and colored red by blood. The bullets, mortar, and artillery fire was intense. The German 88 artillery gun was a deadly and accurate weapon that sank many craft and killed a great number of our men. The enemy targeted the ramp openings on the landing craft, killing men before they could get off the boat. It was a slaughter. Men were dying all around me. Explosives were going off on the beach ahead of us; enormous sheets of fire from artillery guns, rifle, and mortar fire blanketed the beach.

Our immediate objective was to get off the beach alive. We fought our way up the hill to the cover of some hedgerows that were practically impossible to penetrate. Looking down at the incoming forces presented a horrible sight of men being blown to pieces. I

The 2nd Ranger Battalion (CONTINUED)

lost my religion. Crawling through the hedgerows was torturous, so I threw away all my gear except my gun and ammunition. We were forced to kill many Germans and in turn many of my comrades were killed or wounded. War is hell.

Our group made the greatest penetration into enemy territory on D-Day; twenty-three of us were officially listed as missing in action. At one point, we were ambushed on a road between two hedgerows. The Germans were throwing hand grenades at us from behind the bushes. Rangers grabbed the German's grenades before they went off and threw them back before they could explode on our side of the bushes. Their own weapons killed them.

Our assignment was to reach Pointe du Hoc and destroy the big guns that could annihilate our invasion forces. It had to be done, and we were expendable. These huge guns, 155 mm canon, could cover both Omaha and Utah beaches and the incoming landing force, and were capable of destroying ships ten, or twelve miles out to sea.

At the rendezvous point near a French farmhouse we were shocked to find that we only had twenty-three men, having started at the beach with seventy-two men in Company A. We had a problem. The question was, "Were we the only ones that got off the beach, did the invasion fail?" There was no time to ponder, our mission was to destroy the big guns at the point so we took off at a run.

The dirt country roads were lined with hedgerows making them seem like tunnels affording cover for the enemy to trap us, so we took to the open countryside. There were many firefights and in the process we captured prisoners. Our fighting force practically equaled the number of captives, what should we do, take them with us, kill them, or turn them loose?

We disarmed them and chose the latter. We ran like hell, fighting and dodging battles until we heard that sweet sound of an English-speaking voice that demanded the password. We had arrived at Pointe du Hoc and joined the 2nd Ranger Battalion.

To our dismay, we learned that the big guns were not in place on the cliffs, but had been moved elsewhere. Telephone poles were put in their place in the pillbox to deceive the allied reconnaissance. Fortunately, members of the 2nd Ranger Bn found the hiding place of the big guns and destroyed their firing mechanisms. Hurray!

Our men were deployed with the 2nd Bn to secure the Point and block the German advance. Night fell and the enemy attacked with vengeance and enormous firepower, shouting and blowing whistles. To our men in the foxholes, it was practically hand-to-hand combat; we were in a survival mode. Food or water had not passed our lips in days. Our ammunition supplies were very low. On D+1, our combined forces of the 5th and 2nd Ranger BN's consisted of only ninety men able to bear arms. We held out.

The situation was becoming desperate. We were running out of food, water, and just about everything plus the batteries were dead in our radios. Seven of us, led by Captain Parker, volunteered to try to make contact with the main force on the beach.

The patrol advanced, only to discover we were in the middle of a land mine field in open ground with twenty yards to go before we could reach the shelter of a small mound on the cliff's edge. German machinegun fire opened up on us before we could reach the berm, killing one man, my best friend. While trying to make the run for shelter, I was shot. My comrades pulled me into a crevice in the cliff but had to leave me to continue on with their mission. I realized that my chance of coming out of this alive was practically nil. The primeval will to live kicked in.

The cheek of my left buttock was blown open; it looked like a big red bowl of Jell-O. The army provided us with two first aid kits to use in the event of being wounded. Sulfa drugs were included. I spread all of the drugs on the one wound and applied the bandage. After taking off my canteen belt, I found another wound where a bullet had entered my back. An unknown force told me to exchange the first bandage with the drugs on it and apply it to the newly discovered wound. I put the new bandage on my buttocks, thereby having the sulfa drug on both wounds. A decision had to be made. Do I stay here and hope they come back for me? Not very likely. I chose to start crawling back towards the point. Sometimes I would try standing part way up until I could not stand the pain, then I would drop to my knees and crawl.

At one point on my journey, a bullet went by my ear. The nearest shell hole was my refuge. I put my helmet on the end of my rifle and raised it, hoping to draw fire - no shot. A sniper was in the tree and waved for me to surrender. I started towards him half-walking, half-crawling, but decided I would rather be dead than a prisoner, so dove into the bushes. The expected death **bullet** never came; he let me get away. Not all Germans are bad guys.

Somehow; I kept going and eventually came to an open field. I did not hear, or see anyone, or anything. A sixth sense told me to turn and fire my weapon. I killed a German lying in wait for me. He had fired his rifle, but missed his mark.

By this time, I was pretty well out of my head having had no food, or water for days and having lost lots of blood. The German foxhole looked like a pretty safe place to be, so I crawled in. I lay next to the dead German, ate his black bread and promptly threw up. I then started to hallucinate, seeing Mickey Mouse and Goofy on a large screen in full color. I decided to wait four hours, then kill myself, as I did not relish a slow death. Luck was on my side; a U. S. patrol picked me up. I had cheated the grim reaper. The clothes on my left side were coated with dried blood, I was filthy and hadn't eaten, shaved, or bathed since the landing. In my delirious state, I insisted on rejoining "A" Company. The medics picked me up and carried me to a landing craft to evacuate me to a hospital ship.

On the landing craft wounded Rangers were lying on the side of the craft, if they died, they were pushed overboard in order to stabilize the boat. I had to be restrained to prevent my comrades from such a fate. My recollection of the hospital ship was a scene of blood with maimed and dying men everywhere.

I was alive.



Life at the Front

– Ranger Bob Black

Now the mission was defensive, and we were used where most needed. If a place on the line needed shoring up, we might be used there or to spearhead a counterattack. That does not imply that division rifle companies were not performing these actions. There was plenty of fighting for everyone as the Chinese sought to exploit their gains. General Van Fleet had established another defensive line, but no name was assigned to it; therefore it became known as the No Name Line.

The Chinese advance was extending their logistical supply lines and making them more vulnerable to our great airpower. War is retreating and advancing. The American withdrawal was not a rout. Coming down from a line of hills, I looked to my left and right. As far as my eyes could see, American units were pulling back, but doing so in orderly fashion. We were mobbing to the prepared positions of the next line. To continue their attack, the Chinese had to come into open ground. The more Chinese we had in the open, the more Chinese we could kill.

Sustained combat saps the aggressive spirit. A few men of proven courage began to seek ways to avoid patrols or cracked under the strain. While we were moving up a hill we come under a Chinese mortar attack. A veteran sergeant who had seen too much in World War II broke and came running past me in wild-eyed fright, screaming, "The mortars! The mortars!" He was finished as a combat man and was evacuated from our company.

Our Ranger company was now down to one-third of its full strength, and soon other Rangers began to arrive. The Ranger Training Center at Fort Benning had established a training company whose mission was to provide Rangers to the units in Korea. These were fully qualified men, not those with only basic training shoved into the replacement pipeline. The men who came to us were not replacing anyone. When these Rangers joined our company they immediately began proving their worth. Some of these men volunteered for missions again and again. One of the best was Ranger Charles "Chuck" Ouimette from Easthampton, Massachusetts, who became a close friend. Chuck's profile appeared to be carved from New England granite. His last name was of French extraction and pronounced "We met". When Chuck joined the platoon, Wild Bill Cox asked, "What's your name, soldier?" Chuck said, "Ouimette, Sergeant!" Cox snarled, "I don't give a damn if we met or not, I asked you what your name is."

Our Company armorer repaired or exchanged our weapons. Ranger Chet Wolfe had that vital job, but he dislocated his shoulder in a fall and was sent to the rear to get it put back in place. That repair did not take long, but on the way back to the line the armored personnel carrier he was riding in was ambushed and Chet got shot up, and back to the hospital he went.

As we moved through a destroyed town that included a building whose exterior walls were in rubble, someone noticed a large circular safe of the type called "cannonball" standing in the middle of the debris. The safe defied efforts to open it, so firepower was brought to the task. A 57mm recoilless rifle was employed to blow the safe open. No silver or gold was found, but the safe did contain a lot of paper money. Unfortunately, it was all Korean money that was useless to us. The wind scattered it about the ruins.

When we were put into the line to shore up a weak position that was under attack, we had more firepower than a line rifle company, so we were difficult to dislodge. Chinese laundries had long been popular in the United States. During one Chinese attack a Ranger was heard yelling above the gunfire, "Come up and get the laundry, you motherfuckers!"

Life cannot be more basic than that of an infantryman in combat. We lived in a hole in the ground, called a "foxhole," and changed our residence frequently. We dug in the earth with small shovels approximately two feet long, known as "entrenching tools." The shovel head could be rotated and locked in position to serve as a mattock. Carried on the back of the pack or on the side of the cartridge belt, the entrenching tool was a vital element of survival.

We dug into earth that had roots and rocks, and on one occasion, I dug my hole in sand. Though easier to dig, the sand would not support itself. The walls kept caving in as I shoveled. My foxhole began to resemble a bomb crater. Fortunately, the Chinese attacked another portion of the line and we were sent there, where the earth was more reliable.

Ranger Inf Co. ABN (CONTINUED)

The holes we dug were usually for two men, but as Rangers were wounded or killed, those of us who remained frequently found ourselves on our own and responsible for a wider area. Our foxholes varied in depth, depending on how much time we had before combat or movement to a new location where digging would begin again. I liked to dig my hole deep enough so I could stand up in it and have my elbow leaning on the ground. This gave me a comfortable firing position for my Browning automatic rifle. In defensive situations I carved a small shelf in the earth where I could lay out a line of fragmentation grenades. At one side of the bottom of the hole I dug deeper, making a sump. I had an obscure hope that, if pushed to it, I could kick an enemy grenade into the sump and cringe in the other side of the hole while the sump directed the explosive force upward. This was likely wishful thinking and fortunately not put to the test. The sump was handy for two other reasons. It could be used to drain off light rain and in emergency circumstance served as a toilet. Korea has a monsoonal climate. Living in a hole in the earth with only the sky for a roof, we were at the mercy of the elements. Huddled under our ponchos with the rain beating on our steel helmets, we found the water rising in the bottom of our holes and the earth turning to a thick, glutinous mud beneath us. We had gallons of water coming in on us, but we would have killed for a shower. Our fatigue uniforms were soaked and mud stained and carried the ripe odor of accumulated sweat.

The steel helmet was both a boon and a curse. We would wash and shave in it, sit on it, shit in it, and scramble to retrieve it when it fell from our heads, which often happened when we were diving for cover from shrapnel. Division headquarters had a passion about soldiers wearing their steel helmet, and men were fined who got caught without it. We wore the steel helmet for daylight operations, but the soft cap with visor was used at night.

Our underwear was black with filth, and our bodies developed rashes and sores. Keeping our feet dry was always a challenge and dry socks were a treasure. If time permitted I put tree branches beneath my boots, but the mud and wet were constant companions. Still, it was better to be in a hole than in a Korean hut where rodents carried disease. No matter where we were, we encountered sickness. Some men contracted hepatitis with jaundice, others had hemorrhagic fever. We caught colds and a variety of other illnesses, but a man had to be very ill to get relief. On one occasion I had intestinal flu. I could not control my discharge. I fouled my clothing and grew constantly weaker. I was sent back to the aid station and examined by a doctor. “Yep,” he said triumphantly. “You got it, and bleeding piles, too. If you ever get off the line, we’ll fix you up.” I don’t remember even getting the traditional two aspirins!

I do remember trying to climb the back of the high hill where the 8th Rangers were dug in. I was so weak that I had to pull myself along by grasping trees and bushes. Only the resilience of youth brought me through.

We lived like animals in our holes in the earth. At times we were predators and at times we were prey. Terror was a frequent companion. When possible, we cut logs or took tree limbs to form an overhead shelter for our foxholes, and then piled earth on that. This was not to protect us from the rain of Mother Nature but the rain of shrapnel the Chinese artillery and mortars were directing at us. Our positions would be pounded by men who knew what they were about. The earth around my hole would leap skyward in thunderous explosions. The violence of high explosives cannot be truly measured in words; suffice it to say that it hurled me about like a rag doll. I felt like the fillings in my teeth were rattling. Cringing at the bottom of the hole, I begged for my life on grounds some would have thought were irrational. “Save me, God. I’ve never fucked an American girl!”

I never met an atheist in a foxhole, certainly not while he was under fire. I was raised in true, religious freedom and have always been grateful that someone did not take me at age five and begin to stuff my head full of ritual and fear. No man, be he minister, priest, rabbi, or imam, knows the answers to the eternal questions. We only know what we choose to believe, and organized religions have a long history of torturing and killing those who do not share their belief. My family lived a form of Christianity that made me believe that the way Christ lived his life was enough of an example. In my belief, Christ, the Carpenter, led by example and would have scorned the rituals, gold, and costly vestments. I did not find my belief in God in churches or cathedrals or in the mouthings of another man. I found God in the great miracle of Creation, the hills, the trees, the blue sky overhead. I was a grateful part of God’s miracle. I might not be any more important to God than the leaf that falls at season’s end. A transient being, I, too, would someday meet my end. I believed my eternal life would be as part of nature. But I hoped death was years in the future, and so I prayed.

One Sunday afternoon my platoon was getting ready to pass through friendly lines to go out on a combat patrol. We were in an assembly area in the reverse slope of a hill that overlooked the valley we were going into. Rangers were checking weapons and equipment, and those who had finished were sprawled about. One man was reading a comic book. A chaplain came up the hill and asked if anyone would like to talk to him before we went out on the mission. We just looked at him in a silent “You talking to us?” The Ranger reading the comic book shrugged his shoulders and went back to reading. The chaplain, a good man doing his duty, got a bewildered look on his face, stared for a while, then turned and walked down the hill, shaking his head. I don’t know what he thought of us, but at that moment I believe we had our minds set on killing someone and were not in the mood for praying. *Excerpt from “A Ranger Born” by Col. Robert W. Black, Random House Publishing Group, with permission of Ranger Bob Black*

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.** Dues may also be paid on-line via Pay Pal. Go to www.75thrra.org. 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

BILLIE	JIM	25TH INF DIV
EDER, Jr	JOHN	1ST FFV
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HAINES	JOHN R.	23RD INF DIV
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MARTIN	WILLIAM K.	4TH INF DIV
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MARAH	DONALD J.	V CORPS
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REILLY	CHARLES	101ST ABN DIV
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SHARP	FRANK	RGT
SWITZER	MARK D.	RGT
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WELLS	BERNARD J.	1ST CAV
NOLEN	RAYMOND D.	BDQ

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

NGUYEN	KHANH DUC	BDQ
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SOF Memorial Report May 2005 through May 2006

It is good to back in the net; however it is now time to catch up with a recap of SOF Memorial activities for the past year. From May 2005 through May 2006 our special operations forces (SOF) suffered 75 losses, of which 21 have occurred this year to date.

During 2005 the preponderance of SOF losses came from the Army Special Forces community with the 3rd and 7th Special Forces groups each losing 5 personnel, the 5th SF Group lost four, and the 10th SF Group lost one soldier. During this year the 7th SF Group has lost four more, the 10th SF Group has lost one and the 20th SF Group has also lost one person.

The biggest single loss came last year when eleven Navy SEALs were lost during and extraction and rescue operation on 8 June. During that same mission the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) lost four personnel from the 2nd Battalion, three from the 3rd Battalion, and one from HHC, 160th SOAR. That was a bad day in SOF history. To date three members of the 160th SOAR have been lost this year. U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg lost seven personnel in 2005 and two Sergeants First Class in 2006.

Air Force Special Operations Command lost one Captain on 11 March 2005, and four crew when an aircraft went down on 30 May, also last year.

US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command lost one Reservist from the headquarters and four NCOs from Civil Affairs battalions in 2005 and also in 2006. The 9th Psychological Operations Battalion lost one soldier, and the 324th Psychological Operations Company lost one soldier, both in 2005.

During 2005, the 3rd Ranger Battalion lost **Sgt Damian J. Garza** on 13 June; **PFC John M. Henderson** and **Corporal Timothy M. Shea** on 5 and 25 August respectively, and **PFC Dillon M. Jutras** on 29 October.

This year the 2nd Ranger Battalion lost **SSG Ricardo Barraza** and **MSG Dale Gregory Brehm** both from Company A on 18 March.

We do not know when the global war on terrorism will cease, but we do know that our brave military forces have not given their lives in vain. The overwhelming majority of the populace in both Iraq and Afghanistan continually praise our presence, despite the voice of our media. Thoughts of our lost one remain in our hearts.

Geoff Barker

BULLETIN BOARD

The new VA booklet Federal Benefits for Veterans and their Dependents is published. It can be downloaded from the VA website. http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp

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FYI: Below (also attached in Word) is a list of web-sites circulated by my MOAA chapter that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, information and how to appeal a denied claim with the VA. I hope these web-sites are of some benefit to you. Please pass this information on to every Veteran you know. Nearly 100-percent of this information is free and available for all Veterans — the only catch is: **you have to ask for it**, because “**THEY**” won’t tell you about a specific benefit **UNLESS YOU ASK “THEM”** about the specific benefit (sort of a “Catch 22”). You need to know what questions to ask so the right doors open for you. Remember **you’ve EARNED** these benefits.

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Appeals http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch05.doc
Board of Veterans Appeals (“BVA”) <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>
CARES Commission <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>
CARES Draft National Plan <http://www1.va.gov/cares/page.cfm?pg=105>
Center for Minority Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/>
Center for Veterans Enterprise <http://www.vetbiz.gov/default2.htm>
Center for Women Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>
Clarification on the changes in VA healthcare for Gulf War Veterans
<http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000016.html>
Classified Records - American Gulf War Veterans Assoc <http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum18/HTML/000011.html>
Compensation for Disabilities Associated with the Gulf War Service
http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/part6/ch07.doc
Compensation Rate Tables, 12-1-03 <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/comp01.htm>
Department of Veterans Affairs Home Page <http://www.va.gov/>
Directory of Veterans Service Organizations <http://www1.va.gov/vso/index.cfm?template=view>
Disability Examination Worksheets Index, Comp <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/exams/index.htm>
Due Process http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch02.doc
Duty to Assist http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch01.doc
Electronic Code of Federal Regulations <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/>
Emergency, Non-emergency, and Fee Basis Care <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>
Environmental Agents <http://www1.va.gov/environagents/>
Environmental Agents M10 http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1002
Establishing Combat Veteran Eligibility http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=315
EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR GULF WAR AND IRAQI FREEDOM VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303122304.DOC> and
http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1158
See also,
Depleted Uranium Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DepletedUraniumFAQSheet.doc>
EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR NON-GULF WAR VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHANDBOOKNONGW130340304.DOC>
Fee Basis, PRIORITY FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERVICES
AND INPATIENT HOSPITAL CARE http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=206
Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2005 <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf> OR,
http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.htm
Forms and Records Request <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>
General Compensation Provisions http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter11_subchaptervi_.html
Geriatrics and Extended Care <http://www1.va.gov/geriatricsshg/>
Guideline for Chronic Pain and Fatigue MUS-CPG http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpgn/mus/mus_base.htm Guide to Gulf War Veterans (tm) Health <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/VHIGulfwar.pdf>
Gulf War Subject Index <http://www1.va.gov/GulfWar/page.cfm?pg=7&template=main&letter=A>
Gulf War Veterans (tm) Illnesses Q&As <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/GWIllnessesQandAsIB1041.pdf>
Hearings http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch04.doc
Homeless Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/>

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HSR&D Home <http://www.hsr.dresearch.va.gov/>
 Index to Disability Examination Worksheets C&P exams <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/exams/index.htm>
 Ionizing Radiation <http://www1.vagov/irad/>
 Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom Veterans VBA <http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/>
 M10 for spouses and children http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1007
 M10 Part III Change 1 http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1008
 M21-1 Table of Contents http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/M21_1.html
 Mental Disorders, Schedule of Ratings http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38CFR/BOOKC/PART4/S4_130DOC
 Mental Health Program Guidelines http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1094
 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers <http://www.mirecc.med.va.gov/>
 MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Centers of Excellence <http://www.vva.gov/ms/about.asp>
 My Health e Vet <http://www.myhealth.va.gov/>
 NASDVA.COM National Association of State Directors <http://www.nasdva.com/>
 National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention <http://www.nchdpd.med.va.gov/postdeploymentlinks.asp>
 Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders, Schedule of Ratings
<http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38cfr/bookc/part4/s4%5F124a.doc>
 OMI (Office of Medical Inspector) <http://www.omi.cio.med.va.gov/>
 Online VA Form 10-10EZ <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>
 Parkinson's Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders
<http://www1.va.gov/resdev/funding/solicitations/docs/parkinsons.pdf> and, <http://www1.va.gov/padrecc/>
 Peacetime Disability Compensation http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1131
 Pension for Non-Service-Connected Disability or Death
http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter15_subchapteri_.html
 and, http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter15_subchapterii_.html
 and, http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter15_subchapteriii_.html
 Persian Gulf Registry http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1003
This program is now referred to as Gulf War Registry Program (to include Operation Iraqi Freedom) as of March 7, 2005: http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1232
 Persian Gulf Registry Referral Centers http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1006
 Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 1999, Annual Report To Congress
http://www1.va.gov/resdev/1999_Gulf_War_Veterans'_Illnesses_Appendices.doc
 Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 2002, Annual Report To Congress
http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf_war_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf
 Phase I PGR http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1004
 Phase II PGR http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1005
 Policy Manual Index <http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/eds/edsmps.htm>
 Power of Attorney http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch03.doc
 Project 112 (Including Project SHAD) <http://www1.va.gov/shad/>
 Prosthetics Eligibility http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=337
 Public Health and Environmental Hazards Home Page <http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/>
 Public Health/SARS <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/SARS/>
 Publications Manuals <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?Pub=4>
 Publications and Reports http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/pubs_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf_war.htm
 Records Center and Vault Homepage <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/default.html>
 Records Center and Vault Site Map <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/sitemap.html>
 REQUEST FOR AND CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM CLAIMANT'S RECORDS
<http://www.forms.va.gov/va/Internet/VARF/getformharness.asp?formName=3288-form.xft>
 Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses April 11, 2002
http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/Minutes_April112002.doc
 Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/ReportandRecommendations_2004.pdf
 Research and Development http://www.appc1.va.gov/resdev/programs/all_programs.cfm
 Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partiii_chapter35_.html
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Part 18

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv2_02.tpl

Title 38, Part 3 Adjudication

Subpart A “Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl

Title 38, Pensions, Bonuses & Veterans (tm) Relief

(also Â§ 3.317 Compensation for certain disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses found here)

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl

Title 38, PART 4—SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES

Subpart B—DISABILITY RATINGS

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid=ab7641afd195c84a49a2067dbbcf95c0&rgn=div6&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.2&idno=38>

Title 38, Â§ 4.16 Total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of the individual. PART 4 SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES

Subpart A General Policy in Rating <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&rgn=div8&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.1.96.11&idno=38>

U.S Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims <http://www.vetapp.gov/>

VA Best Practice Manual for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

<http://www.avapl.org/pub/PTSD%20Manual%20final%206.pdf>

VA Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/opa/fact/gwfs.html>

VA Health Care Eligibility <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/home/hecmmain.asp>

VA INSTITUTING GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTION (GAF) <http://www.avapl.org/gaf/gaf.html>

VA Life Insurance Handbook Chapter 3 <http://www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/GLIhandbook/glibooklatch3.htm#310>

VA Loan Lending Limits and Jumbo Loans http://valoans.com/va_facts_limits.cfm

VA MS Research <http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp>

VA National Hepatitis C Program <http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/>

VA Office of Research and Development <http://www1.va.gov/resdev/>

VA Trainee Pocket Card on Gulf War <http://www.va.gov/OAA/pocketcard/gulfwar.asp>

VA WMD EMSHG <http://www1.va.gov/emshg/>

VA WRIISC-DC <http://www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC/>

VAOIG Hotline Telephone Number and Address <http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/hotline3.htm>

Vet Center Eligibility - Readjustment Counseling Service <http://www.va.gov/rcs/Eligibility.htm>

Veterans Benefits Administration Main Web Page <http://www.vba.va.gov/>

Veterans Legal and Benefits Information <http://valaw.org/>

VHA Forms, Publications, Manuals <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/>

VHA Programs - Clinical Programs & Initiatives http://www1.va.gov/health_benefits/page.cfm?pg=13

VHA Public Health Strategic Health Care Group Home Page <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/>

VHI Guide to Gulf War Veterans (tm) Health http://www1.va.gov/vhi_ind_study/gulfwar/istudy/index.asp

Vocational Rehabilitation <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>

Vocational Rehabilitation Subsistence <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/InterSubsistencefy04.doc>

VONAPP online <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

WARMS - 38 CFR Book C <http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/bookc.html>

Wartime Disability Compensation http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1110

War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center - New Jersey <http://www.wri.med.va.gov/>

Welcome to the GI Bill Web Site <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

What VA Social Workers Do <http://www1.va.gov/socialwork/page.cfm?pg=3>

WRIISC Patient Eligibility <http://www.illegion.org/va1.html>

A Sergeants Fears

Walking thru the sand past the tents sheltering my men,
Knowing tomorrow I'll lead them into the "Lions Den".

Most too young, some don't even shave.
Each scared in their own way, each wanting to be brave.

As I look upward into the star studded sky,
I pray that I won't have another soldier die.
We have the best equipment that can be had,
even if it was sent to us from our mom and dad.

"Freedoms," and "Love of Country," they mean so much,
You need your buddies beside you, close enough to touch.
Wars aren't popular, then again, should they be.
In combat the truth is sometimes difficult to see.

I listen to my guys as they laugh and joke around.
An odd mixture of colors and creeds, new friends found.
I'm a "Grunt NCO", I lead the very best,
Sadly I've sent some home early, to their final rest.

To the people back home, the wars hard to understand,
their sons & daughters fighting in a far off land.
Personal feelings and politics aside,
There have been too many funerals, too many mothers have cried.

As I look into their eager faces, wanting to do more than their part,
I just nod my head to them, with pride in my heart.

Michael Monfrooe USA Ret
E Recon/3/506- "L" Co. 75th Rangers
101st ABN Vietnam

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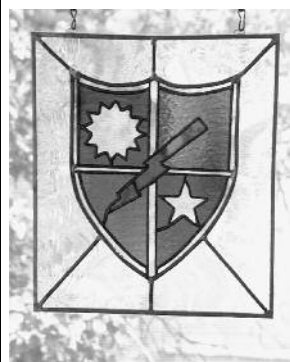
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2nd BATTALION, 75th RANGER REGIMENT
FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON 98433-9500

12 May 2006

Dear Family and Friends of 2nd Ranger Battalion,

The 2nd Ranger Battalion Chapter of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association is currently raising funds to build a memorial for members of the modern-day 2nd Ranger Battalion, who have made the supreme sacrifice in training or in combat, for their country.

The project will be three phases. The first phase will be the purchase of a five sided, six foot tall, polished black granite obelisk that will include the names of every Ranger the Battalion has lost since it's activation in 1974. We anticipate this phase being completed in September. The Rangers of 2nd Battalion have already raised \$16,000 of the \$50,000 goal. This money was used to make a down payment on the obelisk. The remaining money we collect will be used to pay the remaining balance, maintenance and upkeep, as well as transporting the stone to it's new location upon completion of the new Battalion Headquarters.

Phase two of the project will include the movement of the monument in a few years when the new Battalion Headquarters is completed. With the move, a memorial park will be created around the monument. This park and the monument will serve as a lasting tribute to our fallen Rangers and give the Battalion a sacred place to conduct ceremonies, reflection, and special gatherings.

The final phase of the project will provide for the upkeep and any additional engraving costs on the monument. The Men of 2nd Ranger Battalion ask for your help in making their dream of a proper tribute to their fallen comrades a reality. Tax-deductible donations can be made to The 2nd Battalion Memorial Fund. Questions about the project can be directed to the Battalion Adjutant at (253) 967-8184.

Rangers Lead the Way!

Sincerely, The Rangers of 2nd Ranger Battalion.

All donations should be sent to:
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Donors will receive a statement for Income Tax Purposes. Please make checks payable to: 75th RRA, 2nd Batt Monument fund.



June 8, 2005: Six decades of memories unveiled at Ranger Monument; The unveiling of a permanent historical marker honoring the 2nd & 5th Ranger Battalions who trained for battle in World War II at Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, TN, marked the 61st Anniversary of D-Day when Allied Forces invaded Europe. At left, retired Rangers Lee Brown and George Kerchner assist AEDC's Commander BG David L. Stringer (in fatigues) and retired MG Ed Scholes, (in greens) in the unveiling.



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