

# PATROLLING

FALL 2006 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 21 ISSUE II

## 20th Anniversary Edition



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D.P. WALKER-2006

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 soft ware 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.

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# WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

## MAGAZINE

## HELP WANTED

I have reached a point where I can't continue to do something that I know needs to be done, and that is a very difficult position for me to be in. One of our goals has always been to make the magazine as self supporting as possible. Part of the solution is to sell ads, and we have sold quite a few over the years. Problem is, I just don't have time to identify potential advertisers, send them a solicitation letter and a magazine, and then follow up with a phone call. Then every advertiser needs to be sent an invoice a year later for the next year.

I need an Associate Editor to take over the job. There will be no out of pocket expense, you will be supplied all necessary stationery and postage, and I will coach you on just what needs to be done. Most of the potential advertisers are already identified. All you need is a computer and color printer and a willingness to learn, assuming you don't already know. If you read the whole magazine, you will see that, in the Taps section, we are saying goodbye to some damn good men. Nobody is irreplaceable, and we need somebody to learn the Secretary job and the Editor job, just in case. I promised one more term after this if everyone wants me. After that I'm in my 4th retirement. Please consider helping out. My contact information is to the left of this column, call me anytime.

John Chester

## WEB SITE

David Regenthal

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**By Stephen Crabtree**

## State of the Organization



**Stephen  
Crabtree**

Our goal last year when the current Officers took office was to increase the membership to over 2000 active members. We are so close to that number right now that by the time you read this we will probably be there. Many of our new members are coming from the active duty Rangers, thus perpetuating our organization.

**Stephen Crabtree** We are the largest Ranger Association and the most financially sound. We support the Ranger Communities at Fort Benning, Fort Stewart and Fort Lewis along with the many Ranger activities at these locations. We have provided travel aid for Gold Star families when needed. We support a Boy Scout Troup in Columbus. Every Ranger's funeral that we have known about has been attended by one or more representatives of our organization. I wish that the current regime could take credit for this but we can't. The credit for the growth and success goes back to the founders of our organization and how it was chartered and directed by those men. Thank you Bob, Billy, Duke, Roy, Roy and all the other founding fathers and early officers, your efforts then have made our jobs so very easy now; almost 20 years later.

## 2007 Officers

Our slate for next June is not yet full. We currently need someone to fill the 2nd Vice President's slot. Just because a person's name appears before a position doesn't mean that their election into office is a given. Any member in good standing may run for any position on the ballot. Those who are running for office are:

Bill Bullen, President  
 Bill Postelnic, 1st Vice President  
 2nd Vice President  
 Reuben Silverling, Treasurer  
 John Chester, Association Secretary

## Patrolling Magazine

We have received several letters criticizing statements, articles, descriptions under photographs and duplication of information in *Patrolling*. Many communications praise the magazine. For those of you who wish to criticize I offer two choices.

Let us know and we'll stop sending it, or:  
Join the staff.

If just one of you helped John Chester with the magazine it would double our staff. John spends one month out of three putting

together your inputs for Patrolling. What he prints in the magazine is merely what the members of our organization submit. Please check the accuracy of anything you submit for publication. There is just no way that one man can proof and verify almost 90 pages.



## Roy Boatman

Please see TAPS for information on Roy's death. Our association has lost a real icon and a character among characters. Roy will never be forgotten.

Just days before his death, Roy received word that a new seven million dollar EOD complex will be named after his son Gunnery Sgt. Darrell W. Boatman, 38. Darrell was an explosive ordinance disposal technician with the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group and was wounded by an improvised explosive device Nov. 2 during combat operations near Habbiniyah, Iraq. He subsequently succumbed to those wounds. The complex/training facility will be located on Eglin AFB. Roy and Joyce are extremely proud that Darrell's contribution to the EOD community is being recognized. The complex is just now breaking ground and won't be ready for dedication for a couple of years. Quoting Roy, "Darrell was a leader and a trainer, that's the most us old retired soldiers can ever hope. Our leadership helps the youngsters stay alive and is passed on."

**Write your Congressman, Senator and Elected Officials**

I sent the following letter to Jim Marshall, Georgia Congressman, who was recently inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. The letter speaks for itself. Per our By-Laws, I am not endorsing or supporting Jim and couldn't if I wanted to as he is not in my Congressional District. I will, however, refuse to support or endorse any elected official that does not support Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and actively work to defeat them in their next respective election regardless of district.

## ARTICLE IV, PHILOSOPHY



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

**SECTION 2:** The Association shall not endorse or support any political candidate, platform or party. The Association, as a whole or in part, may use its resources for the improvement of the Association and its goals and values.

11 July 2006

Dear Jim,

Meeting you at the Ranger Hall of Fame induction was something I had looked forward to ever since the day we voted you in. Again I want to thank you for the efforts of Debby Blankenship helping me get retroactive disability payments from the Veterans Administration. When I queried you as to why the VA doled out token benefits at first filing, that thousands of Disabled Veterans have had to fight the VA for correct disability ratings and that these fights lasted, in many cases, over five years, your answer flabbergasted me. I could not believe that you stood there and told me that it was cost effective for the VA to do business this way. I disagree with your statement and rebut it with: If the VA gave the correct ratings the first time, they wouldn't have the tremendous backlog that they have now processing upgrades and appeals. At your induction Major General John Singlaub said, "You, as a leader, have the duty to do what's right." I close with these words paraphrasing him, "Jim, as a Veteran, as a Ranger, as an elected official of the people, you need to fix the Veterans Administration. It is your duty to do what's right." I anxiously await your response to this letter for publication in our Patrolling Magazine.

Rangers Lead the Way!  
Steve Crabtree

His response was:

July 14, 2006

Dear Steve,

You've caused me to rethink using the term cost effective. I did not intend it as a complement to the VA. I just meant that by wrongfully discouraging disability claimants with inappropriate delay & hassle, the VA lessens the amount it pays out. Our SSI disability process is even worse. We see some real life horror stories in my office from each of these systems.

No question the vast majority of those who process VA and SSI disability claims are good, well intended people. And no question they have a difficult task determining entitlement in some cases, which inevitably injects unavoidable delay and hassle from the applicant's perspective. But there is also no question that neither system is adequately staffed and funded, which results in far too many instances of inappropriate delay and hassle. Add in lots of bureaucratic hurdles — each justified as needed to deter or

avoid fraud and abuse — and we have a recipe for disaster in many individual cases.

This doesn't bother many bean counters and some politicians. To them, underfunding the approval process is cost effective because it means fewer approved claims. They like the television commercial where David Spade repeatedly tells callers they can't use their frequent flier miles for one thing after another. That's their idea of an ideal disability approval process. To them, avoiding or delaying legitimate claims is a good reason to underfund the approval process.

That's both gutless and outrageous. Don't tell someone you're providing disability rights and then sneakily take that right away by making it too difficult to claim. We need to increase funding for both the VA and SSI disability approval processes. I'll work to do that. Meanwhile, I'll keep trying to help individual disabled veterans deal with the existing system to secure their rights.

That's where you and I would have wound up our conversation if we'd had more time to talk at the Ranger HOF ceremony. I appreciated meeting you and hope to get to know you and other Ranger veterans better as the years pass.

Thanks for writing. Let me know if I can help in any way. RLTW.

Very truly yours,

s/Jim

We, as Veterans, cannot change the system but our elected officials can. And we elect the officials! I will hold Congressman Marshall to his promise, to increase funding for both the VA and SSI disability approval processes. I don't understand how one can try and do something. Sit in a chair and try to stand up. Either you stand up or you continue to sit. As I said in my letter, his staff has helped me with the VA and I appreciate it. It is time that we, as veterans, as a substantial voting bloc, join together and support those who support us and vote out of office those who don't. Write to your elected officials and let them know what your needs are and how they can help you. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

### Branson Welcome Home

Literally tens of thousands of Vietnam Veterans converged on Branson Missouri during June. Over 120 LRRPs & Rangers were there. Lori and I went to see Paul Revere and the Raiders and Bill Medley while we were there. When the clerk at the ticket counter found out that I was a Veteran, my ticket was free. The town really bent over backwards to accommodate us. The event consisted of Huey rides, a hospitality room (thanks to the guys and gals from the 101st Airborne LRRPs & Rangers), a LRRP/Ranger only dinner (your's truly was sucked into being the master of

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

ceremonies), an award ceremony, concessions and a two day concert. The highlight for me was the Welcome Home Parade. The parade stretched for a mile & a half. People on the sides were clapping, thanking us for our service and welcoming us home. It was just a bit different from what we received over three decades ago. We saw friends there that we haven't seen in 10-15 years. It really was the fastest five days of my life.



## FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen

By Bill Bullen

Roy Boatman did as much for this association as anyone and he'll be sorely missed. With his passing a great void is created in a lot of lives, David A. Flannery has recently passed away also, I knew David much better. He was my first team leader and friend for the past 35 years. In the past several years members of the same team, R-14 lost Jonal Flow, Joseph Brannon and now David Flannery. Bill TenKate and I are the only two members left from this Hawkeye team. The reason we had six members was that Sgt Bill TenKate was out evaluating Dave on his first mission as team leader. This was also my first mission as a Ranger. What I'm trying to say is that we are at the age when life is catching up with us, and we need to be taking better care of ourselves.

There are articles in this magazine which may or may not pertain to you, read them and be the judge, but do try to take care of yourselves, if we do this we may be blessed to live as long as some of our good senior NCOs like Bob Gilbert and Don Keller, by God I want to be around to see these modern Rangers come to a reunion 15 years after their separation. It means a lot to me.

This leads me to the point of our legacy, which was Roy's, to make this association strong and full of vision, for future generations of Rangers. Tom Sove, Ronnie Edwards and now John Chester have had the exhausting job of secretary; this position requires an awful lot of time and energy to accomplish. We as members need to make their reason for doing what they do, worthwhile. We can do this by reaching out to the Modern era Rangers and bringing them in. It may take a few years after they

separate from the service, but many will want to return to this fraternity.

If anyone is having trouble solving the "VA Riddle", you need to contact Dennis Latham. Dennis is an accomplished author and unofficial Veterans' advocate. He can be reached at: [dennislatham@earthlink.net], Phone # 812-487-2990, Address: Po Box 105, Guilford Indiana, 47022. He just sent me a copy of his latest bizarre novel, "THE BAD SEASON", it is written as only a "war crazed Viet Nam vet" could. You can order the book online or from your local bookstore. This is required reading!

In closing, I'd like to reiterate, take care of you, no one else will. Contact two Rangers and recruit them, then call the secretary and ask how you can get involved. We will need help at the reunion; I'd like to see the individual units take a shift at policing the hospitality room. The reunion does not happen by itself, we need help.

Enough rambling for the moment, it is time to start thinking of next year's reunion in Columbus, Ga. It is tentatively set for the last week of July or the first week of August. You'll know as soon as we do.



**Bill Bullen**

## FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

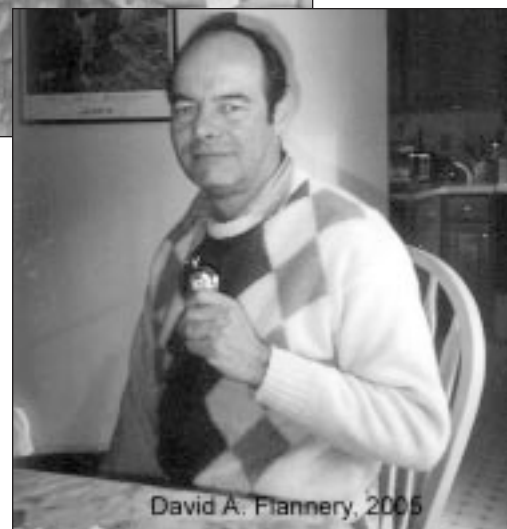
By: Tom Robison

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!



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

By: John Chester

It was July in Columbus, GA, and it was HOT! It was during the week of our 2005 Ranger Rendezvous and Reunion. I was sitting in the lobby of the Holiday Inn registering reunion attendees. Herb Reichel, Fred Fones, Brian (Jellyroll) Radcliffe and a few others were helping with the tee shirts and hats, but it was pretty hectic. Everyone in line to register wanted to get it done and catch up with their friends. Lots of people were paying with cash and quite a few with credit cards, I was trying to move everyone along, Put away the cash, call in the credit cards, etc., etc.

Joyce & Roy Boatman were on the same side of the lobby, selling raffle tickets for a quilt. Roy came over & offered to run some of the cash over to bank and deposit it. Joyce offered to call in the credit card receipts. Over the next two or three days, they both

literally saved my life. Service. That was a large part of Roy's life. Service to his country, service to his family, service to the Ranger Community and service to his friends. Roy didn't have to help out. He pulled 11 years serving this Association, he owed no one anything. I believe it would never have occurred to Roy, not to help out. It's what defined much of his life and what he stood for. I will miss him. We will miss him.



John Chester

While we are on the subject of help. I need some. I am not pursuing advertisers as I should be. We will be sending invoices



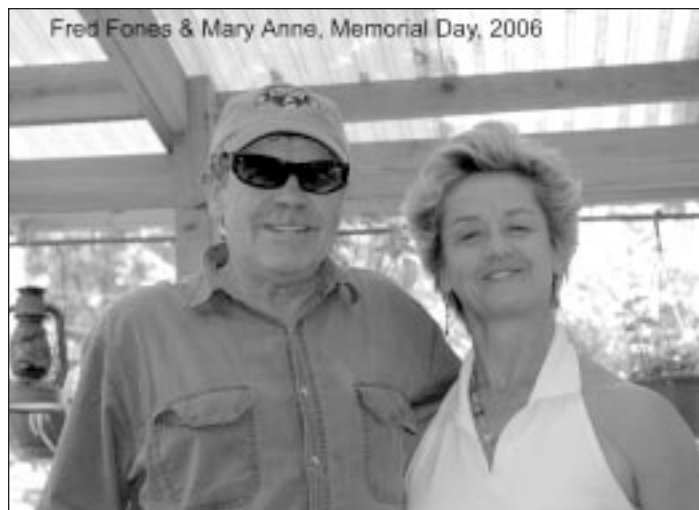
## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

out in a few weeks, and what with the other Secretary duties and the magazine, I just don't have time. If you have and can use a computer and printer. I could sure use some help. I have a list of people to solicit, I need someone to print out the letters, address them and mail the letter & a copy of the magazine to the individuals. I also need that person to keep track of the people who do advertise and to send them an invoice when that is appropriate. My contact info is on page 2 of this issue.

We had something of a momentous occasion recently. Ken & Steve York recently Joined the Association. They are father and son, and Steve is now serving in the exact same Company and Battalion as his father served in 30 odd years ago. We have had several father-son teams, but the father was Vietnam vintage and the son was in a current Battalion. This is the first duo that I am aware of who were both modern day Rangers. I guess it will occur again, after all, it has been 32 years since the birth of the modern era Rangers.

This is around the time that the Association was formed in 1986. I know it was formed in the summer, so Bob don't get on me if I get the day wrong. I arbitrarily called the September, 2006 issue the 20th Anniversary Issue. (See what power the Editor has, anyone want the job?) I think everyone should read the first article in the feature article section. It is a concise history of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., and is very well written by Randy White, who was there while it was all happening. This will also be the 25th issue of *Patrolling* that I have edited. That's another sort of milestone for me. This about as long as I've ever stuck with anything, outside of my marriage to Mary Anne that is.

We have had 2 actual letters to the editor during the course of those 24 issues, both were critical of some aspect of the magazine. During the course of my 25 columns for the magazine I have repeatedly asked for some constructive comments about changes to the format, content, etc. And I've asked for help. Well I ain't going to last forever. Someone needs to help with the advertising and the Editor & Secretary jobs as well. We need some new blood in the leadership roles. I'll keep this short, I'm going up to Michigan and play with Jellyroll's new boat and catch some fish.



## 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

LATEST ON VA'S CANCELLING MONITORING FOR VETS SUBMITTED BY F CO's DAN NATE/AP and DMAVA REFER.

THERE IS NO SENSE IN A COMPLETE RE-HASH OF THE "MIRACULOUS LAPTOP" STORY, UNLESS YOU ASK ME FOR IT AND BELIEVE ME, IT'S A LOT MORE THAN MOST BELIEVE. HOWEVER, AS OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, "THE GOVERNEMENT SAID YESTERDAY THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER OFFER FREE CREDIT MONITORING FOR UP TO 26 MILLION VETERANS WHOSE SENSITIVE INFORMATION WAS STOLEN, SINCE THE DATA HAD BEEN RECOVERED.

THE F.B.I. DETERMINED WITH WHAT IT CALLED A "HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE" THAT THE INFORMATION STORED ON A VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE'S LAPTOP COMPUTER AND EXTERNAL DRIVE HAD NOT BEEN ACCESSED. STILL, THE DECISION NOT TO OFFER THE MONITORING DREW A PROTEST FROM VETERANS GROUPS THAT SAID THE VA WAS ABANDONING A PROMISE TO PROTECT THEM.

BOB WALLACE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF FOREIGN WARS, SAID "THERE IS NO 100 PERCENT ASSURANCE THAT THE LAPTOP WAS NOT COMPROMISED."

WHITE HOUSE BUDGET DIRECTOR ROB PORTMAN TOLD CONGRESS HE WAS CANCELLING HIS OFFICE'S REQUEST LAST MONTH FOR \$160.5 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE VA TO PROVIDE THE MONITORING.  
—AP

HOWEVER.

ACCORDING TO NEW JERSEY'S DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS, THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN AND POSTED TO ALL MILITARY COMMUNITY UNITS, JULY 21, 2006.

"ARMY LAUNCHES SITE FOR DATA THEFT INFO"

ALTHOUGH THE FBI RECOVERED THE STOLEN VETERAN AFFAIRS LAPTOP CONTAINING MORE THAN 26 MILLION PERSONAL RECORDS, THE ARMY HAS ACTIVATED A SECURE WEBSITE AT <https://ID->

[Theft.army.mil](http://Theft.army.mil) THAT WILL ENABLE CURRENT AND FORMER SERVICE MEMBERS TO DETERMINE IF THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION WAS COMPROMISED.

THE LOST DATA INCLUDES IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (NAME, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS AND DATES OF BIRTH (BUT WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU WAS THAT IT ALSO INCLUDED PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES) ON MILLIONS OF VETERANS, INCLUDING ACTIVE AND RESERVE-COMPONENT SERVICE MEMBERS.

NO EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE DATA WAS USED ILLEGALLY, BUT ALL SOLDIERS AND FORMER SERVICE MEMBERS SHOULD BE EXTRA VIGILANT REGARDING THEIR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING.

WHEN ENTERING THE ARMY'S SECURE WEBSITE, SOLDIERS AND VETERANS SHOULD ENTER ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION (NAME, LAST 4 NUMBERS OF THEIR SSN, AND DATE OF BIRTH) IN THE FORMAT SPECIFIED TO ASSURE A VALID RESPONSE TO YOUR QUERY.

THOSE WHOSE DATA HAS BEEN COMPROMISED WILL BE LINKED TO THE VA WEBSITE, WHICH EXPLAINS RECOMMENDED STEPS NEEDED TO PROTECT THEIR CREDIT. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT, CONTACT DOD'S MILITARY ONE SOURCE AT [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) OR CALL 1-800-342-9647.

I FEEL SURE THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, STATES HAVE A DMAVA ON-LINE MAGAZINE AND UPDATE REVIEW SUCH AS THE ONE THIS INFORMATION WAS GLEANED FROM. THE HOTLINE TO CALL TO FIND OUT IS: 1-866-232-5798, AND THOUGH STILL A NJ ASSIGNED NUMBER, ASK FOR THEIR HELP IN FINDING THE ONE FOR YOUR STATE.

YOURS IN BROTHERHOOD, FOREVER. DAN NATE, VA ADVOCATE, 75TH RRA; M.O.P.H STATE SERVICE OFFICER FOR NJ.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

**VA DATA PRIVACY BREACH UPDATE 21:** In what must be some sort of a record the Congressional Budget Office CBO reported its estimate of the costs for the Veterans Identity and Credit Security Act of 2006 (HR 5835). This is the bill designed to respond to the security gaps in the VA that were revealed from the theft of the 26.4 million veterans' personal records. This bi-partisan bill was introduced and voted out of Committee on 20 JUL 06. CBO estimated that it will cost \$5 million in 2007 and approximately \$50 million over the 2007-2011 period. However, if there was a security breach similar to the one that happened this year they estimated that the cost could be as much as \$1 billion. CBO also estimated that the VA would be expected to experience an average of 3 incidents a year affecting approximately 50,000 people. Such yearly breaches would cost less than \$500,000 a year. With these numbers it is likely that a bill will be passed by the end of the session.

The U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) Office of Citizens Services & Communications is warning the public to avoid falling victim to a recent e-mail scheme that targets users by sending unsolicited e-mails allegedly from FirstGov, the citizen portal operated by GSA. FirstGov was the source that veterans were directed to for updates on the recent VA data breach. These scam e-mails tell recipients that because of recent fraudulent activities on Money Access Online they need to confirm their account has not been stolen or hacked. The e-mails then direct recipients to click on a link and enter information related to personal credit card accounts. The e-mail appears to be sent from this following fraudulent e-mail address: MONEY ACCESS SERVICE ([fraud@firstgov.gov](mailto:fraud@firstgov.gov)). There may be other similarly styled addresses. The text of the e-mail includes "Dear Money Access Customer" and asks for certain private personal and private financial data, but recipients shouldn't provide this information. These e-mails do not originate at FirstGov or GSA. FirstGov doesn't send unsolicited e-mails to the public in this manner, nor do they solicit personal information of any kind. Responding to unsolicited e-mails from an unknown sender is risky and dangerous because these e-mails often contain viruses that can infect computers or entice recipients to provide more personal and confidential information. GSA is taking this matter seriously and is investigating. Users should delete unsolicited e-mails of this type without opening.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson announced the VA has entered into an agreement with a company that will provide data breach analysis services to VA to ensure that information contained on computer equipment stolen in May from a VA employee's home was not compromised. ID Analytics, a California-based

company, will conduct the analysis across multiple industries to detect patterns of misuse and determine whether or not there is any suspicious activity specifically related to this computer equipment theft. The company will provide VA an initial analysis, and will then continue to offer its assessments on a quarterly basis. ID Analytics' real-time system comprises more than three billion identity elements contributed by its members, which include the largest U.S. industry leaders from across the credit card, wireless telecommunications, and instant lending industries. Their services are used daily by more than half the credit and retail card issuer market in

the United States, as well as leading wireless and online consumer finance companies. [Source: TREA Legislative Update 4 Aug 06 ++]

**VA DATA PRIVACY BREACH UPDATE 22:** A newly reported missing computer involving the personal information of 37,000 veterans has triggered a stern reaction from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and he expects VA to hold the private contractor financially responsible for any costs that veterans may incur as the result of this loss. The disclosure comes after a string of recent VA data breaches. In recent weeks, the VA has also acknowledged losing sensitive data for more than 16,000 veterans in at least two other cases in Minneapolis and Indianapolis. VA officials informed members of Congress 4 AUG of the desktop computer containing information on veterans insurance claims being discovered missing from a subcontractor's offices in Reston, Virginia. They were notified 3 AUG by the Unisys Corporation that a desk top computer was missing and immediately dispatched a team to assist in the search for the missing computer and to help determine the precise nature of the information it may have contained. According to VA officials, information on the computer was password protected but was not encrypted.

Initial estimates indicate the desktop contained information on approximately 5,000 patients treated at Philadelphia, approximately 11,000 patients treated at Pittsburgh, and approximately 2,000 deceased patients. VA is also investigating the possibility the computer may have contained information on approximately another 20,000 people who received care through the Pittsburgh medical center. It is believed the desktop computer may have contained patients' names, addresses, Social Security Numbers, dates of birth, insurance carriers and billing information, dates of military service, and claims data that may include some medical information. Letters were mailed to those affected 10 AUG. Unisys Corporation is offering, at no cost to veterans whose information is believed to have



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

been on its missing computer, other credit-protection services to include credit monitoring. However, this will only identify after-the-fact that something has happened and does not address any subsequent losses vets may incur. VA Secretary James Nicholson said the department's inspector general, the FBI and local law enforcement are investigating the matter

Over the weekend police arrested two individuals - both 19 years old - in the theft of another computer which contained personal information of 26 million veterans and active-duty military members. A third unnamed juvenile is also being held in custody. The loss of that computer earlier this year led to several resignations at VA and numerous hearings on Capitol Hill. An analysis by FBI forensic experts determined the data was not breached. Craig said of the newest theft, "I hope that we have as good of news this time. We clearly appear to have a systems problem with VA data security that needs to be fixed." Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) called for Nicholson to quit in the wake of revelations of yet another VA data theft. However, Sen. Craig issued a statement saying that unless Nicholson walks off with a VA laptop himself, he shouldn't be forced out. On 8 AUG the Department inspector general's office reported that a computer containing personally identifiable

information of some Florida residents was taken from a government vehicle in Miami. Veterans who have lost faith in our government's ability to protect their personal data are advised to seek personal protection against identity theft through companies like LifeLock [www.lifelock.com](http://www.lifelock.com) which will reimburse any losses incurred. [Source: Sen. Larry Craig News Release 7 Aug 06 ++]

**VA CLAIM REPRESENTATION UPDATE 02:** Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Larry Craig (R-ID) won the day on a controversial bill he sponsored that would let veterans hire attorneys to assist them in developing their VA disability claims. This legislation was opposed by many veteran groups who already provide veterans free representation through the administrative process by accredited veterans hearing officers. The Veterans Choice of Representation and Benefits Enhancement Act of 2006 (S. 2694) passed by the Senate includes provisions from more than a dozen other bills. The net effect will:

- Accelerate payments under the G.I. Bill and survivors' education benefits programs for those who take high-cost, short-term training courses leading to jobs in transportation, construction, hospitality, energy and high technology (S.3363). Unfortunately, Guard and Reserve GI Bill programs weren't similarly modified for those groups, whose education programs are handled by a different

committee.

- Increase the supplemental life insurance available to totally disabled veterans, from \$20,000 to \$30,000 (S.1252).
- Establish Parkinson's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence within the VA health system (S.1537).
- Require the VA to pay full costs, including medications, for certain service-connected veterans residing in veterans' homes run by state governments (S.2762). Under current law, the federal government only pays a portion of those costs.
- Expand and improve services for homeless and low-income veterans (S.3545).
- Authorize a pilot program to provide caregiver assistance and non-institutional care services to veterans (S.2753).
- Allow VA to designate beds in privately-run care centers as state homes.
- Allow tribes to apply for grants to establish veterans' cemeteries on Native lands (S.2659).
- Improve efforts to prevent homelessness among veterans, especially among those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Establish an office for rural veterans in the Veterans Health Administration (S.2433).
- Require removal of the remains of convicted murderer Russell Wayne Wagner from Arlington National Cemetery (S.1759).
- Repeal fixed, four-year terms for the undersecretary of Veterans Affairs for health and undersecretary of Veterans Affairs for benefits, leaving those officials to serve at the pleasure of the president (S.2634). The bill now passes to the house for their approval. [Source: MOAA Leg Up 4 Aug 06 ++]

**MILITARY CARE PACKAGE KIT:** The USPS has a program for military family members and friends to supply them with packaging materials to send packages to troops overseas. If you call 1(800) 610-8734 and select option # 1, ask them for the "Military pack" they will send you boxes, tape, packaging materials and labels at no charge to you or the recipient. They will also give you an I.D. number so if your supply runs low, you just call them up and they'll send you more supplies. The materials take about four to ten days to receive. USPS web site [www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/](http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/) has guidelines for packing, addressing, and shipping items to U.S. troops. The kit contains:

- Three (3) each of flat rate boxes O-FRB1 and O-FRB2
  - Two each of Cube boxes OBOX4 and OBOX7
  - Address labels - Label # 228 10 each
  - One roll of Priority Mail tape
  - 15 customs forms with envelopes.
- [Source: Mike Glass msg. dtd 31 Jul 06]

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

**DISABLED VET JOBS:** Disabled veterans are participating in a new virtual program that not only pays them for training on their home computers, but places them in jobs that allow them to work from home. The veterans are earning in the range of \$15 to \$22 an hour, with benefits, working from home in the information industry. They are trained for jobs such as market researchers, data managers, hot-line responders, Web site order processors, help-desk managers, customer care and service coordinators, administration and billing clerks. Training consists of 15-weeks 600-hour program of web based, on-line classroom and practical training. Students report in to the virtual classroom each morning, and as the instructor presents the material, he or she will stop if any of the students have a question. The training, accredited by Northern Virginia Community College, pays \$11 an hour for a total of \$6,600. At the conclusion of the training program, each veteran trainee will have a thorough

understanding of a very complex, VOIP predictive dialing web-based system that is utilized world-wide. About 100 veterans who have completed the training so far have all been placed in jobs with companies such as The Home Depot, FedEx, JetBlue, Dell Computer, and financial services company PNC. The program is provided by the nonprofit Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation.

To qualify, a veteran must have a disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and a copy of his or her DD-214. A Purple Heart award is not required. Those involved in the program range from veterans of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the Korean War, age 19 to 74. To complete the training, a high-speed Internet connection is needed. According to Ken Smith, the program director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, they are preparing to train another 350 veterans who have applied from all over the country. Those interested should call (800) 720-9596 or go online at [www.purpleheartfoundation.org/job\\_training.asp](http://www.purpleheartfoundation.org/job_training.asp) to fill out the On-line Application. For additional information contact [ksmith@purpleheartfoundation.org](mailto:ksmith@purpleheartfoundation.org). Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, praised the program in a 27 JUL press conference. He said that when private-sector programs are combined with government programs

and opportunities we can be all that we need to be for our veterans. [Source: NavyTimes Karen Jowers article Aug 6 ++]

**PTSD REEVALUATION UPDATE 06:** Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a National issue affecting thousands of veterans and service members returning from

combat, yet studies show that many of those at risk do not receive the treatment they need. On 3 AUG Senator Ken Salazar called Congress attention to this critical issue by requesting a joint hearing of the Senate Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees to examine how the military and the federal governments deal with mental health issues among America's service members and veterans. Senator Salazar said, PTSD is a national problem that affects each of the armed services and multiple government agencies. With the duration of the ongoing military efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan uncertain, we must act to address this matter before it is too late for many of our men and women in uniform. According to a recent Army study, one in three veterans returning from combat experience readjustment problems. In addition, a recent GAO

investigation found that only 22% of service members identified as at risk for PTSD were referred for a mental health examination, and that reasonable assurance is not available to support that service members receive referrals when needed.

Failure to treat mental illness in its early stages has lasting repercussions for the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide timely and appropriate services to veterans in need. In addition, a military discharge that is based on faulty grounds can result in the denial in whole or in part of the veterans benefits that a service member has earned. Moreover, allowing a veteran's mental illness to go untreated places an increasing and unnecessary strain on the already limited veterans health resources. Currently, waiting times to see military mental healthcare providers are reported to be over a month long. At the same time, recent reports have suggested that discharges due to personality disorders have risen substantially at some bases around the country, and substance abuse or occupational instability often lead to military punishment, including discharge. All are recognized symptoms of PTSD, but can be misdiagnosed as the issue itself. [Source: Sen.

Salazar Press Release 3 Aug 03 ++]

## 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.*

## Hepatitis C Update

BY: Bill Schwartz

Hepatitis C is a disease that affects the liver. It is caused by a virus called the hepatitis C virus, or HCV for short.

According to published studies, almost 4.5 million people, about 2% of the US public, have Hepatitis C. The number of vets, particularly Vietnam vets, who have contracted Hepatitis C far exceeds that of the general public. Approximately 10 percent of veterans using VA facilities have been identified as having Hepatitis C. There is a direct correlation between Vietnam era service and HCV infection. HCV is caused by contact with infected blood. Blood transfusions prior to 1991, needle sticks, injections with unsterilized syringes, air gun immunizations, nicks and cuts from unsterilized razors used by Vietnamese barbers, exposure to blood on the skin, tattoos or body piercings, needle drug use. Out of 100 people who get Hepatitis C, 15 will get rid of the virus without any treatment and 85 will develop a chronic infection. It takes anywhere from 10 to 40 years for the infection to start inflicting damage.

Of those 85 who have a chronic infection, only 30 to 40 will ever develop a lot of liver scarring and be at risk for health problems from Hepatitis C. As a function of the particular type of HCV virus (genotype) in an infected person's body, 40-50% of those treated will successfully see their infection go into remission. That was my case after two separate courses of treatment. Of those whose treatment is unsuccessful or who don't get treated, 20% or so will come down with cirrhosis or liver cancer or have liver failure.

Check out the Hepatitis C page on our web site for specific information and links <<http://www.75thrra.com/links/health-hep-c.htm>>.

I'm a member of the VA National Hepatitis C Community Advisory Board as well as being a member of the HCV Community Advisory Board for the San Francisco VA Medical Center. The National Board recently met in Washington, DC. The information we were provided is a bit discouraging:

First, in FY 2005, 215,143 vets with HCV anti-bodies were seen by VA medical treatment facilities. But only about 20% of vets identified with chronic HCV are being treated. It may be that they some have already been treated or cannot be given treatment because of other existing medical conditions. Additionally significant number of patients diagnosed with HCV don't present at clinics for treatment after being scheduled. In Minneapolis, for example, 57% of those scheduled skipped their appointments.

Second, there is a real problem in dealing now and in the future with increasing numbers of vets who are developing advanced liver disease because HCV treatment hasn't worked or because the vet did not get treated. There are significant costs involved which will need funding. Equally important is the difficulty in treating end state liver disease.

Given the data, I urge all Vietnam era vets reading this to get tested for HCV. It's a simple blood test that can determine if you have the HCV anti-body. If the test indicates infection, than further testing can ascertain if the disease has progressed to the point where treatment is necessary.

If anyone has any questions don't hesitate to contact me at: [billschwartz@west-point.org](mailto:billschwartz@west-point.org)



# HEALTH

## VA Gets Award for Health Records System

Associated Press, July 11, 2006

WASHINGTON - The government's system of maintaining electronic health records for millions of veterans was honored Monday for innovation by Harvard University.

The Veterans Affairs Department, which in recent weeks has been riddled with security problems, was one of seven recipients of the annual Innovations in American Government Award.

The VA maintains computerized patient records for more than 5 million veterans who use its health care system. That permits health care providers at each of the VA's 1,400 clinics to save time and money by getting full information without the need to run duplicative medical tests, organizers said.

For example, after Hurricane Katrina struck last fall, health care providers at VA facilities outside New Orleans were able to access prescription and other medical information for 40,000 veterans who had fled the Gulf Coast without their paper records.

“This program's decentralized, flexible approach has made our veterans the recipients of the highest quality, lowest cost medical care in the country,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the award at Harvard's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

The VA will receive a \$100,000 grant to help other governments and the private sector adopt its approach to medical record keeping.

The department recently pledged to improve the security of veterans' sensitive personal information after names, birth dates and Social Security numbers for up to 26.5 million veterans and active-duty troops were stolen in May from a VA data analyst's suburban Maryland home.

The laptop containing that information has since been recovered, and VA officials said the theft did not involve veterans' medical records.

Under questioning last month from Congress, the VA also disclosed at least two other instances in which sensitive data on veterans was stolen in Minneapolis and Indianapolis.

“This award tells the American people what millions of veterans and their families have known for years - that VA provides world-class health care in a professional, compassionate and high-tech environment,” VA Secretary Jim Nicholson said.



**FEATURE ARTICLES**

# **RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION 2007**

**AUGUST 6 – 11, 2007**

**FT. BENNING (COLUMBUS), GA**

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC., WILL HOLD ITS' BI-ANNUAL REUNION AND BUSINESS MEETING ON THE ABOVE DATES. OUR REUNION HEAD QUARTERS WILL BE THE AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN NORTH, ON MANCHESTER ROAD. WE HAVE A GUARANTEED RATE OF \$79.00 PER NIGHT.**

**THIS REUNION WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT RENDEZVOUS AND CHANGE OF COMMAND. AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE OF REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES, OTHER THAN THAT THEY WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME FRAME. THE DECEMBER (WINTER) ISSUE OF *PATROLLING* WILL CONTAIN SCHEDULES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, INC. BANQUET WILL BE HELD THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, 10 AUGUST, 2007.**

**WE WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FOR THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, TO INCLUDE:**

**\*\*\*BICYCLING ALONG THE RIVER WALK**

**\*\*\*HORSEBACK RIDING**

**\*\*\*INTRODUCTION TO YOGA AND STRESS REDUCTION FOR SPOUSES**

**\*\*\*INTRODUCTION TO YOGA & STRESS REDUCTION FOR VETERANS**

**\*\*\*PATIENCE MASON WILL BE GIVING HER SEMINAR ON COPING WITH THE EFFECTS OF POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND DISCUSS ISSUES.**

**\*\*\*SEMINARS ON VETERAN'S BENEFITS AND NAVIGATING THE VA.**

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### The Birth of an Association

By Randy White

Associations don't just happen; they are created for a purpose and with a vision for the future. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association [RRA] is no different than any other organization in this regard. The efforts and labors of a few men created the seeds that have grown into the association we now enjoy and sometimes take for granted. I feel it's only fitting to record the founding and early growth of our association before those who were there at the beginning move on to their last mission, and the story is lost forever. For those of you who were at the first meeting at Fort Campbell in 1986, it should bring back some memories of what many 101st people call the greatest reunion ever. For those who don't know the full history of the early years and our struggles, read on.

The history of the 75th RRA started with telephone call during March of 1985 from Donald H. Lynch, Company □F□ 58th Infantry, Long Range Patrol, 101st Airborne Division to retired Command Sergeant Major Robert F. Gilbert a former First Sergeant for Company L, Ranger 75th Infantry. This phone call set the stage for the first ever reunion fourteen months later of 101st Airborne Division Reconnaissance members, and ultimately the formation of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

First a little background: During the late summer of 1985 Bob Gilbert attended a meeting of the Airborne Walk Committee at Fort Benning, Ga. after noting in the Airborne Static Line newspaper that the 75th Rangers were not represented at the Airborne Walk. At that meeting the editor of □Static Line□ Don Lassen, mentioned that they had been meeting and talking for eighteen months concerning the walk and that it was time for the various Airborne units to □put their money where their mouths were.□ He demanded they talk to their organization Presidents and bring their funds for individual unit monuments to the next meeting. Following the meeting, his first, Bob Gilbert asked Henley Woods, President of the Airborne Walk Association what the cost of the individual monuments was. He was advised \$2,500. Not having an organization or President to talk to, Gilbert called Lynch who immediately notified the LRRP, LRP and 75th Rangers he had addresses for. After three weeks, enough money was collected to pay for one round of beer for six people. As the day for his second Airborne Walk meeting was closing in on him, Gilbert decided to withdraw the \$2,500.00 memorial funding from his personnel Bank account with Columbus Bank and Trust Company, [CB&T] and provide it to Don Lassen for a 75th monument. Recognizing that later on no one would believe he was obtuse enough to buy that rock for a unit with no association, Gilbert went to Sergeant Major Riley C. Miller (P/75th) who was then Operations NCO for the 75th Ranger Regiment. He wanted a witness to the withdrawal and the purpose for it. Miller accompanied Gilbert to the Bank and observed the transaction. After Gilbert presented his \$2,500.00 check for the 75th Ranger monument on the Airborne Walk, Don

Lassen used that same check in photos with other members of the committee so that he could place the pictures in Static Line newspaper and push the other Airborne units into providing their share of the money to the Airborne Walk Committee.

During the autumn of 1985 Lynch located Billy J. Nix a former member of Company L/75th Rangers, who became the third of the three principal founders of the Association. Donald Lynch had expertise with computers to include graphics work and began establishing a series of rosters for the association. He formulated not only an alphabetical roster he also provided rosters by state, by Zip Code and one by units of the LRRP, LRP and 75th Rangers. Lynch also provided a series of proposed logos one of which was used on the initial t-shirts offered by the association. Lynch was using the space in a computer at the business he worked for in Minnesota to perform all of these extra tasks. He rose early in the freezing, blustery mornings to go to work long before he was due there to perform all of the budding association business. Meanwhile down in Georgia, Billy Nix in his line of work was able to access discharged and retired veteran's addresses searching for missing men. As more individuals became aware of these efforts, unit orders that men still had copies of were forwarded to Billy. Billy spent a great deal of his time locating these men and was responsible for locating the addresses and phone numbers of approximately one thousand eight hundred members out of the approximately twenty-two hundred names from all units whose names appeared on the initial rosters and those still in use today. Some of these men had moved and efforts were successful in tracking down and bringing many of them into the budding association. Those names Nix determined were still on or had returned to active duty with the Army, were turned over to Bob Gilbert who was able to track active duty personnel through his contacts.

During the winter of 1985-1986 Lynch notified Gilbert that the 101st men were making noises about holding a reunion, and after agreeing it should occur Lynch took action to establish the first ever reunion at Clarksville, Tennessee. Adjacent to Fort Campbell Kentucky, home to the 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles, a more fitting location could not be found. The list was growing by the time the □Eyes of the Eagle□ men came to Tennessee and Fort Campbell during June 1986 for □Week of the Eagle.□ Near the close of the reunion on Saturday morning June 7th 1986 at approximately 09:00 hour, Lynch called the first ever meeting of the 101st members to order. Lynch promoted Gilbert into talking to the assembled 101st members after first asking them □where do we go from here?□ This became the theme Gilbert used to address the crowd before him that fateful morning. Knowing that the Army had recently activated a 3rd Ranger Battalion and a 75th Regimental Headquarters, and that the men before him were their history, Gilbert asked the men if they would like to form an organization. With a resounding yes from the group, the finest Ranger Association in the world was born. He suggested using the name 75th Ranger Regiment Association, which would allow the new organization to tie into the active duty units and be supportive of them in their peacetime and wartime endeavors. Following a



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

short break and discussion, the assembled members of the 101st Airborne Division voted unanimously to follow this recommendation and the resolution was passed. After the meeting, a table was set up and the men stood in line to join the new association and pay their membership fee. I was number twenty five in that line. Also present at the reunion were two members of other units when the 101st members formed the association. These were retired Sergeant Major John Kingeter who had served with Delta and Mike Companies 75th Ranger Infantry and an earlier LRRP unit, and a now deceased member of Charlie Company 75th Rangers. These two men along with the 101st Airborne LRRP, Company F/58th Infantry LRP and Company L/75th Ranger Infantry were the Co-Founders of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Principal founders were Donald H. Lynch, Robert F. Gilbert, and Billy J. Nix. They were joined by a fourth principal founder Nicholas Gibbone, a Certified Public Accountant from L/75th who assumed duties as Treasurer and worked through the IRS for the tax exempt status beginning at that reunion. Bob Gilbert agreed to act as interim President with the others assuming duties as Secretary [Don Lynch], Vice President [Billy Nix], and Treasurer [Nicholas Gibbone]. During the following months at Columbus Georgia, Gilbert opened the association bank account at CB&T, and Lynch sent additional funds collected at the June reunion to boost the account. Gilbert also obtained the 75th RAA charter from the Georgia Secretary of State and began writing the initial Constitution & By-Laws [C&BL] for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. During the first reunion of the new 75th Ranger Regiment Association in 1988, Billy Nix was elected President and this C&BL was approved unanimously on July 27th at Columbus, Georgia with all units being represented. When members of the LRRP, LRP and 75th Rangers learned about how the 75th Ranger Monument was obtained they contributed \$1,250.00 to Gilbert to help refill his personnel coffers. All of these men own a piece of the monument at the Airborne walk.

These early years of the association were marked by a constant struggle to gain credibility and recognition of the association by other established organizations. When Fort Benning officials failed to fund a social event for the Annual Best Ranger Competition [ABRC] in 1988 Gilbert saw an opportunity, should it present itself again. When no social event was funded by Fort Benning officials during the 1989 David Grange ABRC, the fledgling association stepped forward with a plan to sponsor the event. With the urging of Gilbert, the new association officers authorized the spending of the funds and catapulted the 75th Ranger Regiment Association into the limelight among the other established Ranger Associations. This single move drew the attention of the other Ranger organizations that would not then recognize the 75th Association as a legitimate organization and made them stand up and take notice of the upstart association. When the other Ranger organizations learned of the event being sponsored by the 75th Ranger Regiment Association they went wild. One President was heard saying, "Who are these guys? Where do they get that kind of money from? How many members do you have in the 75th?" That financial move made by Billy Nix

and the others, made the 75th Ranger Regiment Association one to be reckoned with. In a further effort to gain notoriety for the organization, Gilbert undertook writing a column concerning the exploits of the LRRP, LRP and 75th Rangers in Vietnam for the "Static Line" newspaper. For thirty nine months these articles appeared in that monthly publication, exposing the deeds of the Vietnam era LRRP/Ranger units to a wider Airborne audience, and no doubt adding further recognition to the association. All this was done before the proliferation of computers we enjoy today. Despite these moves, battles continued to be fought for credibility. During this time period from 1985 to 1989, an attempted was made by another Ranger Association to remove the 75th Ranger Regiment from Army rolls. A phone call by Gilbert to the Merrill's Marauders Association President helped prevent that disastrous event. These same detractors wrote several articles for Soldier of Fortune and Association of the US Army magazine claiming the 75th Regiment Rangers and their Vietnam predecessors were not, "REAL RANGERS." Imagine if you can trying to build an organization from scratch, not being accepted by any other Ranger organizations and having to simultaneously fend off attacks like these.

Every good association offers its members a news letter, and the Patrolling magazine you look forward to reading was named by Bob Gilbert. To publish the initial copies of Patrolling Magazine, Gilbert wrote the first two issues on an electric typewriter and obtained the services of a local printer before mailing the magazine.

During July 1990 at the Association reunion Gilbert was again made President this time by the election of the members, and without his knowledge. He only learned about it when Roy Nelson congratulated him! Billy Nix and Roy Boatman stood by laughing because they knew Gilbert was unaware of his election due to poor hearing caused by concussion damage.

During March 1991 Gilbert and Duke DuShane (who was elected Vice President) met a WWII Ranger in charge of the events planned for honoring fifty years of modern Rangers, scheduled for 1992. The events had been planned for several years, however we were the first Association to offer any assistance to the WWII Ranger Association. They were astounded and most appreciative for the offer. During this fifty year reunion planning the Ranger Memorial planning was concurrent and the overall event was truly outstanding. The initial Ranger hall of Fame inductions were initiated and Gilbert acting as the 75th President entered the three Medal of Honor recipients from the LRP and Ranger units in Vietnam. During planning for the fifty year event, Gilbert learned that the Ranger Training Brigade Headquarters was going to be named and he approached the then Command Sergeant Major of the Ranger Training Brigade CSM Heckerd and informed him that a Ranger School Graduate from Company G/75th Ranger Infantry had earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. He recommended that the Ranger Training Brigade be named for the Medal of Honor recipient from G/75th Robert J Pruden. It was accomplished. Following seven years and three months of building the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, the two remaining original founders Billy J. Nix and Robert F.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Gilbert decided it was time to release control of the association. Accordingly no one among the founders or co-founders from the 101st Airborne Division stood for election as President during the 1992 reunion or has since.

The drive, hard work and tenacity of a few men with a vision for the future resulted in the association we now hold in such high esteem. Without their dedication and tireless efforts towards a common cause, the brotherhood we now share as members of the finest Ranger Association on the planet might never have happened. If you should meet one of these founders at a reunion,

take a minute to say thanks for a job well done.

ED Note:

I was at my wits end to find a fitting tribute to the Association and the men who created it. I went to Bob Gilbert & to Randy White. They said, "John, it's been on the web site for years." Duh. I don't surf the net very often (at all), including our own web site. I more or less lifted the above right off the site. I told Randy I was going to do it for our 20th Anniversary Issue. I don't think he quite gave me permission, but I did it anyway. Thanks Randy.

### **Honoring "The Boys of Ponte du Hoc"**

BY: Jack Daniels

At 1100 hours on Monday, 6 June 2005, the US Mountain Ranger Association, the Tennessee Ranger Association, the Command and Staff of the Arnold Engineering Development Center and a group of local citizens conducted a brief, but outstanding program to dedicate a beautiful bronze monument to honor the World War II 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions, the famous "Boys of Ponte du Hoc" who led the invasion at Omaha Beach on the 6th of June, 1944. It took almost two years to plan and raise the \$5,000+ to finance the program.

### **Organizations Involved in the Dedication**

The Ranger organizations directly involved in the initiation of, planning for, contribution and erection of the dedication of the impressive bronze monument to the WWII 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions, the "Boys of Ponte du Hoc" were the United States Mountain Ranger Association, the Tennessee Ranger Association, the US Army Ranger Training Brigade and the 5th Ranger Training Battalion. Other organizations directly involved were the Command and Staff of Arnold Engineering Development Center, the Tennessee National Guard, and the citizens and local organizations of Tullahoma and Middle Tennessee. These locals included a permanent committee which met frequently and at least monthly over a two year period. This group included retired military personnel, Reservists, USMC/ROTC personnel, local businessmen and at every meeting a representative from the Tullahoma press and later other Middle Tennessee press.

### **Other Organizations Participating or Represented**

Over twenty five members of the WWII 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions and their families, the Ranger Battalion Association to include the Sons and Daughters affiliation were present. Also in attendance were members of Merrill's Marauders Association, the Ranger Infantry Company's Airborne (RICA), Worldwide Army Ranger Association (WAR), US Army Ranger Association (USARA), 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors (BDQ) and Vietnamese Airborne Advisors (Red Hats).

### **Planning and Execution**

The Planning Committee was organized by retired Rangers Bryan Hall Jackson and Jack Daniel. Their plan was a phased operation that took almost two years to execute. Ranger Jim Squires served as project treasurer and chief of bidding. Ranger J. D. Kirby was the Master of Ceremonies and retired Ranger MG Ed Scholes and USAF AEDC Commander BG David Stringer gave terrific inspirational speeches to the crowd of approximately 150 attendees. Rangers James Collier and Mike Martin contacted Rangers in the Mid-South area. Rangers Dave O'Neal, Phil Piazza and Oscar Rubio were present. The USAF planners included Cpt. Roger Burdette, Maj. Steve Bruiwicki, Ms. Lira Frye and Mr. Andy Roake.

The Ranger Color Guard, sponsored by USMRA President Steve Hawk, was furnished by the 5th Ranger training BN under the command of Ranger M/Sgt Branden Durkan. Ushers and traffic control were maintained by Rangers Doug Perry, Robert Wages, Steve Hawk, Robert McMahon, Lee Deckerman, Joel Vance and Chuck Webster. WWII 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalion Rangers George Kirchner, Leonard Goff, Bob Edwards, Estel Mathis, Herman Stein, Robert Battice, Cecil Bray, Wayne Hurd, Marice Kladakis, Harry Laughlin, George Peterson and Stanley White honored us with their presence. The company which won the bid and manufactured the handsome sign was Eagle Sign and design of Louisville, Kentucky. Ranger Daniel developed the initial drawing with the cooperation and guidance of the Planning Committee and USAF Base Commander. The essential role of the actual storage and emplacement of the memorial was supervised by retired US Army CWO Ron Tucker of Tullahoma and Maj. Steve Bruiwicke, USAF.

### **Local Contact and Support**

Meetings were conducted on a monthly basis. Rangers Daniel and Jackson traveled to Tullahoma and had the meeting with those Rangers accompanying him, the USAF AEDC Staff and local leaders. These personnel included Alderman Janice Bowling and Linda Stockwell of the Tullahoma News. CWO Ron and Barbara Tucker worked with the USAF AEDC Base Engineer Maj. Bruiwicke in storing the bronze plaque until it was erected. Col. Mike Guthrie commanded Tennessee National Guard troops who erected tents and emplaced folding chairs.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Honored WWII veterans and local committee members were highly decorated Cpt. Tommy Gwynn and local businessman, Navy veteran, Bob Couch. The bugler was Mr. Danewood. Ushers and traffic control were maintained Mountain Rangers Doug Perry, Robert Wages, Steve Hawk, Robert McMahon and 75th Ranger Regiment Ranger Lee Deckerman and Joel Vance. Chuck Webster of Knoxville joined in every trip and helped in ushering and traffic control. Mrs. B. H. Jackson and Mrs. J. D. Kirby supervised refreshments. Young Marines under the leadership of LtC Buddy Smith (USMC-RET) assisted in ushering, crowd control and police call. Both Walmart and Coca-Cola assisted Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Jackson in providing refreshments.

### **Rangers Research and Promote Living History**

Both the sponsoring Ranger organizations are non-profit and were dedicated to promoting the Ranger community. USMRA was organized by twenty-five former and active duty Rangers eight years ago. Now USMRA has grown to over 600 members. Its members consist of Rangers from every conflict since World War II and include members from Ranger Battalions of WWII, Merrill's Marauders, 1st Special Service Force, Rangers from the Korean War, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and the current War of Terror.

USMRA has never asked its members for membership dues. Since January 2005, USMRA has collected over \$11,000 to finance its many activities:

Awarded 15 college scholarships to sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of Army Rangers.

Organized a Ranger Historical Committee which researched and dedicated two historical sites: the first was the site of the original Ranger Mountain Camp at Pine Valley in North Georgia and, second was Camp Forrest, near Tullahoma, Tennessee where the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions were formed in 1943. USMRA was assisted by Walmart, Mohawk, Coca-Cola, Twin City Buick of Alcoa, Tennessee and other organizations and businesses.

Hosted eight highly successful "Critter Cookouts" that have attracted several thousand Rangers from all over the world. In 2003, the "Critter Cookout" was selected as one of the ten top cookouts across the nation by "People" magazine (June 2003 issue).

Raised and donated funds to support Rangers' children and organizations to support local and high school projects.

Raised funds for Toys for Afghan Children

Sponsored annual "Open House."

Co-hosted the reunion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment ("Band of Brothers") at Camp Cuthbert, Toccoa, Georgia. This was largely planned by Ranger Bryan Hall Jackson and supported by 5th Ranger Training Battalion.

Most importantly, the Mountain Rangers meet the first Thursday of every month for fellowship and supporting the US Mountain Ranger Association, its constitution and other Ranger associations.

Recently, the USMRA established an historical Committee to

preserve and turn into living study our Ranger history. The Rangers date their history back to the 17th century. The purpose is not only to preserve in writing, but also to preserve with monuments and other visible markers the location of Ranger history. Ranger Steve Hawk, President of USMRA appointed Ranger Jack Daniel as chairman of the committee. Members of the committee are Rangers Doug Perry, Bryan Hall Jackson, J. D. Kirby, Jim Squires, Ross Hall, Robert Wages and Bryan Cunningham. These Rangers are not only members of USMRA but also are either regular or honorary members of 75th RRA, WAR, USARA, Merrill's Marauders, RICA, RVN ADV/BDQ, TRA/MOTR.

Established a museum where Ranger history may be maintained.

### **Tennessee Ranger Association and Military Order of Tennessee Rangers**

The Tennessee Ranger Association and its core organization, the Military Order of the Tennessee Rangers are organizations which have been in existence since 1962. The Tennessee Ranger Company is the first US Army ROTC Ranger Training unit in a civilian college in the United States. Only the unit at VMI was formed at an earlier date. The association is composed of military ROTC staff, Cadets and former military and retired military personnel, civilians who were Rangers or who teach Ranger skills and University of Tennessee alumni.

Since its organization by then Ranger Cpt. Jack Daniel and then SFC Bryan Hall Jackson in 1962 the unit has been in continuous organization. Since its inception in 1962, civilians and former military personnel in the community have worked with and instructed Cadets in such subjects as mountaineering, marksmanship, archery, karate, individual movement, scouting and patrolling, hand-to-hand combat, map reading and orienteering. The association assisted the company when it conducted many demonstrations and programs at the University of Tennessee and at Tennessee Valley and Knox County Fairs.

The Military Order of Tennessee Rangers is made up of cadets, selected faculty, staff and alumni who form an elite leadership core. All, at one time or another, were selected by participation in a similar rendition of the Ranger R. I. P. test. When initiated this test was a predecessor to the Infantry MOS test. The following other activities were conducted:

Conduct Ranger Training program.

Established Ranger museum and lounge.

Initiated scholarship program in 1962 which has continued through the years.

There are three scholarships directly associated with the Tennessee Rangers. One is a \$1,000 scholarship.

Honor and visit fallen Rangers.

Maintained a Ranger log of activities which was initiated in large scrapbooks in 1963.

Visit with and assist faculty and cadets at Ranger projects.

Meet frequently to keep projects on track.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### Camp Nathan Bedford Forrest, A Tennessee Tribute to US Army World War II

Rangers of today should know where Rangers of yesterday trained. They should know about what happened at Camp Nathan Bedford Forrest (now known as Arnold Air Force Base) near Tullahoma in Middle Tennessee.

Camp Forrest was the largest military installation East of the Mississippi River during the period 1941-45. 850,000 soldiers and airmen were trained at Camp Forrest, adjacent Northern Field at Tullahoma and the 21 Middle Tennessee counties surrounding them. Those visiting Tullahoma may see much of the history as related in newspaper articles according to information provided by Danny Scoggins of Floyd's Restaurant. Located at Camp Forrest and Northern Army Airfield were twenty (20) infantry divisions, eight (8) armored divisions, three (3) airborne divisions, a separate glider regiment, four (4)

armored cavalry regiments, artillery and engineer groups appropriate to Corps and Army organizations, appropriate combat service support units and of most interest to Rangers two Ranger Battalions 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions.

These two battalions were organized and trained at Camp Forrest; received further training at Fort Pierce, Florida and Camp Dix, New Jersey before being transported to the British Isles and eventually landing at Ponte du Hoc, Omaha Beach on the 6th of June, 1944. There was both a German POW camp and an Italian POW camp at Camp Forrest.

Middle Tennessee has every type terrain found in Europe except that necessary for amphibious landings.

Rangers Lead the Way!

## Rangers Make Gallant Stand

Stars & Stripes

By: SP5 David L. Meyers

SUOI CA — Surrounded by an unknown force of enemy soldiers, running low on ammo, the six men of Bravo Team, N Company, 75th Rangers received word the company sized reaction force which was to pull the Rangers out of distress, had been pinned down and had taken severe casualties. No help could possibly reach the Rangers before morning.

The predicament began for the Rangers early in the afternoon of May 29, 1971. The team had been inserted by chopper into the thick jungles of the Suoi Ca valley, led by SSG Walter Solgalow, of Indianapolis, Indiana. The had been moving in a south westerly direction for about 150 meters, before coming to a spot that looked good for an observation point. After placing security, the team paused and listened to the sounds of the jungle with immense curiosity, each man sensing something wrong.

Now it was plain, about 50 meters east of their position, Vietnamese voices could be heard. As each member of the team discarded their rucksacks, with the exception of the RTO, SP4 Mike Hines of Garden Grove, California, the Rangers set out in the direction of the voices.

Quietly and carefully, keeping eyes open for any possible booby traps, the team moved on. The team's point man, SGT Terry Ziegenbien, of Pekin, Illinois, soon found himself face to face with three enemy soldiers. Thinking fast, and reacting faster, the young Sergeant opened fire, expending his 30 round magazine in seconds, thereby netting the trio. But at this point, the battle was far from being over, in fact, it was the beginning of what six Rangers later were to think was the end.

Only seconds after the initial contact was made, the team was showered by heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the high ground to their front. Taking cover behind a small embankment, the surprised soldiers returned fire and threw hand grenades into the area where the hostile fire was coming from.

The team realized that they had hit something very big and tried to withdraw, only to find out that they had been surrounded.

MAJ William Shippey, the Ranger company commander, after being informed of the Ranger's situation, called for a reactionary force from A CO, 2/503 Infantry. A heavy volume of fire was heard about a hundred meters southeast of the entrapped Rangers. A platoon sized reactionary force had been inserted 150 meters from the contact area, yet they could not reach the men from N CO.

The very alert enemy had the platoon pinned down with heavy machine gun fire, and the platoon had already suffered severe casualties. This action did take pressure off the Ranger team for a short while, but as they tried to move to a better position, more incoming fire forced them to remain in the initial contact area.

Soon MAJ Shippey was in the air circling overhead, directing deployment of the second reactionary force, the remainder of A CO, 2/503. At this time, the enemy launched an all out effort to overrun Bravo team with small arms fire. The team withdrew 50 meters back to their rucksacks, knowing that sometime in their lives they must have done something right, because not one man was yet harmed. Upon reaching their gear, the men were informed that A CO had been pinned down and taken severe casualties. There was no way that help could reach the six men before morning. The team informed HQ that they would stay hidden until morning.

Darkness soon fell, and heavy rains began, but these were the least of the teams worries. They could hear the feet of many enemy soldiers, bearing flashlights and weapons, searching through the jungle for the hidden Sky Soldiers. Throughout most of the night the search continued. At times, recalled PFC Chris Simmons of Atlanta, GA and PFC Curtis Owens of Pottage, IN, They were only a foot away from my head. When morning finally came, the Rangers contacted the Infantry Company, and made arrangements to attempt a link up with them at first light. Morning finally broke through, and the infantry company started to move toward the Rangers position. This time they reached the base camp, but again drew heavy fire, stopping them from

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

moving any further. As the team moved to the edge of the base camp, the first three men drew a volume of hostile fire, but they still made it across to the camp safely. The next three men also drew fire, and made it about half way across, before one man took three rounds in his rucksack and one in his hand. Pinned down in an open area, SSG Solgalow bandaged up the wounded man, SP4 Don Bizadi of Chinle, AZ, and then proceeded to crawl toward safety, where the remainder of his team was located. The link up drew heavy fire as the infantry company and Bravo Team withdrew 400 meters to the rear in order to call in artillery and air strikes. The Rangers, weary, dirty, wet and tired, having completed their mission, were extracted to safety. Each member of the team has been recommended for the Silver Star Medal.



## How Long Does One Stay?

Two years ago when I first set foot to ground in Taliban-Sandland it was all for the money. I would stay a quick year, make enough money to pay all my outstanding bills and get back home in one piece. For the first six months it was all I could do to find my job definition and perform it. The next six months was spent actually doing some important work. At that time our mission (KBR) was to support US forces, repair the airfield and build a simple base camp. The airfield was actually an international airport of which the United States built for Afghanistan in 1971.

In October of 2001 the masterminds decided to launch a large campaign against the Taliban and end the situation at hand once and for all. A call went out to the boys that wear the gold and black tab on the left shoulder. They would initiate getting the mission in motion and the support groups would follow. The battle was extremely successful. Casualties were light on the US side. The Taliban was driven into one location, of which they decided to make their last stand and die like true believers for their cause. The location of which they chose was a large concrete structure at Kandahar Airfield that had four foot thick walls and ceilings. It could hold literally hundreds of individuals in a fortress type situation. The battle became extremely intense and finely escalating into a stale mate for the US. Everything that was thrown at the structure had very little effect. A decision was made not to destroy the building totally because it had great culture value and if it could be saved, that could help build a relationship with the locals. The final fanally was to get a Top-Gun pilot in a hotrod delivery vehicle to put a special bunker-buster through the center of the roof and into the building and let the chips fall where they may. It was successful, annihilation of its occupants was established and except for a big hole in the top of the roof the building was saved. It is my belief that the ordnance used was an incineration type. There is no blast damage, but plenty of fire and smoke evidence. The building was rehabilitated except for the hole in the ceiling and is now used for the base command headquarters. It is referred to as the

TLS (Taliban's Last Stand) building.

For the next year support troops (101st & 82nd Airborne) ran search and destroy missions, patrolled the area, and defined a base camp around Kandahar Airfield. Law and order began to be established by the US. Intelligence was collected and SF teams were sent out to destroy small Taliban cells operating in the area during the last of 2002 and through 2003. In early 2003 services support was needed for the troops along with light to medium construction. A contract was granted to KBR and the company hit the ground running. The place began to take on a real appearance of a military post. Tent living areas were established, and an electrical power system was put into place along with a basic sewage and potable water system. In 2004 KBR brought a four man engineering and design team in, to support the military Facility Engineering Team for heavier construction. Base occupancy at that time was around 3,500 people which included about 600+ support personnel from KBR. Conflict activity had decreased with only one rocked attach inside the wire during 2004 which was pretty amazing. However things were still happening on the outside of the wire. In the middle of 2005 the masterminds were wondering what they were going to do with the base, decrease the population and activities, or close the base down all together. Population at this time was running about 4,500 which included some 800 + KBR support personnel.

Near the end of 2005 the masterminds of the world got together and decided that a central deployment base was needed for NATO somewhere around the Central Asia, Middle East area. Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan looked to be the perfect place. The base had developed hard structure modular housing along with several other accomplishments. The KBR's Facility Engineering Team had grown from a four man group with a crack-shack office tent to a 4,000+ square foot modern high security office complex and had more than twenty members. The team was made up of three sections: engineering, surveying and CAD designers.

It was a good basic root for a starting point. There was very little combat activity at Kandahar and rehabilitating the local infrastructure with humanitarian civil programs would help

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

establish world pace in that area of which was needed. The last months of 2005 and the first months of 2006 brought spearhead organizing groups from NATO and coalition forces to establish some sort of plan with the occupying citizens (US military and KBR) of Kandahar Airfield for a mass population explosion.

A plan would have to be generated for a horrific utilities upgrade and most definitely water shed program. In 2004 it began to rain around November. By Christmas Eave the base was totally under water. Tented living areas were washed away. More than 200 civilian transportation vehicles with an undetermined number of military were lost to water damage. The runway was extremely damaged, and on, and on, and on. Most of the damage wasn't totally cleaned up until April of 2005. I can't imagine what the total dollar damage for the base came to.

Base operations and the spearhead groups determined a meeting day every week and worked from that point forward. In the beginning it all worked fairly well. However by March coalition forces were flooding into the base and real estate was getting scarce. In May the base population was at 8,500+ and things were starting to get frantic. Along with everything else going on there were established eradicator groups from the state department assigned to come in and destroy all the local marijuana and poppy crops. The capitol from those crops supported a lot of the Taliban's armament to keep their war against the Christian based forces going. They also supported the crop growers and their families. After a decade of war with the Russians, Afghanistan was left to be a poor country!

In June of 2006 it was estimated that the total head count for meals in the dining facilities was averaging from 10,500 to 12,000 per meal. **That's head count per day per meal.** In five months the population had doubled. I can assure you putting 12,000 people in a nine square mile area becomes crowded. At this time of year the Taliban start coming out of their holes and off the mountains to start their routine of the common harassment and destruction. Setting IED's (Improvised Explosive Devices) in roads and highways for remote detonation, rocket and mortar attacks in the middle of the night or morning, car bombings at the Entry Control Points or against patrols through the cities and villages etc. The year 2006 would bring a different situation to the ball game. This year would be the bloodiest year of all. The Taliban, Al-Qaeda and the drug smugglers along with the local crop growers would organize into a force to be reckoned with.

It is now the middle of July and more US and coalition forces lives have been lost in 6-1/2 months then all put together since 2001 including the invasion campaign. An astounding amount of civilians have been injured in the last three months. IED, car bombings and frontal attacks are extremely common everyday outside the wire. Rocket and mortar attacks come almost every night. I can't prove it but I'm certain a week ago one end of the dinning facility was blown apart with a shaped charge left by one of the locals that is allowed to come on base to work. The explosion was too loose to be a rocket or mortar. The fragmentations of metal collected were pebble like instead of long shavings. There was no trailing whistle or zip before the



explosion. I was 75 feet away when it happened. I know what a rocket and mortar sounds like when it's coming in and when it hits. I know what a tight and a loose charge sound like when they go off. Ten people were injured, 8 civilians and 2 soldiers. Two of those were carried away on a stretcher. Every few days we have inside the wire injuries and deaths.

These brown suiters are heroes in my book. They strap on 40 to 60 pounds of gear and weapons to get out in the main stream of death. Every car they pass, every chuck hole in the road, every person they meet, every door they walk by holds the probability of death for them. On top of that they have the elements to contend with. This time of year brings the hot weather. Kandahar is one of the hottest spots in Afghanistan. In direct sunlight it is hitting 150 degrees. Before the summer is over it will reach 160+ degrees. And when they come into camp for cleaning up and having a decent meal with some relaxation, they get the chow-hall blown out from under them. Or when they try to get some good sleep they have to get up in the middle of the night and run to the bunker while dodging rockets and mortars. They not only encounter their dangers outside the wire, they encounter our (KBR and other contractors) dangers inside the wire. The average combat soldier's work day here is about 16 to 18 hours a day. The rest of the time is for weapons and vehicle maintenance, eating and sleeping. Now I didn't say that was for every soldier, I said that was for the combat soldier.

For every 9 hours in the day, a US soldier dies in Iraq and Afghanistan. Never have I heard one of them complain, cry or groan about being a soldier. Never have I every heard one of them degrade their country or their president. Never, in the two years I've been here have I heard one of them refuse to do their





## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

job.

If we don't control this type of war here we'll have to deal with it at home, and these brown suiters know that. This isn't like any war we've fought before. If we just get up and leave this war



here it will defiantly follow us home and terroristic death will become common in the lives of Americans. It's our choice, we can fight it here, or we can die at home from the hands of terrorist. And they will kill us, because they hate us. They hate everything that we stand for.

No, it's not always about the money. Sometimes you stay longer to help get the job done. A job that will provide some comfort for those that are willing to put their lives on the line for our families and friends! *If I die before you wake I pray the world will take a good look at what God has given us.* Those aren't just words from a song Dustin Evans wrote and sings. It's an absolute fact that we all live by in this part of the world. We would all sacrifice our lives for our country rather than have the evil from this part of the world infect it and destroy our families. I am but one person with a belief, but if I have many that support me, ... *we*, will be successful. (*Sua Sponte*)! Most of my job is



done here. I'm the supervisor for the design section on the Facility Engineering Team here at Kandahar Airfield. I hope to come home in September for good if not before. I give thanks to those who pray for the ones that are here, and I ask the ones who don't pray, to do so. It won't take that much of your time and it will be worth it. After all, their willing to give their life for you and country.

Roy Barree A /75th 73-74

**Russell (Roy) Barree**  
**Civil Superintendent / CAD Manager**  
**KBR Facility Engineering Team**  
**Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan**  
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## Vietnam Wall Visitor Center Approved

## Underground Facility Will Be Located Near Existing Memorial

By Petula Dvorak Washington Post Staff Writer Friday, August 4, 2006; A01 The federal commission with final say over monuments and memorials in the nation's capital gave the green light yesterday for the newest addition to America's front yard: a sprawling

underground Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center that will be constructed between the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. The center will be the first new memorial project on the coveted Mall since the National World War II Memorial was built. Preservationists, who have wanted to conserve the Lincoln Memorial's grounds, fought the center. But the project was championed by some veterans groups that have long been troubled by the understated nature of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall and want to provide more history and context for its list of more than 58,000 Americans killed or missing in the war. With memorial space at a premium in Washington — where some groups have quietly fought for years to get patches of land inside traffic circles for memorial statues or slivers of pocket parks for monuments — the Vietnam veterans won one of the biggest prizes of all yesterday. It's a

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

good day. This was a long time in coming, □ Jan C. Scruggs, president and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, said after the National Capital Planning Commission approved the project yesterday. The project has drawn criticism because of its potential to convey conclusions about a conflict that tore the country apart. But Scruggs said the 25,000-square-foot center will be a neutral, fact-based presentation that will pay tribute to U.S. soldiers. It may include a movie theater, a three-dimensional battle scene, mementos left at the memorial, and a wall where pictures of slain soldiers will be projected on their birthdays, creating a dynamic tribute that changes daily. Because it will be the only sizable visitor center dedicated to a single conflict □s veterans, some planners worry that it will create an opening for others to lobby for similar additions to memorial rotundas, fountains or statues in Washington. □Each memorial will ask for their own visitor center, □ warned Elizabeth Merritt, deputy general counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, who testified against the project at the commission meeting yesterday. Not all veterans like the project. Vietnam War veteran Ray Saikus flew in from Cleveland yesterday to tell the planning commission that an underground □bunker or tunnel□ is insensitive to veterans who fought enemies underground. □It will be more a tribute to the Viet Cong, □ Saikus said. He also said his fellow veterans in the Midwest believe that an underground center is □being placed out of sight, hidden as if in shame. □Planners do want it out of sight □ but for aesthetic reasons. According to 14 design guidelines established by the planning commission yesterday and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts last week that must be followed as a condition of approval, no portion of the center can be visible from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Constitution Avenue or surrounding streets. The center must be built below the existing grade on the land surrounding the Lincoln Memorial. Any skylights, monitors, light wells or sunken areas cannot be seen from surrounding sidewalks, according to the commissions □ guidelines. Among the other requirements: The center must have a single entrance for both visitors and service personnel, and the lighting must be subtle. The footprint of the center must be within the root areas of the existing elms, and no new parking can be constructed to accommodate the visitors. The center will cost \$100 million, of which the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial Fund has raised \$25 million. The sponsors expect to have a design selected by the end of this year and plan to get final approval for construction early next year. Some preservationists worried that the requirements will be circumvented because of political pressure. □This project is embroiled in politics, □ said Judy Scott Feldman, chairman of the National Coalition to Save Our Mall. She said there is a danger that the guidelines □are meaningless and unenforceable. □The campaign for the visitor center was fueled by the same kind of passion that Scruggs brought to win creation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a subtle tribute dedicated in 1982 that consists of simple granite panels containing the names of the dead and missing. Some Americans had trouble conceptualizing a nontraditional memorial without trappings such as statues and fountains. But it is now the most popular site on the Mall, with 3.8 million visitors last year. This time, Scruggs had congressional help. Legislation was passed in 2003 that made the center an exception to the 2001 creation of the Mall □s □reserve□ area, where new construction is banned. The legislation did not specify a site, however, and Scruggs knew he wanted it front and center. The rigorous site selection process that sent him to several federal agencies dictated that his group study other sites on less prominent pieces of land. Scruggs was so determined to get the site he wanted that he hired an urban anthropologist from Howard University to generate an 11-page analysis of the phrase □at or near□ to make his point that the legislation said the center should be □at or near the Wall. □When that wasn □t enough to eliminate the other study sites, he took his case to Congress. A representative introduced a bill to the House in March that pinpointed the site he wanted. It passed by a vote of 404 to 4 and is lingering before the Senate. 7uuSenate approval would mean little, now that the planning commission has approved the site. As part of its review, the commission examined an environmental assessment report that determined that the center would have a minimal impact on the area.

# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Acebes



BY: Bill Acebes

Ranger Ball was held 2 June. Turns out it was the hottest ticket in town. There were over 1500 in attendance. COL (retired) Ralph Puckett was the guest speaker. He was joined by his lovely wife, Jean. MG (retired) K.C. Leuer was in attendance; as well as Bill □Doc□ Donovan, Pete Schetrompf; Gil Berg; Steve Crabtree; Wayne Lott; LTC Moncreif (former SPC). Had a chance to speak with Sandy Rouse and her husband Bill. Sandy is our Gold Star Mother representative and continues to be an inspiration to all of us. The SPC Marc Anderson Scholarship award recipient was present; in attendance with SPC Anderson's parents. Clips from the □Dateline□ special (about Operation Anaconda) were played during the evening.

I attended the Mountain Ranger Association open house held in Dahlonga in May. Lots of □old□ Rangers in attendance. Sure was good to be there — The Mountain Ranger Camp showed us all a great time. Saw a lot of former Ranger Instructors; some of the Vietnamese Rangers (BDQ) was there. Some former members of 1st BN we saw were Steve Bishop; Steve Hawk; Mike Martin; Willie Nunez; Martin Osteloh; Rick Laws; 1SG Brinker; LTC Moncreif; Keith.

Ranger Hall of Fame festivities were held at the end of June at Fort Benning. 1st BN Rangers inducted were Colonel (retired) Brian Pentecost and CSM (retired) Kevin Connell. Sergeant Major of the Army (retired) and Mrs. Glen Morrell were in attendance for this year's induction ceremony. Attached is a picture of former Charlie Company Rangers. They did clean up nicely.

CSM (retired) Sam Spears reports that Ranger Yackley's son has arrived at Fort Benning for all the Infantry Classes to include Ranger School. He is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy and will be an Infantry Officer. Sam Spears will keep us up to date on his progress.

Colonel (retired) and Mrs. Ed Chamberlain have a new grandbaby — Riley Elizabeth Case, born 11 July 2006 to proud parents Todd and Andrea. Riley joins brother Conner; recently adopted from China.

LTC Bryan Rudacille assumed command of 1st Battalion at the end of June. COL and Mrs. Clarke departed Hunter Army Airfield. Colonel Clarke is scheduled to assume command of the 75th Ranger Regiment in 2007. Congratulations to the Rangers of 1st Bn's new Echo Company, activated in June 2006. They will provide much needed combat support to the Battalion. Something we never thought we would see; Rangers riding in Armor — enough said.

Any current or former members of 1st Battalion who wish to submit information to be included in this newsletter; please send to [acebes175@coastalnow.net](mailto:acebes175@coastalnow.net)



Have had commo contact with Fred (BOOM) Jackson. He is in Texas. Note: Boom get your dues paid!

1st BN Rangers (as well as all Rangers) have lost a special friend and fellow Ranger. Ranger Roy Boatman died in July while attending a Papa Company Ranger Reunion in North Carolina. We will miss him and all his support. To make a donation in Roy's memory; to the 1st BN Ranger Memorial; send to □Roy Boatman Memorial Fund, c/o Shelia Dudley, 108 Salisbury Road, Savannah, GA 31410□. Roy was in attendance at this year's Ranger Ball and I have attached a picture taken with Roy that night.

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

I hope everyone has had a good summer. Summer here in Washington State it has been one of the best we have had in a very long time. It has been unusually warm, but without a lot of the fires that hit the east side of the mountains. It was even dry on the 4th of July!

I work with a guy who continually says □Hooah.□ One day, I asked him what that was. He said, □Oh sorry, it's an Army thing.□ Turns out he was in Mech for 20 years and retired, but can't seem to get □Hooah□ out of his system. When I finally told him I was in 2/75, he stopped saying □Hooah,□ at least around me.

2/75 spent this past spring back in Iraq and is currently on block leave as I write this. I am hoping to be able to see some current training up close, between now and when the next issue is due. A good friend of mine, Ranger Erik Clarkson from C CO in the mid-90's, was able to train with some of the Batt boys recently during some demolitions training. He said that the boys are all very professional and are much more advanced than both in his and my day, in which demo training was, □plug this blasting cap into the C4. Now put the C4 next to what you want to blow up. Now move away quickly!□ Today's demo is actually needed for real world breaching operations in the WOT. BN has been forced to grow up, as it has had to use all of its skills to both help save lives and take them.

The new S5 NCOIC is Sgt. Kerry W. I am looking forward to linking up with him again to glean more info. BN is wearing some very nice PT gear. The shorts are all black, without any logo and the black shirt has the scroll. The shirt is also a sweat-wicking material made by InSport, which should help the boys □go further, faster and fight harder.□ They are wearing standard issue desert boots in garrison, but can wear a variety of desert capable boots while in the field. Weapons are available with all sorts of NVGs, lasers and suppressors. (see picture.) I even heard a rumor that helmet cams can be signed out too!

By the time you are reading this, the new line company, D CO, should be up and running. E CO, the integral support company is already operational and fingers are crossed that the boys that work there, will all be going through and passing, Regimental RIP. Ranger Wayne Beals has contributed an article, which comes from the, □back in the day section.□ The pictures are of him doing the Pathfinder thing and of his Aco Weapons Platoon (the entire platoon) from around 1977/78. As of a couple of days ago, news has been breaking that some boys from C CO had been arrested for bank robbery. Portions of a couple news articles are below. A tactical internet forum that I frequent and on which several other Ranger partake, had these comments about the incident. While the incident is no laughing matter, these comments are worth repeating.

It's a sad state of affairs when a couple junior enlisted men from a Ranger BN can't pull off a simple bank job.

-I can see it now, C Co will forever be known as Convict Company. -Stupid □□ers! If they would have had NCO supervision, they could have gotten away with it.

-Damn. I say just give them back to Regt, I'm sure they will be well taken care of and save the judicial system some money..

While there isn't a Ranger alive that hasn't thought about putting his skills to nefarious use, it's a huge stretch to actually pull some crap like this. I hope they make friends with some cons that like nice, young, fit boys. I am also hopeful that by the time you read this, all of them have been safely taken into custody and nobody has been hurt.

Posted 11 August 2006 01:57 AM So what did you guys do on block leave?? Two arrested in Tacoma bank robbery; three at large 09:19 PM

PDT on Thursday, August 10, 2006 TACOMA \* Two Army soldiers stationed at Fort Lewis have been arrested and charged with one count of armed bank robbery. On Aug. 7, the Bank of America branch at 5813 S. Tacoma Way in Tacoma was robbed by five men. Witnesses described the robbers as wearing dark-colored ski masks and carrying what appeared to be automatic rifles. Alex Blum, 19, was arrested by FBI agents on Aug. 9 in Denver, Colo., where he was visiting family. He had his initial court appearance Thursday and is expected to return to Seattle. Chad Palmer, 20, was arrested by FBI agents Thursday in Chesapeake, Virginia, where he was visiting family. His initial appearance is scheduled for Friday in Norfolk. Both suspects were arrested without incident. Investigators identified Blum and Palmer as two of the robbers. An arrest warrant has been issued for a third suspect \* Luke Sommer, who is also an Army soldier stationed at Fort Lewis.

The other two robbers or anyone else involved with the robbery have not yet been identified. Luke Sommer is considered armed and extremely dangerous. He is described as a 20-year-old, white male, 6 feet tall, 180 pounds, with short brown hair and blue eyes. Anyone with information concerning Sommer's whereabouts or anyone with information concerning the robbery is asked to call the Seattle FBI Office at 206-622-0460. Posted 11 August 2006 09:25 AM 3 Rangers Charged In Tacoma Bank Heist The robbers apparently knew what they were doing. As one kept track of the time, counting down the minutes, the others brandished automatic weapons to rob the tellers. All wore masks and what appeared to be body armor under their clothing.

When they were done \* in under 2 ? minutes \* the men had made off with \$54,000 from a Tacoma branch of Bank of America on Monday. Viewing surveillance video of the robbery, an FBI agent would later note it was an □extremely well organized and executed robbery that was carried out with military-style precision and planning.□ On Thursday, three members of the Army's elite Rangers unit at Fort Lewis were charged in federal court in connection with the robbery. The suspects, Alex Blum, Luke Sommer and Chad Palmer, each hold the rank of private first class and are attached to □C□ Company, 2nd battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, according to charging papers. A Fort Lewis spokeswoman declined comment. □This is covered under civilian law enforcement and right now it's an FBI issue,□ she said. Blum was arrested Wednesday in Colorado and appeared in court there Thursday, said Michael Dion, the assistant U.S. Attorney in Tacoma who is prosecuting the case. He was arrested after a witness near the bank reported seeing the robbers arrive and depart in a silver Audi A4 sedan. The witness wrote down the license-plate number. The car is registered in Colorado to Blum and his father, according to charging papers. Palmer was arrested Thursday in Virginia and is to make a court appearance there today, Dion said. Sommer remains at large. According to the charging papers, Capt. Clinton Fuller, commander of □C□ Company, told FBI investigators that Sommer is on leave and traveling in British Columbia. Two other individuals are alleged to have taken part in the robbery. Fuller gave all 192 soldiers in □C□ Company two weeks off beginning at noon on Monday, according to charging papers. The bank was robbed just a few hours later. The robbers brandished semi-automatic weapons and rifles that appeared to be AK-47s, said Monte Shaide, the FBI agent leading the investigation. Searches of the soldiers' rooms at Fort Lewis turned up money bands with Bank of America markings, cash and government-issued body armor, according to charging papers. Two AK-47s, eight loaded AK-47 magazines and \$10,000 in cash were found in Sommer's room.



## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

## The 2nd Ranger Bn. Pathfinder during 1978

I was a young naive farm boy from Illinois when I entered the Army in July of 1975. My dream was to follow in the footsteps of my brother and become an Airborne Ranger. After spending 18 weeks at Ft. Polk, La. it was off to jump school. After jump school, in November 1975, I arrived at the 2nd Ranger Bn. I was in my green leg fatigues (aka the pickle suit) while everyone else was in camouflage fatigues. Shortly thereafter the Bn. trained me to be a Ranger. I then went to Ranger school and earned my tab during the winter session (class 2/77).

When I came back, it was the year of schools. They were plentiful and when acting Platoon Sgt Rocco asked me if I wanted to go to Pathfinder school, I said yes. I packed my stuff and went to the gentleman's course at Ft. Benning, Ga. I arrived at the airborne committee and checked into the barracks, which is located down by the airfield.

It was an interesting school and the instructors were first-rate ex-Vietnam veterans. The class was made up of students from different parts of the Active duty and Army National Guard and Reserve. There were also students from the Marine Corps and foreign countries. One student that stood out was from Venezuela. He was about 23 years old and was a Major. I thought this was interesting that he was so young. Later he told me in his country, his father was a wealthy landowner. His father bought his rank.

We went through training with the C7A Caribou. Jumping out of the C7A was similar to jumping out of a Chinook helicopter. It was a gas driven, short take off, short landing strip type of plane. This plane could land in rough terrain.

The heavy lift CH-53 was a great bird for working with large sling loads and we did a lot of sling load training at the school. During cargo ops with that bird we were taught that helicopters develop a lot of static electricity. This can be dangerous to the Pathfinder on the ground that initially grabs the helicopters sling hook. In a real world situation the pilot would key the Fox Mike radio and bleed off the static during the Pathfinders initial grab of the hook. This did not happen at the school and we used a grounding probe for training purposes. This was a metal probe bar with a rubber grip on it with a 12 wire between both steel probes. One goes in the ground and is secured by the Pathfinder on the ground, and the other is in the hands of the Pathfinder at the top of the load ready to grab the hook. Of course the Pathfinder on the load is supposed to touch the ground wire probe to the hook before he touches the hook. During one load operation I was on the top of the load and did exactly that. Well my Major from Venezuela did not make sure the probe was in the ground and during my reach with my end of the probe, I accidentally pulled it out of the ground. When I grabbed the hook I received quite a surprise. The last thing I remember is the arc of the spark from the hook to my hand as I touched the helicopters hooks that had not been grounded properly.

After I got up off the ground I was wondering how much rank they would reduce me after I kicked the Major's ass. Like all good Army operators I controlled my temper and allowed the instructors to chew him out. The electric blow brought an intense pain to my groin area.

After graduating, and having another thing to put on my uniform, I headed back to the Ranger Bn at Ft. Lewis. Upon arrival, 1SG Haugh said he was glad to see me as we had very few Pathfinders at the time in Bn. He went on to say it would not get me out of CQ duty though. He also instructed me to find SFC John Henry Voyles the Bn. senior Pathfinder.

John Henry was an old Ranger from way back when. He had a great sense of humor and was an old redneck. He was also in the B Co. 75th Rangers with my brother Rob in the early 70s. I reported back to Sgt Voyles and he told me I needed to be Bn. qualified as a Pathfinder. He told me to draw the pathfinder kit and meet him at 1900 behind A Co.. I did as instructed and we drove out to Marion Drop zone. We stopped at the road by the drop zone and he told me we were tactical from this point on and for me to cammie up.

Out came the cammie stick and in a few minutes the war paint was on.

He then gave me a grid where I would set up the code letter □H□ lights. □Lets git it going and don't do be doin the duffle bag drag Ranger Beals, □ belched out of John Henry's mouth. I started out across the DZ for the location that was about 250 meters away. John Henry stopped me and said the scenario has changed and the enemy is all around. He then told me I would need to low crawl to the sight. This did not take favor with me as I had a PRC-77 with the whip antenna installed, the Pathfinder kit attached to the bottom of my ruck and my basic field equipment and my M-16A1. This was a very heavy load to carry let alone crawl with, but I crawled anyway. The thing that really bothered me about it is that John Henry loved watching me do it. I arrived at the code letter location, set it up and ran the UH-1H parachute jump successfully. Even though I did not like having been put through this I think Ranger Voyles is a hell of a Ranger and guy to this day.

After being □Ranger Bn. qualified□, I kept busy for the next year Pathfinding a lot of parachute jumps, airmobile exercises and air resupplies for the whole Battalion. I did this before I went to teach RIP/Pre Ranger at that unit.

I'm not sure which job I liked more, but it was a rewarding experience that affected the rest of my life with a no quit attitude.

Wayne J. Beals

[RGRWJB@hotmail.com](mailto:RGRWJB@hotmail.com)

A Co. 2nd Rangers 75th INF

Nov. 1975 to July 1979





## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Dodge



This edition director's message is a "down and dirty" for me. What that means is that I allowed time to creep up on me. I had not really planned to have a director's message for this printing however; I did plan to prepare a couple of articles for inclusion. Since I have not completed my research you may expect them next go round. Here is a brief overview of what to expect:

The Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course (RSLC) is the new and improved program of instruction that replaced the Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course (LRSLC). In the upcoming article I will cover the programmatic changes, the mission of RSLC units, some history and the courses ties to our Vietnam LRRPs. Of particular interest to me is the Army's structuring of the Combat Brigade Teams that will have Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Targeting (RSTA) squadrons. Additionally, it appears that some LRS detachments will remain active. Some of these units will be able to directly trace lineage to former elements of the 75th. For the others however, it is still undetermined as to lineage. It would be an honorable thing to find a way to affiliate these new units with those of the past. This would also be a great way to pass the torch and share history. In fact, the RSLC positions will all be Ranger coded duty slots! That doesn't sound like a CAV unit to me.

The second article I would like to include will cover actions of 3/75 from the period of March 30th to April 9th 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specifically, the Battle of Hadithah Dam. For their actions, 3rd Battalion was awarded the Valorous Unit Award. I look forward to providing an interesting story of our young Rangers. Of course, 3rd Battalion is supporting me in this effort. You can't get any closer to the action than that!

Again I am thankful for the privilege to serve in this position. I thank our young soldiers and Rangers for all that they do. Also, it is appropriate to remember those in the private sector and individuals who in turn support the Rangers by supporting the 75th RRA. Thanks to you all!

RLTW

Bill Dodge, PMP

RELEASE NUMBER: 060718-01 DATE POSTED: JULY 18, 2006

### Ranger Special Troops Battalion

By Carol Darby

U. S. Army Special Operations Command

FORT BENNING, GA (USASOC News Service, July 18, 2006) — In a ceremony here yesterday the 75th Ranger Regiment took another step in its transformation to meet the growing needs of the Global War on Terrorism.

Colonel Paul LaCamera, 75th Ranger Regt. commander, and LTC Brian Eifler officially stood up the Ranger Special Troops Battalion during an activation ceremony at the Ranger Memorial as several hundred Rangers, most of them filling the ranks of the newest Ranger battalion, watched. Eifler currently commands the RSTB.

"It is a real honor for the battalion commander and I to be selected to stand it (battalion) up from scratch and to see it come to fruition — we will watch the history that will come of this," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Smith, RSTB command sergeant major.

Previously, support and sustainment missions were handled with small detachments fulfilling intelligence, reconnaissance and maintenance needs within each of the three Ranger battalions.



"We are growing the battalion as a separate element to support the entire Regiment," Eifler said. "We are taking the burden from the Regimental headquarters so it can focus on warfighting."

In the past 12 months as Ranger support companies were activated at each battalion, the benefits at company and individual Soldier level have emerged.

"These companies increase the Regiment's capabilities in intelligence, communication, mobilization and maintenance," Eifler said.

"Additionally, we never had the organic combat service support such as riggers and maintenance teams. It makes a huge difference. This is a huge step for the Regiment."

Smith said the individual Soldiers benefit from the more efficient organization in that there are more job opportunities, Soldiers can stay in the Regiment longer and they do not outgrow their MOSs.

At about 50 to 65 percent personnel fill now, Smith said, the RSTB will be manned at some 600 Soldiers in the fields of supply, human resources, intelligence, signal, transportation, maintenance and medical.

"With our detachments changing to companies, we are pulsing up with people now," he said. "The lower density skills are difficult to fill. We are trying to get them (Soldiers) in here now."

Enlisted Soldiers and noncommissioned officers interested in discussing a Ranger career should contact Sgt. 1st Class Shane Gore at Human Resources Command, (703) 325-5566 or 9034, or [Shane.Gore@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:Shane.Gore@hoffman.army.mil). Officers may contact Maj. Derrick Bean, the Regimental S-1 with questions about a position with the 75th Ranger Regt. He can be reached at (706) 545-5669.

-usasoc-

The 75th Ranger Regiment commander, Col. Paul LaCamera, passes the colors of the Ranger Special Troops Battalion to Lt. Col Brian Eifler, commander of the newest Ranger battalion, during a unit activation ceremony at the Ranger Memorial, Fort Benning, Ga., yesterday.

RELEASE NUMBER: 060629-02 DATE POSTED: JUNE 29, 2006

### 75th Ranger Regiment awarded three campaign streamers for combat deployments

U.S. Army Special Operations Command

FORT BENNING, GA. (USASOC News Service, June 29 2006) — Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker presented three campaign streamers today to the first Army unit to receive the streamers for the Global War on Terrorism conflict, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As Col. Paul LaCamera, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, passed each battle streamer, Schoomaker attached it to the unit colors during a ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga.



## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

According to information released by the Army's Human Resources Command, the 75th Ranger Regt. is the first Army unit to be awarded the Global War on Terrorism, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. One other unit, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas, was approved for the Operation Enduring Freedom campaign streamer.

□ This is a great day not only for Fort Benning, the Rangers, but also for the Army, □ Schoomaker said. □ I cannot think of a better place and a better way to recognize this great unit. Truly, the 75th Ranger Regiment leads the way and we are very, very proud of it. □ The battle streamer ceremony was a prelude to the 14th annual Ranger Hall of Fame induction program hosted by the Ranger Training Brigade here.

Highlighting the unit's combat successes in Afghanistan, Iraq and other geographic regions, each campaign streamer marks combat deployments of the 75th Ranger Regt. since October 2001 to the present.

□ Since the onset of the Global War on Terrorism, the men of the 75th Ranger Regt. have been constantly engaged in this conflict, □ said LaCamera. □ They executed the first combat jump into Afghanistan and engaged the enemy in some of the harshest terrain. In Iraq, they led the initial push deep behind enemy lines to seize airfields and other key terrain in the western desert.

These battle streamers represent the hundreds of air assault raids and thousands of direct action raids that our Ranger have successfully conducted to kill or capture our nation's worst enemies. They have proven that Rangers are a premier raid force. □

Before this latest historic event in Ranger history, the last battle streamer was presented to the Rangers for their participation in Operation Just Cause, Panama.

Honorary colonel of the Regiment, Ralph Puckett, described today's Rangers as □ □ the best individual soldiers I have ever seen and the Regiment is the best light infantry unit I've ever seen. □

In October 2005, the Secretary of the Army authorized award of campaign participation credit to Army units. Based on eligibility requirements published by HRC, Army units must have served in the area of eligibility in support of the GWOT conflict, Operations Enduring

Freedom and Iraqi Freedom to qualify for campaign participation credit and a battle streamer. The GWOT campaign streamer recognizes units' deployments to other geographic regions outside Afghanistan and Iraq. Regardless of the geographic region, or number of deployments, units will receive only one streamer each for the GWOT conflict and for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

According to historical information, the 75th Ranger Regt. conducted multiple combat airborne operations and conducted sustained combat operations with more than a third of its force and surged the remainder of the Regiment at least four times. More than 70 percent of the Regiment's Soldiers have conducted multiple combat deployments with many of the Soldiers now departing on their fifth and sixth deployment. Sgt. 1st Class Randy Duncan, who is assigned to the 75th Ranger Regt. Headquarters and has been a ranger for 12 years, said the streamers are a welcome recognition of the unit's support to the GWOT conflict.

□ We concentrate on the basic tasks and the caliber of Soldiers we get due to our screening and selection process. The combination of those two things dictate why we are the premier raid unit in the military now, □ he said.

Currently, Rangers are conducting sustained combat operations and are deploying from multiple locations in the United States, a task that is unprecedented for the Regiment and the Army.

-usasoc-

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army, addresses the audience during a battle streamer ceremony recognizing war efforts of the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., June 29th. (Photo by Gillian M. Albrow, USASOC PAO)

Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker attaches a battle streamer to the Regimental colors of the 75th Ranger Regiment for war efforts. Three streamers were presented to the Regiment during the ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga. on June 29th. (Photo by Gillian M. Albrow, USASOC PAO)



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

Unit Director - Ronald Dahle



By Ronald Dahle

## TAPS

Sadly, this is the second issue in a row we have started out with



Taps. This time the bugle is blowing for Virgil Craft, (Uncle Virgil) platoon sergeant of the 1st platoon. Virgil died at 10 PM Monday, 7 August 2006 at Hopkinsville, KY, following a long illness.

## Sick Call

This is more of a general discussion on our health as a unit than a listing of who has what. The members of the company along with the members of B/75, particularly the V Corps LRRP and VII Corps components comprise probably the oldest groups of members in the 75th RRA, save isolated individual members. As such we are learning the lessons that those of you following will be experiencing in the not too distant future. Remember all those fun things we did, jumping, ski training, rucksack marches, and the list goes on and on. Well they are coming back to haunt a lot of us now, as we are becoming entrenched in our 60's and in some cases our 70's. As a group we collectively have enough artificial knees to re-outfit a platoon. I guess though with a cumulative total of literally thousands of jumps and tens of thousands of rucksack miles under our belts that is to be expected, to say nothing of tendon damage to the fingers for countless hours hanging off the fence.

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

We also have a very large number of lung cancer survivors in our ranks. Phillip Morris is proud of us, we did right by them.

We have a good sampling of the whole gamut of other diseases, John Simmons has more hardware in and on his heart than most people do their house. Chet Smith has recently been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer, Ron Dahle has a major malfunctioning Pituitary gland (but he's all screwed up anyway). We won't even get into Larry Montague's situation. And the list goes on.

Needless to say, a lot of these problems have causal links to the paths we took and the decisions we made early in life. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to determine that parachute jumping, rucksack marches, hard drinking, chain smoking, wild women and bar room brawling will eventually catch up with you. Haven't found anyone that would have done different though.

The best part about all this is not once have I heard any negative input or complaining from the persons involved. Nor have I heard any regrets and I wish I'd have's.

The MINI BIO for this issue is on CSM (Ret) Leon J. Roy

I finished Jump School in February 1963 heading for Ft. Bragg and Special Forces. Before I left Ft. Benning an emergency requisition for my MOS and jump qualified people to go to Germany for a newly formed unit, the unit was V Corps (LRRP) 3779 in Frankfort, Germany. I was the first replacement in the company when it arrived from Wildflicker. The company was located at Drake Kaserne. I was assigned to the 1st platoon under SFC Virgil Craft and team leader Sgt. Houge. The platoon was made up of some great field soldiers, the reason being, we spent so many days in the field. We usually spent Monday through Friday in the field and Saturday for inspections.

If things passed during inspection we got Saturday afternoon and Sunday off. We spent a lot of time at Abe's and Freddie's. Some even spent time at 5 Mark Circle. Because we were the only Airborne Troops in Frankfort everyone wanted to test our hand to hand combat skills. I was trained by Whitey, who was responsible for my only overnight stay in the stockade.

Not only were we great field soldiers, thanks to Mike Martin we were the best marching and drill unit. We went to a lot of ceremonies and were selected to attend the 20-year anniversary of the Invasion of Europe. On the 6th of June 1964 we went to



Normandy to represent the Airborne Units who had made the jump in 1944. Normandy was a great trip, except for the little crabs the French left for us at St. Lo. Sure made it hard to stand at attention.

I left the unit in May 1965 and headed to Vietnam where I was assigned to a Vietnamese Army Unit, 3rd BN, 45th Inf. Regt. out of Bam-me-thout. Saw some action and was wounded by shrapnel in March 1966. I left there in July 1966 headed to Ft. Bragg, N.C. assigned to the 82nd Abn., but went to Special Forces training instead.

My next tour was to Thailand with 46th Company S.F. While I was there I went to Recondo School and made a few border checks. After Thailand I returned to Ft. Bragg for a year and was sent to Vietnamese Language School and then returned back to Nam. Went to Nha Trang where we were offered two jobs, one with C.C.N. the other training Cambodian's. We all opted for Cambodia since all L.Z's were compromised and they were losing teams on most of their insertions. The year went fast and it was back to Ft. Benning assigned to Pathfinder School. From there to 1st BD 29th INF. As the Operations Sergeant. A year later to 42nd Company, Airborne as the First Sergeant. I was then selected for the Sergeant Major's Academy at Ft. Bliss, Texas. After completion of the school I was the Senior Enlisted Advisor 73rd Infantry Bdg., Columbus, Ohio.

I retired in November 1980 as a Command Sergeant Major, moved to Florida and became a JROTC Instructor at a high school in Quincy, Florida. Retired again in 1996 due to a bout with cancer. Doing well now. Sure do miss the old days, what we did then we would end up in jail for today. I often think of the guys who died in Nam, among them: Jerry Shriver, Mike Newburn, Herman Ross and John T. Flynn. Rest easy Troopers.

Since, what I thought was my final retirement, I have been working a couple of days a week in the hunting and fishing department in a Sporting Goods Store. In 2002 I received a letter from the State of Florida asking if I would like to volunteer as a member of the Florida Department of Emergency Management Reserves. As you well know, I have worked through 8 major hurricanes in the past couple of years. When I first started I worked as a Disaster Recovery Center Manager. I worked several months in Arcadia, Florida after Hurricane Charlie. Since then I have worked 7 other storms as a Community Response Leader. This year with all my knowledge, expertise and fine leadership skills (acquired during my time in the V Corps LRRP) I am currently the Deputy Coordinator for Community Relations for the State of Florida. This is a part-time-fulltime position and I plan to retire once again as soon as my new bass boat is paid for.

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

*No Submission***C/75 - E/20 LRP**

Unit Director - Chuck Vaughn



BY: Chuck Vaughn

To the membership I would like to say I feel honored to be asked to take on this duty. Being a part of Echo/Charlie Company has been one of the best experiences of my life. That short time there affected me in a profound way, but most of all it was the fellowship with this special group of brave, crazy guys that was the highlight of my early adulthood.

For those that don't know me, I should introduce myself. I come from Central Pennsylvania, a small coal mining town called Philipsburg. I work full time as a martial art instructor in the Philadelphia area where I own and operate four studios. I got drafted in November of 1967. I put in one solid year of training consisting of Basic, AIT, NCOC, Ranger School, and Airborne. I was then assigned to the Herd. Once I got to Nam, the Army had us complete a couple of weeks of acclimatization. I was then put in a holding company to wait for assignment to my new Battalion and Company.

I was sitting in our tent when someone popped in and informed us that there were recruiters in a tent just down the street, looking for volunteers to join a LURP Company (Echo Company, 20th Inf.). I went to take a look and signed up right there.

I put in one tour in Vietnam serving in Echo/Charlie Company, then a short time with N. Co. Rangers.

It wasn't until 2003 that I attended my first reunion, and since then I have been renewing old friendships and making new ones from Echo/Charlie.

I promise to do my best to serve as unit director. I will strive to have good updates on information as I receive it. I also hope to do some profiles on some of the guys from the Company. If anyone out there has a good story or profile you would like to have in our column, please submit it to me. If in case you do not like to write, please call me and I can take all the information via the telephone.

For my first article I would like to profile an old buddy. His name is Lester Steinke. Steinke was one of the old timers when I came into Echo Co. He still has the same great sense of humor that I remember of him from Nam. Les presently lives in West Virginia, but he has been around as they say.

His credits include:

1966-1970, serving a tour with the US Army, then about three years as a Freelancer in South America, then a ten year hitch with



the Marines Corps, Five years with the French Foreign Legion, another year with Private Security & Poacher Tracker, Central America, ending up serving seven years in the US Army National Guard (State Militia).

Les is retired and resides in West Virginia. Following is an interview I did with Steinke at the end of July, 2006.

**C.V. "How did you end up finding yourself in Echo/Charlie?"**

L.S. Well, when I first got to Vietnam I was assigned to the 101st. I got into a contact and we were motored. My bunker was hit, and I ended up with two broken legs. We were being overrun and I ended up on my own. I decided that rather than being cut down from behind, trying to crawl away, I was going to go down facing the enemy.

I got some belts put together for the M 60, and started to put out fire. Soon, a couple of the guys heard me on the machine gun, came back and we started a counter offensive. It wasn't long until we had about 12 grunts there, and we turned the tide.

**C.V. "That's were you earned the DSC right?"**

L.S. Yeah, but I would rather not go into that, okay?

**C.V. "You were then sent to Japan to heal up. How long were you there?"**

L.S. They kept me for about 6 months, and then in March of 1969 I was returned to Nam. I was sent to Ahn Khe, put in two weeks of acclimatization then to Repo-Depot to await orders for assignment to a unit. It was while there Major Malone came around recruiting for Echo Company LRP. I signed up, and was sent to Camp Enari, Pleiku. I ran missions until I was wounded again, hit through both shoulders. The Doc said 1/8 more, and it would have hit my spine. That was September of 1969. I guess I was pretty lucky.

**C.V. "When did you get out of the Army?"**

L.S. I got out December of 1969.



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

**C.V. “After the Army, you told me you worked in South America doing ‘freelance work. What was that about?’”**

L.S. □ Well, I guess it was just like it sounds. I got in a little □ hot water, and was offered to join the Marine Corps by an understanding judge (if you know what I mean?) so I put in 10 years in the Marines. □

**C.V. “Tell me about your tour with the Marines.”**

L.S. □ In 1973 the Marines sent me back to Vietnam for awhile. I was stationed there with the 9th Marines, and then I spent about a year in Okinawa. During the time I was with the 9th, the Kmer Rouge kidnapped a ship, the Maya Guez. It was the 9th Marines that got it back. After my tour to the Far East, I was assigned to Camp Lejune for awhile, and then to Hawaii with the 3rd Marines. In 1979 I was deployed to the Indian Ocean. It was there, I was operating with a Delta Team, and was to be in on the rescue attempt to free the hostages, held at that time in Taran, Iran. We were in the air, on our way, when the mission was cancelled because of the choppers crashing in the desert. In 1982 I was sent back to Lejune, and then on to Beirut, Lebanon. It was not long after I arrived that the terrorists blew up the H.Q., killing 283 marines. In 1983 I got discharged out. □

**C.V. “Looks like you were given that old Chinese curse, ‘May you have an interesting life!’ It was then you joined the Foreign Legion, correct?”**

L.S. □ Yes, I had gone to New Orleans to enjoy the Mardi Gras, and I met a guy recruiting for the Legion. I signed up for a hitch and did five years with them.

**C.V. “I’m sure the guys would like to hear what that time was like.”**

L.S. □ Well, it was in 1983 that I began the training. It was six months long, then I was sent to Africa. Actually I was stationed in Chad. It is not like the old days where you had to learn to speak French. You had to be able to know some French to get along, but it was not a requirement. It was a good outfit, and your loyalty was to the Legion before any one or any thing. It was a very good group of professionals. □

**C.V. “You put in five years with them, then what?”**

L.S. □ I left the Legion in 1988. I then worked Private Security in Central America. I then went back to Africa to Mombassa, Kenya. From there I went to Nairobi to catch a freighter, and I got a job tracking Ivory poachers. I did that for awhile, then in 1989, I returned to the States, to Albuquerque, New Mexico. There I joined the National Guard. I served with the Guard until 1994. I achieved the rank of O-3, captian, serving as CO for HQ of the 5th Battalion. □

**C.V. “Out of all the outfits you have belonged to, is there any one that you favor?”**

L.S. □ Without doubt, it was my time I spent with E c h o L R P / C h a r l i e Rangers. We thought of ourselves as □ Q u i e t Professionals, □ and operated as such. It was the best unit of all. There was nothing like it before, and there will never be anything like it again. It was serving as a LURP

that I remember as my best time as a soldier. □

Les is a guy that doesn’t talk much about his medals, but I would be remiss not to mention them. His awards include, Parachute Wings, The DSC, two Bronze Star medals w/ V Device, two Air Medals, the Combat Infantry Badge, and two Purple Hearts.



*Caption on Photo*

#### Charlie Ranger gets National Award:



*Echo LRP/Charlie RGR President Emeritus, Daniel Pope, in tiger stripes, honors his good friend and one of the organizers of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Ranger Roy Boatman, at his funeral in Fayetteville on July 31, 2006.*

Mr. Gary Dolan, Esquire, a Charlie Ranger (1970-1971) has been chosen for the Freedoms Foundation’s prestigious National Award for 2006 for his work on his book, *Of There Own Accord*. For members that have not read it, Gary’s book gives a startling, accurate account of LRP/Ranger operations in Vietnam. His work impressed the judges, made up of people from Service Organizations, and key political positions, with a State Senator, and a local mayor grading the many nominees.

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

We can all be proud that our legacy has been recognized by the Foundation, which was founded on November 21, 1949 with General Dwight D. Eisenhower presenting the first National Awards as the Foundation's first president.

## BRANSON HOMECOMING MINI-REUNION

WELL TROOPS, IF YIOU DID NOT MAKE THE BRANSON RALLY POINT, JUNE 11—18, YOU WERE LISTED AS MIA. A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL IN ATTENDANCE. I HAD ANTICIPATED THIS □REUNION□ SINCE LAST YEAR'S HOMECOMING IN BRANSON AND WAS NOT DISSAPPOINTED.

I COULD NOT GET THERE UNTIL THE 14TH OF JUNE AND MISSED SEEING BOB STEIN AND A FEW MORE ORIGINAL ECHO LRP'S. HOWEVER, THERE WERE 12 OF THE ORIGINALS THAT WERE TOGETHER AND I CAN NOT EXPRESS THE FEELINGS I HAD. I HAD NOT SEEN ANY OF THESE GUYS IN ALMOST 40 YEARS. THERE WERE SOME TEARS SHED AND LOTS OF LAUGHS AND WAR STORIES. MARK A. MILLER AND I WERE THE ONLY 1ST PLT, TEAM 1-1, MEMBERS PRESENT BUT WE DID NOT FEEL ALONE.

THERE IS ONE THING THAT WAS READILY APPARENT, THE BOND OF THE BROTHERHOOD KNOWS NO BOUNDS, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING TIME. ABSENCE DOES MAKE THE HEART GROW FONDER BUT THE TIME SPAN WILL NOT GO AS LONG NEXT TIME, YOU'VE HEARD THE ADAGE □SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE□, WELL, I CAN ATTEST TO THE TRUTH IN THAT. REGIS MURPHY WAS PRESENT AND BELIEVE ME, THE □ONE EYED OLD FAT MAN□ IS THE SAME AS HE EVER WAS. I ALSO HAD THE PLEASURE OF SEEING ROBERT PARKER JOHNSTON AND JOHN WISHEART.

SINCE THIS WAS AN OFF YEAR GET TOGETHER, THERE WERE NO MEETINGS OR OFFICAL BOARD FUNCTIONS. PRESIDENT JOHN EDER, TREASURER DEAN BARKER, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS GARY O'NEAL AND I ALL WERE TOGETHER AS JUST BROTHERS AND HAD AN OUTSTANDING TIME, EVEN THOUGH L-T AND MARK MILLER GOT LOST ON THE WAY TO THE BANQUET. GOOD COMMO AND A NEW GRID COORDINATE GOT THEM BACK ON COURSE.

L CO 75TH RANGER WAS EXCELLENT HOST IN THE HOSPITALITY CABIN. WE OWE THEM A VERY BIG THANK YOU AND WELL DONE. THERE WERE MEMBERS OF THE 134 TH AHC, DEVILS AND DEMONS, PRESENT. THEY PULLED OUR FAT OUT OF THE FIRE ON MORE THAN ONE OCASSION AND PRESENTED THE ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR BATTLE FLAG AT THE BANQUET.

WE ARE ALREADY MAKING PREPREATIONS FOR OUR REUNION NEXT YEAR AT BENNING. IF YOU

HAVE NOT SENT ME YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION, PLEASE DO SO AT YOUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY.

CHARLIE MIKE  
CAL □PREACHER□ ROLLINS  
SECRETARY

## Rangers join together at Welcome Home 2006

Branson, Missouri hosted the second Welcome Home event for Vietnam veterans and their families this summer from June 11th through the 18th.

There were many activities for Rangers and their loved ones including the Heartland Benefit Concerts, Vietnam vintage helicopter rides, a golf tournament, bass tournament, Native American dances almost round-the-clock, many wonderful theater performances, a homecoming parade, an awards presentation, booths of memorabilia vendors, airborne play-war exercises with an OV-10, Caribou, Cobras, and Hueys (I may have forgotten some of the aircraft), and the highlight for me, the all-Ranger banquet hosted by Gary Linderer with 75th RRA President, Steve □Crabs□ Crabtree, as one of the headline guests. Although I personally enjoyed my ride in one of the Vietnam vintage helicopters, when our group of ten received our briefing, the person in charge said that I should be familiar with what he was holding, an Army issue safety belt with an Army issue locking safety. I think he was surprised to hear that I didn't remember ever seeing one of those things in any of our slicks. Also, we never saw a hot LZ, we carried no weapons, and we couldn't sit on the edge with our feet on the struts (because of those darn safety belts) but it sure brought back memories. Another also, is that this old 30 to 40 year old □H□ model Huey was probably in better working condition than anything we ever rode in while in RVN.

I also enjoyed having a former crew chief from the 335th Assault



*L to R Top Row: Ray Bohrer, Randy Mills, Del Ayers, John Wisheart, Parker Johnston, Jerry Shenkle, Tom Workman, and Cal Rollins. L to R Kneeling: Ron Causey, Larey Clark, and Mark Miller.*

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

Helicopter Company, Russ Stibbe, escort this old L-T to the Dick Clark Theater (right beside our hotel) and enjoy a show featuring a wonderful older songster, Bill Medley, of Righteous Brothers fame. His son was also lead singer for the reconstructed Paul Revere and the Raiders band. Paul Revere (age 70) and Bill Medley (late 60s, I think) are both very entertaining and Russ and I really had a great time. This was also the night that some of us stayed up visiting until 3:30 a.m. This was also the day that my Team Leader, Dennis Strack Strawn and his lovely wife, Marilyn, finally got me out of bed the next day around 1:30 in the afternoon so we could go enjoy steaks at the Texas Roadhouse, which were darn good.

Another very important part of this event was the hospitality room that was set up, manned, and even partly paid for by Lima Ranger wife, Linda Cox. What a great hostess and what a great place to shoot the breeze with Rangers, Ranger Mommas (one of Linda's handles) and Ranger support organization members. All Rangers in attendance at Branson were most appreciative of the free snacks, free drinks, and free adult beverages. This was a most convivial location and was certainly the gathering place for all of us.

The highlight event was the Ranger Banquet which was attended by members of Lima Rangers, F 58th LRP, 3rd 506th LRRP, and I don't remember meeting any, but probably members of 1st 101st LRRP, and 101st LRS, in addition to members of Echo LRP and Charlie Rangers. This was a great event with wonderful

food, great fellowship, all levels of entertainment, speeches that rang some old bells, and a good time had by all. As a side note, we were all sad that one of our guest speakers, Colonel Robert L. Howard, MOH, could not attend due to a little personal surgery caused by a little heart problem caused by a little forced march that he participated in even after having a little heart attack. Don't mean nothin' for Col Howard.

Rangers Lead the Way,

John Eder (L-T)

Echo LRP/Charlie RGR Assn., Inc.

President 06/05 — 06/07

**In Memory Of**

CPL Frank D. Walthers, Aug 1, 1969, C/75/RGR

SSG Harold D. Williams, Aug 1, 1969, E/20/LRP & C/75/RGR

SSG William R. Squier, Jr., Sep 13, 1969, E/20/LRP & C/75/RGR

SGT Keith M. Parr, Oct 26, 1969, E/20/LRP & C/75/RGR

CPL Walter G. Burkhart, Nov 11, 1969, C/75/RGR

CPL Rex M. Sherman, Nov 19, 1969, C/75/RGR

SP4 Richard G. Buccille, Dec 20, 1969, E/20/LRP & C/75/RGR

SGT William J. Murphy, Feb 16, 1970, C/75/RGR

1SG Joey Brasso Welsh, USA RET E CO (LRP) 20th INF (A) & C CO (RGR) 75th INF (A) Historical Advisor #0003

**D/75**

**Unit Director - Richard "Bear" Papp**



Greetings to all:

I can't believe how fast time is passing. It seems like only yesterday when I submitted the previous article for our Patrolling Magazine. Now a little update on some of our fellow Ranger buddies that served with us in D Co, 75th Infantry (Ranger).

I am very pleased to report that Richard (Herd) Nelson is finally getting the treatment from the Veterans Administration that has long been overdue. Herd has had numerous life threatening medical problems stemming from his service with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and while serving with D Co, 75th Infantry (Ranger) in RVN. Prior to attending the 75th RRA Reunion at Columbus, Ga, Herd was undergoing treatment for a severe heart condition, however that didn't stop him from attending the reunion even though he arrived a couple days late due to ongoing medical appointments. Drive on Ranger Herd. Part of the delay in Herd getting proper medical treatment and receiving



an appropriate disability rating from the Veterans Administration was that, part or most of his records documenting injuries he received in RVN was lost or destroyed. Thanks to two of our members, Mike Warren and Carl Norris (Warlord 16), Associate Member, who submitted certified letters attesting to injuries that Herd received while conducting operations into Cambodia, Herd is finally getting the much needed medical treatment and hopefully the compensation ratings will follow. We all wish Herd the best of luck. I would like to ask all of you, if you are aware of any of our old Ranger buddies needing help with their VA claims, let's assist in every way possible.

I am attaching a couple of photos of several of the Team Members and one of our pilots. I like to think of the photos as Then and Now. Then, we were young and could be counted on to handle just about anything. Now, we have aged, can still handle most things even though it might take more effort. I would like to be able to submit some additional photos, so you



## D/75 (CONTINUED)

Rangers from Delta, 75th, get me some photos and let's show our old team mates, that we still look the same as we did in the old days.

I have noted with great pleasure that some of our sons and daughters are being mentioned in Patrolling Magazine. I think it is great that they are carrying on the tradition of serving in the military and protecting our great nation and our way of life. I am humbled and proud to announce that my son, Willy will be deploying with the 1st Cav Division for Iraq in the near future. Let's keep him in our thoughts and ask the "Man Upstairs" to provide for his safe return. I know we worry more about our sons and daughters serving in harms way, than we ever did for ourselves. Perhaps it is because when we were young, most of us thought we were invincible, but as we aged, we now know better. We were not invincible, however we were extremely lucky on several occasions.

I would like to remind everyone to start thinking about the 2007 reunion. Unless you are independently wealthy, I am talking about laying aside a few bucks to ensure that there is not a problem with the cash flow for attending the reunion. The reunion will be here before we realize it the way time is slowly creeping by. I recently learned that at least five more Rangers from our unit will be attending for the first time. Hopefully this will include "Sugar Bear" and "Dick Badmilk".

If anyone is wondering what "Bear" is doing or is up to, here is the SITREP. I have been staying rather busy gearing up for the upcoming hunting season. Here's hoping it will be one of the best ever. My hunting brother Frank Park will be coming down in November to hunt with me and then two weeks later I will be visiting him in Pennsylvania to go bear hunting. I hope it doesn't turn out to be one of those hunting trips where, some days you get the bear, some days the bear gets you. No matter, it's still a great time hunting and visiting with Frank in Pennsylvania.

Here is hoping every one is doing great. See ya'll at Reunion  
070000 **THIS IS BEAR, OUT...RLTW!**



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

By Bob Copeland

Well folks this has been a busy and exciting period since my last report to you on events within the Ranger Community. After attending the US MOUNTAIN RANGER MEMORIAL at Camp Frank D. Merrill for the Induction Ceremony to HONOR Staff Sgt Johnston Dunlop KIA 16 April 1968, also attended by a number of our company members (reported in last Patrolling Edition), I next attended the Welcome Home 2006 in Branson Mo. I arrived in Branson on 10 Jun and checked into the Ramada Inn which was the site arranged for the 75th Ranger Regiment Ranger Assn. Mini Reunion in conjunction with Company C and L reunions. We all shared a common hospitality room and enjoyed the comradery as we exchanged our Vietnam experiences etc. As I was the only member of our Echo Company attending I did my best to represent our unit. I was well received by the Charlie and Lima Company attendees as well as other LRP/LRRP/RANGER COMPANY attendees and enjoyed their company throughout the reunion. We also had the pleasure of having members of some of the Helicopter Units who were our lift and gunney support in Vietnam, for the 9th Div and E20/Charlie Company, attending and had the honor of exchanging stories and experiences with these exceptional WARRIORS as well. I had the pleasure of meeting and taking to Russ Stibbe who was with the 335th Assault Helicopter Company who supported the 9th at Bearcat and Dong Tam. Russ had some excellent footage of combat assaults in the Delta and some great footage of Dong Tam. I am hoping this Warrior will be able to attend our Company Reunion in Orlando and bring some of the videos with him so that you all can enjoy the experience I had viewing them. Thanks Russ!! Ray who was with 134th Assault Helicopter Company □Deamons and Devils□ who supplied dedicated support to E20/Charlie Company Rangers was also in attendance and presented a signed Banner to the E20/C Company Unit Director at the Banquet. Ray was a great Warrior to talk to and exchange Vietnam experiences with. The people of Branson, MO were some of the most hospitable I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. This community treated us with respect and honored us constantly with everything from friendly greetings to complimentary entertainment. I have to say this is a Mecca for Veterans and their families!! A BIG THANKS to Gary Linderer and all those who were involved in organizing Welcome Home 2006!!

My next event was the RANGER HALL OF FAME CEREMONY at Ft Benning, Ga. This event proved to be emotional and rewarding for all those who attended for the Induction of Ranger Sgt Robert Lamar Bryan KIA 13 July 1970 RVN, into the RHOF. Robert's twin sister Rebecca (Bryan) Myers received the Medallion on his behalf and spoke of the pride she shared with the Ranger Community and the love of her brother in her address to the attendees. The ceremony was also attended by other family members, friends and RANGER/LRP/LRRP as follows: Mr. Alan Myers (husband of Rebecca), Mr. Larry Bryan (brother of Sgt Bryan) and his wife Marlene, Mr. Lamar Bryan (nephew of Sgt Bryan) and his wife Pamela, Mr. Shafe (high school friend of Sgt Bryan) and his wife Mrs. Shafe, Company E 75th Inf Ranger RVN Comrades of Sgt Bryan, Rgr Bob Copeland, Rgr Brent Gulick, Rgr Marshall Larsen, Rgr Greg Whitson, Rgr Terry Leishman, and Rgr Jim Godbolt with his wife Mrs Godbolt. I wish to acknowledge, any other FRIENDS/ RANGER/LRP/LRRP, in attendance at the RHOF Ceremony, who I was not aware of and thank them for their support and presence!! Thanks go

out to Steve Crabtree, President of the 75th Ranger Regt Assn and his wife, for extending a warm welcome to the Bryan Family and Co. E Members and friends at the RHOF Dinner and at the RHOF Ceremony. Thanks Steve!!

After the RHOF Ceremony we all went to the Ranger Memorial and paid our respects to our Fallen RANGER/LRP/LRRP COMRADES. Our group, friends and family members spent the remainder of the time at Ft Benning/Columbus having some exceptional meals together, exploring the Memorials on base, attending the RTB Demonstration at Victory Pond, applauding the graduating Ranger Class, as well as a couple of exciting trips to Ranger Joe to pick up some T shirts and other coveted items of interest. We had memorable social gatherings in the evenings looking at albums, reminiscing about Bob and our Vietnam days together, as well as Bob's youthful experiences with his family and friends. In all it was a grand time, with times of reflection, sorrow, laughter and bonding of our extended RANGER/LRP/LRRP FAMILY. We all said our goodbyes as members of our party departed at various times exchanging best wishes and a promise to get together again soon. We look forward to attending the Dedication of a new section of the Colon, Michigan Museum, with a section set aside to Commemorate Ranger Sgt Robert Lamar Bryan in 2007. Details will be forthcoming on the exact date for this exciting event in Bob's HOME TOWN.

Thanks to all who attended this remarkable event for this outstanding FALLEN WARRIOR, RANGER SGT ROBERT LAMAR BRYAN, Company E 75TH Inf (Ranger), Team Leader 1-7, HOOAH!!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

□RANGER SERGEANT ROBERT LAMAR BRYAN (KIA) RHOF CITATION□

Sergeant Robert L. Bryan is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his Conspicuous Gallant Service to his Country and Devotion to Duty while □Leading The Way□ in combat operations, against enemy forces, in the Republic of Vietnam, exemplifying the RANGER CREED, □RANGER LEAD THE WAY□!!!! Sgt Bryan volunteered for Ranger Operations with Co E 75th Inf (Ranger) Abn 3rd Bde 9th Inf Div in Sept 1969. Ranger Bryan exhibited exceptional leadership skills and was a tenacious Warrior who gained the respect of his fellow Rangers. On 30





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



continued to lead his team in the Warrior tradition, leading by example, encouraging and inspiring his fellow Rangers to give 100% and then some. Ranger Sgt Bryan while conducting a visual recon in a LOH on 13 July 1970 was KIA while exchanging fire with an enemy ground element. His dedication to his fellow Rangers, duty and mission directly contributed to the high rate of efficiency and success of Ranger

April 1970 he received the Silver Star for Gallantry in action. As TL 1-7 on an overnight Aquabush, Sgt Bryan positioned 3 men about 75 meters from the shore leaving the remaining members in the boat. Spotting five enemy 200 meters from his location, he exposed himself to engage the enemy killing one. Leading his men through intense hostile fire, he heard someone whistle. Spotting an enemy 20 meters away he exposed himself and killed him with a grenade. While directing his team to their boat he spotted two enemy sampans approaching and as the insurgents initiated contact, Sgt Bryan exposed himself to the fusillade to direct his teams fire, killing four enemy on the sampans. While sweeping the contact area the team received intense fire from an enemy concealed in the nipe 10 meters away. Sgt Bryan reacted to the critical danger and charged the insurgent, killing him at point blank range. Sgt Bryan received a second Silver Star on 11 June 1970 for killing numerous enemy while exposing himself without regard for his own safety and caring for wounded team members. Sgt Bryan

Operations, conducted against enemy forces by Echo Rangers, exemplifying the RANGER CREED, ☐RANGER LEAD THE WAY☐!!!!

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF RANGER SGT ROBERT LAMAR BRYAN -Silver Star Medal with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster -Bronze Star Medal with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster with ☐V☐ Device

-Purple Heart Medal with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster (Purple Heart Medal with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster-Posthumous award)

-Air Medal

-Army Commendation Medal with 1st through 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster with ☐V☐ Device

-Army Good Conduct Medal (Posthumous award)

-National Defense Service Medal

-Vietnam Service Medal

-Vietnam Campaign Medal

-Combat Infantryman Badge

-Expert Badge with rifle, automatic and mortar bars

-Sharpshooter Badge with pistol bar

The next event was the gathering in L.A. organized by Tess (Ron) Tessensohn and Bob Hernandez our California connection. This turned out to be a great

gathering of the following:

Ron Tessensohn, Bob Hernandez, Bob Copeland, Marshall Larsen, John Berg, Greg Foreman and his wife Sharr, Don Andrews, Gerald Cody, George Mattie Mathews, Ben Tagardo and his wife,

Shirley Parrish and daughters Karen and Crystal. On Thursday we just sat around and had a few drinks and viewed some photos. On Fri. one of the adventurous things we did was take a walk at Venice Beach and observe the sometime not so beautiful people walk by, for example an elderly man heavily tanned wearing a thong

(more like a G string) with a tattoo on his left buttock. This really got everyone's attention and I won't even mention what this scene appeared like from the front, You'll have to ask Bob Hernandez at the next reunion about this view!! Some did a little shopping as there was an abundance of shops and vendors to drop into and make a purchase if you wished. The day was sunny and hot and everyone had a great time. In





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the evening we went out to dinner and enjoyed the company of all present. On Saturday we visited during the daytime and then went to the VFW in the evening for our banquet. After a few drinks and some good food the draws took place and Shirley won a plaque created by Tess which of course was a much sought after item. The second plaque was won by Ron Imel 1st Div which he thoughtfully donated back for a second draw as he had already won a



Ceramic Cast Black Beret, thanks Ron for being so generous. Mike Callis 4th Div won another plaque designed for our guest RANGER/LRP/LRRP draw, Shirley also won one of the Ceramic Berets. Everyone including Shirley, Crystal, Karen and the guest Ranger/Lrp/Lrrps were presented with a Certificate of Attendance designed and signed by Tess which was also signed by all parties present. Thanks Tess for all the hard work in making up the Certificates for everyone. A big thank you to Tess and Bob Hernandez for making all the arrangements and hosting such a successful mini-reunion!! Hooah!!!!



RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!! Tess presented me with a Scroll designed and signed by which I greatly appreciated and will frame and hang on my wall at home. Several other Scrolls were won by raffle by attendees. The following RANGER/LRP/LRRPS were present from other Units: Bob Giles 1st Cav, Ron Imel 1st Div, Mark Miller E 20 (LRP) C Ranger, Mike Callis 4th Div, John Krone 4th Div and Art Dolick C Company Ranger. A big thanks to all our guest RANGER/LRP/LRRPS who

attended, we greatly appreciated your company and comradery. On Sunday we all had breakfast together as we did on previous days and said our good-byes. John Berg, Tess and I stayed on and went for a tourist trip to downtown Hollywood and a tour in the rental car of the Beverly Hills area as well as downtown L.A. We had a good lunch at the Pig and Whistle Pub and then took a



walk down the Blvd of Stars and visited the Kodak Center as well as other local sites. On returning to the Travelodge we booked a tour Universal Studio for Monday morning. On Monday we hopped on the tour bus and away we went for a

day at Universal. We accomplished a lot in 6 hours taking in many of the featured rides and shows such as Water World, Back to the Future Ride, Jurassic Park Water Ride( got soaked on this one), Back Draft and of course we did the Universal Lot Tour as soon as we arrived. A full day and a lot of fun at Universal!! On Tuesday morning John and I headed for the Airport at 3:30 a.m. while Tess went back to bed and checked out later in the morning. In summary we had great weather, fun, lots of refreshments and excellent food and best of all was the comradery we all

shared!! THANKS TESS AND BOB FOR DOING ALL THE WORK TO MAKE THIS EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!!! AS A L W A Y S



RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!HOOAH!!!! We look forward to the Company Reunion hosted by Tess and Bob in 2009 in San Diego, Ca!!!! and of course the upcoming Reunion in Orlando hosted by Ken Mellick in April 2007. Check the Reunion details on the company web at



[www.9thdivisionlrrp.com](http://www.9thdivisionlrrp.com) and make your reservations now for the hotel and plan to be there.

I believe you are all aware that we have been contacted by our PRU's from Vietnam and they are requesting some financial assistance in order to better their living accommodations. Bill Cheek and Stew Koontz as well as other company members have forwarded them some money to assist them in building a modest dwelling house. This is a good cause and as we know the PRU's served us well and true, no doubt saving some of our lives with their skills at various points in time during our service in Nam. If you would like to help out please contact Bill

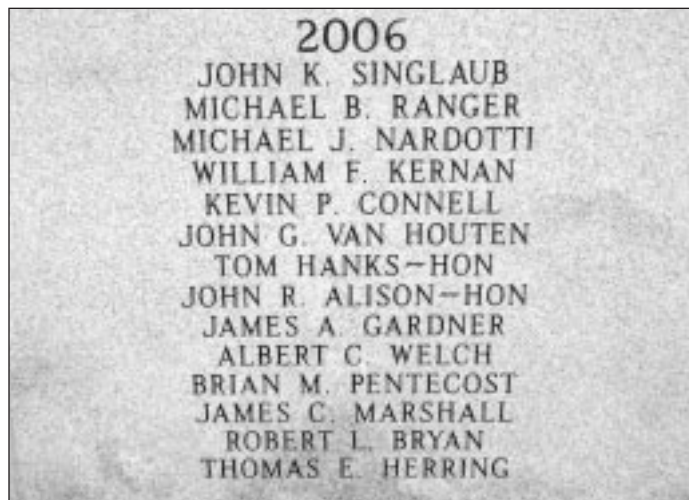


## E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)

Cheek at HC 83 Box 46C, Capon Bridge, WV 26711. Phone 1-304-702-0081. You can read the correspondence from the PRU,s to our company members on the company web site [www.9thdivisionlrrp.com](http://www.9thdivisionlrrp.com). They have to date raised about \$900 and would like to get to the goal of \$2000 if possible. This amount apparently would cover the cost of the new dwelling house. Please give this request some thought.

I would at this time like to express our sincere condolences to the Hughes family on the passing of Larry Hughes and his brother in a motor vehicle accident while they were on their way home to see their mother. I first heard of this tragedy while we were at Ft Benning, Ga. for the RHOF Ceremony and all in attendance were deeply saddened. Our prayers and thoughts continue to go out to the Hughes Family. Larry was a well known LRP in the Veterans Community and highly thought of by all, we will miss Larry and all he stood for as an advocate and friend for all Veterans. God Bless!!

Well folks it is time for me to sign off, all the best to you and yours,  
STAY SAFE AND KEEP THE  
FAITH!!!HOOAH!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!  
Bob







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

Unit Director - Joe Little



Well Gentlemen,

Greetings to all and I hope all are doing well and those that are having adversity in their life please contact one of us so that we might comfort you in some way. I find sometimes a voice on the phone with some encouraging words or just someone that will listen is helpful. The other day I had a nice conversation with Phil Mayrand and Bob Newsome (our annual anniversary call); I began to ponder on many things afterwards. I recall Emmett sent me some words to ponder concerning his life and awareness as he gets really old ;-). Seriously some of us have been reflecting on what we have or have not accomplished in life, and some are actually looking ahead to their next goal. I was having a great time with my precious granddaughters 4 and 13 years in the swimming pool in our 115 degree heat (but it is a dry heat, Mark). I thought of Ewald and some of the pictures he sends out a very proud grandpa and how he continues to stay active with hiking the cool mountains in Seattle area, still living life. I also see some of my clients just quitting or quietly fading away making statements that they were robbed 35 plus years ago. I have some that realize that when they draw a time line they find it difficult they allowed one year influencing the majority of their life. I concur we will not run the jungles again without passing out, and if we do, it is vicariously during one of those reflections about the past; or dreaming about being half as good when you happen to watch best of the Ranger competition. I feel blessed that I was able to serve my Country; especially with men of our unit and meeting many that served with the unit before and after seem to carry the same torch of life and how refreshing that feels.

I was reflecting about the death of Roy Boatman, I was saddened by the news and as I laid in bed after being notified I was tearing up. I remember after Bill stopped me from leaving the reunion in 1992; Roy with his larger than life appearance and a smile to match, wearing a tight white t-shirt said "Welcome Home", I did not know how to respond. Bill Mrkvicka informed me that he was instrumental in assisting with getting our unit set up. Roy put in over eleven years of service to the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. Bill attended Roy's funeral representing our unit. I am also asking for contributions so that we can cover a check I am sending out to 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn Memorial Fund and Mailing to: Roy Boatman Memorial Fund, attn: Shelia Dudley, 108 Salisbury Road, Savannah, GA 31410.

I know many will be reading this after or around Veterans Day. I wish all to have a great Veterans Day and those that are able to be in DC I hope to see you. This will be the 19<sup>th</sup> year working with Operation Freedom Bird a program that started with the Phoenix Vet Center to take 50 Veterans to the "Wall" as part of the

"Healing Journey". Those that have seen me there know I am on the run with this group; however David Regenthal and Bill Mrkvicka showed me how to do a walk through at the drive through for coffee at MacDonald's at 0300 hrs. Well enough from me unless there is room after I insert Mark Ponzillo's piece in from the forty year 25<sup>th</sup> ID LRRP get together at Marshall Huckaby's place for the forth of July. On the 4th of July 2006 another outstanding get together was experience in the backyard of Marshall Huckaby. Marshall does this every year. It's a great way to spend the holiday and get together with some old LRRP's, LRP's and Rangers. This year was especially significant as we have found our first LRRP pilot "Mike Squires". It's been 40 years since we first started flying with him. He came to D Troop from an assignment in Alaska and had never flown a Huey. He told us that the first time he took off from the Cu Chi air field, to get checked-out, in the Huey he got shot at. He said he didn't know it was going to get worst. He was asked to work with the brand new LRRP unit and see what needed to be done to accomplish the mission. He said when he met

us [LRRPs] he didn't know what to expect and was amazed at every request we presented him. He came into the unit as a captain and was promoted to major almost at the same time. We thought he was the "real" oldman. For his entire tour he was the primary LRRP pilot. His bird had more holes in it than even his crew chief could keep up with. If you were a LRRP, in 1966-67 and you were inserted and extracted by helicopter your pilot was Major Squires. Everyone remembers him as sitting in the left seat smoking a rather large cigar displayed from under his dark face mask on his flying helmet. He did not know the word "Abort". He always got us out. He could and did put a helicopter in places other pilots would not even consider as an LZ. Needless to say the stories flew around all day and a lot of fun was had by all. Mike's daughter, son-in-law and three grand children (all boys) also attended and were amazed when they heard of his flying exploits. It became obvious he never talked about his flying prowess. As

an aside he and his wife are relocating to the Peachtree City area this summer and we will be able to stay in





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

contact with him on a constant basis - and we plan to.

Dave Regenthal came down from New Jersey and filmed the entire event and interviewed everybody that was present, for his video project, concerning returning Vietnam Vets and their journey from Vietnam to the present.

What a great way to celebrate a 40 year mini-reunion.

Mark Ponzillo



Well maybe there will be some extra room for one of my insights called the □The Awakening□

□The Awakening□



A time comes in your life when you finally get It... when, in the midst of all your fears and Insanity, you stop dead in your tracks and somewhere The voice inside

your head cries out□ ENOUGH!



Enough fighting and crying and blaming and struggling to hold on. Then, like a child quieting down after a tantrum, you blink back your tears and begin to look at the

world through new eyes.

### This is Your Awakening

You realize it□s time to stop hoping and waiting for something to change, or for happiness, safety and security to magically appear over the next horizon. You realize that in the real world there aren□t always fairy tale endings, and that any guarantee of □happily ever after□ must begin with you□ and in the process a sense of serenity is born of acceptance.

You awaken to the fact that you are not perfect and that not everyone will always love, appreciate or approve of who or what you are□ and that□s OK. They are entitled to their own views and opinions. You learn the importance of loving and championing yourself□ and in the process a sense of new found confidence is born of self-approval.

You stop complaining and blaming other people for the things they did to you — or didn□t do for you — and you learn that the only thing you can really count on is the unexpected. You learn that people don□t always say what they mean or mean what they say, and that not everyone will always be there for you and that everything isn□t always about you. So, you learn to stand on your own and to take care of yourself□and in the process a sense of safety and security is born of self-reliance.

You stop judging and pointing fingers and you begin to accept people as they are and to overlook their shortcomings and human frailties□ and in the process a sense of peace and contentment is born of forgiveness. You learn to open up to new worlds and different points of view. You begin reassessing and redefining who you are and what you really stand for.

You learn the difference between wanting and needing and you begin to discard the doctrines and values you□ve outgrown, or should never have bought into to begin with. You learn that there is power and glory in creating and contributing and you stop maneuvering through life merely as a □consumer□ looking for your next fix. You learn that principles such as honesty and integrity are not the outdated ideals of a bygone era, but the mortar that holds together the foundation upon which you must build a life.

You learn that you don□f know everything, it□s not your job to save the world and that you can□t teach a pig to sing. You learn that the only cross to bear is the one you choose to carry and that martyrs get burned at the stake. Then you learn about love. You learn to look at relationships as they really are and not as you would have them be. You learn that alone does not mean lonely. You stop trying to control people, situations and outcomes. You learn to distinguish between guilt and responsibility and the importance of setting boundaries and learning to say NO!

You also stop working so hard at putting your feelings aside, smoothing things over and ignoring your needs. You learn that your body really is your temple. You begin to care for it, and treat it with respect. You begin to eat a balanced diet, drink more water, and take more time to exercise. You learn that being tired fuels doubt, fear, and uncertainty and so you

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

take more time to rest. And, just as food fuels the body, laughter fuels our soul. So you take more time to laugh and to play.

You learn that, for the most part, you get in life what you believe you deserve, and that much of life truly is a self-fulfilling prophecy. You learn that anything worth achieving is worth working for and that wishing for something to happen is different than working toward making it happen. More importantly, you learn that in order to achieve success you need direction, discipline and perseverance. You also learn that no one can do it all alone, and that it's OK to risk asking for help.

You learn the only thing you must truly fear is fear itself. You learn to step right into and through your fears because you know that whatever happens you can handle it, and to give in to fear is to give away the right to live life on your own terms. You learn to fight for your life and not squander it living under a cloud of impending doom. You learn that life isn't always fair, you don't always get what you think you deserve, and that sometimes bad things happen to unsuspecting good people and you learn not to always take it personally.

You learn that nobody's punishing you and everything isn't always somebody's fault. It's just life happening. You learn to admit when you are wrong and to build bridges instead of walls. You learn that negative feelings such as anger, envy and resentment must be understood and redirected or they will suffocate the life out of you, and poison the universe that surrounds you. You learn to be thankful and to take comfort in many of the simple things we take for granted, things that millions of people upon the earth can only dream about: a full refrigerator, clean running water, a soft warm bed, and a long hot shower.



Then, you begin to take responsibility for yourself, by yourself and you make yourself a promise to never betray yourself, and to never ever settle for less than your heart's desire. You make it a point to keep smiling, to keep trusting, and to stay open to every wonderful possibility. You hang a wind chime outside your window, so you can listen to the wind. Finally, with courage in your heart, you take a stand, you take a deep breath, and you begin to design the life you want to live as best you can.

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

Unit Director - Tom Nash

**CLYDE BONNER**

By Jerry Schuster

Clyde arrived at E 51 in early 1968. Since he was a 1/LT, we tried to stay out of his way until he had been around a few weeks. It turned out that he was a very good officer and rapidly gained the respect of the men of the company.

Being a "mustang officer" (one who had been an enlisted man

before commissioning) was also in his favor. Since he knew how we thought, it was a bit difficult to pull anything over on him. But, on the other hand, he didn't mind shooting the breeze with us either. As a matter of fact, I had a refrigerator which was always stocked with beer and soft drinks. Clyde was a regular visitor. During one such visit, Clyde gave me a diver's knife as he had recently purchased a replacement.

Time passes, rotation times take place and we lose track of one another. A few years later, both Clyde and I wound up in

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

Heidelberg, Germany. He was stationed on a casern near downtown, and I at a casern on the west side. Neither knew the other was there.

Germany, in those days was plagued by the Red Army Faction, AKA the Baader-Meinhoff Gang. They had decided to create a revolution by attacking the German Police, Americans, and the state served by the establishment. They thought the German people would rise up, join them and overthrow the government. They of course, would then lead the new government.

They blew up a couple of department stores in Frankfurt, an army club also in Frankfurt, a press office in Hamburg, and a parking lot in a Heidelberg US Army casern, among other places.

On May 24th, 1972, Clyde was standing in the Heidelberg US Army casern parking lot with his first sergeant, Ron Woodward, when the car bomb planted by the Baader-Meinhoff Gang exploded. Clyde and Ron died at the scene.

I found out Clyde was in Heidelberg and had been a victim of the bombing while reading the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper following the explosion. It was quite a shock. I have wondered

all these many years what happened to his family, where he is buried, and how he came to be in the parking lot that day.



While researching for this article, I found the answers. A link led me to his widow through her maiden name which I remembered. One telephone call within Texas, and I was talking to Judi Bonner.

Judi and Clyde had two sons, Chuck and Richard. The family was invited to our recent 2006 E51 G75 Reunion in Dallas. The invitation was accepted, and the family was welcomed with open arms.

They had the opportunity to visit with several of the guys who knew and had pulled LRRP missions with Clyde.

At a special presentation attended by Judi and her sons, Clyde's diver's knife was returned to the family, and was accepted by the eldest son, Chuck. In his acceptance speech, he stated "the knife would be mounted in a presentation case and be displayed in his dive shop."

I finally learned the final resting place for Clyde. After his death, he was returned to the United States and buried with full military honors at the Fort Bliss Military Cemetery.



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

Unit Director - William Anton



## Milk and Cookies

By Gair Anderson

In less than one hour after landing for my very first mission, the reality of war introduced itself to me in the form of a loud explosion and the pain of hot metal in my back. I turned and looked around, without going into details; Miller and Elias were down, Larry Curtis was on one knee with his hand over his eye. I could hear Parker's voice over the buzz in my ear "help Elias, Andy, help Elias." I pulled my medic bag from my pack and knelt over Elias, I would glance up from time to time to look for any possible danger. I looked up at one point and remember to this day a vision of Larry; it was if a Dutch Master painter had placed him in a pose before he turned to his paints and canvas. A most powerful man standing upright with his weapon at the ready. A small stream of blood and tears ran from his eye down to his chin. He saw and was ready for anything, I



returned to the task at hand and I never again looked up because I knew that anything that moved, Larry would put in a permanent state of stillness.

After we returned, Parker and I were waiting for another team to be formed, we rotated on the base radio with teams in the field. During the long nights I would wonder about where I would go next. "Carr's team, please don't let me go to Carr's team." Carr's team was getting shot out every time. Not just now and then but every time. He always got everyone back and great stories followed, but it was still more than what I wanted at that time. It was about my 2nd or 3rd night on the radio and Carr called up from the field; this is where we're at, all is well but "we're running low on milk and cookies." I had never before heard that phrase and wanted to make sure I had the message right, "I understand you're running short of food and water" says I. A louder voice with just a touch of anger came back, "No! milk and cookies."

You, the reader need to understand that I'm



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

talking to SSgt. Carr, the badist boy in the bush, and in no uncertain terms, I have to get the message right. I reply, □I understand that milk and cookies is not food and water□. □No God damn it, who is this?□ came from the other end of the radio. And then it hit me. □Code, this is a code□. At that very instant, two very dynamic scenarios came to mind, one being a V.C. radio intercept operator running to command post shouting □the code, we□ve broken the American code, it□s just a matter of time now□ and then the other one, the one that would have a far more personal and destructive nature about it. In a few days Carr would be back, and this 131 pounds, heart pumping of pure nitroglycerin, individual was going to leave pieces of my butt all over L.Z. Betty. And then he did come back and I made myself small. Later that night I resigned myself to take whatever hit was coming my way.

All I got from Carr was a look, no to anger or malice but in my mind a statement of □Son, get your shit together, get it so tight it will fit in a corner of your match box.□

All other things aside and in a very personal nature, my first week was the most important for me. I had seen the effects and results of war. I saw in Larry the warrior I needed to become, and in Carr, the mindset and way of thinking necessary to attain such. My personal gratitude to you both, and my hat off to all others.

From: Lawrence M Curtis  
11719 Mutz Dr.  
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Wow ! What a great reunion in Louisville, Kentucky! This was the 1st Cavalry Division Association□s 59th Annual reunion and the LRRP/ Ranger 20th reunion. Things started off with a bang right from the start. By the time I checked in, there were already 20 Rangers waiting for me to get the hospitality room open, and things started getting better from there. On Monday night we decided to go out for dinner, so we passed the word around to see who wanted to go. We ended up with 30 Rangers and family members. You should have seen the faces on the people at the Texas Road House when we said 45 for dinner. By Tuesday we had a total of 65 Rangers sign in, of which 20 were here for the first time. We had 7 members of the James Gang. By that I mean we had COL Jim James and 7 of the first LURPs - the men who started the unit - what a privilege it was to meet them. That night in the hospitality room you had Bob CARR and Art GUERRERO entertaining everyone till after two in the morning. On Tuesday we told everybody we had a surprise for them. Joseph DILGER had worked out a deal with a corporate sponsor to take everybody out for a dinner cruise on the Ohio River on the Star of Louisville. The bus left the hotel at 17:00 and happy hour was from 18:00-19:00, followed by dinner. Well Joe couldn□t make it, as he was sent out of town on business and couldn□t make it back on time, so he send Dave to coordinate everything and boy did he do a great job. We would like to thank Joe DILGER and Dave and all the CREW of the Star of Louisville for showing us a wonderful time that no one will forget soon. Thanks again Joe for all you did. At the luncheon on Wednesday the guest speaker was MG Michael DAVIDSON. Gen. DAVIDSON was the XO of H 75th in 1970-71, his talk was on the Army today and what

going on in the Middle East and was very interesting. Then Mike BRENNAN gave a talk on our Rangers Association and how it has developed over the last 20 year. And I would like to thank Mike and Bonnie ECHTERLING and George PACCERELLI for all the work they did to get this association up and running and hope you can make it to a reunion soon - we miss you. At the breakfast on Thursday morning Col Pete Booth honored Bob GILL with an award from the 1st of 9th. We also had a very special guest in Joe DILGER□s Mom June - what a sweet lady - she had a lot of stories to tell us about Joe.

All most forgot the Louisville Courier-Journal did a nice story on us the article was written by Maggie A.J. Gilmour you all had to fill sorry for Maggie because Bob CARR and Jim FAULKNER talked her ears off. I know they must have talked to her for six hours.

Bill ANTON spoke to us at the business meeting about the 75th RRA and about increasing our membership and the benefits of belonging to the 75th RRA.

Next years reunion will be in Riverside California from 11-15 July 2007, so start making plans now — the hotel fills up fast.

Here are the names of those who attended the reunion in Louisville KY:

Gair ANDERSON, Bob ANKONY and wife Cathy ,Bill ANTON, Henry AVILA, Roy BERR, Bob Block, Mike BRENNAN and wife Bev, Lewis BRUCHET, Tom CAMPBELL, Bill CARPENTER and daughter Stacy And son Dan, Bob CARR, Harvey CLAYPOOLE ,Howard COBLE, Larry CUTRIS and wife Jeannie ,Michael DAVIDSON, Forrest Decker and Maryann, Leonard DECLUE and wife Marlene, Daniel DEMARA and wife Kathy, Pete DENCKER, James DICKMAN, Sam DIXON and wife Cathy, Alton EADY and wife Sharon, Pete EISENTRAGER, Harry ELSTON, Jim FAULKNER, Stan FREEBORN and wife Danita, Richard GASAWAY and wife Barb, Bennie GENTRY and wife Sandy, Doc. GILCHREST, Bob GILL, Michael GOODING, Art GUERRERO, Ron HAMMON, David KLIMEK, John LEBURN, Cesario LIZARRAGO, Jim MASSENGILL, Doug MATE and wife Debbie, Albert OKKEN, Doug PARKINSON, Ed PARTIN, Keith PHILLIPS AND WIFE Frankie, William POOLE , Bob RAAB, and wife Barb. Dennis RAINE, Jim REGAN and Louis, Dan ROBERTS, Jim ROSS and wife Ellen, Jim JAMES, John SIMONES and wife Joan, Danny SVOBODA and wife Beverly, Daniel TARVER and wife Barbara, Owen TOMLINSON, John TRUMBULL and wife Judy, Jon VARESKO and wife Margie, Terry WANISH, and wife Shan, William WEAVER, Walter WELLS, Barry WHITE, Ken WHITE, Ronald WOOD

This was also an election year the officers for the next two years are:

President: Larry CURTIS, Vice President: Keith PHILLIPS, Secretary: Dave KLIMEK, Treasurer: Doug PARKINSON , Sergeant At Arms: Doc GILCHREST. Board of Trustees: Forrest DECKER, Bennie GENTRY and Walter SEYMOUR



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

Unit Director - David Flores



# “SERGEANTS”

BY: Dave Flores

We all have heard the old saying, “the sergeants run the Army.” There is no doubting the veracity of that statement. As I sit with my thoughts and memories of my time in the Vietnam War, I invariably seem to think of some sergeant with whom I had the great fortune of serving over there. At our unit reunions, the conversation generally ends up talking about one of those sergeants. That’s right, those guys that are the “back bone” of the Army, and have been since man first formed armies. They are the men that showed us what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. The guys that “while always ensuring that the missions were completed” also looked after our welfare. We were never just names or numbers to them, but their personal charges and they took that responsibility and duty extremely seriously.

Though I served with many great NCOs, I will only be writing about four that I served with and got to know well during my tour in Vietnam. Each had something different to offer all the young soldiers. Their leadership styles varied, but they always got the results required. They are all exceptional men; doing a tough job, while also endeavoring to get all of us safely home. With rare exception they succeeded in doing so.

The four sergeants I am writing about are SFC (and 1st Sgt.) Jim Morton, SSgt. Steve Mattoon, SSgt. Mike Sharp and SFC (later Command Sgt. Major) John Tapia. They were all career soldiers that took what the Army gave them (we “FNGs”) and made us into warriors. More than just warriors, they taught us the skills and mentality needed to be “LURPS”.

1st Sergeant Morton: Tall, lean, deep voiced and a man who could put you to shame when it was “PT” time. With his handlebar mustache, he looked as genuine a cowboy as Sam Elliot did. Not a man to mess with at all. We loved how he would challenge any outfit that had the audacity to make “cat-calls” at us while we were on our daily runs around our Lai Khe base camp. He was First Sergeant of F Co/52nd Inf. (LRP), but as often as possible went to the field as a team member on our missions. He took care of us back in base camp, but also excelled in the field. He went with our teams to ensure that the training was getting through to each of us. He always let the Team Leader (TL) run the mission, but it was reassuring to know he was there and ready to lead if needed. His steady rifle was always an asset to whichever team he accompanied. Upon return to Lai Khe, he reviewed the missions with team members to ensure that “lessons learned” were exactly that. He never had any problem getting people to go to the field with him. If you were lucky, Sergeant Morton would pick you for one of his special missions. When I



got an e-mail from him earlier this year, after more than thirty-eight years without contact, I was speechless. A man about whom I had always wondered “where was he and how was he” just suddenly reappeared in our midst. I had always hoped that he got back to “The World” in one piece. Now I knew he had and it was great news!

Sergeant Mattoon: The team I was on worked with his team up in Quan Loi. The two teams worked quite together for quite a while up there. Mattoon loved the field; and he also loved “screwing” with the Green Berets back at Quan Loi base camp. The missions were frequent and some were strictly voluntary. Mattoon was all-Army and also a rebel. Whatever the situation required, he would meet it. He could make the General give up his stars if the team needed them. Hildebrandt (AKA “Giant”) and I linked up with Mattoon in Reno a few

years ago. It was like he had never changed. Still built like a linebacker. He was another one of those sergeants with whom, after nearly four decades, we finally made contact. At dinner, Giant and I raised our glasses to him and said, “Thanks for the lessons you taught us. Thanks for the close in B52 strike; it was a keeper. Thanks for scaring the shit out of us on countless occasions, but always bringing the team back intact.”

Sergeant Sharp: my team leader. He trained his new team with short “walks” around Lai Khe base camp, time at the firing range (and radio training for me). Soon we were doing some short patrols out of Lai Khe. Then we were sent with Mattoon’s team to Quan Loi. Later I would be walking “drag” (second in order-of-march for the team).

Sharp also knew the field quite well and had a lot of field knowledge to pass along to we “cherries”. The F. Co. commander had full confidence in the two teams operating “remotely” at Quan Loi, with Sharp and Mattoon running the show. Sharp taught me the radio procedures far beyond that required of a normal infantry RTO (not surprisingly for a Lurp RTO). We got so that he would just give me a look and I would know what he wanted. He taught me how to be a warrior. I also saw how he took care of his team back at base camp. He had a birthday while I was on his team, I will never forget it! After almost 36 years, Sergeant Sharp contacted us, his old team members. He sent me an e-mail that surprised the hell out of me, but I was glad he did. The man that taught me LURPING! We have yet to meet face to face, but it will happen. As I sit here writing about him, I laugh at our fun times and I also remember those missions that I thought would be our last.

Welcome Home Michel, my brother in arms.

Sergeant Tapia, another man that took teams to the field. Another

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

man that knew how things were done in the field. I never pulled any missions with Sergeant Tapia, but I have often talked with guys that did. Word was, they would go anytime, anyplace with him. They said he was good out there—real good. Not only was he a Team Leader, he was also the F. Co. Training NCO. Anytime he was in Lai Khe between missions, he taught the rest of us land navigation, artillery and air strike procedures, communications procedures, and everything else we needed to perfect in order to survive. I knew him in that base camp setting. I also filled a lot of sand bags for him (he felt it —built character—). He would not let us forget that even in base camp, the war continues. As Tapi often said: —We need to get things done, not sit around with our feet up.— If you served with Tapi, you served —24/7—. Not only did that mentality help me and so many others in the company survive Vietnam, it also served me well for the seventeen months I did at Fort Bragg after leaving Viet Nam. It was all a —cake-walk— once I had met Tapi's standards in Vietnam. CSM Tapia: —Thank you.—

All of these sergeants left the company before my tour was over. They all brought something to the company that made us —TOP DOGS— in the division. What we accomplished as the division —LURPS— was well known. The company had lots of great sergeants: some I knew, and others I did not. They all did extraordinary jobs and I wish I could have written about them. I wish I had known them better.

In closing, these four sergeants all taught me something. They all left something that I would later use in life. To them I say: —I would have gone to gates of Hell with you! We would have knocked then said, We are here to kick your ass—

Gentlemen, I thank you all



*Jim Morton, early 1968, Lai Khe*



*Jim Morton, early 1968, Phu Loi, before move to Lai Khe*



*Steve Mattoon, second from left in ball cap, Lai Khe, 1968*



*L-R, Dogs, Dave Flores, Mike Sharp, Cat, Lai Khe, 1968*



*John Tapia at front of memorial formation for Cohn's team, 1968, Lai Khe*





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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk



Greetings once again to all my Brothers. I turned around and it's August again. I haven't been to all the places I wanted to go nor visited all the people I wished too see so I'll reschedule and try again.

It is a month since our reunion in San Antonio. Don't know about the rest of you but I had a good time. A big Thank You again to Ray Allen, his wife Janice and especially his daughter Stephanie for all the hard work putting it together for us. Is it just me or is it hot in Texas??

Those in attendance were: Ray Allen, Ray Barrio, John Beckett, John Chester, Roger Crunk, Gary Heald, Robert Holmen, James Joyce, Larry Massoloetti, Ed Mateer, Jerimiah Mele, Wayne Mitch, Emmett Mulrone, Ken Nelson, Bill Postelnic, Billy Powers, Jake Raskauskas, Tom Reed, Herb Riechel, Tom Schadagg, Duane Sells, Reuben Siverling, Tom Sove, Bill Stacy, Noble Taylor, Jack Werner, Willie Williams. It was a good crowd for the off year. I was pleased to see so many of the Brigade guys having a good visit with their old comrades.

Gary Heald, Robert Holmen, and Billy Powers were there for their first reunion, it's been thirty-six years since I saw those guys in An Khe. They were all Members of Romeo 18. The fourth member, Mark Estopare was banged up in an auto accident so could not attend. Get well Mark.

Reuben Siverling has volunteered to host our next reunion in 2008 in Kansas City. He has lots of good things planned so put

July 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 in your calendar. Thanks Reuben.

My computer is dead so I've been out of touch for a while. If you e-mailed anything important you should call me on the phone otherwise it's floating around out there in cyberspace. I've asked several people to send John reunion pictures so I'll leave it to him to use what he has space for.

By the time this issue is in your hands we will be bearing down on the holidays again so I'll make our annual appeal for donations to our Christmas fund. In the past we have given one thousand dollars to the Association Christmas Fund so please give as you can. It will all be appreciated by the young Ranger families who need it. You can send your donations to me or to Wayne Mitch.

For those of us who knew David Siglow, Wayne reports that a recent SSN search lists him as deceased in 2002. We have no other details. It highlights one of our primary goals - finding and contacting as many of our Brothers as possible. I don't know of any of us who hasn't had a positive experience when reconnecting with our old comrades. Tom Sove and I will be working on revisiting our old search lists in the near future.

In closing, please hold high those who stand in defense of this Great Nation

Rodger Crunk

K/Co Unit Director



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



**L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP****Unit Director - Ralph Timmons**

BY: Ralph Timmons

Operation Homecoming in Branson, Missouri this past June was the site of the 101st LRP/Ranger Association reunion. We were pleased to have a number of guests from other LRP Ranger units including 75th President Steve Crabtree and his lovely wife, Lori. Based on a number of pictures from my personal files I'd say Steve found the hospitality suite and the banquet facilities sufficient to ensure that he did not suffer from dehydration.

The week was filled with a number of activities associated with Operation Homecoming including golf and fishing tournaments, shows, and my personal favorite- the Dick Clark auto museum featuring a big collection of restored 1957 vintage cars. What a nostalgia trip! Speaking of trips, there were a number of Vietnam era aircraft overflying Branson including Hueys available for rides. I understand some of the wives really enjoyed that feature. Those sounds do bring back the memories.

Among the many visitors were two new good friends of LRP/Rangers Heidi Thiess and Kit Jarrell. These ladies, both former military, host a blog site: [www.euphoricreality.com](http://www.euphoricreality.com). They write about military and immigration issues as well as other red meat topics. Since I am computer illiterate I will not attempt to explain blogging but I encourage you to check out their work. Suffice to say they have reported on an issue of importance to our unit with skill and compassion and we owe them.

Our banquet featured a number of entertaining speakers and performers as well as a lot of good food, fun, and good-natured



finger pointing. As always, our meal included a memorial ceremony to our fallen members. This year we included tributes to all of the units of the 75th RRA including those units currently engaged in IRAQ, Afghanistan, and other places we probably don't know about. In a dangerous world, it is hopeful to know that a new generation of soldiers has taken up the challenge of protecting the ideals of this country we love so much.

Reunions are a part of my year that I look forward too as eagerly as Christmas. It is a chance to see old friends and remember those who are no longer here. It is a time to celebrate the birth of children and lately, grand children. We share our successes, comfort those hurting, and retell a lot of old stories that should never be forgotten. It is hard to comprehend that I passed the forty-year mark of my first trip to Vietnam as a young Marine and in another year or so we will mark the same since Tet 68. Our heroes of WWII and Korea are leaving us in increasing numbers, as they must. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand where that thought takes you. We owe it to ourselves and each other to reach out and to remember. I look forward to seeing all of you and everyone else we can pry out of woods.

In closing, I'd like to personally thank Randy White for serving as our unit Rep for seven long years. It is truly an unnoticed but important task. Randy has also made it possible, through his web site, for people to learn about us and to locate missing brothers. Randy, take that R&R you have earned and get back to work.

**M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP****Unit Director - Steve Houghton**

By Steve Houghton

Having just returned from a honeymoon-reunion trip to Branson, and things being a little slow in the office today, I decided to get an early start on the next unit article.

The reunion was small, as far as the reunions I've attended in the past compare, to say the least. It was mostly L Company — 101st Lrrps that showed up. They had a good reunion. I think the whole "Welcome Home" Branson event was small compared to last year's event, at least that's what the Vets who were there last year indicated to me. It was my first time to Branson, and since Lorraine and I were on our honeymoon, I had a great time anyway! I never had so many people express their gratitude for my service in Vietnam as I did those 6 days I spent in Branson. I took Lorraine on her first "Huey" ride with the "Sky Soldiers". We had a ball!





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

Veterans were given discounts on food, lodging, and other things. The owner of the Dick Clark Theater next door to the Ranger Reception Room came over late one evening and handed out free passes to the show the next day. Branson sure was good to us. If you've never been there before, I say give it a try, there is lots to do there.

As far as our unit's representation went, we had two show up from the 71st Lrrps, Me and Tim Henderleiter, plus our wives Lorraine and Kathy. The four of us had a couple nice days. We went to dinner a couple times and flat out just enjoyed our time together. A couple of the guys I hoped to see, well they just didn't make it this year. I had a nice chat with Terrell Ross before the trip. His plans fell through this time. He is determined to attend the next reunion though. I sure would like to see that man someday soon. I hoped to see David Wolfenbarger this time too, but he couldn't make it either! But since he lives relatively close to Branson, I went down to see him. We got a little lost on our way down, but eventually found Wolf and his lovely wife Susan. I cannot describe how good it was to see David after all these years. We just didn't have enough time to visit. Maybe next time our plans will provide us more time.

I have come to a point in my serving as unit coordinator where I'm running out of things to write about. I know I enjoy listening to the recollections of others. And I've learned a few things about memories and perspective since I took this job.

It intrigues me how memories are so personal and unique. Several people can witness the same event and yet tell different stories about it. And yet they all speak the truth. No one

particular account is absolute, but probably just a part of the whole truth. It's like the Gospel Accounts in the Bible. Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John all wrote about the life of Jesus. They tell different stories about the same event, not contradicting stores, but their recollections, from their perspective. Each account is a

part of the whole picture. My recent visits with David Wolfenbarger and Tim Henderleiter, at the Branson event, have driven that point home to me.

We recalled some war stories from our common experiences, and I was initially amazed at how we remember some of those events and details so differently. I really liked hearing their recollections. They remembered things I didn't see or don't remember at all. Not that it's any big deal, but I have a more accurate understanding of a few things that happened while I was over there than I did. Anyway, my point is I want to hear your stories, and others do too. I'm asking for you individual members out there to send your story to me. I'll try to keep track of news items to include in the unit articles, but you guys write the stories for awhile.

Just one apiece would be great. So send your stories in men, you got till Oct to get one to me for the next article.

If you haven't seen David Wolfenbarger in a while, or myself, well this is what we looked like this past June.

Till next time  
Steve



## N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



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**Eulogy for MSG (Ret) L. Roy Boatman – Born 6 July 1946; died 26 July 2006**

By  
Elaine Westmoreland — Roy's Sister  
Col (Ret) John P. Lawton — Roy's former Commander  
Col (Ret) Dick James — also a former Cdr of N Company  
Roy was a big, rough, airborne, Special Forces, ranger, one-

legged soldier with a big grin, a happy disposition and love of life that his fellow soldiers and friends are familiar with, but there is a real gentle side of Roy: A kind, compassionate, young 14-16 year-old mature beyond his years keeping his family together in times of abject poverty and hunger.

There is Roy the father who takes his young granddaughter to breakfast on Saturday mornings; lets her eat off his plate while no one else it allowed to.

Roy and Joyce and their deep, mutual love affair.

Sons-in-law that deeply admired Roy and tell me they looked to him in many ways as their father.

I saw this side of Roy as his sisters and immediate family talked about him; you could see in these discussions the genuine love and admiration by not just his wife Joyce, but his sisters Faith

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

and Elaine, his children and immediate family.

He was the mainstay of his mother and family in those early years; a youngster possessed of a maturity and understanding, way beyond that of a 16 year old. Couple with all this was the impact on Roy and Joyce's loss of their son Darrell in Iraq (Marine GSGT Darrell Boatman) nine months ago. Surely, we knew the bombastic, rough exterior of MSG Boatman; if Roy Boatman was around, you knew he was there.

I know as I state this, many w/laugh, as he was tough in pursuit of what he believed in and wouldn't hesitate to run through you, to do what he felt was right. Dick James, another former commander and I were aware of this part of Roy and had many a laugh as we talked about it. When Roy was passionate about something — he was passionate like freight train, and get out of the way. We knew this and loved him for it and for us - we had a friend for life. So, what follows is a two part eulogy; one by his sister covering the early family history and Roy and his military career. I haven't changed a word of what his sister Elaine wrote — it is a perfect accolade to Roy from his family.

### Elaine

#### I Remember

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?  
And who will go for us?"  
And I said, "Here am I. Send I!" Isaiah 6:8

I don't remember him making me laugh in pictures taken when I was six month old. But, I can see his face off to the side in one poorly taken shot and I've heard the stories of how my brother took his shoes off and wiggled his toes to produce a smile.

I don't remember him sneaking into the nursery in a Battle Creek, MI orphanage and taking me from my crib. I heard that story all my life too. I was the first person Roy didn't leave behind. Thank goodness the police found us - it was January and, though he had thought to cover me with a blanket, we'd have surely frozen to death. We were separated for a couple of years after that.

What I do remember is his first job setting pins in a bowling alley and using his money to buy our mother a sewing machine. I remember him setting the stairs on fire with a chemistry set. I remember him bringing home paper dolls for me and hiding them - giving me clues in order to search them out because I

needed to know how to solve problems. I remember him walking me to kindergarten for several weeks and then teaching me how to find my own way home, because no one should ever rely on someone else to do for them what they can do for their self.

I remember him brushing our hair and putting it into a ponytail and making sure my sister and I were cleaned up before our mother came home from work. He was fourteen and I was seven.

He taught me how to box so I could protect myself... taught me so well that I knocked unconscious a friend of his when I was eight. He taught me early that physical pain was nothing but a thing and crying wasn't gonna help. He taught me that I needed to DO something when things were wrong - something to make it right.

I remember during times of total chaos in our house and adults would forget to even

feed my sister and I, Roy would come home with hamburgers from local diner to make sure we ate. He would usually leave the house during these times and stay somewhere but he always made sure Faith and I ate.

I remember him teaching me to use my head and to think. He would tell me fantastic stories and, being my big brother, I believed every word he uttered. He would tell me to use my head, that it was not possible to light a match under water like he said he did in order to go swimming when the ponds were covered in ice.

I remember when he joined the Army and his first time home on leave. Thirteen months later, I remember getting to wear my first nylon stockings to the airport to pick him up after returning from Vietnam. I remember him scaring the heck out of me when our mother, not wanting to disturb him and his wife on the night he returned from Vietnam the second time, had me sneak a note up to their front door. From upstairs in his room he had heard a car stop and footsteps on the porch. He flung the door open and I probably got my first gray hair that night at age 14.

I remember the utter panic just two years later when his footlocker showed up on our Vietnam. I remember reading the articles about how he sent other injured soldiers off in the chopper while he stayed behind and tied off his own artery. I remember how he had to fight to stay in the Army and the huge write up when he became one of only two amputees to remain on active duty. The article describes his grin. I guess that's where his son, Darrell got his smile from. I also remember when he all but lost his other leg testing a new square



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

parachute. It should have been removed at the time but he didn't want to be in a wheelchair. That decision left him in constant pain for the rest of his life. He did have to retire from military service this time.

I remember him coaching youth football and softball in the years after that. He believed and taught all of us that it is important to give back to your country and community.

I remember all of us seeing that he was happier than he had ever been in his life when he married Joyce. Happier is perhaps not the right word. He was always happy and smiling, making wisecracks. At peace is perhaps a better description. He had someone who loved him and who he loved with all his heart. That was the difference. His love for Joyce and hers for him changed his life.

I remember the pain on his face as he claimed the body of his youngest son. Ronnie was 21 when he died.

I remember him trying to teach his first grandchild, Jake, to call him GRANDFATHER! □ Jake would reply □ Bob □. This went on for many minutes until he gave up and to this day all 13 of his grandchildren call him Bob-O.

Lots of memories.

His love of dogs, especially Mandrake and Bo. His brotherhood with his fellow soldiers, him showing off his scar from open-heart surgery a few years back. Him making fun of his self when he had a stroke a couple of years ago. How he always called our mother on her birthday while she was alive no matter where in the world he was, including Vietnam. My surprise when reading on the History Channel's web site section on Vietnam that my brother had provided much of the information.

My most recent memories are his incredible pain when his son Darrel died in Iraq last November. His overwhelming pride in the respect his son commanded amongst his fellow Marines. His courage in supporting Darrell's wife, making sure he was there for her and Darrell's children.

Most recently, the wedding. Lynda stopping beside him on her way up the aisle to show off her pedicure. Feet are important when you have no foot on one side and a messed up one on the other.

And I remember that last hug as he left the reception. That last exchange of □ I love you Sister □ and □ I love you, Brother.

Roy passed away June 26th while driving back from an outing and in the company of his wife, Rangers, and friends from the P Company, 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion.

I will never forget.

John Lawton and Dick James

Roy was a character; we don't know of anyone who would debate that. He was twice nominated for the Ranger Hall of Fame. Why didn't he make it? Roy and for that matter his wife Joyce, played a significant role in establishing the Ranger Association, its publication Patrolling, pulling together/establishing the various Ranger Companies in the Association and tying it to the 75th Regiment. The politics of getting all this up and running was difficult to say the least, but Roy played a significant part in getting it done. As stated, he ran right over you if he thought it was right and the establishment of the Ranger Association was right — but not easily accomplished.

I remember Dick James telling me about Roy when we were in the process of changing over the Company (N Co Rangers). He told me that Roy was outspoken; that he was blunt and on occasion appeared disrespectful. I learned that he was just one heck of tough soldier; a terrific trainer who not only trained many of the future team members in the company, but team leaders that lasted well beyond Dick's and my assignment and Roy's multiple assignments to the company.

N Company (Ranger) was an unusual Ranger Company. It was a □small□ Company in type Ranger Companies; it did not have the TO&E of a Corps Ranger Company, nor that of a Division Company, as it was assigned to the 173rd Airborne (Separate). Small or not it had soldiers like Roy; also in the Company were two Medal of Honor recipients (SSG Rabel Lazlo and SSG David Dolby); two, young Sp/4's/SGT's who rose to the rank of Command Sergeant Major (CSM Patrick Tadina, truly one of the most decorated NCO's in the Army and CSM Cupid, who at one time was the CSM of the Ranger School). N Company was a □true□ Airborne Company (it was on jump status, while assigned to the 173rd Airborne) along with the only other airborne Ranger Company in Vietnam — C Company Rangers, the II Corps Ranger Company. There are other NCO's in the company that rose to the rank of CSM, but the point of all this, is Roy's influence on all of them. As early as Oct 1965 through March 1966 he served with the 173rd's LRRP Det, on loan from A/2/502. From Nov 68 through Feb 69 with the 74th LRP's and from Feb 69 to August 69, N Company Rangers. His experience made a significant impact on the organization, readiness and training of the company, and on these highly selected personnel that were already handpicked and above the rest. Roy went on in the LRRP business serving a tour with the 1st Bde of the 82nd LRRP's and one more tour with N Company from November 1970 to January 1971. In sum, he was a highly trained Ranger, highly respected who impacted all of us greatly.

In addition, he served with the 502nd Parachute Infantry of the 101st at Ft. Campbell, the 503rd Parachute Infantry in the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) on Okinawa; the 1st Special Forces Group on Okinawa; the 509th Parachute Infantry in Germany, and the SF Training Group and 705th Military Intelligence



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

Detachment at Fort Bragg.

Roy died of a massive heart attack while driving home with Joyce and two fellow rangers and their wives — Duke Dushane and Roy Barley. He was a great soldier, a real friend who we all miss.

John Lawton  
Dick James

**The following is from Roy Barley of P Company who was with Roy when he died.**

I first met Roy Boatman in 1992 at the 50th Anniversary of the Rangers at Ft. Benning. Roy's baritone voice and his laugh made me wonder who this guy was. As time went on I found Roy to be dedicated to the 75th Ranger Regiment Assoc. and to N/75th with his heart and soul. We developed a strong friendship over the years as we seemed to agree on so many issues. Roy became like a brother to me. Our conversations would always start the same way: "Roy, this is Roy." A few weeks before the P Co. Reunion in Cherokee, SC I gave him a call to make sure he was going and to make some plans for while we were there. Roy was a history buff and there was a play put on by the Cherokee people about their history called "Unto these Hills". Roy was going to the play and invited Duke Dushane and myself with our wives and his wife Joyce along. We thought it would be something to see and looked forward to that night. We all arrived in Cherokee about the same time on the 25th of July and got together for some laughs. Roy was always about laughter and jokes. The next day, the 26th, we got together to go to lunch and went to a small Italian restaurant. Again great conversation and laughs were had by all and we headed back to hotel. At the hotel Roy showed me a multimedia display on his computer dedicated to his late son. He recently found out that a new building at the Special Ops area at Elgin was to be named after Daryl. He was very proud of Daryl. We had a couple of drinks at the hotel and made arrangements to meet later for the play.

We headed out to the play and we wanted to get there early for a pre show that we were told was good. The site was a natural amphitheater and we were in the 6th row down at the bottom of a bunch of stairs. During the time waiting for the play to start and the intermission Roy was his self with that sense of humor and just having a good time. When the play ended Roy headed up the stairs. Coming down the stairs earlier they seemed steep, but looking up the stairs looked daunting. Roy took off at rapid pace and I tried to keep up. I checked with Roy a few time to find out if he wanted to stop and rest but he would not have any part of that. When we hit the Jeep he turned on the A/C and we waited for the crowd to thin. Roy was still joking about some of the Cherokee words that we learned prior to the play. When the crowd thinned enough that we could get going we headed out. Of course we had a few things to say about those people who insisted on walking down the center of the road. Roy was in great spirits and laughing. We made it to the main road,

made a right turn and headed up the street to our hotel. As we crested the hill the car slowed and I saw Roy's hands in his lap. I naturally thought that he was playing a joke and I asked him what the \*\*\*\* he was doing. I grabbed the wheel as we had drifted into on coming traffic and got us into the right side of the road. I turned the jeep off and got it stopped. At that point I saw that Roy was grimacing and was very quiet. I started to give him chest compressions and tried to get him to respond. Duke had gotten the door open and was checking his pulse, which was weak. At that point saw Roy's eyes open just slightly and a slight grin came across his face. A nurse stopped and we got Roy out of the car and CPR started. My wife is a Red Cross instructor in almost all aspects of water safety and first aid to include the new automatic electronic defibrulators. Roy was getting the best of care right from the get go. The paramedics arrived in less than 3 minutes and he was given the medications to start his heart and such. We did not know it at the time but Roy was gone. The paramedics and the doctors at the hospital did all they could for over two hours, but they could not bring him back. Roy went out on his terms. He had told me that he never wanted to linger or suffer in a hospital for long periods of time. Roy had no fear of death. He and I spoke of death many times and we agreed the best way to go was fast and with friends and family. That hot night in Cherokee the lord got a great Ranger on his side and we will sorely miss him. Damn Fine Man.

Roy Barley

**I received this from retired CSM Rudy Teodosio**

When I heard the news, like most of us I was in disbelief. Roy was very instrumental in me joining the Association many years ago, while I was still on active duty. Though, we never met or served together during the same period in the company, we continue to exchange letters, pictures and news clipping of company throughout the years. It was not until I retired from the Army that I finally went to my first ranger reunion at Columbus, GA. The first one to recognize and call me by name was Roy at the door of the hotel extended his hand in friendship and brotherhood right off. Like the awesome NCO he is, he took me under his wing and gave me a frag order on the activities and point me in the cardinal direction where guys of the company would gather and made a point to introduce me to older members of the company that were present at that location.

I shall truly miss his ever-present smile, his commanding presences of friendship and that warm and fuzzy feeling that he was watching your "six" like the Ranger that he is from the beginning.

Like the Ranger he is I have a feeling that he is in a position in the formation still having a good visual of the activities and giving out a good report on all of us.

RLTW,  
Rudy



## O/75 - 78TH LRP

### Unit Director - Michael Feller



# How I Spent My Summer Vacation

By Mike Feller

This summer started with a trip across America . The first stop on my adventure was a visit to Bonduel, WI. We boarded a Great Lakes Ferry at Ludington MI . In a few hours we were on the shores of Wisconsin and headed to Bonduel .

A Former teammate of mine Ross Berkahn met me enroute and guided us to his home After being treated to a fish fry of Walleye, I received several photos from Vietnam including my favorite a team photo taken on the chopper pad . After a good night's sleep we were pointed in the direction of Seattle WA. Thank you Ross and Pam, had a great time

Enroute to Seattle, stops were made at Mt Rushmore and Little Big Horn . After witnessing my sons graduation plus a little R&R from driving it was off to Phoenix and a visit with my father, with the necessary detour past Salt Lake .As we Entered AZ and began our descent from the mountains, each curve in the road meant another 5 degrees, until, the temps were over 110 then the temperature leveled out . While in Phoenix I was afforded the opportunity to visit another teammate. Vietnam was the last place I had laid eyes on Terry Boat. Another nice visit. A short visit with dad and off to El Paso . Enroute to El Paso we decided to try to catch Airborne Bailey Stauffer at home, a few calls and sure enough there he was . After a tour of the Ranch and the Branding Iron Collection we visited with Bailey and his folks than dinner with Bailey and his wife Alean. Another great visit, thanks guys. No time to stay the night, El Paso awaits . Now It so happens that my wife Terry and I Had taken a neighbor lady hostage. Mary had once commented that she assumed the Hill outside Traverse City to be a mountain in as such I assumed that Mary might not be well traveled so we abducted the old broad . How could one pass by White Sands and not visit, so New Mexico here we come. After White Sands and a visit to some old friends in El Paso on to the Alamo. Actually to visit my daughter in San Antonio . Grandkids of course growing . At a t-ball game I ran across another Ranger this one from 2nd Batt . Spoiled the grandkids, then off to Michigan . At a traffic jam out side Chitown we decided to go see old Houser. Another quick call and a set of directions, & there we are Houser's place . Bill and his mother Dee gladly took us in and after yet another quick but rewarding visit ,we started home. We arrived home just in time for the Fourth Of July. but that's another story .....

Last winter I received a call from Susan McQuaid of the United Way of Northwest Michigan, Mrs. McQuaid asked if I would submit to interviews by Traverse City Central High School

students for a history project they were conducting. She explained the project was in conjunction with the Veterans History Project. I agreed and was sent a packet explaining the project, assigning me an appointment, instructions as to navigating the High School as well as a sample questionnaire. Although a bit apprehensive due to the fact the interview was to be recorded for the national archives, I was nonetheless reassured by the professional attitude of the correspondences as well as the approach.

I set off to the interview at the prescribed place and time. Upon arrival I inquired at the desk as to where I should be, a young man promptly approached and identified himself as my guide and a member of MY interview crew. I was taken on an introductory tour of the immediate area and introduced to Mr. Michael McManus and Mrs. Virginia Tegal, and their respective classes, answering a few questions along the way. During the introduction, as throughout the entire interview, I was impressed with the respect and polite curiosity with which I was met, as well as with the demeanor of the entire affair

The only draw back to the entire interview was the nagging feeling that I had not adequately prepared and the interview was probably quite boring. Also that, due to my attendance, one young man was ejected from the class. It seems the teacher was concerned the youngster was trying to disprove the theory that there is no such thing as a dumb question, but I did not catch the infraction, as I was answering another question at the time.

A three-person team consisting of a producer, cameraman and interviewer conducted the actual interview. The question and answer interview lasted about one hour and was quiet pleasant. At the conclusion the interview team and I talked. Congenialities were exchanged and I was escorted to the front office.

I left the school grounds satisfied that I had been well treated and that respect was not dead .The entire experience was in fact quite pleasant. As if the respect and dignity with which we were treated was not enough. Before leaving I was informed there was to be a diner as a show of gratitude for our service and granting the interview.

The veterans History Project at the American Folklife Center in the Library of congress was created on October 27, 2000, by a unanimous vote of Congress and seeks to collect and preserve recorded memories of America's wartime veterans. The project and it's many official partners across the country collect audio and video recorded interviews, as well as letters, diaries, photographs, and other personal documents, from those who served in World Wars I and II and the Korean Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars

Mr. McManus and Mrs. Teal have extended the concept to incorporate allowing high school students the learning experiences involved in a project such as this. Aside from the historical aspect of the project the students most learn to



## O/75 - 78TH LRP (CONTINUED)

coordinate the assets of time and personal and to make the arrangements for room and cameras. They must script and conduct the interviews. The recordings must be processed. Afterwards the plans for a formal dinner with speakers and honored guest must then be laid. Above all Mr. Mc manus informs me the sheer fact that the veterans are relating this information directly to the students gives the student a since of self. The curiosity awakened by the first hand accounts is having a positive effect in an otherwise dry subject. Each year the classes conduct around 25 interviews

As if the hospitality extended wasn't enough pay back enough, a few days later each vet receives a formal invitation to a lunch in his or her honor, said dinner in gratitude for their cooperation as well as their service to the country. The veterans are asked to meet at a parking garage in downtown Traverse City and chauffeured to the High School in a new Cadillac .I mean a NEW caddy, as in never been off the lot. That's classy. This was arranged by Mrs. McQuaid and her husband Tim .At the school

you are meet with an honor guard escorted by your crew along the □Hall Of Honor □. This, The longest hall in the school, is lined with every student in the school all applauding our arrival and wishing us well. The rest of the day consisted of entertainment provided by the students. As well there were veterans speaking of their experience. One Vet, a nose gunner was shot down over Berlin. As he pulled his ripcord he lost conscious and awoke in a Germen POW camp .The other was also rendered unconscious when his tracked vehicle was destroyed he however awoke in an American POW hospital, seems he was not in the proper uniform when reached. And upon seeing the Luger under his arm he was assumed Germen.

In all the entire experience was gratifying. The respectful curiosity exhibited was, in my opinion, well worth the price of admission.



## P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Bill Davis



## “Lest We Forget”

**Lawrence, Johnny Harold SSGT Apr 4, 1971 Nov 24, 1946 Manteno, IL 4W L106**

**Sides, Harold Erwin SGT Sept 20, 1970 Mar 09, 1950**

**Dallas, TX 7W L79**

**Apellido, Raymond Hugh SP/4 Sept 20, 1970 Oct 15, 1940**

**Bakersfield, CA 7W L75**

**Ritchie, Jr. Glenn Garland PFC Sept 20, 1970 Sep 28, 1950**

**Mt. Pleasant, NC 7W**

**Gallina, Anthony Joseph SP/4 Sept 20, 1970 Jan 31, 1952**

**Maplewood, MO 7W L77**

**Gray, Dale Alan SP/4 Sept 20, 1970 Jul 19, 1950 Mesa, AZ 7W L77**

**Neal, William Edward SP/4 March 24, 1971 Nov 08, 1943**

**Martinsville, IN 4W L73**

The Papa Company Family had a great time at Cherokee, NC on July 25 through the 30th. Before I forget I want to take the time to thank a couple of men who without their hard work, this gathering would not have happened. First I would like to mention Ted Tilson. He was our point man when it came to the motel in making the arrangements for the room rates, hospitality room and setting up our Friday night banquet. Ted was there with his wife, Cheri, and his daughters Jennifer and Jessica from Gainesville, GA. His son Mike was there taking up his precious leave time from the Navy. Also accompanying him was his brother □Iron Mike□ Tilson. Why □Iron Mike□? It is

because Mike won Best Ranger competition in 1983. Also pulling point was Larry □the Reb□ Smith, from Ashville, NC. He picked up the little details that helped make the event a success. Also, special thanks to Garry □Photoranger□Norton for the pictures he took.

Before I go any further I want to take a short moment to honor Roy Boatman. As I□m sure as most all of you know by now we lost a great man. While returning from a show put on by the Cherokee Nation he was struck down by a massive coronary attack. It was mercifully swift. This happened while he was with his wife Joyce, and four of his closest friends, Duke and Marion DuShane and Roy and Sharon Barley. He was doing what he enjoyed very much, spending times with other Rangers. We honored Roy□s memory by continuing with our fellowship as that is exactly what Roy would have wanted. Roy, you will be sorely missed!! Remember Joyce in your thoughts and prayers in her time of need.



There were a few who weren't able to stay for the entire event, and a couple that could only make it for a few hours. Mary Rossi OH with her granddaughter Kelsey was able to spend a couple of days with us. It's always a pleasure to have her smiling face around. Redskins pilot Steve Smith was able to spend a few hours with us on Wednesday. It was very interesting to exchange stories from those many years ago. Without those pilots, there would be most certainly be fewer of us around today!! Ed □Camey□ Walters with his wife Mary blew in on their Harley to spend a couple of days with us.



## P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)



We had a good turnout. I am going to mention those that were there. Ken Emmick, MI, Steve Nash, IL Eddie and Terry Hoppe, TX, Jerry and Marlene Cornelius, OH, Clyde and Susan Tanner with their daughter Sara NY, Terry Roderick FL. Eddie and Kitten Johnston with their sons Nick and Mason VA, Terry Bishop, NC, Sammie (Brother G) and Peggy Burnette, VA, Rick Foringer and his friend Margie NY. Like I said we had a good turnout.



With us were Dave Barfield TN, and Rick and Sherie Auten MI (these two came up from F 51st when Papa Company was born). Bobby Hampton was there from TN. While Bobby wasn't

assigned to Papa Company in Vietnam, he certainly is now. For those of you who didn't know Bobby, he was a mess sgt. where we ate. He certainly took care of us. He knew when any team was in the field, and upon extraction, no matter the time of day, that team had a hot meal waiting for us!! Jim Hussey GA, Gregg (Spud) Gain NC, Riley Miller TX, Jim Gates AL, Steve and Linda Loggins NC, Harold and Brenda Buntin TN, also joining us again were Pat Patterson who brought his 91 year old mother, Martha and Lynn Jennings his sister SC.

That rounds out the Company Roster save one. It was an honor to have Cpt. Gary Hall and his wife Patsy join us. He was our first Company Commander. Not only is he a successful businessman from the Orlando FL area, but both he and Patsy



serve as missionaries to Zambia in Africa. He was a wealth of knowledge and was a welcome sight after all these years. He had the opportunity to share their experiences at our Banquet. It was very inspirational.

We also had a brief visit from a very special guest. CSM Merritt showed up Friday night with his wife Elizabeth. He is the CSM of the 1st Battalion, 75th Inf. He told us that he had just returned from his tenth deployment to both Iraq and Afghanistan. He stated that this was his best tour as the Battalion had NO casualties and only 24 Purple Hearts. He is not a chair borne NCO, but regularly went to the field with the troops. He spoke of climbing mountains in Afghanistan and sweeping three story buildings in Iraq. He was certainly a special man, but then again so are the men who serve under him. With men like that defending our Country, I can sleep better at night. There were many stories told into the wee hours of the morning. Thank you and your troops for your diligence!!

We didn't have many events scheduled. There was much to do at Cherokee, from fishing to the shows, and of course gambling. The white water rafting was a great success. Of course there are always hot dogs in the crowd. Cpt. Hall and Ted Tilson decided to be gung ho and dove in, or maybe they were just thrown out. Ted told me his family was laughing so hard that they weren't able to come about and pick him up, leaving that to another raft. It was a chilling experience for both, as the water temperature was about 47 degrees.



The banquet was a good time for all. There was a poignant moment at the beginning of the banquet. There was a Memorial table set up with twenty three candles on it. One for each of our fallen Heroes. As CSM Hussey called the roll of our fallen, a Company member marched from the back of the hall to the table and lit a candle until all twenty-three were lit. Then Taps was played. While it was quite emotional I think it was appreciated by all. Our reunions are for swapping stories, rekindling old friendships, and just sharing each others fellowship, there is one

## P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

more reason for us to gather, perhaps the most important. We gather to pay homage and perpetuate the memory of those in the Company that gave all!!



On that note I want to mention a few more special people. These were the families of some of our fallen Heroes, each showing up for the first time. Bill and Emily Deubner were there. Emily is David Barber's Sister. David was lost with Dowd's Team. Next was Chris Sides who was there with her sister-in-law Dorothy. I want to share part of a message that was sent by her: "It just amazed me to hear so many people that remember Harold so often. Will admit that I wasn't too sure about attending - you made that all disappear in the blink of an eye. After parking the car & going to check in, I had second thoughts & almost turned around & headed north, hey, no one would ever know I wasn't there. At first I thought the reunion would be more for the people who were actually in Nam...thank goodness I saw that wasn't really the case...thank you & everyone for making me feel so darn welcome."

Finally was the family of William Edward Neal. He served a tour with Papa Company, extended and was shot down while serving as a door gunner. His brothers Doug and Don Arthur were there along with his son, Eric Neal. Here are some excerpts of a message received by Doug: "We wanted to drop a line to tell you all how much the Papa Co. reunion meant to Eric, Don and myself. Eric's father, our older brother Sp4 William Edward Neal was shot down in Quang Tri in March of 71. Most of you knew him as Bill. We always called him Eddie. My Mother Passed in 2002. I was blessed to have been able to spend time with her every day of her life. There wasn't a day that went by she didn't have all of you in her heart or on her mind. Pictures out, candles lit or just talking about her boys. For 31 years she mourned her son, but for 31 years all of you kept her spirit going. No matter where we were, what we were doing, somehow or somehow her Rangers were decorated daily by her. At the reunion at Cherokee, the first second Eric, Don and I started meeting everyone, we felt very much welcomed and loved. All of you hugged us and many of you told us you loved us. We truly felt loved. We were honored and humbled to be told we were part of the Ranger family now. You just will never know, all of our

lives you have been as big as life to us. You have been our heroes, men we have always looked up to and respected all our lives. You are and always will be, Men of Honor. You will be in our family for generations to come."

I can't add anything to those messages, they speak for themselves.

Finally, just another reminder that Bobby Turner is still fighting the battle of his life. It is God and his Ranger Spirit keeping him going!! 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



Back Row: Terry Hoppe, Susan Tanner, Sherie Auten, Patsy Hall, Gaynelle Wilson, Chris Sides, Marlene Cornelius, Jennifer and Jessica Tilson  
Front Row: Lynn Jennings and Martha Patterson, 91 years (Pat Patterson's sister and Mother), Kitten Johnston, Brenda Burtis, Bonnie Beckwith, Chris Tilson



## D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Tom Blandford



Hello fellow Rangers, LRP's and LRS's and friends. Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry had our reunion August 11-13, 2006 at Camp Atterbury. One of the purposes of this reunion was to welcome home the 151st LRS that deployed to Iraq as Company D, 1st Battalion 151st Infantry. Congratulations to unit President Loren Dixon and all the people that worked hard to make it a success.

There was a motorcycle run that started from Camp Atterbury's outdoor museum. Although the weather was a little wet there was a good turn out. Doug [Ernie] Hagan claimed no one was injured so it was a good run.

Some played golf at The Legends Golf Course at Flat Rock IN. (Yes, Indiana has a town called [Flat Rock]). Ted Dunn headed it up and also reported that no one got injured.

Hospitality periods were phenomenal successes. The keg was tapped with a hearty round of hooraas. Unfortunately some of us were injured from [friendly play]. None required medical treatment. We had some fun with a group of soldiers from Slovakia being trained at Atterbury and they were given one of our challenge coins as a memento. Just a few decades ago, they would have been our adversaries but, now they are allies.

The banquet was great with about 90 attending. There were attendees from New York (Don Viccaro), California (Jerry Harris and his lovely wife Marsha), and others from Florida and Georgia. Sorry, too many to mention all. Camp Atterbury Post Commander, Col. Richmond told us about all the thousands of troops being trained there preparing them for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the LRS troops spoke about their experience in Iraq last year. We are so proud of them for doing a great job and upholding the tradition of D 151 and the Indiana National Guard.

A raffle for some donated items raised over \$1,400.00 for the D 151 Assistance fund to help those of us that are having severe financial difficulties. If you know of someone from our unit that is in need, please get word to me. We will try to help. If you are able, please consider a tax deductible donation to the fund. *Co. D 151 Assoc. Assistance Fund, c/o Tom Blandford, 5882 Hollow Oak Trail, Carmel IN 46033.*

There was a dedication to 1LT George [Larry] Kleiber by the Indiana Military Academy. He died during our tour in Nam in a helicopter crash just outside our base camp and has the distinction of being the only graduate of the Indiana Military Academy to perish on foreign soil in service to his country. His mother Virginia was presented the 75th RRA Gold Star Mother certificate and pin at the ceremony.

The LRS came through with a helicopter jump demonstration. Most of us old guys would have liked to participate, but there weren't enough ambulances available.

To those of you that couldn't make the reunion, you were missed.

You can still stay in touch though. Send your comments and questions to me.

It was just a great time with lots of both good and hard memories and keeping up with one another. Male bonding, yes we all have [the bond].

Prior to the reunion, D/151 held a Fund Raising Concert, June 17, 2006. The fundraising event at Terry & Yvonne's was to raise funds for D 151 Rangers and LRS Vets, (*Co. D 151 Assoc. Assistance Fund*), that have had a set back and need a hand up and was a huge success. The goal for the night (besides festive fun) was to raise \$1,200. The final tally was \$1,550! Awesome! And with a group like this, festive fun just happens. Those that were partying at the country estate of Terry and Yvonne were: Doug (entertainment) and Pam Hagan (let me sidebar to say that if you haven't heard Doug sing, you really need to go to one of his performances. Terry and Yvonne MacDonald, Don Viccaro, Bill Schoettmer, Ted and Karen Dunn, Steve and Jane Justus, Tom Blandford, Jim Bohanan, John Mason, HC Cross, Denny Wood, Alan Brown, Greg Brown, Roger Mohr, Chuck and Linda Eads, Jim and Kathy Johnson, Phil and Sue Cravens, and of course Pappy. Unfortunately, on Monday there was a huge

storm that blew the crapper over. It was the only damage sustained, but now Terry has to build a new crapper.

Just an update on my leukemia, I'm still ok and not in discomfort. Please pay attention to your own body and if it's telling you that something's not right, get to the doctor.

The next planned event is the Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 11 in Indianapolis. It's on a Saturday so plan on attending. It will make you feel proud of your service to our country.

Tom Blandford — Out

Phone 317-846-6374. Email: [tomblandford300@hotmail.com](mailto:tomblandford300@hotmail.com).



*Mrs. Kleiber receiving the 75th RAA Gold Star certificate from Tom Blandford*



## D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)



Loren Dixon conducting the association meeting



Association meeting.



Unit members with the Lt. Kleiber plaque.

**F/51 LRP**

Unit Director - Russell Dillon



# OPERATION BOXSPRINGS

Operation Boxsprings article is in 2 parts. This first part covers from March 18, 1968 through March 25, 1968. Operation Boxsprings takes up in the same general area where Operation Uniontown III left off. Reconnaissance operations were in the area of the □Catcher□ Mitt□, East of highway LTL16 and North of Bien Hoa. Team operations consisted of long range reconnaissance and trail watch, and ambush missions for the 199th Infantry Brigade. The following is a summary of team missions during March 18, 1968 through March 25, 1968.

**Team 41** was a light 6 man team that was



inserted into their Area of Operation on March 18th at 1713HRS (5:13 PM). At 2123HRS (9:23 PM) Team 41 reported ground fire at gunships 350 meters West-Southwest of the gunship□s position. On March 19th at 0136HRS (1:36 AM) Team 41 reported seeing one suspected Vietcong with dogs 200 to 300 meters approximately South of the teams location. At 1919HRS (7:19 PM) Team 41 reported movement 45 meters Southeast of the teams location. At 1928HRS (7:28 PM) Team 41 reported movement on the river to the teams East. At 2140HRS (9:40 PM) Team 41 reported still having movement on the river to the teams East. On March 20th at 1258HRS (12:58 PM)

## F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

Team 41 reported 1 carbine shot 50 meters approximately East Northeast of the team's location. At 1835HRS (6:35 PM) Team 41 reported movement to the team's East. At 1839HRS (6:39 PM) Team 41 reported a gun-ship was firing 20 meters from the teams position. At 1849HRS (6:49 PM) Team 41 reported they were in what looked like a cache/ storage site. At 1940HRS (7:40 PM) Team 41 reported water cans being filled 200 meters approximately east of the teams location. At 2107HRS (9:07 PM) Team 41 reported hearing metallic clicking noise 300 meters approximately south of the teams location. On March 21st at 0933HRS (9:33 AM) Team 41 was extracted due to a friendly force was going to sweep the area.

**Team 47** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 18th at 1708HRS (5:08 PM). At 1756HRS (5:56 PM) Team 47 reported seeing 2 Vietcong on the West side of the LZ the team had com in on. At 1826HRS (6:26 PM) Team 47 reported 7 Vietcong moving towards the teams location. Contact was initiated and gun-ships made covering passes. At 1840HRS Team 47 was extracted. During the extraction the gun-ships reported receiving ground fire. Results of the contact were negative U.S. casualties and an unknown number of enemy casualties.

**Team 22** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 18th at 1735HRS (5:35 PM). At 1811HRS (6:11 PM) Team 22 reported around the area of the Landing Zone. On March 19th at 1140HRS (11:40 AM) Team 22 reported finding a 55 gallon drum and cans with crude oil in them. On March 20th at 1333HRS (1:33 PM) Team 22 reported many shots being fired about 10 to 20 seconds apart 800 meters approximately North Northeast of the teams position. At 1637HRS (4:37 PM) Team 22 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 50 meters approximately South southwest of the teams position and that the Vietcong had spotted the team. At 1650HRS (4:50 PM) Team 22 reported 2 shots believed to be signal shots 100 meters to the teams South. At 1715HRS (5:15 PM) Team 22 reported that they had destroyed the drum of oil and at 1730HRS (5:30 PM) Team 22 was extracted. Results of the teams mission was finding 1000 4 foot by 7 inch diameter steel rods, 1 inch by 4 foot steel bands, destroyed truck parts, the destruction of five 55 gallon drums of crude oil, 1 NVA entrenching tool, one 5 gallon water can full of oil, and one GI poncho. The team reported that the area was a former cache site destroyed by an air strikes and that a truck was used to haul supplies to and from the Song Be river.

**Team 32** was a light 8 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 18th at 1757HRS (5:57 PM). At 1825HRS (6:25 PM) Team 32 reported movement 40 meters South- Southeast of the teams location. On March 19th at 0038HRS (12:38 AM) Team 32 reported seeing 3 Vietcong 50 meters Northeast of the teams location. On March 20th Team 32 reported negative activity during the day and at their RON (Remain Overnight) location. On March 21st at 1420HRS (2:20 PM) Team 32 reported that at 1330HRS (1:30 PM) the team heard metal banging and movement across the river and that a FAC (Forward Air Controller) in the area was fired on. At

1511HRS Team 32 reported hearing more metal banging and signal shots 100 to 300 meters North of the teams location. At 1540HRS (3:40 PM) Team 32 hearing what sounded like drums being rolled on the ground and the sounds of building. Artillery was called in but was stopped as the shells were falling to close to Team 32. On March 22nd at 0853HRS (8:53 AM) Team 32 was extracted.

**Team 36** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 19th at 1840HRS (6:40 PM). On March 20th at 1623HRS (4:23 PM) Team 36 reported they were in their RON position. At 1930HRS (7:30 PM) Team 36 reported AK-47 and M-2 carbine fire 500 meters East of the teams location. During the next 2 days Team 36 reported negative sightings or activity. On March 23rd at 0933HRS (9:33 AM) Team 36 was extracted.

**Team 42** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 21st at 1633HRS (4:33 PM). At 1641HRS (4:41 PM) Team 42 reported a safe insertion. On March 22nd at 1211HRS (12:11 PM) Team 42 reported their new position. On March 23rd Team 42 reported carbine fire 250 meters East of the teams location. At 1259HRS (12:59 PM) Team 42 reported voices and movement 250 meters approximately North Northwest of the teams location. At 1320HRS (1:20 PM) while Team 42 adjusted artillery fire on the movement that was to the teams North and South the team heard screams to their South. Artillery was fired on the movement until Aloft (air radio relay) was over the area at 1412HRS (2:12 PM). At 1445HRS (2:45 PM) Team 42 made a sweep of the area where the screams were heard. At 1505HRS (3:05 PM) Team 42 reported significant movement. At 1528HRS (3:28 PM) Team 42 reported they were receiving enemy fire into their position but the team was told not to return fire as there was a shortage of gun-ships at the time. At 1527HRS (3:27 PM) Team 42 reported spotting 2 Vietcong and had Vietcong all around their location. At 1538 gun-ship started making their runs to support Team 42. Team 42 was extracted on March 22nd at 1549HRS (3:49 PM). After the extraction artillery was called into the area with unknown results.

**Team 21** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 21st at 1713HRS (5:13 PM). At 1727HRS (5:27 PM) Team 21 reported a safe insertion. On March 22nd at 1012HRS (10:12 AM) Team 21 reported finding a possible water resupply point. At 1035HRS (10:35 AM) Team 21 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 30 meters West of the teams location and had movement to the South and southeast of their location. At 1104HRS (11:04 AM) Team 21 reported Vietcong came out of the brush to the West of the teams location and went back into the brush. At 1300HRS (1:00 PM) Team 21 reported movement 30 meters to the teams West. At 1323HRS (1:23 PM) Team 21 reported movement coming towards them at 25 meters approximately Northwest of the team's position. At 1330HRS (1:30 PM) Team 21 requested gun-ships and at 1343HRS (1:43 PM) a reaction force was requested. At 1355Hrs (1:55 PM) Team 21 reported that during the night before the team heard pots and pans banging and saw flashlights to the team's West and what

## F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

sounded like someone taking a bath in the river. At 1408HRS (2:08 PM) an LFT drew ground fire 1500meters Southeast of the teams location. At 1425HRS (2:25 PM) Team 21 reported 2 Vietcong, 1 was wearing black PJ's and the other had green fatigues in their vicinity, moving from the North to the South. At 1432HRS (2:32 PM) a reaction force was inserted and at 1451HRS (2:51 PM) the reaction force and Team 21 had linked up and swept the area with negative results. At 1706HRS ( 5:06 PM). Team 21 and the reaction force were extracted.

**Team 46** was a 5 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 21st at 1623HRS (4:23 PM). Team 46 reported seeing 2 Vietcong on the riverbank just North of the team's location. At 1637HRS (4:37 PM) Team 46 reported movement to the teams South. At 1644HRS (4:44 PM) Team 46 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 75 meters East of the teams location. At 1657HRS (4:57 PM) reported movement approximately 100 meters South of the team's location. At 1706HRS (5:06 PM) Team 46 was extracted. During the extraction the extraction helicopters receive ground fire. After the extraction the gun-ships fired up the area and 36 rounds of artillery were fired into the area.

**Team 46** was a 5 man light team that was reinserted into another area of their Area of Operation on March 21st at 1710HRS (5:10 PM). Team 46 reported the area had been recently used. At 1717HRS (5:17 PM) Team 46 reported a rifle shot at an unknown distance approximately East of the team's location. At 1740HRS (5:40 PM) Team 46 reported movement 100 meters approximately North Northeast of the team's location. At 1806HRS (6:06 PM) Team 46 reported movement 70 meters East of the team's location. At 1807 (6:07 PM) Team 46 reported movement 90 meters approximately South of the team's location. At 1818HRS (6:18 PM) Team 46 reported that all movement was 50 meters from the team's location. At 1835HRS (6:35 PM) Team 46 reported movement was all around the team's location and closing. At 1837HRS (6:37 PM) Team 46 was extracted and 140 rounds of artillery were fired into the area.

**Team 34** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 23rd at 1500HRS (3:00 PM). At 2031HRS (8:31 PM) Team 34 reported lights to their North and South and that a flare went up 25 meters Southwest of the teams location. The scout that was with the Team 34 said that there were many Vietcong in the teams area. At 20332HRS (8:33 PM) Team 34 reported sighting many Vietcong around their location at a distance of 25 meters. At 2042HRS (9:42 PM) the extraction helicopters and gun-ships were airborne. Many lights were seen in the area by the C&C (Command and Control) Helicopter as it approached Team 34's location. At 2103HRS (9:03 PM) Team 34 reported an estimated company or larger unit was around the team. At 2126HRS (9:26 PM) Team 34 reported that when the C&C helicopter left the area the Vietcong turned the lights back on. At 2127HRS (9:27 PM) Team 34 reported the Vietcong were at their perimeter. At 2154HRS (9:54 PM) Team 34 had blown their claymores and were headed towards the LZ. After Team 34

was extracted artillery was called into the area with unknown results.

**Team 37** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 22nd at 1615 HRS (4:15 PM). During the 23rd Team 37 had negative activity. On March 24th at 1055HRS (10:55 AM) Team 37 reported seeing 3 Vietcong who also saw the team 50 meters approximately West of the teams location. At 1122HRS (11:22 AM) Team reported they were receiving sniper fire, had blown their claymores and were preceding to the LZ. At 1126HRS (11:26 AM) Team 37 reported that they were in heavy contact. At 11:28HRS (11:28 AM) Team 37 requested a reaction force. At 1131HRS (11:31 AM) Team 37 reported that there were 3 to 5 Vietcong and that the team had negative casualties. At 1135HRS (11:35 AM) gun-ships began making their gun runs to cover Team 37. At 1136 a reaction force from TRP 3/17 CAV was en route to Team 37's location. The Vietcong were were in a clump of trees with open ground around them. At 1141HRS (11:41 AM) a combat tracker team was requested. At 1155HRS (11:55 AM) the C&C (Command & Control) helicopter reported seeing a large dog running around. At 1204HRS (12:004 PM) the reaction force had landed and began to sweep Southeast to Team 37's location. The sweep was completed with negative results and Team 37 was extracted on the 24th at 1600HRS (4:00 PM).

**Team 26** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 24th at 1417HRS (2:47 PM). At 1742HRS (5:42 PM) Team 26 requested 1 round of artillery for registration purposes. On March 25th at 0349HRS (3:49 AM) Team 26 reported movement 40 meters West of the teams location. At 0415HRS (4:15 AM) Team 26 reported movement 40 meters approximately East of the teams location. At 1512HRS (3:12 PM) Team 26 sent out a 2 man reconnaissance around the teams perimeter. At 1539HRS (3:39 PM) Team 26 reported that the reconnaissance spotted 4 Vietcong across a North South trail. At 1551HRS Team 26 reported movement 150 meters West of the teams position. At 1659HRS (4:59 PM) Team 26 reported movement to their North, East and West from 50 meters to 100 meters. At 1659HRS (4:59 PM) Team 26 reported movement was 35 meters from the teams position. The Vietcong were sweeping back and forth to locate the teams location. At 1755HRS (5:55 PM) Team 26 reported being in contact. At 1806HRS (6:06 PM) gun-ships began to make their gun runs. At 1806HRS Team 26 reported that there were Vietcong on the LZ. At 1817HRS (6:17 PM) Team 26 blew their claymores and moved to the LZ. At 1821HRS (6:21 PM) Team 26 reported being in contact again at their LZ. At 1828HRS Team 26 reported that there was a secondary explosion when the gun-ships hit the area. At 1831HRS (6:31 PM) Team 26 was extracted with negative US casualties. One Vietcong was believed killed. The Vietcong were wearing black pajamas with floppy hats and moving along the North South trail. There was also a bunker complex a hill by the teams reconnaissance area. Team 26 also reported that on March 25th they had heard a large generator and trucks.





## LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

### Mike McClintock, Unit Director

The 3rd ID LRRP Detachment offers its condolence to the Boatman family on the passing Ranger Roy Boatman. Roy served with our old detachment first-sergeant, CSM Gerald M. (Mike) Tardif (Ret.) and was instrumental in getting the 3rd ID LRRPs to join the 75th Association. He will be missed.

There's not been a lot going on with the 3rd ID Lurps, we've kind of drifted apart over the last several years. I maintain e-mail and telephone contact with some of our guys, but the rest just seemed to have Escaped and Evaded without leaving a follow-up address. If any of you are out there and haven't heard from me in a while, give me a shout (650) 341-7331 or e-mail me at [oldlrrp62@aol.com](mailto:oldlrrp62@aol.com). How about it Cal Henderson or Bill Kampe, or any of the rest of you guys?

### Irish Rangers

In July, my wife, Gloria and I took a two week tour of Ireland. During an informal conversation with our tour guide over pints of Guinness in a pub in the south of Ireland he began to talk about Army Rangers. As it turned out, he was born in Northern Ireland near where U.S. Army Rangers trained in WWII, so he developed his interest at an early age. This is something I need to follow up on, as I knew about Rangers being trained in Scotland, but Rangers training in N. Ireland was new to me.

More on this in a later issue, but what I did discover was that for over 300 years Irish soldiers have played a leading role in the British Army's actions around the world. Volunteers from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are serving today as British Army Rangers. Going back to the Connaught Rangers (The Devil's Own) and the Royal Irish Rangers, today's British Army Rangers continue to display their own unique, and typically Irish, style of soldiering. Ferocious in battle, their reputation is enriched by their spirit of fun and adventure. From Waterloo to the battlefields of D-Day, from Korea to Kosovo, from India to Iraq, the Irish soldier has cleared the way. Sadly, as of 2006, the Royal Irish Rangers have been integrated into the Royal Irish Regiment but nonetheless maintain their vanguard Air Assault role. The Rangers vehemently defend their title of Rangers, distinguishing



themselves as ready volunteers to go straight to the front and continue the traditions of Irish soldiers within the British Army.

The Republic of Ireland (Eire) also maintains a Ranger unit. The Unit is officially designated *Sciath n Fian glach an Airm*, which is translated as *the Army Ranger Wing*. There is no

direct English translation of the term *Fian glach* so the designation Ranger is the accepted version. *Fian glach* links the traditions of the 'Na Fianna' (Legendary Irish Warriors) with the present day Irish Defence Forces (*Fian na h-ireann*). Qualified members of the unit wear the *Fian glach* shoulder flash insignia.

Beginning in the late 1960s, the personnel from the Irish Defense Forces were sent to take part in the U.S. Army's Ranger School. Graduates of this program returned to Ireland and established a new school, very similar in mission and organization to that of the U.S. Army. By 1980, it was decided that the skill level of the members had evolved to a degree which warranted the establishment of an official Army Ranger Wing (ARW). The missions of this unit are multiple, including long range patrolling, training of other units, VIP security, anti-hijacking, hostage rescue, and counterterrorism.

Unit strength is approximately 100 men who are organized into two assault platoons, a support platoon with medical, EOD, aviation, etc. Each of the assault platoons has five assault teams of 3-4 men each. These men are all volunteers, selected from other units already serving with the Defense Forces. Advanced tactics are taught in parachuting, combat diving, small boat handling, and mountaineering. Interestingly, ARW members are returned to their original units after a set period of time, thus ensuring their expertise will be shared throughout the Defense Forces. The Ranger Wing trains with other SOF groups around the world, including US Army Rangers, the U.S. Army's Delta Force, British SAS, Australian & NZ SAS, GIGN, GSG9, Dutch Commandos, Royal Dutch Marines and the Swedish Special Forces.

Later on, in Galway our guide booked us into the Petra House B&B. The owner of the B&B, Frank Maher, is a former Irish Ranger. So if you ever get to Galway and are looking for friendly place to stay, book your room at the Petra House and tell Frank that you are a Ranger and that McGeek sent you.





## ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Mike Martin



### Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

My South: the taste of cold iced tea, smells of freshly mown grass and hot surfaced roads following afternoon rain showers, the fragrance and beauty of twining morning glories and tall arrays of hollyhocks; all this engulfs me as I write this article in the heat of another southern summer. I would surmise a boyhood summer not unlike the fictional ones of Tom Sawyer or Huck Finn.

Too, recollections of flat army parade fields, spit-shined jump boots and tailored starched khakis, with heat waves reflecting from weapons and brass instruments of military bands; the revolving ceiling fans in silent barracks as taps echoes through the night and, at times, images of an Asian country called Vietnam—a summer that has all the vicissitudes of the past.

### RANGER ADVISOR REUNION (BDQ)

Reunions are kind of like old moss on the north side of a tree; they keep you oriented and going in the right direction—they are the ties that bind, so to speak.

The personal experiences of individuals fade into insignificancies in the overall magnitude and scope of warfare if we are complacent about our lineage and our accomplishments; military reunions maintain the tangible evidence of our deeds and our shared sacrifices—they are embedded in our military traditions. Nostalgia, parables of valor, camaraderie—all are the essence of joining ranks, year after year.

The U.S. Army Ranger Advisors are insuring their reunions are both meaningful and enjoyable. This was evident at the one held on 11-14 May 2006, in Helen, Georgia, as we joined with the Vietnamese Ranger Association (BDQs) of Georgia, the Mountain Ranger Camp Association and members of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion to honor our past and those who served and fought with the Biet Dong Quan. Enclosed in this article are photos of some of those who attended.

### U.S. ARMY RANGER ADVISOR REUNION 2008

We have selected Chattanooga, Tennessee as the site for our next reunion (24-28 April 2008) at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Holiday Inn. We have received the city's personal invitation for the U.S. Army Ranger Advisor's (BDQs) Military Reunion to meet there—it is a city that honors and embraces the military veterans—the National Medal of Honor Museum of Military History is located in Chattanooga.

Now is the time to start making preparations to attend; support our association and your fellow Co Vans by attending and making this the best reunion yet.

### BIET DONG QUAN MEMORIES By BDQ Allen Imes

Dear Mike,

I received my Patrolling Magazine yesterday and enjoyed every bit of it. I am going on 72 so I do not find too many names of my old cohorts I served with back in 1962-63 at Duc My except for one very fine Ranger, Walt Sanders, and my Vietnamese counterpart and good friend (then 1st LT) Hong Ngo. I guess there's not too many of us left. As I am a new comer to the Association, I don't know how much of those earlier Ranger days are actually recorded. Most of what I read gives a passing mention to it and goes quickly on over to the more exciting and active combat years. I have forgotten so much myself over the years but I know there were some interesting and challenging experiences back in the Viet Cong, man trap, booby trap and punji stake days! I can honestly say that those days with the Biet Dong Quan well prepared me for other tours as an A Detachment Team

leader with the 5th Special Forces Group and again, as a member of Detachment B-56, Project Sigma with SOG.

One experience that came to mind while reading the magazine pertained to Major

Daniel Baldwin who was advising a Biet Dong Quan unit. I was a young 1st LT and got easily excited about almost anything. I didn't know Major Baldwin but in 1962 he was well known by a couple of the senior



Rangers at Duc My. *Rangers Don Stafford (left) and MG Edison E. Scholes (right) with their wives at the BDQ Reunion, Helen, GA.*

was in the hospital at

Nha Trang, so we put together a convoy of jeeps and escorts and traveled the 45 minutes, or so, to Nha Trang to visit him. I think he had walked into a bunch of punji stakes. While at the hospital, we told Baldwin we had found an old French hotel across the street from the beach and that was where we were staying. I believe it was called the Grand Hotel. Major Baldwin allowed as to how he hadn't had anything good to eat, or drink, since he had been in the hospital and planned on slipping out to join us that night. We were well into some war stories, a few Ba Mui Ba's and whatever else we were eating, when a couple of MP's came through the door looking for Major Baldwin. He was pretty easy to spot as he still had on some of his hospital attire. They approached him and requested he join them to return to the hospital. When he refused, the MP's had to get a little firmer

## ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)



**Doug Perry and his wife, Terry, at the BDQ Reunion in Helen, GA. Terry is awed by Doug's articulate prose.**

with him. Dan Baldwin tried unsuccessfully to put a guilt trip on the MPs but they stuck to their mission of returning him to the hospital. They argued but the MPs won and they gently assisted Baldwin out of the building. It was a hilarious scene but Baldwin's last line as

he reluctantly gave in to the MPs left us all rolling on the floor with laughter as he was heard to say "all right, all right, I'm going but I want you SOB's to know that I've been AWOL from better hospitals than yours lots of times."

## RANGER ROY BOATMAN

The Ranger community is experiencing an emptiness with the death of Roy. In his terms as president of the 75th Ranger



**Rangers L to R at the BDQ Reunion: Jack Daniel, Walter Gunn, Doug Perry, and Willard Langdon.**

Regiment Association, he always found solutions not excuses; a trait of professionalism.

I recall our service together in the 509th Airborne in Mainz, Germany and his support of the U.S. Army Vietnam Ranger Advisors. Our berets are off to him and his family; Soar with

the Eagles, Roy

46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIET DONG QUAN (VIETNAMESE RANGERS) 1960-2006, REUNION The Vietnamese Ranger Reunion, 46th Anniversary, was celebrated in Atlanta, Georgia on the 20th thru 23rd of July. The Vietnamese Ranger Association of Georgia, and its President, BDQ Nguyen Tan Dung, hosted the event. Highlights were: A visit to Camp Frank D. Merrill with a welcome by LTC Michael Pemrick and CSM Glenn Legg; a visit to Fort Benning, Georgia; an evening dinner at the Happy Valley Restaurant in Atlanta on Saturday 22nd July several Co Vans from our membership were in attendance, including Bob Reitz, Doug Perry, Earl Singletary, Allan Imes, and myself.



**Co Van Bob Reitz, trying to explain to his wife why he had her show up two hours early at the 5th Ranger Training Battalion's Open House. Bob, try Xin loi vo, toi den tre.**

## AN EPOCH OF THE PAST

There's a new kind of rickshaw in Hanoi, by the way. It's the bicycle rickshaw. Painted a midnight-blue, and with a seat more spacious than that of the old type, it is truly of an elegance. The passenger sits in front, with an uninterrupted view of the passing scene and the coolie in back, pedaling violently as he propels his customer over the cobbled streets, the paved roads, and the dirt roads, that go to make up Hanoi, and at a much greater speed than the old-fashioned rickshaw boy (man) could produce.

This historic glimmer of Indochina was written by Nicol Smith, in 1939

while making a journey on the Burma Road. Hum, seems like I rode in the same ones, in 1965, time marches on. GIs called them *cyclos*, the Vietnamese say ricksaw (xe tay) or *pedicab* (xich lap).



**Ranger Advisors Walter Gunn (l) and Bobby Jackson.**

## CONTEMPLATIONS

A peasant must stand a long time on a hillside with his mouth open before a roast duck flies in. Chinese Proverb



**Dan Baldwin while serving as an Advisor to the Vietnamese Airborne; as Imes article stated, Dan was an Advisor to the Biet Dong Quan in 1962. He had fought in Korea with the 187th RCT. Dan died a few years ago.**

The operation of spies, saboteurs and secret agents are generally regarded as outside the scope of national and international law. They are, therefore, anathema to all accepted standards of conduct. Nevertheless history shows that no nation will shrink from such activities if they further its vital interests.

Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery

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

Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit Director



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)



*R Mah Trang (left, from San Jose) and Ranger Mike Martin at the Black Tiger table for Fallen Warriors, May Reunion.*



*Hildegard Martin (center) with several of the Vietnamese wives group at a rally in Dallas, Texas on 29 April 2006.*



*Ranger Advisors (L to R) Buck Allen and Jerry Devlin at the Co Van dinner. Both were severely wounded in action with the 44th BDQs, circa 1965.*



*Vietnamese Rangers from the Biet Dong Quan Association of Georgia attend the May Reunion and the 5th Ranger Training Battalion's Open House at the Mountain Ranger camp.*



*Brotherhood of Ranger Advisors (Co Vans) at the May Reunion, Helen, Georgia; from left: Jim Waters, Joe Corino, Bill Miller and Wally Crain. All served with different BDQ units at different time periods.*



*The President of the Vietnamese Ranger Association of Georgia, BDQ Nguyen Tan Dung (Right) and another member stand by the gravesite of Ranger Advisor and Ranger Instructor Mike Smith at Mike's burial site within the Ranger Camp at Dahlonga, GA.*



*Left to right: Ranger Advisors Bob Reitz, Earl Singletary, and Doug Perry at the 46th Anniversary of the Vietnam Army Ranger (1960-2006) on 22 July 2006, Atlanta, GA.*



*Legendary BDQs LTC Ngo Minh Hong (L) and Colonel Nguyen Thanh Chuan (R) with Director Army Rangers Advisor Mike Martin, at the 46th BDQ Anniversary on 22 July 2006. Col. Chuan was with the French forces as a member of the Vietnamese Airborne (Battalion Parachutiste Vietnamien) from 1952 to 1960; he designed all the Ranger insignia, the Ranger diploma and the Vietnamese Parachute Badge. LTC Hong was the Commander of the 5th Ranger Group and was severely wounded at An Loc.*



*46 nam thanh lap Binh Chung Biet Dong Quan, Quan Luc Viet Nam Cong Hoa*



*46th BDQ Anniversary Dinner: BDQ LTC Ngo Minh Hong in uniform and Col Allan B. Imes recall their service together in 1962; both were young officers and credited with laying out the jungle camp at the Duc My Ranger Training Center. Mrs. Imes is seated next to Hong.*

# T A P S . . .

## **James R. Anderson, 49 years old, died June 28, 2006.**

a victim of a homicide. Born in Altoona, PA, he lived in Lynn, MA at the time of his death. Jim Anderson served in the 1st BN, 75th Ranger Regiment and the 7th Special Forces Group, from 1980 thru 1985. He attained the rank of Sergeant. He was involved in a number of rescue missions in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Honduras and Iran. He was an advisor in Central America for 21/2 years.

## **Roy Boatman**

Roy Boatman died of a massive heart attack on Wednesday night, July 26<sup>th</sup> just three weeks after his 60th birthday. He was returning from a play with Duke and Marion DuShane, Roy Barley and his wife and Joyce. Roy was in great spirits, cracking jokes and having fun with people. It was a nice production and was enjoyed by all. Roy's humor shone thru the area and people that he did not know were cracking up at comments he made after the show. On the way back to the motel Roy's hands slipped off the wheel. Roy Barley managed to right the car in its lane and turn off the ignition. Attempts were made to revive Roy by Duke and Roy Barley. A nurse and a police officer showed up almost immediately and took over resuscitation. He was taken to the hospital but further attempts to revive Roy were unsuccessful. He did not suffer and did not linger.

Roy served twenty years in the United States Army retiring as a Master Sergeant. He served four tours in Vietnam, two with November Company Ranger, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry, one in Special Forces and one with the Infantry. He was awarded four Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with □V□ Device, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal with □V□ Device. Roy served five Presidents of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association for over eleven years as the Association Secretary.

Roy's son Darrell was KIA in Iraq last November and another son, Ronald, died some years ago. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, three daughters, two sons and thirteen grandchildren. He is also survived by his Ranger Family and many other military friends. The family has asked, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Memorial Fund, c/o Shiela Dudley-Boatman Fund, 108 Salisbury Road, Savannah, GA 31410.

Roy was a great Ranger and a great friend. He will be missed by all.

### ***Rangers Lead The Way!***

Stephen C. Crabtree, President  
75th Ranger Regiment Association



*Roy Boatman*

## **David Ambrose Flannery, died May 16, 2006, age 56 years.**

Like too many of our brothers, Dave departed suddenly and at a relatively young age. Dave came to the 2nd BDE, 4th INF DIV LRRP□S as a PV2 and left K/75 (Ranger) as a SSG E-6. In 13 months, Dave pulled in excess of 50 missions. During the course of the missions, Dave was wounded three times and was awarded 2 Bronze Stars with □V□. After his third Purple Heart, Dave refused to take a job in the rear, preferring to stay in the field with his men. Dave started out as a Recon LRP team leader, but after the mission became more aggressive after a change of Company Commanders in mid 1970, Dave adapted very well to his new role as an ambush team leader. Dave always made time to be a mentor, role model and to train his men and to help others. He will be remembered as an individual who would stay up reading □till 0300 and be ready to run at 0500. He was also our 1st Vice President□s, (Bill Bullen) first Team Leader, quite a job in itself.

David Flannery was also an exemplary husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Linda, and two sons, both of whom became Marines, and a daughter-in-law, Becky.

## **Terry (Mike) Wade, 2nd BDE, 4th INF DIV LRRP**

Died at home after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife Anna, and sons Steve, Paul and Alex and six grandchildren.

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

# MERRILL'S MARAUDERS



## MARTY MARTIN'S NHPUM GA STORY

It was during the Nhpum-Ga battle and my radio team and I had dug a 4 feet deep and 6x6 wide fox hole. Smally was operating with a Cpl. from Maine (can't think of his name) and I was standing outside the hole. When chopping noises came across the field, a muleskinner asked. "Who would be chopping wood in this hot sweaty weather?" I gave it a little closer attention and told him I thought someone was chopping his way through the bamboo grove. The skinner said yeah, a lot of somebody's!

The transmitter generator was grinding up a storm that could be heard all the way back to base. I figured that the Japs must be trying to get us from behind. The second muleskinner was a little Indian from Montana, and after listening for a moment or two. He said he thought it was about five guys chopping out there and if I was a Jap, I'd be trying to hit you guys from behind; you can hear that generator for miles around!

I called for Tony (he was my runner and in addition could procure anything we needed) and I told him to get to Col. Beech and to tell him what's going on and that we need a B.A.R. man here A.S.A.P. and don't stop for anything. Keep moving! If you should see Sgt. Ballard, we could sure use him about now! (Ballard was the Sgt. In command and though he was not an operator, he certainly kept our equipment in good condition. He could take a radio apart and reassemble it with his eyes closed). He was always up front with the guys. I ran the show with his blessing. By the way, he carried the biggest backpack in the company! With the chopping closer and louder, I was getting worried! Here we were. 4 radiomen, 2 muleskinners, 3 guards, Tony and myself, 11 men against what? I shut down the generator and told the muleskinners to move the mules away, and stacked all the loose equipment behind trees. Radio equipment is too heavy to carry. So we laid the transceiver on its side. I told the guys to gather all the ammo they had and get into the radio hole! They moved pretty fast when I shared what I thought was happening. Just as we settled in, Tony returned with a B.A.R. man. He acknowledged how things were secured and said he wanted to be in the center of the hole with 2 rifle men on each side with the other men on the ground on either side of the hole and shoot about 2 feet above the ground on my order. I placed myself next to the B.A.R. man. He had about 40 clips of ammo with him and a helper with an M1 rifle he checked our positions on both sides and said on count of three start shooting and sweep

from that tall tree on the left side to the palm tree on the right, The guys on my right, start shooting from the right. The guys on my left start shooting from my left. Sweep to the middle and back to where you started. When he felt the Japs were close enough, he started the count, One! Two! Threeeee!

Let me say, nothing sounds sweeter than a B.A.R. blasting away at the enemy. He was firing full blast, followed by 12 M1's making one hell of a racket. We were loading so fast, all I remember is the clink, clink, and clink as the clips jumped out of M1 rifles. We probably fired about 6 clips each. We fired for at least a minute (seemed a lot longer). The B.A.R. man ceased firing and an eerie silence fell like a rock. The barrel of my rifle was so hot I couldn't touch it. We sat perfectly still for about 5 minutes. Starting to breathe regularly again, the B.A.R. man said I'll stay until midnight, then I have to hit the trail to help the gang.

We passed the night far from relaxed. No hot supper, no smoking, and no generating. No moving about, no snoring. The skinner quietly fed mules and returned to the radio hole where we huddled, alternating naps, but alert through the night. When dawn broke, the B.A.R. man was still with us. I told him, he did one hell of a job with that gun! He said a B.A.R. man is no good with out rifles at his side and that we deserved just as much credit as he did. He told me that he was going across the meadow to see what was going on. My big polish muleskinner said. I'm going with you! The B.A.R. man borrowed my rifles and they disappeared across the field into the jungle.

Three hours passed with no word or sight of them. I feared they had been bushwhacked. I told the men to return to the hole and the skinner to move the mules out of harms way again. There we were in the hole, rifles at ready, and the B.A.R. mans helper with the B.A.R. ready to fire, when we saw them break out of the jungle toward us. I heaved a sigh of relief. They had retrieved a couple of bloody leggings, bandages, and a canteen with 2 bullet holes and confirmed our assessment of the situation. A lot of bamboo had been cut and about a platoon of Japs had attempted to hit us from behind. I guess we inflicted quite a few leg wounds, because most of the bamboo had been used to make stretchers with shirts.

When Sgt. Ballard came waltzing back and sat next to me at the edge of the hole. He noticed all the shell casings and said, "what the hell you guys been doing? Target practicing?"

*Marty Martin, Radio section, Orange Combat Team*





## ASSAULT ON MESSINA, SICILY

The following is what you did not read in the newspapers, hear on the radio news, or see on the movie news reels in August 1943. It was also left out of the movie ☐Patton☐ and you never saw it on the History Channel. This piece reveals who was first to enter Messina. It is possible you may find this piece contradictory to what you have read previously. It also defies history as it relates to the liberation of Messina.

The 3rd Ranger Battalion under the leadership of Col H. Dammer invaded Sicily at Licata. Liberated Agrigento, Port Empodocile, Monteparto and a number of smaller villages. Then finally, a hundred miles of marching and fighting over treacherous mountains, to Messina.

The 3rd Rangers came down from the rugged mountainous interior of Sicily and prepared to walk to our next jumping off point. Approximately sixteen miles down the Coastal Highway, where we could get rid of our pack animals and replenish our supply of rations and ammunition. During the last foray we were living mostly off the land. Green grapes...

One of the Signal Section persons said he did not think old Whitey would make it to our next assembly point ☐What should he do with him?☐ he asked. ☐We cannot leave him here in the hot sun without food or water,☐ I replied. ☐On the way you might find a nice spot to drop him off. If not, you know what to do with him.☐

The Coastal Highway was covered with wrecked military vehicles, dead enemy soldiers, and animals. A shiny gold wristwatch was glistening in the sun. Tempting all that walked by. None tried to remove it, that body had been lying in the hot sun and was ready to burst. When we arrived at the assembly point, I noticed old Whitey, our donkey, was still with us. ☐What happened to Whitey, looks like he could go another ten miles,☐ I remarked. ☐just before we left, I gave him a handful of benzedrine tablets and he came through like a War Admiral,☐ Elliot replied.

The Sicilian campaign was nearing the final stage. With the liberation of Messina, the campaign will be over. The 3rd Ranger Bn, under the command of Col Dammer, picked up their gear and started on their way up the mountainous interior of Sicily. It was mid-August, the temperature was one-hundred degrees, or more.

The 3rd Ranger Bn was on their way to Messina. General Patton with his Division was approaching Messina along the West Coastal Highway. The British and the U.S. top brass halted their advance to discuss who was to enter Messina first.

Enemy resistance was rather light, generally limited to skirmishes with the enemy rear guard. On our way to Messina, we would walk 45 minutes and rest 15 minutes, when possible. Daybreak the second day out-August 16th, 1943, we were looking down on the city of Messina. The enemy was retreating into Italy through the Straits of Messina.

While the British and the U.S. commanders were heatedly discussing who was to enter Messina first, the 3rd Ranger Bn, under the command of Col H. Dammer, swooped down from the rugged interior and attacked Messina. The Rangers knocked out the enemy hotspots and declared the City of Messina secure by early afternoon. Sporadic enemy artillery fire made the occupation of the City of Messina somewhat uncomfortable.

A cemetery within the City was selected as our bivouac area and CP. Cemeteries were generally picked, the vaulted perimeters provided some protection from enemy artillery flack. The ambiance of our bivouac area contained soft green grass, crypts, monuments, burial vaults, and a variety of human bones lying about. Members of the 3rd Ranger Bn not patrolling the City, were catching up on some well needed rest and sleep.

A couple Signal Section GI☐s and I decided to take a little walk about the City. Not far from the bivouac area a group of Sicilians were trying to break down a door of a rather large building. Like any good soldier, we approached them and asked what they were trying to do. We then told them, whatever it was, they should stop immediately and take off, but leave their bell jars and other containers. We also told them that Messina and the entire country was now under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army-no more looting. I don☐t know if they understood us or not, but they left. The reason we asked them to leave their bell jars and containers was, the building they were trying to break into was the Brewery Berras Messina Aranuato Tinairia. It didn☐t take us long to remove the door,

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion (CONTINUED)**

once we learned it was a brewery.

Once inside, we went down to the lower level and discovered two large tanks with numerous spigots protruding from the sides. I turned one on. The spray hit me in the face, looked like beer, it smelled like beer, it tasted like beer, it was beer! What a find, for many days within the last month we had little or no potable water. Now, we are drenched with beer. The civilians returned and all of a sudden we were friends. They were trying to cut a large flexible tube. This tube ran from a valve and started to fill our containers. Unfortunately, while filling our containers, we were spilling more beer on the floor than into our bell jars. By the time we were ready to leave, we were knee deep in beer. Soaked with beer from head to foot, I headed back to the cemetery dragging a large bell jar filled with beer. There is no need to go into detail about what happened when we returned with the loot.

Sometime after we returned to the bivouac area, a group of British recon vehicles arrived. The Officers met with Col Darby. After a short conversation, he left with them. He never returned.

Later that afternoon, I decided to go back to the brewery. Maybe I could find a few mementos. I found a few promotional trinkets with the brewery's logo. I still have them. I met many Rangers at the brewery filling their helmets with beer that was spilled on the basement floor, then adding a water purification pill to the beer in the helmet. Some said they heard the enemy, so they opened the valves and flooded the basement with beer. We knew how the beer flooded the basement floor, but that was our secret.

Just before dark, Captain Kitchen was making his rounds checking the men of C Company when I heard the following conversation. "Hey Pedro! What are you doing with that skull in your arms?" "Sir," he replied, "I am assuming this skull was a beautiful blonde, and tonight, I will be sleeping with a beautiful blonde in my arms." "Sweet dreams," remarked Captain Kitchen, as he continued on his way.

Early the next morning, the rumble of six by sixes on the street adjacent to the cemetery disturbed our peaceful sleep. We were hustled into the trucks and wisped out of Messina. We learned later the British Generals won the argument and were proclaimed the liberators of Messina.

The 3rd Ranger Bn was given orders to be out of town before the reporters, cameramen, and top Military Brass arrived. If, during the arrival of the well dressed visitors and the media, saw three or four hundred dirty beer soaked Rangers standing among the cheering civilians, someone may have asked, "What are they doing here?"

Many years later during one of our reunions, I asked Col H. Dammer why the 3rd Rangers didn't receive any credit for being the first U.S. soldiers in Messina. He just shrugged his shoulders and remarked, "Appeasement and military politics."

Since our early training in Ireland and Scotland, I admired Col Dammer as a wonderful leader. After being his radio operator during the Sicilian campaign, I realized why. In my humble opinion, he was one of the most underrated leaders in the U.S. Army.

From what I have written, some may be inclined to believe that the Sicilian campaign was nothing more than a walk through the park. No, it was an intensely fought campaign. The type of conflict the Rangers were trained for-attack- attack- attack! I purposely left out the blood and guts. I wanted to bring out a part of a battle that you may not have read about previously. Or, is it because I was in the signal section of HQ Co? My primary job was to provide radio and/or hardwire communication, whichever was adaptable to the situation.

Like the medics, we were attached to Line Companies on offense. I was attached to B Company during the African Campaign. I was Col Dammer's radio operator in Sicily. Unlike the medics, we carried weapons. I carried an M 1 rifle, a pistol, and a knife. We also had ammunition and used it occasionally. I also had a bayonet and became very proficient with it and used it on numerous occasions. When the tip of the C-ration can was broken off, I used it as a can opener. I will admit, radio communication in Sicily was not the greatest. Our radio frequency was too high for a good signal in a mountainous area. I learned in a very short time, that when in combat, whatever your assignment might be, you are not immune from enemy incoming fire.

The following incident of the Sicilian invasion lingers in my mind. In the harbor of Bizerte, Tunisia, the 3rd Ranger Bn was boarding a British ship in preparation for an invasion of Sicily.

The ship alongside was being loaded with white crosses and going to the same place we were going. That was exciting!

While at sea, the signal section members were stationed on the top of the ship on radio watch. This was a 24-hour duty. Except during the enemy bombing of our convoy, the spent flack was so heavy it was like hail. We had to seek cover below.

The Mediterranean Sea was rough the two days prior to the invasion of Sicily. I think everyone on the ship was seasick, except Prudhomme (the medic) and me. Many were tossing their cookies overboard, while Prudhomme was on the deck eating sardines out of a can.

The afternoon of the night of the invasion, Col Dammer came down to our quarters and told me the gunner on our landing craft was too sick to make the trip. I was going to have to man 20mm on our landing craft. What a thrill, standing up in front of the landing craft. Was it better than straddling a bench in the bottom of the boat and inhaling the polluted air, which was the end result of a can of C-ration meat and beans?

The water was rough and our little craft was bouncing around like a corked bottle. I said to the colonel, "Sir, I got a bead on the search lights and the next time we are on the crest of a wave, I think I can knock them out." For the rest of the trip, I stood back and enjoyed the ride. I sure would have liked to fire that 20mm.

*Charlie Eineichner 1995*



As the struggle continued, we appreciated the extensive armament of the United States military. The Chinese had the manpower; we had the firepower. Against the waves of Chinese soldiers, we threw such an enormity of bullets, high explosives, and napalm that the hills of Korea were littered with thousands of rotting Chinese corpses. When fighting the Chinese, it is best not to be cowed by numbers. Their leaders did not hesitate to sacrifice their people. During the Communist takeover of China, they executed twenty-eight million of their own. Not even China, with its deep reservoir of manpower, could continue to sustain the losses they were experiencing in Korea. The Chinese were not a bottomless pit of manpower. The initial armies they sent to Korea were the best they had. They hurt us badly in the beginning, but by mid-1951, we had torn them apart. As the war went on, we found the quality of their fighting ability deteriorating. They began to throw untrained men into battle as cannon fodder.

Napalm was a weapon the enemy feared and we praised. It was like watching the raking of the fires of hell. Every Chinese soldier torched was one less trying to kill us. We became inured to the sight of rotting bodies. They no longer had meaning to us as fellow men. They were the enemy, the kind of enemy we liked to see. I have seen men eat rations while sitting on a body instead of in the mud. When the bodies were overripe there was a great risk of disease, and those closest to us had to be buried. At times D-handle shovels were sent forward for this purpose. I was trying to scoop a Chinese soldier into his grave when his rotting leg broke off and lay on to blade of my shovel.

Men in the infantry who were wounded and recovered did not always get sent back to their unit and sometimes had to begin anew to build family. Because of the specialized training and requirements, wounded Rangers who recovered were returned to their company, and their platoon. That solidified our bond. What joyous reunions these were, with so much for them to tell us and for us to tell them. In some cases these were friends whom I had not expected to see again. I had assumed Pete Torres would not return, but he came back with only dark spots to show where the bullet had gone through his face and jaw and into his shoulder. Doc Gregory had been shot in the thigh and phallus. He handed a morphine Syrette to a man and asked to be stuck. Not skilled in caring for the wounded, the man shot the morphine into a vein instead of flesh. The Syrette has over a gram of morphine, and Doc did not wake up until he was in a field hospital the next day. He was treated and taken to a large, dried-up rice paddy where hundreds of litters carrying wounded were laid out, waiting for planes to carry the men to hospitals in Japan. Doc told us that he had not thought about medics being shot and was mighty surprised when hit. The rear-area medics looked after their own. Doc was treated like royalty while he was in the hospital in Japan.

Like a coiled spring released, our forces hit back. The Chinese had thrown their maximum effort at us and failed. Now they began to retreat as they were hammered on land and from the air and sea. American ground commanders began to probe for Chinese weak points with combined infantry and armor task forces. In the 24th Infantry Division's sector, a column of tanks from the 6th Medium Tank Battalion did this. The 8th Airborne Ranger Company and the British King's Shropshire Light Infantry mounted on open-top M-39 armored personnel carriers accompanied the tanks. These hard-hitting team included engineers and a tankdozer, which would clear obstacles. Also included was one of the weapons that the Chinese feared most in Korea, the quad 50. This awesome weapon featured four .50-caliber machine guns mounted on a halftrack. Originally meant for use against low-flying aircraft, the machine guns of the quad 50 could be fired singly or in unison with devastating effectiveness. On many missions we had eight or more of these powerful weapons with us.

I liked the British soldier. The United Kingdom contributed some forty thousand men to the war. Their government of the time did not rate the same respect as its soldiers. Their politicians, fearful of another war in Europe, were delighted when General MacArthur was relieved. Their troops were good soldiers with a language problem. They may be descended from vampires, as their language is bloody. I watched a British sergeant stand one of his men at attention and scream in his face, "You filthy soldier, you bloody swine!" Another time it was raining and I was lying on the ground near a British vehicle. I was wrapped in a poncho and dreaming of fondling Rita Hayworth when suddenly I was rudely awakened by a British soldier who mumbled something. "What? What?" I inquired. "Aaeoue, I wuz just looking for the bloody driver," he mumbled, and hurried onward toward the next poncho-covered body.

Riding tanks and M-39 personnel carriers, we would penetrate Chinese lines and raise havoc in their rear areas. The quad 50s on the halftracks and the 90mm guns on the tanks would hammer the enemy positions. Artillery or air strikes would be employed, and the Rangers and light infantrymen would root the remaining enemy out of their holes with grenades and shoot them when they ran. Our mission was also to protect the armor. A tank is vulnerable to a courageous infantryman willing to get close. Chinese soldiers concealed themselves in gullies or trees and used explosives wrapped in canvas bags, called satchel charges, or other form of explosives. They would try to run to a tank and jam the satchel charge into the treads, immobilizing it. It was our job to kill them before they got close, and we were successful. On one occasion a Chinese soldier jumped up with a bangalore torpedo. He jammed it under a tank tread. E. C. Rivera and Norm Erb fired at the man. Erb killed the Chinese soldier with a head shot before the device could be exploded. One Chinese soldier, who had more courage than brains jumped on the front of a tank, grabbed the .30-caliber machine gun, placed the muzzle against his stomach, and tried to pull the gun out of the tank. The amazed gunner on the inside of the tank caressed the trigger of the machine gun and cut the Chinese soldier in half.

We saw a Chinese infantryman, run up a hill, heading for a small cave. The turret on the tank beside me began to swivel and,



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just as the Chinese soldier entered the cave, the 90mm gun fired and the round went- into the mouth of the cave. It was superb shooting. We cheered mightily in the belief that the shell went right up the crack of the Chinaman's ass.

The British were clearing a hill on the right Flank when a quad 50 gunner mistook them for the enemy and opened fire. The British quickly went over the hill. The gunner continued to fire. In a few moments a British officer came sauntering around the side of the hill. He was carrying a cerise rectangle of material called a recognition panel under his arm. The machine-gun fire being directed at him was so close, it looked like he was walking on bullets. He walked to the center of the hill, spread the colored panel on the ground, turned toward the tanks, and bowed from the waist. Then, as the fire slackened, he calmly turned and walked back around the hill.

The terrain we fought through began as hills and led to mountains with rocky outcrops and twisting roads. We ranged from woodland to rice paddies and experimented with various tactics. Someone decided to put a BAR man to the front of the formation on point as a test, and we tried that for a time. On one of these outings, when I had the point, I encountered a Chinese soldier performing the same mission for his patrol. We turned a corner on a trail and found ourselves within five yards of each other. I do not remember what he looked like. He was only a form, an enemy form. No soldier is continually alert. He may have been distracted or looking briefly to the side or was less well trained. I fired first and the bullets hammered him. I felt the thrill of the kill. I never knew a Ranger who felt remorse at the time he killed an enemy soldier. Exultation filled our hearts. To kill was to live. It was the ecstasy of survival. The Chinese soldiers must have been a reconnaissance patrol, as the remainder of them scattered. My dead man's bolt-action rifle was a Russian-made Mosin-Nagant. It is now on display at the Ranger Regiment headquarters at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The battlefield by day was a study in contrast, sometimes peaceful, a valley made for a walk in the sun, but then would come the scenes of desolation and destruction - broken bridges dumped into rivers, buildings torn apart, trees with torn limbs and trunks. The battlefield is a place where survival entails the destruction of any hiding place that may harbor the enemy.

The Chinese employed stay-behind snipers and troops armed with automatic weapons. These men were in well concealed positions. As we moved into an assembly area, one stay behind suddenly leaped to his feet and fired wildly. Likely terrified; he missed all of us and was quickly dispatched.

Sometimes civilians who had not fled the area tried to hide in caves or culverts. In such a circumstance civilians put themselves at great risk. Our concern was to kill before being killed, and we fired into any likely hiding place where the enemy might be. I know of no Ranger who sought to kill civilians on purpose, but none of us would enter a bunker or cave without firing into it or tossing in a grenade. Because a man is a soldier does not make his life less precious. A civilian-on a battlefield must bear the risks of war.

Artillery was hitting to our front as we attacked along a railroad embankment. A Korean woman carrying a baby came from the north. The child had been hit and the mother was screaming her rage at us. I had no idea if shrapnel or bullets had caused the wounds and had no time to find out. I yelled for a medic and kept moving and firing. The sight of her desperation and anger filled me with a sense of futility and grief.

Rangers were trained for night action, but for many other soldiers the night was a time when imagination ran rampant. The 8th Rangers infiltrated through Chinese lines and seized a hill slightly to the enemy rear, which was timed with an attack by the regiment we were with. The Chinese withdrew, and a company was sent forward to occupy our position and relieve US. As the American infantry came up the road, a Chinese sniper fired at them. In the darkness, imagination got the best of these infantrymen, who panicked and fled to the rear. Their officers and sergeants were cursing, but it took a little time to get them rounded up. We knew this unit; it was a good fighting outfit. This experience demonstrated that panic can strike any man or any unit. A unit or a man may fight with ferocity one day, flee in terror the next, and fight bravely on the third occasion.

During another operation we punched through the Chinese lines to tear up a town in their rear. Those of us in the ranks were not told the name of the town - it was not important for us to know. Something was going on there that 24th-Division headquarters wanted stopped. Just after sunrise the column was delayed by enemy fire, and we Rangers were off the armored carriers, moving slowly and cautiously, trying to locate the enemy position. To reach the town, we first had to cross a hill that was wrinkled with draws and gullies, barren at the bottom and increasingly wooded-as we neared the top. My squad went wide to the right, maneuvering to hit them from the flank. Weapons at the ready, leaning forward at the waist, we carefully approached the slope of the hill. I saw an open area to our front and crawled up a gully to the shelter of a tree bole, where I raised my head to look around the side of the tree. Suddenly the left side of my face was showered with splinters. A bullet had ripped into the tree bark beside my cheek. I threw myself backward into the gully just before the second shot came. My helmet rolled away and I crawled after it, my curiosity well satisfied. Our squad kept moving further to the right to get on the Chinese flank but in the process lost contact with the remainder of the platoon. We began to close in on the Chinese position on a wooded hillside. Still out of contact with the rest of the platoon, we continued to close, expecting to see the remainder of our people at any moment. Suddenly the trees to our front began to disintegrate. Wanting to move on rapidly, the task force commander had decided to work the-Chinese over with his quad 50s and bypass the hill. The rest of our company was informed and pulled back, but without radio communications and separated by bushy terrain, they were unaware that we were not with them.

For those of us on the hill it was sheer terror. There were thirty-two .50-caliber machine guns on that road, cutting the timber and

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plowing the hill with bullets. We found a small depression and huddled there, crawling under each other when possible. The roar was like an endless stream of railroad cars passing overhead and about us, crashing and grinding into wreckage. Ranger Ron Henry found a way to crawl out of the line of fire and, with great courage, took the risks inherent in signaling the machine gunners below to cease fire. Those of us who came down from the hill were furious and inclined to shoot the people who had put us in such fright. We were quickly reminded that we had some distance to go and needed everyone.

Continuing on, we met intermittent resistance. When fired on, our column would stop and Rangers would jump from the vehicles and form flank security to keep Chinese infantry from getting close to the tanks. Several of us were talking with a tank commander who was standing in his opened hatch with the upper part of his body exposed. Machine-gun bullets began to sing and whine as they bounced off the tanks hull. The tank commander dropped from view, pulling his thickly armored hatch cover closed behind him. Rangers near the tank scattered like quail, diving for the nearest cover. We had no armor plate protecting us; nothing between us and a bullet but cloth. As soon as tank turrets began to swivel in search of the Chinese gunner, he stopped shooting.

We had to cross a broad open field and, while doing so, we walked beside the tanks to protect them from hidden infantrymen. Someone spread the word that there were antipersonnel mines in the field, so we moved just behind the tanks, following in the tracks left by their treads. The Chinese took us under fire with 120mm mortars, ripping the earth apart with high explosives. We stayed as close as possible to the rear of the moving tanks, but we were helpless. I was waking in one tank track, and another Ranger was walking in the other. We exchanged glances filled with desperation and fear. Simultaneously the same expression came to our minds and to our lips. We both said, "Fuck it," gave ourselves over to fate, and felt much better. A combat infantryman who can convince himself of predestination has more peace of mind when confronting the uncertainties of combat.

The sun was hot and the physical exertion great. We had been in this attack for hours. The water in our canteens was low and we were parched, with thirst. At the end of the field the tanks moved off in a sudden burst of speed. Now in the company of a quad 50 halftrack, we came to a stream and several of us laid our weapons down, knelt, and drank, cupping our hands or lapping the water like animals. I put my face in the cool water and looked up, blinking with surprise to see it suddenly spurting upward about me: It took what seemed an eternity to understand that we were under fire, and caught in the open.

Picking up our weapons, we ran to the shelter of the halftrack. The quad 50 gunner, frightened and uncertain of the direction of the enemy fire, futilely spun his weapons around while bullets struck-nearby. The driver started to speed up, leaving us in the open again. A Ranger thrust his rifle through the door port, held the muzzle to the driver's head, and told him to slow down. Keeping the halftrack between us and the enemy gunner's fire, we moved clear of the area.

Explosions and the whine of bullets increased as Rangers and tankers worked together. The assault on the town was one continuous roar of rifles and machine guns, punctuated by the sharp crack of the tank's main guns and the target disintegration that followed. Bunkers were sprayed with bursts of fire and grenades completed the destruction. There was earsplitting noise, then the sudden silence of success. Exhausted we slumped where we were. Three of us in a muddy ditch, arranged as though sitting at a card table. The space between our boots was approximately one foot square. We were checking our weapons and talking when suddenly a Chinese shell burst close by with an earthshaking explosion. A jagged piece of iron the size of a man's open hand ripped into the small open space between our feet. Our little party quickly broke up. The Chinese were on us again with the 120mm mortars. Men dashed for cover and several dived under the tanks. One Ranger came within an eyelash of being crushed as the tank under which he sought shelter moved off. The shelling stopped and I leaned against an embankment, bone tired. Another Ranger offered me a cigarette. This was the beginning of a bad habit that would last twenty years.

*From "A Ranger Born" by Col. Robert W. Black with permission of Ranger Bob Black*

# American Ranger Memorial Association

BG (R) Jim Herbert, Chairman of the American Ranger Memorial Association, Inc. (ARMA - the group of Rangers who are taking action to have an All-Ranger Monument placed close to the Arlington National Cemetery shared the following:

It has been a year since these six Ranger organizations agreed to support the establishment of an American ranger memorial: RBA, (WW II) Merrill's Marauders, RICA (Korean War Rgrs), 75th RRA, USARA, & WAR. Several leadership changes caused much of the delay in unanimous agreement. Once the agreement, in writing, was presented to US Representative Todd Platts, Pennsylvania 19th District, and he was briefed by Rangers Black & Herbert that such a memorial would honor American Rangers from the 1600's onward, Mr. Platts arranged for a meeting with Representative Duncan Hunter, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee.

Chairman Hunter supported erection of a memorial for the stated purpose in the national Capital area but not in Arlington National Cemetery. He further encouraged us to incorporate and to apply for IRS 501 (c) (3) status to ease the raising of funds. We followed Chairman Hunter's suggestion without delay. ARMA was incorporated in Georgia last summer, followed by application to IRS, and was approved in late 2005. Early in 2006 we met with Senator Warner's staff and provided briefing materials for the Senate Armed Services committee. We made scale models of the memorial plan created by Ranger Bob Safran and engaged an artist to assist with the development of an attractive brochure to be used to publicize the effort and to assist in fundraising.

That's where we are, gearing up to site selection, fund raising, cost estimates, construction, dedication, and maintenance thereafter.

We appreciate your continued support. Rangers Lead The Way! signed "Jim" by General Herbert. Ranger Gene Kuta has submitted a drawing showing the American Ranger Memorial with three colonial muskets, stacked with a powder horn hung so it shows in the front. The two pylons are reduced in height when compared to what has been the most popular design. Gene and some others do not like the Sykes-Baines knife as it is representative of the English Commando and US Marines to them.

Another suggested version has crossed hatchets with a suspended powder horn in place of the Sykes-Bain knife or Colonial Muskets.

Regardless of what we Ranger might prefer, the final selection is up to several governing committees that control what goes where in Washington DC. Thus, regardless of what we are now considering, we will have to satisfy the "powers that be" or there will be no Ranger monument in the capital. We understand that and we agree to that. This is our nation's capital and we want it to be an impressive memorial to all Army Rangers. All ideas are welcomed, but the final design is not in the hands of us Rangers.

Drive On!  
Bill Spies,  
Secretary, ARMA  
(334) 855-0348  
Rgrpegleg@aol.com



# Membership Information

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

DELANEY	TOM	101ST ABN DIV
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## INVOICES

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**Dues Invoices** will be mailed in late September as they were last year. **EVERYONE** will get one, Life Members included. The invoice will have the year of membership expiration on it. If you are a Life Member, it will have ☐LM☐ in that place. If you wish, simply throw it away if you are a life member. If you wish to make a contribution to the Family Fund, use the envelope to do so, as well as to pay your dues. It is most beneficial to the Association to receive the bulk of the dues at around the same time. It gives the officers a more valid idea of the items to budget and the amounts of money that we will receive.

**Family Fund** — Once again it is time for the family fund last year your Association contributed \$3,000.00 to each Battalion and \$1,500.00 to the regimental HQ for Christmas presents for the children of the young men in the Regiment who might be financially challenged at Christmas time. We also bought turkeys and paid for some Family Readiness Group (FRG) get-togethers at the same time, all-in-all, we spent about \$12,000.00 on the above endeavors.

This is a good thing we do. If you have it, read the ☐Thank you☐ letters that were published in the March, 2005 issue, you'll see what I mean. Every penny that is collected goes into a separate ☐Family Fund☐ account. This money is not co-mingled with the funds that are the property of the Association, nor does the Association take any money for this service. Some Unit Associations prefer to give through their organizations, if this is the case, if the Unit Directors let me know, I will see to it that every contributors name is in the magazine.

**Law Internship** —You gotta love this job. Some of the goofiest stuff happens. I have a young man, a former 3rd Batt. Ranger, who is currently attending law school. He wants an internship next summer (2007) with a New York City law firm. He is in a decent law school, but not in Harvard or Yale. He feels that his chances of getting an internship in a big city law firm may be jeopardized because of that fact. So ☐If you are a big city lawyer or know or are related to one, give me a holler & I'll hook him up with you or your big city lawyer.





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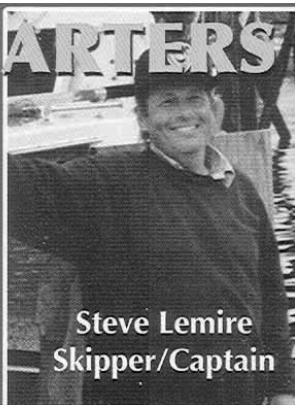
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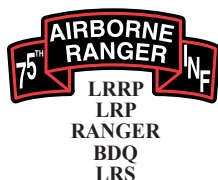
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*Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Berkshire County, Massachusetts.  
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