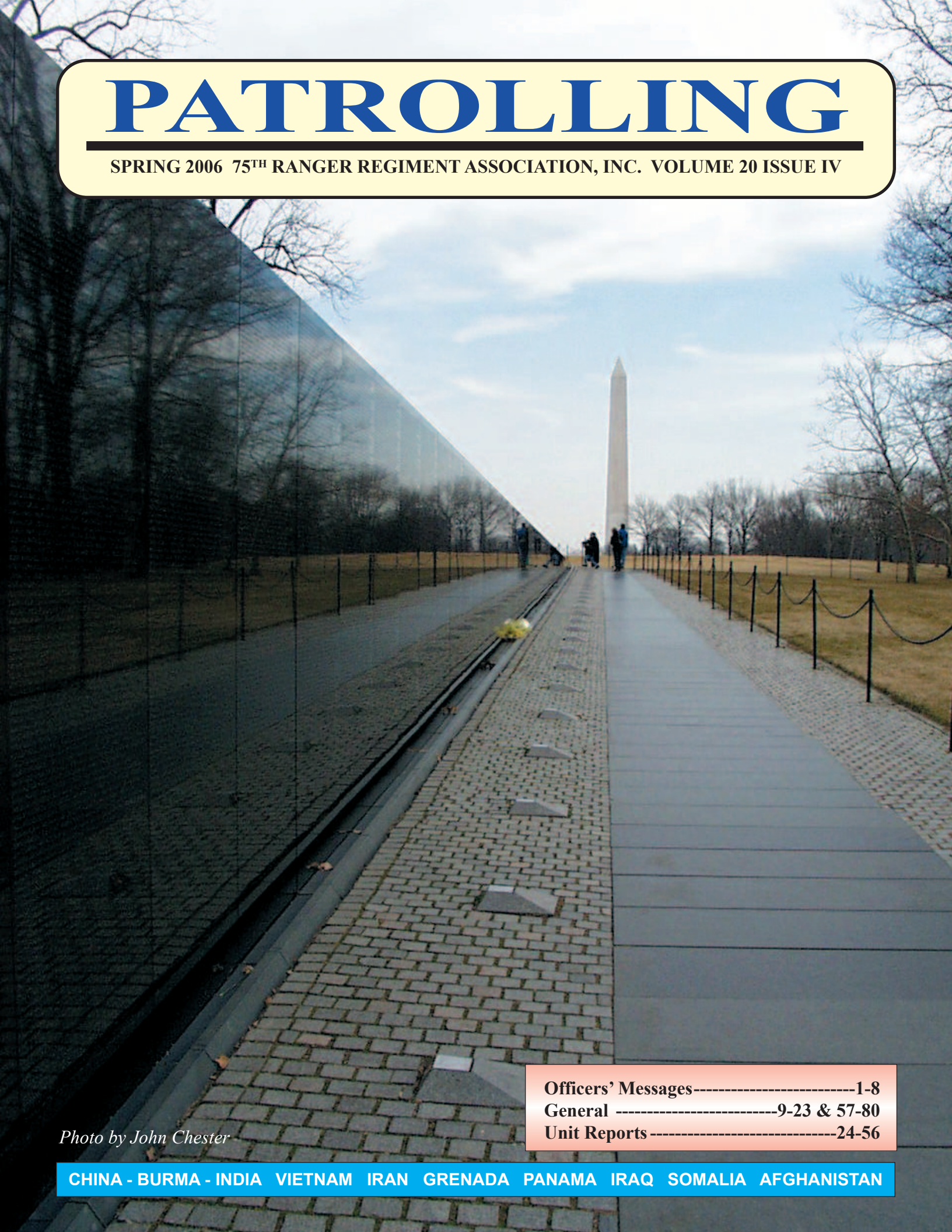


# PATROLLING

SPRING 2006 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 20 ISSUE IV



*Photo by John Chester*

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General -----9-23 & 57-80  
Unit Reports -----24-56

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



Due to an error on the part of the printer, these were not run in the last issue. If you refer to the article on unit decorations in the last issue, these are the specified decorations. I apologize to Don Keller & Mike Martin for the confusion surrounding what was otherwise a fine article. The editor.



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

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

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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.

Our association website is in relatively good health. I am maintaining the features that Emmett Hiltbrand designed into the site while working on building “the new” website in the background . . . kinda like doing two at once.

I would be remiss if I didn’t break here for a short testimonial . . . I suspect many of you know what goes into designing a website – while still others probably don’t have a clue, or much less care to know anything other than, “it works.” Bottom line is, if you don’t know, I want to share with you that Emmett Hiltbrand must have spent literally hundreds upon hundreds of hours building this thing. No kidding, the work he did was smart, extensive, and well thought out. My hat is off to Emmett for the work he did and it is my suggestion that yours should be as well. THANK YOU EMMETT!!! Certainly others have contributed to the effort along the way . . . most of whom shall remain nameless (primarily because they are unknown to me). One name that has not escaped my attention is Dave Walker. If you don’t already know Dave, he is the association graphic artist. I know my way around Photoshop and a host of other graphics programs, but I have to tell you that Dave Walker is “the master” when it comes to your banners, logos, and artwork! Thankfully we continue to have his valuable support on behalf of the association website.

I have had the pleasure of contact with some of the unit directors since my appointment as webmaster. The issues have centered on updating e-mail & addresses and various other items. I would like to provide good service to all the units and members of the association.

To contact me you can simply click on the link near the top left of the main page where it says, “questions/suggestions/info? contact: webmaster” If you need my mailing address or telephone number you will find it under the appointed positions on the “points of contact” page. If you have a question, suggestion, or criticism of any kind please get the word to me ASAP. This is your website, and it should serve you as members. If there is something you would like to see implemented or changed then please, fire away!

Soon you will be able to renew your annual dues on-line thru the website. Not long after that we should be able to implement on-line sales of association quartermaster items, i.e., t-shirts, challenge coins, and other items the association has, or may have, to further strengthen the treasury. Before the next major reunion (2007) you will be able to register and pay your reunion and banquet fees securely on-line through the association website.

There is plenty of room for your pics or photos, and select videos on the website. Many of you have probably already noticed the change to the guestbook (doesn’t take so long to load now). Prior years have been broken down by year and achieved but are still accessible to you. This Spring we should have an operational “mirror” site so that, if for any reason our site goes down, you will still be able to access the identical information on the mirror.

Unit directors, I need your help! Please, please, please check your unit page for corrections. Most importantly, check you KIA page to ensure that all your people are accounted for – that names are spelled correctly, dates & wall panel information is accurate. Check your graphics . . . if they need to be tweaked e-mail Dave Walker and copy me to the “cc” line.

Here’s where I need your help: a mug shot and a message from each unit director. The picture should be something that, when cropped to 2x2” will still show your face in a manner that is recognizable . . . jpg format is preferred. A few of the directors do not have a message, or the unit directors message has become somewhat dated . . . If you would take a minute and decide for yourself if it is satisfactory or not. Does your message say what you want it to say to one of your guys who has been floating around out there, wondering about you and others from your unit, for the past 35 years and just found your page?

It was an unforgettable experience serving with LRP/Ranger in Vietnam – it is a pleasure to serve you now.

With respect.

David Regenthal F/50 F/75 ’68-69

## Notice

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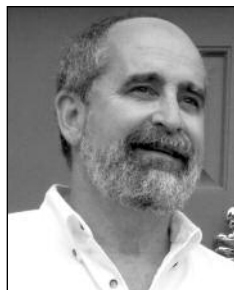


**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Stephen Crabtree

My Friend, Ken

I just received word that an old friend just died. Ken Rice tried to help me out back in the mid 60's as both of my parents were deceased. I didn't listen to him either. We went our separate ways as he went to Vietnam around 1966 and became a door gunner. I was



**Stephen  
Crabtree**

drafted into the Army in 1968. Ken came back, joined the San Diego Fire Department and rose to the rank of Battalion Chief. We started communicating again in 2001 because both of us had been diagnosed with cancer. Ken had lung cancer, I had colon cancer. I tried and tried to get him to file for Veterans Administration benefits because lung cancer is recognized by the VA caused by exposure to dioxins (Agent Orange). Ken wouldn't file with the VA because he was being taken care of by the SDFD. I told him that he could give the money to charity if he wanted but to file for the sake of our troops in

harm's way now. Vietnam Veterans are dying off at an alarming rate. Many of the ones dying now are from service-connected disabilities. From my unit alone (E Company, 51st Infantry and Golf Company Ranger, 75th Infantry), the following men have died from service-related disabilities: Tony Avgoulis, Bob Simpson, John Fritzinger, Jerry O'Dell, Bob Halbert, Lance Chandler, Earl Toomey, Paul Grondines, Bud Watson..... These are service-related deaths from only one unit. How many others are out there? These men would be alive today had they not opted to serve their country. We owe it to the men & women in the service today and especially to those returning from Afghanistan and Iraq to see that they are properly taken care of by the VA for service related disabilities. The best way to see that this happens is for each and every person who has a service related disability to file with the VA. If we don't file, the VA has one less statistic to reject claims. If we do file, the claimant has one more statistic to support their claim.

#### Ranger Hall of Fame

We submitted James Bell, Steven Mattoon and Robert Bryan as our 2006 nominees for induction into the RHOF. BG David Grange, Danny Jacks and Col. John Lawton are all members of the RHOF and nominated Ed Scholes, Earl Toomey and Roy Boatman respectively. RHOF Inductees have the privilege of nominating potential inductees without going through any of the authorized Ranger organizations. We, as a Ranger Association, are allowed to submit three packets for submittal to the selection board each year. Aside of the three packets submitted by former RHOF inductees, we only received three. Our submittals were mailed to the RHOF Executive board on 4 Jan 2006. The biographies in all three were too long and had to be shortened. On 28-31 March the RHOF Executive board will convene at Fort Benning and select this year's inductees. On or before 11 April inductees (or next of kin) will be notified both verbally and in writing. Each nominating association will be likewise informed and given copies of the minutes of the RHOF meetings. The induction ceremony is tentatively scheduled for 29

June 2006. If you have never attended an induction ceremony and marched/walked in with the members of our association, you're really missing out. I sincerely hope to see all of you there.

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

#### Ranger Coffee

If you're a coffee drinker or looking for a special gift you should check out the website below. CPT Zach Thomas sent me a pound and after tasting it, you have my word on it that this coffee tastes umpteen times better than cold C-ration coffee we drank in the jungles of Vietnam. Association or Unit Logos may be added to the packaging. I recently received the following request From Zach:

"I recently left active duty to go into the Chaplain Candidate Program. I was the Operations Officer for the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader Course at 4th RTB less than 5 months ago and I used to work with ya'll to get the plaques for our Honor graduate. The reason I am writing you is to inform you of a business that I recently started to help me get through Seminary and support my family while I am in the Chaplain Candidate Program (a Reserve Officer Program). Please check out my website and let me know what you think. [www.rangercoffee.com](http://www.rangercoffee.com)." Followed by, "Almost forgot, I would like to donate \$1.00 for every bag sold (through my website) to the 75th Ranger Regiment."

#### Membership Fund

Our membership fund currently has over \$6000 on deposit. This money is for those of you who need help. It is not for a beer party or a trip to Disneyland for you & your family but if you need food, medication, help getting to a reunion, etc., it is there for you. We recently made a disbursement of \$250 to a Ranger who was having hard times. Contact your Unit Representative with your request and he will present it to the officers. We will review the request and decide if the request merits disbursement.

#### Children's Christmas Parties

Letters of thanks are pouring in for our donations to the children of the enlisted (E5 & below) Rangers in the three battalions. We gave \$3000 for Christmas presents and \$750 for food certificates for

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

turkeys to each Battalion and \$1200 to Headquarters at Fort Benning. I offer my personal thanks to Unit Representatives Rick Barella, Bill Acebes, Rich Hecht and Bill Dodge for their help dispersing the funds. Next year I plan on starting negotiations in July or August of rather than November. You will never know what we all went through in order to give away the money. Army bureaucracy at its best!

### Home Phone

I realize that some of you have attempted to call me at my home phone number, 770 423 0667, only to reach the answering machine. I do not answer that phone as it is primarily for my computer. I do monitor the calls coming in, so if you need to talk with me leave a message & I'll get right back to you (usually within ten minutes if I'm home). I can be reached by cell (678 938 9349) during non-working hours but please don't call after 2000 hours. I rise every morning at 0400.

### LRRP vs. Ranger?

I had the same desk at McDonnell Douglas from 1987 until 1997. Sometime in December of 1997 McDonnell Douglas merged with Boeing. Guess what? I still had the same title, the same desk, doing the same job, using the same tools with the same teammates. Back in February of 1969 the LRRP Units were disbanded and reformed under the 75 Infantry as Ranger Units. The newly formed Rangers back then still held the same rank, patrolled the same jungles, doing the same job, using the same tools with the same teammates. For someone to say that the LRRPs were better than the Rangers or visa versa is pure hogwash. I realize that this message pertains to less than 5% of you but it is time to end this. We all pulled the same duty, in the same place, with the same men only at a different time. It is way past time to just let this issue die. Enough said.

### Good News, Bad News

I hate being the bearer of bad news but someone must do it. Ruth Stonesifer is not going to be able to take over the Gold Star Mother Advocate. Personal agendas make it impossible for her to do so. The good news is that Sandee Rouse will continue on as our Advocate until a suitable replacement can be found. Any suggestions or candidates? If you know of someone who would consider taking the job, please contact me. Just a few of the benefits are no pay, working in distressful situations and unpaid travel expenses. The self satisfaction and inner joy are priceless.

### Better News

For the first quarter in as long as I can recall, there has been no need for our Gold Star Mother Advocate or State Coordinator to attend a funeral. I hope and pray that there will never be another need for their services.

### State Coordinator Advocate

I give up. I have updated this paragraph about six times. Every time I rewrite it, Gene Tucker sends me a note that he has added another State Coordinator. I can't begin to tell you what a good job Gene is

doing as our State Coordinator Advocate. We have added ten new State Coordinators in the last three months and the way the list is growing this information will be outdated by the time you read this. We still need coordinators for the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming. Yes we have added ten new State Advocates but only Hawaii, Ohio & Delaware dropped off the list of non represented states thanks to Jeff Bevcars (Ohio), Rick Laws (Delaware) and Mike Chu & Dennis Kim (Hawaii tag team) volunteering. If you live in one of these states and would like to represent the 75th Ranger Regiment at funerals or hospital visits for brother Rangers, contact Gene at [egt12@adelphia.net](mailto:egt12@adelphia.net) or by phone at: (719) 380-8277. It takes little time to support both our men and our active personnel and their families. Attending a funeral may not be the most enjoyable occasion but the thanks one receives from the family far outweighs the negativity. Dropping in on a hospitalized brother will make a difference in his recovery time. Comforting a Gold Star Mother and presenting her with a life membership to our Association is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done.

### Association Roster

Although our State Coordinator Program is growing by leaps and bounds, we recently lost a member because we would not give him a roster. Emmett stood solid on the Roster issue and I continue to support it. We will not give out our roster to anyone. Other Ranger Organizations have requested it and we refused to release it. Credit Card companies have requested it and we again refused. With all the identity theft going on it would be financial suicide to release our roster to anyone. I'm not saying that these requesters are dishonest but there are dishonest people out there. I remember back in 1997 when we were raising brick money. I received not once, not twice but three times over 250 Credit Card applications at my home in Arizona. They were Ranger Credit Cards with many of your names on them. All 31 KIAs from Golf Company had an application. I realize this was a computer glitch but what if the applications had arrived at a dishonest person's address instead of mine? 250 of us would today still be trying to straighten out our credit. I'm not going to put our members in a position to be compromised and I say again, **"We will not give out our roster to anyone."**

### Newest Member

I've attached a picture of our newest member. Although he's not old enough and does not yet meet the requirements to join the 75RRA, I've contacted Colonel Chin and made reservations for Ranger Class 2-25. He is my grandson, named Stephen (after me!) and born on my 58th birthday. Is that slick or what?





**FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Bill Bullen

Message from the Vice President  
Bill Bullen Feb 2006

Once again John Chester is trucking away at his never ending duties as the Editor of "Patrolling Magazine". This tied into the duties as Secretary and author of many financial plans for the Association, make him an extremely valuable asset to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. I hope you all will find time to personally thank John for what he is doing; a very thankless job.

**Bill Bullen**

My duties involve membership issues; Dana McGrath wanted to increase the active membership roll and did so. We went from approximately 1200 members to 1500 active and life members. Emmett Hiltibrand did a second one year term as president after Dana, and during that time increased the membership from 1500 to 1700. Last year the elected officers announced an aggressive goal of 2500 paid-up, dues-paying and life members. At this moment we stand at 2000 members. To accomplish our goal we feel the need to implement an incentive program. John Chester has proposed that anyone E-5 or below, currently assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment, will receive their first year membership free. Also to the member who signs five new or lapsed members, goes an engraved sterling silver coin. Furthermore, anyone desiring a life membership can have this happen by making five installments over a one year timeframe.

Toward the middle of November last, Wayne Mitsch, Tom Sove and I made a several day trip to the National Archives. It was a fruitful endeavor. We left with well over a hundred AARs, overlays mission manning ect. Tom was doing a lot of work with original documents and after he was finished, his hands were covered with red dust from the Con Tum area. A lot of you guys would benefit from this service which is offered by the historians at the National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Md. 20740. The contact person is Richard L Boylan, Senior Military Archivist. [richard.boylan@nara.gov](mailto:richard.boylan@nara.gov), Phone #301-837-

1752. It was a lot of fun at the same time very emotional. I recommend doing it yourself if you have the desire.

My wife Donna and I visited Las Vegas in January this year. Las Vegas is not for me, but Bill Anton lives there and he showed us around and made the trip worth while. Bill is the unit

director for H/75 – E/52 1st Cav. He has been involved with the Association for many years and is extremely knowledgeable in the running of an organization. If any Unit Director has a question on "how-to", I'd recommend getting in touch with Bill. He could give another prospective on the job. Thanks for the hospitality Bill. Attached you'll see a picture of my wife standing in front of the Hoover Dam, which we visited while in Nevada. Also see a picture of Bill Anton, "I think", doing a little rappelling along the valley at the Hoover Dam.

Anyone needing help answering questions for a PTSD claim can acquire a valuable resource by contacting Dennis Latham, Po Box 105, Guilford In. 47022. E-mail address; [dlatham@suscom.net](mailto:dlatham@suscom.net), Phone # 812-487-2990, or [www.combatptsd.net](http://www.combatptsd.net). Dennis is the author of the "S-2 REPORT". This is a quarterly news letter full of articles, questions and answers. Dennis is also the author of several books of humor and bizarre novels.



**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

By John Chester

**John Chester**

After about two months of work, I finished processing the bulk of the invoices that were returned by mid-January. Almost 1,000 were processed. A deposit of \$12,385.00 was made to the family fund. A deposit of \$35,241.50 was made to the operating account. The current balance of these accounts are \$30,807.21 (Family Fund) and \$81,053.41 (operating account). These totals are after the contributions to the Battalions and Regimental HQ and after the December issue of the magazine were paid. The Association also owns a money market corporate account in the amount of \$22,361.65, and a checking account for the Presidents use in the amount of \$565.99. Total cash assets are \$133,018.26. There is also a pending deposit in the amount of \$1,770.00, which will raise the total to \$134,788.26. We have recently transferred \$22,000.00 from the above money market account to a 6 month CD at an interest rate of 5.01%, which is a hell of a lot better than we have been earning. Our Treasurer, Reuben Siverling happened upon this opportunity and we got it done in record time. We have a number of proposals to place before the Unit Directors and Officers, and they will be reported in the next issue of the magazine, along with a complete year end Treasurer's report. There were a few people who got angry because I didn't deposit their dues checks rapidly enough. Well, all I can say is, I had the Autumn from hell, and I was playing catch up all through October, November & December. (See below). There is one minor point that I would invite everyone's attention to: If Association things aren't happening quickly enough to suit you, you can always **VOLUNTEER TO HELP!!!!** Now there's a novel thought, instead of bitching in, how about pitching in?

During the course of the invoice processing about 35 individuals who had been out of the Association so long that they lost their membership numbers, rejoined. Forty members upgraded the membership to life memberships. Ron Edwards stopped taking away the numbers of lapsed members, and I have continued

this action. By assigning new members new numbers, it is possible to ascertain when an individual joined, became a Life Member, etc. I will explain why this is significant on a later point. There were a significant number of Life Members and renewing members who made contributions to the Family Fund. Each individual who donated \$20.00 or more received a 'Thank You' letter from the Association, which specified the amount of the donation for tax purposes. I really do believe that the increase in donations this year was because we did the same thing last year. There is an increase in postage cost and stationary cost, but I think the 300 or so letters that were sent were well worth it.

At the request of two Unit directors, I waived membership fees for two individuals as allowed for in the by-laws. I was authorized by the President to send a check for \$250.00 from the member's fund to one individual who had been out of work for over two years. That was one of the stated purposes of the fund. The member's fund is maintained in the operating account and is made up of donations from members, not dues.

As I mentioned above, Mary Anne & I had a pretty hectic end of 2005 season. In early December, 2005, my mother had some heart problems and went into the hospital for 3 weeks. Coupled with the fact that I was getting the December issue of the magazine ready to go to the printer, and dealing with a deluge of



*Brian (Jellyroll) Radcliffe, me, and Fred Fones, Antietam National Battlefield, December, 2005.*



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)



*Fred Fones at the Tennessee Memorial, Gettysburg National Battlefield.*

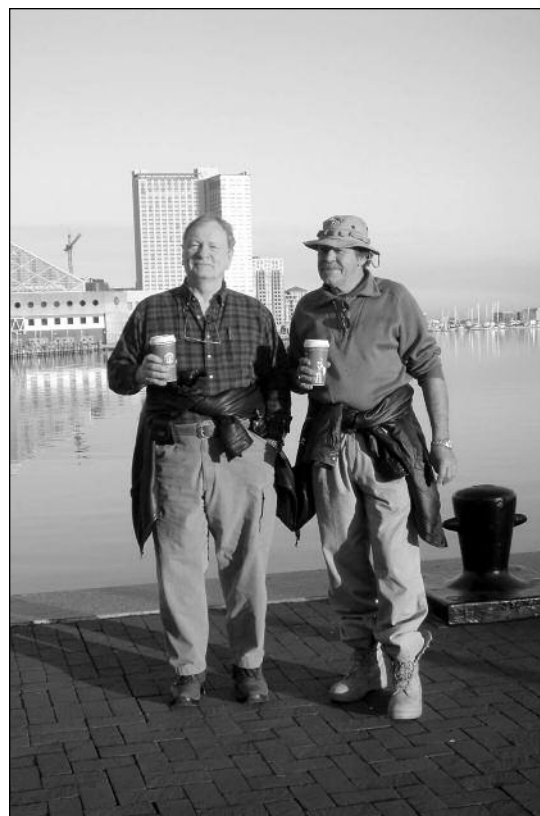
invoices, I got pretty much overwhelmed. We had been planning for Fred Fones to come east from Arizona for a couple weeks over Christmas and for Brian Radcliffe to come down as well. (More on this later). Just as everything seemed to get back to normal, my mother was released from the hospital, we had restored a semblance of order, and as I was taking my mother home from our house after Christmas dinner, some nitwit runs a stop sign, while talking on a cell phone, and I broadside him. Totaled our (paid for) 2002 Ford, damn near put Mildred back in the hospital, burned the hell out of my hands, (airbag) and gave me a black eye. When the airbag went off, it sounded and smelled like someone fired a gun about two inches from my face. Talk about flashback city.

Fred Fones flew into town on 22 December and Jellyroll came after Christmas. The three of us had a great time exploring the delights and attractions of the Baltimore/Washington, DC area. Coupled with the fact that there are at least 20 Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefields within a 50 mile radius of Baltimore, we didn't need to look too far for something to do. We did the \$2.00 tour. Fred had never been to The Wall, so we went to Washington, DC and saw the Wall and then went to Arlington, to the Tomb of the Unknowns and DC in general. After Jellyroll arrived, we went to Gettysburg, Antietam

(Sharpsburg), Ft. McHenry and Harpers Ferry, WV. An interesting note, the Commander of Ft. McHenry during the British bombardment, (when Francis Scott Key wrote the *Star Bangled Banner*), a Colonel Armisted has a statue in front of the fort. His son was the Brigade Commander, and only officer under Pickett, that penetrated the Federal ranks at The Angle at the end of Pickett's Charge. There is a scroll marking the spot where he died, sitting with his back against the wheel of a Federal field piece.

Since Fred is a Tennessee boy he had a great deal of interest in the role troops from that state played in the various battles. He considered Maryland to be a Yankee State until I pointed out that the Pennsylvania, Maryland line is the Mason – Dixon Line and Maryland is, in fact a Southern State. I had grandfathers fighting on both sides during the Civil War. In fact, there were two Maryland Regiments of Artillery at Antietam, one fighting for the South, the other for the North.

It still amazes me how close we are after all the years in between. The three of us had a great time and Mary Anne fit in like they were just family. Well, they are, they're the brothers I never had. We had lots of talks,



*Fred & I at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.*

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

fought several wars again, including the one that we were in, and solved most of the world's problems. I'll have more next issue.

### PAY PAL

Thanks to all the efforts on the part of Dave Regenthal, we now have a Pay Pal account on the website, and we can also take credit cards. This means that you can pay dues, make Family or Member's Fund contributions, purchase coins, etc. on the web site. Check out the Web Site & see how it works.

*HISTORY: An account, mostly false, of events mostly unimportant, which are brought about by rulers, mostly knaves, and soldiers, mostly fools.*  
Ambrose Bierce, "The Devil's Dictionary"

Ambrose Bierce (1842 – 1914) was a journalist and writer of great repute at the end of the 19th and



*Bloody Lane as seen from the observation tower, Antietam National Battlefield. More men died during this one day battle than in any single day of any war the United States has fought in.*

beginning of the 20th Centuries. He served with great distinction during the Civil War, fighting in Antietam, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg and 1st & 2nd Manassas.

## Medic, Medic

"Medic, Medic," sacred words that meant so much,  
He was one of us, with a healing touch.  
Together we talked, laughed, sometimes cried,  
We were LRRP's in combat, good friends died.

Change socks daily, keep your extras dry,  
Advice given by a medic, no one asked why.  
From dental care, to taking Malaria pills every day,  
You listened to "Doc," what ever he had to say.

Drank too much, fell and got a bad cut,  
Doc would chew you out as he stitched you up.  
In his bag of tricks he had the means to  
make you better.  
Kept an eye on you after you got your "Dear  
John Letter."

Med-evacs on call if a patrol went wrong,  
Too many Op's for a medic to go along.  
Each team member trained to care for one another,  
"Doc" was one of us, we were all brothers.

Young men screaming for their mothers,  
overcome with pain.  
Knowing "Doc" was close was calming,  
it's hard to explain.  
There is no treatment for "Mortal Fear,"  
We all felt safer knowing "Doc" was near.

Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret  
2 January, 2006



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### DISCLAIMER

**DISCLAIMER:** This series of articles entitled 'LEGISLATIVE HELP LINE' is meant to be an informative aid in assisting you in protecting your rights. It is also meant to keep you informed of the ever-changing legislative forum that may affect you. There is a caveat here. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is not allowed to assist you in this effort. Our Constitution has a stipulation that forbids this. Article IV: Sec. 2. The Association shall not endorse any political candidate, platform or party. Sec. 3. Officers, Directors and Members shall not engage in any form of activity that implies or specifically relates the Association to any form of public activity without first obtaining approval from the Association. Therefore, no Officer, Unit Director, Advocate or Member may present himself as a representative speaking for or on the behalf of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Now, this does not prevent you from acting for yourself on your own behalf, I quote Article IV, Section 5: The foregoing does not restrict or prohibit members from engaging in activities which are the constitutional right of any citizen. As I said, this section is provided as a service to inform you. You must act on your own. Do not attempt to act on behalf of the Association. Thank you, Steve Crabtree - President

**VA BUDGET 2007:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Nicholson announced 6 FEB that President Bush will seek a record \$80.6 billion in the fiscal year 2007 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The overwhelming majority of the resources are targeted for health care and disability compensation. The FY 2007 proposal represents an increase of \$8.8 billion, or 12.2%, above the budget for 2006. The FY '07 budget proposal calls for \$38.5 billion in discretionary funding, mostly for health care. For health care alone, the President's request is an increase of \$3.5 billion (or more than 11%) over the FY 2006 level. The budget proposal also would provide \$42.1 billion in mandatory funding, mostly for compensation, pension, and other benefit programs. The budget request still relies on \$1.1 billion in cost-saving efficiencies. It appears to table long-needed construction dollars, particularly in the area of grants for state veterans homes and leaves CARES (Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services) under-funded. It takes a \$13 million bite out of VA research and fails to provide sufficient funds for staffing and training in the Veterans Benefits Administration to address a claims backlog fast approaching one million.

The budget proposal recycles two provisions from last year. In an effort to help the VA care for those veterans who count on it the most (those with service-connected disabilities) the VA is again asking non-disabled, higher income veterans (Priority 7 and 8 veterans) to pay a \$250 annual enrollment fee and higher pharmacy co-payments (from \$8 to \$15). Priority 7 and 8 veterans were not eligible to receive VA medical care at all, or only on a case-by-case space available basis, until 1999 when new authority allowed VA to enroll them in any year that resource levels permitted. VA officials state these veterans typically have other alternatives for addressing their medical care costs, including third-party health insurance coverage, TRICARE, or Medicare, and thus believe it is acceptable to ask Priority 7 and 8 veterans to assume a modest share of the cost of their care. Secretary Nicholson stated that under no circumstances will a veteran make a co-payment of any kind for the treatment of a service-connected condition.

A chart in the president's budget request anticipates

reducing the number of vets who can use VA healthcare services by approximately 1.2 million in Priority Groups 7 and 8 in 2007 through implementation of enrollment fees and higher copays. The request assumes an increase in third-party collections from insurance companies to \$2.8 billion. The administration's 2006 estimate for third-party collections was just over \$2 billion. These estimates may be overly ambitious since the VA had \$3 billion in uncollected debt as of early 2005. The budget request is intended to provide the resources necessary to make servicemembers' transition from active duty military status to civilian life is as smooth and seamless as possible. Men and women still on active duty should find it easier to access VA benefits when they near the end of their military service because of a program that allows early application for disability claims and other benefits.

At [www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/PressArtInternet.cfm?id=1075](http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/PressArtInternet.cfm?id=1075) additional info on the budget proposal can be found. [Source: VA Press Release & NMFA eNews 7 Feb 06 ++]

**DISABLED VETERANS MEMORIAL:** Veterans who have been wounded face many challenges - learning to live without sight or the use of limbs, retiring from the only career they've ever known, and dealing with emotional scars. A new memorial planned in Washington, D.C., will honor the dedication and bravery of those permanently disabled veterans and express the nation's gratitude for their sacrifice. The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial will occupy a 2-acre site adjacent to the National Mall, within full view of the U.S. Capitol. The focal point of the marble and glass memorial will be a star-shaped reflecting pool with an eternal flame rising from its center. A grove of trees will stand sentry-like beside the pool. The U.S. Congress approved this national memorial to be built in Washington D.C. with the passage of Public Law 106-348. The Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation is raising the estimated \$65 million in private funds needed to build and maintain the memorial.

By federal law, the entire cost of the construction, plus 10% for the Memorial's perpetual maintenance and preservation, must be on hand before groundbreaking. Donations should be

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

coordinated through the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc. (DVLmf). For more information on the Disabled Veterans memorial or how to make a donation visit [www.avdlm.com](http://www.avdlm.com), write Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc., 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 302, Arlington VA 22201-3367 or send an email to [info@dvlfm.org](mailto:info@dvlfm.org). [Source: Military Officer Jan 06]

**PURPLE HEART STAMP:** With the recent increase in postal rates, supporters of the Purple Heart Stamp were concerned that the Postal Service might discontinue the stamp which honors the heroes who have received the Purple Heart Medal. With support from a petition and letter writing campaign launched by Sen. Hillary Clinton's office and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Postal Service announced last week that the Purple Heart stamp is coming back as a 39-cent version. There was clearly a tremendous amount of public support for keeping the stamp in circulation. [Source: AFA Update 11 Feb 06]

**VA PRIORITY CATEGORIES UPDATE 01:** Three years ago, then-Secretary Anthony J. Principi announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs was suspending health care enrollment for some higher-income veterans who did not have injuries or illnesses related to their military service. The move to exclude "Priority 8" veterans was unpopular, but Principi said it was necessary to prevent the VA medical system from being swamped by the rising number of veterans who were eligible for care. At the time, about 6.8 million veterans were enrolled in the VA health system. Now more than 7.5 million are enrolled which includes 5.4 million who received treatment last year. However, others could not get in the door. More than a quarter-million (263,257) "Priority 8" veterans who tried to sign up for VA health care coverage between JAN 03 and OCT 05 were turned away because of the new effort to rein in costs.

There are 24.4 million veterans in the United States, and 16.9 million are not enrolled in the VA health care system. As many of 10 million of those not enrolled are Priority 8 veterans, the VA says. The annual household income cutoff for Priority 8 veterans varies by region. It was \$57,500 for a veteran with three dependents who lived in Arlington or Fairfax counties, or in Montgomery or Prince George's counties in Virginia. A VA spokesperson, said the affected veterans could not enroll because they were not eligible. The VA wants to be clear to vets that absolutely nobody is being cut from VA health care rolls and no veteran will be disenrolled from VA health care unless they specifically request it. Rep. Lane Evans (D-IL), ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, called on the administration to increase the VA budget. "There is no reason for the VA to give the cold shoulder to veterans who have served our country honorably," Evans said in a written statement. [Source: washingtonpost.com Christopher Lee article 10 Feb 06]

**VA CLAIMS ASSISTANCE UPDATE 02:** The VA recognizes that disabilities veterans may develop years after service may be directly related to military exposure to certain conditions. For a summary of those conditions, go to the VA Web site: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and review the 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 3.309 to 3.317. If you feel any of the presumptive conditions listed apply to you get a doctor's opinion, a diagnosis, your DD-214, and visit your veteran advocate to file a claim. If not for you, then for your wife and children who would be eligible to file for benefits if your death results from any related condition. A small investment in the beginning will pay off for the rest of the veteran's life. Nam vets should be aware that veterans from the early years of that conflict are now recognized by the VA as in-country Vietnam veterans from 28 FEB 61 through APR 75. Some conditions to consider would be:

- Asbestosis. This can develop many years later from the veteran's exposure to the material during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, when asbestos was used as insulation on all U.S. Navy ships and numerous military barracks. If you have a lung disease, ask your doctor if it may be related. X-rays will show asbestosis.

- Conditions from exposure to atomic radiation and Agent Orange

- Conditions related to vets who have been diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome.

Claims can also be filed for secondary conditions. These are disabilities that are proximately due to, or the result of a service-connected disease or injury. Some examples are:

- a veteran has a right knee service-connected injury. For years he favors his good knee, but it, too, goes bad. The veteran may file a claim for his left knee condition secondary to his service connected right knee. The vet will need a doctor's opinion documenting that condition.

- A psychological condition often causes hypertension and heart disease, which VA and National Academy of Sciences studies have linked to the years of stress from these conditions. This can mean that a veteran who suffers PTSD, major depression or similar disabilities can make a claim for secondary hypertension/heart disease to his service connected psychological disorder with a doctor's opinion. Or his widow, if the veteran died of a heart condition, may file a claim after producing a doctor's opinion that his psychological condition contributed to his death.

- Agent Orange Diabetes II that can lead to neuropathy, kidney, heart and other secondary conditions, which the veteran should and could be rated for.

- Prescription drugs for a service-connected condition that causes other medical conditions would be claimable. This includes dental conditions that result from medications administered for the primary disability.

Remember, the VA hires highly educated, many legally schooled, rating specialists, so give these VA employees the medical and legal opinions they seek. These VA rating

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

specialists are mostly pro-veteran, but they too, have laws and rules set by Congress that they must adhere to. The best way to work the system is to provide them with the documentation they need to help you, the veteran. If in doubt as to where to obtain claim filing assistance refer to the Bulletin article “VA Claim Filing Sources” available upon request. [Source: North County Times Mike Schuster article 3 Feb 06 ++]

**VA HELP LINES:** The Department of Veterans Affairs provides toll free help lines on VA benefits and programs at <https://iris.va.gov/scripts/iris.cfg/php.exe/enduser/cci/phonenbrs.php>. A veteran who turns to the lines for information about benefits might want to get a second opinion. According to a follow up study assessing telephone service quality, it was noted in a 14 OCT 04 VBA Letter 20-04-42 that people who call the agency’s regional offices for help and advice are more likely to receive completely wrong answers than completely right ones. To see how well its employees answer typical questions from the public, VA benefits experts in 2004 called each of the agency’s U.S. regional offices, which process veterans’ disability claims. The so-called mystery callers, saying they were relatives or friends of veterans inquiring about possible benefits, made a total of 1,089 calls. Almost half the time they got answers that the VA said were either completely incorrect or minimally correct. According to a VA memo, 22% of the answers the callers got were “completely incorrect,” 23% were “minimally correct” and 20% were “partially correct.” Nineteen percent of the answers were “completely correct,” and 16% were “mostly correct.” The program also found that some VA workers were dismissive of some callers and unhelpful or rude to others. The results of the 2004 study are below expectations and are disappointing to the organization. The report included comparisons to the previous 2002 study. Of special concern was that the excellent and very good responses declined for courtesy and professionalism (from 81 to 69%) and for willingness to help (from 76 to 62%). Significant improvement, however, was made in prompt service (from 76 to 87%). VA officials acknowledge in the letter that the agency needs to do better. To read the VA survey online, which includes the questions asked and the responses received go to [www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin20/letters/vba04\\_42.doc](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin20/letters/vba04_42.doc). [Source: VetJobs Veteran Eagle Newsletter 1 Feb 06 ++]

**VA GRAVESITE LOCATOR UPDATE 01:** The burial locations of more than 5 million veterans for whom the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has provided grave markers are now available on the Internet, as well as the information inscribed on the markers. Online since April 2004, the nationwide gravesite locator <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov> helps veterans’ families, former comrades-in-arms and others find the graves of veterans. VA recently added 1.9 million records for veterans buried primarily in private cemeteries to its

database. The gravesite locator previously carried records on 3 million veterans buried in VA national cemeteries since the Civil War, and in state veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery since 1999. The new records date from January 1997, the earliest time for which electronic records exist. The information comes from applications made for these veterans’ headstones or markers.

Beyond the 5 million records now available, VA continues to add approximately 1,000 new records to the database each day. Last year, VA furnished nearly 369,000 inscribed headstones and markers for veterans’ graves worldwide. Internet users only need to provide the last name of the deceased veteran or dependent. Typically, the information available includes name, birth and death dates, rank, branch of service and the address and phone number of the cemetery. Veterans whose discharges are other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery, regardless of where they live. No advance reservations are made. VA provides perpetual care, as well as a headstone or marker, a burial flag and a memorial certificate to survivors. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from a VAWeb site at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) or by calling VA regional offices at 1-800-827-1000. [Source: VA News Release 22 DEC 05]

### **Higher Limits Extended in VA Home Loan Program**

WASHINGTON (Dec. 29, 2005) - America’s veterans and their families now have a greater chance to make their dreams of home ownership a reality, thanks to an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan guaranty limit. Effective January 1, 2006, changes in the loan guaranty limits will mean veterans are able to get no-down payment loans up to \$417,000. The previous ceiling was \$359,650. “For more than 60 years, VA has assisted our veterans to become home owners,” said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “This increase is another example of our commitment to ensure VA benefits keep pace with the needs of our veterans in today’s housing market.” The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 tied increases in the VA guaranty to increases in the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation’s conforming loan limit. When this limit increases, VA guaranty limits also go up, allowing VA to keep pace with rising home values.

VA-guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage companies to veterans, service members and reservists. With VA guaranteeing a portion of the loan, veterans can receive a competitive interest rate without making a down payment, making it easier to buy a home. More information about VA home loan benefits is available on the Web at <http://www.homeloans.va.gov> or by calling 1-800-827-1000.



## 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.*

## Compensation & Pension Examination Initial Evaluation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

# 0910 Worksheet

Name: SSN:

Date of Exam: C-number:

Place of Exam:

**A. Identifying Information:**

- \* age
- \* ethnic background
- \* era of military service
- \* reason for referral (original exam to establish PTSD diagnosis and related psychosocial impairment; re-evaluation of status of existing service-connected PTSD condition)

**B. Sources of Information:**

- \* records reviewed (C-file, DD-214, medical records, other documentation)
- \* review of social-industrial survey completed by social worker
- \* statements from collaterals
- \* administration of psychometric tests and questionnaires (identify here)

**C. Review of Medical Records:**

**1. Past Medical History:**

1. Previous hospitalizations and outpatient care.
2. Complete medical history is required, including history since discharge from military service.
3. Review of Claims Folder is required on initial exams to establish or rule out the diagnosis.

**2. Present Medical History - over the past one year.**

1. Frequency, severity and duration of medical and psychiatric symptoms.
2. Length of remissions, to include capacity for adjustment during periods of remissions.

**D. Examination (Objective Findings):**

Address each of the following and fully describe:

History (Subjective Complaints):

Comment on:

Premilitary History (refer to social-industrial survey if completed)

- \* describe family structure and environment where raised (identify constellation of family members and quality of relationships)
- \* quality of peer relationships and social adjustment (e.g., activities, achievements, and/or extracurricular involvement, sexual involvements, etc.)
- \* education obtained and performance in school · employment
- \* legal infractions
- \* delinquency or behavior conduct disturbances
- \* substance use patterns
- \* significant medical problems and treatments obtained
- \* family psychiatric history
- \* exposure to traumatic stressors (see CAPS trauma assessment checklist)
- \* summary assessment of psychosocial adjustment and progression through developmental milestones (performance in

# HEALTH

employment or schooling, routine responsibilities of self-care, family role functioning, physical health, social/interpersonal relationships, recreation/leisure pursuits).

## Military History

- \* branch of service (enlisted or drafted)
- \* dates of service
- \* dates and location of war zone duty and number of months stationed in war zone
- \* Military Occupational Specialty (describe nature and duration of job(s) in war zone)
- \* highest rank obtained during service (rank at discharge if different)
- \* type of discharge from military
- \* describe routine combat stressors veterans was exposed to (refer to Combat Scale)
- \* combat wounds sustained (describe)
- \* clearly describe specific stressor event(s) veteran considered particularly traumatic. Clearly describe the stressor. Particularly if the stressor is a type of personal assault, including sexual assault, provide information, with examples, if possible.
- \* indicate overall level of traumatic stress exposure (high, moderate, low) based on frequency and severity of incident exposure (refer to trauma assessment scale scores described in Appendix B).
- \* citations or medals received
- \* disciplinary infractions or other adjustment problems during military

NOTE: Service connection for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) requires medical evidence establishing a diagnosis of the condition that conforms to the diagnostic criteria of DSM-IV, credible supporting evidence that the claimed in-service stressor actually occurred, and a link, established by medical evidence, between current symptomatology and the claimed in-service stressor. It is the responsibility of the examiner to indicate the traumatic stressor leading to PTSD, if he or she makes the diagnosis of PTSD.

Crucial in this description are specific details of the stressor, with names, dates, and places linked to the stressor, so that the rating specialist can confirm that the cited stressor occurred during active duty.

A diagnosis of PTSD cannot be adequately documented or ruled out without obtaining a detailed military history and reviewing the claims folder. This means that initial review of the folder prior to examination, the history and examination itself, and the dictation for an examination initially establishing PTSD will often require more time than for examinations of other disorders. Ninety minutes to two hours on an initial exam is normal.

Post-Military Trauma History (refer to social-industrial survey if completed)

- \* describe post-military traumatic events (see CAPS trauma assessment checklist)
- \* describe psychosocial consequences of post-military trauma exposure(s) (treatment received, disruption to work, adverse health consequences)

Post-Military Psychosocial Adjustment (refer to social-industrial survey if completed) · legal history (DWIs, arrests, time spent in jail)

- \* educational accomplishment
- \* employment history (describe periods of employment and reasons)
- \* marital and family relationships (including quality of relationships with children)
- \* degree and quality of social relationships
- \* activities and leisure pursuits
- \* problematic substance abuse (lifetime and current)
- \* significant medical disorders (resulting pain or disability; current medications)
- \* treatment history for significant medical conditions, including hospitalizations
- \* history of inpatient and/or outpatient psychiatric care (dates and conditions treated)
- \* history of assaultiveness
- \* history of suicide attempts
- \* summary statement of current psychosocial functional status (performance in employment or schooling, routine responsibilities of self care, family role functioning, physical health, social/interpersonal relationships, recreation/leisure pursuits)

## E. Mental Status Examination

Conduct a brief mental status examination aimed at screening for DSM-IV mental disorders. Describe and fully explain the existence, frequency and extent of the following signs and symptoms, or any others present, and relate how they interfere with employment and social functioning:

- \* Impairment of thought process or communication.
- \* Delusions, hallucinations and their persistence.
- \* Eye Contact, interaction in session, and inappropriate behavior cited with examples.
- \* Suicidal or homicidal thoughts, ideations or plans or intent.
- \* Ability to maintain minimal personal hygiene and other basic activities of daily living.
- \* Orientation to person, place and time.
- \* Memory loss, or impairment (both short and long-term).
- \* Obsessive or ritualistic behavior which interferes with routine activities and describe any found.
- \* Rate and flow of speech and note any irrelevant, illogical, or obscure speech patterns and whether constant or intermittent.
- \* Panic attacks noting the severity, duration, frequency and effect on independent functioning and whether clinically observed or good evidence of prior clinical or equivalent observation is shown.
- \* Depression, depressed mood or anxiety.
- \* Impaired impulse control and its effect on motivation or mood.
- \* Sleep impairment and describe extent it interferes with daytime activities.
- \* Other disorders or symptoms and the extent they interfere with activities, particularly:
  - \* mood disorders (especially major depression and dysthymia)
  - \* substance use disorders (especially alcohol use disorders)
  - \* anxiety disorders (especially panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder)
  - \* somatoform disorders
  - \* personality disorders (especially antisocial personality disorder and borderline personality disorder)

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Specify onset and duration of symptoms as acute, chronic, or with delayed onset.

## F. Assessment of PTSD

- \* state whether or not the veteran meets the DSM-IV stressor criterion
- \* identify behavioral, cognitive, social, affective, or somatic change veteran attributes to stress exposure
- \* describe specific PTSD symptoms present (symptoms of trauma re-experiencing, avoidance/numbing, heightened physiological arousal, and associated features [e.g., disillusionment and demoralization])
- \* specify onset, duration, typical frequency, and severity of symptoms

## G. Psychometric Testing Results

- \* provide psychological testing if deemed necessary
- \* provide specific evaluation information required by the rating board or on a BVA Remand.
- \* comment on validity of psychological test results
- \* provide scores for PTSD psychometric assessments administered
- \* state whether PTSD psychometric measures are consistent or inconsistent with a diagnosis of PTSD, based on normative data and established “cutting scores” (cutting scores that are consistent with or supportive of a PTSD diagnosis are as follows: PCL > 50; Mississippi Scale > 107; MMPI PTSD subscale a score > 28; MMPI code type: 2-8 or 2-7-8)
- \* state degree of severity of PTSD symptoms based on psychometric data (mild, moderate, or severe)
- \* describe findings from psychological tests measuring problems other than PTSD (MMPI, etc.)

## H. Diagnosis:

1. The Diagnosis must conform to DSM-IV and be supported by the findings on the examination report.
2. If there are multiple mental disorders, delineate to the extent possible the symptoms associated with each and a discussion of relationship.
3. Evaluation is based on the effects of the signs and symptoms on occupational and social functioning.

NOTE: VA is prohibited by statute, 38 U.S.C. 1110, from paying compensation for a disability that is a result of the veteran's own ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE. However, when a veteran's alcohol or drug abuse disability is secondary to or is caused or aggravated by a primary service-connected disorder, the veteran may be entitled to compensation. See *Allen v. Principi*, 237 F.3d 1368, 1381 (Fed. Cir. 2001). Therefore, it is important to determine the relationship, if any, between a service-connected disorder and a disability resulting from the veteran's alcohol or drug abuse. Unless alcohol or drug abuse is secondary to or is caused or aggravated by another mental disorder, you should separate, to the extent possible, the effects of the alcohol or drug abuse from the effects of the other mental disorder(s). If it is not possible to separate the effects in such cases, please explain why.

## I. Diagnostic Status

- \* Axis I disorders
- \* Axis II disorders
- \* Axis III disorders

- \* Axis IV (psychosocial and environmental problems)
- \* Axis V (GAF score - current)

## J. Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF):

NOTE: The complete multi-axial format as specified by DSM-IV may be required by BVA REMAND or specifically requested by the rating specialist. If so, include the GAF score and note whether it refers to current functioning. A BVA REMAND may also request, in addition to an overall GAF score, that a separate GAF score be provided for each mental disorder present when there are multiple Axis I or Axis II diagnoses and not all are service-connected. If separate GAF scores can be given, an explanation and discussion of the rationale is needed. If it is not possible, an explanation as to why not is needed. (See the above note pertaining to alcohol or drug abuse, the effects of which cannot be used to assess the effects of a service-connected condition.)

DSM-IV is only for application from 11/7/96 on. Therefore, when applicable note whether the diagnosis of PTSD was supportable under DSM-III-R prior to that date. The prior criteria under DSM-III-R are provided as an attachment.

K. Capacity to Manage Financial Affairs: Mental competency, for VA benefits purposes, refers only to the ability of the veteran to manage VA benefit payments in his or her own best interest, and not to any other subject. Mental incompetency, for VA benefits purposes, means that the veteran, because of injury or disease, is not capable of managing benefit payments in his or her best interest. In order to assist raters in making a legal determination as to competency, please address the following:

What is the impact of injury or disease on the veteran's ability to manage his or her financial affairs, including consideration of such things as knowing the amount of his or her VA benefit payment, knowing the amounts and types of bills owed monthly, and handling the payment prudently? Does the veteran handle the money and pay the bills himself or herself?

Based on your examination, do you believe that the veteran is capable of managing his or her financial affairs? Please provide examples to support your conclusion.

If you believe a Social Work Service assessment is needed before you can give your opinion on the veteran's ability to manage his or her financial affairs, please explain why.

L. Other Opinion: Furnish any other specific opinion requested by the rating board or BVA remand (furnish the complete rationale and citation of medical texts or treatise supporting opinion, if medical literature review was undertaken). If the requested opinion is medically not ascertainable on exam or testing please state why. If the requested opinion can not be expressed without resorting to speculation or making improbable assumptions say so, and explain why. If the opinion asks “... is it at least as likely as not ...”, fully explain the clinical findings and rationale for the opinion. M. Integrated Summary and Conclusions

\* Describe changes in psychosocial functional status and quality of life following trauma exposure (performance in employment or schooling, routine responsibilities of self care, family role functioning, physical health, social/interpersonal relationships, recreation/leisure pursuits)

\* Describe linkage between PTSD symptoms and



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aforementioned changes in impairment in functional status and quality of life. Particularly in cases where a veteran is unemployed, specific details about the effects of PTSD and its symptoms on employment are especially important.

\* If possible, describe extent to which disorders other than PTSD (e.g., substance use disorders) are independently responsible for impairment in psychosocial adjustment and quality of life. If this is not possible, explain why (e.g., substance use had onset after PTSD and clearly is a means of coping with PTSD symptoms).

\* If possible, describe pre-trauma risk factors or characteristics than may have rendered the veteran vulnerable to developing PTSD subsequent to trauma exposure.

\* If possible, state prognosis for improvement of psychiatric condition and impairments in functional status.

\* Comment on whether veteran is capable of managing his or her financial affairs.

Signature: it says not signed Date: it says not dated

Ed Note: The article below was sent by the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. This was prepared as an answer to the Larry Scott article that I ran in the December Issue. (See 'Letters to the Editor'). Each of these individuals (Scott & Schrade), obviously have an axe to grind. My only concern is that the truth is told in these pages, regardless of the political persuasion of the person quoted.

Jeff Schrade, Communications Director  
U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Chairman  
412 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Direct: 202-224-9093 Cell: 202-680-9552 Fax: 202-228-5655  
<http://veterans.senate.gov>

• On the PTSD review by the Institute of Medicine, Sen. Craig, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, has indicated he supports that because it will bring medical science to bear on the issue rather than simple political calculations. The better we understand the problem and the effectiveness of current treatment, the better off veterans and taxpayers will be. The goal for all of us interested in helping veterans with PTSD is seeing them get better, or at a minimum, not getting worse. Hopefully the IOM's efforts will help all of us reach the best decisions we can to help veterans.

• Mr. Scott says that no notification was made by the VA about the Institute of Medicine's research effort. The VA made that announcement that to all members of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees. We made the assumption that in notifying us, they would be notifying others by press release. The VA, for whatever reason, opted not to do that.

• VA announced a few weeks ago that it was stopping the review of all the 72,000 claims for PTSD. The Inspector General's office had found what it felt to be were multiple problems with the PTSD claims, but after it had reviewed 2,100 claims, VA said it could see no pattern of fraud in the claims.

• Approximately 2 weeks later, the VA announced to members of Congress that it had contracted with the independent, scientifically based Institute of Medicine, for a review of the whole issue of PTSD. That focus will be scientific.

Return to Disability Exams Index <[index.htm](#)>

To inquire concerning the status of your compensation, DIC, pension, burial, accrued, clothing allowance, automobile, specially adapted housing, or spina bifida claim or to ask any general Compensation & Pension (C&P) benefit question, you may call our toll-free number: 1-800-827-1000

Or, you may e-mail a VA Regional Office through the E-mail Contacts Page

<[http://www.vba.va.gov/BENEFITS/e\\_maillinks.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/BENEFITS/e_maillinks.htm)>.

VA Home Page <[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)> | FOIA <[www.va.gov/foia/default.htm](http://www.va.gov/foia/default.htm)>

Disclaimer <[././Disclaim.htm](#)>

Privacy and Security Statement <[www.va.gov/privacy](http://www.va.gov/privacy)> | Contact the VA <<http://www.vba.va.gov/benefits/address.htm>>

• **VA indicated that it made the decision to use the Institute of Medicine independent of its decision to close the review of all 72,000 cases.**

• One IOM committee will be established to review the current scientific and medical literature related to the assessment of PTSD and how accurate the current screening instruments are. Another IOM committee will provide technical assistance on issues related to treatment, prognosis, and compensation of PTSD.

• **We do not know what they will recommend regarding compensation** – indeed, they might even recommend that veterans get more money, they may say all is well with compensation, or they may make other recommendations. We simply don't know at this point what they will recommend – but **we do know the committee that reviews PTSD "treatment, prognosis, and compensation" will be open to the public, and comments will be sought from Veterans Service Organizations.**

• Many veterans organizations have claimed that the earlier – *and now cancelled* – review of 72,000 claims was an attempt by cold-hearted VA officials to deny benefits to worthy veterans. However, the real purpose of that review was to address the concerns identified by the Inspector General. It was the IG who had raised the concern that some veterans may be getting benefits to which they were not entitled. VA officials have determined that does not appear to be the case – at least not intentionally.

• Mr. Scott's comments about Sen. Craig being a conduit for the VA's bad news are simply inaccurate and, frankly, just plain silly. Senator Craig has regularly taken the VA to task when they have done dumb things.

• Mr. Scott sets up a "straw man" argument claiming that after the Institute of Medicine completes its review of the science of PTSD, the VA could shut off benefits to veterans. VA has not indicated that it will do so. Setting up a false argument is a way to get people fired up and read columns and sell newspapers. That doesn't mean his assumptions are correct.

• Mr. Scott claims in his article/editorial that my press releases are not read by many. I guess that is in the eye of the beholder. We receive approximately 35,000 people visiting our website each month. Our

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press releases are e-mailed directly to 1,100 people each month, many of whom forward those releases on to their friends. There is one individual who forwards Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee releases to his e-mail distribution list — which he says goes out 300,000 people.

• On a political note, since most Mr. Scott's columns are usually aimed at blasting Republicans, I assume that he leans to the left politically. So while he claims to be a "VA Watchdog," his columns are probably better suited for the editorial page of newspaper rather than as a news item.

I could go on about Mr. Scott — but let me sum up my thoughts this way. I read his columns regularly and it appears to me that Larry Scott seems to think that every decision by the VA and Congress is some effort to shortchange veterans out of their benefits. That is ludicrous. Below is a summary of how things have improved for veterans in the past few years — facts which Mr. Scott never acknowledges.

#### **Legislative accomplishments for 2005**

• **Confirmed Secretary Jim Nicholson and VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Jon Perlin**

• **Passed the "Wounded Warrior" traumatic insurance protection package** — those wounded since start of operations in Afghanistan will get anywhere from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for their injuries, depending on severity. Money applies to all — whether or not in a combat zone. First payments will be made before Christmas of 2005.

• **Got VA and DOD to develop "One stop shopping" information website for war widows-widowers**, located at:  
<http://www.vba.va.gov/Survivors>

• **In July we filled a hole in the VA's budget with a one-time fix of \$1.5 billion**

*Notified VA that they must now present quarterly reports to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to ensure Congress is not surprised by any future shortfalls*

• **Increased VA's budget to over \$70 billion for FY 2006 — a record amount of money for veterans.**

• **Increased Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage for active duty personnel** — up from \$250,000 to \$400,000, a \$150,000 increase in life insurance coverage for military men and women. Those who leave the military — and thus become veterans — will now qualify for this increased coverage. (Coverage amounts are fixed when a person leaves the service.)

#### **5 year accomplishments for the Republican-led Congress led by President Bush:**

• **Five million veterans will receive VA health care services this year, about 1 million more than just four years ago.**

• **VA hospitals are now top rated —**

**U.S. News and World Report - July 18, 2005**  
**Today's VA hospitals are models of top-notch care**

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/health/articles/050718/18va.htm>

"They take pride in the results, such as a decline in patient falls and a pacemaker redesigned by the manufacturer because of a close call. And

other hospitals have noticed. Jennifer Daley, chief medical officer and senior vice president of clinical quality at Tenet Healthcare Corp., is using the VA as a blueprint to improve performance at the nation's second-largest for-profit hospital operator."

#### **Washington Monthly – January/February 2005** **The Best Care Anywhere**

<http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2005/0501.longman.html>

"Ten years ago, veterans hospitals were dangerous, dirty, and scandal-ridden. Today, they're producing the highest quality care in the country."

#### **Annals of Internal Medicine – December 2004** **Comparison of Quality of Care for Patients in the Veterans Health Administration and Patients in a National Sample**

<http://www.annals.org/cgi/reprint/141/12/938.pdf>

"Patients from the VHA received higher-quality care according to a broad measure. Differences were greatest in areas where the VHA has established performance measures and actively monitors performance."

#### **• Veterans Budget Increased More than \$20 billion in 5 years**

The total VA budget has increased from \$48 billion in FY 2001 to approximately \$70 billion in FY 2006, a 46 percent increase in five years.

#### **• Veterans Medical Care Funding Rose 46 percent in 4 years**

Veterans medical care funding has risen from \$21.3 billion in the FY 2001 budget to approximately \$31 billion in FY 2005.

#### **• Historic \$22 billion Concurrent Receipt Benefit Enacted**

In 2004, Congress approved a historic concurrent receipt benefit for veterans that will provide over \$22 billion to more than 250,000 disabled military retirees over the next ten years. Effective January 2005, a retiree rated 100 percent service-connected disabled is authorized to receive their disability and military retirement benefits concurrently. (P.L. 108-375)

#### **• GI Bill Benefits Boosted over 46 percent since 2001**

In 2001 legislation, the GI Bill educational benefit was boosted by 46 percent, raising the lifetime benefit for qualified veterans from \$23,400 to \$35,460 and giving our nation's veterans more opportunities to pursue a higher education. Now, if you're a full-time student enrolled in a Regionally or Nationally Accredited College or University, you can get up to \$1034 a month (current rates) to cover education benefits, including high-tech or vocational-technical programs. It now all adds up to a total benefit of over \$37,000. These benefits are increasing every year.

#### **• VA Home Loan Guarantees Increased by 67 percent since 2001**

In 2004, Congress increased the maximum VA home loan guarantee to \$333,700, an increase of 67 percent from the prevailing maximum level in 2001, affording more veterans the opportunity of home ownership.

#### **• Dozens of Expanded and Improved Veterans Benefits and Services**

Over the past four years, Congress has passed, and President Bush has signed, 17 separate bills to improve and expand veterans' benefits and services that:

- Expands the scope and quality of veterans' healthcare services;
- Provides new and increased benefits to disabled veterans;
- Improves job training and placement services for veterans;

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- Clarifies and strengthens employment and reemployment rights for veterans;
- Extends new benefits to veterans' widows and dependents;
- Helps eradicate homelessness among veterans – since 2001, homelessness among veterans has been reduced from 250,000 (about 33 percent of the total homeless population) to 192,000, about 25 percent;
- Strengthens legal rights and protections for all servicemembers;
- Continues the largest expansion of the national cemetery system since the Civil War, the 2006 budget funds land purchase for six new national cemeteries in Bakersfield, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; Columbia-Greenville, S.C.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Sarasota, Fla.; and southeastern Pennsylvania; and expansion of the Fort Rosecrans Annex in Miramar, Calif.; and
- Includes \$32 million for new state cemetery grants.

## 10-Year Record of Support for Our Nation's Veterans

- The Veterans budget has increased by 77 percent since 1995, the year Republicans became the majority in the House, averaging over 7 percent each year. The Veterans healthcare budget has increased by 86 percent in the same period.

*In contrast, from 1965 to 1995, total annual veterans' spending in constant dollars only grew an average of under 2 percent.*

- The Republican-led Congress passed and President Bush enacted

legislation that provides disabled military retirees with concurrent receipt of their military retirement and disability benefits.

- Republicans are committed to ensuring that the men and women serving in our Armed Services are given the access to healthcare they deserve both while serving their country and after their service:
- Republican budgets have enabled VA to care for a record number of high-priority patients, those veterans counting on us the most. This includes veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Republican budgets have enhanced the quality of veterans health care: VA leads the health care industry in computerized records, patient safety and standards for high-quality care.
- More than 90 percent of veteran will receive primary care within 30 days of their desired date, and more than 90 percent of veterans seeking specialty care will receive it within 30 days.
- The Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) program includes 28 new outpatient clinics, funding for design work for two new medical facilities in Biloxi, Miss., and Fayetteville, Ark., and funding for five other major construction projects in Las Vegas, Nev.; Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Gainesville, Fla.; and Anchorage, Alaska.

## Vietnam Combat Linked to Diseases 20 Years Later

Recent medical research has determined that veterans of heavy combat in Vietnam who were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are significantly more likely to have a host of both chronic and infectious diseases. These diseases can manifest themselves as much as 20 years after service in Vietnam.

After studying the medical histories of 1,399 Vietnam veterans, Joseph A. Boscarino, PhD, MPH, vice president for Outcomes Research with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Health System, found that, compared to non-PTSD veterans, those with PTSD who saw heavy combat were 50 to 150 percent more likely to have circulatory, digestive, musculoskeletal, respiratory infections, cancers and other serious diseases 20 years after leaving military service.

The national study is one of the first to confirm a direct link between exposure to traumatic stress and the occurrence of a broad spectrum of diseases.

"This research suggests the need to better understand the results of exposure to severe stress in the human disease process," said Boscarino, who noted that the findings might have particular relevance for veterans now suffering from "Gulf War Syndrome." Boscarino urged more research attention on the long-term health status of those in other dangerous occupations, such as firefighters and police officers. A major study of Vietnam veterans has found those who are plagued by anxiety attacks or depression as a result of the experiences are also far more likely to suffer from heart problems. The results of the study suggest PTSD may actually cause or greatly accelerate the condition. While the link between extreme stress and heart disease has been demonstrated in animal studies, it has so far been more difficult to prove in humans.

An additional study of 4,462 men who had all seen combat in Vietnam was published in the *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. The researcher

found 15 percent of the entire sample had some form of coronary heart disease when checked with an electrocardiogram EKG. machine. But abnormal EKG results were found in 28 percent of the veterans with PTSD, 24 percent with anxiety only and 22 percent with depression only.

It is more likely that combat veterans with PTSD "01" another psychological disorder might expose themselves to heart disease risk by drinking and smoking "01" taking drugs, as well as generally neglecting their health in other ways. Yet the study results held true even after researchers had taken this into account. Boscarino's research also suggests those with PTSD often have altered nervous systems. Disturbances in these key body systems are the main reason for a broad spectrum of diseases among combat veterans.

"We believe that this research suggests a clear, definitive linkage between exposure to severe stress and the onset of coronary heart disease in humans," noted Boscarino. "For these men, combat exposure years ago in Vietnam was the principal reason for PTSD, anxiety and depression, but we believe that the results would be similar when looking at the consequences of severe distress among other groups of people and within other occupations."

An expert in PTSD, Dr. Stuart Turner, from the Traumatic Stress Clinic in London, said the results stated by Boscarino were "plausible."

"Post-traumatic stress disorder is associated with some physical effects on the body's metabolism," he said. "However, a lot more work needs to be done before it can be proven."\*

*Contributed by Ronald L. Swisher, TVC Staff*

Ed Note: I want to thank the Texas Veterans Commission for the use of this article.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ed Note: I have been doing this job for almost 6 years, and I get **ONE** letter. And the guy's pissed. Oh well, I guess that's why I get the big bucks. (That's a joke.) I have no politics. As a former lawyer that is somewhat familiar with the workings of the political system, and after having clerked for a judge for a time, I don't trust **any** of them. Ask yourself just one question, why would you spend a hundred million dollars to get a job that pay \$500,000.00 a year? It's all about spin and how it looks, and how to hold on to the power, once you have it, or how to get it if you don't. I haven't vote **for** anyone since I voted for Barry Goldwater in 1964, the first year I could vote. Ever since that election, I have been voting **against** someone, someone that I perceived to be the lesser of two evils. Every one has the right to their own opinion. I find it amusing that the religious fundamentalists that we call the enemy and label terrorists, which of course they are, are as intolerant as those on the extreme left and right of our own political system. What are they afraid of? These are ideas and opinions we're talking about. People have looked at different sides of the same issues for centuries and disagreed. (Oh, Wait... that's how we get wars, isn't it?) I guess the real tolerant guy just gets fed up and shoots the intolerant bastard. Or is it the other way around? The interesting thing about this Association is that all of us have fought or have been prepared to fight for the right to speak. We might want to hold on to that thought. I was going to answer this letter, but Steve Crabtree over-ruled me and said he wanted to do it. (Talk about use of Power). On second thought, maybe I did answer it.

Dear Editor,

I am a new member and recently spent time in reading the Patrolling Winter 2005 issue. Please consider these constructive comments. As in business, we should value customers' complaints. The ones that hurt us are the ones who don't speak but silently fade away and tell their friends. Addressing these concerns will impact your future membership, which you desire to grow. My first question has to do with the mission of the Ranger Association. If you are a Liberal group dedicated to the recapture of political power, then my comments will be snickered at, attempts will be made to hurt me, and I'll fade away at renewal time. If, however, this is for RANGERS, hopefully

action will be taken.

It would be good to publish a mission statement. I joined because of a possibility of helping our current group of young warriors. What's the stated purpose of the group?

The point of this letter:

Read and reread the article against the VA both in Legislative, Health Updates, PLUS a feature article NEW STUDY. Give me a break!

In NEW STUDY, the first 2 paragraphs against Secretary Nicholson are uncalled for and cry out for someone who knows him to also write in a comment. I see him constantly visiting wounded soldiers at Walter Reed and holding focus groups. The comments reveal, however, who Larry Scott really is. Actually go to <http://www.opednews.com> and <http://www.vawatchdog.org>, and see for yourselves the hate-filled and destructive character of everything said. Do a Google on Thom Hartman, a liberal talk show host with whom Larry Scott appears often. Read the article by Larry Scott called "Dismantling VA" on Military.com. Is that truth or political hype? Check out the angry reaction of readers who accepted his writing as an honest unbiased reporter of facts. If you would give Rush Limbaugh equal space to give his opinion, that would be acceptable.

The VA is made up of many dedicated people who are doing wonderful things for veterans. You won't find any of those stories on the blogs. Even one article which headlines a positive ends with a blast at President Bush. Since Larry Scott served in the US Army as a journalist and is now a disabled veteran, can the readers look forward to an article on his personal experiences and especially his disability history, to include experience with the VA? It would be appropriate since the magazine is a forum for sharing personal Ranger experiences. Is Larry a member of the Ranger Association? What earned him that privilege? When the Association website is up and running, will there be a link to these Liberal groups? Will there be a link to Rush Limbaugh as a balance?

Let's be about the business of supporting our young Rangers carrying the rucksack right now and other positive missions, to include the memories of those who went before!  
Ron Harper

In answer to Ron Harper's Letter to the Editor regarding the Mission Statement of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association the following is submitted (Copied and Pasted directly from our website at: <http://www.75thrra.com>). My comments are at the end of each statement in Italics:

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 and the 75th Ranger Regiment. *Vietnam was an extremely unpopular war. Many of us that did not make the Army our vocation separated after our initial enlistment, put the war behind us and got on with our lives. Somewhere in the late 1980's small groups of former LRRPs and Rangers started*

*getting together. One thing led to another and a national organization was formed primarily due to the efforts of the 101st Airborne units. Using the manifests that these individual units created, the word of the birth of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association was spread and the association grew to what it is today (approximately 2000 members). We reach out today with Patrolling and our website to identify and recruit qualified candidates for membership.*

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.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

3. To attain maximum participation by members in good standing in all Association activities. *No matter how you cut the cake, 5% of the membership carry 95% of the workload. I would like to see this percentage change. Have you any suggestions as how to accomplish this? I sure don't. Why don't you apply for a Unit Representative position or a State Controller? Better yet, throw your hat in the ring for the Patrolling Editor's job or the Presidency in 2007.*

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. *We support anything that betters the public's image of the Ranger. To the best of my knowledge, the 75RRA has never said no to any of the above organizations. We gave over \$10,000 to the three Battalions and HQ for Christmas presents for the children of the lower ranking enlisted men. We have joined with all the other Ranger Organizations in support of the American Ranger Memorial in Washington, DC. See #6 below.*

5. To memorialize those of our comrades who are missing in action, who died while serving their country or while serving in units that qualify them for membership in this Association. *Outside of 30 or 40 previously purchased bricks at the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning, the 75RRA has seen to it that every LRRP, LRP and Ranger killed in action in Vietnam has a memorial brick. This was accomplished with the donations from the individual Units, matching funds from McDonnell Douglas, a \$5,600 donation from Miller Brewing Company and \$13,600 from the 75RRA general fund. It took us 3 ? years to raise the funds. The final payment was made last year to cover a broken promise from another donor. Every time an active Ranger is killed in action we, the 75RRA, purchase a brick for them. At last count our brick purchases alone exceed 450. At \$240 per brick, do the math.*

6. To carry out programs and activities worthy of the Association. *Gold Star Wives Program, Gold Star Mother Program, Boy Scout Troop, Best Ranger Competition, USMA Ball, and the National Ranger Memorial Scholarship Fund are just a few of the programs we support. We don't like to go around beating our chest saying we support this or we support that. We just do it. Please reread #2, #3, #4 & #5 above. If you were involved with the day to day activities of our organization, you wouldn't make the statement, "Let's be about the business of supporting our young Rangers carrying the rucksack right now and other positive missions, to include the memories of those who went before!"*

7. To organize and unite those eligible for membership in a fraternal bond: to pay homage to units in which we served by perpetuating the history and traditions of those units, and, to honor our comrades, living and dead, whose service was in keeping with the duties and responsibilities of American Rangers. *See #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 & #6 above.*

In response to Ron's anger against the articles against the VA, I offer:

How many of you have received the correct disability rating the first time you filed with the VA? This question does not apply to those of you who received a 100% rating for amputations, blindness or other major disabilities. My friend, though wounded in the face, carried his buddy's body out of a hot LZ. My friend returned home, married his childhood sweetheart and started a family. He could never get the memory of that day in 1970 out of his mind. He was positive that he had fired the shot that killed his buddy. He left his wife and teenage children and

disappeared for several years. He showed up at one of our reunions complaining about "killing his best friend." We told him that he couldn't have fired the shot as his buddy was in front of him during the firefight and that the exit wound was in his back's back. My friend filed for VA disability for PTSD and was awarded a whopping 10% for PTSD. This rating has been upgraded but only after years and years of fighting with the VA. Had the VA properly diagnosed the seriousness of his PTSD and offered treatment at his first filing, he would still be married and had lived a semi-normal life.

Another friend was on an eleven man hunter killer mission in 1968. Every man on his team was wounded, 4 killed. He filed for VA disability for his wounds and PTSD. He too was given a token rating after the first filing. It took him four and one half years and three or four appeals to finally receive the 100% disability rating that he should have received after the first filing. Had the VA properly diagnosed the extent of his wounds and the seriousness of his PTSD at his first filing, he would have been spared four and one half years of anguish and had more time to spend with his young son who subsequently died.

I personally carry a 60% disability rating from the VA. It took the VA 363 days to answer my first filing, another nine months to receive my first rating. It has taken me over six years to get it raised from 40% to 60% to temporary 100% to retroactive 80% and reduced back to 60% after my surgery. I have a claim in for Neuropathy due to complications from my spinal fusion for service connected Spondylolisthesis. I have watched my friends die of cancer, suicide and a number of other service related disabilities. The way the VA handles new cases and appeals is a crime and turns my stomach. If the VA would properly assess new cases rather than just dole out the minimum disability percentages at first rating, perhaps they would find that their horrendous backlog would disappear when the number of appeals dropped off to practically nothing. Then and only then will they be able to diagnose disabilities, assign ratings and respond in an reasonable amount of time to the men and women who put their lives on line for their country. Had the VA properly diagnosed the seriousness of the PTSD at his first filing of two of the former members of my Vietnam Ranger Unit, perhaps they wouldn't have blown their brains out of their heads.

Your letter attacks Larry Scott's portrayal of Secretary Nicholson. I will fight to the death for your right to freedom of speech. Will you do the same for Larry? I personally don't know any of the three of you which makes it difficult for me to take sides. Why don't you contact Larry and present your case directly to him? Larry is not a member of our organization as he did not serve in a Ranger unit. Your "hate-filled and destructive character of everything said," quote makes me think that you are arguing against the man rather than the issue. Do you really believe that we are getting a fair deal from the VA? I'm sorry that your friend, Secretary Nicholson, had less than flattering things written about him but are they true or does the truth hurt?

Your Barry Goldwater Republican, Rush Linbaugh lovin' President, CRABS

***Rangers Lead The Way!***

***Stephen C. Crabtree, President***

***75th Ranger Regiment Association***

***5069 Kingsbridge Pass***

***Powder Springs, Georgia 30127***

***(770) 423 0667 (h)***

***(678) 938 6349 (c)***

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**FEATURE ARTICLES**

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**75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. 2006 Reunion**

**Branson, Missouri, June 11-18, 2006**

You must register by way of the web site. If you are not internet capable, find some one who is, and is willing to help.

The web site is: [www.welcomehome2006.org](http://www.welcomehome2006.org).

There will be a banquet on Thursday night, the cost will be in the \$30.00 to \$40.00 range.

The hotels:

75th Ranger Assn. is the Ramada at 800-641-4106 (rate \$59)

Outback Roadhouse 800—562-0622 (nice—rooms \$59.95, suites with Jacuzzis \$99); Holiday Inn Express 800-321-7275 (nice—\$69.95)

Southern Oaks 417-335-8108 (\$49).

Tell them that you are with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

We have three huge hospitality rooms at the Ramada (one for the 75th, one for the 101st LRP/Rangers, one for Charlie Company Rangers).

I encourage everyone to register now. We anticipate a sell out. Bass tournament will fill up quickly, as will the National Awards Ceremony. Early registrants will get first crack at VIP and reserve seating at the concerts on Sat. and Sunday.

After those seats are gone it's general admission. Banquet will be Thurs.

We have Col. Bob Howard as a guest speaker so far.

We may add a national entertainer or two and some local entertainment.

There will be no charge, aside from a \$15.00 registration fee, per attendee, on the part of the 75th RRA. There is a registration fee for the Welcome Home Committee that is putting on the whole shindig. The 75th RRA is essentially piggy- backing on the Welcome Home Committee, C/75 and L/75 reunions. There will be almost no cost to the Association, aside from the banquet, hence the small registration fee.

To sign up, drop me a line and a check or credit card. You can now do that a number of ways:

**Credit Card:** send me the account number, expiration date, number of people attending and the amount of the charge.

**Pay Pal:** You can now use Pay Pal through the web site, [75thrra.org](http://75thrra.org).

**Checks:** Or you can use the old fashion way, a check in an envelope.

Make check out to: 75th RRA

Mailto: 75th RRA  
PO Box 10970  
Baltimore, MD 21234

You can e-mail me at [john.chester3@verizon.net](mailto:john.chester3@verizon.net), or call me at 410-426-1391 (home)

Or my cell phone at 410-382-9344.

If you have any questions at all, give me a call.

John Chester  
Secretary

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### *State Coordinators* *Helping us to keep in Touch!*

Some years back, Emmett Hiltibrand and others started the State Coordinators as a way of keeping our members in contact with the units and with each other. I must admit that I was a half-hearted participant in the effort as like most others I am “busy”.

Well a visit to a friend and comrade yesterday gave me a better appreciation of the State Coordinator program.

Ronald Dunn was one of the first or I could say a Charter Member of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division LRRPs when first organized in March 1966 in Chu Chi, RVN.

Over the past few years I have seen and spoken to Ron on a number of occasions, but yesterday I felt that those contacts were woefully inadequate. Like many of our friends, the years have caught up with Ron and now he is now longer the quick-witted agile friend who I knew as a full of spunk 19 year old. It was hard to see my friend now confined, hopefully temporarily, to a bed. As we talked, I thought to my self several times, “*why in the hell didn’t I see him more often, and now look at both of us*”.

Well, I am in fact busy with my work and daily life activities, but Emmett; I am going to take the opportunity you offered to me and all of the other LRRPs and Rangers. I’ll spend more time in keeping in touch with my friends, as even the youngest of us is not all that young anymore.

Marshall Huckaby  
25<sup>th</sup> ID LRRPs 1966-1967



“Capt” Ponzilla presents Ron Dunn with a Certificate of service  
with the 25<sup>th</sup> IN LRRPs, a LRRP hat and a LRRP shirt.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

# The Legacy of Tet

It was with Tet '68 that the American media first knew sin. Anyone seeking to understand the character of consistently negative media coverage of the Global War on Terror must understand Tet.

The Tet offensive of February 1968 is widely regarded as one of the turning points of the Vietnam War – though not for the customary military reasons Tet had its origins in the plans of North Vietnamese commander Vo Nguyen Giap, a competent general given to flights of overconfidence. Giap decided to throw all available assets, both PAVN (People's Army of North Vietnam) and Viet Cong, against every major target across South Vietnam. He anticipated a massive revolt by the South Vietnamese populace, who would overthrow the government, set out the welcome mat for their Communist liberators, and leave U.S. and allied forces sitting high and dry. The attack was scheduled to begin on the night of January 30, the beginning of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. Tet was normally considered a truce period, when the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) was at its lowest level of alertness.

The result of all Giap's efforts was a total rout. The South Vietnamese, utterly horrified by the prospect of a Communist takeover, sat tight while U.S. and government troops crushed the attack in a matter of days. The sole holdout was the old imperial citadel at Hue, which required three weeks to be retaken. The government stood firm, the ARVN, once recovered from its initial surprise, did a creditable job. The Viet Cong, on the other hand, were ruined as a military force, their rural infrastructure left in tatters. They never fully recovered, forcing the PAVN to take over the bulk of combat duties. Giap, his reputation saving him from the usual fate of failed generals in communist societies, went back to the drawing board. (Though not very fruitfully—his next scheme was a 'mini-Tet' in April, which ended much the same way.)

But that's not how the U.S. public saw it.

American readers and viewers were presented with a disaster nearly beyond comprehension, with U.S. forces hanging on by their fingernails, ARVN troops tossing guns aside and running for safety, government officials given over to complete panic, Viet Cong and PAVN forces running wild with no losses to speak of, while General Giap, the 20th century Napoleon, nodded in approval at seeing his plan unfold. Tet ended up being a major success for communist forces after all. It was the first time in history that the news media overturned a victory won by forces on the ground.

One observer struck by the dichotomy between what occurred and how it was reported was a journalist named Peter Braestrup, chief of the Washington Post's Saigon bureau. Braestrup had also worked for Time Magazine and The New York Times. In later years he became a fellow of the Smithsonian's Woodrow Wilson International Center and editor of The Wilson Quarterly. Not the CV of any sort of conservative, and in fact Braestrup was an establishment liberal of the type that scarcely exists any longer. But he was also the kind of reporter who treats a story as personal property. After ten years work, Braestrup produced his book *Big Story: How the American Press and Television Reported and Interpreted the Crisis of Tet 1968 in Vietnam and Washington*, an analysis of every major news report concerning the Tet Offensive, along with the military, political, and social results that ensued.

*Big Story* is sui generis, a book as remarkable as the event it

describes. The book punctured not only the myth of Tet, but the myth of the news coverage surrounding it, revealing exactly how the national media acted as a catalyst for the loss of a war. Braestrup portrayed a press corps living a privileged, near-aristocratic existence in Saigon, feeding off of gossip and rumor, cynical about the country, the government, and prospects for victory. Most were ignorant of military affairs. None could speak Vietnamese or had any deep knowledge of the country. When the attack came, the press corps responded with shock. The first stories were written in a state of panic, expressing reporter's own confusion rather than anything occurring in the quotidian world. As the picture began to coalesce – a picture that completely contradicted early dispatches – most of the journalists, out of stubbornness, fear of looking foolish, any mixture of human frailties, stuck with their original reports, aided and abetted by editors back home who knew a great story when they saw one.

Many of the names involved are still well-known today. The New York Times' Charles Mohr, once a supporter of the war effort, was among the first to cast doubt on claims of Allied success. The Washington Post's China expert Stanley Karnow wrote a front-page appreciation of Giap as a 'military genius,' followed a few weeks later with another piece claiming that the offensive had 'scored impressive gains.' His Post colleague Ward Just played the 'unidentified official' angle to draw pessimistic conclusions. Hanson Baldwin, the Times' resident military expert, consistently overrated North Vietnamese capabilities while downgrading allied forces. Even Robert Novak (at that time partnered with Rowland Evans) added his bit of alarmism from 10,000 miles away.

Braestrup was the first to identify Peter Arnett as a serial prevaricator. Arnett was the source of the story that became emblematic of the entire offensive: that the Viet Cong had shot their way into the U.S. Saigon embassy and held it overnight. In truth, the VC sappers who penetrated embassy grounds were quickly dispatched before entering any buildings, a fact that went unmentioned by Arnett and many later histories of the war. Shortly afterward Arnett reported a quote from an American major concerning operations in the town of Ben Tre: 'We had to destroy the town in order to save it.'

Nobody, not Arnett, not the reporters who accompanied him, not his employers at the AP, were ever able to produce this 'major,' which didn't prevent the line from becoming the leading catchphrase of the antiwar movement (Braestrup's research uncovered the fact that the phrase was already in the air – almost identical words were used by the Times' James Reston in an editorial appearing the same day as Arnett's report.) Alternately, all reports calling the disaster narrative into question were downplayed. A mid-February analysis by counterinsurgency expert Douglas Pike concluding that Communist forces had overextended themselves and been badly whipped was either ignored or dumped onto the back pages.

Media coverage of Tet destroyed public confidence in the war effort. The antiwar movement, until then little more than a freak show, exploded in size and influence. Various rebel Democrats began scheming. The Johnson Administration, already off balance, was effectively shattered. Within weeks Walter Cronkite, speaking ex cathedra from his CBS anchor's chair, pronounced judgment on both the war and the administration, prompting Lyndon Johnson, with the

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

spinelessness of a lifelong bully, to withdraw from the 1968 presidential campaign.

Of course, after the offensive was put down and calmer days returned, the papers and networks examined the reports, uncovered the facts, disciplined those responsible, issued corrections, and instituted procedures to assure that such a situation would never recur.

Actually, no. There are errors so vastly wide-ranging that they can't ever be admitted to, and Tet was one of these. No such actions were ever taken. Quite the contrary – the type of distortion so evident during Tet became standard procedure for Vietnam reportage. Within a few months, the battle of Khe Sanh, a hard-fought, undeniable U.S. victory which accounted for something on the order of 40,000 North Vietnamese casualties, was reported as a defeat of American arms. As the years passed, Giap-worshiper Stanley Karnow achieved fame as author of the war's standard history. Ward Just became noted for topical, well-written, and extraordinarily dull political novels. Arnett pursued a long and varied career until events caught up with him in the form of the Tailwind scandal, appropriately involving lies concerning a U.S. operation in Vietnam. Braestrup was reluctant to draw any conclusion as to reasons behind the media distortion. He did not buy an ideological explanation, and found claims that media coverage led to allied defeat to be "highly speculative". As is true of most historical events, a single explanation is unlikely to be adequate. A list could start with cynicism, an embrace of the anti-authoritarian ethos of the period, journalism enduring a period of decadence as every human endeavor eventually does), and continue from there. It scarcely matters at this point.

What does matter is that the Tet style became accepted practice.

Journalism was becoming "professionalized" at the time, with the press thinking itself an elite, and the attitudes and procedures surrounding Vietnam reportage were institutionalized. Virtually every military confrontation since 1968 has been covered from the same adversarial stance that marked the Tet reports. (And not only wars – Katrina coverage was just as distorted, hysterical, and harmful as any recent war reportage.) Big Story is not considered suitable for Vietnam scholarship, and is very rarely referenced or even mentioned.

College students studying the era are rarely if ever exposed to its contesting of the conventional wisdom. But it remains one of those rare volumes that actually does a service, by identifying a malady, giving its origins, and listing its symptoms. It is a book of value, and will eventually find its place. Not the least of its virtues is how much light it sheds on events in Iraq. To read Braestrup is to understand fully why current war reportage is so relentlessly downbeat. Why stories in the legacy media are at such variance with sources such as warblogs or Iraqi websites. Why reporters appear to take on the role of advocate for the enemy. Why Cindy Sheehan and Jimmy Massey – both almost pure media constructs – get the coverage they do. Why bogus issues involving Guantanamo Bay, prisoner interrogation, and "torture" receive such attention. Why Coalition successes go virtually unmentioned. Why the unfolding of a political miracle, an Arab democracy, has been greeted with near-indifference.

And why the media will never again play a useful role until the legacy of Tet is eradicated.

J.R. Dunn

Among many other things, J.R. Dunn was the editor of the International Military Encyclopedia for twelve years.

## OPERATION GOTHIC SERPENT REMEMBERED

October 3rd 1993 is a day that I will never forget. I think we as a nation should remember the brave and courageous men who fought and died in the Battle Of The Black Sea, or as the Somalis called it Ma-alinti Rangers, just as we would remember any other significant battle in our country's history. I don't have the words to express my deepest appreciation for the men of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment. The one thing about this battle that really moves me is this, part of the Ranger Creed states: Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country. Most of these Rangers were in their early to mid 20's and had not yet seen combat, yet they lived up to their creed. I think it takes a person with great honor and integrity not just to say a creed but to live it, and that in my opinion, is just what they did. I wear a KIA bracelet for CPL James M. Cavaco. I choose to wear it for two reasons. One, and most important, is to honor him and Two, to remind me every day that we have brave and courageous young men, such as these Rangers, fighting for freedom and humanity every day in far off countries such as Somalia. I just wanted to pay my respects and gratitude to the men of Task Force Ranger. This is one very grateful and proud American who will never forget you. For those who sacrificed their lives I leave this quote commonly known to Rangers: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Then said I, "Here am I, send me!" Isaiah 6:8.

Rangers Lead The Way!!

### RIP

SGT JAMES JOYCE  
SGT LORENZO RUIZ  
SGT DOMINICK PILLA  
CPL JAMES CAVACO  
CPL JAMES SMITH  
PFC RICHARD KOWALEWSKI

By: William H. Jewell Jr.  
Proud son of Vietnam Veteran who served with 101st LRRP

# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Acebes



In January the Battalion held an awards ceremony to honor Rangers from First Battalion for individual acts of service and heroism. Purple Heart Medals were awarded during this ceremony. The valorous unit award was awarded to Alpha, Bravo & Headquarters Company for their part in the rescue of Private Jessica Lynch. As everyone knows it was great rangers who dug with their hands to recover the bodies of the fallen American Soldiers that were buried, so that no one would be left behind. The award read as follows: "During the period of 29 March 2003 to 02 April 2003, elements of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment displayed extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy during Operation Restore Hope in Iraq. The recovery of American prisoners of war and the remains of several fallen American soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Company was exceptional in its gallantry, determination and high esprit de corps. The repatriation of captured forces from enemy occupied territory displayed the determination of the American military and the coalition partners toward one hundred percent mission accomplishment and personified their commitment to bring all fallen heroes home. The 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment's dedication to duty, discipline and professional manner is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon themselves, the United States Special Operations Command, and the Department of Defense". General Wagner, Commander, USASOC (former Commander of the 1st Ranger Battalion) presented the award. Also on hand was the honorary Colonel of the Regiment; Colonel Ralph Puckett, special guests included Congressman Jack Kingston and CSM Mike Hall.

During this same ceremony, CSM Dennis Smith was promoted to his current rank. His wife (Debbie) was on hand for the honors. The Battalion also retired two of the great unsung heroes of the Battalion, Dick Moore and Henry Nix. And last but not least, the Battalion Commander was promoted to Colonel — HOOAH

The children's Christmas party was a great success and the families want to express their sincere gratitude to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association for making this event so wonderful for all the family members. Colonel and Mrs. Clarke are grateful for all the support shown by our Organization through the years.

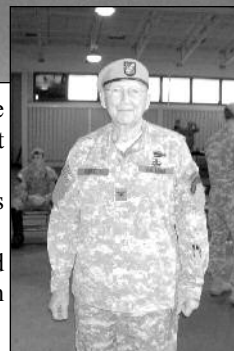
Ken Turner has returned to the Battalion as a Civilian, working



in the slot Dick Moore retired from. Range Control sent him off with a bang – and best wishes.

Congratulations to Colonel Yackley on his promotion.

Until the next time, keep your powder dry and your hatchet sharp. See you on the high ground.





## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Rich Hecht



Today, I had the opportunity to spend some time at 2/75. A few weeks ago, I had received the box with copies of Patrolling magazine and had been trying to make the time to go and drop them off. Work and family stuff had prevented me from doing so until today. Although it was unplanned, what better day to visit Bn than on the 16th Anniversary of Operation Just Cause. There had been a brief ceremony that morning that honored our fallen and I was able to touch the memorial stone (as I do on each visit) for Mark Price and Philip Lear. R.I.P. brothers.

I met Sgt. Victor S., the current S5 NCOIC, whose wife had just had twins. Congratulations to him and his wife. He may have moved on by the time this is published, so good luck to him and thanks.

As you can see from the photos, 2/75 has changed to the Army's new ACU's. This stands for Advanced Combat Uniform and is an outstanding upgrade from the BDU's.

They have multiple pockets on the shirt and pants, including ones on the sleeves and lower legs. The collar folds up and closes to prevent dust from getting in and the shirt zippers instead of buttoning. The canted sleeve pockets with velcro have become the standard and the guys will no longer have to go and have this done on their own. The standard boots are now desert boots, but there are still some lightweight hikers that are also approved. The patches are taken off before going to the field and all the skills badges are pin on. I haven't figured the reason for that versus patches that also use velcro, so if someone knows, please tell me! The undershirt is a performance type material, commonly found in athletic apparel. This uniform is going Army wide, but truly looks the best when worn with a Ranger Tan Beret! Although I still can't get used to their long-assed hair.

2/75 has also begun to receive new web gear, which is unique to the Regiment. It is still modular like the rest of the Army's, but in a

special color and style.

2/75 continues to be very active in the War on Terror and have been busy training when not actually deployed.

In the summer of 2005, Bn held its Ranger Ball at the new, Tacoma Convention Center. Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly was the guest speaker. Although I was not able to attend, Ranger Veterans were represented by Rangers Ken Kovac and his wife Andrea and Nate Smith and his wife Jen, among others.

For those of you veterans reading this, I really want your Hooah

pictures. If you can email them to me with captions as to who, what, where and when, I would like to include them in the 2/75 section of the Associations web site and in Patrolling magazine.

For you active duty guys, if you can do the same and don't violate OPSEC, your pictures are needed to continue the record of great Ranger history.

RLTW,

Rich Hecht 2/75 UD







## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Dodge



This edition of Patrolling covers a number of recent events for the 3rd Ranger Battalion. CSM Matt Walker recently PCS'ed to the other side of Ft. Benning to assume duties of CSM, Ranger Training Brigade. It's good to know that Matt is still close at hand. He's a fine man and great American. CSM Rick Merritt has assumed responsibility as CSM, 3/75. Rick has pulled me in quick and he knows the 75th RRA wants to see great things happen for the Rangers. Being the new unit director I already have all of life's issues trying to weigh me down and steal my time. I now understand how difficult that being a unit director can be. I will continue to do my best and lean forward in the foxhole. With good Rangers behind me and CSM Rick Merritt keeping me in the loop I hope to see many good things happen. I really would like to encourage the growth of this organization.

It is always a difficult time when we lose a Ranger brother. Regardless of when we served the bond between us is always there. The personal commitment and sacrifice of the ranger is as strong as ever. These men don't view themselves as heroes but I know better. I am always proud to be in their presence. Especially since I know the greatness of their deeds go untold because of the nature of their business. I hold none in higher regard than these men and those of their kind. I look at their faces and wonder if I ever looked that young. I suppose so, but it seems like long ago.

Soon the 3rd Battalion will have their Ranger Ball. This event is about the boys and their families just as it should be. I am sure they will have excellent entertainment and the event will be a great time for the Ranger ladies too. It is important that we never forget the patience of the families and their commitment to the success of the mission by lending us their loved ones (Rangers) to do the lion's share of the work.

Any organization is only as great as its members. To continue to do good things for the rangers this association must grow. Consult your Ranger buddies and encourage them to support the boys by joining the 75th RRA. Consider sponsoring a friend even for a year. Try to remember that your membership helps support all rangers. Tell your friends, "If not you then who?"

Each year the 75th Ranger Regiment Association has the privilege and honor of financially supporting our active duty Rangers and their families in the midst of tragic loss and also during times of holiday celebration and formal events.

This year the 75th Ranger Regiment Association will embark on an effort to build a custom 75th Ranger Regiment theme chopper to be built by Lucas Cycles. This bike will be raffled off to active duty members of the Ranger Regiment and members of our association. All proceeds from the raffle will go to sustain the family support fund.

To make this effort a success select organizations will be asked



to consider a charitable contribution to this effort to defray the cost of building the bike. This will be a great opportunity to show support of these deserving soldiers and their families.

In addition to our gratitude, contributors will be provided with up to a full page in Patrolling Magazine, the official publication of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to place marketing information or to express their appreciation for our Rangers.

Just think some lucky young Ranger or a member of our association will be the proud owner of a custom 75th Ranger Regiment Association theme bike. This will also be a good opportunity for unit directors to visit with the boys and make office calls with the leadership.

As always it is my honor and a privilege to serve in this position. I am thankful for that and for these great Americans who continue to make life better for us all.

RLTW  
Bill Dodge, PMP

## Georgia-based Rangers to be decorated for combat actions Dec. 15

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, Dec. 13, 2005) — More than 500 combat and service awards will be presented in a ceremony recognizing 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Soldiers for their actions in Iraq.

The ceremony will be held on the 3rd Battalion's Memorial Field at Fort Benning, Ga., Thursday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. The battalion recently completed a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Two Silver Star medals, 12 Bronze Star medals for valor, seven Army Commendation Medals for valor will be presented along with three Purple Heart medals. Rangers will also be presented Bronze Star, Joint Service Commendation, Joint Service Commendation, and Army

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

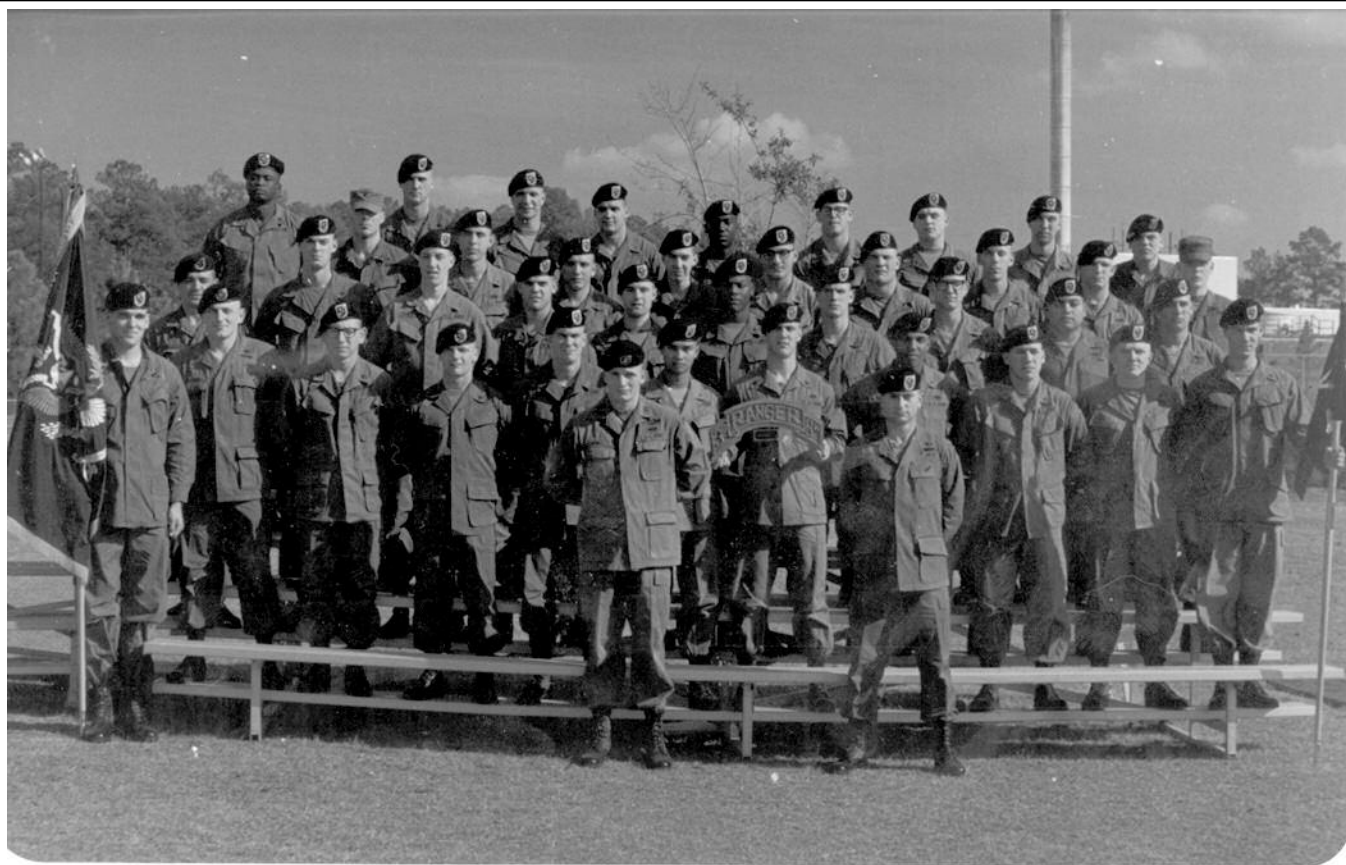
Commendation medals. Approximately 140 Combat Action Badges will be presented as well as three Combat Medical Badges and 91 Combat Infantryman Badges.

The bulk of valorous awards were presented by Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker in a Fort Benning ceremony, Nov. 22 when the battalion received a Valorous Unit Award for actions in Iraq.

The Silver Star is the Army's third highest award for combat valor and is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States during military operations.

Sgt. Mark T. Alperin, an Army Ranger assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, receives the Soldiers Medal from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, during a combat awards ceremony Nov. 18 at Fort Benning, Ga. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Bartucca, 75th Ranger Regt.)

Sgt. Webster J. Slavens receives congratulations from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, who presented Slavens with the Bronze Star Medal for Valor during a combat awards ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga., Nov. 18. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Bartucca, 75th Ranger Regt.)



Back Row: SFC Vincent, Mark Little, Jim Sailor, Joseph Canevali, Samuel Valme, David Spears, Robert Atchley, Mark Arguto, Howard Trasher  
 3rd Row: Levenn Wilson, Dan Myers, Richard Vangenewitt, John Sullivan, Varoujan Nalbandian, Robert Rogers, Lanny Collins, Kevin Nemetz, Richard "Doc" Moore  
 2nd Row: SSG Padilla, SGT Fielder, Rod Russell, Dan Carney, Peter Pizzagalli, SGT Brown, Miles Camp, SP4 Gertz, Eduardo Tinoco, Edwin Merritt  
 Front Row: Robert Grapp, SSG Hellman, SSG Szeluga, SGT Bailey, SGT Jennen, 1LT Bong, Vung Rand, David Smith, SFC Mattison, Troy Stephens, Herb Campos, John Rogers, Mike Kopper

Here is a picture of the A Co 3/75's 3rd Platoon in October 1984, right before activation.

I believe all the names are correct, to the best of my recollection.

RLTW!

Ed Tinoco

A Co. 3/75 (1984-1985)

Florida Ranger Camp (1985-1988)

Class 12-86



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

Unit Director - Ronald Dahle



Here we go again. All in all, it has been a fairly quiet quarter for the unit, however it continues to amaze us the number of new members each component is amassing, most of whom are seeking us out, as opposed to a major recruiting drive on our part.

### SICK CALL

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Larry Montague, who is recovering from dual Knee replacements, no small operation. As of this writing He is doing great and looking forward to a speedy recovery. This also marks the event of Larry having everything between his waist and ankles surgically straightened or replaced. I think company member, Jack Moore, said it as well as it can be said; "lets see now, Larry is complete, left knee, right knee, & weenie all surgically repaired." Pearls of wisdom for sure.

### Speaking of Pearls of Wisdom

We are receiving anecdotal tales of the early company, which as long as they come in I will try to include them in this column. The first such is submitted from John Simmons, circa V Corps LRRP.

### Patrol

It had rained all night as it does in Europe, in the winter. The patrol moved as ghosts in the night drawing no more notice than the pockets of fog that moved across the face of the mountains. There would be no insertion by helicopter or fixed wing. The men moved out of the village of Wieden, Federal Republic of Germany. Their time of departure was 0100 hrs. There were roads that would take them closer to the border than the 5 km that they chose to cover. But these men knew that others may be watching those roads. Their mood was grim and they seemed not to be affected by the rain and the 36 degree temp. They had only one purpose and that was to cross the border of Czech Republic and move to the small town of Cheb without being discovered. The world had become a dangerous place. Tension between NATO and the Warsaw pact had escalated. These men and others like them would become the eyes and ears of NATO. There would be no surprise attacks. No armored columns racing across Germany unopposed and unexpected. Their mission had been studied many times, they knew the landscape as well as they did their own neighborhoods back home. The location of every border post, minefield, troop garrison and police headquarters was known to them. The border was crossed without incidence the rain and bitter cold was the expected ally that they knew it would be. These men were well-trained, some quite young; others were combat veterans of WW2 and Korea. The lesson that the older men had learned was passed along to the younger men. Their unit was small and unknown. It was a new concept untried and unproven, however this would not last much longer, the term LRRP would be synonymous with rangers and other special warfare troops. The patrol had reached a point close to a road. As dawn approached the scouts were deployed to a position close to the road while the rest of the patrol moved to a grove of small fir trees, The patrol would only move at night. Traffic on the road was logged but not reported, as this was not the mission. This information would be sent later. As night approached the patrol reformed and crossed the road. The rain had turned to snow. The patrol leader signaled it was time for the scouts to separate themselves from the commo team. The scouts would not know the location of the patrol leader or the commo team. This was necessary should the scouts be discovered. The commo team would complete the mission. The location chosen for the scout team and the commo team were the results of aerial photos and map

studies. The weather turned bitter. Temperatures fell to below zero. Then on the morning of the 5th day, the roar of tank engines could be heard. The time was 0400. The chief scout had chosen his position well, sheltered by thick brush he was able to count 50 T72 tanks and 20 PT-76 armored cars. As soon as he could he sent his report to the patrol leader and the commo team. Little did the soviets know that their location and movements were known, and they had no way of knowing that they would be the first losses of WW3, We are continuing with the mini-bio series from company

members, this quarters installation is part 1 of a 2 part submission from everybody's "Buddy" Mike Cantrell of A/75, who in addition to the skills and attributes brought out in his contribution, has proven to be an accomplished animal trainer, specializing in wild dogs, monkeys, and butterflies.

**Ranger Cantrell**

Mike Cantrell



Then: Mike was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the oldest son of a career airborne army sergeant. Though he did not stay in one place for long in his life, he was raised all over the world on his father's various assignments through a twenty two-year military career. Mike found himself in several dead end career fields from the ages of twelve to seventeen years and yearned to be in the military like his father. There seemed to be no excitement in life as a stockboy, service station hand, or paperboy other than participating in the Wednesday night bull riding in Marion, Texas and

the weekend dances around San Antonio, Texas. At seventeen, he talked his parents into letting him go into the army, which led to a 26 year career. There: After requesting information on the occupational specialty of being an x-ray technician, the recruiter said, "I have something I want to show you.". He produced a film on the US Army Airborne Rangers. On conclusion of the film, Mike was totally hooked on what he had seen. Not to mention the followup by A75 sending their best looking guys to swear us in, Sgt Dave Owens of A 75 started this journey on a military career for an ex service station attendant. Dave came to swear several men in with Sgt Streetman, Lt Peebles and one other in June of 1972. Several of the young men from San Antonio were enlisted with the unit guarantee of A 75 as their first destination on successful completion of basic training. Off to basic they went. Mike attended basic at Ft Dix, New Jersey, a place he never wished to return again. He departed this station enroute to A 75 at Ft Hood, Texas. On arrival, early in the morning, he and his other companions entered the barracks in time to see a veteran step out into the hall with a pistol and shoot a hole in the coke machine, what an introduction to barracks life. The first morning formation made by the newbies was to entail a five mile run for physical training. Out of fear of being killed by the vets and eaten, all the new guys made the run. We fell into AIT OJT with the local leg unit, "Gary Owens", to learn our advanced infantry trade. As we graduated and went to the unit, several of us were chosen for screening to attend the O5B course, there was a need for radio telegraph operators in the unit which was brought to light by Cpt Raymond Nolan, the unit commander. SFC Barry Keefer was given the job of our initial training and to identify those capable. A special forces team came to Ft Hood and trained us in morse code, and all the necessary tasks that go with operating a radio and sending information from behind enemy lines without being compromised. Those successful attended the III Corp Troop Schools O5B course given in the 2nd AD area. On graduation from the course, we were not awarded the O5B MOS, probably due to our performance in the school under the severely hampered leg headmaster,

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

who was not impressed with our endless heckling of his non airborne counterparts. We were designated as Radio Telegraph Operators, sent back to the unit and assigned to our teams for unit training. This wrapped up 1972 for Mike and his fellow Ranger prospects. During one trip to motor stables, Mike had a chance to work with Sgt Ruiz on a 2.5 Ton Truck, he commented the "Old Man" should move me to the motor pool because of my mechanical ability, this was also indicated by the old GT area scores. General opinion was the tests were no good, but apparently they were which showed in later years. One memorable off post trip to Camp Bullis, Texas, the unit had spent several days in the field. Spc Cantrell had let his hair get too long and was informed by one of the team ncos he need a haircut. He said something like, maybe, at that point the sergeant grabbed the young spc, drug him down to his bunk and put a colt trooper to his head and said, "Get a haircut or I will blow your brains out." That was a very effective counseling session, of which neither party suffered any remorse, repercussion or ill effects, the unit was extremely tight. In June of 1973 all in the group went to Airborne and Ranger School. On completion of these, they returned to the unit. Mike went to the III Corp Troop Schools for NBC Training and returned to the unit to find out it was to be deactivated for formation of General Abraham's Ranger Battalion. As with any unit which is disbanded, this had a less than good effect on the morale of the men whom had completed all that training and formed bonds that are only known in Ranger Units and combat.

Mike was stuck in a quandry, he definitely did not want to be a leg so volunteered for service in the First Ranger Battalion. Departing in July 74 from Ft Hood, Texas, he went to Ft Stewart Georgia to take up his tenure in the First Battalion. Arriving at Ft Stewart, he recognized some old faces from A75, and him, being a new Ranger Qualified SP4, created quite a stir. Mike served in the 1st Battalion, A Co. until January of 1979. Numerous positions were held and several grades were passed. He served as, team leader, squad leader, platoon sergeant, NBC NCO, Training NCO and Ranger Indoctrination Program (RIP), Senior TAC. The RIP program was an NCO dream come true. Of course, the name had to be changed to Ranger Orientation Program (ROPE), because RIP sounded like brain washing. They held their own two week course in an underground sac shelter teaching all Ranger Battalion basic training modules and a day at Savannah Beach for small boat training and rappelling off the old fortress walls. When the students left they had many hours of hand to hand combat training, physical training, and several parachute jumps under their belts, courtesy of the CH47 unit at HAAF, who were more than happy to donate 8 hours of blade time each Saturday during the course. Unsat students were processed to other units on base. SSG Cantrell was given free hand in setting up the POI for the course. Between him, Sgt Steven Rondeau, his team of harder than woodpecker lips corporals and the Dining Facility Sergeant, this place ran like clockwork. The troopies were busy at least 16 hours a day. Many opportunities were afforded Sgt Cantrell, Amphibious Warfare Course, Jungle Operations Training Center, Basic Non Commissioned Officer Course, Demolitions Training From Special Forces, Demolitions Training from the engineers in Ft Leonard Wood, Mo and Mike portends to be one of the last of the US Army Mule Skinners. During Recovery from a ligament reconstruction, instead of being assigned to a non-airborne unit, SSG Cantrell was assigned as the Mule Care NCOIC for Ranger I during a 30 day recovery period. Compliments of 1st Sgt Julius W Gates and CSM Glen Morrel, he personally thanks them for this and several other personal touches to counseling and career development. No thanks for the ten mile NCO run the day he reported back to duty, SSG Bonilla carried SSG Cantrell on his back the last two miles of the run. It is hard to run with a fiberglass cast just removed from one leg. No doubt Mike gained new respect for his supply NCO counterparts, he has never forgotten after this feat of physical strength and holds them in the highest esteem. Ranger I was a gift from the Merrill's Marauders Association to the First Ranger Battalion as a mascot. SSG Cantrell said this was the best dog he ever had. Also during this period he had a short tenure in SFOD for training which did not result in a transfer. After one ligament reconstruction and two collar bone trimmings by the ever so efficient surgeons at Ft Stewart Army Hospital,

Mike decided he was going to slow the young rangers down and he had to look for another occupational specialty to learn. Enter the mechanical GT score. One memorable trip was to JOTC. Sgt Cantrell had spent a couple years in the Battalion and found himself in Panama. Before training started, Sgt Clyde Y Bayless called the unit 1st Sgt and asked to pick up Sgt Cantrell on Saturday for a fishing trip. Cantrell and Bayless caught eighty pounds of peacock bass that morning in about three hours on Gatun Lake and had a fish feast back at his hooch in the canal zone. Sgt Cantrell had been Sgt Bayless's speed radio operator on his team in A75, and Clyde had PCS'd to the School of the Americas. On the return trip to the barracks, Sgt Cantrell notice a log in the road and expressed concern about running over it and maybe having a mishap. Sgt Bayless stopped the car and proclaimed, "That is no log, that is an anaconda." Upon exiting the car, we captured the animal for training purposes. Clyde's hand was turning blue where the snake had coiled around his arm, so driving his standard shift car became a team effort. The second meeting of these two eight years later is only discussed among discrete company, over Carlisle's campfire at one of our biannual reunions. Sgt Clyde Bayless was one of those NCOs who formed our basics for success in our military careers, he among others whom I will try to mention in the second half of this article. Long hours spent in the First Ranger Battalion were rewarded with a counseling session from Cpt. Charles McAnarney the A Co. Commander. The counseling session, which was one of his more productive ones, resulted in an application for Warrant Officer Flight Training. In January of 1979, Mike went to Ft Rucker for flight school. After the last seven years as an Army Ranger, what could they possibly do that was never done before? Being a little slow and less coordinated than his female counterparts in the course, WOC Cantrell had to spend an extra two months in the course, by reasons which are only divulged over the campfire and some of Doctor Fisher's ribs at the A Co. Reunions twice a year at Mark Carlisle's place in northern Tennessee. In January 1980, WO1 Cantrell graduated WORWC and was launched into his next career field in the US Army.

On reporting to B Trp 1-17th Air Cavalry (Airborne), 82nd Abn Div, Ft Bragg, NC, Mr Cantrell found himself being assigned as a UH1H Pilot. The Commander took a special interest in Mr Cantrell after he drank a forty year old bottle of tequilla with an instructor pilot whom did not inform Mr. Cantrell it was the old man's special stash. Of course this happened at the Old Man's house during a company function and before the night was over Mr Cantrell had rolled up the IP in a lawn chair and sent him to the hospital, in addition to a few other things that happened which are only discussed over Carlisle's campfire. For this he was awarded the position of the Engineer Equipment Officer to work in the motor pool and get all 30 some odd pieces of broken equipment up to IG standards. After informing Major Pinette the only electric generator he had experience with was the one he blew up on a demolition range Major Pinette's reply was, "Yea, and my wife's washing machine is broke." Being the Ranger he was, he did not let this job stand in the way of career advancement. Horse trading for temporary utilization of appropriate MOS's, managing the one asset he had on site, and even stooping to midnight requisitions of parts, he spent three years in the motor pool and his assets got him a glowing report on the IG inspection. Many thanks to Cpt Warner, who taught Mr Cantrell to test fly the UH1H Iriquois and loaned him the UH1H Phased Maintenance Team for manpower on numerous occasions in the motor pool. He still swears if you need anything repaired all you need is a huey crew chief. No doubt he felt like an aviation LT stuck in the supply room whom should have been learning to fly in this situation, Mr Cantrell remembered this feeling and got many LTs out of their additional duties to perform the many hours of test flying required on UH60 Blackhawks. Our new commander reported in for duty and on review of my past job performance recommended me for the Aviation Maintenance Officer Maintenance Test Pilot Course. It seemed the old GT Test Battery had a lot more going for it than the US Army realized, it would show in the future. Of course this was to be done after the UH60 Blackhawk Transition.

The SAGA Continues .....



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson



# FALLEN COMRADES

### Colonel (RET) Edward V. Maltese VII Corps LRRPs Gather to Honor Former Leader

Several VII Corps LRRPs gathered in Arlington, VA on February 23 to pay final respects to their first CO, Colonel (RET) Edward V. Maltese. Maltese is credited with the creation of the Army's first two LRRP (ABN) companies, in 1961. The VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) is the earliest predecessor company to B Company 75th Rangers. The other was attached to V Corps, and is the earliest predecessor company to A/75.

Colonel Maltese's military record reads like an Airborne history. It began in 1943 with jump school at Ft. Benning and his subsequent assignment to the 505 PIR. In WWII with the 505, he jumped into Normandy and later into Holland, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and ended up in Berlin with "Jumping James" Gavin. After the war, he returned to the States with the 82nd. After several assignments, in 1948 he was assigned a company command as a 1LT with the UMTE (Universal Military Training Experiment) at Ft. Knox, KY. Then, in Sept., 1950, Captain Maltese was sent to Korea as a company commander with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, with whom he made his third combat jump. In November, 1952, he was sent to Ft. Bragg with the 714th Tank Battalion, then to the 10th Special Forces in Bad Tolz, Germany, under LTC Aaron Bank. After a stint in Berlin with the hand-picked "Security Platoon," Maltese was sent to Ft. Monroe, VA as head of the Airborne Test Boards (the troops were at Ft. Bragg) and also helped start military freefall operations with Jock Istell, who was a civilian skydiver, General Gavin and another young officer named Hal Moore. In 1960, he was transferred to 7th Army in Stuttgart, where he drove the effort to create the full LRRP (ABN) Companies in 7th Army's two Corps.

After his year as CO of the VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN), Maltese was promoted to LTC and became Battalion Commander and Airborne Brigade Exec. of the 8th Infantry Division, then commanded the 68th Armor, 8th Infantry Division, all the while on jump status. In 1964, he was sent to the Pentagon as SF Division Chief.

After an assignment at Ft. Belvoir as Director of Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Night Operations, Maltese was sent to Viet Nam for 18 months as Director of Target Acquisition. He retired in 1972 from Combat Developments command in Ft. Belvoir and worked for defense contractor BDM, retiring as Sr. VP in 1990.

Colonel Maltese said that, of all his assignments, the LRRP Company was his favorite, a sentiment widely echoed by his troops. And he punctuated it by frequently saying, "Once a LRRP, always a LRRP!" He passed away in January from complications

during physical therapy following hip surgery. The LRRPs gathered and gave him a proper "Hale and Farewell" to send him on his next assignment. As he always said, "See you on the drop zone." We know he'll be waiting for us to fall in, again.

### Ranger George Mendes

GEORGE ANTHONY MENDES (C/58 and B/75)

14 Oct 1943 - 07 Dec 2005

In Colorado Springs, CO



Dirty Eddie White informed us of the passing of George Mendes in December in Colorado, of a sudden and unexpected heart attack.. Our commo with Ed has been a little uneven lately..., so please watch this space next issue for full information regarding Ranger Mendes. Our thoughts and prayers are with George's family and friends.

He will be missed. God bless, High Speed, and Low Drag, Ranger Mendes.

By the way, Dirty Eddie's personal contact information has also changed. Contact the Unit Director for updates, if desired.

### WEBSITE

Please review the updated Unit Roster and Unit History on the website. Please contact the Unit Director with any new or updated omissions or errors.

### 2006 REUNION ...

Please check the front page of the website for the information regarding the available accommodations in Missouri this summer, as referred to in the last issue.

### PURPLE HEART...

## A Purple Heart comes home

### By LISA HOFFMAN

Feb 23, 2006, 06:05

The grimy blue case rested among other dusty knickknacks in a Southern California secondhand shop. At first glance, Gene Dobos thought it must contain a watch.

A thrift-shop browser and watch collector by hobby, Dobos looked closer and saw the words "PURPLE HEART" embossed in gold on the case's leatherette cover. Inside, on the stained yellow velvet lining, lay a worn, heart-shaped medal adorned with a purple ribbon. Etched on its reverse was the name "Frank N. Smith" and "For Military Merit."

At home in San Bernardino that night, Dobos couldn't get Smith or the medal \_ which is awarded only to those wounded or killed in war \_ out of his mind. The next morning, he returned and bought it for \$40.



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

“It was a very dingy and rundown thrift shop and (I) felt bad the medal was there,” said Dobos, 37, and a salesman by trade. And so began an effort conducted almost entirely on the Internet that grew to include a small army of strangers spanning four states – California, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas – all determined to return the decoration to its rightful owner and honor the unknown soldier for his sacrifice.

When the search started in December 2004, no one knew who Smith was, if he was dead or alive, whether he purposely discarded the medal or lost it, say, in a move, or even in which of America’s conflicts he had suffered his wound.

But by the time the mission ended, this disparate network of volunteers had found some of Smith’s family as well as his fate, though the path the medal took to that seedy store shelf remains a mystery.

Along the way, the search became such an emotional grail to some that it spawned an original song, a CD of which is now being sold to raise scholarship funds for youths who volunteer to visit bedridden veterans. Plans are under way for a simple ceremony in the spring to bring the medal home.

“We are all grateful that we were able to contribute in returning the medal to its proper owner,” Dobos said in an e-mail.

The thrift shop had no clue where the medal came from, so Dobos began his search on the Internet, asking around in chat rooms for advice on how to track down a soldier. Dobos and his online hunters eventually determined that the person in question was Army Pfc. Frank Norman Smith, who died in Vietnam nearly 40 years ago.

Smith, 20, was a light-vehicle driver in a convoy that was ambushed Dec. 17, 1968, in the Tay Ninh province of South Vietnam, according to casualty records.

The enemy was gearing up for an offensive and U.S. forces were moving in to defend the city of Tay Ninh. Just two weeks shy of coming home to Seneca County, Ohio, for good after a year in combat, Smith was killed by small-arms fire. He was one of 147 U.S. service members to die in Vietnam that day.

Armed with that information, Dobos turned next to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a nonprofit organization of medal recipients that calls itself the “keepers of the medal.”

In the hope that the group could find Smith’s grave and return the medal to his family, Dobos mailed the decoration to Ray Funderburk, public-relations chief for the group and a Vietnam vet with two Purple Hearts himself. Funderburk was deeply moved when he received it.

“It looks as if the medal has been handled many times and replaced back on the metal clip holding it in place,” said Funderburk, of Southaven, Miss. “I envisioned his mom and dad taking the medal out and holding it in their hands, thinking of their son.”

He beat the online bushes for information on Smith and found a friendly Ohio genealogist who agreed to help. “I will not see his medal degraded further,” Funderburk wrote in an e-mail to genealogist Kristina Krumm of Columbus, Ohio.

Krumm recruited fellow researchers and, in time, pinpointed Smith’s grave in a cemetery not far from his childhood home. On a parallel track, Smith’s parents were found to have died, but his siblings were located via the e-mail addresses they had used to send memorial messages about their brother to an online registry of fallen Vietnam War troops. They had no idea their brother’s medal had gone missing and were overwhelmed by the kindness of the

corps of strangers determined to return it.

“We believe this is nothing short of a miracle from God,” Fran Stock, one of Frank’s older sisters, wrote in an e-mail.

“It’s just amazing,” agreed Jonna Smith, Frank’s other sister, in a telephone interview.

To the sisters, Frank was their best friend while growing up in the country in northern Ohio, not far from Toledo. A dark-haired, good-looking kid who stood 6-feet-4 and weighed 245 pounds, their brother was a practical joker who loved life, Jonna Smith said.

Frank went by “Pete” to differentiate him from his father, also named Frank. Along with his name, the son shared the patriotism of his father, who served in the Navy, the Army, and then the Ohio National Guard.

The dad’s service inspired Frank to enlist in the Army, even as the Vietnam War raged at its worst. He married a week before high-school graduation and left a week later for boot camp.

His wife, Karen, had their daughter, Jackie, while he was at war. She brought the 4-week-old to Hawaii where Frank had some R&R leave from combat. “He got to see (his child) that once,” Jonna Smith said.

After Frank’s death, his widow and daughter moved west and probably took his Purple Heart with them, Jonna said. The family in Ohio lost touch with the two about 20 years ago. “We haven’t heard anything,” she said.

The discovery of her brother’s medal has brought Jonna a mix of emotions – awe that strangers would go to such trouble for her family, along with the grief she still carries from her brother’s loss. “I’ve always had a hard time accepting my brother’s death,” she said.

For Funderburk, of the Purple Heart group, finally finding Smith’s resting place so touched him that he penned a poem he titled “Purple Heart Soldier.” Paul Dvorak, Funderburk’s son-in-law, composed music to go with the lyrics, then tapped his network of fellow Texas A&M University alumni to find musician volunteers to record it in San Antonio.

Part of the proceeds of the sale of the \$9.95 compact disc, which can be found at [www.txrrecords.com](http://www.txrrecords.com), will go toward a scholarship program that links young people with bedridden veterans in Veterans Affairs facilities.

Now, Funderburk is having the medal encased in glass and making plans to bring it to Ohio this spring, where it will be permanently affixed to Smith’s grave in Bethel Cemetery in Seneca County. A contingent of Purple Heart recipients from Ohio hopes to attend.

“That will be a good time to say a final ‘Thank you, Frank N. Smith, for giving up your precious life for us,’ ” Funderburk said. “We salute you and may you rest in peace.”

(Contact Lisa Hoffman at [HoffmanL\(at\)shns.com](mailto:HoffmanL(at)shns.com))

#### CONTACT INFO:

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

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## **VII Corps LRRPs Gather to Honor Former Leader**

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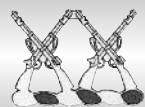
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**C/75 - E/20 LRP**  
Unit Director - Gary E. Dolan



# ECHO CHARLIE PROUD

By Gary E. Dolan "28"

I am penning this article to you the middle of February 2006. Thanks to the ever astute and dedicated **ISG JOEY "BRASSO" WELCH**, who is always mindful of and seeks out to commemorate the honor and memory of our fallen heroes, this article and all future articles will begin with a tribute to a few of our KIA:

## HONOR THEIR MEMORY

<b>MAJ DAVID B. TUCKER</b>	<b>KIA 671001</b>	<b>E-20 (LRP)</b>
<b>1LT CALVIN A. GREENE</b>	<b>KIA 671210</b>	<b>E-20 (LRP)</b>
<b>SGT PATRICK L. HENSHAW</b>	<b>KIA 671210</b>	<b>E-20 (LRP)</b>
<b>SGT JOHN R. STROHMAIER</b>	<b>KIA 680312</b>	<b>E-20 (LRP)</b>
<b>SP4 DONALD R. KINTON</b>	<b>KIA 680325</b>	<b>E-20 (LRP)</b>
<b>SGT EDWARD G. LEE</b>	<b>KIA 680513</b>	<b>E-20 (LRP)</b>



Please take a moment to visit the following website: <http://www.glanmore.org/FromTheOtherSide.html>, which was sent to me by **ROCKY STONE** with the following message: "*Brothers, I pass this along as it is something that I found very moving and, and in a strange, almost spiritual way healing. However, I must warn you that it is very emotional and I doubt any can watch it without tears coming to your eyes, if you don't break down crying as I did.*"

*I don't mean this to cause anyone emotional pain, and I only put it here because it helped me to remember our fallen brothers through different eyes. It, also, helped me see myself, and, in some ways, come to grips with myself for still being here and not on the Wall with so many that I knew and loved. It helped me to see my Survivor's Guilt from another point of view and to restate my life's mission, goals and attitudes. I try to be the best person that I can be because that is what my brothers on the Wall expect of me and I can not let them down."*

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, **LAZAR "THE MAD RUSSIAN" LAZAROV**, **WILLIAM "WILD BILL" PAYNE**, **"SMOKEY" WELLS** and **RANGER RUSSELL** are visiting the SOF Memorial at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Florida, where they will conduct a tribute and place flowers on behalf of all of us.

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the Founder of our Association, our Brother **DANIEL POPE**, who lost the love of his life, his wife, **BARBARA POPE**. She not only supported but also enabled him to create our Association. **BARBARA** hosted many Rendezvous by welcoming the Rangers into her home and into her heart. Her sincere devotion and warm smile captivated all who were fortunate to be in her presence.

When you read this article, you should already have made arrangements to join in on the camaraderie at our next rendezvous to be held in Branson, MO, from June 11-18, 2006. Everyone should call to make their own reservations at the Ramada Inn (417-334-1000) and for whatever events one wants for the Operation Homecoming by either online at <http://www.welcomehome2006.org> or by calling 1-800-335-4587. Tell them you are with E/20 & C/75.

This note was provided to me by our Association President, **JOHN "L-T" EDER**: "**RECONNECTIONS and RECOLLECTIONS**

*Although it's a longer story than this, I am often reminded of how I became involved with Echo LRP/Charlie Rangers. In late 1996 I made contact with my first Platoon Sergeant, Joe Stinger. Because I lost most all of my memorabilia (in our Texas Panhandle flash flood of May, 1978) from my Vietnam tour in '69 and '70, and also because I lost most of my memories, Joe helped me regain some of both. "Do you remember what we were doing on Christmas day in 1969, L-T?" Joe asked during one of our conversations. "Yeah, we were probably drinking beer in my hooch or at our company bar in the middle of Ranger Point at Phan Thiet," I replied. "Wrong again, L-T. We were destroying caches and blowing up bunkers during an eagle flight that day. Got quite a bit of stuff, too."*

*Well Joe even sent me pictures of us from that day and several more to try to clear up more of my old rotten memories. Some of them are still pretty good, though. Like the time I took my entire platoon to dinner at a Catholic convent, pseudo restaurant, halfway down the road from Cam Ly Airfield to Dalat City. We were served Chateaubriand and Pommes Frites (steak and french fries) with Dalat salad, by strikingly attractive french speaking African women, each of them about seven feet tall. I remember them as being nuns, tall ones. I think there were almost 35 men of the Fabulous Fourth, Dealers of Death, in attendance and it cost me a whopping 142,000 piastres; at least one*

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

or two dollars American. Thank God for those memories that help to blot out the others that bring on or aggravate our lifelong problems with PTSD.

*It's a unique privilege to be associated with our group and to remember with honor our brothers who died for all of us who remain."*

THOMAS "MAC" McNAMARA [tjmcsnj@optonline.net] got an email from MICHAEL "SNAKE" GUDERIAN (texoz@ozemail.com.au)

*"M60 Expert on Team 2-2 found my email on our web he is in Austraila, commerical diver..."*

Please send me some emails with stories, pictures or merely a friendly update for me to publish in future articles. Please keep me in your prayers. Know you are loved.



D/75

Unit Director - Richard "Bear" Papp



Hello Brothers;

Well it's time for another issue. Time is really flying by! I hope each & every one of you had a real good Christmas, and not too many (bad) hangovers, but I know Rangers block that pain out, party animals that we are. Wishing everyone a great year for 2006! For me, looking back, 2005 was pretty hard on me, but it only gets better now!

My good friend and deer hunting partner Frank Park came down to Texas in November for ten days of hunting and socializing. Had a real good hunt, as the photos show, and a great deal of fun and a good time as always. Then a week later, (turn around time), I went up to Pennsylvania, bear & deer hunting for thirteen days. Had a great time, but the weather conditions didn't help any. It was some very severe and hard hunting with the elements the way they were. But good food and friendship, and, Oh yes, lots to drink. Frank's little 13 year old Grandson, little Gary, is a deer killing machine. I look forward to this every year, excellent time, thank you Frank. Oh Yeah, Looks like Frank's daughter, Angel, is planning on going into the Air Force after graduation from High School. Here's wishing you all the best, Angel, on that great adventure, I know your Dad's proud of you! Good Luck!

I talked to most of you over the Holidays. You guys don't make it easy for me writing these articles in *Patrolling*. Maz, please start sending me your information, photos, or other input that is required to write these articles. THANK YOU!!!

I sent Richard 'Herd' Nelson some information, orders and names. He's tracking down people in our unit. Hopefully he will

get in touch with a number of them. Wed need to find as many of our people as we can, hopefully they will then join the association. Membership is what makes us strong guys, so pay your dues and stay in touch with everyone, and make the reunions if you can. For all of us time is starting to get short!

Talked to Carl Norris, (Warlord 16), the Annie Fanny pilot of the C&C ship for our unit the other day. Carl and his wife Rosie are coming out to visit me and my wife Carolyn this Spring. I can't wait for that to happen! Frank is also coming back down for a week of work and fun. He's got a school to go to in Oklahoma for a week, so he's taking an extra week off to help me out on some projects down here.

I talked to LT Jim Kaiserski down in Florida. They came out of the Hurricane season OK! Everything is fine with them.  
**Send me them pictures, Jim!!!**

Everyone stay in touch!, Bear!! RLTW!  
Over & Out  
Richard 'Bear' Papp  
Unit Director



Frank's wild hog, 350 lbs., Texas hunt.

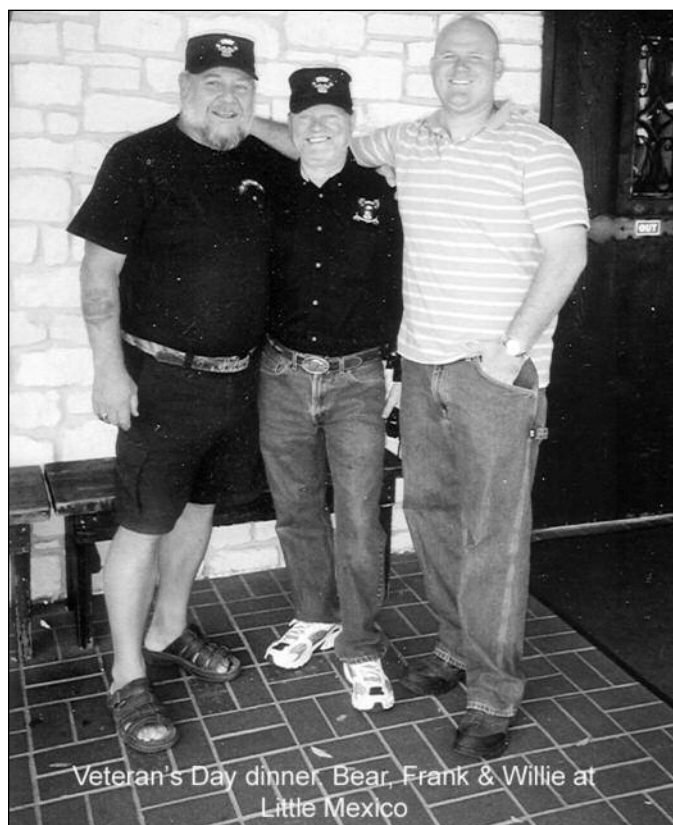
D/75 (CONTINUED)



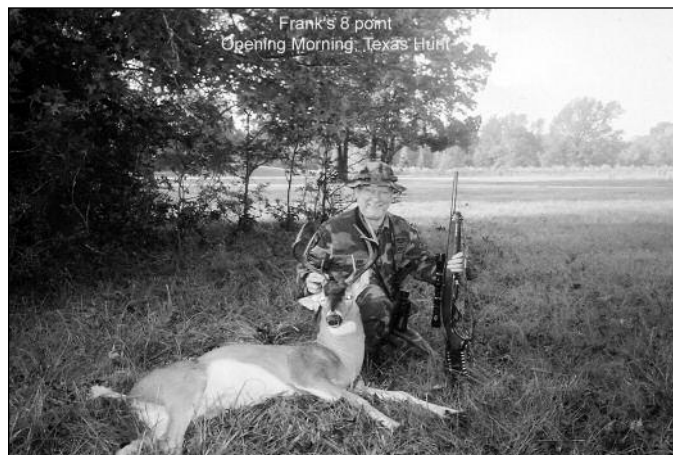
Bear & Frank, Pennsylvania, Day Before Hunting Season



Bear's 8 point, Texas



Veteran's Day dinner, Bear, Frank & Willie at Little Mexico



Frank's 8 point  
Opening Morning, Texas Hunt



**E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP**

Unit Director - Robert Copeland



By Bob Copeland

2006 is here and the events for this year are already stacking up. The first event is to Honor Staff Sergeant Johnston Dunlop KIA 16 April 1968 at the US Mountain Ranger Association, Fallen Ranger Memorial, Camp Frank D. Merrill, Dahlonega, Ga., on Saturday 13 May 2006. Each year at the 5th RTB Open House, the USMRA has the honor of placing the names of Fallen Rangers on a road sign at the bridge that crosses the Etowah River on Camp Frank D. Merrill. Friends and family members are invited to attend and help honor our fallen comrades. Every student who has trained at Camp Frank D. Merrill has crossed this bridge at some time during his time in the mountains. As the

Ranger students walk in the shadow of this sign, they can be inspired by the dedication to the "Ranger Way" that each man named there represents. The Ranger Camp is located in the Mountains just outside of Dahlonega, Ga. Go to [www.usmountainrangerassociation.org](http://www.usmountainrangerassociation.org) and the link to the 5th RTB Open House for directions and schedule of events for 13 May 2006. It is hoped that as many of our Company Members and their families as possible will attend this Ceremony to Honor our Fallen Comrade. The 5th RTB Open House is a full day of Rangers in Action Demos, Equipment Displays, Fun Runs and comradery and just gets bigger and better every year. Please come out and Honor our Fallen Comrades and enjoy a day of



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

fellowship!! Mac has arranged for a group rate at the Dahlonega Days Inn (Hwy 19 & Hwy 60), 833 South Chestatee, Dahlonega, Ga., (706) 864-2338. This Inn is located in an area with easy access to all amenities. Jonesy has turned this event into a Mini-Reunion for all who wish to attend and those who will not be able to attend the Mini-Reunion in early August 2006 in California which is being put together by Ron Tessensohn and Bob Hernandez or the regularly scheduled Company Reunion in Orlando, FL., in April 2007. Hopefully some will be able to attend all these events and make them all a great success!! Thanks go out to all those who are involved in organizing these upcoming events!!

Welcome Home 2006 is scheduled to take place from the 11-18 of June 2006 in Branson, Mo, and will also be the site of the 75TH Ranger Regt. Assoc. Mini-Reunion for all those who wish to get together for this off year gathering. It should be a great time and all who attended last year said it was one of the best. This is not the official 75th Reunion and the 2007 regularly scheduled Reunion will be at Columbus/Ft Benning. Come out and have some fun if you have the time!! Hope to see you there!! You can find all the info on Welcome Home 2006 on the 75th website at [www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org) or by searching at [www.welcomehome2006.com](http://www.welcomehome2006.com).

Don't forget the Ranger Rendezvous and Ranger Hall of Fame in Ft. Benning, Ga. this summer (dates to be announced).

The last Patrolling and Company Newsletter that I put out where submitted prior to the passing of our good friend and comrade Emory Parrish and therefore I was not able to express our

condolences and sympathy to Shirley and the Parrish Family. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you and your family Shirley, Emory is greatly missed by us all!! He was an OUTSTANDING WARRIOR AND FRIEND TO US ALL!!! HOOAH!!!! RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!! IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. Our thoughts and prayers also continue to go out to Roy and Joyce Boatman and their family Mrs. Michele Boatman (wife) and her children Darell Jacob (17) and Lauren (14), son and daughter of Gunnery Sergeant Darrell Boatman, USMC, KIA 11-05, REST IN PEACE, SEMPER FI !!!

It is good to hear that Top Maushardt is doing better and we look forward to seeing him and his family at upcoming events when his health allows him to do so!!!! I hope you will send in your thoughts to Jonesy for the Newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you Top!

Thanks to all who contributed to the Ranger Family Fund this past year and made a "Very Merry Christmas" for many Ranger Children and their Ranger Families. Please continue to contribute to the fund throughout the year as this fund also supports the Ranger Families on an ongoing basis. Lets continue to LEAD THE WAY!!!!

Well folks that's about it for now and I hope to have more to report to you after the upcoming events which I will be attending. A BIG HOOAH!!!! TO YOU ALL, STAY SAFE AND KEEP THE FAITH!!! RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

Bob Copeland  
Unit Director



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



Greetings to all I hope all everyone is doing well.

Joe Little's email address is [jclittle@direcway.com](mailto:jclittle@direcway.com) & I have my work email [Joseph.Little2@med.va.gov](mailto:Joseph.Little2@med.va.gov) seems that Patrolling Magazine still prints my old email and some have attempted to write me and David Reganthal will forward messages sent to him. Well there goes another holiday season and we did not have any snow again this year in Arizona, we now set another record of over a 128 days without any rain and temps are about 78 degrees; while the east coast is snowed in and cold. No I do not miss the snow or the shoveling.

Hey hot news flash about our unit. LRRP's, LRP's and Rangers **will** be represented in the **25th Infantry Division "Memorial Brick Garden"** being build and

dedicated, in Hawaii, later this year. The project is being coordinated by two men in the 25th Inf Div Association - (Tom Flemming and Dave Garrod. I met Dave in DC two years ago I believe he is still 25th ID Association President he is a good man and doing some great work.

I was also alerted to another interesting fact about our unit. By the time you read this it would be forty years ago 25th ID LRRP was formed April 1966. Wow! How time flies when you're having fun aging, groaning over aches and pain; and growing hair where it never grew before. We once wished we had whiskers' to shave and now some of us get tired of shaving. Some I have heard have elevated beds so when they roll out they bounce hard enough to break loose all the stiff joints to become mobile enough to make it to the head. I guess when I said some I was really referring to myself.

I had one of the doctors call me about one of my WWII clients and

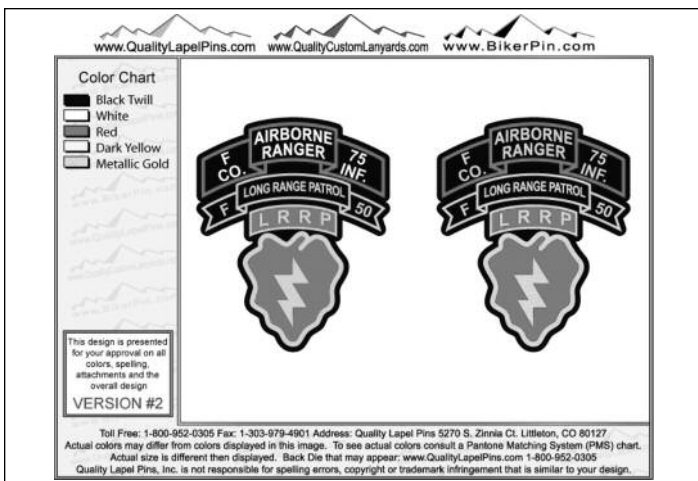
## F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)

informed me that he requested Viagra and the doctor was amazed that my 86 year old client was still active. I spoke to my client and he informed me that was the only way he was going to get the script for the Viagra. He really needed it so he would stop peeing on his shoes; I hope

I ...

I found out our own Gene Tucker is State coordinator for the 75th Association and he sure could use some help in getting some of us to support him in his efforts to organize the large list of states with at least one representative so if you can help him out please drop him a line. His email address is Gene Tucker [egt12@adelphia.net](mailto:egt12@adelphia.net)

Marshall Huckaby has come up with a great looking patch and we need some feedback concerning the patch. The plan is to have them produced for our unit and decide on a blazer and hat for the patch and have them available before our next reunion at Ft. Benning Ga. We are attempting to keep all cost at a minimum so all could afford to purchase them and wear them with pride. All proceeds after cost would go into unit fund. To contact for future orders please write:



Mr. Marshall Huckaby, 1st Sgt. (Ret)  
699 Willow Dell Drive  
Senoia, GA 30276

Joe Little  
3616 West BOHL Street  
Laveen, AZ 85339  
Email [jlittle@direcway.com](mailto:jlittle@direcway.com)

I am thankful to those that are able to submit something and sometimes anything for our unit for print in Patrolling Magazine. There are many members that look forward to reading something and I am glad to report I have not missed an issue for the past +/-six years and it sure has been ruff. So since at times it is a struggle to get some new material a voice from above came to me in the middle of the night (Capt. Ponzillo) and suggested something real profound; thus an idea

is born. We can initiate a section entitled:

**“What are they doing now?”** Send the info to me for submission to the magazine. We’ll the “boilerplate” will be as follows.

**What you did in the unit?**

**What you looked like when you were in the unit?**

**A Photo would be great.**

**What you look like now? A current photo here, no worries here most of our chest have dropped since we all have aged some.**

**Who recruited you to the unit?**

**What was the your first and last Team assignment**

**What are you doing now?**

**What have you done since leaving the unit?**

**Who would you like to locate from our unit?**

Please email me all of above and more even your humor in uniform or about one of those hairy missions serious or humorous. **We want to hear from you all.**

[jlittle@direcway.com](mailto:jlittle@direcway.com) or sail mail

Joe Little

3616 West Bohl Street

Laveen, AZ 85339

**Taps**

Message passed on by Bill Mrkvicka

Gentlemen,

John Bennet (1971) died Jan 11, 2004. He died from emphysema. Gene Garner just called and gave me the information. Gene and John used to talk periodically around the holidays. The last time Gene called and talked to John was 4 days before his death. Gene again called last night and spoke to John’s wife.

I think John was in supply when he was with the company.

**The following was sent in by Bill Boyd from Dan Rodman**

**Family Weekly**

**Las Vegas**

**August 20, 1967**

**Review-Journal**

**VIETNAM SPECIAL:** This is a war in which battles are decided not by Generals but by tough young noncoms leading squads and patrols in enemy-infested jungles. A military Expert George Fielding Eliot describes the raw courage of boys-turned-men and men-turned-leaders as they rally GI’s with the call – “FOLLOW ME!”

“Vietnam is the war of small squads, the war of the patrol leader, in such a war, says this military expert, America’s greatest weapon is in the boy-turned-man who has the raw courage to shout:” **“FOLLOW ME!”**

**By GEORGE FIELDING ELIOT**

Author of “Reserve Forces and the Kennedy Strategy” and “Victory Without War”.

**SGT. Jerry Caldwell** crouched behind a clump of bamboo and listened to the small jungle noises that told him the Viet Cong were closing in.

His squadron of the 4th U.S. Cavalry, attached to the 25th Infantry Division as a reconnaissance unit, had been tracking the enemy for a day and a half in this leech-infested jungle in the heart of the Viet Cong sanctuary area know as war zone “C”.

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

Jerry had acquired the information he'd been sent to gather. Now the Kingsport, Tenn. Boy led his patrol towards a patch of elephant grass where the pick-up helicopter, already alerted, would land.

"I've got to get out of this," he told himself, then instantly corrected the unspoken thought. "No! We've got to get out of this. All five of us."

He was sure the VC was closing in on the patrol. He signaled, "Follow me," and moved off, heading for that patch of elephant grass where the chopper would set down. He heard the distant rumble of the artillery shells he'd radioed for – Charlie would hear them too, and might think they were covering the patrol's retreat in that direction.

**That hope died** as rifle and machine gun fire began ripping through the elephant grass just ahead of Caldwell's point man. Caldwell ran from man to man, organizing a defensive position and warning, "Don't start shooting 'til you're absolutely sure they've got us pinpointed."

From the rising volume of fire, Caldwell figured there were at least 30 VC. The elephant grass was on fire from tracer rounds. The point man yelled, and his M-16 rifle began to stutter. "A VC just stepped on me," he shouted, and the minute later: "I'm hit!" Caldwell ran to him and gave him first aid.

"Close in on me and let 'em have it."

He could hear the rescue helicopter coming in over the treetops. Bullets knocked out his radio. He fired two steady bursts at half-seen figures in black pajamas, then wriggled into a patch of sunlight and signaled the chopper with his hand mirror.

The VC was all around as the copter came down, filling the jungle with its clatter. "Give 'em everthing you've got!" yelled Caldwell. There would be about five seconds to pile into the copter – maybe. One man, his chest shattered, lay dead. As the others clambered aboard the copter, Caldwell started for the dead man, realized he'd never make it, fired one last burst at the nearest VC, and ran for his life.

Afterward, when told he'd been recommended for the Silver Star, he wasn't sure he rated it. "I left the body of one of my men behind," he said bitterly.

It was a high standard of leadership for any man, but Jerry Caldwell is a boy-just-turned-man – 20 years old.

This patrol took place from January 31 to February 2, 1967, Ervin L. Laird was killed, and Dennis L. Noga was wounded. Cpt. Hatfield received a Distinguished Flying Cross and his crew an Air Medal with "V" device. I believe that Laird's body was recovered the next day after the extraction. The other team members received a Bronze Star with "V" device.

#### Extract from Division AAR

HEADQUARTERS 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
AOP San Francisco 96225  
ADCMD 19 May 1967

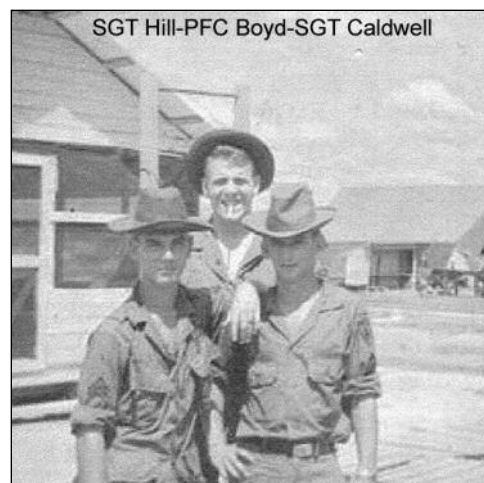
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending

30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)  
(2) Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP)

Operations. During the reporting period, 1 Feb 67 thru 30 Apr 67, the division LRRP conducted missions for the ACofS, G2, the Division and the ? Cav. There were a total of 29 patrols conducted

in HAU NGHIA, BINH DUONG and TAY NIN Provinces. The LRRP has the capability of operating at extended distances and for extended periods from the division base. The patrols gain information concerning enemy movement patterns, unit locations and installation locations. The LRRP has been utilized as an economy of force measure to screen the flanks of division units conducting operations.

Training. There were two internal 3-week training programs conducted by LRRP. Twenty-seven members completed the course. Twenty one members of the Division LRRP have attended the 5th SPG MACV RECONDO School.



*SGT Hill PFC Boyd SGT Caldwell*



*Dan Rodman, 1967, ready for his next mission.*

*Dan Rodman 1967  
ready for his next  
mission.*



*Dan Rodman, Stateside in white sheets.*

*Dan Rodman in stateside white sheets*

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

Unit Director - Tom Nash

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

Unit Director - William Anton



Greetings Fellow Rangers,

Well it's that time of year and Spring is just around the corner. It's time to start thinking about making plans to attend this year's reunion in Louisville, Kentucky. As in the past, we will be having our reunion with the 1st Cavalry Division Association. This will be the 1st Cav's 59th Reunion and our LRRP/Ranger's 19th Reunion. The reunion will be held Sunday, July 9 – Thursday, July 13, 2006 at the Executive West Hotel, 830 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209. The hotel's phone number is (800)626-2708. Please be sure to mention you are with the 1st Cav. Our room rate is \$55/night plus tax. Registration forms for the reunion are available by going to the 1st Cav website [www.1cda.org](http://www.1cda.org). I hope to see as many of you as possible at the reunion.

**Scary Night**

BY: Jim Regan

Long ago, and far away.. here we go again! It was one of the unusually "quiet" nights in the "Rear". One Team in the bush, laagered down, ambush posture, no movement. The CO and Opn's NCO, John Barnes, and I were going to solve the problems of the world. Not many places to go when all's quite and you hope for the best.

Because we monitored the radio calls from the 1/9 Cav, we heard the activity. "Got a Bird down!!". The Cav had an operation going on down on the Son Be River AO. All our ears perked up and we plugged in to the FMs. Seems as if a "Charlie" model got shot down during an operation. All hell was breaking loose! Bad terrain, lots of ground fire, the makin's of a real fight.

We listened and the CO CPT "P" said., "Get some stuff together.". Barnes and I looked at each other and took off. John went to the supply tent to grab gear. I went to the hootch to roust out the guys that CPT "P" had told me to round up. Up and at 'em, saddle up, lock and load, and stand by!

CPT "P" hustles to Squadron HQ and "Volunteers" the Rangers. We prepare for a "Recovery." We had not done that before!!!!. We have our "McGuire Rigs.. a Team of three. The C.o. will round out the Team. He looks at me and says, "Sgt. Regan you are our Jumpmaster" Off we go on the mute, with all the gear, lots of adrenaline, and probably too much bravado!

We reach the pad and I begin to "rig" the bird. The Crew Chief tries to hurry me, I brush him off and slow down. Rig the bird, check my rappellers, talk to all and insure that we know what the heck is going on. The rigging goes well, the ropes are not the usual rappelling ropes, but the "daisy chained" McGuire rig extraction ropes in



sandbags. I already knew that the twists would slow the rappel.

Lift off! I have my usual web gear with 20 mags, 10 frags, and a Car 15. The team is "lite", no rucksacks, but heavy on small arms. Along with my PRC 25, I have my, (previously requisitioned), flight helmet plugged in to the bird's freqs. et al. I hated to have surprises while flying.

As we are inbound to the AO I give the Team Sitreps. The chatter on the PM is unreal.: "Cavalier,

I'mtaking fire!!! Rolling hot!!! Bach to Papa Victor to refuel and rearm."

I look out the right door as we approach the AO and all I see are "NAV" lites. Gunships rolling hot!! Green tracers!! Everyone who has a helicopter gunship is AIRBORNE and SHOOTING!!!

Then I monitor a call on the Cavalier "Push". "THE RANGERS ARE HERE AND GOING IN ON THE BIRD!". "GIVE THEM COVER". The entire world erupted with miniguns, rockets, and door gunners going crazy around us.

As we hovered over the downed bird, rockets cooking off and green tracers reaching for us.. the 01' Man gave me a thumbs up, I put him and the other Rangers on the skids, and off they went,...into double canopy ~ at night, burning wreck below. gunships firing 360 degrees!!!! Pucker factor!!! The rappel progresses... The pilot gets anxious, the RTO keeps me posted on the progress of the Team Too long over the AO... Green tracers still seeking us out! One line "slack"... Two lines "Slack"... Three ropes "Slack" Pilot gets "goosey" Starts 10 LIFT! PULL PITCH! "No, No," I slap him in the helmet with my "K-bar! " NO, No," The RTO calls and we have a guy hung up. I cut the rope and the slick bounces into the air!!! All the guys are safe and sound on the ground! Commo is good, the AO is secured. After securing the crash site, three bodies are recovered. A long vigil securing the site. The fourth body is found/recovered when the Team moves around the crash site. The. Blues go in on the area at First Light. Team is extracted.

End of TALE??? NO way!!

Prior to this night, there had been many, many episodes of confrontation aggravation, and even animosity between the Rangers and the Troopers of the 1/9, Real Cavalry. To this day there is a bond between. our units that is to be envied by other Combat Units. That night, the Rangers literally "Hung it out!" for the Troopers of Charlie Troop 1/9 Cav.

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

Unit Director - David Flores



2006 already! Man, where does the time go? I would like to talk about an upcoming holiday. This day happens in May. It's Memorial Day to be exact. I would like to make this article about that day. I just saw that World War II vets are dying at the rate of about 2000 per day! I wonder how many Korean War vets we are losing daily. How about our own generation of vets—those of the Vietnam War? You hear numbers and then you start thinking about your own particular group. How are we doing? How many are dying per day? This gets me to Memorial Day.

Do you put any thought into what it's about? Is it just another day off from work? I would think that if you get this magazine you probably have someone come to mind. Let me give you just a small bit of history behind Memorial Day. It'll be short. Just read it, please.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. It was time to go decorate the graves of those men and women who had served and died. History is filled with many and varied stories as to who and where Memorial Day was first established. To use someone else's words; "It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all".

So Memorial Day is a time to remember ALL of our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen, from ALL our wars. It is a time also to remember our POW's and MIA's. This year and hereafter, give a moment of your time to pay respect and remembrance for those who died in the service of our country, under our flag, and for our unparalleled way of life.

In December of 2000, a Congressional resolution was passed which asks that at 3:00 PM local time, all Americans are: "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to "TAPS". The resolution is called, "National Moment of Remembrance"



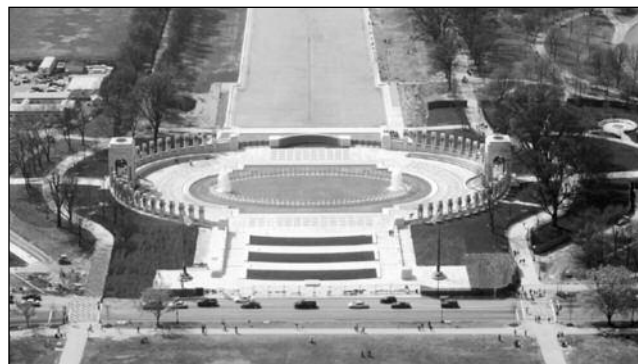
*1st Infantry Division Monument—Washington, DC*

[c] M. R. Patterson  
July 1997



So enjoy the day off, have fun with the family, and then take that moment to tell those that gave their all that you haven't forgotten and that you honor their sacrifice. Ensure that your own children, nieces, and nephews also learn and cherish the meaning of Memorial Day so that they, in turn, can pass it along to future generations and ensure that it will always hold a special place in the heart of every American.

-Dave Flores, F/52nd - I/75th  
Unit Director



*Rolling Thunder 2004 Memorial Ride and Rally—Washington, DC*



*Tomb of the Unknowns—Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC*

*WWII Veterans Memorial, Aerial View—Washington, DC*





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



*Korean War Veterans Memorial—Washington, DC*



*Vietnam Veterans Memorial, "The Wall"—Washington, DC*



*Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Soldiers Statue—Washington, DC*



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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk



When I have to get up at 4:00 AM to get this done it means I have procrastinated as long as I can. Maybe I should sign up for a motivational seminar, or have my old DI, Sgt. Scanlon threaten me with bodily harm if I don't shape up.

Last week I had to replace both water heaters in our house, go figure. Tomorrow it's off to Ft. Collins, six hundred mile round trip to pick up my oldest daughters car and bring it home for major repairs "in my garage". Next week I'm off to Oklahoma with my youngest so she can see her boyfriend before he heads to Iraq in the near future."What we won't do for our daughters?" Oh, I forgot that I had to replace my mother-in laws water heater last week also.



The only bright spot, her old one did last 40years.

John Serrano informs me that Robert Hernandez passed away on Dec. 5, 2005 (See Taps section). He was with Brigade LRRPs at LZ Oasis from 1967-69. I don't have any other information. If you knew Robert and wish to correspond with his wife her address is - Mrs. Terina Hernandez 248 Granada Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112.

Another of our Brothers has shown up on the radar screen. I have recently been in contact with Gary Heald, aka Baby Huey. Please welcome him back to the fold, you can contact him at [garylheald@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garylheald@sbcglobal.net) or at 949-581-1081

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

My last article did not turn out well so I will repeat the San Antonio Info, also some photos you might find interesting.

**Be sure that you mark your calendars for the 200675th (KCo.) Ranger Reumon in San Antonio, Texas...**

Below is the information needed to make your reservations:

\*Hotel: La Quinta

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

\*Reservation Information: Call LaQuinta reservation #1-800-531-5900 \*Reservation Request Information: 75th Army Ranger Party Reservation Block #64046440 (You must call by June 15, 2006 to be given the group rate.)

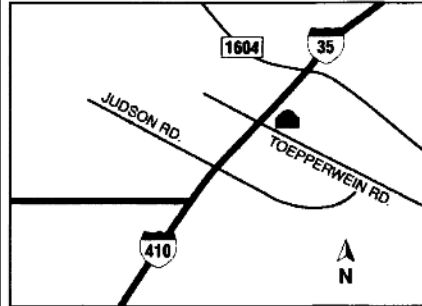
Additional Information: The rooms that are reserved are non-smoking rooms with two double beds at the price of \$66.00 per night. If you need to make any changes; such as smoking or a king size bed, please be sure that you tell them when you make your reservations.

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

**Ed Note:** I have been instructed to say that the Blue Bucket Chapel will be in attendance. Whatever that means.

John Chester

**La Quinta Inn San Antonio I-35 N at Toepperwein**  
12822 I-35 North  
San Antonio, TX 78233-2611  
Phone: (210)657-5500  
Fax: (210)590-3640

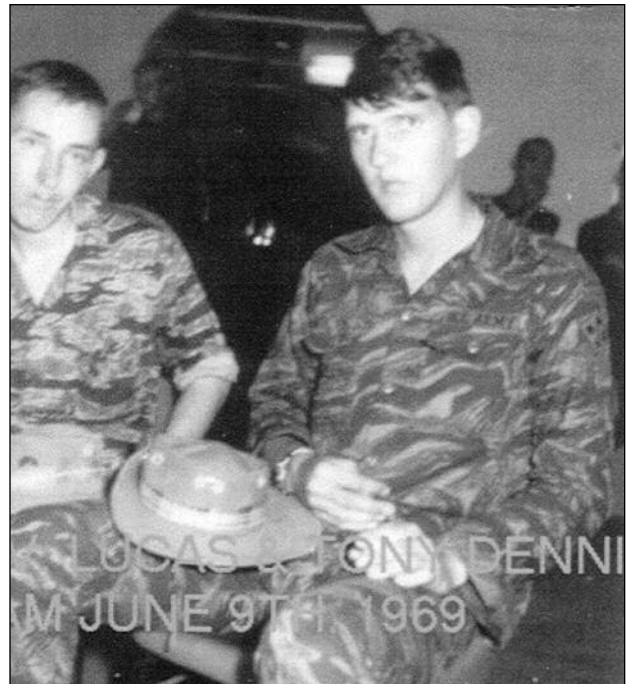


**Directions**  
I-35 S-bound: exit 172-Toepperwein Rd., left under overpass. I-35 N-bound: exit 170B-Toepperwein Rd.

**Directions from Local Airport(s):**

**San Antonio International Airport**

Take 410 E to 35N Exit 170b (Toepperwein exit. La Quinta is On the I35 service Rd. On the right hand side heading North





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

Unit Director - Randall White



Da' late ist neuz!

This coming June will mark the 20th anniversary of the first ever reunion of the men who served in one of the various 101st Airborne LRRP/LRP/Ranger units during the conflict in Vietnam. At that time it was the first ever reunion of its type and still stands as the largest gathering of these men from the 101st. Since that time our families have grown, most of the children have moved out to begin their own lives, and many have retired from the work force or the military after continuing to serve their country. Also, many of those present at that reunion have moved out for their last mission. Bugs and Blinky, Jim and Al, "The Kid", and many more....all have left us with only the memory of their brotherhood and a few faded old photos. Ten years from now when the 30th anniversary is held, who will be missing from that formation? As the years pass and our circle of friends from our youth and time in Vietnam continues to shrink, fewer opportunities present themselves to reaffirm our bonds and take a brief step back in time. Fate drew us together over thirty years ago, but today it is up to each individual who served to ruck up again and continue the mission towards that brotherhood. There may be people at a reunion that you don't care to see. That sentiment will probably be mutual. But there will be many more present who want to see you, and there will always be a long lost brother who will bring a smile to your face and a warm spot to your heart. That one connection that will make you say to yourself, the trip was all worth it. At this point in our lives, there is really no excuse for not attending a reunion. If you are a member of the 101st LRA or the 75th RRA, you already show an interest by just receiving this magazine and reading my words. I can almost hear the in-bound birds and taste the dust.... Information for the next gathering of the brotherhood is as follows;

The web site for the Branson "Welcome Home 2006" June reunion is up at: [www.welcomehome2006.org](http://www.welcomehome2006.org). Or phone here for more information. (800) 335-4587. The hotel for the 101st LRA and the 75th Ranger Assn. is the Ramada at 800-641-4106 (rate \$59.95); Overflow and alternate motels are the Outback Roadhouse 800-562-0622 rooms (\$59.95), suites with Jacuzzis \$99 Holiday Inn Express 800-321-7275 (nice—\$69.95); Four Seasons Inn 800 324-8745 (\$49.95). Tell them that you are with the 75th RRA or the 101st LRRP/Rangers. We have two huge hospitality rooms at the Ramada (one for the 75th, one for the 101st LRP/Rangers and Charlie Company Rangers). I encourage everyone to register now for your rooms and the homecoming. We anticipate a sell out. Bass tournament is filling up quickly, as will the National Awards Ceremony.

Banquet will be Thurs. with MOH recipient Col. Bob Howard and Chris Noel as guest speakers. If you guys missed the first homecoming in Branson last year, you missed something "special". Be there this year.

On January 28th John Renear passed away from a heart attack. John served with F/58. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. I never had a chance to meet John, because he never attended a reunion, but judging from the emails I've seen, he was well respected by those who knew and served with him, and loved by his family. His son is currently on active duty.

If you make it to the reunion, ask me for a patch. Keoni May had about 100 L Company scrolls made a couple years ago, and sent them to Bob Gilbert. Bob gave a few away and sent the remainder to me to pass out to men who served in L Company in Vietnam. For the men who are lucky enough to get one of these patches, THANKS Keoni!

If all goes well, by the time you read this my son will have returned from a tour in Iraq. Any parent, who has endured a son or daughter serving in a war zone, knows how grateful our family will be to have him back in the good 'ole US of A. It also goes without saying that I cannot express in words how proud I am of him, and all the other men and women of this great nation, who so proudly serve this country

when called upon to do so. I can truthfully say that it was a lot easier to go to war myself, than watch my son leave, and then wait. Think we might party a little when he gets home?...Naaah. See you in Branson!

Randy White

e-MAIL: [ranwhite@jamadots.com](mailto:ranwhite@jamadots.com)

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

Phone: 906 387-2318



1st VIETNAM 75th RANGER LRRP  
REUNION FT. CAMPBELL 6 JUN 96



## M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Steve Houghton



By Steve Houghton

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

I have a couple news items to relate, then I'm turning this issue over to LTC Ron Harper. LTC Harper has contributed information for past issues and has again stepped up to the plate with a fine article. This one has both historical and modern day significance.

First a couple news items. Terrell Ross has joined the association since our last issue and Steve Cardwell, aka "pigpen" has made contact. Terrell has made plans to attend the Branson reunion this June. It will be great to see him after all these years! I think we will have our best attendance yet by all indications. Caldwell's contact information is as follows.

Steve Cardwell  
1005 N. Sweetzer Ave #10  
Los Angeles CA 90069

Go ahead and drop him a line guys. Maybe we can get him signed up and heading to his first reunion!

The rest of our unit article comes from LTC Ron Harper, a former commanding officer of M-Company. Thank you Ron for your help this issue.

For those of you who served under or with Ron, this is what he looks like today.

Till next time  
Steve

### LESSONS LEARNED

This article is a Good News/Bad News tale. First, the bad news.

Throughout the Nation's history, innovative soldiers in training or on the battlefield have discovered good ideas to inflict pain on the enemy effort. However, there was no way of sharing this with anyone other than his immediate sphere of influence. He could use this idea himself but the rest of the Army could not benefit. How many remember the valuable tips passed on to us from our drill instructors from their personal experience? These tips only

touched a few soldiers and were lost forever when that DI was reassigned.



As an M Company CO in Vietnam, I was able to put in practice innovative ideas which served us well, but I did not know if anyone else was using them. The Brigade Forward TOC moved from the Fishnet factory to Blackhorse about June of 1969. The Area of Operations changed from paddies and Pineapple plantations to principally single canopy jungle. Landing Zones were relatively scarce and the infantry battalions used the same LZ's on a frequent basis. It wasn't long until infantry companies were suffering heavy losses from ambushes near their insertion. M Company used a technique of insertion that allowed us to go in undetected. Two slicks and 2 gunships would be involved in each team insertion. Beginning from about a mile out, a command and control chopper would fly at about 3000

ft. A mile out, the team ship and 2 guns would go treetop, with the Huey in the lead and the 2 Cobras in trail at slightly stacked altitudes. The C&C ship would vector the insertion team until calling "5 seconds out". If the LZ was hot, they would go to an alternate LZ. If cold, as the slick was settling down to the ground, a cobra would fly directly over the LZ, changing the pitch and sound of his blades. When coming out of the LZ, the second Cobra would fly alongside, also changing his pitch to mask the Huey's changing sounds. In my 6 months, we never were detected at insertion. The value of this was demonstrated when the entire company had inserted on 1 LZ using this technique. I was frustrated because G2 had assured me there was a sizable NVA Hqs nearby, but after 2 days, there had been no sign of any human activity in the area. An RVN unit then inserted on the same LZ we had used. We could tell there were about 5-6 slicks involved from the typical sounds. The next morning, they were decisively engaged by an enemy force. That could have been us.

Before missions, showers were taken with surgical soap procured from the hospital. No deodorants were used. Being to walk within a few feet of animals such as miniature deer were proof that this worked. Contrast this with the smell of Nuc Mam.

The greatest frustration, however, was having an idea which would help the fight, but no one would listen. An example was the lack of multi-ship LZ's. The Commanding General's solution was to charge the Engineers with the task of building new LZ's. In my 6 months, only 2 were completed. However, there were many deserted villages which would have made great LZ's except for the presence of 1 or 2 large trees. The idea was that when the infantry passed through, enough explosives would be lowered to cut those trees. The unit would simply continue on their sweep with a good



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

future LZ left behind. Oh, what resistance I encountered, especially among the infantry battalion commanders.

Another example involved the finding of caches. Our battalions would occasionally find large caches. By working closely with the S2 Intell, I discovered that these caches were in the exact location of caches found by the 173rd and the 11th ACR when they occupied our AO. It didn't take a rocket scientist to realize that because of the enemy's lack of communication, they couldn't pass on destination change instructions to the laborer packing an RPG round from Hanoi. They would simply wait until our units left and then continue restocking the same cache site. The idea that we should research the location of every cache site and enemy unit HQs, and plan Ranger or other operations to find the present condition was met with complete indifference. The sad note is that this concept would have applied to the entire country.

Now the Good News!

In 1985, the Army established the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) at Ft Leavenworth, Kansas. This group is involved with every aspect of military training and operations. The concept has also spread to the other services. Branches within the

Army have also established groups to constantly search for better ways to do things, with Aviation, Engineers and the Adjutant General as the leaders. The website is easily found by doing a search for Army CALL. They solicit input from anyone in the field and provide CALL embed soldiers to operational units to collect, analyze and disseminate important information. That information is analyzed and placed back in the system to upgrade unit and individual knowledge and skills. On their website, soldiers can either input observations or lessons and have access to a vast resource library, both printed and electronic.

These folks really work. I recently became acquainted with an OIF wounded soldier who was angry because his unit commander would not listen to his ideas on deploying him in his role as a school trained sniper. He felt he could have been very effective with a 2 man sniper team. CALL was contacted and their representative quickly contacted the sniper to glean all his ideas. Please contact CALL or encourage other veterans you may come in contact with to pass on experiences or ideas which may help keep us the greatest military force in the world.

LTC Ronald Harper  
US Army




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

**Unit Director - Reed Cundiff**



I had the privilege of having dinner with two of our former commanders, Colonel (ret) John Lawton and LtCol (ret) Dick James in December when I was on travel to Washington DC. I really have to get them to write up some of their stories for Patrolling. Colonel Lawton should like to hear more personal stories about those who served in the 173rd Airborne Ranger units. If folks would send me their e-mail addresses, I could get Teams going again via e-mail. It was costing about \$90 an issue to get it printed and mailed. I definitely need stories and photographs for Patrolling.

Bob Foti has designed and is working at producing a Darby Ranger Challenge coin and has sent me a first cut of it (figure 1). His e-mail address is [ParasecInc@aol.com](mailto:ParasecInc@aol.com), that is a capital "I" in "Inc". *Figure 1*

Rudy Teodosio had some 75th Ranger belt buckles made up which he sold at the last reunion. If there is interest, he will have more made up for this year's Rendezvous. These are quite good looking and were made up both in pewter and colored ceramic. I wear mine quite often. *Figure 2*  
Sergeant Major Jeff Horne may have finally finished up his



career after 38 years of service and is back from Kosovo after two years. He got back in time to see his son Josh as he was about to re-deploy with C/3/75th Rangers. Josh managed to attend the reunion last July and was able to meet a number of his Dad's old friends and team mates from N Rangers. As with most sons, Josh wanted to hear some tales about his Dad being other than perfect. I told this to Rudy Teodosio and Rudy said there were no tales that would delight a son, "Jeff was just a straight and squared away Ranger." I asked to make up something and Rudy said "Reed, you know Roger's Rangers rules, you never lie to another Ranger." I told the same to Jeff's old team leader Wilkie and he said that he owed Jeff's son a good story or two. Jeff e-mailed the



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

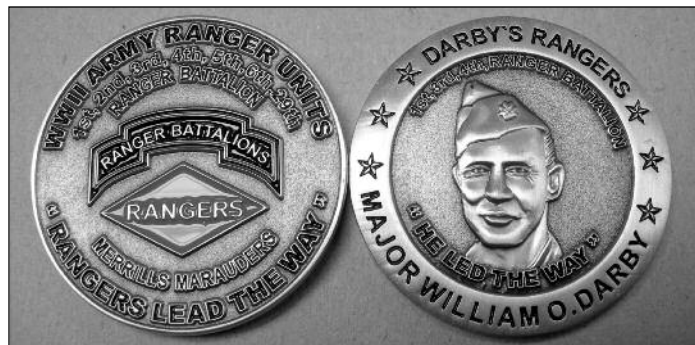
following to a number of friends,

*“Gentlemen, I’m back from my “all too short” visit with Josh before he deployed again. I thought you might enjoy a few photos from our gathering (a few of my N Company teammates came up for a breakfast (they have also been little angels on*

*Josh’s shoulder)). Take care and hope to see you all soon. Jeff”*

*Figure 3 is Rudy Teodosio, Jeff Horne, Josh Horne and Wilke – received from Rudy Teodosio*

Reed Cundiff – [ercundiff@comcast.net](mailto:ercundiff@comcast.net) — (505) 523-5081



**O/75 - 78TH LRP**

**Unit Director - Michael Feller**



**In Memorial**

With Memorial Day approaching I thought it might be fitting to take time to list fallen comrades .The following may not be completely accurate for that I apologize. If you don’t see a name that belongs on the, inform me. If you see a name that should not be there, inform me .I f you see your name there, don’t panic, contact me and we will determine if it belongs there or not.

Nothing is dearer than life. Nothing is more precious than to live it in Freedom

The following men from O Company 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers have passed but will forever live in our memory. May god grant them the peace earned a soldier who struggled valiantly for the freedom of others. And may our deeds bring honor to their memory, as we bask in that freedom, that we and future generations, might carry on that struggle

Beck, Jerry D. KIA  
 Kelly, Michael J KIA  
 Koenig, Daren L. KIA  
 LaPolla, John A. KIA  
 Chairez, Gilberto  
 Goodner, Gary E.  
 Kane, John P.  
 Maggart, Thomas H.  
 Martinez, Arthur R.  
 Wilkerson, Robert L.  
 Prestwood, Jonas S. Jr.  
 Trinajstick, Steven J.  
 Ervin, Leslie W.  
 Fenner James C.  
 Clemons, Donald L.

And as we prepare to for summer I guess it’s a good time to mention the Second Annual Oscar Ranger Rendezvous. Labor day weekend, Sept 1-4 in the Manistee National Forest . For details just give me a yell.  
 Feller





**P/75 - 79TH LRP**

Unit Director - Bill Davis

**“Lest We Forget”**

Spring was somber time for Papa Company. Lest we forget our fallen Brothers, Warriors and Heroes:

**BIEGERT, RONALD LEE SP/4 MARCH 15, 1970 AUG 27, 1948 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 13W L129**

**KASTENDIECK, WILLIAM PETER SP/4 APRIL 1, 1970 NOV 05, 1950 LINDENHURST, NY 12W L69**

**RILEY, VERNON RAY SP/4 APRIL 28, 1970 NOV 16, 1948 MASSILLON, OH 11W L64**

**MILLS, RODNEY KENNETH SSGT MAY 5, 1970 DEC 19, 1948 ALMA, MI 11W L104**

**SMITH STEPHEN LEE PFC MARCH 1, 1971 JAN 02, 1951 OTTAWA, KS 4W L15**

**WILLIAMS, JR. JAMES THOMAS SP/4 MARCH 1, 1971 FEB 10, 1943 NEW YORK, NY 4W L15**

**KOSCHKE, MICHAEL EDWARD SGT MARCH 20, 1971 OCT 07, 1946 DARROUZETT, TX 4W L61**

**SCHOOLEY, JAMES DANIEL SGT MARCH 20, 1971 SEP 22, 1948 DAPHNE, AL 4W L62**

**WRAY, STEVEN CHARLES SP/4 APRIL 1, 1971 JAN 05, 1949 FERGUSON, MO 4W L100**

**LAWRENCE, JOHNNY HAROLD SSGT APRIL 4, 1971 NOV 24, 1946 MANTENO**

This is going to be a difficult article for me to write but I wanted to do it as a tribute to my Team Leader, my Hero and my Friend, Rodney Mills. He was my Team Leader on at least 25 of my missions. I have no doubt that I wouldn't have made back home without his guidance and leadership I'm not exactly sure how to approach this but I will do my best. Before I go into that story I have a couple of things to pass on to you.

First is the Company Reunion. The dates and place has been settled on. The location will be in Cherokee NC. The dates are 25 July through 29 July. It will be at the Cherokee Holiday Inn. Their phone number for reservations is 800-315-2621 and their website is [www.holiday-inn.com/cherokeenc](http://www.holiday-inn.com/cherokeenc). In order to receive the rates you need to call them and tell them you are with Papa Company Rangers. At this point there are twenty rooms blocked out. (Smoking rooms available on request.) At this point in time there are many rooms available, but this is the height of the season and rooms will go quickly. The room rates are Mon-Thur @\$75.00, Fri-Sat @\$93.50. A note for those it may concern there are only two handicapped rooms available. Of course there is a pool where we have been known to hold court!!



For those of you who remember this is the adjoining valley to Maggie Valley, about nine miles over the mountain. One of the determining factors in deciding on Cherokee is that is where the Casino is located. It is on an Indian Reservation, obviously, since there is gambling. Anyway this will eliminate the nine mile drive over the mountain for those who wish to gamble.

Gambling however is just one of the many things to experience in the area. In the Valley itself are many shops, restaurants, Indian craft shops and other forms of entertainment, including (but not limited to) whitewater rafting and fishing. A few miles away in Gatlinburg TN, there is one of the larger aquariums on the East Coast. If you are up for it, you can drive over the

Great Smoky Mountains to Pigeon Forge. This is where Dollywood is located. Needless to say this is the Dolly Parton theme park. If you decide to make this 40 or so mile trip you will be treated to one of the most scenic drives in the country through the Great Smoky Mountains. This makes this the perfect setting a great one for all ages and tastes. Hopefully we will have a great turnout.

While we haven't mapped out any specific group events, we will be having a dinner on Friday the 28th. If we have a timely response we will try to have a catered type affair, otherwise we will just pick a restaurant and go as a group. It would be greatly appreciated that if you decide to commit that you could let either myself ([papa\\_ranger1969@yahoo.com](mailto:papa_ranger1969@yahoo.com)) or Ted Tilson ([etilson273@aol.com](mailto:etilson273@aol.com)) know so we can make the appropriate accommodations.

Now for my tribute to Rodney Mills. I came to country in December 1969. I went on my training mission on December 23rd. I had a couple more missions that were rather tame. On January 5th, Rodney took over as Team Leader for Killer 1-8. I was still a cherry but picked up the radio and went out with Rodney along with a couple other cherries and three more who were more experienced. This was Rodney's first mission as a Team Leader. He was well seasoned in the field well over a year with F 51st and Papa Company working and learning from those who had come before him, the likes



Bill Davis at Graveside

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

of Dave Barfield and Rick Auten.

An example of the uniqueness of the Ranger tradition was exemplified by the fact that the Jan 5th mission, Rodney was still a SP/4 with three Buck Sergeants on the team. His orders were in for promotion to Sgt., but hadn't come through yet. That was not a relevant fact. He was the Team Leader and there was no doubt who was in charge. We made contact on the French Trail on that mission.

It was my first contact. We set off an ambush resulting in four enemy KIA's. He was quick to point out to me that I might want to get on my belly as there were folks shooting at us. It was the first of many things that he taught me (although it may have been the most important). Over the next three months I went out with Rodney on more than twenty missions of which over half resulted in contact of some sort. He was aggressive and vigilant in his job. He took great pride in the intelligence that our team was able to gather. Then he extended for his third tour and was home on leave for thirty days.

Rodney had just returned from his home in Alma, MI when we were alerted to a mission. It was going to be Rodney, Bill Lloyd (ATL), Jerry Finch (Scout Observer), Bud Wease (SO), a Vietnamese Kit Carson Scout, and myself carrying the radio. It was to be a mission in the DMZ. We were advised that there was suspected heavy enemy activity in the area.

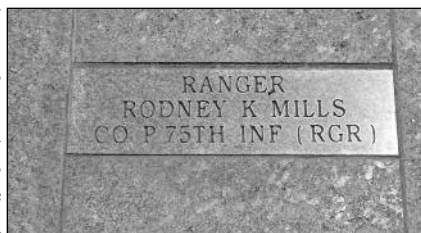
The team was inserted around 1000 hrs. The hunt was on. We had moved maybe 150 meters when Rodney stopped the team. He had heard something. We stopped and listened. It sounded what we thought were the sounds of trees being chopped on. This information was transmitted back to base via our relay site at FSB Alpha 4, just South of the DMZ. The team moved out and very soon we came upon a very heavily used trail. Rodney decided that we would skirt the trail and find a position for the team to set up, to observe and report and as a possible ambush site.

Off the trail was elephant grass reaching eight to ten feet. This made it impossible to maintain eye contact with the man either in front or in back of you. Rodney, as usual, was pulling point. Behind him was the Vietnamese Kit Carson Scout. I was third in the line of march with the radio, followed by Jerry Finch with the M79, next was Bud 'Killer' Wease, and in the rear was the ATL, William 'Troll' Lloyd. We were moving slowly and with great caution, both because of the terrain and vegetation, and the prospect of enemy activity.

We hadn't gone more than 75 meters when a burst of automatic fire rang out. It was needless to say all of us hit the deck. I assumed that Rodney had seen the enemy and opened up. I had been on a couple of missions when contact was initiated point to point. I called in Contact, Contact, Contact, Killer 1-8, according to procedure. I



It was my first



told the RTO at the Alpha 4 relay site I was unsure of the situation at that time. What seemed like an eternity (although it was more like two or three minutes) went by and nothing from Rodney. I crawled up to the Kit Carson Scout and ordered him to move forward to see what the situation was. He refused. Had I not wanted to compromise our position I would have shot him on the spot, as I wanted to.

Ignoring security and leaving the radio behind, I crawled forward to investigate. After about ten meters the elephant grass broke across a dried up stream bed. Rodney was lying on his side on our side of the bank. I knew he had been shot, I could see the blood. He was not responsive when I called to him, nor when I tossed a couple of small stones at him. I immediately crawled back to my position, radioed that information in and then crawled back to Jerry Finch who retrieved the rest of the team.

Troll Lloyd told me to stay with the radio while the rest of the team went and retrieved Rodney. He was brought back to my position. I briefly attempted first aid, but quickly found out that was futile. An NVA soldier had been waiting in a spider hole and fired on him as soon as he broke the elephant grass. My Hero was gone. By this time the C&C chopper was overhead and there were two Cobras gunships on site. I requested that they make a pass 50 meters to our NW with their miniguns and rockets. When they did we discovered the intelligence we were seeking. Intelligence gained at the ultimate price. The field began exploding with dozens of small arms fire and no less than a dozen heavy machine guns. We had walked into no less than a battalion sized enemy position.

The situation became even more ominous when the next set of Cobras came on station. While giving one of the Cobra gunship pilots instructions on where to place fire, it was hit by an RPG and disintegrated in the air. The pilot on that chopper was Cpt. Tschann Scott Mashburn and the co-pilot was CW2 Stephen Paul Finke. (I found out this information by researching the search engine on the Virtual Wall) Later in the day, another team from P/75th, Team 1-5, led by SSG Linvel "Sgt. K" Karres, went in on a recovery mission to retrieve the bodies of the downed pilots.

We stayed on that site for almost three hours. While there was a lot of small arms fire, we didn't fire at all, as we certainly didn't want to compromise our position. The artillery and F-4's pounded the area solidly for all that time. It wasn't until we were ready for extraction that any more choppers came on site. During this time a couple of



L-R Davis Mills Lloyd Bishop

our team members scouted out an LZ for our extraction. When it was finally deemed safe for our extraction the gunships gave us support. We moved about 25 meters to our East where a Dustoff (Medevac) chopper picked us up. There are no words to express the bravery of those men working the Dustoffs!! We stopped briefly at the field hospital, where they took Rodney off the chopper. The rest

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

of the team then went back for our debriefing. The date was May 5, 1970, a day that I think of every day of my life.

After I left the service I moved to Michigan, Rodney's home state. While I lived there ten years I never made an effort to find his final resting place. I couldn't. I moved to California in 1981. In 1990 a fellow Vietnam Vet encouraged me to try and find his gravesite. With his help I was able to contact his stepmother. I was able to visit her and found Rodney had been laid to rest in a country cemetery with his family. The site is literally right across the street from where he grew up. I have, over the last 16 years been able to visit over a dozen times. I make it a point to visit whenever I am visiting friends and family in Michigan. I also had the opportunity to bring Rick Auten (who is also a Michigan native) along. It is

difficult, but for me it is part of the healing experience. This was a difficult article for me to write, but I wanted to share my feelings about Rodney with all of you. I'm sure ya'll can appreciate it.

One last note. A reminder that Bobby Turner is still in the struggle of his life with various ailments. He and his wife Gail are troopers and are fighting a gallant struggle. I asked anyone who might remember Bobby to give him a call, but then forgot to include his telephone number. That number is: **505-257-1461**. Hell, even if you don't know him, take a few moments and give him a call and say "Hello" and let him know you are thinking of him. He'll surely appreciate it and you'll feel better too !!

In Ranger Brotherhood, Bill Davis



## D/151 LRP/RANGER

### Unit Director - Tom Blandford



Hello Fellow D -151 members and friends,  
Recent Events by D-151 are:

- **Charles Larkins and Ken Himsel Memorial Service - February 12, 2006** - There was a graveside memorial service on February 12, 2005 for Ken Himsel at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Greenwood, IN. And a graveside service for Charles K. Larkins, KIA February 11, 1969 at Greenwood Cemetery. After the service there was fellowship at the American Legion on Highway 31.

- **Cabin Dedication to 151st Rangers - April 8, 2006** - MG Umbarger, The Adjutant General for Indiana, has set aside one of the cabins at Camp Atterbury as the "Company D 151st Infantry" cabin. It is dedicated to the 151st Airborne Infantry units of yesterday and today. Initially it was to be dedicated to Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry, however after a meeting with some members of the association, it was brought to MG Umbarger's attention that 151st LRS also had to be included. There will be photos from the 1968-69 deployment, the 2004-05 deployment, as well as pictures of the LRS between deployments hanging in the Cabin. This is an invitation from The Adjutant General, and Camp Atterbury.

- **Robert T. Smith Memorial Service - April 9, 2006** - There is a graveside memorial service planned for Robert T. Smith on Sunday, April 10, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in the Morristown Cemetery. There will be fellowship at the Morristown American Legion following the service. Morristown is southwest of Indianapolis on Highway 52 (South of I-70, and North of I-74). The cemetery is the first left as you get into Morristown. That road runs directly into the cemetery. You know you missed the left turn if you pass the American Legion

- **Company D (Ranger) 151st Airborne Infantry Association Meeting - January 15, 2006** - There was a Company D (Ranger) 151st Airborne Infantry Association meeting at Camp Atterbury's All Ranks Club, on January 5, 2006. This was the first meeting for the new officers and board members:

**Officers:** Loren Dixon, President; Bob McIntire vice-president; Phil Cravens Secretary, Gary Bussell Treasurer, Board Members: Steve Justus, Jim Johnson, Gary Williams, Tom Blandford, Bill Schoettmer, and Ted

Dunn.

- **Meeting Opening and Motion 1:** Loren opened the meeting and made the first motion that Greg Brown be made an honorary member of Company D (Ranger) 151st Airborne Infantry Association. Pappy Hayes and Ted Dunn Seconded the motion. All Ayes, and motion was passed. Greg's brother Allen served with us and Greg has helped us in documenting on film some of our activities.

Congratulations Greg!

- **Motion 2:** Loren wanted to create a new office for the association, in which any member, honorary, associate or full member could hold the office. The title would be "Administrator", who will do "inside" work for the president, and coordination efforts, among other things. Loren made the motion to create the office, Ted Dunn seconded the motion, all ayes, motion carried and passed. There is now a new office to fill, Administrator.

- **Motion 3:** Who should fill the office of Administrator? Loren made the motion to have Zita Moore hold the Administrator position, about five people seconded it, all ayes, motion carried and passed. Zita Moore is the Administrator for the Company D (Ranger) 151st Airborne Infantry Association. Thanks for all you do for us Zita.

- **Motion 4:** It has been long believed that seven members of the unit died during mobilization. One stateside and six in country. As it turns out, a young man named PFC

Antonio Garza, assigned to Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry perished in a river crossing exercise on October 30, 1969. His body was recovered a few days later. Ted Dunn made a motion to purchase a brick at the Ranger Memorial in Fort Benning, GA for him. Gary Bussell seconded the motion, all ayes, motion carried and passed.

- **Treasurer Report:** Gary Bussell gave the treasurer's report, and reminds everyone that hasn't paid their dues that they can still do so. Also, if you are a life member, you can make a contribution to either the Association, or to the Associations Family Assistance Fund or to the Association Relief Fund.

- **Association Relief Fund:** this has been established to help our own



## D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

D-151 comrades. We recently helped one of our own when he needed surgery and couldn't work. We just helped out with some of his bills. We have others also having a difficult time and we will begin doing something about that. If you know of one of our own that needs help, get word to Tom Blandford. This is separate from the Family Assistance fund that continues to help the families of Indiana National Guardsmen while they are deployed. Donations can be mailed to either Gary Bussell or Tom Blandford.

- **Indiana Flags:** Loren Dixon indicated that he is able to acquire Indiana State Flags for any Indiana unit deploying. The Indiana Rangers have given flags to units that are deploying, as MG Anderson gave us an Indiana State Flag (I'm sure most of you non-Hoosier Indiana Rangers remember it).

- **Reunion 2006:** All information is tentative - The 2006 reunion is planned for Camp Atterbury August 11-13, 2006. Newsletters will go out once more information has jelled.

- **Stump Humphries** - Darrell Holder took a trip to visit Daniel "Stump" Humphries on the east coast. He says that Humphries has been a little under the weather, but will be coming to the reunion and is very excited about it.

- **Benefit Concert:** Terry MacDonald and Doug Hagan are hatching a plan to have a benefit concert to raise funds for the D/151 Relief Fund. They're looking at doing it the 3rd Saturday in June, at Terry MacDonald's House.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

- **Thank You from Soldier for Evansville Rangers' Efforts** - The guys from Evansville have been working on many projects to help soldiers that are deployed overseas. The effort has been spearheaded by Larry Rhodes, with the assistance of the others. Recently, Larry received this email from a young man of 1st Battalion 163rd Field Artillery out of Evansville.

*Even though I feel like I know you very well by all the good things my wife has said about you. But due to my current location, I am not able to have the pleasure. My name is SPC Richard Miller, husband of Alissa Miller. I, and many others of the 163rd would like to thank you for all of the many things that you have done for us and more importantly for our families back home. Thanks to the very few people like you we soldiers do not have to worry as much if things are getting taken care of back home. It means a lot to me that there are people like you that would dedicate their time too soldiers and their families.*

- **PVT Jonathan Pfender Funeral** - Another project of the Evansville boys (and the Anderson/Muncie boys) was the PVT Pfender funeral. PVT Pfender of Evansville was killed in action. Now I don't know how much y'all know about the "Westboro Baptist Church", but they are an organization of family members that have a searing hatred for homosexuals, and use service members' funerals as a way of spreading their message, and possibly raising funds. You see, they protest military funerals - PVT Pfender's was the fifth that they had protested in Indiana alone. They have even protested at Arlington Cemetery. Part of the protest is to get their message out, and my opinion is, the other part is to make people so angry that the commit acts of violence (however small) against the group, then they can sue a city for not keeping them safe. They want to be attacked, and have been. Their "church" was bombed. Anyway, when the veterans groups from Evansville heard that these folks were coming, they sprang into action - which prompted the local law enforcement to spring into action. The local law enforcement met with all veterans agencies in the area (to include D/151), and informed them of the true agenda of the group. This

thwarted any violence that would disgrace the funeral. After all, the only one that deserved any attention that day was PVT Pfender. He had a righteous showing of veterans at his funeral and they insured the dignity of the event was not broken by these nutbars. Detailed below by Larry Rhodes is an after action of the event.

*From Larry Rhodes - Just a quick report on the anti-protest rally to block out the efforts of the protestors at Pvt Jonathan Pfender funeral on Tuesday in Evansville. On Monday from Noon to 8:00 Pm there were from 5 to 20 Veterans in front on the Funeral home. Several family members of Pvt Pfender came out to express their thanks. Especially emotional moment came when his father and brother came out around 5:00 pm to thank us for standing guard. I tell you, that moment was harder on the veterans outside than it was on his father. If our presence all day kept the protestors away, then the all day vigil was worth it because they did not come that day.*

*On Tuesday the funeral was held at the Centre which is the city main auditorium. Most arrived between 9:00 and 10:00 am. The city police were everywhere and well prepared for any type of action. The protestors arrived around 10:15. There were 7 women and they were instructed to stay within the confines of a fenced area on the opposite side of the street from the Centre.*

*Immediately upon their arrival, the entire veteran force moved quickly from the front door of the Centre to the sidewalk in front of the protestors. Lots of comments flowed both directions but eventually the veterans turned their back to the protestors and by now there were at least 300 veterans between the protestors and the family of Pvt Pfender. Some folks attending the funeral service did come down to make comments to the protestors, but they all stayed across the street.*

*Several veterans' organizations form around the area was present with their colors and flags. A PA system played patriotic music and lots of folks sang along.*

*Several veteran motorcycle units also attended. In fact about 20 bikes were escorted by the city police to the area directly in front of the protestors and of course they let those horses run the whole time drowning out the protestors.*

*A large American flag about 25' by 75' was unfurled and held aloft by about 50 people.*

*The mission was successful in that the family of Pvt Pfender never even heard them nor saw them as the protestors left before the family came out of the Centre. So unlike other cities in which the protestors were within arms length of the family, they were contained and subdued in Evansville.*

*Lots of local veterans that I know came out to support the family. One in particular was Leon Nash, whose brother was KIA in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor for saving the lives of others while sacrificing his own life.*

*Rangers present were Dave Waters, Bob McIntire, Ben Vanderlinden, Ron Himself, and to our surprise, Jon Ellis, Tom Hart, and Doug Hagan came down in a van (it was a cold and rainy day-so no motorcycles from this Anderson In group).*

*Mission Accomplished. We stand ready to defend the family of the next soldier that these protestors decide to demonstrate against. Let's pray they won't have a reason to come back to Indiana. (In fact our prayers may just be answered as it has been reported that they intend to protest at the Virginia miners funerals also. Lots of hills and valleys there to get lost in) C Larry r*

*Thanks to Larry and all those who took a stand.*

Tom Blandford - signing out.



**F/51 LRP**  
Unit Director - Russell Dillon



# OPERATION UNIONTOWN III PART 5

This part of Operation Uniontown III took place between March 3rd of 1968 to March 10th of 1968.

**Team 46** was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 3rd at 1330HRS (1:30 PM). At 1525HRS (3:25 PM) C&C reported what appeared to be campfires around Team 46's location. At 1610HRS (4:10 PM) Team 46 reported negative activity. At 1820HRS (6:20 PM) Team 46 reported hearing 3 shots being fired 400 meters Northeast of the teams location. At 1909HRS (7:09 PM) Team 46 reported hearing a carbine being fired 350 meters Northeast of the teams location. On March 4th at 0600HRS (6:00 AM) Team 46 reported hearing bells 60 degrees 800 to 1000 meters from the teams location. At 0616HRS (6:16 AM) Team 46 reported hearing hammering 800 meters Northwest of the teams location, in the vicinity of Trang Bam village.

On March 5th Team 46 reported negative activity in their area. On March 6th at 0824HRS (8:24 AM) Team 46 was extracted.

**Team 16** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 6th at 1510HRS (3:10 PM). At 1631HRS (4:31 PM) Team 16 reported that they were in contact with 3 Vietcong that were across a clearing 30 degrees and 50 meters from the teams location. At 1650HRS (4:50 PM) Team 16 was extracted. Results of the contact were 1 North Vietnam regular believed killed and 1 North Vietnam regular possibly killed. Both were wearing OD fatigues while one had a wood frame pack and the other was carrying a carbine. There were no U.S. casualties.

**Team 45** was a heavy 13 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 6th at 1515HRS (3:15 PM). At 1550HRS (3:50 PM) Team 45 reported that they were at their assigned designation. At 1615HRS both the team leader and the teams Chieu Hoi went out to check the trail when they met 2 NVA and initiated contact on the NVA. The result of the contact was one NVA soldier was killed while the other NVA escaped. The killed NVA soldier was a surveyor for rocket and mortar positions. Included in the captured equipment were the surveyor's tripod and his notebooks. The bodyguard that escaped carried a rucksack and an AK-47. They were both wearing OD fatigues and bush camouflage on their backs. On March 6th at 1630HRS (4:30 PM) Team 45 was extracted.

**Team 36** was a heavy 10 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 6th at 1458HRS (2:58 PM). During their 2 day stay Team 36 reported negative activity in their area. On March 9th at 1008HRS (10:00 AM) Team 36 was extracted.

**Team 34** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 7th at 0834HRS (8:34 AM). Team 34 was on the ground from the March 7th through March 10th with negative activity in their area. On March 10th at 0942HRS (9:42 AM) Team 34 was extracted.



**Team 45** was a 13 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 7th at 1128HRS (11:28 AM) and moved to their RON (Remain Over Night) location. On March 8th at 0700HRS (7:00 AM) Team 45 reported being in contact with 10 or more NVA. At 0706HRS (7:06 AM) the gun-ships reported lifting off and at 0709HRS (7:09 AM) the gun-ships were over Team 45's location. The gun-ships made their gun runs and Team 45 was extracted at 0730HRS (7:30 AM). Results of the contact were 1 NVA KIA (Killed In Action) and 3 NVA possibly KIA with 1 AK-47 and 1 American type grenade. One prisoner was also recovered but died on the way to the company area.

**Team 31** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 8th at 1318HRS (1:18 PM). During their time in the area they reported negative sightings or activity and on March 10th at 0946HRS (9:46

AM) Team 31 was extracted.

**Team 12** was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 8th at 1559HRS (3:59 PM). During their time in the area the team reported negative sightings or activity.

**Team 15** was a 13 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 7th at 1306HRS (1:06 PM). At 1357HRS (1:57 PM) Team 15 reported being in contact with two Vietcong. The result of the contact was 2 Vietcong were probable KIA (Killed In Action). The Vietcong were reported to be wearing brown bush hats and black PJ's. Team 15 reported seeing 15 to 20 more Vietcong. On March 9th at 0955HRS (9:55 AM) Team 15 was extracted.

**Team 47** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 8th at 1849HRS (6:49 PM). On March 9th at 1215HRS (12:15 PM) Team 47 reported 2 Vietcong were chopping wood 75 meters Southeast of the teams location. At 1518HRS (3:18 PM) Team 47 was extracted because the 199th Light Infantry Brigade assigned F/51 new Areas of Operation.

**Team 46** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on (March 8th at 1901HRS (7:01 PM). On March 9th at 0922HRS (9:22 AM) Team 46 reported that after an air strike 2 Vietcong jumped from a tree 75 meters North Northwest of the teams location. At 1200HRS (12:00 PM) Team 46 called in artillery on 4 Vietcong that were spotted 250 meters Northeast of the teams location. The first of 6 rounds were fired at 1238HRS (12:38 PM). At 1434HRS (2:34 PM) Team 46 reported finding a landing zone watchtower and destroyed it. At 1443HRS (2:43 PM) Team 46 reported that they had found another watchtower near the first one and that they had destroyed it also. At 1513HRS (3:13 PM) Team 46 was extracted.

**Team 15** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 9th at 1729HRS (5:29 PM) and moved to

## F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

their RON (Remain Over Night) location. On March 10th at 0802HRS (8:02 AM) Team 15 reported many voices 100 to 150 meters West of the teams location. At 0807HRS (8:07 AM) Team 15 reported more voices South of the teams location and were close. At 0815 (8:15 AM) Team 15 reported seeing 2 Vietcong North of the teams location and believed that the Vietcong were trying to surround the team and requested gun-ships. At 0835HRS (8:35 AM) the requested gun-ships began making their runs. At 0839HRS (8:39 AM) Team 15 reported West to East movement 50 meters North of the teams location. On March 10th at 0902HRS (9:02 AM) Team 15 was extracted with unknown Vietcong losses.

**Team 12** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 9th at 1710HRS (5:10 PM). At 1814HRS (6:14 PM) Team 12 reported seeing 1 Vietcong wearing black PJ's and a hat and carrying a weapon 25 meters from the teams location. Contact was not made and at 1843HRS (6:43 PM) Team 12 was extracted due to the C&C (Command and Control) helicopter had sighted many Vietcong in the area of the team. After the extraction artillery was called in to the area at 1853HRS (6:53 PM).

**Team 12** was a 6 man light team that was reinserted (into the same area and location as from the previous day) on March 10th at 1317HRS (1:17 PM). At 1552 Aloft reported seeing a mirror flashing and two orange panels on the ground meaning that Team 12 had negative communications. At 1634HRS (4:34 PM) Team 12 was extracted. Team 12 reported that at 1515HRS (3:15 PM) they had counted 230 NVA (North Vietnam Army) wearing OD fatigues, steel helmets and brush camouflage and carrying various weapons. Team 12 also said that they did not see the front or back of the line. Artillery was called into the sighting area and an air strike was requested.

**Team 14** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 9th at 1717HRS (5:17 PM). At 1754HRS (5:54 PM) Team 14 reported Vietcong 30 meters West of the teams location that were moving North. At 1800HRS (6:00 PM) Team 14 reported seeing 3 more Vietcong moving North. At 1802HRS (6:02 PM) Team 14 received permission to ambush a lone Vietcong. At 1808HRS (6:08 PM) the ambush was initiated and as the team was about to retrieve the body when the team detected heavy movement and withdrew to their LZ. On the way to the LZ Team 14 found a vacant bunker and destroyed it. At 1827HRS (6:27 PM) Team 14 was extracted. The gun-ships that covered the extraction expended 54 rockets, 150 rounds of 40mm and 3000 rounds of 7.62 mini-gun ammo.

**Team 14** was a 6 man light team that was reinserted into a different area of their Area of Operation on March 10th at 1323HRS (1:23 PM). At 1347HRS (1:47 PM) the C&C (Command and Control) helicopter spotted Vietcong out in the open and called in gun-ships and artillery into the area. At 1414HRS (2:14 PM) Team 14 reported seeing 2 Vietcong 25 meters West of the teams location. At 1416HRS (2:16 PM) Team 14 reported 2 more Vietcong 25 meters Southwest of the teams position and that the Vietcong were following the team. At 1600HRS Team 14 was preparing to RON (Remain Over Night) when they reported that the 2 Vietcong were still in the area. At 1742HRS (5:42 PM) Team 14 reported 2 Vietcong with carbines moving from East to West. At 1830HRS (6:30 PM) Team 14

reported movement 100 to 150 meters Southwest of the teams location. At 1850HRS (6:50 PM) Team 14 reported movement 40 to 50 meters Southeast of the teams location. At 1855HRS (6:55 PM) Team 14 reported that Vietcong had moved within 30 meters of the teams location. At 1956HRS (7:56 PM) Team 14 reported 1 Vietcong 20 meters Southeast of the teams location and that contact was imminent as additional movement was closing in from the South of the teams location. At 2003HRS (8:03 PM) Team 14 reported that Vietcong were within 15 meters of the teams location. At 2010HRS (8:10 PM) Team 14 reported seeing 3 Vietcong and had heavy movement around the teams location. At 2030HRS (8:30 PM) Team 14 reported the Vietcong were moving in on the teams location. The gun-ships began making their runs at 2035HRS (8:35 PM) and the team was extracted at 2044HRS (8:44 PM). The contact resulted in 3 Vietcong killed and artillery was called into the area with unknown results.

**Team 16** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 10th at 1730HRS (5:30 PM). At 1804HRS (6:04 PM) Team 16 reported seeing 2 Vietcong on the teams LZ that ran into the woods 100 meters Northeast of the teams location. At 1810HRS (6:10 PM) Team 16 reported seeing 2 Vietcong 50 meters West of the teams location. At 1815HRS (6:15 PM) Team 16 reported 5 Vietcong coming South to North on the trail the team was set up. At 1840HRS (6:40 PM) Team 16 was extracted.

**Team 14** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on March 3rd at 1440HRS (2:40 PM). Team 14 moved to their watch point and at 1714HRS (5:14 PM) reported movement 50 to 75 meters Northeast from the team's location. On March 4th at 0650HRS (6:50 AM) Team 14 reported negative activity. At 1850HRS (6:50 PM) Team 14 reported movement 20 meters North of the teams location. At 1945HRS (7:45 PM) Team 14 reported heavy movement to his South and going East to West. At 2009HRS (8:09 PM) Team 14 reported movement 25 to 35 meters Northeast of the teams location. At 2036HRS (8:36 PM) gun-ships began making runs on the areas around Team 14. At 2059HRS (8:59 PM) LFT reported receiving ground fire 50 meters Southeast of Team 14's location, also at this time movement around Team 14 had ceased. On March 5th at 1150HRS (11:50 AM) Team 14 reported hearing voices 25 to 35 meters West of the teams location. At 1206HRS (12:06 PM) Team 14 reported 5 carbine shots 50 to 75 meters North of the teams location. The team leader took 1 man and checked out the area with negative results. At 1835HRS (6:35 PM) Team 14 reported movement 35 meters South of the teams location and was moving West to East. At 1838HRS (6:38 PM) Team 14 reported spotting 1 NVA in fatigues. At 2036HRS (8:36 PM) Team 14 requested 1 artillery flare be fired with the result of seeing negative movement. On March 6th at 1544HRS (3:44 PM) Team 14 reported 1 Vietcong 40 to 50 meters Southeast of the teams location stand and walk into the brush. The Vietcong was wearing a flak jacket and wearing a baseball cap moving South to North on a trail. At 2035HRS (8:35 PM) Team 14 reported hearing small arms fire 100 to 150 meters East of the team's location. On March 7th at 0848HRS (8:48 AM) Team 14 was extracted.





## LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

The 3rd ID Lurps are getting older and we are starting to see our ranks diminish. In November 2005, we lost one of our stalwarts, Gary R. (Ron) Scott of Tulsa, Oklahoma. According to his wife, Pat, Ron died peacefully in his sleep from complications related to high blood pressure and diabetes. Frank Wagner, Jack Quinn and Marvin DeWall drove down to Oklahoma for the services, which were attended by over 400 hundred people. As a former Tulsa PD motorcycle officer, homicide detective and SPCA enforcement officer, Ron was given a police funeral with full honors.

I first met Ron in June 1961 when, as a newbie private (E-2) just off the boat from the States, I was assigned to his squad in D Company, 2nd Battle Group, 38th Infantry at Ledward Barracks in Schweinfurt, W. Germany. Ron and I were both leg riflemen (MOS 111.00—the dreaded “picket fence”), but because he had been in the Army six months longer than me he referred to me as “croot,” as in “recruit.” Not only were we the lowest of the low on the chain of command, I think we belonged to the worst squad in the worst platoon of the worst company of the worst Battle Group in all of USAREUR. It seemed like after every FTX our company always got the lowest rating. I still do not know why, because our CO was pretty sharp, and some of our NCOs were Ranger trained. What I do know is that we spent too much time stripping and polishing the hardwood floors in our old Wehrmacht barracks and standing

interminable inspections. I know that Ron did not appreciate this and when he got a chance to transfer to the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment in Bad Kissingen, he jumped at the chance, as did all of D Company’s Ranger NCOs. I followed about four months later. By this time Ron and I were both PFCs, but he still had time in grade on me.



During this time the Berlin Wall had gone up and draftees were pouring in to bolster the line units in Germany. As a consequence, rank was plentiful—except in the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment. In some of the line units guys with less than two years service were being promoted to Sergeant (E-5), but we were not getting

any of this rank as we were on detached duty status and our home units would not waste any slots on people who were not around. After 30 months in Germany, and 36 months active duty, Ron Scott returned home as a PFC. The Army did Ron, and many other LRRPs like him a great disservice. But they didn’t care. They were proud of their service as LRRPs and did not need anything else. That is probably why we stayed so close after all these years.

Ruck on Ron, and when you meet the Big Ranger in the sky say hello for us, and say “Hi” to “Red Dog” Schroeder and Cliff Mize.



## ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Mike Martin



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Short gray days and long black nights are prevalent at this time of the year, but the gloom of snowy winter daylight fails to imprison my thoughts as I write this article; past times and other places slowly drift through my mind, like the wisps of smoke from a lingering campfire, as I sip from a mug of hot buttery rum....

I can clearly see my Father and me tracking rabbits across open meadows and scintillating fields of sage grass, through ankle deep snow, as white flakes pelted our faces; the quietness of German forests broken by the crunch of heavy boots as patrol members stalked over a blanket of whiteness; and frozen



rice paddies swept by the harshness of the Siberian-like winds that confronted soldiers and equipment during field operations in Korea...”ah”, but what we would give to do it all over again...

In comparison, you can imagine the memories that the Vietnamese must have: from Dien Bien Phu, to the fall of Saigon. In a time of conflict and chaos, American Advisors and their counterparts came together to defeat a common enemy. In a war-torn country we came to believe in one another, but the Advisors came home to a sense of normality, the Vietnamese Rangers were left with confusion, bitterness, and most, with periods of imprisonment; also,

the incongruity of Communists occupying the South.

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

## Ranger advisors distribute Fairmont gifts to patients

It's a long way from Fairmont, W. Va., to Saigon, but through the efforts of a U.S. Army major stationed here as an advisor to the Vietnamese Army Ranger Command, a number of wounded Rangers know there are Americans who care about them.

Last March, Major Edward F. McGushin, staff advisor to the Ranger Command, accompanied the commander of the Rangers and his staff on a visit to Cong Hoa Hospital on the outskirts of Saigon. This is where the most seriously wounded Rangers from throughout the Republic of Vietnam are treated.

"What I found most impressive was the spirit of these gallant men," reported Maj. McGushin. "Although their bodies are broken, their spirit is not. Young men of 18 and 19 with limbless lives before them. Older soldiers thankful to have survived as long as they had, and for being spared for a few more months or years. Men so badly mangled that age can not be determined from their appearance."

Maj. McGushin was moved by the experience, and enlisted the support of the folks in Fairmont to collect gifts for the soldiers. His father-in-law, Baxter C. Wilt, was the local point of contact for contributions.

With support from the local newspaper and the Fairmont Businessmen's Association, Wilt and the major's wife solicited gifts from more than 100 businesses. Several service organizations joined the campaign to collect useful items, as did the Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority of Fairmont State College.

Collection of the material was completed in late June, and Mrs. McGushin packed for shipment to Vietnam 192 individual gift boxes with such items as soap, stationery, playing cards, candy, etc. A variety of group games were also packed for shipment. Members of the Ranger Advisory Detachment donated sufficient funds to cover the shipment to Vietnam. Distribution of the items was made last month.



SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DON SCHOMMER, an enlisted advisor to the Ranger Command, helps distribute gifts from Fairmont, W. Va. citizens to soldiers at the Cong Hoa hospital.

For those who escaped to freedom, theirs was a life of uncertainty for years ahead. For many, still, it is difficult not to succumb to melancholy at this time of the year...Tet, the celebration of the lunar new year, usually was the occasion for a formal cease-fire, with the exception of 1968, when the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong launched a series of massive surprise attacks in what became known as the Tet offensive.

For the Vietnamese who are living abroad now, their reflections of Tet are not just this epoch of fighting, but of childhood memories: colorful festival events and ancestral worshipping—much like we recall family ties at Christmas and other holidays. The Vietnamese, and we too, remember friends and family members who have shared these moments with us; at this time of the year (29 January 2006—Year of the Dog), their spirits comfort our souls....

### BORDER RANGERS/MONTAGNARDS

A historical synopsis of the Vietnamese Rangers (Biet Dong Quan), would reveal an amalgam of elements of the Vietnamese "special action companies" formed in 1959, as they evolved into Ranger companies, then battalions, and become standardized in 1971, at seven ranger groups and twenty-one battalions, repeatedly committed to battle in all Corps until the final minutes

of the Vietnam War.

U.S. Army Ranger Advisors would become a part of this evolution with totally different experiences,

depending on the year they served and their

tour with a company, battalion, or a group...

During the latter period of the war, another major change would take place in the mission and organization of some ranger units with the conversion of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) into ARVN Rangers, henceforth the Ranger Border Defense battalions and the integration of the assigned Montagnards into the Rangers.

On January 4, 1971, the rather turbulent history of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) in South Vietnam came to a close. The conversion from CIDG to ARVN Ranger units became complete, while adding yet another success to the overall

scheme of Vietnamization.

During 1961 and 1962, the US Army Special Forces established a series of isolated camps in remote areas throughout the Republic of South Vietnam. The purpose of these camps was three-fold: to exert the South Vietnamese

Government's influence to the outlying areas of the country; to provide security to the indigenous population in these areas; and to deny the local population in these areas to the enemy.

The US Special Forces personnel that established the camps were on temporary duty from Okinawa, as the 5th Special Forces Group didn't deploy to Vietnam from Fort Bragg until 1964.

The combat soldiers for these camps were recruited from the civilian population in each area and consisted of paid civilian mercenaries who later became identified as the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG). US Special Forces first operated around the Ban Me Thuot area of the Central Highlands with the Rhade (Ede) Montagnard tribe. The vast majority of CIDG personnel throughout the Central Highlands consisted of Montagnard tribesmen, with some Cambodians and Vietnamese.



"Advisors to the 95th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, CPT Bob Sparks and CPT Mark Truhan on an abandoned PT-76 on the northeast perimeter of the Ben Het Border Ranger Camp, 12 May 1972."



HOI AN; 1967, General Westmoreland awarding the US Presidential Unit Citation to Ranger Henry C. McNeal and the 37th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion for their actions at Thach Tru in November 1965.

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



*Vietnamese and American officers witness the transfer of a CIDG camp to the Vietnamese Rangers in January, 1971. US Army Ranger Advisor on the far right is wearing BDQ beret and both the US Special Forces and the Vietnamese Ranger SSI.*

surveillance and interdiction of enemy routes of infiltration, communication and supply. Another facet of the CIDG concept was to organize and train mobile strike force units whose freedom to maneuver enabled them to reinforce the camps as tactical reserve reaction forces. Trained, advised, and paid by Special Forces, the CIDG played a significant part in securing the sparsely populated highland and western border areas of Vietnam.

In 1967, the Special Forces began a program to convert all of the interior CIDG camps to Regional Force (RF) camps, retaining Special Forces in each of the 38 border camps throughout Vietnam. In May 1970, the 5th Special Forces Group was tasked with operation Conversion of CIDG (COCIDG). They were directed to phasedown SF operations in the Republic of Vietnam and convert the remaining CIDG units and the Vietnamese LLDB to ARVN Ranger units by early 1971 (the last two CIDG border camps were officially converted on January 4, 1971).



*Ranger Burton Patrick calling in gun ships during an attack on the 42nd Ranger Battalion in the Delta, 1966; Ranger Ralph Banks, to his right, is carrying the PRC-25 radio. Patrick is a retired Lieutenant General, Banks is deceased.*

(Montagnard is a French word meaning "Mountaineer".) The initial philosophy was to organize the Montagnards, bring them under government control, and train them to fight the Viet Cong. The CIDG personnel were organized into combat units by the Green Berets with the mission to conduct border

During the 90-day conversion cycle, the CIDG camps were restructured according to the new Ranger battalion organization, consisting of three Ranger surveillance companies and one Ranger battalion headquarters and service company.

Much of the future success of the individual border camp under the ARVN Ranger program would depend upon the ARVN Ranger

battalion commander and his US Ranger counterpart. Nearly 90 percent of the Montagnards serving in the CIDG took the opportunity to exchange their LLDB green berets for bright maroon Vietnamese Ranger berets (Mu Nau).

Excerpts on the Montagnards taken from an Infantry publication; article by Major Thomas M. Johnson, Circa '71.

Note: Joint General Staff Instruction No. 100-19, dated May 22, 1970, established a ranger command in each military region with the responsibility of assuming command of all border surveillance bases. Ranger groups currently organized would not be integrated into the border surveillance system until January 1971.

Joint General Staff Memorandum No. 1678, dated May 22, 1970, pursuant to JGS Instruction No. 100-19, activated and reorganized ranger units to be consistent with the border surveillance mission to be additionally assigned. Authorized a Ranger Headquarters at the JGS, four ranger headquarters at corps level, six ranger groups, thirty-eight border surveillance ranger battalions, four service support companies and four signal companies; the latter to be attached to the corps-level ranger headquarters. Subsequently, four ranger tactical command posts were organized effective November 1, 1970 (Ranger High Command message #5525 11/28/70).

By December 1970, thirty-seven border defense battalions were in existence: I Corps – 8; II Corps – 12; III Corps – 9; and IV Corps – 8.

### VIETNAM (BDQ) HISTORY

Colonel Da Bao Phuoc, 5th Ranger Group; Captain Nguyen Van Xion, 34th Ranger Battalion; and Major Nguyen Nghanh, 41st Ranger Battalion; were killed in action in the first week of June, 1968.

Ranger Command Advisory Detachment (Ranger High Command) was located at: 133 To Hien Thanh Street, Saigon, in 1968; Phone ARVN 50396.



*Montagnard CIDG soldiers who have become ARVN Rangers receive their new rank from BG Canh, Commanding General.*

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

CONTEMPLATIONS

Desert Warfare

A universe of space, infinite sands,  
Unbroken line to mark off cloudless blue.  
A shimmering heat that plucks the very life  
Of withered thorns which strive and stretch out shoots  
Groping in vain to take a hold on life.  
The desert, mighty, void of hope, immense,  
Disturbed from tortured sleep by sounds of war,  
Her barren bosom throbs with life once more.  
Across her brow come men and guns to wrest  
From foemen's grasp another sterile stretch.  
And so the game is played on age-old sands.  
Shades of the Caesars of a bygone day,  
Their might decayed, great triumphs turned to dust.

Soon, as with them, shall our deeds grow obscure,  
Our victories unimportant, efforts vain  
Defaced by time. Once more the desert reigns,  
Our warfare but a phase, long, long forgot.

- G. Harker (Signalman)

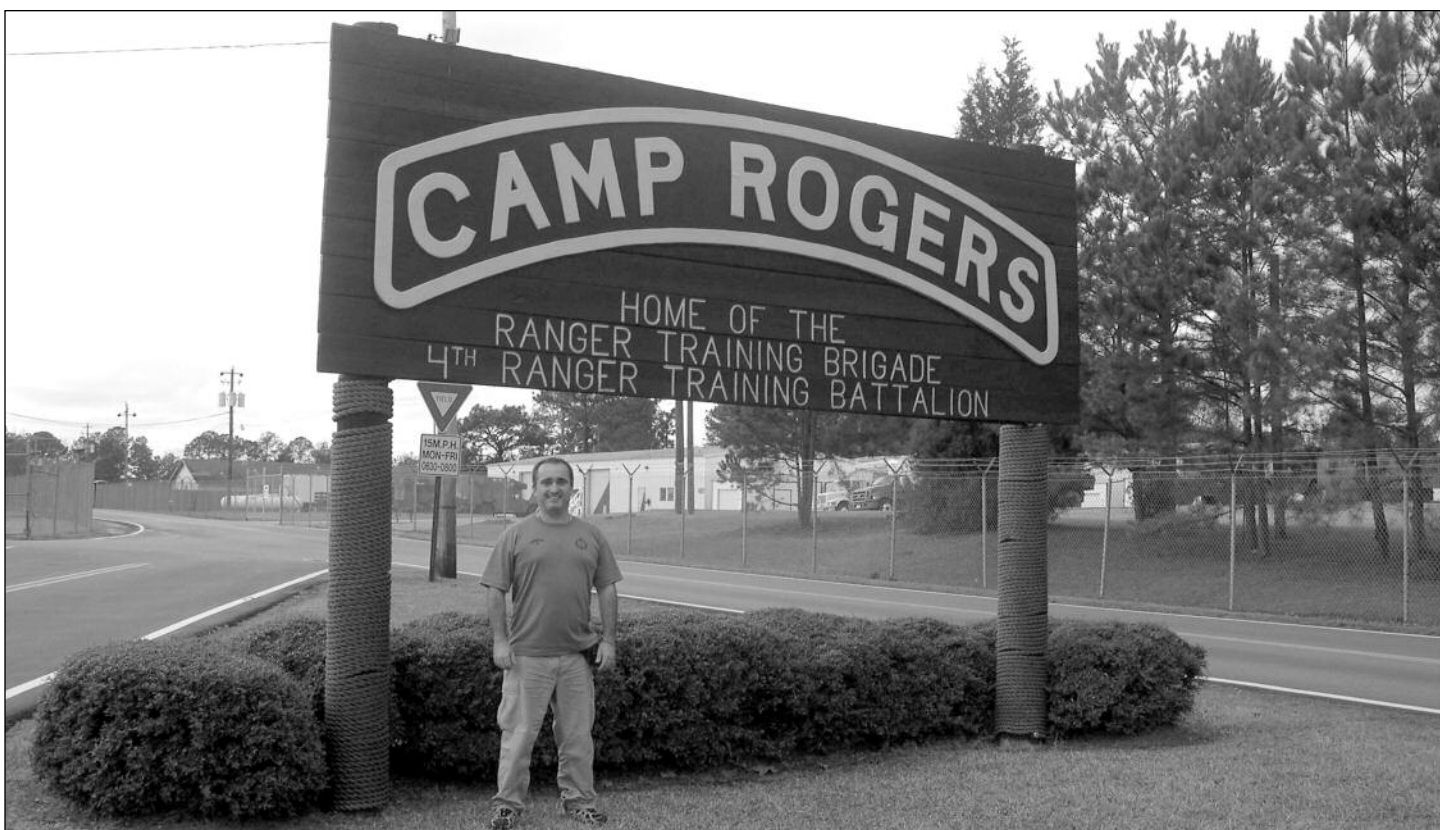
British Eighth Army

Western Desert 1942-43

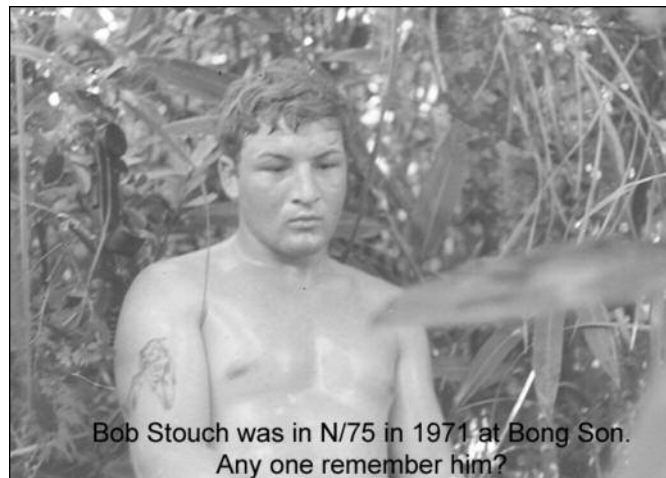
For our military warriors (Advisors) imbedded with the forces of  
Afghanistan and Iraq: "It is their war, and you are to help them,  
not win it for them. Lawrence of Arabia, The Arab Bulletin, 20  
August 1917

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

Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit Director



*The above photo is of Johnny Flowers, one of our members from Down Under. The affable Australian was touring the States and stopped off at several folks houses, including Emmett Hiltibrand, who gave him a tour of Ft. Benning. I didn't get to meet him this trip, maybe next time, mate!!*



Bob Stouch was in N/75 in 1971 at Bong Son.  
Any one remember him?



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Design on left chest



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Logo on left chest.

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**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

By: Bob Smyers

# EASTER, RESURRECTION, PASSOVER

Soon we will celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Easter is the name most commonly used in reference to this Holiday, particularly in the marketing arena. The word Easter is derived from the sun goddess Eostre or Ostara as told by a Christian Monk (Venerable Bede) that lived 1300 years ago. Due to space I will not go into the history of it, but will give the internet site if you desire to research it. Like Christmas the marketing world thrives on this day as a marketing tool to promote their goods. This of course distracts from and distorts the true meaning. Christmas and Easter are the only two days of the year that Christian churches are filled to capacity, indicating we do have many that believe Jesus Christ did come and die for our sins, But at the same time they do not accept Him into their life. Odd! We are not commanded by God to celebrate either Christmas or Easter, but man thought they should be. God did however give the Jewish people festivals that they should celebrate in commemoration of the different events. Easter is also referred to as Resurrection Day, but is called Passover in the Bible, one of three annual Festivals to be celebrated. Passover is the most important. Why? Because this day would be the day Jesus would fulfill his mission on earth. That was to give his life as payment for all sin for all people of the world for generations past, present, and future. His blood was the only acceptable because man had not tainted it. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Religious Leaders and Jewish Officials of those days perceived Jesus to be a threat to their control over the people, and surmised that he had to die. Thus plans were made to kill him and the High Priest helped in the planning. All agreed that it must be done at night as quickly and quietly as possible, while most of the population slept, lest there be people in defense of Jesus and a possible riot. So a lie was made up. They would accuse Him of blasphemy. It was customary to have two or three witnesses to establish the truth of a wrong and though there many false witnesses in the crowd, only two came forth to testify against Him, but after they were given money. With plan in place the Religious Leaders had him taken prisoner late at night,

Going forth the soldiers found Jesus and his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane where they had gone after supper to pray. The supper is now called "The Lord's Last Supper". It was at this supper Jesus told his disciples He would no longer eat of the bread or drink of the wine until it be with them in the Father's (God's) House. Judas, one of the disciples had made a deal with the Religious Leaders to lead them to and identify Jesus for them with a kiss on His cheek. Jesus had been praying and after he finished He was ready to fulfill his mission, and as it had been prophesied; Judas came with many soldiers and took Him prisoner.

This would prove to be a long night for Jesus, for he would stand a total of five trials at various places in the city. Jesus had had very little sleep coming into the night and was becoming very weary as they moved him about. While taking Him to the various judges the soldiers continuously beat, slapped, punched, pulled on Him, and even pulled out chunks of his beard. The fourth judge was Herod, a Roman Ruler over this part of the providence, and after he talked with Jesus he allowed his soldiers to humiliate Him. It was here they placed a robe over his body and a crown of thorns on His head, all the while beating and mocking him. Herod finally orders Him to be taken back to Pilate for final Judgment.

Pilate really did not see any wrong Jesus did, but to appease the people he turned Jesus over to them for punishment, but only after a flogging. Pilate was hoping the people after witnessing the harshness of the flogging would feel sorry for him, and let him go. However this did not change the minds of the people and they insisted He be crucified on the Cross.

Jesus was alone and as prophesied "the Shepard shall be struck down and His sheep scattered" was fulfilled. The disciples deserted Him during this time for fear of what might happen to them.

Jesus was taken away to receive the punishment designed for the harden criminals. It was and I suppose still is the most horrific death sentence any had ever under gone. Then and now. Mel Gibson's movie the "Passion" in my opinion

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONTINUED

came really close to the actual treatment and depiction of His punishment.

First He was flogged:

Note: The men assigned to flog and crucify prisoners were trained professionals and knew how to exact the most pain they could.

Flogging consisted of three men, a commander and two huge Roman soldiers, each equipped with a whip of many leather throngs, all weighted down with broken bone, glass, or metal chips in order to cut into the flesh.

There was a post located in the middle of the court about three feet high to which Jesus was tied after he was stripped of all clothing. This would place him bent over and his whole hind side, the back, thighs, and legs would be totally exposed. One soldier would stand to the right rear and one to the left rear, a few feet left and right of Jesus. The commander would give them the command to begin and one would start and it would continue in rhythm until it was stopped. When the whip was lashed out it would wrap around Jesus and when it was pulled loose, it tore His flesh open. Each lash went a little deeper and blood began oozing and spurting out, not a pleasant site to see. It was so sad even the Romans began to cry for Jesus. After a while the commander stopped long enough to see how close Jesus was to death, and if close it would be stopped. Jesus was then loosened and His robe was placed on him. It is supposed he received 100 or so lashes. The flogging had it been under Jews rule would not exceed forty lashes, but the Romans were not obligated to this rule. In the Bible Jesus claimed he could see His enter Parts. Modern Doctors claim His skin would have looked like ribbons hanging from His body with blood oozing and spurting out. "**A MANGLED MESS**". Jesus also stated in the Bible He no longer looked like a human, his head so swollen from all the abuse and His body mangled from the flogging. Surely Jesus was in shock and totally worn out after all He had been through. All this time he was given no food, water, or rest.

He was now going to the Cross! Prisoners, and Jesus was no exception had to carry the Cross bar/plank to the designated spot for crucifixion. The bar/plank weighed about 100 pounds or more. This was placed on Jesus shoulders and he struggled with it for about 1000 feet before He was brought to His knees. The soldiers seeing this grabbed a man from the crowd and made him carry it the remainder of the way. The soldiers that would nail him to the Cross were trained physicians and knew the exact place to place the nails to produce the most pain. Jesus was laid on the Cross and his wrist were nailed to the cross bar. The spikes were 5 inches long and expertly placed in his wrist and feet. To survive on the Cross required the prisoners to inhale and exhale. To do this they had to pull with the wrist and push with the feet. This would go on until they died and this could take up to 3 days, sooner for some. Also soldiers at times would break the legs to allow death earlier. Jesus suffered unfathomable pain.

Jesus was buried, but as the Word of God said, He would rise again on the third day and He did, conquering death, hell, and the grave. "**HE LIVES FOREVER MORE**"! All sin was atoned for by the shedding of His blood! All that ask Jesus to come into their heart will receive eternal life the second they ask. Our bodies may die, but the Spirit and soul will live forever and one day be reunited with the body in a Glorified State. To never again suffer the sufferings of this life we now know. I encourage all to give some thought and please do not just read the word, but visualize the sights and sound our Lord faced, all alone. Please give a thought to Jesus when you remember a lost loved one or a fallen brother. Our brothers and sisters died (die) for us to live free in this fleshly life, but Jesus Christ died that we all may have ETERNAL LIFE!

Thanks for allowing me to share.

Web site: <http://www.awesomepower.net/easternamed.htm>

References: Isaiah 52:14-53:12, Psalms 22:1-18, Mathew 26-27, John 18-20.

## T A P S . . .

On Dec. 5, 2005 we lost a (LRRP) brother. Robert Hernandez He was with K. Co.LZ Oasis from 1967 to 1969 He was a good brother LRRP. He took good care of me, and trained me to be a team leader. His wife is Terina Hernandez, 248 Granada Ave. San Francisco, Ca 94112. (Reported by John Serrano).

On June 2, 2005 Anthony Izzi, passed away. He was a veteran of F/50 (LRP) and F/75 (Ranger). Reported by his wife.

December, 2005. Ranger George Mendes succumbed to heart failure due to pneumonia and diabetes. (Reported by William Ramsdell).

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

---

### **"Her Missing Son"**

She stood with us in the crowd, on a cold November day.  
Just a frail, little old lady with thinning hair of gray.

There among the rest of us, she was hardly noticed at all.  
Then a veteran saw her shivering, there in her tiny shawl.

He offered her his coat and said " Please, here take my chair."  
The wrinkles in her face showed pain and despair.

She had come to this program in search of her long lost son.  
They had sent him off to war and he was her only one.

When the war had ended, he just never came home,  
so down through the many years she had to face life alone.

She's been to many Veterans programs hoping to find him there.  
She knew she'd recognize him, with his locks of golden hair.

She said "I'll keep coming back, maybe he'll be here one day."  
Standing here with the rest of you, or marching along the way.

Or perhaps he'll carry "Old Glory" standing ever so tall.  
Maybe snap to attention, hearing the commander's call.

He might even fire the rifle to salute a fallen friend.  
Or play "Taps" on the trumpet to signify their end.

She lifted her head again to take another look around.  
Then a smile crossed her lips as if she may have found.

With a deep breath she closed her eyes and took her final sleep.  
The Veteran held her in his arms and prayed "God Her Soul To Keep."

By Millard See, for Veterans Day November 11, 2005.

# STATE ADVOCATE COORDINATOR

Time certainly fly's by when you are busy.

Since my last writing until the present we have had our State Advocates participate in supporting families during their time of need. These men did a wonderful job in supporting these families and we can never thank them enough.

These volunteers have come to the aid of our fellow Ranger families. They have shown that we still care about our Brothers in Arms and their families. It is a service that we can all be proud of and that we can thank these special Ranger volunteers of ours for doing.

I know by the written and vocal expressions of the families and the president of the 75th RRA that we are respected for our devotion to our fellow Rangers. The families cannot express in words the special feelings that they experience when our volunteers arrive and lend their support. They especially are in awe when we supply them with information about the duty, devotion and camaraderie that Rangers have for the Ranger beside them. They see this camaraderie and love when we arrive and support them.

I wish to express the profound feelings of dedication and professionalism that president of the Association and all members feel for the volunteers from each state. You are all held in high esteem by all of us.

I wish to thank the following State Advocates for their selfless representation of the 75th RRA and their personal concern by extending assistance to the families of our fallen Brothers and Comrades.

Hal Herman, North Carolina

Bill Davis, California

Marshal Larson, California

Congratulations:

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

We need good men like these to support our Association.

Indiana, Randall (Randy) Lusk

New Jersey, Dan Nate

New Jersey Rich Martin

Colorado, David Bristol

Florida, Bryant Middleton

Indiana, Randy Lusk

Texas, Bob Cantu

These are new volunteers for the position since I have become the State Advocate Coordinator and we have others that volunteered earlier. There is still a need for the following states and we REALLY need your support. Please volunteer by sending me an email at egt12@adelphia.net.

Please volunteer for the following states:

Alabama	Alaska	Arkansas	Connecticut
Delaware	Florida	Hawaii	Idaho
Illinois	Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky
Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts
Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri
Montana	Montana	Nebraska	Nevada
New Hampshire	New Mexico	New York	North Dakota
Ohio	Oklahoma	Oregon	Rhode Island
South Carolina	South Dakota	Tennessee	Utah
Vermont	West Virginia	Wisconsin	Wyoming

This does not mean that we do not need volunteers for the other states as we do. We need more than one person per state. SO I AM AWAITING YOUR EMAIL AND THE 75th RRA IS AWAITING YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Anyone that volunteered before and would like a copy of the State Advocate guidelines please email me and I will send them to you.

Let us not forget that our President volunteers to assist also.

Gene Tucker

State Advocate Coordinator

## STATE COORDINATOR GUIDELINES

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

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

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

Organize and coordinate for funeral services by State.

Assist the families of deceased parties where possible.

Organize and coordinate visitation of incapacitated members by State.

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

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

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

## STATE ADVOCATE COORDINATOR (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

Gene Tucker  
State Coordinator

---

### STATE COORDINATORS

State Advocate – Gene Tucker, 3635 Indigo Ridge Point Colorado Springs, CO 80910-2681 (719) 380-8277, egt12@adelphia.net

Alabama-State Coordinator

Alaska-State Coordinator

Arizona-State Coordinator Michael Harris, 7602 E. Pinchot Ave Scottsdale, AZ 85251 c-602-432-9872 archangel1509@yahoo.com

Arkansas-State Coordinator

California-State Coordinator – Bill Davis, 50 Montell St, Oakland, CA 94611, H (510) 655-8962, C (510) 828-8849, beol@sbcglobal.net

Errol B. Hansen, 86-270 Redwood Shores, Redwood City, CA 94065, H (650) 2118-1305, C (650) 281-6110, e-mail to follow.

Rodolph “Rody” Lindhe, 3151 Chestnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806, C (310) 926-3941

(Note: This State is big and we need a northern, central and southern State Coordinator to cover it fully)

Colorado State Coordinator – Gene Tucker, 3635 Indigo Ridge Point, Colorado Springs, CO 80910-2681 egt12@adelphia.net

David Bristol, 15397 Red Mtn Lane, Collbran, Co 81624, 970-487-3042 djbristol@msn.com

Connecticut-State Coordinator

Delaware-State Coordinator-Charley (Rick) Laws, rangerlaws@aol.com 1615 Ally Mill Rd, Clayton DE 19938 H-302-659-1747 Cell 302-230-6041 Wife Cell 302-399-9559

Florida-State Coordinator - Bryant E. Middleton, RANGER5988@aol.com

(Note: This State is big and we need a northern, panhandle and southern State Coordinator to cover it fully)

Georgia-State Coordinator - Wayne Mitsch, 826 Lakeshore Dr., Berkley Lake, GA 30096-3042, H(770) 446-3892, W(770) 458-0206 ext. 203, C(404) 308-5262, wmkma@bellsouth.net

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Steve Hawk, 92 Howard Ln., Dahlonge, GA 30533, hawk@dawsoncountysheriff.org

# STATE ADVOCATE COORDINATOR (continued)

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# THE AMERICAN RANGER MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, Inc. (ARMA)

IRS has approved the Association as a 501 (c) (3) organization. That means that donations to it are tax deductible by the donor. Several Ranger Associations and others have donated “seed” money that enhances our marching forward. Progress is being made. Let your Association’s leaders know what you believe the Rangers desire and prefer. Nothing is locked into concrete, or granite, at this time! Now is the time to make your thoughts known. If you like what you see, say so. If you have a design you wish considered, send a draft of it with an explanation and the specifications to your Association’s officers for their consideration. They will make known to ARMA all worthy ideas.

The current version of the monument allows lists of significant Ranger actions/wars and other notable writings, quotes, etc. to be etched into the pylons and edges of the several layers of the base. Listing the wars, beginning with 1633, shows vividly the incredible length of service of the American Ranger, who served some 166 years before the US Army was formed. The quotations compliment Ranger service, century by century, covering almost 400 years. The War of Jenkins Ear may sound strange, but more Rangers died in that war than did in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Afghanistan, and in Iraq (including both wars), combined. The military Rainger (sic) was an American innovation, not British, as confirmed by British historians.

## **The wars we wish to list are:**

The Pequot War = 1633-34,  
 King Philips War = 1675-76,  
 Queen Anne’s War = 1702-1713,  
 War of Jenkin’s Ear = 1739-40,  
 King George’s War = 1744-48,  
 French & Indian War = 1754-63,  
 Pontiac’s War = 1763-64,  
 Lord Dunmore’s War = 1774,  
 Revolutionary War = 1776-83,  
 Black Hawk War = 1832-37,  
 Mexican War = 1846-48,  
 Civil War = 1861-65,  
 WW II = 1941-45,  
 Korean War = 1950-53,  
 Vietnam War = 1961-73,  
 Grenada = 1983,  
 Panama = 1989  
 Iraq = 1991  
 Somalia = 1993,  
 Afghanistan = 2001-present  
 Iraq = 2003-present.

## **The quotes we wish to list are:**

“When I had ten men able to go abroad, our Commonwealth being very strong, with such a number I ranged that unknown country 14 weeks.” Captain John Smith, Circa 1610.

“Rainge among the Indians of Kent Island to larn their disposition and intentions.” The first recorded order to an American Ranger given to Ed Backler when commissioned by the Colony of Virginia, 1632.

“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.” Nathan Hale, 1776.

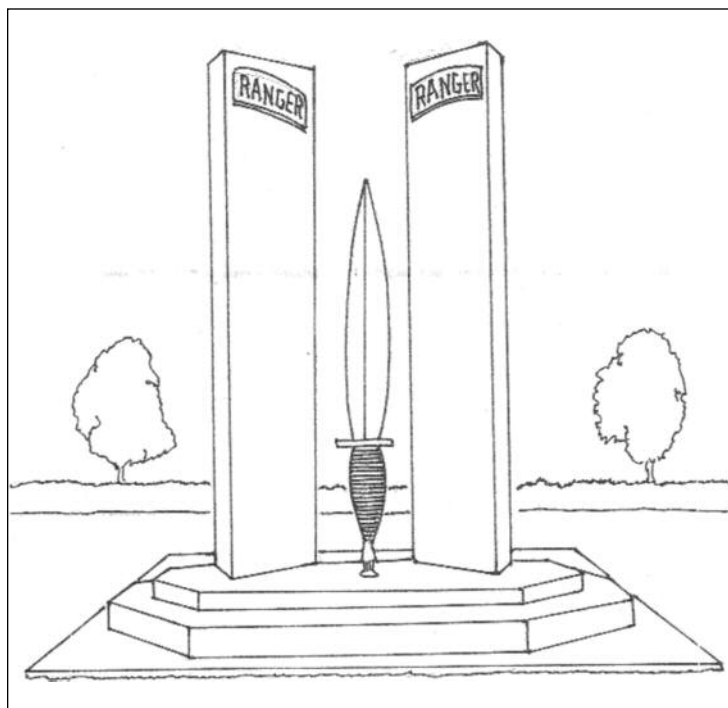
“For the Ranger’s gun has echoed from a thousand pathless mountains, and  
 The Ranger’s blood has stained with red, a thousand limpid fountains.” Francis Parkman, 1845.

“... the Rangers became so competent that by the war’s end I honestly believed there was nothing they could not do.” General Omar Bradley, 1951.

“I am going to have a Ranger Battalion because every time I saw something done in Vietnam, in an outstanding manner, there was a Ranger leading it!” Chief of Staff, US Army, General Creighton Abrams, 1974

What do you prefer? Speak now, while changes can be made or, forever, hold your peace. Please keep in mind: that regardless of what we Rangers desire and prefer, the various agencies in the capitol, those responsible to ensure the highest quality of construction, are the final authority in whatever is the end product in honoring the unique and elite American Ranger.

*Drive On! Bill Spies, Secretary, American Ranger Memorial Association*



# MERRILL'S MARAUDERS



## REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

By: 2Lt. CHARLTON  
OGBURN JR.  
Merrill's Marauders,  
1st Battalion  
White Combat Team  
Burma 1944

Where the Jap has placed his outposts,  
Where his road-blocks guard the trail,  
Where the lone patrol is moving,  
As the dark begins to pale;  
There's a whisper through the jungle,  
There are shadows on the tracks,  
And the sentry wheels to fire  
When a twig behind him cracks.

For Merrill's men are marching;  
They've been seen at Masakawng;  
They have crossed the Tanai River,  
And they're threatening Warong.  
Jungle trails are close and silent;  
Merrill's troops move swift and far;  
They may pass today through Sharaw  
And tomorrow through Sana.

Tokyo has maps of Burma  
That will show whence they have come.  
See that red line down the Hukawng,  
See the cross at Walawbum?  
There's another at Shaduzup,  
And Below, Inkangahtawng.  
The Marauders' roll of victories  
Is both barbarous and long.

From Nhpum Ga on to Ritpong,  
(Add a cross at each of these)  
Red lines lead to Myitkyina—  
Just you ask the Japanese.  
Stealthy files that strike and vanish,  
No one knows where they may be.  
Till the Browning automatics  
Leave dead Japs for Japs to see.

But if you want to see us,  
There's a way you can't go wrong.  
Pick a trail that goes behind them  
Where our enemies are strong.  
Where the trail goes through a rice field

You may see the column clear;  
But—we're not so much to look at,  
And we're worse than that to hear.

Comes a line of weary scarecrows,  
Bearded, pale, unclean, and hot.  
Never would you think of soldiers,  
(Which we wish that we were not).  
"Damn the mountains" How we curse them!  
"Damn the food or what there is."  
"Damn the mules, and General Stilwell."  
"God, we wish our feet were his!"

Well, it's true, and it's because  
Everyone had reasons why he  
Did not like it where he was.  
We're the misfits of the Army  
That the system can't digest;  
There's but one way to control us,  
And it's not to let us rest

Doctors, farmers, drunkards, failures,  
There's no trait we share but one;  
We have to butt our heads into those  
Things that aren't or can't be done.  
"Put 'em on . . . The column's moving!"  
Come on, then, you're not yet dead.  
And there's fighting left a-plenty  
While the trail still leads ahead.

Let the fevers try to stop us;  
We've got dysentery now;  
Still we'll keep the column rolling,  
Though we could not say just how.  
Half a thousand miles we've walked,  
Over hills in rain and heat,  
And the marches all have measured  
That much more of Jap retreat.

For Merrill's men are marching;  
We have come both fast and far,  
And we've opened northern Buma  
From Maingkan to Myitkyina;  
And there'll be no final halting  
(So we fear it's bound to be)  
Till the last mule's legs have buckled  
Or we've reached the China Sea.

*From the Merrill's Marauder's website with permission  
of Phil Piazza, President of the Merrill's Marauder's  
Association*



## Ranger Bob Edlin – The Fool Lieutenant

In September of 1944 the 2nd Battalion Rangers were attached to the 29th Infantry for the VIIth Corp attack on the Brest Peninsula. One of the main defenses of the peninsula was a large fort called the Graf Spee Battery near the small town of Lochrist. It was so named because among its various sizes of artillery were four large 280mm guns that had been taken off the Graf Spee Battleship.

The fort itself was a concrete encased structure about five stories above ground and nine floors below ground. It was complete with its own kitchens, dinning hall, barracks, generators, and even hospital and dental wards. Outside the main building there were other buildings used as repair shops, Laundromats and storage barns. There was about 200 meters of flat ground with minefields and then on each corner of that were four very large bunkers with machine guns covering more flat ground of barbed wire and minefields.

A full scale attack was planned for the morning of September 10th using the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions and several other infantry units along with support from tank and artillery units. Over three thousand men in all would be part of the attack.

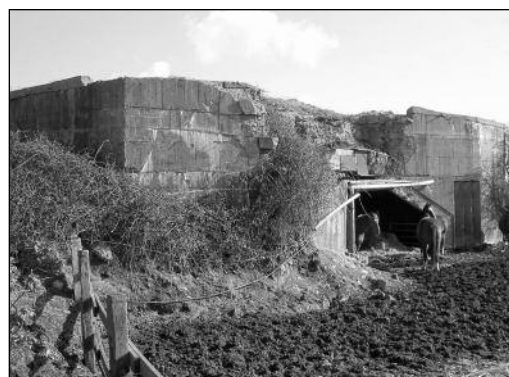
On September 9th the 1st platoon of Company A, 2nd Rangers under the command of Lt. Robert Edlin was sent on a reconnaissance to find a way through the minefields for the attack the next day. Lt. Edlin left the majority of the platoon in support with his mortars and took three men, William Dreher, William Courtney, and Warren Burmaster, with him to do the recon. The mortars were ready to fire smoke rounds to cover their withdrawal if necessary. They were easing their way through the edge of the minefield when Courtney saw a path of blown mines that had been set off by our own artillery and aircraft bombardments, and started running through the minefield. Edlin, Dreher, and Burmaster hesitated a moment then followed in his path. They came out right at one of the corner bunkers and could hear the Germans talking inside. Burmaster covered the rear while Lt.

Edlin, Courtney and Dreher dove inside the bunker with their Tommy guns ready. There were about 20 soldiers in the bunker but their rifles were stacked or laying on the floor. Machine Guns were set up covering the minefield they had just run across but no one was manning them. Courtney could speak a little German and started to question them when a German Lieutenant said that he spoke English.

The Germans knew they were surrounded and cut off from reinforcement on the peninsula and did not seem like they were interested in a useless battle. Lt. Edlin thought maybe he could save a lot of lives if he could get the fort to surrender before the main attack. He asked the German Lieutenant if he could take him to see the battery commander, and was assured he could. Lt. Edlin sent Burmaster back to radio in what was going on, left Dreher in charge of the Germans in the bunker and he and Courtney went with the German lieutenant to see the battery commander.

They slung their Tommy guns over their shoulders so they would not startle any other Germans who might start shooting if they suddenly came upon some Americans with a weapon pointed at them. They walked with the German Lieutenant through the inside minefield and down an entrance tunnel with electric doors into the fort itself. Making their way through several floors they passed suspicious guards who relented as their escort explained that he was taking the Americans to see the commander.

When they arrived at the commander's office, Lt Edlin and Courtney brought their Tommy guns back down, shoved the door open and dove into the office. The commander, LTC Fuerst, was sitting behind his desk and although surprised was very calm. Courtney started to speak to him in German but the commander interrupted him and said it was not necessary to interpret, he spoke perfect English and what did they want? Lt Edlin told him



*One of the Graf Spee bunkers today (courtesy of Franck Maurouard)*



*Veterans Day 11/11/05 on board the USS Lexington Memorial. Bob's son Rocky & his wife Jan, Bob's daughter Jan Hayslip and some of Bob's grandkids.*

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

that the Rangers had the fort surrounded, and the Air Force was getting ready to blow it up so why not save a lot of German lives and surrender now. LTC Fuerst said he needed to check on that and made a quick phone call. After a return call, he faced Lt Edlin and said they were not surrounded by Rangers, there were only four of them and instead of surrendering to Lt. Edlin he was taking him and Courtney as his prisoners. Lt. Edlin thought he had really messed it up this time. There was no way him and Courtney could fight their way back out of the fort, they might have to kill the commander blockade the door and fight as long as they could. Still the soldiers in the bunker had surrendered, and LTC Fuerst seemed like a smart enough fellow not to want a lot of his men dying for nothing. Maybe he just needed a more immediate reason to make the decision.

Lt. Edlin took out a grenade, pulled the pin, and still holding the lever, jammed it into the commander's stomach and said either surrender or die right now. LTC Fuerst said that they would be killed too, Lt. Edlin replied that he was not going to be a German prisoner! This seemed to do the trick as the commander finally said "OK"

LTC Fuerst spoke over the loudspeaker and told his soldiers to lower their arms and not take any hostile action. Courtney had him call his commander, General Ramke, who was in charge of the defense of the whole peninsula and Courtney talked to the General in his best high school German trying to get him to surrender all the German forces in the area. The General refused however and thousands of Germans and Americans were killed in the following battles.

As the German soldiers put up a white flag and started stacking their weapons, an artillery observer a mile away radioed the Company Commander and said "That **fool lieutenant** of yours is up there already; you might as well go on in".

Although Lt. Edlin had thought there might be two or three hundred defenders of the battery, there turned out to be over eight hundred. All surrendered except one gunner who stood by his gun and shot himself as he was approached by the Rangers.

A few weeks later Lt. Edlin was called up to VIII Corps headquarters and told that he was being recommended for the Medal of Honor. He would be the first Ranger in WW II to receive it and he was being sent back to the United States as they could not allow a MOH winner to stay in combat and possibly be killed or captured by the Germans. Lt. Edlin said that he would be honored to have it but not if he had to leave his Company. The general accepted his decision and awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross instead of the MOH

Bob Edlin had many more exploits with the 2nd Rangers and lived to leave the service after the war and move to Corpus Christi, TX where he ran a family auction house until his death in 2005. His entire story can be read in "The Fool Lieutenant" by Marcia Moen and Margo Heinen, Meadowlark Publishing, Inc. I recommend it.

## Texas Medal of Honor

The afternoon sun was gliding slowly down behind the bridge of the USS Lexington memorial on a picture perfect Veterans Day in the city of Corpus Christi, Texas.

On the flight deck of the "Blue Ghost" were gathered a mixture of individuals including Texas Governor Rick Perry, Congressman Sam Johnson, Corpus Christi Mayor Henry Garrett, young & old members of the Robert Edlin family, members of the Air Force ROTC, Disabled American Veterans, members of the VFW, reporters and film crews. All here to be part of the presentation of the State of Texas Medal of Honor award ceremony for one of our great W.W.II Rangers, Captain Robert T. Edlin.

After stirring patriotic music was played by the VFW band and an opening prayer was said by Bob's pastor James Sturgess, one by one Mayor Garrett, Congressman Johnson and Governor Perry all took a few minutes to speak of the price of freedom that America's veterans had purchased for all of us in times of conflict. Governor Perry told the incredible story of Bob Edlin's exploits with the "Fabulous Four" patrol capturing the Graf Spee fortress. He also spoke of Bob's later refusal to accept the Congressional Medal of Honor because he chose continued combat assignment with his Rangers in lieu of being sent stateside for the rest of the war.

Governor Perry then called the Edlin family members forward to present the highest award given by the State of Texas, the Medal of Honor. There was not a dry eye in the Edlin family as Bob Edlin's son Rocky accepted the award from the governor on behalf of his father.

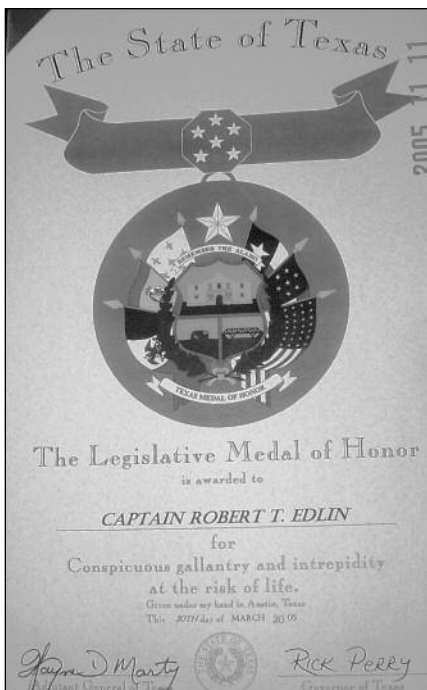
Rocky and Bob's daughter Emma Hayslip accompanied Governor Perry to the side of the Lexington's flight deck to drop a memorial wreath into the bay.

"Taps" was played by the VFW band and was immediately followed by a missing man formation of USAF jets roaring over the USS Lexington. A concluding prayer closed the ceremony.

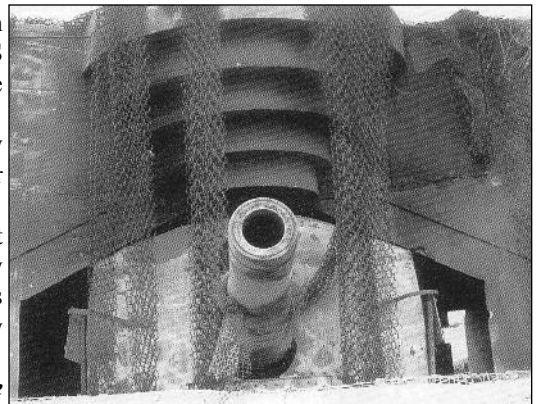
Many comments were overheard saying, "How nice it would have been for Bob to be here for this memorable day".

Those of us who knew him well realized that somewhere above the blue skies of gently sailing clouds, the "Fool Lieutenant" was smiling his trademark grin and humbly saying, "I was just doing my job".

*Contributed by David Shireman, vice president RBA Son's & Daughters Association*



Texas Medal of Honor Certificate



280mm Graf Spee Battery Gun (courtesy of Franck Maurouard- French WW II Ranger historian.



# Korea and War

On 22 April 1951, two platoons of Rangers were scheduled for individual missions. My platoon moved into an assembly area behind the 19th Infantry Regiment and, under cover of darkness, went forward to pass into no-man's-land. The sector was quiet, but there seemed to be an increasing buildup of fire to the distant east and west. As we made our final preparations, we were surprised to see a jeep with its lights on bouncing up the hill. The driver was a staff officer who risked his life to tell us to call off the mission. As he put it, "waves" of Chinese were attacking along the front.

It was the beginning of what the Chinese called their Fifth Phase Offensive. Three Chinese armies supported by reconstituted North Korean units were committed to their greatest offensive and the major battle of the Korean War. Emboldened by their early success, the Chinese political leadership made a grave miscalculation. The

Chinese believed that their armies could crush United Nations forces and drive them from Korea. When the Chinese entered the war, the Americans were in a "home-by-Christmas" mood. Now the Chinese rulers had a similar attitude. The principal targets of the Chinese forces were the weaker, less-well-trained Republic of Korea (ROK) divisions. Of these, the ROK 6th Division was located in the Namdae River valley south of Kumhwa. The ROK 6th Division was on the right flank of the US 24th Infantry Division, with the US 1st Marine Division located on the other side of the Koreans. After being alerted by the staff officer, we learned that the situation in the 6th ROK area was uncertain. It appeared that the South Koreans were in retreat; this would leave a gap between the American forces that the Chinese could exploit.

We were resupplied with ammunition and cast-iron fragmentation hand grenades, which we hooked on our belts and on the webbing of our packs. It was our good fortune that we would have a last hot meal before our next mission. It was one of those hearty meals with slabs of meat and mashed potatoes. I ladled on a large amount of gravy. Lacking utensil space, I put the cherry pie on top of the potatoes. Bill Wheland, a member of my squad who had been ahead of me in the chow line, was a man of great appetite. He always wanted more food. Wheland asked the cooks for more bread. They told him there was bread on the mess truck. He climbed onto the truck, took a loaf of bread, and, with his hands laden with mess kit, bread, and weapon, jumped off. There was a cry and a commotion. Most of us came to believe later that the safety ring on a hand grenade had caught on something and pulled free. We saw Wheland struggling with his cartridge belt. He then turned away and yelled "Get back!" The grenade exploded. Wheland was hurled backward, his chest and stomach ripped open. He yelled, "Oh Christ!" Doc Gregory hurried to Wheland's side but nothing could be done. Many Rangers still kept the safety pins on their grenades relatively flat as it enabled the safety pin to be easily pulled. That probably contributed to Bill Wheland's death. The grenade that killed Wheland had also set off .30-caliber rounds at his belt. Three other Rangers were wounded in this tragedy. The food, which had looked so nourishing, was suddenly revolting. We emptied the food we had yearned for into garbage cans, cleaned our mess kits, and moved to our next assembly area.

The next day was hectic, with UN units moving about and getting hit from the flank and rear. No one had an understanding of what was happening in the 6th ROK Division area. In the afternoon the 8th Airborne Rangers received orders for a night mission. We were to advance into the area of the Korean division and provide the US 24th Infantry Division with information concerning enemy activity. We knew nothing about the location of the Chinese or North Koreans, but the indications were ominous.

Ninety of us went on the mission. In addition to our own heavy loads we carried a considerable amount of extra ammunition for our mortars and machine guns. My load included a twenty-pound Browning automatic rifle, twelve magazines of twenty rounds each, two 60mm mortar rounds, a .45-caliber pistol with extra magazines, four fragmentation grenades, rations for two days, poncho, knife, sleeping bag, entrenching tool, canteen, first-aid kit, P-38 can opener, and my faithful spoon.

Our route of march took us high into the mountains, where we could see the battle area more clearly. We climbed through the night. It was brutal. We had to pull and boost each other up steep terrain that at times bordered on the vertical. E. C. Rivera was burdened with the heavy radio in addition to his weapons and gear, and Nick Tisak and I helped him with the load. We moved as quietly as possible, but in the lower areas, others were so confident that they were unrestrained. As we continued our silent movement, we heard voices that were soon identified as Chinese. Not wanting to reveal our position, we moved off some distance while our leaders called in artillery fire on the enemy. Continuing on, we found South Korean soldiers who had been left behind when their units fled. They fell into line and were given the task of carrying some of our extra ammunition.

The next morning we reached the summit of Hill 1010. The plan was to continue to an even higher elevation, but a 1st Platoon patrol lead by M.Sgt. (master sergeant) Phil Moore found the enemy in control of the higher point. The Chinese did not know we were on Hill 1010.

It was an excellent observation point overlooking miles of the battlefield. From my position on the hill, I saw the Chinese moving boldly. They were below us in what appeared to be rivers of brown flowing south—Chinese in massive numbers moving forward to reinforce their attacking troops. American airpower was being heavily used, but the targets were five miles south of us. What we saw did not bode well for us. We were deep in enemy-controlled territory and greatly outnumbered.

The height of our observation point allowed us to use our backpack radio for intermittent communication with the 21st Infantry Regiment and the 5th Regimental Combat Team. E. C. Rivera was now our senior radio operator, and he was assisting the company commander, Captain Herbert, in sending reports. We were unaware at the time that the 6th ROK Division had not only retreated but had broken and fled some twenty-one miles. In response, the 24th Infantry Division refused (turned) its right flank and the 1st Marine Division turned its left flank

**Ranger Inf Co. ABN (CONTINUED)**

to create a U-shaped defense that encompassed the former area of the 6th ROK's. To stop the Chinese attack, the British brigade and the 5th Cavalry Regiment were committed at the base of the penetration. The ninety men of the 8th Rangers were at the upper and middle portion of the U.

The retreat of the Korean soldiers forced the American 24th Division to fight on its right flank as well as its front. American forces were spread thin, with frequent gaps between units. Chinese troops took advantage of these gaps to pass through our positions and hit rear areas. Artillery, signal, and quartermaster units found themselves fighting for their lives. Throughout the area, American units were withdrawing. We had accomplished our mission of reporting enemy penetrations, strength, and movement. It was now time to leave. To wait for night could leave us so deep behind enemy lines that we would be unable to rejoin friendly forces. We would have to move by daylight. Fortunately, the Chinese were unaware that we were above them.

To rejoin the withdrawing Americans, our route from Hill 1010 had to be southwest. The ridgeline running downward in that direction was partly wooded with rock formations, occasionally giving way to barren areas that offered no concealment. The ridge was razor-backed, dropping off at sharp angles and leading down to the lesser elevation where Hill 628 would be on our right. From Hill 1010, ridges and draws led off to other hills. Coming down the narrow ridge, the valley floor would be on our right flank.

We moved with M.Sgt. Phil Moore's 1st Platoon in the lead, followed by 3d Platoon, and then the 2d. From my location at the rear of the 3d Platoon, I could see the action unfolding before and below me.

Perhaps we could have made it out without being discovered-but that was not to be. Partway down the ridgeline, 1st Platoon scouts spotted a Chinese force in the vicinity of Hill 628 preparing to attack the flank of the 24th Infantry Division. To leave them unmolested would result in serious harm to other American soldiers. A strike would disrupt their planned attack but reveal our presence. Captain Herbert ordered them taken under fire.

Their attack was spoiled, but our fire alerted the enemy to our presence and location. Chinese units on adjacent hills promptly spotted us, and a hail of fire came our way. To rejoin American forces, our only alternative was to attack southwest. The ridge was too narrow for our company or even platoons to use the tactic of one element firing while another maneuvered to right or left. Our fire and movement was based on the slope of ground. With Phil Moore leading, the 1st Platoon charged down the ridgeline while the 3d and 2d Platoons fired over their heads and at the surrounding hills. I could not see the enemy. Someone would point and yell, "They're over there," and we would fire in that direction.

Ordered to move in support of the 1st Platoon, the 3d Platoon began running down the hill with bullets zipping around us. I felt the tug of one or more bullets penetrating my pack. Running full speed, I tripped and glimpsed my sleeping bag trailing behind me like a bridal train. Distracted, I lost my footing and pitched forward, my weapon jamming into the dirt and breaking my fall. I shed my pack, staying prone, as men leaped over me. Moving again, I attempted to fire, but the bolt on my BAR slid forward with an ineffectual thud. To be without a functioning weapon in such a situation is to be useless.

Caught in the open in the midst of the firefight with the crack of bullets going by, I removed my cartridge belt and jacket. Spreading the jacket on the ground, I took the BAR apart, placed the parts on the jacket, and cleaned them. Though a shaving brush was seldom used by men in the 1950s, it was one of the most important things we carried. We had learned that a lightly oiled, bristled shaving brush did an effective job of cleaning dirt from a weapon. My shaving brush enabled me to clean my BAR quickly. After reassembly, I test-fired the weapon, put on my jacket and cartridge belt, and began moving and firing.

My friend Len Wiggins later told me that this was a courageous act, but it was done out of desperation. Had there been cover from the enemy's fire, I would have used it. I would have gladly used another available weapon. Neither circumstance existed. I had no choice. Without the weapon I was unable to fight.

Down the trail where some cover did exist, Rangers were firing from behind rocks. The three platoons were now mixed. Men who had been seriously wounded were sprawled on the ground, while those with lesser wounds were still fighting. The medics of our three platoons were racing from wounded to wounded. Captain Herbert was down, shot through the shoulder and neck, and Lieutenant Strong had been wounded as well. I saw Master Sergeant Moore get hit in the thigh by a bullet while leading an assault down the narrow ridgeline. He was knocked from the ridge and rolled over and over down the slope, only to be stopped by some hillside obstruction. Incredibly, the sergeant immediately resumed firing. I later learned that Moore had his map case shot away while being bandaged by his platoon medic, Harold "Doc" Potter. A mortar round exploded nearby and Moore's left hand and arm were torn by numerous pieces of shrapnel, but he kept fighting.

At one spot we found large boulders beyond which were some depressions, hollowed out sometime earlier by one side or the other. To engage the enemy it was necessary to cross an open area in front of the boulders. Under heavy fire I slid across on my back, my weapon at my side. A Chinese machine gunner was working the area and traversed across me. His bullets seemed to be a hand's breadth over my nose, cracking the air and whining off the stone. He moved his fire onward, and I made a leap for an occupied depression and muscled my way in. My companion was a South Korean soldier armed with an M1 Garand rifle. Unable to converse and very busy, we looked at each other and began to fire at the enemy.

The Chinese had a strong base of fire while they attempted to maneuver against us. Most of our leaders were hit. Squad and platoon integrity had vanished, but Rangers did not shirk the fight. There was a constant roar of gunfire. My Korean companion grabbed my sleeve and began jabbering words I did not understand. He pointed at my BAR and then in the direction of a gully leading up to our position. Coming up the small ravine directly toward us was a squad of Chinese soldiers, one behind the other.

I put a fresh magazine in my weapon, took careful aim, and fired short bursts down their line. When that BAR sang, it sang a beautiful bass that was recognizable across the battlefield. The twenty rounds had the desired effect. I turned to my newfound Korean friend with a shout of exultation. He was sprawled against the back of the hole, facing skyward, a round blue-black hole in the center of his forehead. Fear seized me, and I jumped from the hole and ran to rejoin other Rangers who were attacking in the direction of Hill 628.



**Ranger Inf Co. ABN (CONTINUED)**

Lieutenant Alfred “Jack” Giacherine, the company executive officer, was the only officer still able to fight. He had come forward from the rear of the column and begun to coordinate our efforts. I saw Rivera and his radio beside Giacherine, and soon American artillery began to hammer the Chinese. We were no longer fighting as platoons or even squads. Some men were fighting in one direction while others were moving and shooting at other points of the compass. A number of us assaulted Hill 628 and drove the enemy from it. We threw their dead out of their holes and occupied them. Someone yelled to me that my friend Harry Trout was dead. A machine gun had ripped across his body. We had no time to mourn; our casualties were scattered about. Nearly one-third of the company was hit, and platoon medics were rapidly moving about, tending the wounds of man after man. I learned later that Gregory alone treated twelve men. Men who are hit hard are no longer in control of themselves. A feeling of vulnerability and dependency on others takes over. They care about what is happening to their friends and worry that they cannot assist. They wonder what will happen to them. Will they survive, will their comrades leave them? Doc Gregory was a thinking man who knew that wounded men need assurance as well as medical help. As Doc bound up the bleeding wounds of one Ranger, the man asked him, “What do I do now, Doc?” Gregory picked up the Ranger’s weapon and pushed it at him. “Keep fighting,” he said.

By the nature of the work, Rangers are often alone, indeed surrounded in enemy territory. We had trained to accept that, but sometimes it makes for one hell of a fight. We were in a challenging situation, with the enemy on three sides of us and the valley floor on the other. The Chinese could continue to add men to the fight—we could not. We also could not move rapidly because of our wounded men. I would learn later that Lieutenant Giacherine was making calls for assistance. Units of the 24th Infantry Division tried to link up with us, but the Chinese drove them off. Each American unit had its own battle to fight. We received a message sent by the operations officer of the 5th Regimental Combat Team and relayed through the 2d Battalion, 21st Infantry, which read, “Send message to Ranger company. Get out best way possible.”

We would receive no help from friendly infantry. Looking to our right, down in the valley floor, we saw tanks remaining behind, covering the withdrawal of American forces. Giacherine wanted to link up with the tanks and picked a location in the valley where we would attempt to reach them. Rivera repeatedly tried to contact the tankers but was unsuccessful. Knowing that he would have better radio communications from higher ground, Rivera voluntarily climbed to an exposed location on top of Hill 628. Ranger Nick Tisak, armed with a BAR, accompanied him. As the Chinese tried to shoot them off the hilltop, Tisak was hit in the leg but continued to fire.

A group of Chinese came running down the opposite slope and Tisak fired into them, dropping several and scattering the rest. One bold Chinese continued forward, diving into the corner of a small trench. Tisak fired a twenty-round magazine into the position and ended the aggressiveness of that Chinese soldier. While this firing was in progress, Rivera continued his attempt to establish radio contact. Fearing an enemy ruse, a cautious American radio operator quizzed Rivera on the occupations of famous Americans. Though furious at the name game, Rivera kept trying. When he identified Sam Snead as a golfer, his request for assistance was allowed to get through.

Lieutenant Dave Teich, platoon leader of 3d Platoon, Company C, 6th Medium Tank Battalion, volunteered to take his five tanks to a point that Giacherine believed we could reach with our wounded. While these discussions were taking place, a Chinese assault had been halted. Both sides had taken cover and were engaging one another with heavy fire. Giacherine and Rivera continued to call in artillery on the Chinese positions while Giacherine planned the route of withdrawal. On order, Rangers began to move toward the valley floor. Scouts led, followed by a security element for the wounded and those who carried them. Only men who could not walk were assisted. Some of the wounded coming off the ridgeline and Hill 628 used their hands to hold in their intestines. Captain Herbert had pushed his fingers into the wounds in his neck and shoulder to staunch the bleeding and was among those walking.

My location was far away from where the withdrawal started. Standard operating procedure in my platoon was for the automatic rifle men to cover the rear during withdrawals, which is what I was doing. Moving down Hill 628, frequently stopping or walking backward, I saw a line of Chinese coming over the top of the hill to our rear. They came fast, appearing as a dark line silhouetted against the sky. I opened fire and yelled, “BARs to the rear!” While I was shooting, Ranger Oral Baldrige came up beside me and opened fire. Soon other automatic rifle men hurried into position beside us and I heard the deep-throated roar of their weapons. To come after us the Chinese had to cross that hilltop, and this made them vulnerable. While other men took our wounded down the slope, the automatic rifle men continued to fire. Together we swept the enemy from the crest of the ridge. Each time the Chinese came rushing across the hilltop, we shot them and drove the survivors back.

A gap was now developing between those of us at the rear and the rest of the company. As I looked toward the hilltop, I saw an aircraft coming in from my right. It was a single engine, black, gull-winged fighter-bomber - a Corsair. As the pilot swept over the top of Hill 628 he released a large napalm canister. Moments later a vast ball of flame and black smoke leaped skyward. We felt a wary joy in our small party as we again started downward. The napalm had hit the Chinese and they did not pursue us. At a bend in the trail another Ranger stopped and stepped aside while I kept moving. He was the last man off Hill 628.

We hurried onward and rejoined the rest of the company aboard the waiting tanks. Engines roared and dirt flew from under their thick treads as we sped toward American lines. We clung to any handhold we could find, scorching the soles of our boots on the tank’s hot exhaust plates. The crew was under armor and could not be seen. Later I learned that when told to leave us to our own fate, Lieutenant Teich and his men had disregarded their orders and displayed uncommon valor in putting themselves at risk for us. Without the tanks we may not have made it to friendly positions. No Ranger would leave a wounded comrade. The powerful engines of the tanks roared, and we sped toward friendly units. It was a very good feeling to be back in friendly territory. Of the ninety Rangers on the mission, one-third were casualties. Among the 3d Platoon wounded who were evacuated were Lieutenant Strong, Doc Gregory, and Nick Tisak. The rest of us moved to take up defensive positions.

*From “A Ranger Born” by Col. Robert W. Black, Random House Publishing Group with permission of Ranger Bob Black*

# Membership Information

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

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TO ALL AT RRA,  
 ON BEHALF OF OFFICERS + MEN OF  
 2<sup>ND</sup> RANGER BN, I WANT TO THANK YOU  
 SO MUCH FOR TWO CHECKS YOU SENT US.  
 REST ASSURED THAT THE MONEY ENABLED  
 A GREAT CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY + HELPED  
 OUT IN SEVERAL WAYS. THANK AGAIN  
 AND GOD BLESS Y'ALL.  
 LTC DAVID HAIGHT  
 CDR, 2<sup>ND</sup> RAN BN.

Dear Sirs of the Ranger Reg Army,  
 I want to thank you on behalf  
 of all the families of the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Ranger BN. The two checks that  
 you sent went to buy food vouchers  
 for Rangers that would not have  
 enough money over Christmas.  
 The check for \$3000 purchased  
 gifts for every child in the BN.  
 I have boys that because of your  
 generosity are child in 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger BN  
 and with no gifts this Christmas.  
 I thank you again for all this.  
 Jeff Sturges  
 Staff Sergeant  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger BN

# Alaska, Here we come!

Sign-in Monday 07, leave Saturday 11 August 2006

**What:** All LRP/LRSU/Ranger Roundup

**Where:** Fairbanks, AK

**When:** 07-11 Aug 06

**Who:** All LRPs, LRSUs, Rangers, Kindred warriors, their families, and their friends.

**Why:** To enjoy fun, food, & fellowship while visiting Alaska

**How:** Phase 1 is getting up there doing all you prefer while coming to the event. Phase 2 is being in Fairbanks 07-11 Aug (see list below of options while there). Phase 3 is returning home and doing whatever you prefer. Some may fly, drive, or take a cruise or a ferry up and or back. All may combine a cruise or ferry trip with other means of travel.

To reserve a room for two at \$149.00 per night (usually \$199.00) contact: Best Western-Fairbanks, 1521 South Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701. PH: 907 456 6602 or 877 456 6602. To get the special rate, mention, "A. RANGER", or stay at place of your choice.

**CONTACT THEM TODAY - MAKE RESERVATIONS ASAP!**

## LIST OF OPTIONS and ESTIMATED costs:

Riverboat trip & steak dinner = \$50.00 per person (pp)

Gold Mining, El Dorado Camp = \$40.00 pp

Fishing, Pike or Rainbows (fly in) = \$200.00 pp

Chena Hot Springs = \$50.00 pp & \$10.00 to swim

Denali National Park = \$100.00 pp

Arctic Circle Trip = \$200.00 pp

Malamute Saloon, dinner & show = \$50.00 pp

Golf = \$40.00 pp

Mushing Kennels = \$25.00 pp

Gold Dredge = \$8.00 pp

U of K Museum = \$6.00 pp

Tanana Valley Fair = \$8.00 pp

More upon specific request

One Ranger's estimate of cost flying up & back, renting a car, eating and lodging, without any of the options above, is: approximately \$3,200.00 - the cost of options must be added.

For maps, brochure, etc: Ph: 907 456 5774 or [www.explorefairbanks.com](http://www.explorefairbanks.com)

Direct flights: Alaska Airlines, 800 252 7522. Call Katie 907 266 7200 for special rate.

Northwest Airlines: 800 225 2525. Frontier Flying: [www.frontierflying.com](http://www.frontierflying.com) or 800 478 6779.

Delta: [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com) 800 221 1212. Tom Cook: [www.condor.com](http://www.condor.com) 800524 6975.

Trains in Alaska: [www.alaskarailroad.com](http://www.alaskarailroad.com) 800 544 2484 (FCVB 06 - get \$15 voucher).

Marine Highway (economical): [www.ferryalaska.com](http://www.ferryalaska.com) 800 642 0066. For cruises & tours:

[www.hollandamerica.com](http://www.hollandamerica.com) , [www.worldsleadingcruises.com](http://www.worldsleadingcruises.com) . Ask all for 2006 schedules.

Contact WAR by Ph: 706 689 7200 or email [rgrpegleg@aol.com](mailto:rgrpegleg@aol.com). Write: 4030-C Victory Drive, Columbus, GA 31903-4030 if interested in group travel or cruises. Please make reservations ASAP. Make hotel reservations today - cancel by 01 Jul 06 & loose nothing.

Drive On!

Bill Spies

334 855 0348



# Societas Electa



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAM TEXAS - SOTT

SOTT was founded on 4July2002 to provide a medium by which the veterans and active members of U.S. Special Operations could join together in Texas. Our intent is to "roundup" all U.S. Special Operations Forces/Army Rangers (past and present) residing in Texas, and the SW region, who wish to unite as and/or support a unique organization, resulting in a new paradigm of Elite Brotherhood...  
*"Societas Electa."*

### SOTT Spring Roundup 2006

**WHO: ALL SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES/ARMY RANGERS (PAST AND PRESENT)**  
**Nonmembers, Family and Friends are welcomed!**

**WHAT: SOTT Spring Roundup 2006 - Social Event**

**WHEN: Saturday, 13May2006**  
**1000 hrs - until complete**

**WHERE: VFW/AL Post 295 - Elgin, TX**

**WHY: To conduct the annual social event and fundraiser for Special Operations Team Texas**

**FOR MORE INFO, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.specopsteamtexas.org>**

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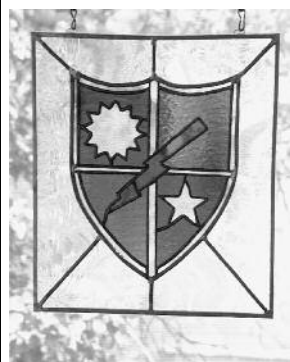
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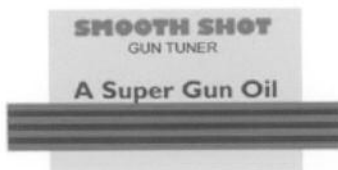
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**The inside back cover is a rendition of a poster created by Sid Smith, one of our members from N/75, that commemorates the re-dedication or second dedication of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall. Sid has donated the right to reproduce the poster to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. All the net proceeds from the sale of the poster will go to the following; 10% will go to the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund (VVMF), and the balance will go to our Associations member's fund.**

**The posters will be sold unframed.**

**They will be offered in two sizes, 17x22 & 22x28.**

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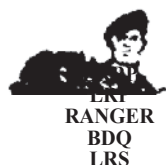


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