

# PATROLLING

SUMMER 2007 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 22 ISSUE I



*Best Ranger Competition,  
2006, spot jump.*

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



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

**OUR MISSION:**

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible 75th Infantry Rangers, and members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Companies, Long Range Patrol Companies, Ranger Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan; members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the 75th Ranger Regiment.
2. To sustain the Association. *Unlike the WWII Battalions and Merrill's Marauders, the 75RRA accepts members and former members of the Active Ranger Battalions. By doing so we are perpetuating the association. It will not "die off" as these two organizations someday will.*
4. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Ranger Battalions, successor units, or additions to the Regiment.

**WHAT WE DO:**

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

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

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



**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

**SECTION 2:** Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

**SECTION 3:** Long Range Patrol

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

- I. Co F (LRP) 52nd Inf.
- J. Co C (LRP) 58th Inf.
- K. Co E (LRP) 58th Inf.
- L. Co F (LRP) 58th Inf.
- M. 70th Inf. DET (LRP)
- N. 71st Inf. DET (LRP)
- O. 74th Inf. DET (LRP)
- P. 78th Inf. DET (LRP)
- Q. 79th Inf. DET (LRP)
- R. Co D (LRP) 151st Inf.

**SECTION 4:** 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

- P. Co D (RANGER) 151st Inf.

**SECTION 5:** Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

**SECTION 6:** 75th Ranger Regiment

- A. 1st Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974.
- B. 2nd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974.
- C. 3rd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1984.
- D. 75th Ranger Regiment HQ's Company, activated in 1984.

**SECTION 7:** Long Range Surveillance:

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



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

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

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# WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

## MAGAZINE

We continue to have sponsors coming forth to place messages in the magazine. I have talked to several, and they all state that there is a good response to their messages and that they are well pleased with the results they have attained. If you know anyone that would profit from a sponsor's message, please put them in touch with me.

This is a reunion year and the deadline for the September issue is only a few days after the end of the reunion. If any Unit Director can get their stuff to me ahead of time, I would really appreciate it. I also realize that many units will have nothing but the reunion in their messages. Get it to me as soon as you can.

I want to mention again that there is no rule that says only a Unit Director can write material for the unit column. Anyone that the Unit Director appoints can write the column.

## WEB SITE

Dave Regenthal has fine tuned the web site to a very professional degree. We now have a Pay Pal account and are able to take dues payments and reunion payments via Pay Pal. Individuals can also use a credit card to make payments, (Visa or MC). This is a great help to me. I don't need to stamp a check, fill out a deposit slip, and mail the whole mess to Reuben out in Kansas City. It also simplifies the accounting process and makes the financial process more transparent.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Stephen Crabtree

### Gettin' Short



**Stephen  
Crabtree**

I remember when I received my draft notice back in April of 1968. I also remember back in June of 2005 when I was elected your President. I had the same feelings at both times. TWO YEARS!?!? That's a lifetime. Well here it is thirty-nine years and two years later respectively. I'm having feelings of accomplishment, happiness, sadness and regret, much like I had back in 1970 when I was discharged. I was glad I was able to serve my Country and I am glad I was able to serve you. I was glad that my tour in Vietnam and my stint in the Army were over and I'm glad my term of office is over. I'm also sad that my term is over as I loved every minute (well, almost every minute). It has been my pleasure privilege to serve as your President for the last two years. Thank you for the opportunity.

### 2007 Officers

Our slate is full for our next election of officers. This does not mean that you cannot throw your hat into the arena. Our current candidates for 2007 are:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Bill Bullen</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</b>	<b>Bill Postelnic</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</b>	<b>Joe Little</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>John Chester</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Reuben Siverling</b>

Bill Bullen has done an outstanding job in supporting the organization under both Emmett and me for the last four years. He will make a great President. Bill Postelnic is new on the scene but has shown his willingness to serve by supporting our selections for submittal to the Ranger Hall of Fame this year. Joe little has been Unit Representative for F Company forever. If we can keep him from dueling with fire engines he will make a great VP. John and Reuben are still the backbone of our organization and will continue to do so.

### Unit Director Changes

It appears that once again I have put my foot in my mouth. I received an e-mail shortly after the last issue of Patrolling was sent from Rich Hecht, 2<sup>nd</sup> BN Unit

Representative, asking me if I had fired him. I mistakenly said that he had resigned as UD. Sorry about that Rich. That is the first mistake I've ever made. If you don't believe me, ask any of my ex-wives. They will confirm my statement.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Memorial & Ball

Lori and I will be escorting Bridget Madison, Gold Star Mother of Spencer Karol, to the dedication of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Ranger Memorial at Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Georgia on October 18 and the 1<sup>st</sup> BN Ranger Ball the following evening. If any of you are interested in attending contact Shelia Dudley at [Dudleys@soc.mil](mailto:Dudleys@soc.mil), (912) 315-5608 (w) or (912) 308-1390 (c). For information on the new Memorial see: <http://www.1stbn75thrrregtmemorial.com/index.htm>

### Ranger Coffee

We just received our second check from Zach Thomas owner of Ranger Coffee. Zach refunds the organization a dollar for every bag of coffee we purchase. Thanks to your caffeine cravings during the year 2006, our treasury is over \$900 richer. You should check out the website: [www.RangerCoffee.com](http://www.RangerCoffee.com). He currently offers two versions of blends: The regular version called "Sleep's a crutch" and a hyper caffeinated version called "Not for the weak or faint of heart." His coffee tastes great and makes a great gift.

### 2007 Ranger Hall of Fame

The executive Board met on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and selected 15 new and 2 honorary inductees. We discussed the by laws and determined that they need some minor changes. A tenth Ranger submitting association is going to be added provided that they agree to the new changes to the by-laws. The RTB will make the changes and send them to the Board Members for ratification. There was considerable discussion as to if we were going to accept or reject packets that had minor deviations from the instructions in the by-laws. We decided to allow the packets to be graded. In the future when preparing a packet remember to follow the by-laws to the letter. Do not include extra letters of recommendations, testimonials, more that the allotted number of lines in a proposed citation or any extras that are not specifically

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

required. Make your packets short and to the point. The 2007 inductees are:

Ranger George Beach  
Ranger Roy Boatman  
Ranger Alvin H. Buckelew  
Ranger Charles W. Dyke  
Ranger John W. Franklin  
Ranger Stanley Karbowski  
Ranger William J. Leszczynski, Jr.  
Ranger James E. Mace  
Ranger Gordon H. Mansfield  
Ranger Barry R. McCaffrey  
Ranger William Musegades  
Ranger Vincent H. Okamoto  
Ranger Thomas W. Pusser  
Ranger Edison E. Scholes  
Ranger Stanley E. Shaneyfelt  
Ranger Gilbert M. Berg (Honorary)  
Ranger Tom Biggs (Honorary)

### Next Letter

The next letter I submit will be my last and written as your ex-President. It will contain a statement of the Association. We have never been stronger, had more members, been more financially sound or been more respected by the Ranger communities than we are now. I can only attribute this to each and every one of you who have supported us with both your money and time through out the years. Your continuing support will guarantee that we, the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, will be still standing long after many of the other Ranger Associations have been disbanded. I close with a quote from an old good friend, Ranger John Fritzinger, "Gentlemen, we are in good company. Let's get on with the mission."

Crabs

## FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen

When I was young time did not seem to move very fast. I had to wait until I was old enough to go to school then I could not wait to get out. I was anxious to be old enough to enter the Army then time started to move a little faster, I liked what I was doing and time was not an issue.

Now serving as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president, under Steve along with Tom, John, John and Reuben, time is flying. I haven't really done much, but a lot has been accomplished. Steve's leadership style is a no pressure, team oriented type. With this attitude men like John Chester and Reuben Siverling have been able to take a couple of projects to the next level. Without micro-management and high pressure tactics, Steve has made this tour an enjoyable one, not to say I haven't had my gig line checked a few times, but I didn't feel like a criminal when it was done. Overall the two years have gone by quickly because it was enjoyable. Steve, thank you for the job you've done so well.

Many times, I've asked members whom I believe would make fine association officers, if they'd consider running for office. The answer is, most times, "no the

expenses involved would be prohibitive." I believe we need to rethink some type of travel expense reimbursement for officers and persons elected to go on association business. I am fully aware this is going to raise a lot of dialog, to put it mildly, but it really needs to be discussed. It probably wouldn't happen on the next watch, but I would hope to have this protocol in place by 2009 election time. I'm trying to be up front about the way I feel and fully expect much resistance, but it can and should be done. It is easy to say no, this should not be done; only the wealthy and local residents should be officers of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. Keep in mind this is not being suggested with a cart blanch type program, but one to ease the burden.

With this said, I may have dissolved my chances of becoming the next President of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA, but I truly hope not, it is an honor I would do my very best to uphold. God Bless you ALL and I hope to see you at the reunion in August.



**Bill Bullen**

## SECOND-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tom Robison

### IT MAY SOON BE TOO LATE



**Tom Robison**

"We were the children of the 1950s and John F. Kennedy's young stalwarts of the early 1960s. He told the world that Americans would "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship" in the defense of freedom. We were the down payment on that costly contract, but the man who signed it was not there when we fulfilled his promise. John F. Kennedy waited for us on a hill in Arlington National Cemetery, and in time we came by the thousands to fill those slopes with our white marble markers and to ask on the murmur of the wind if that was truly the future he had envisioned for us."

Lt. General Harold G. Moore and Joseph L Galloway from their book *"We Were Soldiers Once and Young"*

We were all soldiers once just like the title of the book says. So I want to tell you about one particular former soldier. His name is Mike. He was a cannon cocker with an artillery unit at Camp J.J. Carroll a few miles south of the DMZ. Mike's battery fired support for the Marines at Khe Sanh.

Mike came home from the war without a scratch. He went to college and got his degree and then started his own business.

He worked hard, provided for his family and helped his friends and neighbors every chance he got. Most of his friends didn't know that Mike was a veteran. He rarely spoke of the war and his part in it. He paid his taxes, supported his government and loved his country." He did what was asked of him and never complained. Mike was what you call "an American soldier."

By the time you read this article Mike will be dead. He is terminally ill with cancer. He is accepting death just like he accepted life, without complaint, without regret. Mike was 60 years old. The same age as many of us. But like many of our generation he is leaving too soon. There are only a handful of World War I veterans left alive. Thousands of World War II and Korean vets are dying every day. And we, the Vietnam Veterans are following close behind.

What all of these veterans did to make this world a better place may soon be lost forever. History has a way of forgetting veterans. We should not let that happen. Tell your stories to your family and friends as difficult as it may be. Tell them how well you performed your duty despite the horrendous obstacles placed in your path. Tell them how proud you are to be Vietnam veteran. Do it before it's too late.

Tom Robison

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

Summer has arrived and soon I will be able to taste home grown tomatoes and other fresh vegetables, something I seem to value more and more as I get older. As we age, things, outlooks, perspectives and that which we value seem to change, sometimes in very subtle ways, other times they change a great deal. For some of us, when you throw in our old friend PTSD, the change can be quite disconcerting, even disturbing. The one thing that hasn't changed is the regard in which we hold the men we were in war with, and the relationships forged in the crucible of combat. That is something that has remained a constant in this the last half of my life. I appreciate and am thankful that I have been afforded the opportunity to re-establish contact and to maintain that contact.

Speaking of change, Bob Copeland has stepped down as Unit Director of E/75 – E/50 (LRP) – 9th Div LRRP. Bob has been one of our most active directors and has really done great work for both the E/75 Association and the 75th RRA. He has always been a cool head in a crisis, (only one or two crisis as I recall), has offered good counsel when requested, and has abided by the majority decision after it was rendered, without rancor or recrimination. He has truly "Showed up, paid attention, told the truth, and let go". He also always got his *Patrolling* articles in on time. Good luck Bob in whatever you tackle next. See you in Columbus.



**John Chester**

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Bob has been replaced as Unit Director by Rick Stetson. I want to welcome Rick and extend our best wishes for his tenure. The E/75 organization has always been a strong and close knit group. They have taken leadership positions in the family fund, member's fund and other 75th RRA activities, and I'm sure that will continue. Rick's contact information is at the front of the magazine.

While we have mentioned the members' fund, I would like all the Unit Directors to be aware of the following. The members' fund is maintained for the benefit of the current members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. It is funded by our members' contributions, not by dues. It was intended to help defray reunion costs for those members who have fallen on hard times or have suffered a catastrophic loss. It has been used in the past to give an out right grant to several members in this position, but its primary purpose is to aid those who cannot afford to attend our reunions.

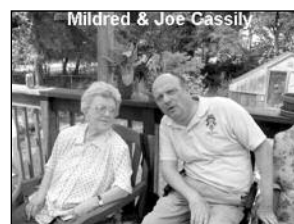
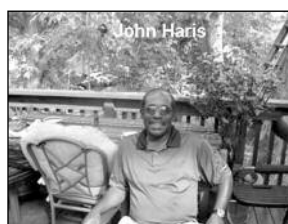
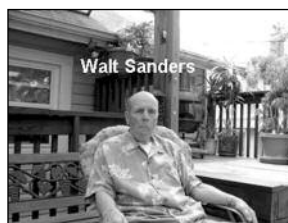
There is only one caveat, the request must come from the Unit Director, usually as a result of the individual units members bring the facts to the attention of the Unit Director. If anyone is aware of an individual in this position, please bring it to the attention of your Unit Director. It can then be brought to the attention of the elected officers and acted on. There is an additional point. There is a procedure for the waiving of annual dues in a hard ship situation. Again this request must come from the Unit Director, upon advice from his membership. It would be nice to believe that none of our members are in such dire straights, but if there are, there is a mechanism to help.

Most military type organizations have other organizations with which they exchange their newsletters, magazines, etc. One of the organizations whose newsletter we get was the 17th Airborne Division Association, (Operation Varsity, over the Rhine, in WW II). Sadly, the last issue that I received announced the dissolution of the Association and their final reunion, this coming summer. There are just not enough members left to sustain the Association any longer.

This summer at our reunion, if you happen to meet any of our founders, make sure that you thank them for having the fore sight to not limit membership in our organization to Vietnam era LRRPS, LRPS and Rangers. Had they done that, we would be following the 17th Airborne Association in a decade or two.

We had our annual Memorial Day cookout on the Sunday before Memorial day. Didn't have as many people as we had last year, but we had a good time. See photos.

There have been about 175 registered for the Reunion/Rendezvous, with more coming in all the time. We are going to do something different this year, we are going to have the individual units responsible for the hospitality room on a three shift per day schedule, (0900 to 1400; 1400 to 1900; 1900 to 2400). Unit Directors, please sign your unit up or appoint someone to do so.



## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Reuben Siverling



**Reuben  
Siverling**

By the time we get to read this, we should have our rucks packed and ready to get inserted into the Columbus Georgia AO. I certainly am looking forward to being with you again. Life is too short to insist upon long separations. Get registered for this year's 75<sup>th</sup> RRA Reunion. Your elected officers and at least a dozen volunteers have worked tirelessly to make this year's Reunion a great one indeed. To also get to be with some of the remaining WWII Rangers is more than worth any sacrifice you need to make to get there-so get there!

This past year has been very interesting and encouraging as we witness so very much being accomplished without depleting the funds. Every opportunity we get, we move funds into the interest bearing accounts while keeping a flexible non-interest bearing operating account open at Columbus, Georgia. Our interest bearing accounts remain at above the \$100,000 level as Steve, Bill, Tom, John and I remain committed to the accountability and good stewardship we pledged to you. That certainly is not intended to be a re-election campaign entry but rather my way of expressing what a pleasure it is to work with these men of character. We even have engaged the services of a CPA/Accounting firm to prepare our annual income tax return. The relatively small price of that decision will be well worth the effort as we invite "outside" eyes, sworn to confidentiality to look at our books and make recommendations where needed. I hope

to give you an update on this process during our business meeting at the Ramada.

I feel it appropriate to update you on our voluntary efforts in receiving and disbursing funds for 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's Ranger KIA Memorial. Under the leadership of 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt's MSG Kevin Deary, and Rich Hecht and John Chester's legal advice, and others, our duties as being the conduit for the funds came off without a hitch. All income to date has been properly recognized, all known bills paid and there remains a small amount in the fund balance to keep it open and active. Take a look at the beautiful monument and related photos in your Winter 2006 issue of Patrolling Magazine. Great job 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion!

I also send accolades as well as condolences to Rodger Crunk, Unit Director of K/75-E/58 LRP-4th Div LRRP. On very short notice, Rodger drove from his home in Grand Junction, Colorado to be with the family at the funeral of his friend, one of our fallen Rangers, in Cleveland, Tennessee last week (second week of May). Rodger may be writing more about the loss of this dear brother but many of you would never hear that this valiant undertaking required more than 30 hours driving in a two-day period. He then graciously delayed his trip back home to have some MRE's with me here in Kansas City. I know of other occasions when others of you have sacrificially and unhesitantly made similar sacrifices in support of our families. I salute and appreciate each one on you. "Of their own accord" remains as we continue to serve. Thanks Rodger!

### SMELLS OF A WAR-TORN LAND

By Wayne Lund

For many years I have tried to forget the awful smells of war that I knew,  
Nuc-man sauce, stagnant water and the stench of mo-gas to name a few.

Just the thought of crawling through a tunnel ,smelling the rotten vegetation,  
Or the smell of burnt rice or a decomposing body in this war-torn nation.

There is the awful smell well known to GI's, the burning of human waste,  
After working this detail, a person has in his mouth a very bad diesel taste.

Out in the jungle on occasion GI's encounter the smell of napalm burning,  
This smell is so bad it leaves the poor soldiers stomach churning.

During a soldiers tour of duty he's always subject to the smell of death,  
Finally when you leave this war-torn land you can take a clean fresh breath.

28 April 2004

## 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

### AWARDS REPLACEMENT

Retirees who have lost medals or decorations, or never received ones they earned, may request them at any time. The government will generally replace lost or destroyed decorations for service or valor at no cost. There may be a charge for campaign ribbons and badges. At [www.thestrelz.com/mildec.htm](http://www.thestrelz.com/mildec.htm) you can view decorations and ribbons, Army right breast pocket ribbons for citations and commendations, specialty and staff badges for each service, U S Merchant Marine ribbons, plus State and Other Foreign Decorations. Former service members and the survivors of deceased veterans can obtain replacement medals or make appeals by writing to their respective service below. For Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army personnel, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals. The Standard Form (SF 180), Request

Pertaining to Military Records is recommended for requesting medals and awards. This form can be downloaded in PDF format at

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>.

Army: National Personnel Records Center, Medals Section (NRPMA-M), 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Send appeals to: Commander PERSCOM, Attn: TAPC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471

Your letter should include as much of the following information as possible:

Full name

Social Security Account Number and Former Service Numbers if any

Date and place of Birth

Inclusive dates in the service

Complete Mailing Address

Telephone & Fax Number plus Email address (if you have one)

Make it easy for them to contact you, the easier the better. Be sure and include a copy of your DD214 and/or Separation Documents plus any other documents germane to your request. Indicate what you are looking for in the way of an award or correction regarding an award in your letter. If it is for corrections spell it out. Highlight the error on a copy of the related document and in your letter include what you think it should be. On medals and campaign ribbons if you are not sure indicate that you believe an award is indicated for a specific time frame and place of service and that you feel you qualify. Ask that your records be reviewed for additional unit or individual awards and decorations not reflected on the enclosed DD Form 214, or DD 215 correction of the DD Form 214, and issuance of a complete replacement set of awards and decorations. The more information you provide them the easier it is for them to verify and award you the ribbon. If your information is lengthy then put it on another sheet of paper and reference it in your letter. Be sure and put your full name, SSN and date on that sheet at the top and bottom. Upon receipt NPRC pulls the records, attaches the request and sends the case to AFPC to work. Veterans should be prepared to wait at least four-six months for a response. Any request for changes to a DD Form 214 should be accompanied by the necessary documents to substantiate the claim. [Source: TREA News Flash 10 May 07 ++]

### GI BILL UPDATE 15

The GI Bill which once covered nearly the entire cost of a veteran's college expenses continues to fall further

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

behind the soaring price of higher education. Despite several attempts by Congress to boost benefits in past decades, the gap has grown so large that many veterans are forced to take out sizable student loans. The maximum GI Bill amount a currently enrolled veteran who served on active duty can qualify for during a college career is roughly \$38,700. But for many students, that is not nearly enough to pay for tuition, room, board and books. And the GI Bill covers only four years of school, leaving veterans on their own if they take longer to graduate. The average cost of one year's tuition, room and board at four-year public institutions in 2006-07 was \$12,796, according to the College Board. For private schools, the one-year cost was \$30,367. Tuition and fees at all schools have risen 35% in the past five years, while the highest GI Bill monthly payout has increased only 20% since 2002. Big student loans are not uncommon among college students in general; the average graduate now leaves school with \$19,000 in loans.

Congress has boosted the GI benefit several times since its inception - the last a \$9 billion, 10-year increase passed in 2001 that even then was criticized as too small to keep up with soaring costs. Some lawmakers want to try again. Legislation in the House and Senate would make National Guard and Reserve troops, who are relied on heavily in Iraq and Afghanistan, eligible for the same GI Bill payments as active-duty personnel. Currently, Guard members and reservists receive a much lower educational benefit. A bill sponsored by Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA), a former Marine and Navy secretary, would pay the entire tuition, room and board of veterans and provide them with a monthly stipend of \$1,000. Webb touted the bill 9 MAY in the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, saying it would help boost recruiting, ease the transition of returning soldiers and raise the quality of life for veterans. The legislation is backed by several veterans groups.

To enroll, troops must buy in to the program. Their pay is reduced by \$1,200 during the first year of service, and then they must serve their full enlistment period. Those who serve three years or more are eligible for the full benefit of \$1,075 per month. Some may qualify for additional money provided by each military branch, known as a GI Bill "kicker." The Department of Veterans Affairs, which administers the program, distributed \$2.76 billion in education aid to 498,123 people last year. While that amount is substantial, it falls short of original program's scope. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill, officially called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, in 1944, largely to keep millions of

demobilized World War II soldiers from flooding the job market. By 1956, 7.8 million servicemen had used the benefit for either college or vocational training. Veterans initially received about \$500 per year, which was then enough to pay for tuition, room and books at most colleges.

[Source: Associated Press Stephen Manning article 10 May 07 ++]

### **VETERAN PRESENCE DIMINISHING**

Veterans make up a shrinking part of American society. As the generations that fought World War II, Korea, and Vietnam fade away, there is no cohort of twenty and thirty something draftees to take their place. About 2.5 million Americans serve today in uniform which is 0.84% of the total population and 2.83% of people of draft age. As their numbers shrink, these military folk are concentrating themselves in geographically insular parts of the country, going to live near the largest military bases in the South and Midwest. These demographic shifts have a profound effect and result in Americans having little or no personal contact with the military. [Source: Slate Magazine Phillip Carter article 9 May 07 ++]

### **PTSD UPDATE 14**

An influential scientific advisory group said 8 MAY the government's methods for deciding compensation for emotionally disturbed veterans have little basis in science, are applied unevenly and may even create disincentives for veterans to get better. The critique by the Institute of Medicine, which provides advice to the federal government on medical science issues, comes at a time of sharp increases in cases of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among veterans and skyrocketing costs for disability compensation. The study was undertaken at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs amid fears that troops returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will produce a tidal wave of new PTSD cases. Between 1999 and 2004, benefit payments for PTSD increased nearly 150%, from \$1.72 billion to \$4.28 billion, the report noted. Compensation payments for disorders related to psychological trauma account for an outsize portion of VA's budget at 8.7% of all claims, but 20.5% of compensation payments. VA officials said they welcomed the report. "VA is studying the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report to determine actions that can be taken to further enhance the services we provide," spokesman Matt Burns said in a statement.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The report suggested changes to VA policies, but the panel could not say whether those changes would result in more or fewer PTSD diagnoses, or in greater or lesser expense for taxpayers. Psychiatrist Nancy Andreasen of the University of Iowa, who chaired the panel, said, “PTSD has become a very serious public health problem for the veterans of current conflicts and past conflicts. A comprehensive revision of the disability determination criteria are needed .. the current VA system, in which PTSD compensation is limited to those who are unable to hold a job, places many veterans in a Catch-22. You can’t get a disability payment if you get a job — that’s not a logical way to proceed in terms of providing an incentive to become healthier and a more productive member of society. The practice is especially wrong, she added, because it is at odds with VA policies for other kinds of injuries. To determine the compensation a wounded veteran should get, the government assigns one a disability score. Veterans who are quadriplegic, for example, can be assigned a disability level of 100 percent even if they hold a job, whereas veterans with PTSD must show they are unable to work to get compensation. The policies are problematic, in the sense that they require the person given compensation to be unemployed. This is a disincentive for full or even partial recovery.” One solution suggested by the panel was to set a minimum compensation level for veterans disabled by PTSD, which would allow those who can seek work to do so. Larry Scott, founder of the group VAWatchdog.org, who applauded the conclusions said, “This is the report the VA didn’t want. If the IOM’s recommendations are implemented, they will cost VA billions of dollars — more staff, more staff training, more data collection, more clinical evaluations and higher awards.” The report identified problems with both arms of VA’s evaluation and compensation procedures: A veteran currently undergoes an evaluation to determine if he or she has PTSD, and the results are used by other raters to determine the level of disability and the amount of compensation. The Institute of Medicine panel said the scale used to evaluate veterans is outdated and largely designed for people who suffer from other mental disorders. Andreasen and other members also said they had heard from veterans who had received wildly different kinds of evaluations — some lasting 20 minutes while others took hours. The scientists said VA should standardize the evaluations using state-of-the-art diagnostic techniques.

While VA requires its experts to determine what proportion of a veteran’s disabilities were caused by particular traumatic experiences, and to what extent

overlapping symptoms are related to particular disorders, the IOM said there is no scientific way to classify symptoms in this manner. “The VA’s disability policies for veterans with PTSD were developed over 60 years ago and now require major, fundamental reform,” said Chris Frueh, a former VA clinician who is now a psychologist at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and was not involved with producing the new report. But even though better care is needed for veterans, Frueh said, it is important not to assume that trauma always results in a mental disorder. “Scientific evidence indicates that resilience is the most common human response to trauma,” he said. “Even for the most severe forms of trauma, such as rape or combat, most people do not develop PTSD.” [Source: Washington Post Shankar Vedantam article 9 May 07 ++]

### VACATION TRAVEL COST

The present price of gas makes travel by car more expensive. The major factors are how many passengers are involved and how much time you have. It might be cheaper to fly than drive. AAA has a fuel cost calculator at [www.fuelcostcalculator.com](http://www.fuelcostcalculator.com) that will help you decide. Sure, you could estimate the cost of driving. But AAA will give you precise results based on the make and model of your car. You can also see the daily average gas price in different regions of the country. For example a roundtrip from San Diego CA to Washington DC by car with a new Honda Accord would take an average 92 gal of gas at a cost of \$597.14 at today’s price to make the 5310 mile roundtrip. Once you arrive you are looking at \$17 to \$25 daily parking fees for your vehicle. Taking into consideration driving an average of 500 miles a day for 10 days and staying at moderate priced motels in route which average \$50 to \$55 a day you are looking at about \$1100 total cost for the trip by

car for two people. On the internet e-ticket for roundtrip fare from San Diego to Washington D.C. can be purchased for \$320 to \$400 each for a 7 to 9 hour flight. The \$300 to \$400 savings for two people would more than pay for a rental while there and save wear and tear on your car. The travel time saved would allow a longer stay in the capital with side trips to other points of interest in the area. Airlines offer even lower fares as specials during low season periods and or non-weekend travel days. A little shopping on the internet could result in a more enjoyable vacation at a lower price. [Source: NCPOA Don Harribine article 9 May 07 ++]

## H E A L T H

## DISCLAIMER

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

**Hepatitis C Fuels Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Risk**

Allison Gandey

Medscape Medical News 2007. © 2007 Medscape

May 8, 2007 — Patients with hepatitis C have a 20% to 30% increased risk of developing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and a 3-fold higher risk of developing Waldenström's macroglobulinemia, a low-grade lymphoma. "We demonstrated that infection precedes development of these outcomes and that the risk in individuals infected with hepatitis C is consistently increased, with more than 5 years of follow-up," reports the team led by Thomas Giordano, MD, from the Baylor College of Medicine and the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Houston, Texas. Risks were also increased for cryoglobulinemia. The study appears in the May 9 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Our cohort study of 718,687 veterans with more than 1.37 million person-years of follow-up is the largest study conducted to our knowledge on the risk conferred by hepatitis C infection for hematopoietic malignancies, related lymphoproliferative disorders, and thyroid cancer," the researchers point out. Could screening infected patients help identify early-stage lymphoproliferative conditions for early intervention? The authors say it is still too early to know and that additional epidemiological and pathophysiological studies are needed to clarify this question.

Hepatitis C is an RNA virus that causes chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma. Hepatitis C is primarily acquired through parenteral exposures such as injection drug use and blood transfusions. The prevalence in the general population in the United States is estimated to be 1.6%, with approximately 4.1 million people infected and living in the United States. Hepatitis C is more common in military veterans who use the VA medical system, and an estimated 5% of patients are infected.

The incidence of cancer in US military veterans is also higher than in the general population, and the rates in the present analysis were reportedly increased as well. "This increase may reflect the high prevalence among veterans of chronic medical conditions, poverty, or use of tobacco or alcohol," the researchers suggest.

Dr. Giordano and his team conducted a retrospective cohort study of veterans to test the hypothesis that hepatitis C infection is linked to an increased risk for malignancies of the blood and blood-forming tissues, related disorders, and thyroid cancer. The study included 146,394 patients infected with hepatitis C and another 572,293 without the virus. The mean age of patients was 52 years and 97% were men.

**Patients with Hepatitis C at Increased Risk for Malignancy Outcome**

Adjusted Hazard Ratio   95% CI   Adjusted P-value

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (n=1359)   1.28   1.12 – 1.45   < .0038

Waldenström's macroglobulinemia (n=165)   2.76   2.01 – 3.79   < .0038

Cryoglobulinemia (n= 551)   3.98   3.36 – 4.72   < .0038

"We found no significantly increased risk for other hematological malignancies," the researchers note. Although thyroiditis risk was slightly increased, the risk for thyroid cancer (n= 320) was not (adjusted

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hazard ratio, 0.72; 95% CI, 0.52 – 0.99), they report.

The researchers point to a number of limitations to their work. For example, they did not validate the cancer diagnoses through a separate chart review and relied instead on information coded in patient files. In addition, the coding system did permit the group to distinguish various pathological subtypes, which, they say, should be a goal of future research.

“Nonetheless, there is no reason to suspect that the overall accuracy or reliability of the diagnostic recording for the outcomes would differ by hepatitis C infection status. Second, because the study was conducted with VA data, very few women were included. Third, we did not have data on some known or postulated risk factors for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma such as family history and pesticide exposure,” they add.

Despite the limitations, Dr. Giordano and his team conclude, “These results support an etiological role for hepatitis C in causing lymphoproliferation and causing non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.”

JAMA. 2007;297:2010-2017.

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### **VA Mental Health Experts Convene for Summit**

WASHINGTON (May 23, 2007) — To ensure returning combat veterans are receiving the latest, world-class mental health care, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is convening a four-day meeting here in July of mental health clinicians and researchers from across the country.

“The veterans of the Global War on Terror have earned top-notch health care, and that includes mental health care,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. “This meeting of our top mental health experts will ensure our mental health programs remain the best in the world.”

Nicholson also announced that VA will hire 100 new employees to provide readjustment counseling at the Department’s 209 community-based Vet Centers.

The expansion is on top of Nicholson’s announcement earlier in the year to hire 100 new medical center employees to serve as advocates for the severely wounded. VA also recently hired 100 new Vet Center employees, who are combat veterans, to conduct outreach to veterans of the Global War on Terror.

VA operates one of the largest mental health programs in the country, with an annual budget of nearly \$3 billion solely for mental health services. About 1 million of VA’s patients have a mental health diagnosis. The Department employs about 9,000 mental health professionals, which does not include the mental health services provided by primary care physicians and other providers.

The upcoming meeting in the Washington area of mental health professionals will cover a wide range of issues, from integrating mental health services with primary care, to combat trauma, suicide prevention and the special needs of the newest generation of combat veterans.

Mental health services are provided at each of VA’s 153 medical centers and nearly 900 community-based outpatient clinics. Each medical center has a PTSD Clinical Team or a specialist who focuses on the treatment of PTSD.

VA is a world leader in treatment and research concerning PTSD. The Department’s National Center for PTSD is internationally recognized for its research into PTSD, other combat-related mental health issues and non-combat mental health trauma.

# HEALTH

## Veteran-Claim Court Faces Highest Caseload in Its History

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, May 22 (AP) — A special federal court that hears veterans' disability appeals is facing its highest caseload ever because the government, receiving an increasing number of benefit claims, is also rejecting more of them, the court's chief judge said Tuesday.

The judge, William P. Greene Jr., who presides over the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, told a House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee that the court had had to recall five retired judges in recent months to assist with backlogs of appeals by veterans unhappy with the denial of benefits or with the level of benefits allowed.

In the first half of the current fiscal year, the court was among the busiest of any at the federal appellate level. In those six months, 2,542 appeals were filed, the most ever for two consecutive quarters, compared with 3,729 for all of the previous fiscal year.

The numbers reflect a sharp increase in denials by the Board of Veterans' Appeals, an agency of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Denial of benefits jumped to 13,033 in the 2005 fiscal year, from 9,299 in 2004. Last year, the number of denials reached 18,107, according to the court.

If the court is to keep up with the workload, it will need a larger staff and more building space, Judge Greene told the subcommittee.

The judge testified against a backdrop in which several Congressional panels are studying ways to improve veterans' care. One goal is to reduce the backlog of claims for disability benefits. In a study this year, a Harvard professor, Linda J. Bilmes, said it took up to 177 days for the V.A. to process an initial claim and then an average of 657 days to process an appeal, a pace resulting in significant hardship to veterans.

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## Lessons Learned

Hi. My name is Stephen "Tower" Johnson. My message to those that are not feeling good about yourself and other issues, there is some good news. It took me thirty-some years to see a need for change and coming up with a plan to address my PTSD. I attended a seven week PTSD program this past summer that used cognitive behavior therapy as a main approach, incorporating many interventions and explanations, and challenging our beliefs.

This seven week program was through the Cincinnati VA, right across the Ohio River at Ft. Thomas, Kentucky. One has to see a need for change in order to make that change. This program makes change possible. It's hard to imagine having 12 vets and nearly twice that many mental health professionals, working as a team, respecting and expecting personal counseling on trauma issues. Each one of our experiences was different from each other. No war stories allowed! More that half of us (*dirty dozen*) served in Vietnam.

I served with G Company 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger as a LRRP in Vietnam during 1969 and 1970.

There was always one common thread that was drilled into our heads: there are only two kinds of soldiers; the quick or the dead. Period.

That practice of reaction worked very well in Vietnam, including previous and present wars or conflicts. However, there was a huge problem with "quick reaction" when going back to the "World" (USA) without any transition to our home, family, and friends. Presently, returning troops in current conflicts do some transition time utilizing support groups for soldiers-families before, during, and after their tour. I am encouraged by that kind of support by our country. But I truly hope that those who need to address some mental health issues from serving or in their present lives seek help sooner than thirty-some years.

I literally felt like an alien from outer space that landed on the wrong planet after Nam. We all know what I am talking about and I refuse to dwell on that point. Instead of trying to be proactive with my peers and people in my

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formal circles, I continued to be reactionary for too long of a time. This continued for several years until I found out that by using avoidance, living on a dead-end road, sitting on the edge of a large group that would lead to a speedy escape, keeping a loaded sawed-off shotgun under my bed, bad dreams of yesteryears, etc. was a way to survive but not how to really “live.”

This might be all too familiar to readers out there. Before we left for whichever conflict serving our Country, speaking for myself, we were connected. Our perception of ourselves was, perhaps, positive. On return, many of us could not reconnect. We continued to react which caused old friends that once were, giving you an out-of-place feeling. One of my former friends before Vietnam said it best on my return: “My God, I think we have creative a monster!” I’ll never forget that.

So, what is CPT (cognitive behavior therapy)?  $A+B=C$ . Now this might seem weird but here goes. A is the activating event; B is our perception of that event; and C is our emotional response by our B or A. This synapse process is fast and blends itself to our ABC’s. So, our perception and emotion may differ, the end result, our response, loaded with emotions, is different but sharing the fact that our reaction may be negative..

Let me explain. Your habits transforming beliefs can become the truth, in your mind; regardless if your truth is far from the truth.

When I first was talking with my mental health professional in Bemidji, he said, “Steve, why are you being so hard on yourself?” My reaction was reactive by responding what the hell do you mean, here I was part of this ..... and you expect me to be easier on myself? He gave me a smile and an article on CBT that I connected with, realizing that my truths may change upon a cognitive challenge.

I could choose to be my own best friend or my worst enemy. The trauma event doesn’t change, but you perception might by being more objective using CBT for help.

From that point to now, has helped my challenging beliefs which were habits that may have been viewed as a fact.

Explaining the CBT process is not my main intention. I’ll leave that to the professionals.

I am sharing that the VA is increasing this model program, because of its successes. I will be at the Rendezvous and hope to have a “vendor” spot to answer any questions individually or as a group and try and connect you to a successful PTSD Program. Glasser, M.D., says it best: the only behavior that we can control is our own. Also, the only thing we can provide is information.

See you at Columbus-Ft. Benning this summer. Any question, please email me at: [towerg75th@yahoo.com](mailto:towerg75th@yahoo.com) or [ssponte@paulbunyan.net](mailto:ssponte@paulbunyan.net).

“Tower” G 75<sup>th</sup> Sua Sponte

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## COMBAT PATROLLING By Wayne Lund

On a combat patrol with the hot sizzling sun beating on my head,  
Moving slowly through the brush, my feet feel like they’re full of lead.

This combat pack and all our equipment, they weigh many pounds,  
We move slowly along, my ears alert for any enemy sounds.

My rifle it feels so heavy, its not flimsy nor is it light,  
But when I need to use it, it’s such a beautiful sight.

We’re patrolling the mountains and the valleys down below,  
Always on our guard just waiting for the enemy to show.

Suddenly we were spotted, the NVA cut loose with a heavy hail of lead,  
Returning their fire, we were very lucky, several of the enemy is now dead.

After locating and fighting the enemy this way,  
It’s now time to return to camp and prepare for another day.

7 May 2004

# HEALTH

**NOTE:** This is a treatment program. Our goal is to help veterans learn how to decrease their distress due to PTSD and related symptoms.

We are not affiliated with the VA Compensation and Pension (C & P) Department. In addition, our program does not facilitate claims for service-connected disorders.

Veterans should not apply to this program in order to have their medical issues addressed.

When you apply for this program, it is expected that improvement in symptoms of PTSD is your main goal for attendance.

Ask for the Intake Coordinator of the Residential PTSD Program.

**Cincinnati VA Medical Center  
Ft. Thomas Domiciliary  
1000 S. Ft. Thomas Ave  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075  
(859) 572-6208**



Inquiries regarding admissions may be made by calling the Cincinnati VAMC PTSD program at 859-572-6208.

## Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Residential Treatment Programs



Cincinnati VA Medical Center

### Residential PTSD Treatment Programs for Men and Women

The Residential PTSD programs are intensive 7-week programs providing assessment and brief treatment of PTSD for men and women veterans. During the first three days in the program, patients receive a multidisciplinary assessment to evaluate their readiness for the program. Once patients are formally admitted, trauma issues are addressed through Cognitive Processing Therapy in individual therapy sessions. Additional groups offer education on related topics such as Anger Management, Sleep Management, Assertiveness, Distress Tolerance, Interpersonal Effectiveness, Mindfulness, Communication Training, and Health Issues. Men and women will attend groups and receive their treatment separately and will reside at opposite ends of the same floor of the domiciliary. Each program has their own social room and exercise room, and the Domiciliary resides in a park with 3 miles

of hiking trails overlooking the Ohio river.

### Who Can Apply?

Men and women veterans of all eras are eligible for the Residential PTSD Program. In addition, veterans with any type of trauma are encouraged to apply, for example: combat, military sexual trauma and child abuse. Groups of 12 men and 10 women patients are admitted every seven weeks for treatment in the separate programs. To be considered for admission to this program, veterans must be willing to actively participate in their treatment.

### Admissions Procedures

If you are interested in admission to the residential program, you will need to speak to your VA counselor or therapist who can contact our intake coordinator for a referral packet. Your clinician will be responsible for completing the packet and returning it to us. The intake coordinator will then contact the patient's

clinician regarding admission availability.

Due to high demand, our program generally schedules admissions 3-4 months in advance.

In addition, all veterans must meet the following criteria:

- Veterans must supply a copy of their DD-214 along with the referral packet.
- Veterans participating in the program are expected to be completely substance free. Those entering the programs must not have used alcohol or street drugs for a minimum of 60 days.
- Veterans applying to the residential program should not be exhibiting symptoms of active mania or psychosis.
- Veterans applying to the residential program should be free of major medical or legal problems, which would interfere with participation in treatment groups.
- Veterans applying to the residential program should have proof of stable housing upon discharge.

**FEATURE ARTICLES**

**75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2007 REUNION  
6 THRU 11 AUGUST, 2007  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**Yes, I will attend the reunion at Ft Benning, Ga, 6 – 11 August, 2007.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I will be accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ guests;\*  
(By registering your guests, you are helping to defray the overall cost of the reunion. The Beer Garden, transportation, speakers, munchies, hospitality rooms, activities, are all expenses to the Association. We try to make the reunion break even, guest registration helps.)

NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON @ \$35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET TICKETS # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAID .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association (75thRRA).

Mail to: 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 10970

Baltimore, MD 21234

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

**FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)**

**RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION 2007**

**AUGUST 6 – 11, 2007**

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

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC., WILL HOLD ITS' BI-ANNUAL REUNION AND BUSINESS MEETING ON THE ABOVE DATES.**

**OUR REUNION HEAD QUARTERS WILL BE THE AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN NORTH, ON MANCHESTER ROAD. WE HAVE A GUARANTEED RATE OF \$79.00 PER NIGHT. THIS REUNION WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT RENDEZVOUS AND CHANGE OF COMMAND. AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE OF REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES, OTHER THAN THAT THEY WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME FRAME. THE MARCH, 2007, (SPRING) ISSUE OF PATROLLING WILL CONTAIN SCHEDULES.**

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, INC. BANQUET WILL BE HELD THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, 11 AUGUST, 2007.**

**OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE JOE GALLOWAY, AUTHOR OF *WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE, AND YOUNG***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### OVERFLOW HOTELS:

Mention that you are with the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA

**Reunion HQ - Holliday Inn North. 2800 Manchester Expressway. 706 324-031**  
**Doubles and King Singles available. (If you do not have a room here by now, forget it).**  
**This is where all reunion activities will be centered and where you will check in for**  
**reunion registration.**

**Four Points Sheraton. 5351 Sydney Simons Blvd. 706-327-6868**  
**Doubles and King Singles available.**

**Hampton Inn. 5585 Whitesville Rd. 706-576-5303**  
**Doubles and King Singles.**

**Comfort Inn. 3460 Macon Rd. 706-256-3093**  
**Dbl and King Sngl.**

**Best Western. I-185 at Macon Rd exit. 706-568-3300**  
**Dbl and King Sngl.**

**Sleep Inn. 5100 Armour Rd. 706-653-1330**  
**Dbl and King Sngl.**

**The Columbus/ Phenix City area is a popular convention site and is well served by**  
**all major hotel chains as well as many independently operated motels. Below is only**  
**a partial listing for our area and a web search will produce many more.**

**Econo Lodge – 706-682-3803**  
**Country Inn – 706-660-1880**  
**Howard Johnson – 706-322-6641**  
**Super 8 Motels – 706-322-6580**  
**Residence Inn – 706-494-0050**  
**Days Inn – 706-561-4400**

**Heritage Inn – 706-322-2522.**  
**Courtyard Marriott – 706-323-2323**  
**La Quinta – 706-568-1740**  
**Colonial Inn – 706-298-9361**  
**Wingate Inn – 706-225-1000**

**See you on the LZ.**

## **FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)**

### **Schedule for 2007 reunion as of June 1, 2007**

#### **6 August – Monday INFIL**

**0900 - 1500 - Registration. Holiday Inn Lobby**

**1700-2330 - Hospitality Room (Azalea Room)**

**1700-UTC – Regimental mass tactical jump, Fryar Drop Zone**

**1700-2300 - Beer Garden open**

#### **7 August - Tuesday - Official start of 75<sup>th</sup> RRA reunion**

**0600-0730 – Regimental PT, Peden Field**

**0900-1500 – Registration, Holiday Inn Lobby, Unit Activities, Tour Columbus,**

**1000-1400 – Ranger Competitions, Main Post**

**1000-1400 – Static Displays, Open House – 3/75 Barracks complex**

**0900-2330 - Hospitality Room (Azalea Room and Dogwood Room)**

**1400-UTC – Boxing & Combatitives finals, Lawson Airfield, Hanger 301**

**1000-2300 - Beer Garden open**

**\*\* Other activities, open schedules**

#### **8 August - Wednesday**

**0900-1500 – Registration, Holiday Inn Lobby**

**1030-1200 – Distinguished/Honorary member of the 75th Ranger Rgt Induction Ceremony, Building 4 (Infantry Hall).**

**1330-1530 - Ranger Hall of Fame Ceremony, Marshall Auditorium, Infantry Hall**

**Entertainment available, pay as you go.**

**0900-2330 - Hospitality Room (Azalea Room only)**

**1200-2300 - Beer Garden open**

**\*\* Other activities, open schedules**

#### **9 August - Thursday**

**0900-1500 – Registration, Holiday Inn Lobby**

**1800-UTC - 75th Ranger Regiment Change of Command, York Field**

**0900-2330 - Hospitality Room (Azalea and Dogwood Rooms)**

**1200-2300 - Beer Garden open**

**\*\* Other activities, open schedules**

#### **10 August - Friday**

**0900-1500 – Registration, Holiday Inn Lobby**

**0900-2330 - Hospitality Room (Azalea and Dogwood Rooms)**

**1200-2300 - Beer Garden open**

**\*\* Other activities, open schedules**

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### 11 August - Saturday

**\*1000-1200 - Association Business Meeting, Azalea Room (Regular members only)**

**1000-1200 - Presentation by Patience Mason to the wives in Dogwood room**

**1200-1400 - Board Of Directors meeting in Dogwood room**

**1200-1700 - Hospitality Room (Azalea)**

**1200-1700 - Beer Garden open**

**\*1800-2300 - Association Banquet at Columbus Convention and Trade Center Sycamore Room, dress is casual. Speaker – Joe Galloway.**

### 12 August - Sunday - end of 75thRRA reunion

**0900-1200 - Hospitality Room (Azalea)**

**1000-1600 - Beer Garden open**

**NOTE - \* Denotes key events for which maximum participation is requested.**

**This schedule is flexible and is subject to change. If you want a room scheduled for a unit meeting or if you have any additions or changes to this schedule, contact me immediately for scheduling. A few vans are being rented by the Assn. for transportation; space is on a first come basis.**

**\*\* Open activities include the following:**

**\*\*Bicycling along the river walk.**

**\*\*Horseback riding.**

**\*\*Introduction to yoga & stress reduction for spouses.**

**\*\*Introduction to yoga & stress reduction for veterans.**

**\*\*Patience Mason will be giving her seminar on coping with the effects of PTSD. She will also be available to answer questions and discuss issues. Times TBA.**

**\*\* Seminars on Vets benefits & navigating the VA. Times TBA**

**As more information comes available, up dates will be in the magazine & on the Web Site, (75thrra.org). You can now register for the reunion and pay for registration and the banquet on line, (see above web site). You do not need to be a member of PayPal to use it to pay registration and banquet fees.**

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### BEST RANGER COMPETITION, 2007

As we were getting ready to get in the truck to drive to Ft. Benning for this year's Best Ranger Competition (at 0600), the phone rang. Phones calls at that hour are almost never good news, and this was no different, we were notified that Mary Anne's mother had passed away. We of course diverted to Altoona, PA rather than



Columbus, GA. Had we gone to this year's competition, we would have been the only representatives from our Association, as no one else was able to attend. I had a brainstorm and called Dave Cummings, our reunion



coordinator, and asked him (begged him actually), to attend in my place. Dave agreed to save the day, and afterwards he sent the following after action report.

John

Attended the Best Ranger competition Social as requested on 21 April. I received the certificate to 75th RRA for the donation, they should have mailed it to you. Also ate your

rib-eye and drank some beer for you. Was a tough assignment, but I think I represented the Association well, (specially in the beer department). Really, was a great time and excellent dinner which was put on by the same Holliday Inn North folks where we headquarter our reunion, they did a great job. Also attended some Best Ranger activities and the Awards Ceremony on 23 April. Could not have asked for better weather, for the weekend was beautiful.

I was a little surprised that, with the operational tempo of the Army nowadays, 40 teams showed up to compete this year.

Among those teams was a Ft. Benning community favorite who had the largest "fan club" out there cheering at the events. The US Army Infantry School Command Sergeant Major, CSM Doug Greenway (2/75th vet)



and his son, SSG Brandon Greenway teamed up to compete. They finished 13th out of the 40 teams, pretty darn respectable considering Doug is 47 yrs old and due to retire soon. The winners were MAJ Liam Collins and MSG Walt Zajkowski of US Army Special Operations Command, Ft. Bragg. The 75th Ranger Regiment had eight teams compete this year.

Dave Cummings

Pictures: Doug Greenway taking a break early in the day, and Doug later in the day. And, of course, me.

### BELTWAY RANGERS MEET 28 FEBRUARY 2007



MG (Ret) Jack Singlaub and MAJ Brian Cleary

The Washington, DC Beltway Rangers met on Wednesday, February 28, 2007, by special invitation of the Senior Judge (Ranger) Bob Mayer, in the Courtroom of the prestigious U.S. Court of Appeals (Federal Circuit) located at 717 Madison Place, NW. The speaker was Major (P) Brian Cleary, Officer Commanding, Army Ranger Wing, Defense Forces of Ireland. Major Cleary explained the history, structure, qualifications, and the establishment of the Ranger Wing. He discussed the Ranger Wing's global peacekeeping operations in Africa and Afghanistan. We were extremely fortunate to have Major Cleary join us for a revealing and enlightening presentation. Ranger Co-hosts Judge Eugene Sullivan and Bobby Jackson, organized the event which included Rangers from all eras and several wounded warriors from Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### Living Legends

Original members from Darby's Rangers gathered in San Luis Obispo for the annual Western Chapter meeting of the World War II Ranger Association on March 23-25, 2007.

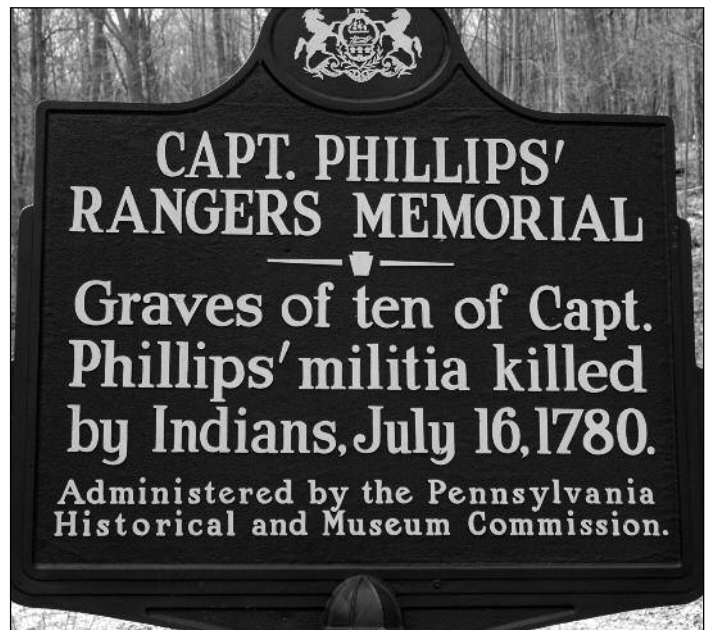
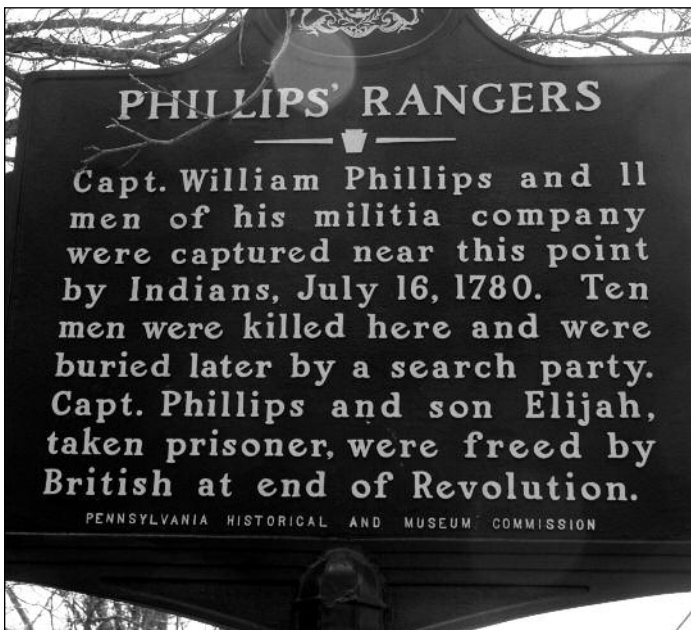


**Left to Right: Ted Fleser, Jim McVay, Micky Romine, Harold Westerhorn, and Randall Harris. Randall Harris is RHOF from 92**

### Phillips' Rangers

BY: John Chester

While driving home from Altoona, PA, Mary Anne's home town, I took a different way and came upon a sign that said "Ranger Memorial, 25 miles", with an arrow pointed the way we were not going. We decided to go have a look. The attached pictures pretty much tell the whole story.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### A HERO OF OLD DIED TODAY

Many of our members, or Brothers, served this country through many units PRIOR to ending up as LRRP/LRP and 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers. Many served with an Airborne unit during World War 2, the Korean War, and Vietnam. It is for this “elder” statesmen of the 75<sup>th</sup> that I write this copy from my local paper. And it is for them that I write this proudly, despite the fact that it is from the obituary pages I knew the man, served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne after him, but belonged to the same VFW and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association here at home.

“Theodore H. “Ted” Kerwood, 86 years of age, died at home on Wed., March 21, 2007, with his family at his bedside.

Though born in Philadelphia, he moved to Jersey many years ago, having lived in Clayton and Franklinville, NJ.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving as a Staff Sgt.. with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. He was decorated by four (4) countries. He fought in six(6) countries.

Ted entered active duty in February, 1941. He was a member of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) graduating class of Ft. Benning Parachute Jump School.

He was awarded the Silver Star medal, The Battle of the Bulge Medal and six campaign stars, including four (4) combat jump awards. He participated in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) large scale airborne assault in history, SICILY, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1943.

He also received The Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, American defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with six (6) stars and one (1) invasion spearhead.

Here at home he was a member of VFW Post 2071, Franklinville, NJ, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN. Association, Mantua Post and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Cape May Court House Post.

If you knew him or of him, you can post your expressions of sympathy at: [www.barclayfuneralhome.net](http://www.barclayfuneralhome.net). If you knew him, you could not post a word or two; he was that kind of man.

Submitted by F Co. Lrrp/Ranger Dan Nate

with some severe effects. Most of us have had some experience with “personal weapons” that were more or less unauthorized, (I carried a Browning 9mm), so I thought the story was germaine.

About a year or so ago I met a guy named Steve Balboni over the internet in a firearms forum. He had purchased an old .38 snub nose from his local gun store. The gun store owner said that the guy who had sold it to him said it had been used as a tunnel rat gun by he and his men in Vietnam. Steve decided to see if he could “authenticate” the gun. He does not have any combat experience, but I could tell from his posts on the forum that he has great respect for those of us who do. What started out as idle curiosity on Steve’s part, over time, became a labor of love. Several of us Nam vets were privileged to assist Steve in small ways. In the process, some great friendships have blossomed.

Mike Reiley 3rd Bdge 25th ID LRRP

BY: Steve Balboni

If Guns Could Talk....Ever wonder what they’d tell us?

I was made 40 years ago. Shipped from Smith & Wesson, Springfield MA to International Distributors in Miami FL. From there I made my way to “FayetteNam” North Carolina. Purchased by the 2nd Lt. that I did my tour with, just a few days before the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Abn Div was deployed in response to the Tet offensive in VietNam. In less then 36 hours the first planes took off. The 2nd Lt and I waited about three days before our C-141 Starlifter took off for Alaska, Okinawa and VN. We were fully functional in about 6 days

Having landed in DaNang - we spent a few days around there to get a little acclimatized to the weather and the war. Then I was onto a truck convoy to the Hue area. We were the first convoy from Da Nang to Hue since the Tet offensive. We established camp Redball southwest of Hue. When the 101st arrived they built on to our camp and renamed it Camp Eagle. There we worked to push the unfriendlies out of the areas around the city and out to the west. We stayed there about five months pushing almost to the Ashau Valley..

The 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Abn Div was the brigade that deployed to Viet Nam. The brigade had 3 battalions of combat troops plus a slew of support folks assigned to the brigade headquarters company plus a support battalion. A battalion had three line companies plus support troops assigned to the headquarters company. A line company had four platoons-three line platoons and a weapons platoon. The

### IF GUNS COULD TALK

Ed. Note. This piece (no pun intended) is in the spirit of a human interest story. Mike Reiley, one of my people from Vietnam, was involved in a part of it, and passed it along to me. Ed Locke has a very serious disease that has left him

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

battalion also had a red-eye section-it was an anti aircraft section armed with a hand held missile called the red-eye. The 2nd Lt first commanded this section. Since we had no enemy aircraft He and I only lasted about a week assigned to that job. Next He was assigned to command the weapons platoon of A company of the 1st of the 508th combat regiment. I think the regiment designation went back to WW II but it was his battalion. They were a light mortar section. Since we were now in the Hue area which was mostly deep jungle the mortars were useless. After another week or so we replaced a Lt. commanding a line platoon who didn't cut the mustard. About two weeks or so in country the 2nd Lt became the commander of the 3rd platoon of A company of the 1st of the 508th of the 3rd brigade of the 82nd Abn Div. I stayed with him there for about 6 months until he was replaced by a guy from the 101st Abn. Div. Since everyone deployed at the same time the brigade was faced with everyone scheduled to leave at the same time. They started infusing us with folks with different DEROS(date expected return over seas). The 2nd Lt's name was drawn from a hat. We were to go to the 101st but never did. Instead we were assigned as the XO of the brigade headquarters company.



That lasted about two months. In that time we left the Hue area for Cu Chi and after only a few weeks headed for Saigon. Shortly after getting To Saigon the B company of the 2nd of the 505th Regiment (I think that is the battalion but am not positive) needed an experienced platoon leader so the 2nd Lt was assigned there. I remained there until his DEROS. There we had a few tunnel experiences but mostly set up night time ambushes to stop the rocket attacks on Saigon.

I didn't see any other handguns used as personal weapons. I'm sure they were there but hidden. Troops were forbidden to take M-16s into Saigon so I was there in the 2nd Lt's pocket. It gave him comfort to have me along.

When we returned to the States I stayed his faithful companion for another 38 years....

Ed Locke, the 2nd Lt3 Bronze Stars, 2 with the V device and one for Meritous Achievement, 2 Purple Hearts, CIB (Combat Infantryman Badge), 2 Army Commendation Medals, as well as the normal RVN stuff....



Friendships formed in combat  
BY: Wayne Lund

As young men we became veterans who survived the horrors of war,  
Serving together forging a lasting friendship while fighting through the bloody gore.

Knowing, as only combat veterans can know, the daily hell we had to face,  
We know we made it through that awful war because of God's forgiving grace.

Returning from that combat zone, promising to stay in contact over the years,  
At our reunions we see that some have not survived, this causes us shed sad tears.

When we gather at our annual reunion, many tall tales and stories of combat will be told,  
Being together, we know this friendship forged in combat is more precious than gold.

We're proud to say we'll always think fondly of our friends with hearts full of pride,  
Thanking God for those who survived, yet remembering our friends who have died.

22 August 2004

# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Acebes



Lots of activity going on since I last checked in.

Groundbreaking for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Ranger Memorial was held on 5 March 2007. Lots of “old” guys were in attendance – Picture attached. These included Pete Schetrompf; Wayne Lott; Gene Peters; Steve Murphy; Dwight Drury; Dave Serface; Mike Etheridge. Dave is building a web page for the 1/75 Ranger Memorial. There were also lots of Ranger Supporters in attendance – Dick Eckburg, Bo Jolley, Dan Gay, Dave Ermer, Ken Pate, George Summerell, Rich Ginder; Arland Carroll; Bob Maner; Rita Maner. These supporters contribute lots of funding; and Sponsor support. Parents of SPC Marc Anderson were in attendance. They are always proud supporters of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Other supporters in attendance included Shelby Bush; Wanda McCartney; Carol Schetrompf; Joannie; Shelia (OF COURSE); and members of the Battalion. Representatives of Senators Isaakson and Chambliss. Trees were delivered and planted at the site before the end of April. Shovels used at the ground breaking ceremony will be auctioned off. Send your bid offer to me (no money); and the winners will be announced at the Dedication Ceremony in October. You can pay at that time (just in case the shovels get stolen before October). As a side note; Steve Murphy is still tough enough to bunk on one of our couches; Gene Peters required a hotel room. And they left beer in the refrigerator – This is unheard of.... It was a great day and lots of stories were told during that period.

A group of old Rangers chipped in some dollars and some long days work to screen in Steve Cochran's patio. The project was the brain child of some old Rangers and before you know it Steve has an insect free area to hang out in. Standing in front of the patio they just screened in for Steve is Bill Acebes, Pete Schetrompf and Ken Ball. Joe Caligiuire took the picture. Rangers never forget Rangers!

Spoke with Ranger Roger Brown and his wife Linda - They want to sponsor a get together during the Ranger Hall of Fame/Ranger Rendezvous activities in August for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion members. Additional information will be posted to the web site.

On a sad note; George and Helen Conrad's son (Chris) died in April and was buried in North Georgia. George was a



member of the original cadre of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion; and also served in 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. George retired as the Post CSM of the US Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning. Our condolences go out to George and Helen and their entire family.

I attended the Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning in April. Lots of stories to be told there - One of special interest to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, is former CSM of the Battalion, CSM Greenway and his son (SSG Greenway) competed and COMPLETED this grueling event. CSM Greenway retired on 4 May (two weeks after the event). Congratulations to all participants and especially the Greenway family. HOOAH

While at Fort Benning for Best Ranger, attended the ceremony for Distinguished and Honorary Members of the Ranger Training Brigade. Several former 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Rangers were inducted: SMA Glen Morrell; SMA Julius Gates, CSM Joe Heckard.

The previous issue of Patrolling was sent to Ron Johnson's mother and sons – thanks to Linda and Sam Spears.

Heard from one of my former soldiers (SGT William McCormack, FIST, Charlie Company, 1988-1991). He has donated some of his frequent flyer miles to the wounded soldiers program. I'm glad to hear from him and appreciate his gesture to this worthwhile program.

Kevin Reardon ([kevnreardon@aol.com](mailto:kevnreardon@aol.com)) is trying to contact Joseph Goens.

**1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)**

Ranger Charlie Laws attended the Gathering of Eagles in Washington DC and this is his story: "REGARDLESS WHAT CNN OR C-SPAN SAYS, WE OUT NUMBERED THE PROTESTERS 5 TO 1. CNN SAID ON THE NEWS SAT EVENING THERE WERE BETWEEN 10000-20000 PROTESTERS AT LINCOLN MEM SAT, I SQUARE THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN 1500 AND THAT IS GUESSING ON THE HIGH SIDE. RAN INTO A LOT OF RANGERS FROM ALL THREE BNS, AND TRAINING BDE, LOTS OF VIETNAM RANGER CO AND KOREA CO VETS. ALSO HAD THE OP TO TALK TO TWO OF MY HEREOS CSM FOWLER AND CSM DAVE CUMMINGS. BEST PART MY GUYS UP HERE IN DC GAVE ME CREDIT FOR HITTING A DEMONSTRATOR, I WAS COMING OUT OF AN outhouse WHEN THEY WERE MARCHING BY, THE DOOR HIT ONE AND HE FELL INTO ANOTHER AND THEY BOTH FELL TO THE GROUND. REALLY GLAD I WENT." (Ranger Jim Bush was also in attendance) Body count is a body count Charlie, no matter how you get it.

As promised last month; I am attaching a story from Don Franklin. Please send any ideas or news of interest to me at [acebes175@coastalnow.net](mailto:acebes175@coastalnow.net). Until the next time, keep your head down; powder dry; and see you on the high ground.



*October 29, 2006*

*Mr. (Wild Bill) Acebes,*

You have no reason to remember me and I'm sure you don't. But I remember you!

When I was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Batt. In January of 1977 there were a few folks there who had achieved "legendary" status and you were one of them.

I became platoon sergeant of 1<sup>st</sup> platoon A, Co. Although I was only with 1<sup>st</sup> Batt until Dec of that same year, I had a great time and learned so very much. In the following pages are some stories you may be interested in for submission to "Patrolling" magazine, or not. None are combat related, just training.

I ETS'd from the battalion that December with plans to enter college the following fall. But I couldn't stand the fact that no one was in charge, no one was in uniform and no one was in-step.

I re-entered the Army in January of 1979 as a no-time-in-grade "buck" sergeant and after a year with the 9<sup>th</sup> Div. Getting into shape, I went to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. Where I spent 26 months.

I finished my career with 6 years in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Batt First Special Forces Group serving as a Heavy Weapons Leader, Intelligence Sgt., Team (opns) Sgt and finally ISG of the Battalion Support Company.

My only tour in Viet Nam was as a Combat Engineer with the 39<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn. Please don't misunderstand me. I am very proud of my service

with the 39<sup>th</sup> and the men I served with. I am a life member in the 39<sup>th</sup> Assoc.

I went to Ranger School in 1971 (class 6-72) and from then on I was hooked on Special Ops. My main regret is that I was never able to serve in a "hostile environment" with either of the two Ranger Batts or a Special Forces Team. All I got to do was train. Now there are those who profess that training is more important than combat, and I am one of them. But you can't earn a CIB in training! I have an EIB earned in Panama, but it's just not the same. I'd rather have the CIB than the MOLL.

Anyway, enough rambling, I will leave the use of these stories to your discretion and wish you and yours the best of everything.

RLTW,

William Donovan (Don) Franklin

902 Century Ct. NE

Lacey, Wa 98516

360-438-0213

P.S. Let me hear from you

---

boots and long underwear. We assembled and moved to the release point, where the security teams moved out to their assigned positions.

The four of us went on our merry way, climbed a fence, crossed a road and captured a brand new, half frozen private. We told him that he could come with us and conduct himself as a good little POW or we could tie him naked to a tree and leave him for the Polar Bears. He promised to be good so we took him along. A little while later we arrived at a position where we could see the objective and the roads that lead into and out of it.

The objective was part of a "built-up" area, full of WWII buildings and paved roads. The objective itself was a large maintenance building that had the roll-up door boarded over with plywood. The whole thing, building, motor park and x number of hostages were surrounded by a well-built chain link fence with a truck gate in front of the roll-up door, the only point of entry. Inside the fence the bad guys had defensive positions completely around the wire.

We called the "boss" and told him we were in position and monitoring the objective. The old man came back and said, "Roger, be advised you are now the assault element." The LT looked at me and keyed the handset again and said, "I say again, this is (call sign), we are in position and monitoring the objective." The old man came back with; "Roger, and I say again, you are now the assault element." The LT looked at me again, re-keyed the handset and asked, "Do you know who this is?" And the boss came back with, "Roger, I know full well who you are. You're the assault element. OUT!"

LT Towne looked at me and said, "What do we do now platoon sergeant?" I said I didn't know but thought we should move closer and see if we could come up with a plan.

We moved around until we were behind a building across the street from the truck gate. It took us all of about 10 seconds to realize there was no way in hell we could get inside the wire, let alone rescue anyone to include us. Then I spotted a bank of phone booths and got an idea. The only one with any money was our POW so I got a dime from him and called the Fire Department and reported a fire in the maintenance building, and hung up. Then I ran back to the team and told everyone

to be ready.

Sure enough, just a few minutes later, here comes the fire truck, lights flashing, and siren blaring. One of the bad guys runs out and opens the gate wide and all the folks in the defensive positions, stood up! We attacked, hard! We had our leg pockets full of “flash bangs” and plenty of blanks so we made a lot of noise for just four people.

We all went through the gate rackin’ and attackin’ and throwing flash bangs. Watkins and Carter went through a window, I kicked in the plywood covering the roll-up door and LT Towne came in behind me. On the inside of the plywood was a girl bad guy and I guess when I kicked the plywood, she got launched over a few cots.

Anyway, after a few minutes of mayhem the evaluator called a halt to the boots and long underwear. We assembled and moved to the release point, where the security teams moved out to their assigned positions.

The four of us went on our merry way, climbed a fence, crossed a road and captured a brand new, half frozen private. We told him that he could come with us and conduct himself as a good little POW or we could tie him naked to a tree and leave him for the Polar Bears. He promised to be good so we took him along. A little while later we arrived at a position where we could see the objective and the roads that lead into and out of it.

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Anyway, after a few minutes of mayhem the evaluator called a halt to the festivities. He told us the assault was successful and asked how four guys plan to get all these hostages out of the area. I said, "I'm gonna steal that truck right there." He said, "Not you, you were killed right after you came through the wall."

Mad Dog, Carter and Watkins were loading up the folks when the real assault element showed up with the extractions vehicles.

It was a good mission, a lot of fun and encompassed my entire life of crime. If I remember correctly it made the Battalion News Letter under the heading, "The Great Fire Truck Raid."

By the way, our POW was shot when he tried to run across the road to warn his buddies. May he rest in peace. I still owe him a dime.

LT Towne was a great platoon leader. One of the best I have ever worked with. But he puked a lot. We had a jump into Indian Springs, NV, I was the Jumpmaster, LT Fey was #1 Jumper, and Mad Dog was #2. Just seconds before I stood Lt Fey in the door, Mad Dog puked all over his back. I couldn't wait to get out of that aircraft.

Mad Dog and Lt Fey were the ones who made up the "Swamp Wars" skit for Banner Day.

I really enjoyed my year with the First Ranger Battalion. Back then (1977), the beret was black, the scroll was different, Alpha company's barracks was on Ft. Stewart above the 84<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company (not good), there was no Ranger Regt. And my knees were in much better shape.



## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Rich Hecht



May 2007

Spring is here in Washington State. The temps are currently near 70 and I hope we don't use up our allotment of nice days too soon! Bumbershoot sucks when it rains!

The Reunion/Rendezvous has most likely taken place by the time you are reading this. Due to some pre-planned family vacation and a tight work schedule, I am not able to attend. Rangers Kevin Ingraham and Mike Mickinney are there representing 2/75 and they will have a complete report in the next issue.

In February 2/75 held the Ranger Ball. Myself, Ranger Nate Smith and our wives were able to attend and had a great time. Col. Ralph Puckett was the guest speaker and it was a privilege to meet him. He is truly a nice man and a living Ranger legend. Nate was personally responsible for raising over \$10,000 to support the Ball, as he and his wife Jen have done for



the past few years. In the attached picture, Nate is receiving an appreciation plaque from Bn, presented by SSG Curry.

POSERS. I typed that in capitals, to get your attention. Posers are something that our Vietnam era brothers have had to deal with for a long time and now it seems it is our turn. Recently, there have been a number of guys that have surfaced on the internet, claiming service as Rangers. Some of these guys have My Space pages with endless pictures of themselves in their gear, dress greens, etc. When you examine

the details (like the guy is a fat POS and has a cheesy "leg" mustache) you soon figure out the guy is a fake. Do a web search for Justin Weis and you will see what I mean. He is not alone.

Another problem, are guys who did serve in Bn but are caught wearing awards they never earned. Why someone would do this is beyond me, but it is happening more and more. If you come across anyone who you believe to be fraudulently posing

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

as a Ranger, please let me know ASAP. We have a network of Rangers to deal with this and it is now actually illegal.

In April CSM Douglas Greenway and his son, Brandon, competed in The 2007 Best Ranger Competition. Doug, who was my platoon sergeant during Operation Just Cause, was the oldest competitor (at 47) to compete in the contest. He and Brandon are also the only father/son team to have ever competed. They finished in 13th place out of 21 finishing teams. There were 39 teams that started. Doug retired in May. Enjoy the fishing and try not to hurt yourself by working too hard on your golf swing. Oh, by the way. I'm still pissed at you for having broken my gunjeep while we were in Panama!

Another Ranger who I served under is now the Iraq Multi-national Corp, Chief of Staff. BG Joe Anderson was one of my CO's back in the day. You can't imagine how proud I am to see that both Doug and Joe have made something of themselves!

One of the original 2/75 Rangers is Jeff Mellinger. CSM Mellinger recently complete 33 months in Iraq as the Iraq Multi-national Force CSM. Thanks for serving Jeff and taking care of our troops.

In April, CSM Doug Pallister left 2/75 to assume the duties of RSM. His official Bio is listed below. I didn't know him well, but other Rangers who I trust had nothing but great things to say about him. While reading his Bio, I read something that made me realize how old I actually am. When I was in, the CSM always seemed "old" to me. Now, being in my early 40's, I realized that I am actually a few months older than RSM Pallister!

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DOUG PALLISTER**

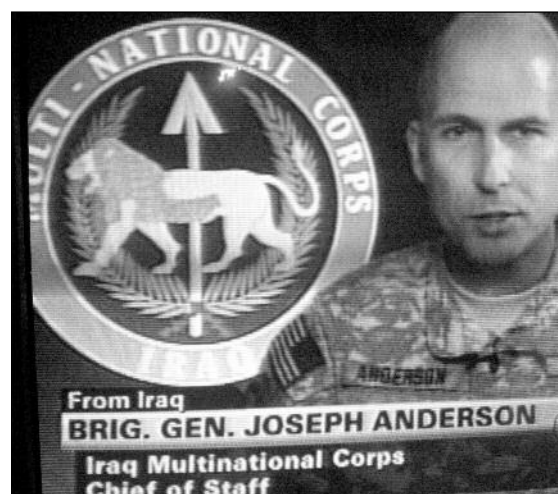
CSM Pallister was born in Exeter, Rhode Island On December 1965. He enlisted in the Army in September 1983 and attended Basic, Advanced Infantry Training, and Jump School at Ft Benning Ga.

HE WAS ASSIGNED TO B CO 3/505 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION WHERE HE SERVED AS AN AMMO BEARER, MACHINE GUNNER, M203 GUNNER, TEAM LEADER AND SQUAD LEADER. IN MAY 1989 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO 3/325 AIRBORNE VINCENZA, ITALY WHERE HE SERVED AS A SQUAD LEADER. DURING THIS TIME HE PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION DESSERT STORM AS WELL AS MULTIPLE NATO EXERCISES. IN JULY 1992 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO B CO 2/75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER BATTALION WHERE HE SERVED AS A SQUAD LEADER AND PLATOON SERGEANT. WHILE SERVING AS A PLATOON SERGEANT HE WAS COMMITTED TO ACTION DURING OPERATION RESTORE DEMOCRACY IN THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI. IN OCTOBER 1997 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AND SERVED AS THE 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER LIAISON TO DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, DC. IN AUGUST OF 1999 HE RETURNED TO 2/75<sup>TH</sup> AND SERVED AS THE 1SG OF C CO 2/75<sup>TH</sup>. IN AUGUST 2001 HE ATTENDED CLASS 52 UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT MAJORS ACADEMY, FT BLISS, TX. IN JULY 2002 HE WAS ASSIGNED AS THE OPERATIONS

SERGEANT MAJOR OF 1/24<sup>TH</sup> IN, FT. LEWIS, WA. IN JUNE 2003, HE BECAME THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OF 1-18<sup>TH</sup> IN, SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY. WHILE ASSIGNED TO THE 1-18<sup>TH</sup> HE DEPLOYED FOR A YEAR ROTATION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. IN MARCH 05, HE BECAME THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OF 2<sup>ND</sup> BN, 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT, FT LEWIS, WA. IN MAY 2005, HE WILL PCS TO FT BENNING GA. TO BE THE 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER RGT COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR.

CSM PALLISTER'S SCHOOLS INCLUDE ALL THE NCOES'S, 1SG COURSE, RANGER SCHOOL, AND JUMPMASER SCHOOL. HIS AWARDS INCLUDE BRONZE STAR MEDAL, MSM W/ 6 OLC'S, ARCOM W/4 OLC'S, AAM W/ 5 OLC'S, HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL W/ STAR, ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL, KUWAITI LIBERATION MEDAL, MFO MEDAL, NCO PROFESSIONAL SERVICE RIBBON W/ NUMBER 4. HE HAS EARNED THE COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE, RANGER TAB, EXPERT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE, MASTER PARACHUTE BADGE, BELGIAN, FRENCH, AND HONDURAN PARACHUTE WINGS. HE ALSO HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM EXCELSIOR UNIVERSITY.

CSM GLENN LEGG HAS ASSUMED THE CSM DUTIES AT 2/75 AND WE WISH HIM WELL.





## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Dodge



### Ranger reasons to stay

By: Jon Goldman, former 3/75 Ranger.

This is why you should stay in the Ranger Regiment.

1. Nothing cool happens when you leave the RGR RGT.
2. People don't think dead baby jokes are funny.
3. If you have your tab and someone else doesn't, don't make it known. They have no idea what you are talking about.
4. When you are riding a bus, you can't try to start a song like "you can tell an Airborne Ranger" or "the S&M Man". People will think that you have turrets.
5. You can't go into your back yard or an open field, set up a silhouette and zero your weapon or practice CQM tables. The police will come and shoot you.
6. When you are at work, you can't order the new guy to hug the boss or go to supply and ask for chem. light batteries or grid squares. He doesn't have to do what you say.
7. You can't surprise people with "bubble gum", "the brain, goat, or bat wing". This is against the law and you could face criminal prosecution and perhaps be required to go door to door in a new neighborhood and tell them what you did.
8. You can't pull out your Ranger coin at the bar and expect whoever doesn't have one to buy you a drink. Likewise, your coworkers or classmates will not feel that they owe you a case of beer if you pull out your coin and drop it on the floor.
9. You can't use terms like "crotch rot", "monkey butt", "swamp ass" or "shoot someone in the face". People will think that you're strange and not want to be your friend.
10. You can't leave your spitter around the office of the classroom like it's the AO. Some retard will think that it's their bottle of iced tea and get a nasty surprise. You will be asked to leave.
11. Civilians don't stand at parade rest.
12. Your coworkers or classmates will never think that it's a good idea to band together and go "ball up" another office or classroom full of people simply because it was a thought passing through your mind. So don't suggest it.
13. Nobody distributes ambien or flexoral on airplanes. You actually need a prescription.
14. When you go on a business trip, your buddies wives wont be waiting for you at the office with kegs of beer to greet you.
15. If you think that your neighbors are foreign fighter facilitators or that they are running an IED making factory, and you get your buddies together for an OPORDER and plan



to "hit the target", seek help immediately because you are out of touch with reality.

16. When people go on their lunch break, they don't sit in the grass and shout things like "have peanut butter, want pound cake!" Nobody is going to trade the things that they eat with you.
17. Nobody wants to know how many people you've killed with your bare hands.
18. No one walks up to you at work to tell you that you have to go to the dentist.
19. If something needs to be done at the office, you can't shout "Privates! Hurry the f\*\*\* up!" Again, this is not how things work.
20. There are no privates to sit in the back of the bus.
21. If you have an issue with someone, you can't call them out and begin to grapple. This is against the law and you will go to jail for assault.
22. There are no more 3 and 4 day weekends.
23. You can't reward your coworkers with a case of bud light on Thursday and proceed to get smashed on the spot because you forgot that there are no more 3 day weekends.
24. Success is not based on a "GO" and "NO GO" scale. Even complete morons can get a "GO" in life.
25. 550 cord and 100mph tape are hard things to find.
26. Don't walk up to the new guy and demand to see his Ranger handbook, coin, pen and paper. He probably won't have all of those things.
27. You can't smoke anyone.
28. And you can't go to your local fitness center and trick some poor bastard into doing an atomic sit-up..



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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte



*No Submission*

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

**2007 Reunion**

You will see the information for this year's reunion at Fort Benning on both the website and elsewhere in this issue of Patrolling. Thus far I have heard from several people that they will be attending, including Tim Leadbeater, Mike Hines, Doc Wentzel, Ed White (if at all possible), Gary O'Neal (Big "O"), and quite possibly John Henry Voyles (I intend to twist his arm, too), among others. I will be there to represent the unit too.

**The History and Derivation of "John Henry"**  
**(or; How a "Young" PSG Received another nickname destined to ID him for the rest of his life...)**

Once upon a time (1971), in Charlie Rangers, there was a young trooper named Ranger Voyles. Now RV happened, at that time, to be the Platoon Sergeant for the 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, when The Herd got themselves into a little more contact than initially anticipated at an NVA base area around Hill 202 (this was in the area between An Khe and the coast, along QL19 (that ran from Dalat to Pleiku). Before-mission intel suggested that the area was a significant base camp, and that info turned out to be correct. Once the Herd went in and attempted to surround the area, they realized that the OPFOR was somewhat larger than anticipated, and RV's platoon got opconned to the Herd to assist in the mission to surround the base camp.

The overall conduct of the operation was that the Herd and Charlie Rangers formed a ring around the area in question (the anvil), and then the ROK (Republic of Korea) troops were inserted inside the ring to start working from the inside out (the hammer). The overall mission was a success, with destruction of the base camp, location and destruction of tons of weapons and ammo, and significant damage to the enemy's troop strength.

During this mission, though, at one point, young Ranger Voyles was stationed at a radio-relay / firebase named John Henry as he coordinated with the supporting elements and the deployed patrols.

One of the patrols (Patrol 4-5) involved was led by Jerry Roberts (also later of B Company Rangers). When Jerry (via Fox Mike) reported that he could see 17 flashlights moving around in the darkness, Ranger Voyles asked him if he wanted to call in a fire mission to the Redlegs. Jerry said something to the effect of "...no, since they couldn't hit the broad side of a barn", and since they were within 400 meters of the enemy, and he was somewhat concerned that he and the

patrol would be the recipient of the rounds, instead of the flashlights, especially since he couldn't talk to the artillery himself due to distance limitations. So, John Henry got a distance (400 meters) and vector from Jerry's position, and called in the fire mission instead (will adjust from single round impact)...

"Shot, out"

Jerry responded with some urgency "... What did you do?!!"

The round impacted, and all the flashlights started running around, as Jerry could see from his position, and he reported the round distance and vector to John Henry at the radio relay station.

Ranger Voyles ("RV") continued to adjust until they got a round to impact in the correct position, and then called for "Fire for Effect". The flashlights all went out.

The weather later socked in really badly, the ceiling descending to zero for quite a few days. Since the mission extended longer than initially anticipated without the ability to resupply the patrols, the calls to "John Henry" were becoming a little more distressed the longer the patrols went without food and water resupply (since they were out of those particular commodities).

I didn't get all the details accurately, but it seems that as the zero ceiling continued and the deployed patrols continued to go without those minor details of water and chow that they considered essential, the sitreps to John Henry became a little more irritated. Eventually the ceiling lifted, RV was able to get resupply choppers to the patrols, but the Firebase/radio relay name and handle of John Henry was at that point permanently affixed to him, and we forever after knew young Ranger Voyles as "John Henry".

So if Jerry or any of the rest of you guys have corrections to the details I related here, please let me know. All deficiencies in reporting are my own.



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

## Ranger Memorial

Joe Chetwynd contacted me on behalf of the VII Corps LRRP's because they wanted to add some more stones to the Ranger Memorial after reading the article in the last issue of Patrolling.

I helped him coordinate with the Ranger Memorial foundation, and hope to have the following bricks added before the reunion also:

Col Edward V. MALTESE

(Was with 82nd Abn Div, Combat jumps at Normandy, Holland. Organized VII Corps and V Corps LRRP Co's, Germany)

SMAJ Ronald DEXTER POW / MIA (died in captivity)  
JUL 29, 1967 (VII Corps LRRP's).

CSM William "Country" GRIMES, (member of VII Corps LRRP Co Nellingen, Germany, Served w/ SOG, was first CSM of Delta Force).

The stones we added to the Ranger Memorial earlier in the year included Glenn English (MOH), Jack Schmidt, Joe Gooden, and Daddy Haugh. All of them will have bricks installed at the memorial by the time of the reunion in August. Again, for anyone interested in helping to defray the cost of the stones for the four Rangers listed above, please contact the Unit Director (me), Doc Wentzel, or John Henry.

I consulted with John Henry and Doc Wentzel about this, and we decided that we absolutely, positively, agreed that, at a minimum, all four of the LRRP/Rangers above could not continue without bricks, and that it is also possible that in the future we might see if there would be any interest on the part of the rest of the company members in assisting with the cost of putting in bricks for some of our departed brethren from B Co. as well (Gary Lauderdale, SSG Grimes, George Nick, Bob Hensley, and others spring to mind immediately, although the list is quite a bit longer - refer to the list on the website).

## Deployed Rangers, Family, etc.

Doc Wentzel reported that he and his son, Sgt. Sam Wentzel, had their Ranger tabs affixed for life together (see the photo). Sam is a team leader in "C" Co, 2d Ranger Bn. Doc reports that he would have fit right in at B/75! He has some interesting war stories from his five deployments to the AO (both Iraq and Afghanistan). Doc says that: "Since I served in 2d Battalion from 1974 - 1977, his (Sam's) current service with that great unit is especially meaningful to this old Ranger!"



## Update, & Heard From:

Dirty Eddie reports that he is doing well, and contacted me to get Richard Stutsman's new phone number (Richard does not have email). No word from Doc Schenks yet, but we are still trying to contact him.

Heard from: Ron Bourne, Joe Chetwynd, Stan Harrell, Tim Leadbeater, Richard Stutsman, John Henry Voyles, Doc Wentzel, Ed White.

## Email address(es)

Now that I published my new email address in the past issue, I heard from several others I hadn't talked to in a while, so am including it in this issue also. Your humble correspondent has had some difficulty with email in the past few months. I left the partnership I had been involved in since 1987, and that particular firm is in the process of winding itself down. For those of you that have sent emails to that address, I can no longer receive them, but please be aware THAT THERE WILL BE NO REJECTION MESSAGE ISSUED FROM THE ROINET.COM MAIL SERVER if you send email to me there. I will just not receive it.

For the time being, please address any email to me at the following address:

[mthomp@dejazzd.com](mailto:mthomp@dejazzd.com)

This is a personal email address, and I am guaranteed to receive the email there.

Doc Wentzel's new email addy is:

[ABNRANGER67@BELLSOUTH.NET](mailto:ABNRANGER67@BELLSOUTH.NET)

Dirty Eddie:

[DRTYEDDIE@MSN.COM](mailto:DRTYEDDIE@MSN.COM)

(caps sensitive)

Stan Harrell:

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

Tim Leadbeater:

[tleadbeater@ausley.com](mailto:tleadbeater@ausley.com)

RLTW

Marc Thompson

[mthomp@dejazzd.com](mailto:mthomp@dejazzd.com)



## C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Chuck Vaughn



### The Wall : by Delbert Ayers

For the last year I have been involved in a counseling therapy program for my P.T.S.D. related issues. The Phoenix Vet center/Readjustment Counseling Service selects 46 Vietnam vets who diligently follow their treatment program to better their life to participate in "Operation Freedom Bird". Operation Freedom Bird and Southwest Airlines fly the 46 vets to Washington D.C. every Veterans Day along with 4 counselors for a healing visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and the other Veterans Memorials.

At the first pre trip meeting to my surprise Billi Smith was there. Billi and I along with David Tanner went directly to Ft. Campbell for Basic, jump school and AIT, and were in the RECON platoon headquarters Co 502<sup>nd</sup> for six months.

We arrived in D.C. Thursday evening and went to visit the Wall. A first for each of us. I had the panel and line number for David Tanner so Billi and I went there first. After visiting with Dave we went to the Wall Book to look for names. As fortune would have it a close friend of Billi's is on the same panel as Donald Kinton.

On Friday the group returned to the Wall after attending the Marine Corps birthday parade and ceremony at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Billi and I agreed to meet at panel 46E after lunch. When I got to panel 46E I had forgotten which line Donald was on and a park volunteer lady had to help me locate Donald and Joe's names. I introduced Don and Joe in my mind, and told them of my good fortune to be reunited with Billi after so many years. As my thoughts wandered in conversation with Don about my life and Tom and Randy finding me and convincing me to get help and bringing me back into the E Co. Charlie Ranger group I stared past the Wall. I watched as the leaves fell from the trees in the gentle breeze and occasionally a dragonfly would dart past. As this period of deep reflection drew on I thought I should go find Billi but I didn't walk away. I just stood leaning against the chain post along the walkway, neither watching nor hearing the visitors as they walked between me and the Wall. For some reason my attention was suddenly brought back to the Wall as a young mother was getting paper from the park volunteer for an etching. She had three boys with her ranging in age from 11 down to about 5. The youngest lad reached up as high as he could on panel 46 E. As he began to diligently work the pencil over the paper the letters began to leap out – DONALD R. KINTON - came into full view. As the young boy took the paper from the Wall I stepped up

to the young woman and asked "Excuse me, are you a relative of Don Kinton?" to which she replied "Who?"

I explained that her son had etched Don's name and I was there visiting with Don. She had a pleasant but puzzled look on her face. I asked

if it would be alright to tell her son about Don. The young boy looked at me with puzzled eyes as an old man with tears streaming down his cheeks shared memories of Don. I asked if I could write down Don's unit in Vietnam and sign the tracing. As the woman and boys walked away the park lady stepped up and asked "Did I see what I thought I saw?" I stood for a few minutes in shock, tears streaming down my face, lips quivering, snot running and legs limp leaning against the Wall. I realized I had not asked for their names and had not used the camera in my pocket. As I went to look for them I found Billi but not them. After I told Billi I went through my phone book calling each of the Brothers to tell them about this wonderful experience at the Wall. That night I shared it with the other Freedom Bird vets with the tears flowing again.

I have shared this wonderful experience with all I know who knew Donald Kinton as a healing experience and as a sign that our Brothers who fell in Vietnam are not lost and if we look there are signs that they are with us still, some more amazing than others.

I will now share this experience with my friends and others in need.

### Daniel Pope : President Emeritus

This issue's profile is about a very special guy. I guess I am prejudice, because Dan and I were on the same team (Team 2-2, Echo Company) where Dan, Moose McClure, Trinh, Snavley and I became closer than brothers.

I remember first meeting Daniel right after he had came into the company from spending time in Special Forces. I recall him as a long drink of water, E-5 who didn't say much, and



C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

who had a weathered, no nonsense look about him. As was the policy at the time, anyone coming into Echo Co. for the first time, no matter of rank, had to run a few missions as an assistant before getting a team. I felt a little intimidated at first, because of Dan's experience with the Green Beanies, but he made it easy to like him, and we became fast friends.



Dan was a big guy to be walking the back woods. I remember wondering if he would have trouble keeping

quiet in the bush, but after the first mission I could see he was very light on his feet, and he could move like a ghost through the jungle. For the time Dan was in my team he walked point. He volunteered for the slot, and I think it was because he did not trust anyone else to do it.

Danny got his team after a short time and finished his tour as a Team Leader, a very good one.

While my experience with Dan has been very personal, I am sure that most of the Rangers involved with Echo/Charlie know Dan or at least know about him. If it were not for Dan, I'm not sure there would be an organization like we enjoy today. It was his and his wife Barb's persistence and hard work in forming E 20 LRP-C 75 Ranger Association, which got everyone back together, got our reunions going, and kept the spirit of our unit alive.

"Thanks to you Dan; you are a great guy, and every one of us owes you a dept of gratitude for your dedication and love for Charlie/Echo. You are an inspiration to all of us. Thanks."

I asked Daniel to give me a breakdown of his years of active service, and he graciously has offered the following:

## Tours of Service:

For those of you who don't know Daniel Pope, he was born on 1 February 1945 in Albany, Georgia. He entered the Army in January 1967 and attended Basic Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia. After Leadership School and AIT at Ft. Ord, California, he attended Jump School at Ft. Benning.

He then attended Special Forces training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina arriving in-country in Vietnam on 10 May 1968.

He was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group and was assigned to Det. A-502 as a Civilian Irregular Defense Group Advisor until 27 September 1968. He was transferred to Co. E (LRP) 20th Inf. (Abn) and was present when it was later redesignated as Co. C (RANGER) 75th Inf. in February 1969.



Dan served as a Senior Scout, Assistant Team Leader, and



Team Leader during his service in E/20th LRP and C/75th. He returned to the states after his tour was completed in Vietnam and

was assigned to Co. A (RANGER) 75th Inf. at Ft. Benning in May of 1969. He completed his active duty service on 27 January 1970 and moved into civilian life.

November 18, 1973, Dan married Barbara Ann Briggles and they were married 32 years before her death in 2006. He resides in Yatesville, Georgia. He has a daughter Wendy, who lives with her husband, Jeff Stanley, on the same tract of land in Upson County Georgia. Dan's big hobby is sailing.

Dan is also the founder of the Co E (LRP) & Co C (Rngr) Assoc., Inc. for which he is now the President Emeritus, Historian/Archivist and former Webmaster for their website. Dan was instrumental in establishing an Internet presence for the 75th Ranger Regiment Assoc as well as being an integral part of establishing the electronic communications that exists between the 75th Ranger Regiment and the Vietnam LRP/Ranger veterans and their associations today.

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

Well guys, the time has come to write my last unit report. I would like to thank each and every one of you for bestowing the honor on me, of being your Unit Director for the last two years. However, I did not do this alone. It was a team effort. Just like in the old days, we pulled together as a team and accomplished the mission. I thank all who contributed articles and photos for our portion of the quarterly issue of Patrolling Magazine. The articles were interesting and the photos brought back so many memories. I especially want to acknowledge and thank my "Brother" and associate member, Carl Norris (Warlord 16) for the assistance he gave me in putting it all together. Without his help, it would have been very difficult for me to submit the articles in a timely manner complete with photos and in a proper format. Thank you, Carl... Kudos.



Now on another serious note, nominations are coming up for Unit Director for our unit, D Co, 75th Infantry (LRRP). I would like to remind everyone that whoever you nominate and elect for that position, it is imperative that they be computer savvy and have an Internet account. Without that, adequate communications and transmittal of data for publication on Patrolling Magazine will not be accomplished. Period!

I've enjoyed doing this for the past two years, but I said just for two years. In a couple of months, the two years have come and gone, now its someone else's turn. I am asking you all to put some thought into it and nominate/elect someone that will get the mission done. As for myself, I think and believe that Richard "Herd" Nelson will do a terrific job. I therefore, would like to recommend him for nomination, however please nominate and vote for whoever you think will do the best job.

As General Douglas MacArthur said "Old Soldiers don't die, they just fade away". I hope to see each and every one of you all in a few weeks at REUNION 07... I was recently reading an article concerning Reunions I would like to share with you.

#### THE EXPERIENCE OF WAR

Author Unknown

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures, not to laugh or weep.

Comrades gather because they long to be with men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed together.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military, but I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thoughts will be of my family and my fellow Rangers...such good men

Take care of yourself and your loved ones. All the best, and again, thanks for helping me make this a successful two years as your Unit Director.

RLTW!!! BEAR OUT....

Remember Dick Bad Milk...below is a photo of Dick and Chief John Spotted Tail and several members of the Lakota Sioux Indian Tribe honoring Veterans this past Veterans day. Also, some information below concerning Lakota Warriors.



**Akicita** (ah KEE chee tah) , (Lakota for "Warrior"), The Akicita was a society among The Lakota Sioux Tribe, located in South Central, South Dakota. They were a Warrior Society who kept order in the camp or when they were on the move, whether it was to the Summer or Winter camp, or just looking for Buffalo.

D/75 (CONTINUED)

It was a great honor to be accepted into the Akicita Society. To be accepted into this society, a warrior had to accomplish certain feats such as being on a War Party (Mission) and killed an enemy. Only the bravest men were selected for position of leadership within the society. They were expert horsemen and excellent with the use of all present weapons of war used on the battlefield. This included lances, bows, whips and other official paraphernalia used in war. They were expected to exhibit valor to the point of death. Officers of some societies were invested with sashes, which when worn in

battle were staked to the ground.

Today, their traditions of being a Warrior continues as seen in the war the United States is involved in now. The Sioux have a very high enlistment in the Armed Forces. In the old days and still continuing today, the Sioux service men and women are given an “honoring “celebration when they return from war. It is a great honor for the Sioux to fight for the Freedom of the United States of America.



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

Unit Director -Rick Stetson



E Company reunions are always special occasions for the former members of the 9th Infantry Division Long Range



Patrol, and this year's gathering in Orlando was no exception. It takes

great teamwork to pull off a successful reunion and we were fortunate to once again have Ken Mellick and Shirley Parrish take the point and help arrange for the excellent food, accommodations and hospitality.

It is always dangerous to start naming names as I am bound to leave folks out, but among those providing support to Ken and



Shirley were Ken's family, Yvonne Smith, Shirley's daughters, Karen Mathis and Cyndi Pletcher (our faithful raffle ticket sellers), Szabo for providing a continuous supply of spirits, Tess for his always-excellent artwork and t-shirt designs, Rip for his

non-stop photography and to everyone who donated items to the silent auction.

A special “thank you” to all who traveled to Orlando to attend the reunion. Our thoughts and prayers were with several who had planned to attend but were sidelined by unexpected medical



circumstances. To the Greys (Foreman and Nizialek), we hope by the time you read this, you are out of the hospital and well

on down the road to full recovery. Jonesy has put a write-up of the reunion on the website listing all the attendees, including those who made their first E



Company reunion, so I won't repeat all the names here, but be sure to check the website which also has some excellent photos taken in Orlando. Jonesy has even added a link with information about our next reunion to be held in Colorado Springs in 2008 (more about that later.)

The memorial service is one of the more important aspects of any E Company



reunion and this year's service may never be duplicated thanks to a color guard made up by members of the Sons of the American Revolution who just happened to be holding a convention at our hotel.

Dressed in authentic-looking uniforms, they could have

represented the style worn by our original Rangers. Houston Ledbetter did an outstanding job of conducting his first memorial service and he had an able back-up in Tyrone Muse, a veteran memorial service



E/75 - E/50 LRP (CONTINUED)

organizer. Roy Barley read the history of E Company and Joe Eachus performed like a first sergeant in lining up all the participants in the proper sequence. After the last candle was lit, a moment of silence was observed and then the service was concluded with the playing of Taps by Ed Chafin.



A business session was next on the agenda during which this writer was elected to succeed Bob Copeland as unit director. Prior to the reunion, Bob was informed that we wanted to create a position of "Permanent Unit Director" and that he was our choice to serve in that capacity. We would have it like the Supreme Court where he would be our unit director for life. Copeland, a Canadian, replied with, "No way, eh" and politely but firmly



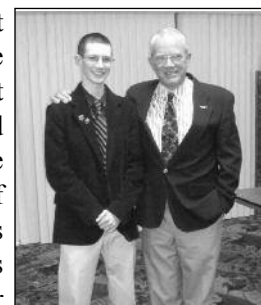
turned down our desire to see him continue as unit director for a 5th consecutive term, saying he felt it was time for new leadership. Bob Copeland has done a magnificent job of "leading the way" for the past 8 years and we are delighted he will remain active in a leadership role by continuing to submit deserving candidates for membership in the Ranger Hall of Fame. We all owe Bob our sincere thanks for a job well done and his leadership was recognized during both the business session and at our banquet.



We were privileged to have as our guest speaker at the banquet, Colonel (Ret) Bob Carroll who had served in Vietnam as a commander of the 173d Airborne Brigade Long Range Patrol. Clancy Matsuda arranged for our speaker as he and Carroll go way back to their days together as West Point cadets. Clancy did a masterful job of introducing our speaker and the respect the two former long range patrol commanders held for each other was obvious.



Bob Carroll's remarks were right on target. After serving in Nam, he taught in the Leadership Department at West Point so he was well-qualified to speak on the topic of leadership. He pointed out the importance of leadership competencies such as bravery, teamwork and trust-values that all long range patrol member could identify with.



Roy Barley served as master of ceremonies for the banquet and a number of individuals were recognized for their contributions to the reunion's success. Roy Nelson, who is held in the highest regard by all who served with him when he was the E Company first sergeant, received a special award, as did Erik Spink, a high school senior from the Bronx, New York who spent the entire reunion filming interviews with Rangers for a documentary he is making on Vietnam. Special thanks to those who took time to share some of their patrol experiences with Erik and contribute to an oral history of our unit.



E Company has always demonstrated that we have veterans who won't forget the sacrifices being made by today's



Rangers as they fight in far-off corners of the world. One example is the generous support the unit gives to the annual Ranger Christmas Children's Fund. Another example took place during the reunion when Bob

Copeland, Roy Barley, Marshall Larson and Greg and Carla Jo Whitson traveled to a VA hospital in Tampa to visit three Rangers and a crewman from the Night Stalkers who were injured when their helicopter crashed in Afghanistan. The four young sergeants and their families were pleased when some of our "old timers" dropped by to offer their encouragement. Even though seriously injured, (several will have rods placed in their backs to stabilize spines while



E/75 - E/50 LRP (CONTINUED)



another is in and out of a coma), the soldiers all exhibited positive outlooks and were anxious to return to their units. It

is hard to keep a Ranger down and it is encouraging to see that we have such courageous individuals serving our country.

Looking ahead, all Rangers past and present are invited to attend the 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion this summer in Columbus, Georgia from August 6-12. The reunion headquarters will be in the Holiday Inn, I-185 N at



Manchester Expressway. All the rooms at that motel are booked but as of this writing, there were still some rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1500 Bradley Lakes Blvd, where Bob Copeland and others from E Company will stay. More information concerning the reunion should be found in this issue of Patrolling as well as on the 75th website, <http://www.75thrra.com/>.

Finally, all E Company Rangers need to mark calendars for May 14-18, 2008. Those are the dates for our next reunion to be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Doug “Mac” MacCallum is taking the lead on the planning for this reunion and is in the process of booking a motel and making other arrangements. Mac will take a recon mission to the area this fall and report back with complete details. He is already familiar with the area and says there are some great attractions such as Pike’s Peak, Fort Carson, Seven Falls, and the Air Force Academy along with an abundance of beautiful scenery. The unit website will be updated as information about our next reunion is finalized so be sure to check in from time to time: <http://www.9thdivisionlrrp.com/>.



I look forward to seeing you at our future reunions. Until then always remember that:

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!



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

Unit Director - Joe Little



Hi to all the men of who worked the Tropic Lightning A.O. Working the high and low ground always searching for the hidden enemy; sometimes waiting so patiently and so painfully for the right moment to release pent up energy and anger for friends lost. As I returned home from Denver doing some training; working with our younger brothers; I had forgotten I missed the deadline for our quarterly article. I was also lost in thought about Memorial Day and how precious life is to those that come into my office and they hear those words “Welcome Home” I thought we were the ones that were lost for a reply when we heard them. It has become evident these new Warriors deserve our “Welcome Home” it means a lot to them and it means a lot to us.

This month I pulled from various areas to put something together for this article. I know Memorial Day will come and have pasted before this hits your mail box, but some writings from others concerning their thoughts in poetic fashion I thought would be good. I had a piece from Tom Finney, Joe Galloway from a re-print and another sent to me from Emmett written by Robert Clark.

See all you All at the re-union

Joe Little



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

Thomas Finnie  
Co."F" 75th (Abn) Rangers  
Attached to the 25th ID Cu Che, Vietnam

THE DREAMS

They woke me again last night. They come more frequently after a reunion and stay too long. Some of us have kept in touch and if we talk today, they'll come tonight. The dreams. They may stop for awhile but never for long. I need to forget, I never will. The smells are so distinct, even after all these years. The rain could never wash away the smell, the smell of rotting vegetation, mud, each other and death. And nothing can wash away the dreams, so lucid. But that's OK, I live with them, they are mine, my memories. Sometimes they scare me, so intense, I wake sweating, drained and I think, I think too much. The images are so vivid, the jungle, rays of light, shadows, departing life and blackness. I see it all so clearly. It's dead quiet yet the night is alive with a million sounds. There are five of us: we lie together on the cold wet jungle floor. I can't see them but I hear their breathing and it's comforting, reassuring. I lie there staring up at nothing; I lie there staring up at the ceiling. I think too much. Then the noise, the sounds are the worst. I'm sure that's where the real fear lies. Even in my dreams the sounds return so loud, so graphic and clear. But I'm better off than others who have experienced much worse, because I've never been afraid to fall asleep, for I don't have nightmares, only the dreams.

**By Robert Clark**  
**\*The High Ground\***  
P.O. Box 457  
Neillsville, WI 54456

A couple of years ago someone asked me if I still thought about Vietnam. I nearly laughed in their face. How do you stop thinking about it? Every day for the last twenty-four years, I wake up with it, and go to bed with it. But this is what I said. "Yea, I think about it. I can't quit thinking about it. I never will. But, I've also learned to live with it. I'm comfortable with the memories. I've learned to stop trying to forget and learned instead to embrace it. It just doesn't scare me anymore."

A psychologist once told me that NOT being affected by the experience over there would be abnormal. When he told me that, it was like he'd just given me a pardon. It was as if he said, "Go ahead and feel something about the place, Bob. It ain't going nowhere. You're gonna wear it for the rest of your life. Might as well get to know it."

A lot of my "brothers" haven't been so lucky. For them the

memories are too painful, their sense of loss too great. My sister told me of a friend she has whose husband was in the Nam. She asks this guy when he was there. Here's what he said, "Just last night." It took my sister a while to figure out what he was talking about. JUST LAST NIGHT. Yeah I was in the Nam. When? JUST LAST NIGHT. During sex with my wife. And on my way to work this morning. Over my lunch hour. Yeah, I was there.

My sister says I'm not the same brother that went to Vietnam. My wife says I won't let people get close to me, not even her. They are probably both right.

Ask a vet about making friends in Nam. It was risky. Why? Because we were in the business of death, and death was with us all the time. It wasn't the death of, "If I die before I wake." This was the real thing. The kind where boys scream for their mothers. The kind that lingers in your mind and becomes more real each time you cheat it. You don't want to make a lot of friends when the possibility of dying is that real, that close. When you do, friends become a liability.

A guy named Bob Flanigan was my friend. Bob Flanigan is dead. I put him in a body bag one sunny day, April 29, 1969. We'd been talking, only a few minutes before he was shot, about what we were going to do when we got back in the world. Now, this was a guy who had come in country the same time as myself. A guy who was loveable and generous. He had blue eyes and sandy blond hair.

When he talked, it was with a soft drawl. Flanigan was a hick and he knew it. That was part of his charm. He didn't care. Man, I loved this guy like the brother I never had. But, I screwed up. I got too close to him. Maybe I didn't know any better. But I broke one of the unwritten rules of war.

DON'T GET CLOSE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO DIE. Sometimes you can't help it.

You hear vets use the term "buddy" when they refer to a guy they spent the war with. "Me and this buddy of mine."

"Friend" sounds too intimate, doesn't it? "Friend" calls up images of being close. If he's a friend, then you are going to be hurt if he dies, and war hurts enough without adding to the pain. Get close; get hurt. It's as simple as that.

In war you learn to keep people at that distance my wife talks about. You become so good at it, that twenty years after the war, you still do it without thinking. You won't allow yourself to be vulnerable again.

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

My wife knows two people who can get into the soft spots inside me. My daughters. I know it probably bothers her that they can do this. It's not that I don't love my wife, I do. She's put up with a lot from me. She'll tell you that when she signed on for better or worse she had no idea there was going to be so much of the latter. But with my daughters it's different.

My girls are mine. They'll always be my kids. Not marriage, not distance, not even death can change that. They are something on this earth that can never be taken away from me. I belong to them. Nothing can change that.

I can have an ex-wife; but my girls can never have an ex-father. There's the difference.

I can still see the faces, though they all seem to have the same eyes. When I think of us I always see a line of "dirty grunts" sitting on a paddy dike. We're caught in the first gray silver between darkness and light. That first moment when we know we've survived another night, and the business of staying alive for one more day is about to begin. There was so much hope in that brief space of time. It's what we used to pray for. "One more day, God. One more day."

And I can hear our conversations as if they'd only just been spoken. I still hear the way we sounded, the hard cynical jokes, our morbid senses of humor. We were scared to death of dying, and trying our best not to show it.

I recall the smells, too. Like the way cordite hangs on the air after a fire-fight. Or the pungent odor of rice paddy mud. So different from the black dirt of Iowa. The mud of Nam smells ancient, somehow. Like it's always been there. And I'll never forget the way blood smells, stick and drying on my hands. I spent a long night that way once. That memory isn't going anywhere.

I remember how the night jungle appears almost dream like as the pilot of a Cessna buzzes overhead, dropping parachute flares until morning. That artificial sun would flicker and make shadows run through the jungle. It was worse than not being able to see what was out there sometimes. I remember once looking at the man next to me as a flare floated overhead. The shadows around his eyes were so deep that it looked like his eyes were gone. I reached over and touched him on the arm; without looking at me he touched my hand. "I know man. I know." That's what he said. It was a human moment. Two guys a long way from home and scared sh\*tless.

"I know man." And at that moment he did.

God I loved those guys. I hurt every time one of them died. We all did. Despite our posturing. Despite our desire to stay disconnected, we couldn't help ourselves. I know why Tim O'Brien writes his stories. I know what gives Bruce Weigle the words to create poems so honest I cry at their horrible beauty. It's love. Love for those guys we shared the experience with.

We did our jobs like good soldiers, and we tried our best not to become as hard as our surroundings. We touched each other and said, "I know." Like a mother holding a child in the middle of a nightmare, "It's going to be all right." We tried not to lose touch with our humanity. We tried to walk that line. To be the good boys our parents had raised and not to give into that unnamed thing we knew was inside us all.

You want to know what frightening is? It's a nineteen-year-old-boy who's had a sip of that power over life and death that war gives you. It's a boy who, despite all the things he's been taught, knows that he likes it. It's a nineteen-year-old who's just lost a friend, and is angry and scared and, determined that, "Some \*@#\*s gonna pay." To this day, the thought of that boy can wake me from a sound sleep and leave me staring at the ceiling.

As I write this, I have a picture in front of me. It's of two young men. On their laps are tablets. One is smoking a cigarette. Both stare without expression at the camera. They're writing letters. Staying in touch with places they would rather be. Places and people they hope to see again.

The picture shares space in a frame with one of my wife. She doesn't mind. She knows she's been included in special company. She knows I'll always love those guys who shared that part of my life, a part she never can. And she understands how I feel about the ones I know are out there yet. The ones who still answer the question, "When were you in Vietnam?"

"Hey, man. I was there just last night."

We all know Memorial Day is more than barbeque and pool openings. It is a time to remember. In 2001 I wrote a column for the Atlanta Journal Constitution for Memorial Day, here it is below. I can't take much credit; the insights came from Joe Galloway. But maybe it's worth another read as Memorial Day approaches.

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

Terry L. Garlock  
SUCH GOOD MEN

I recall TV reports of fellow soldiers arriving at an airport, survivors of the Vietnam gauntlet, relieved at their 1st step on home ground. Their grins morphed to astonishment as protesters threw packets of animal blood at them, shouting "Baby-Killers!" Welcome home.

Joseph Galloway, senior writer for US News & World Report, would differ with the protestors. Unlike more sensible journalists reporting on the war from relative comfort and safety, Joe preferred working close up, hot, tired, hungry, scared, dirty and bloodied along with the men he wrote about.

Joe conned his way into hot spots like the 1965 battle of the Ia Drang Valley, aka The Valley of Death, where 450 of our men were surrounded by 2,000 well-armed NVA enemy. Over 4 days 234 young Americans died as each side chopped the other to pieces. In that battle Joe set camera aside to charge with a Medic through enemy fire in a desperate attempt to help an injured soldier. The Medic was killed, the soldier later died, and Joe Galloway was awarded the Bronze Star with V (valor), the 1st civilian ever to be decorated for valor in combat by the US Army.

Consider some of his remarks at the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association banquet in Washington DC, July 2000.

"What I want to say now is just between us, because America still doesn't get it, still doesn't know the truth, and the truth is - you are the cream of the crop of our generation, the best and finest of an entire generation of Americans."

"You are the ones who answered when you were called to serve. You are the ones who fought bravely and endured a terrible war in a terrible place. You are the ones for whom the words duty, honor, country have real meaning because you have lived those words and the meaning behind those words. You are my brothers in arms, and I am not ashamed to say that I love you. I would not trade one of you for a whole trainload of instant Canadians, or a whole boatload of Rhodes Scholars bound for England, or a whole campus full of guys who turned up for their draft physicals wearing panty hose."

"On behalf of a country that too easily forgets the true cost of war, and who pays that price, I say thank you for your

service. On behalf of the people of our country who didn't have good sense enough to separate the war they hated from the young warriors they sent to fight that war, I say we are sorry. We owe you all a very large apology, and a debt of gratitude that we can never adequately repay."

Joe talked about his friend Mike Norman, a Marine who searched out the survivors of his platoon and wrote a fine book, These Good Men. Mike explained why we veterans sometimes gather.

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity."

"I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life."

"They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another."

"I am sure that when I leave this world my last thought will be of my family and my comrades, such good men."

In closing Joe said "I salute you. I remember you. I will teach my sons the stories and legends about you . . ."

The media forgets that Washington botched the war, but continually portrays veterans as fragile, crazed or trigger-happy. Its about time America learned what Joe Galloway knows, that we are normal, patriotic citizens, proud of having served with honor and courage.

Here's to the memory of every one of our brothers who paid the ultimate price - for his country, for those who sent him to that miserable war while they enjoyed the comforts of home, for those who dodged, even for those who insulted our service.

We remember each one, such good men.

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

Unit Director - Jerry Schuster



**SPECIALIST 4<sup>TH</sup> CLASS JOEL W. FORRESTER**  
**COMPANY G"RANGER" 75<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY**  
**AMERICAL DIVISION**  
**REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

Joel served in three units while assigned in Vietnam from 13 Oct 68 to 18 May 69. the first unit was Company A, 26<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Americal Division (23<sup>rd</sup> INF DIV), where he performed the duties of a combat engineer and driver for the company commander. He remained in this unit for approximately two months.

He volunteered to serve with Company E, Long Reconnaissance Patrol, 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry and was assigned on 17 Nov 68. An elite airborne infantry unit performing special missions, frequently at the limits of the Americal Division's area of operation. The unit was referred to as "The Eyes and Ears of the Americal". The unit mission was to provide the Americal Division with intelligence information that would inform the Division about what was moving into their area of operation. The LRRP company ran operational teams of four, five or six men many times outside the area supported by artillery. The teams missions varied between reconnaissance, ambush, search and destroy, rescue, and electronic sensor emplacement and recovery. Frequently a team would perform as a radio relay team with the mission of assisting an operational team (s) to maintain communication with our headquarters.

In January of 1969 Company E, 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry was redesignated as Company G, "Ranger", 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The Ranger designation remained until the unit was deactivated in 1972.

As a minimum, every team member received two weeks of rugged, demanding training to prepare him for this special assignment. This training was conducted by the LRRP's (cadre, men assigned to Co E) and was called, "The Americal Division Recondo School". Some Americal Recondo School graduates were selected for additional training at the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Recondo School at Nha Trang, RVN. The MACV Recondo School was conducted by the Special Forces. RECONDO is a composite of three words coined by General Westmoreland: reconnaissance; commando; and doughboy. This school lasted three weeks. The first week was physically demanding and mostly classroom work on radio communication, first aid, map reading, rappelling, etc. The second week was held on an

island off the coast near Nha Trang, where extensive training on enemy weapons and patrolling techniques were taught. The third and final week of MACV RECONDO School was spent as an operational team with a staff advisor from the school. The operational missions normally lasted three days. Some teams made contact with enemy troops.

Graduates were issued a RECONDO number and a distinctive black and white patch which could only be worn in Vietnam. Joel completed the MACV RECONDO School on 19 Apr 69. He was issued RECONDO number 2054 and was designated as honor graduate of his class.

When Joel returned from MACV Recondo School, he was assigned to Team Oklahoma, a newly established team. SSG Paul Reynolds was the team leader, SGT David Smith was the Assistant Team Leader. SP4 Franklin (Frank) Cole performed as pointman, and PFC Robert (Bob) Larson, and Joel completed the team. The sixth member was always different and the position was filled by whoever was available. The first three missions were for reconnaissance and relatively uneventful. The only enemy sightings were long distance with binoculars. Artillery was

called in on the enemy sightings.

The fourth mission for Team Oklahoma was a reconnaissance mission near the village of Phu Tho, approximately 15 miles south of Tam Ky City, in Quang Tin Province. SSG Roger Peet, newly assigned and designated replacement for the Team Leader Paul Reynolds, was the sixth team member. Roger had completed the Americal Division Combat Center Training (training given to all newly arrived soldiers in Vietnam) on 17 May 69. He reported to the company, put on his camouflaged fatigues, picked up his weapon and rucksack (already packed and waiting for him). The insertion on 17 May 69 didn't go as planned, the helicopter pilots decided they couldn't get into the primary landing zone (LZ). An alternate LZ was selected where the vegetation was burned and many of the trees were blown down by bombs dropped at another time. The team exited and moved into the woodline. An uneventful insertion.

The team moved NW slowly for an hour and took a break. Joel was on guard near the clearing. He spotted VC with an AK 47, west of our position. We were not observed. The enemy soldier moved back in the direction where he came. Team Oklahoma reported the sighting, then moved west across 100 meters of open area and back into the woodline. Moving cautiously, the team came upon three freshly dug graves.



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

Twenty meters west of the graves was a major trail that came from the west and turned north near the graves. Team Oklahoma moved to a group of large rocks beside the trail. The rocks and trees provided good cover and protection. The trail was five meters from the team position. Claymore mines were placed for protection and for use in an ambush. Team Oklahoma remained in this position for the duration of the mission. For 46 hours the team observed numerous groups use the trail. Sometimes enemy soldiers in groups of eight to ten with weapons and heavy packs moved along the trail. Women and children also used the trail. A village was nearby. All sightings were reported to the radio relay team. We considered contact with the enemy as eminent, just a matter of time.

On the morning of 19 May 69, the plan was to spring an ambush on the first group of enemy soldiers that used the trail, grab their weapons and rucksacks and then get extracted. The helicopters were on standby waiting for our call. A group of women and children moved through the ambush sight, we let them go. An enemy soldier moved south into the burned area we were going to use for the extraction pickup zone (PZ). He looked in our direction and saw something, he wasn't sure what he saw. We called for the helicopters to extract us.

The enemy soldier called back to his companions. One enemy soldier moved south onto the PZ and took up a position among the broken trees. Two more cautiously moved in from the NW. The first enemy soldier started moving toward our position. Joel hand signaled that the two soldiers were moving in from the NW. I signaled Joel that the first soldier was moving toward his position and signaled for him to engage. Joel shot the first enemy soldier, then got up and ran back to our position. He was less than ten meters from the center of our position. The enemy soldier south of us, fired at Joel, hitting him several times. Frank Cole moved to where Joel lay on the ground. Frank was unable to help him. Joel had died instantly.

When the shooting started, two enemy soldiers NW of our position moved to a position just on the other side of the boulders from us. They still didn't know our exact position. Frank Cole informed me of the two enemy soldiers position. I instructed Frank to fire the claymore mines in the ambush. Frank squeezed the trigger and the two soldiers died instantly. They had crouched down directly beside one of our concealed claymore mines.

The extraction helicopters were inbound. The pilots were told to standby so we could clear the PZ. Instructions were given for SGT Smith and SP4 Cole to throw grenades onto the PZ and then move out after the explosion. SSG Peet and PFC Larson were instructed to carry Joel to the helicopter. The Team Leader, SSG Paul Reynolds, would bring Joel's equipment and cover the rear.

The order was given to throw the grenades. SGT Smith's grenade hit a tree limb and fell straight down. Everyone

ducked, the grenade exploded harmlessly. SP4 Cole and SGT Smith moved into the PZ firing their weapons as the helicopters came in. The helicopter was unable to land and had to hover five feet above ground. SP4 Cole and SGT Smith climbed on board. They had to help SSG Peet and PFC Larson lift Joel into the helicopter. Once Joel was on board, SGT Smith and SP4 Cole picked up their weapons and began firing their weapons out the left door.

On the other side of the helicopter, SSG Reynolds was firing his weapon into the wooded area. The M-16 jammed, he used Joel's M-16 and continued firing on the wooded area. Joel's weapon jammed. He pulled out his 45, someone hollered, get in. SSG Reynolds handed the jammed M-16's to SSG Peet and PFC Larson and then climbed into the helicopter. During the extraction the door gunners were firing their M-60 machineguns, one on the open area, one into the wooded area. The enemy soldier on the PZ died in his position. Either the grenade, the door gunner, SGT Smith or SP4 Cole took him out. Cobra Gunships fired onto areas adjacent to the PZ. During the extraction, several small arms rounds hit the helicopter. Two in the frame above the left door several shattered the plexiglass above the pilots head in the left seat, and three more hit the rotar blades. The enemy soldier on the PZ probably hit the helicopter with small arms fire before he died.

When all were on board, the pilots pulled pitch and hastily left the PZ. All of the instrument lights turned red. Slowly, one by one the red lights disappeared as the helicopter regained normal flight. The control tower at Chu Lai gave approval for a direct approach landing. Medics were waiting along with several vehicles with fellow Rangers.

Memorial services were held on 21 May 69 in the Americal Division Combat Center Memorial Chapel. Joel's M-16 with bayonet was placed symbolically with barrel down, bayonet in the ground, butt up. His black Ranger beret was placed on the butt of his weapon. A highly shined pair of boots was placed beside his weapon. All available Rangers attended the services. This is one of the saddest moments for a Ranger. Our teams were very close, our team members did practically everything together. We were as close as brothers. Joel will always be remembered by the five remaining members of Team Oklahoma on 19 May 69. We think of him often. Our fallen brother will never be forgotten!

Joel was awarded the following awards posthumously:

Combat Infantryman's Badge is awarded to infantryman satisfactorily performing infantryman duties, must be assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat, and must actively participate in such ground combat.

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Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.

Purple Heart Medal is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority, has been wounded or killed.

Good Conduct Medal is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity in active Federal military service.

National Defense Service Medal is awarded for honorable active service for the period 1 Jan 1961 – 14 Aug 1974.

Vietnam Campaign Medal with three campaign stars is awarded for serving in Vietnam during a specific period. One star represents each of the following campaigns: Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase V, 1 Jul 1968 – 1 Nov 1968, Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase VI, 23 Nov 1968 – 2 Feb 1969, and Tet 69 Counteroffensive, 23 Feb 1969 – 8 Jun 69.

Vietnam Service Medal with 60 Device is awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in Vietnam after 3 Jul 1965 through 28 Mar 1973.

Expert Marksman Badge. Personnel must meet all prerequisites and proficiency tests prescribed by the U.S. Army Infantry School.

Meritorious Unit Commendation with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Company E, 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry and Company G “Ranger” 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry was awarded Meritorious

Unit Commendations during the time periods Joel was assigned. Co. E, 51<sup>st</sup> INF received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 18 Jun 68 – 30 Jan 69. Co. G, “Ranger”, 75<sup>th</sup> INF received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 1 Feb 69 – 31 Aug 69.

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm is awarded by the Republic of Vietnam.

Recondo Patch with Joel’s graduation number (2054). Issued by the MACV Recondo School at Nha Trang, RVN. A very elite three week school of which approximately 2600 students graduated. Joel was the Honor Graduate from his class. This patch was probably Joel’s most prized possession and his most cherished accomplishment as a soldier.

Combat Service Bar worn on left sleeve of dress green uniform. Each bar represents six months of service in a combat zone.

Specialist Fourth Class insignia of rank.

Co. G “Ranger” 75<sup>th</sup> INF scroll with the original Merrill’s Marauders patch. The unit was never authorized the Merrill’s Marauders patch. Most of the time the scroll was worn or the Americal Division patch was worn. During some periods the scroll and the Americal Division patch were worn together.



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

Unit Director - William Anton



The President’s Corner

Well it’s that time of year again. Spring is just around the corner, and it’s time to start making your plans to attend this year’s reunion! Reunions are a time to gather, a time to renew old friendships, and a time to make new bonds that will last forever. The 2007 Reunion is being held in Riverside, California from July 11-15 at the Riverside Marriott. The Riverside Marriott is located at 3400 Market Street. For reservations please call the hotel directly at (951) 786-7110, or call Marriott Reservations at (888) 236-2427. If the Riverside Marriott is full, the Cav has booked a block of rooms at the Mission Inn which is just a short walk to the Marriott. They also have a block of rooms at the Comfort Inn. If you need assistance with your accommodations, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you intend to fly to the reunion, use the Ontario Airport. The Marriott has a shuttle service that will pick you up. With the reunion being in California we should have a lot of Rangers who will be making their first reunion. Let’s see if we can make this year’s reunion as big as or better than last years! A list of names has been posted on the website of Ranger’s who have already registered for this year’s reunion. Be sure to check out the web site!

I received a letter from Al and Karen Voelkel. They have just retired and are moving to Blairsville, GA. Also, Dale Markovich said to tell everyone ‘Hi’. He hopes to make it to a reunion when he retires.



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

I would like to thank everyone who helped Katie Meisel with her school project on a story about Dwight “Bull” Durham. Nice going guys. We hope to hear back from Katie to see how she did, and perhaps to receive a copy of her story.

For people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Agent Orange claims, if you require more information to support these types of claims I suggest that you contact the address below.

U.S. Armed Services Center for Unit Record Research (USASCURR)

Kingman Building 2C08  
7701 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, VA 22315-3828

It is their mission to research unit records to verify specific combat stressing experiences is support of (PTSD) and Agent Orange they will be glad to send you the info.

Hope to see everyone at the reunion till then have a safe New Year

Submitted by: Dave Flores, Unit Director  
1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LRRP/LRP/Ranger Units

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Company H (Ranger) is very proud that Katie wrote about one of our fallen comrades as a school project. “Bull” Durham was truly a “Legend in his own time” and will never be forgotten.

## Everyday Hero

By Katie Meisel

Dwight Montgomery Durham is a name that Monty Durham probably only heard when his mother was mad at him, which for a studious but fun-loving kid like Monty, was probably only occasionally. His friends called him Monty when inviting him to ride bikes on the infamous Channel 8 hill, and the name used when asking to play in the coolest treehouse on the block. The meticulously crafted, insulated, and electrically lit treehouse stands out in the memories of all who knew Monty as a youngster.

Born to a seamstress and to a father who enjoyed building amazing treehouses in his spare time, Monty and his two older siblings, Joe Jr. and Patty, grew up on the west side of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Raised Protestant, young Monty grew up with his beloved dog, a Samoyed named Lady, an Archie collection to be reckoned with, and a Sunday morning paper route. The paper route was not only a source of income for the dozen or so boys employed, but also a time for social gathering before the route began – social time which always resulted in rubber band fights. They always got the job done, though, a habit that proved to be very useful later in life.

Schools on the west side of Tulsa are not known for their stellar reputation –then or now; therefore, Monty’s parents sent him to a different school on the other side of town. Intelligence seemed to run in Monty’s family – his older brother Joe received a full scholarship to M.I.T., and Monty himself was no slump. He did not let that go to his head though. Monty, in between making stellar grades, still made many good friends, including one Jerry Sinard, a fellow paper boy who covered Monty’s route first when he came down with mononucleosis for six weeks, and when he crashed the brand-new bicycle the day he got it riding down the Channel 8 hill and was out of commission for a month. At the time though, a month’s recovery probably seemed worth it.

Monty grew into a caring young man. When his friend Jerry, who had helped him all the times he had needed it, was in a car accident, Monty went to visit although they had rarely seen or talked to each other since Jerry had moved away. After insisting that he wanted to see Jerry’s scars, Monty passed out and had to go to the emergency room for the head trauma he sustained during the incident. Not long after that, though, Monty’s stomach toughened up as he entered basic training before being sent to Vietnam at 18 years old. “I would say he went from Beaver Cleaver to Rambo in 18 months,” Jerry Sinard said of Monty’s transformation during his time in the army.

Monty served a regular eight months in the army, but soon got a chance to be something a little more notable. By the age of 19, Monty was deep in the Vietnamese jungle, serving as a Sergeant in Company H. During Monty’s time in the Army,

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

he came to be known as “Bull” Durham by his peers. In the few short months he spent with the Rangers, he made such an impact on the men with whom he served – even the song he wrote lives on. The lyrics are straightforward poetry such as “With sixteens on their shoulders and Claymores in their packs six men went out that day, but only one came back,” the sad ballad succinctly encompasses the Vietnam experience. The song has a special meaning to all of the Rangers and is sung at every reunion to this day.

Joining Company H Rangers was not just a matter of showing up and falling in – one had to be tested and approved by his peers before being allowed to officially wear the black beret of the Rangers. Regular Ranger missions included locating enemy bases and lines of communication. Sometimes they were given special missions, which consisted of wiretapping, prisoner snatching, raid missions and Bomb Damage Assessment missions after B-52 Arc-Light attacks. Rangers were known for conducting long-range intelligence collection missions. While at first the US Army only accepted graduates of Army Ranger School and Special Forces trained men, most of the troops in the Rangers were soldiers who did not have a chance to attend the schools. Monty Durham was one such feisty volunteer who was willing not only to fight for his country, but to work to carry the fight to the enemy. Company H (Ranger) 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry was initially activated about halfway through the war, on February 1, 1969, and remained in action until August 15, 1972.

On Thursday, April 10, 1969, during an operation in the province of Tay Ninh in South Vietnam, Dwight Montgomery “Bull” Durham was killed by way of hostile multiple fragmentation wounds while engaged in combat. He earned two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, a Silver Star and the love and respect of his peers. His remains were recovered and he is buried in Fort Gibson National Cemetery in Muskogee County, Oklahoma.

Just shy of one month away from discharge, Monty Durham had his life taken in an instant. He is remembered by friends for his kindness, playfulness, and bravery. Jerry Sinard says that Monty remains one of his personal heroes, and his picture resides next to his computer where Jerry can see it every day. “Monty was a great guy and would have made a difference in what he chose to do... The world would have been a better place had he lived.”



Until some books written by Vietnam veterans who served as either LRRPs or Rangers (or both) started appearing in the early 1990s, little was known about our units: why they were formed, how they operated, and how incredibly effective they were. Though all of us were volunteers, and anyone else in our divisions or brigades could have taken a shot at being a LRRP or Ranger, most other soldiers wanted no part of being on a small, 4-6 man combat team, operating in hostile territory and far from any direct support (other than the great artillery support, if we were “in the fan”, and helicopter and fixed-wing air support). The yearbooks and other publications of the Army’s major combat units seemed seldom (or only sparsely) to mention the mighty combat contributions made by our units. While a lot of publicity was not necessarily in our interest during the war, that seeming ignorance about the LRRP and Ranger units continued for many years after the war. That was certainly the case, in large part, for those of us who served in the LRRP/LRP/Ranger units of the Big Red One. Perhaps you other Lurp or Ranger veterans of the other units who form the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association have had a similar experience in terms of recognition (or lack thereof) within your own parent unit. However, thanks to the dedication of the historical staff at the “Society of the First Infantry Division” Museum, for our unit, that seeming lack of recognition has finally been corrected.



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

During the latter part of 2006, I received an e-mail from a Mr. Keith Gill, Director of Museum Operations at the First Division Museum in Wheaton, Illinois. He explained that the museum was putting together a LRRP exhibit and they wanted it to be as accurate as possible. He wanted to ask questions about the unit, the personnel, our equipment and our missions. He also asked if I would give him some of our other guy's addresses so he could contact them. Over the next months Keith asked a lot of questions of Dave Hill, Jerry Davis, Bob Busby, Bill Goshen and me.

It looked like the museum people were really trying to get it right. Our company—with its lineage extending from our first LRRP detachment (formed in 1965), through F Co./52<sup>nd</sup> Inf. (LRP) and our final incarnation as I Co./75<sup>th</sup> Inf. (Ranger)—would be getting the recognition from the First Division that we have wanted for so long. We all wanted our unit history to be known, especially within the First Division veteran community, with whom we proudly served.

Early in 2007 I was advised by Mr. Gill that the First Division Museum planned to have a special opening of the new LRRP/Ranger exhibit and would like to have a few of our company veterans present for the ceremony. Those that went were Ron Crews, Jerry Davis, Carl Cook and I. Let me say at this point that all four of us felt much honored to represent the company and all its members.

The museum did the opening like what we typically see on TV when a new exhibit is first introduced. Cheese, crackers, wine, soft drinks. Man, we four just said “wow!” Museum staff had briefed us as to our roles at the opening, so at the appointed time, we all went into the exhibit, which was covered by a parachute. We had been given survival knives, which had our names engraved on them, to cut the parachute lines to open the exhibit. Once the lines were cut, the chute fell away and you saw the entrance, which was like a trail. The visitor walks down the trail, it's dark, you head down and straight ahead there is a lighted display case. Inside the case were items such as Bob Busby's beret, some pictures and some explanation of “LURPS”. I guess I lost my skills because I missed the mannequin standing in the jungle setting on my right. Tiger fatigues, painted face, M-16, and all the gear. Well, good thing he is on our side!

After everyone had a chance to pass through the exhibit, we all went back to the other side of the museum, into a very large room, with our group seated at the head table. Retired Army Colonel Paul H. Herbert, the Executive Director of the Museum, introduced the four of us with a little biographical information about each of us. At that point we each had time to tell the audience a little about what we did in the company. We had Carl Cook who was the First Sergeant of the

company, then Jerry Davis, who had been the XO and CO. then Ron Crews and I: team members. After we all had given our insights into what it was like to serve as Lurps and/or Rangers in the Big Red One, the event was opened for questions from the audience. We had been told that about 150 people came to the opening ceremony and a lot of hands immediately went up. It was a pretty good array of thoughtful audience questions, and it was apparent from our answers that we had lived an experience never to be forgotten. The missions, the training, the memories of those teammates lost nearly forty years ago were clearly indelibly inscribed in our memories and always will be. It appeared that the questioning could have gone on all night, so Colonel Herbert cut it off after an hour and a half. Almost everyone came up to shake our hands, and say thanks! All of this was video taped so it won't be lost. We spoke a while longer individually with the folks that put the exhibit together and they were more than pleased with the way things turned out.

We were treated so well by all the folks at the First Division Museum. They put us up in houses on the grounds of the museum. These houses were fully stocked with food and drink, nice and pre-warmed for us too. So much better than those dusty old tents we had called “home” in Lai Khe, Phu Loi and Quan Loi (will we ever fully get that red dust out of our pores?) Crews and share one house, Davis and Cook in another. We really got the VIP treatment and we loved it.

Thursday morning, after breakfast, we went back to the museum, where I got to see the archive area. The museum and its archives area hold the many books, documents, pictures and other memorabilia relevant to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's 90-year history of service to the United States (activated in 1917 as the first full division-size unit formed to go “Over There” when the US entered WWI). There is also a voluminous and well-organized research area that is open to the public. The museum staff again told us that they will eagerly accept any pictures or other items that any of our unit veterans might be will to provide, so they can be put in the archives. They won't be thrown away. At 9AM, we assembled once again in the large room and answered more questions posed by the folks that had put the exhibit together. This portion was also video taped and will be added to that of the previous night.

As Davis, Cook, Crews and I walked to the parking lot to leave we could not stop talking about how we felt about being asked to attend the opening, being treated so incredibly, and having additional honor of representing all of the LRRP/LRP/Ranger veterans of our unit. If you're in the Chicago area and you have the time to go see the exhibit, GO! The museum is about 30 miles west of Chicago. It is probably

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

the only LRRP exhibit anywhere (as far as I know). The First Division Museum has put us in its history. Our company's story is now there for everyone to see. The story of the "LURPS"

Thanks, to all those that worked on the exhibit and treated us so nice.

**This is my final article as the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LRRP/LRP/Ranger Unit Director to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association.**

It has been a pleasure representing our unit and being associated with the other U.D.s and officers of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. Julian Rincon has now been elected as our new U.D. and I look forward to him assuming this role. He will always have my support. I think it is important to relate what we did (and probably you as well) did when not in combat. The things we did while "not in the field" are also rich with memories I will always carry.

**"Not In the Field"**

Another year down! My Mom and Dad were right; the years go by faster as you get older. I hope that everyone is doing well and that this New Year brings only good things.



**Company Barbeque, John Candiloro and old Montagnard**

You know, we started having these reunions back in 1993, and have had one every other year since then. That's a pretty good run!

What this article is about is what we did while not in the field. I have many good memories of how my teammates and other friends in the unit spent our "stand-down" time in basecamp. Hopefully you'll have some laughs, as I did, while I wrote this article. Maybe you'll even remember some of your own antics back at base camp.

Let's start with our daily dose of P.T.! That's right, P.T. with good ol' Sergeant Morton, our "First Shirt". Then, how about a nice run and maybe we would get to pass the base camp hospital and the nurse's quarters. We might want to

yell a few words their way, like try for a date with one (good luck on that one!). Of course there were the daily details around the company area. We had to do our own crap burning because we did not want any locals in our area ("operational security", don'tcha know). Then we would have some training with the team. The team leaders always had some type of training. We would practice the "Immediate Action (IA)" drills daily, followed by land navigation

(with SSgt. T a p i a ), t h e n practice in directing artillery and Close A i r Support (CAS). We w o u l d always put in time



**L-R, Blankenship, Hiyashi, old Montagnard**

down at the firing range, just outside the wire at Lai Khe, popping caps with the weapons we usually carried, but also with the M-60, the Model 1911 .45 cal. pistol (and even a LAW now and then), as well as some of the captured SKS and AK-47 Chicom weapons. The range was the most fun training and skill honing of all, and I cannot even imagine how many thousands of dollars of ammo were burnt doing it (for a real good cause—our survival). Then the rest of the day was pretty much ours: No KP, no guard duty, just "down time".

Our base camp had an indigenous village inside it that we were able to visit

d u r i n g daylight hours (t h o u g h there was more than one after-h o u r s foray by u n i t members, including



**"The Ville", Lai Khe, Sherwood Forest Bar in background**

one Japanese Lurp who easily slipped in and out it at night). The "Ville", as we called it, had a couple of bars, some places to eat, and some stores to buy stuff, and the always-present laundry or two. The bars were a good place

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

to drink and raise hell. The places to eat did not have a real variety of choices. Shrimp fried rice was your best choice



**The Beer Garden in the Ville**

garden. It was kind of an outside place with lots of shade and nice places to sit and relax. You could get beer, ice tea, and French fries. They had this big black pot, filled with oil over an open fire. They would peel and cut the potatoes, fry them, then bring them over to you nice and hot. I don't know if it was just because they were the only ones around, but I swear those were some of the best fries we ever had (maybe they were part of the French colonial legacy). Close by was a barbershop and another gift shop.

I remember one company function that was performed when things were slow and the CO wanted us to be busy with something (Lurps with time on their hand could definitely go astray, and in very inventive ways). I believe my team leader, Sgt. Michel Sharp, came up with the idea. Every team was to fix-up their hootch, decorate, if you will, and the winning team would get a pass. I don't remember to where, as the closest settlement outside Lai Khe was Ben Cat—not exactly a tourist stop. But it didn't really matter—the sense of competition always brought out the best in the teams, whether in the field or in base camp. We had one week to get it done, and all hands pitched in for the project. It was a lot of fun, coming up with ideas, trying to see what the other teams were doing.



**Dave Flores in decorated tent, with bamboo mat, weapons rack, plastic curtain.**

cause you could identify everything in it. You did not want to get some water buffalo. Another place was the beer

Everyone got into the contest, our minds able to forget about the war for a brief respite. I can only describe how our team's tent came out. We put our team members name on a wooden board at the entrance of our tent. Then plastic vertical blinds to cover the doorway. We got bamboo mats for the walls, made a rack to hold all our weapons, and put in a bar, with lots of Playboy centerfold pictures behind it (Gen. Patton would not have approved). Then we made individual areas of our bunks, using our wall and footlockers as dividers. It was a good time had by all that week and I don't remember or care who won. It was the contest, not the result, that counted in this particular endeavor

I also remember we didn't like going to the base camp EM or NCO Club. It seems that there would always be some drunken guy that wanted to give the Lurps a hard time



**Flores showing sign with team members' names**

(maybe a case of "if you can't join them, then hassle them") So we decided build our own unit club, right in the company area. Since our company was only attached to the Big Red One (at least on paper, since we all felt we were one of the best units in the division), we always had a tough time getting thing from HHC (our parent unit). Kind of gave you the feeling that we really were "the red-headed step-children" of the division. So, as always, we did whatever was needed to "Charley-Mike" (carry on with mission). We begged, borrowed and stole (via "midnight-requisition), everything we needed. Soon the club was done and we could get our drinks right there.

How many of you ever went to the outdoor movies? One of the companies on the base camp had an outdoor screen and opened the movies up to all. You just had to bring your own seat. I remember me and Arenas leading some new guys to see a movie, we took them on quite an adventure. Nice moonless night, the new guys don't know where they are going and no one was sober (we navigated by sense of smell, like the "Pinball Wizard"). Once, I don't think we even made it to the movie because Arenas and me were having too much fun with the new guys. If going to the movies was so confusing, they wondered what would a real

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

long-range patrol be like?

Let us not forget the all-important and disruptive mortar and rocket attacks. There you are, sitting in your tent, listening to a little “Jimi Hendrix” album and then you hear the sound of mortars or rockets. Damn, do you run for the bunker? Nah, you just stay in your tent, lie on the floor and hope it’s not a direct hit. Once the mortars or rockets have all finished impacting, the “All-Clear” siren sounds and its back to whatever you were doing before!

OK, how many of you guys took that little R&R trip to Saigon? You come back from the field, have that four or five day stand-down (once in a while), so you thumb a ride southward on National Hwy 13 to Saigon. A couple of cherished days to have some fun and all you had to do was not get caught by the MP’s. We never had passes, and having an infantry division or brigade patch on your left shoulder was a dead give-away to the MPs. Us Lurps sneaked around in Saigon as much as we did in the field. Armed Rear Echelon Mxxxx Fxxxx (REMFS) could be as least as dangerous, and far less predictable, than the gooks. That was fun sneaking though. We were always amazed that those guys in Saigon, with all they had (including flush toilets and hot-water showers), got the same amount of “combat pay” each month that we did. Just one more little injustice of war, but none of us would have traded jobs with them. Being Lurps was good enough!

Then there were our company Bar-B-Qs. If we captured some weapons or other stuff that S-2 did not find important, we would trade the stuff to messhall/clubs cooks and managers for steaks and booze. Then we would have our Bar-B-Q. Cooking in the dark, who knows what was rare (and even rarer)? Who cared? Those were some fun times.

How about the company dog, Zulu? Like most units, we had our own mascot. He soldiered on from our LRRP era through to our Ranger era. He was medium size, black and white, very mellow disposition. It was like having a touch of home having Zulu around. If anyone has a picture of Zulu, please send me a copy, thanks. Every once in a while, he would get a bowl full of that fine “Biere 33” or as it was known to us “Balmy-Balm”, because of its ingredient of formaldehyde (the hangover started even before one awoke with that particular brand of adult beverage). Zulu was famous for drinking a bowl of “33”, then walking backwards and eventually performing the

first known version of what would later be known as “break-dancing”. He was truly a dance pioneer and loved by us all.

Last of all, and a sad but integral part of any combat infantry unit, the memorial services we held to honor our fallen Brothers—always a sad time for the entire company. Dealing with the loss,



having to go **SSgt. Washington’s team memorial; and make a only one survivor from the mission** positive identification, gathering your Brother’s personal belongings to be sent home to his family. Someone had to do it, but it was always a jolting experience. Yet another reminder of our own mortality, which for a Lurp, is unthinkable. To do what we The surviving teammates, the CO and Sgt. Morton trying to figure out what had happened and, hopefully, what the “lessons learned” resulted. Then, ultimately, we just had to “suck it up” and go back to doing our jobs. Back to the field, another mission/patrol, back to the war. Our lost Brothers would expect no less, and we could never expect less of ourselves.

Finally, your rest is over; you get your “warning order”. The Team Leader (TL) is doing his pre-mission prep work. You are getting ready, checking your gear, weapon and ammunition. You get the briefing from your TL, mark your maps, thoroughly understand all aspects of the mission so any of the team can interchangeably assume the role of the others, including leading the team in the event it comes down to that. The team loads up in the jeep, goes to the chopper pad and suddenly you’re in the air, feet dangling outside the cabin. Soon the chopper starts to descend and it is time once again to “un-ass” the “slick” (troop carrying UH-1H helicopter) and run for the wood line. Will the enemy be waiting to hit us, or will we get in OK? Will we all get out? I remember those times too!!

Dave Flores, Unit Director

**K/75 - E/58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP****Unit Director - Rodger Crunk**

BY: Roger Crunk

Greetings once again to all my Brothers. It's spring time in the Rockies and I'm glad. Have I mentioned that I don't like winter? I moved here thirty seven years ago so I guess complaining to you guys wouldn't do much good. Dana, do you need a gardener at your house?

I have the sad duty to report that Ken Bradshaw, aka. Mr. Magoo of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade died at his home in Cleveland, Tennessee April 26<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. I met Ken at the St Louis reunion two days after 9/11. It was a small group because of the transportation problems. Ken had not been in contact with anyone since His days in Vietnam. To see the pleasure he got from that gathering reaffirmed my decision to go ahead with the reunion in spite of 9/11. His constant comedic banter kept us laughing and our minds off the national tragedy for at least a short while. Despite the situation I have many fond memories of our time in St. Louis. Ken



suffered a multitude of medical problems over the last several years along with a continuing battle with the VA but he persevered. That Ranger spirit wouldn't let him do anything other than drive on till the end. Thanks Ken for spending a while with us.

The drive to Tennessee was long and tiring but I made it in time for his service. Ray Allen also drove from Texas. Just a small gathering of friends and family in Ken's favorite spot in his yard. His wit and humor will be missed at our next gathering.

Ray and I then traveled to Suwanee Ga. to spend the night with my cousin and enjoyed some R&R in his peaceful back yard. Then on to Berkley Lake for an enjoyable visit with Wayne and Fran Mitsch at their wonderful B&B on the lake. That's a joke so don't call him for reservations. Thanks Wayne & Fran.

Ray returned to Texas and I made the trek back to Oliver Springs, Tenn. for a short visit with Tommy Armes. Tommy and I went to High School together, got drafted together, took Basic and AIT together and both of us ended up in K-Co. But I digress as Top Richards used to say. There is more to this story, maybe another time. It was on to Huntsville to see my Dad and Brothers for a day then started the long journey home with a stop in Memphis to see another cousin and another good nights rest. From there it was on to Cuba, Mo. for a good meal and visit with Mark Estopare. Thanks Mark. The next day was lunch with Rueben Siverling in Kansas City. He took me to an upscale restaurant next to his office. What did I order? A \$12.00 Angus Burger. Yes it was good. Even better

was the visit with Rueben. He is working on the plan for our 2008 reunion and it looks like it will be a memorable one so keep July 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 open for sure. Thanks Rueben. I made it through Kansas and home to Colorado before the flooding and Tornadoes hit so it's all good. It was a long trip in a short time but it was worth it to be with the Family of one of our

own and to see family and friends along the way.

I have to get on my high horse for this next subject because it hits close to home. Having suffered serious gunshot wounds in Aug. 1970 I eventually landed at the Army's finest medical facility, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D. C. **It was my home** for the next two years.

Then, as now, the medical treatment was top notch. Then, as now, the housing situation is disgusting. When the news broke about the situation at Walter Reed I shook my head in wonderment at all the media pundits and politicians who jumped on the bandwagon demanding to know how this could happen. Demanding that heads must roll, someone has upset the apple cart. Bureaucrats scurrying to cover their collective ass, pushing the less fortunate forward to take the heat. It was probably a sight to behold. It could be funny if it were not another appalling example of how we treat those who stand in harms way to defend this country.

By April of 1972 the doctors had done all they could for me so I was moved off the medical ward to the medical holding company to await my discharge orders. I was assigned to an old WW two barracks. I kid you not, I could not believe a U.S. Army barracks was allowed to be that filthy. The floor was covered in trash, one working light bulb, I was afraid to touch anything. The stairway to the second floor was nearly impassable. Again, covered in trash, one working light bulb. I wondered which third world country I had been shipped to. Did people really live here? This should absolutely not pass by anyones standards, but obviously it had. In 1972 building 18 would have been luxury accomadations. Somewhere I came up with sheets and pillowcase for my bunk. I cleared the space around me, hoping it wouldn't be long before my orders came through. There were no lockers for valuables so I put my billfold in my pillowcase and slept on it. Didn't do much



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

good. Sometime during the night someone sliced the pillowcase with a razor and took it.

The next morning I was not a happy camper so I hot footed it to the Company Commanders office and demanded to know who was in charge of the barracks. Of course I knew it was him but I had my attitude on again. Let me back up a bit. The Co. and I had some history. I had on occasion reported back late from convalescent leave which meant a trip to his office for the requisite dressing down. I was not impressed and he knew it. He thought I lacked the proper attitude. I thought he was right. He was not a combat soldier so I did not show the proper respect. I have to say though in his defense, that he didn't take it any further than the verbal reprimands. So he was not happy to see me in his office again making demands. He sent me on my way for breakfast and some more out-processing chores with orders to report back later. That afternoon in his office my billfold was returned to me, somewhat lighter of course, along with my discharge orders. Verry Interesting— if you ask me. I didn't hang around.

So when the latest scandal broke I was dumfounded to learn

the problem had never been fixed. Why was I surprised? I know that many of the politicians talking the loudest are on the many oversight committees in charge of making sure this sort of thing doesn't happen. Would it be presumptuous of me to assume that they have never set foot in Walter Reed? The General in charge lived across the street from Building 18 had obviously not done so. Do they just assume that their many assistants and bureaucrats are doing their job? Or do they just not care? So we fire a couple of Generals, just another assumption on my part but I think their retirement check will go a lot further than mine. I doubt that the defense contractors who hire them will care about this little smudge on their resumes. Do I sound bitter? I'll admit that I am and will be for a while. Will it all be forgotten? Will meaningful changes be made? Are any of our Presidential candidates picking up this issue? It will be interesting to see what changes have been made a year from now.

I trust that by the time you receive this issue you will have made your reservations for the reunion. If not, git er done, its getting late. See you in Columbus. Roger



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

Unit Director - Ralph Timmons



**One-man Army**

**Sergeant Repelled Enemy, Cared for Wounded in Vietnam**

by

*Fred L. Borch and Robert F. Dorr*

*As published in ARMY TIMES, 2 April 2007*

Billy B. Walkabout, a sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division in South Vietnam in 1968 and 1969, may have been the most highly decorated American Indian of the Vietnam War.

More than 42,000 American Indians, nearly all of them volunteers, fought in Vietnam, according to a 1996 Defense Department report on their involvement in the 20th century U.S. military.

Walkabout received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor, plus five Silver Star and five Bronze Star medals.

Born in Oklahoma in 1949, Walkabout was a full-blooded Cherokee of the Blue Holley Clan. After high school, he joined the Army, and after completing his training, he shipped out to Vietnam.

On Nov. 20, 1968, then Spec. 4 Walkabout was assigned to F Company, 58th Infantry, 101st Airborne. He and 12 other Soldiers were on a long-range reconnaissance patrol near Hue, South Vietnam. According to official records, the patrol ambushed an enemy squad on a jungle trail and then radioed for a helicopter extraction.

When the helicopters arrived, however, and the lead Soldier moved toward the pick-up zone, enemy troops opened fire and seriously wounded him. Walkabout quickly rose to his feet and fired at the attackers while his fellow Soldiers pulled the wounded man back to their position. Walkabout then administered first aid to the wounded Soldier in preparation for medical evacuation.

While the injured man was being loaded aboard a helicopter, the enemy again attacked. Showing extraordinary heroism, Walkabout "maneuvered under heavy fire, positioning himself where the enemy was concentrating their assault, and placed continuous rifle fire on the adversary."

During this firefight, the enemy managed to set off a command-detonated mine and the blast ripped through the American team, killing three men and wounding everyone else.

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

Although Walkabout also was stunned and wounded by the blast, he rushed from man to man, administering first aid, bandaging one Soldier's severe chest wound and reviving another by heart massage, according to the citation for his Distinguished Service Cross. At the same time, Walkabout directed gunship airstrikes on the enemy's positions.

When evacuation helicopters arrived yet again to extract the reconnaissance team, Walkabout worked single-handedly – all the while under withering enemy fire – to put his injured fellow Soldiers aboard.

"Only when the casualties had been evacuated," says the official record, "and friendly reinforcements had arrived, did he allow himself to be extracted."

For his heroism that day, the Army awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to Walkabout in 1969.

Although he spent a total of 23 months in Vietnam and lived to return home, Walkabout suffered from the experience. He had medical problems related to his exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange.

He also suffered painful memories. As he told an interviewer in 1986, as reported in USA Today, "War is not hell. It's worse."

But in the same interview, he said that he was at peace with himself and proud of his time as a Soldier: "I've got my dignity and I've got my pride ... I never lost the war in Vietnam. Never lost a day of it. Even when I was wounded, I didn't lose. When I fought, I won, I won my wars."

Walkabout died of pneumonia and renal failure in Connecticut on March 7. He was 57.



M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Steve Houghton



I set here at the keyboard wondering how another deadline has crept up on me and I have little to write about. Everything seems about the same as far as news concerning the active members goes nothing much to report on.

I wrote a couple of stories from my time, when I took over from Jack as unit director but I'm tired of doing that type of article now. I'd much rather read one of your stories. One of you guys needs to step up to the plate and send me a story to print. We're all busy I know, but help me out fellows!

I've had a couple phone conversations with Terrell Ross and I'm certainly looking forward to seeing him this August. It sounds like Terrell got cheated out of a Purple Heart sometime after I left the unit. I sure would like to help set that matter straight if at all possible. It gives us something to talk about at the reunion this summer anyway.

I hear from Ron Harper from time to time. He's still in the Army and stationed overseas right now. I'm including an email and photo he sent me recently. I guess he has run into a Ranger from N Company, who's working as a contractor over in Afghanistan. The following is Ron's recent correspondence to me on the matter.

Steve,

>> It's a small world.

>> Ran into a fellow ranger in my remote FOB here in

>> Afghanistan. He's a life

>> Member of the association from N company, serving in

>> '70-'71. His name is



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

>> Earl Wemple from Florida/NC and he's a contractor  
>> here.  
>> See attached photo.  
>> Thanks  
>> Ron Harper

It seems like you're getting a little long in the tooth Ron for this overseas stuff!

Here's a photo of Ron and Earl.

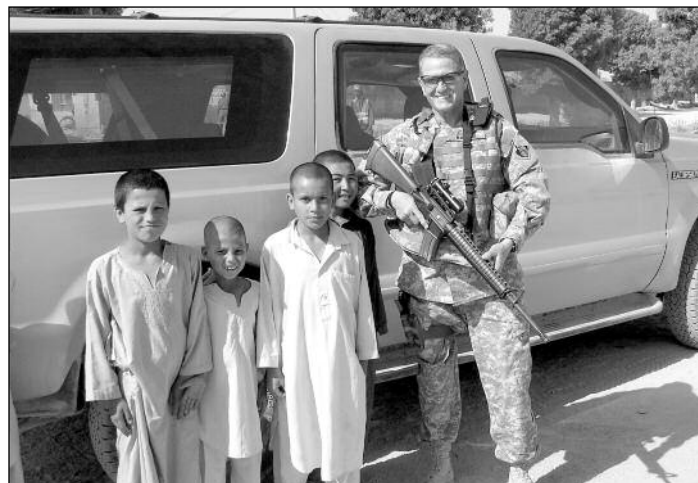


Here's another email from Ron.

Steve,  
A photo from my travels today.  
These kids are a big reason I'm here.

Take care

Ron  
LTC Ron Harper  
RC North Area Engineer



This is Ron's last tour. His last email says he's due to retire when his tour is over.

Thanks for the news items Ron!

Hope this short article finds everybody doing well.....  
hope to see you at Benning.  
Till next time  
Steve



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



Reed Cundiff  
(505) 635-5220  
ercundiff@gmail.com

Roy Boatman will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in August.  
Joyce Boatman has laid on the Longhorn Restaurant for a N Company Dinner for Friday, 10 August at 1830 hours. Dick James and John Lawton will host/MC and Joyce and the rest of Roy's family will be attending. Tad Tadina wrote me to say that he is timing my rotation in Iraq so he can make this year's RHOF/Reunion,

Please contact me if anyone is interested in getting N Ranger polo shirts or caps.

Dave "Varmint" Walker sent in a photo of Bob Cantu's son, SSgt Raul Cantu of the 82nd Division, who is currently serving in Iraq. Raul attended Ranger Brown's RHOF cookout in 2005. It was an honor to meet and talk with him then. He had just finished Ranger School at that time.



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



*U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raul Cantu radios in his position while waiting further instruction during an operation in Zaghiniyat, Iraq, March 29. The mission is to rid an area of insurgent forces and to allow coalition forces freedom of movement throughout an area of operation. Cantu is with Charlie Troop, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.*

CSM Jeff Horne's son Josh finished Ranger School earlier this year and has had a couple of tours with C/3/75<sup>th</sup>. Josh was also at Ranger Brown's cookout in 2005.

"Varmint" Walker's book, *"Cyclops in the Jungle"* is due for publication by Stackpole Books of Mechanicsburg, PA sometime in the Fall of 2008 or sooner. Dave lost an eye during

His first tour with F/58 LRP in early '68. He returned to VN with N/75 RGR late-'70 through Jul. '71, and completed his extension with E (Recon) 3/21 IN 196 LIB through mid-'72.

Got an E-mail from Steve Macomber and he is looking for Gerald Paine who was in N Company at the same time as Steve in '68-'69. Steve is a member of 75th RRA and would like to know if anyone knows how to contact Gerald.

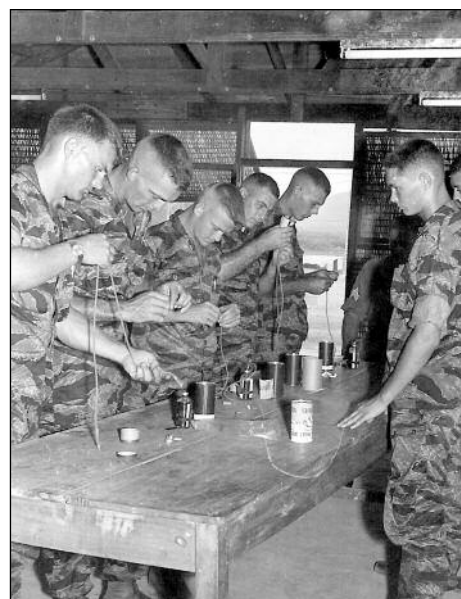
Tom Eckhoff (Treck) has been in contact with Ranger Don Bizadi. Don lives in Arizona.

Rumors of Dave Blow's demise have been greatly exaggerated. "Varmint" Walker got in contact with Dave. Dave Blow is currently acting CSM of a brand new National Guard Stryker Battalion but will revert to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt when the "real" CSM shows up. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Blow was famous within N company for carrying an M-14E2, "The Blow Gun", on patrols. Dave spent time with SF CCC at Kontum when the 173<sup>rd</sup> DEROS'ed. He then spent time with B company 75<sup>th</sup> at Ft. Carson and was with 2/75<sup>th</sup> when it was formed at Ft. Lewis. He and Bobby Cantu spent time together in a few units and got out of the Army after 12 years. Dave spent 8 months in the Balkans, a year in Iraq and then 1 1/2 years in Afghanistan. He finishes by saying that "and let me tell you, keeping up

with 300 young studs is a chore! Can't wait till I get my own company though.



Tom "Zeke" Zaruba sent a few photographs from Recondo Class "O". This was held in September 1966 and consisted entirely of 173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP personnel



**MEDIC CLASS WITH MARLETTE, WILLIAMS and a few others we can't figure out**



## O/75 - 78TH LRP

### Unit Director - Michael Feller



Let me begin with a word to the wise. Never leave a document unstored overnight on your computer. One quick electrical burp will send it to cyber hell. As was the fate of the article I was preparing [not a big deal as it wasn't goin' well.]

Don't have much this quarter any way. For those of you who don't get out much, 1Sgt Butts crossed over services were held in North Carolina. There will be a memorial at the F Co. reunion in Reno July 18-22. By the way all O Co Rangers have a standing Invitation to all F Co reunions. I believe the F Co Page has details.

Another word to the wise. Contrary to what you have heard, I do possess the ability to run short of bullshit so ya'll get cranked up and send some ideas, suggestions or even an article or two. Terry said she would write a few but she was talking of recipes and tails of grandkids, goats, and other livestock.

Reminder the Third Annual O Co Ranger Rondy is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend in the Manistee Forest Contact me if you need directions. If not just show up. There is no RSVP, no reservations, no memberships or dues, no phone no pool no pets ain't got no cigarettes. So if ya'll need

any bring your own. Oh by the way the event is BYOB [booze brawd bed blanket etc.] there is plenty of room to camp [40 acres] there is also a small cabin on sight and plenty of INNS neat to the AO. So if you have a desire to spend the last official days of this summer in the North Woods stop in. However as this is the Year of the Dogman in Northern Michigan be sure to bring plenty or repellent BS type II class I. [Information is available online just look up Michigan dogman.]

Ordered some unit patches should have them in by the end of May. They 'll run \$5 ea and will be of the original heraldry design.

We have a new member. Stephen Jorgensen was a 173 LRRP and returned with the Bde in '68 to help form the Bde LRRP. Steve is the first Bde LRRP to join the 75RRA under the



O Co banner and is helping with getting the Bde LRRP KIAs on the Memorial Roster.

Every one have a good 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Remember I need some info. Later Feller



## P/75 - 79TH LRP

### Unit Director - Bill Davis



Summer Patrolling 2007  
Papa Company

"Lest We Forget"

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

It is always sobering for me to open the article with "Lest We Forget". It brings back many truly unwanted memories, but on the same thought I believe that one of our primary reasons for banding together as a group is to honor the memory of our Fallen Heroes. My memory isn't what it should be (although I'm not the only one). I have very little recollection of SFC Carter. I'm sure I heard stories when I was in the Company, but those memories have faded with time. If some of you old timers could pass on any information about him it would be truly appreciated.

Speaking of old timers, I wanted to put the word out about the reunion that F Co, 51st Inf is having in Reno NV. I'm sure most everyone knows, I'll still mention that F Co was brought up from the south and were the nucleus of the cadres of both Oscar and Papa Companies. I attended their last reunion in Nashville and had a ball. Thought I would throw this out in case there are any West Coast members (or anyone who would enjoy Reno). It will be held July 18th- 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thur-Sun. In order to receive the



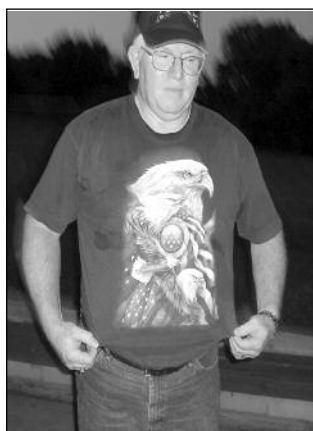
P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

booked rate you will need to mention a confirmation number of LON718. There will be a BBQ on Sunday with a country band. I'm sure you'll enjoy listening to Dave Barfield singing



Dave Barfield Bobby Hampton

and playing the drums!! You'll see him in one of the photos along with Bobby Hampton. Bobby is an honorary member of both F Co and Papa Company. He was the mess sgt. at our mess hall, and until he left in March of 1970. Any team coming in from the field, no matter what time of day or night, they would have a hot meal waiting for them. Unfortunately he was never able to talk our CO's, Hall or Ferguson into letting him go out on a mission. The other two characters, Rick Auten and Clyde Tanner also served with both units.



Clyde Tanner



Rick Auten

When I was in Florida recently, visiting my family, I had the honor to go to the VA hospital in Tampa to visit three young Rangers who had been traumatically injured when the Chinook they were riding in crashed. I learned of these Warriors being there from Terry Roderick. Terry knows CSM Rick Merritt (CSM of 3<sup>rd</sup> Bat.) and has known him since Rick was a buc sgt. Rick suggested that a visit would be a morale booster, so Terry and Jay Lutz made that visit. For those of you who know Jay are aware he lost a large portion of his left hand on his last mission. For the last 35 years he has spent perfecting his 'hand' jokes. He was also a journeyman machinist (Even though the VA told him he wouldn't be able to do that. I'm sure he was quite an inspiration for these young troops who are facing such difficult battles.

As soon as Terry gave me the information I wanted to go, but I have my trepidations about going alone. My father, who is both a WWII vet, and a Baptist preacher (89 years old and still

leading a local church) volunteered to go. By the time we went, my brother, Dan decided to go along. Also coming with us was a clergyman friend of my father. It was deeply moving and inspirational to talk to these young men. We had the time to chat and get their stories, and have prayer with each one. Sadly one of those young men was still in a coma, but we spoke with his wife. Hopefully by the time this gets to you they will all be home on their way to recovery.

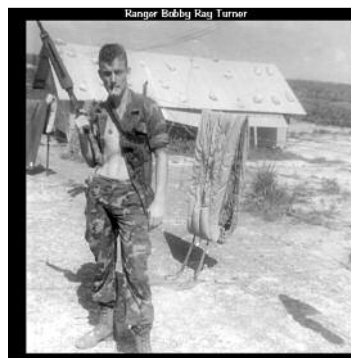
Finally I wanted to give you all an update on Bobby and Gail Turner. For those

who aren't familiar with Bobby and his struggles I'm sure he won't mind my filling you in. He ended up with Hep C from at least 4 transfusions he had after being wounded in Nam. Over the past few



Gail and Bobby Turner in Ruidoso, New Mexico

years he has been struggling with that. He spent almost a year in the VA's Liver Division in Portland OR, one of two in the nation. During that entire time he only had two prospects, neither of which panned out. He developed other medical problems which precluded him from the transplant list. He decided upon reaching home he decided to not pursue any more radical treatments, as they were worse than he was willing to deal with. He had his ups and downs since then.



Ranger Bobby Ray Turner

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Back in February Bobby took a profound turn for the worse. All of his bodily functions were failing. He had quit eating and drinking and was basically in a comatose state. Gail said at one point he came around, looked at her and stated, "I'm not going to die!!" He then slept for twenty hours and came to. He spent the next few hours in prayer. To make a long story short, his health has rebounded to the point that today he sounds better and stronger than he has since I've been back in touch with them. It is God and his Ranger Spirit keeping him going!! He and Gail are being strong but for those of you who knew Bobby and hell even if you didn't, give him a call. I'm sure he and Gail would both appreciate it. The number is **505-257-1461**. If you feel up to sending him a card the address is **142 JUNIPER RD. RUIDOSO, NM 88345**.

In Ranger Brotherhood,

Bill Davis



## D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Tom Blandford



Hello D 151 friends and members,

### D 151 Association Events for 2007

MAY 30 Memorial Day Participate in a local event, with a fellow Vet.  
AUG 9 - 12 – Some of us will be at **Fort Benning, we'll be staying at the Holiday Inn.**

SEPT 9 Klieber services at 1:00 / Worley gravesite services at 2:00, then Greenfield VFW.

SEPT Kokomo Viet Nam Vet Reunion

NOV 11 10:00 Veterans Day Parade in Indy

**D- 151 at Ft. Benning no unit activities for us, just what the 75<sup>th</sup> has.**

### Gravesite Services

For those of you that can't make it to the gravesite services, this is what we do. Pappy Hayes brings the group to attention, then to Present Arms, TAPs is played by Darrell Holder, then to Order Arms. Pappy announces the following: Thank You Lord for taking care of the Deceased members of our unit. He names those that died in Viet Nam first: Charles Larkins, Robert Smith, Peter Fegatelli, Skip Baranowski, George Kleiber, Ken Cummings, Cpt. Iron Mike Reitz and his crew. Then the members who have died since then: Marvin Tucker, Ken Himsel, Carl DeLong, Gene Hooker, Mark Cunningham, Dennis Schmitt, Jimmie Worley, Cordell Moore, Jim Hunt, James Merritt, Glynn Barber, Richard Kingen, Kenny Jackson, Phil Alexander, Travis Smith, Robert Janiszkeski, Terry Avery, Dale Riley, Roger Hayden, Everette Grant, Rusty Hawk, Tony Garza, Sue Craven, LRS personnel: Chris Bowden, Christian Robinson, Robert Reid. He says that entire list from memory. Thank you Lord for giving us Pappy Hayes.

### Operation Support Our Troops

Brenda Manis is still involved in sending food and personal necessities to our deployed troops. She could really use your donations to pay for mailing expense. Just \$15.00 pays for a 40 pound package of material. Please send a contribution if you can. To Brenda Manis, 605 Turnberry Lane, Yorktown IN 47396  
Email: 'chasbren@comcast.net

### Quartermaster

Tedd Dunn is our quartermaster. He has D-151 shirts, caps, pins, rings and other items for sale. Reach him at 9591 N. CR 600W, Middletown IN 47356. Phone 765-354-4058.

### Email announcements

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

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

**Website** Check out our website: IndianaRangers.org  
What no website? That's because we need someone to maintain our website.  
**Can one of you step forward to do this important job?**

### For VA assistance

If you're going to file for VA Service connection benefits, you would be best off by contacting a veterans group "service representative". For Indiana use either DAV (317-226-7928) or AMVETS (317-226-7919, both are at the Federal Building, 575 N. Pennsylvania Ave. Indianapolis IN 46204

**See you at Benning. RLTW**

**Out: Tom Blandford.**

**Tom Blandford, 317-846-6374.**

**5882 Hollow Oak Trail,  
Carmel IN 46033**

**I've had to change my email address, during a brain glitch I participated in a survey to get free legal forms. Well, there were no legal forms but I did get put on hundreds of spam lists. I'll keep the old address active for awhile but please start using the new one. Thanks.**

**> NEW EMAIL: [tomblandford151@msn.com](mailto:tomblandford151@msn.com) Old Email: [tomblandford300@hotmail.com](mailto:tomblandford300@hotmail.com)**

**Have you paid your unit dues this year?**

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

**Dues are \$12.00 per year  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Email address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_**





## F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon



### Death of a Paratrooper

The man, the living legend to his men, the Lerp/Ranger that the enemy couldn't kill, and the Paratrooper NCO that senior high ranking officers couldn't intimidate, has passed away. As General Douglas MacArthur once said, "Old soldiers never die, they just.....fade away." First Sergeant Walter P. (Paratrooper) Butts faded away on 13 March 2007 from organ failure due to Sepsis subsequent to having both legs amputated below his knees. He is survived by son Walter, son Karl, and daughter Simone.



**Photo of 1SG Butts, Co F (LRP) 51st Inf (Abn)  
taken May 2, 2006 by George Christianson**

Born Walter Patrick Butts on 22 October 1935 in New Bedford, Massachusetts, he later gained a track and field scholarship to the University of Massachusetts. Young Walter joined the Army in 1956, volunteered to be a Paratrooper, and then volunteered for the relatively new Special Forces serving with the original 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. During the period 1957 thru 1967 he served with the 82nd Airborne twice, 3rd Infantry Division (Korea), and the 18th Airborne Corps. While with the 18th Airborne Corps he spent some time in Alaska as a Ski Trooper.

In 1967 he found himself in Vietnam serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. During that period of time the word went out from General Command that two new 'authorized' Long Range Patrol units were to be formed, Company F (LRP) 51st Infantry (Airborne) and Company E (LRP) 20th Infantry. These would be the first 'authorized' LRP/Ranger Units in the U.S. Army since the Korean War. (1) SFC Butts volunteered for this venture and was sent to F/51st LRP where he served as Platoon Sgt for the 4th Platoon. He attended Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV)



Reconnaissance & Commando School, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Nha Trang, Vietnam with members of his Platoon. Following, he was known as a strict taskmaster, especially in the training and development of the Teams of the 4th Platoon in LRP tactics and procedures. He gained a reputation as a Platoon Sergeant who put his men above all else, no matter what, and was aggressively fearless when taking out his own 12 man ambush/prisoner snatch patrols.

With the departure of the original 1SG, Col. William Maus, the original Commanding Officer of F/51, having noticed his grit and determination promoted him to the 1SG slot. The combining of these two individual men in the leadership positions for F/51st LRP was a marriage made in military heaven. Col. Maus had already established his position as a true combat leader, a man who was loved and admired by the men of the Company. 1SG Butts took his leadership skills from the 4th Platoon and brought them to the entire Company. Col. Maus was the nurturer of this new unit, 1SG Butts was the man who implemented the new concepts and, whatever he ordered, he wanted it done yesterday. As a result, Company F (LRP) 51st Infantry (Airborne) went into the history books as an exceptionally successful small elite Unit of the Vietnam War.

The General Staff did not overlook the overall success of the Long Range Patrol program in Vietnam. In February of 1969, Company F (LRP) 51st Infantry (Airborne), as well as Company E (LRP), and the other LRP Units were disbanded and its members transferred out to new units in Vietnam to form the 75th Ranger Regiment. Soldiers of the 75th Ranger Regiment now serve proudly in Iraq and Afghanistan in the war on terror.

1SG Butts was the last man to leave the F/51st Base Camp at Bien Hoa, Vietnam. His military career then expanded upon his return home. He served with the 82nd ABN (again), back to Vietnam (again) in 1971 with the 173rd (again), E/17th Cav, C Company, 503rd Infantry, and the 101st Airborne. He closed his military career between 1973 and 1976 with the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg, NC. He retired in 1976 and remained living and maintaining his house (our 'museum') in Fayetteville, NC, until his death.

Thanks to Gary Ford and Tiofilo (Speedy) Gonzales, many of our LRP family were found over the years since Vietnam. Reunions were held. 1SG Butts assumed the title of 'President For Life' of the Company F (Long Range Patrol) 51st Infantry (Airborne) Association. He enthusiastically attended these reunions and made it clear to

## F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

all by his words, and deeds, that he considered our Unit the finest he'd served with.

Simple words cannot reflect the highest levels of respect, trust, and the affectionate bond held by his men towards 1SG Butts. All of us, to a man, carry his legacy with us. The lessons, the discipline, and the rugged individualism that he lived his life by are still, to this day, ingrained in us all. Airborne, all the way, and then some! We will continue on with the mission of life having had a great mentor to guide us in our youth and through a very dangerous place in a very dangerous time.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Butts family. We humbly request God extend to 1SG Walter P. Butts the mercy and eternal peace granted to an exceptional soldier who served his country, the U.S. Army, and his men well in time of peace and a time of war.

Written by: Bill Houser with the help of: Karl Butts, Simone Butts, Dennis Lovick, George Christianson, and Mike Feller. Photo courtesy of George Christianson.

(1) "Inside the LRRP/Ranger's In Vietnam". Col. Michael Lee Lanning (USA Retired)  
Ivy Books, New York, 1988

## OPERATION TOAN THANG PART 2

Operation Toan Thang is a multi part series, this second part is from April 17, 1968 through April 21, 1968. The operational area was Northeast of Long Binh and was called Columbus II. F/51 LRP was under operational control of 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade. Team missions consisted of trail, canal, and rocket watching and to detect any enemy movement. If the enemy was located at a fixed location and a reaction force was available it would be used to develop the situation.

**Team 30** was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1553HRS (3:53 PM). At 1557HRS (3:57 PM) Team 30 reported 2 shots 50 meters West of the teams location. At 1643HRS (4:43 PM) Team 30 reported what sounded like trucks 100 to 150 meters West Northwest of the teams location. Artillery was fired into the area of the truck noise at 1737HRS (5:37 PM) and lasted until 1752HRS (5:52 PM). During the days of April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Team 30 reported negative activity in the area and on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 0753HRS (7:53 AM) Team 30 was extracted.

**Team 15** was a 5 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1743HRS (5:43 PM). At 1818HRS (6:18 PM) Team 15's Chieu Hoi thought the team was near a Vietcong base camp. At 2114HRS (9:14 PM) Team 15 reported 3 Vietcong 50 meters North of the teams

location. At 2233HRS (10:33 PM) Team 15 reported that the Vietcong seemed to be moving toward the teams location. At 2256HRS (10:56 PM) Team 15 reported receiving mortar fire from Fire Support Base Farrell was landing near the teams location. On April 18<sup>th</sup> at 0500HRS (5:00 AM) Team 15 reported movement 50 meters approximately West of the teams location. At 0640HRS (6:40 AM) Team 15 reported that the night before the team heard voices and had considerable movement 100 to 250 meters North of the teams location. The Chieu Hoi with the team said he also heard an elephant at same location as the voices. At 1612HRS (4:12 PM) Team 15 reported being on the edge of a base camp. On April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1115HRS (11:15 AM) Team 15 reported finding bunkers and one old tunnel entrance to their North. On April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1400HRS (2:00 PM) Team 15 reported one shot fired from the area of the base camp and another 100 meters to the teams East. At 1408HRS (2:08 PM) Team 15 reported that they believed that the movement was LZ watch and that the team also believed that the base camp was being used. At 1415HRS (2:15 PM) Team 15 reported that the team may have been compromised because of movement 75 meters approximately North by Northwest and that the team smelled pot and smoke. At 1441HRS (2:41 PM) Team 15 reported the base camp location as being 400 to 500 meters approximately Northwest of the teams location. At 1445HRS (2:45 PM) Team 15 reported 3 Vietcong to the teams East and more to the teams Northwest. At 1447HRS (2:47 PM) Team 15's Chieu Hoi said that there were many bunkers in the area. At 1452HRS (4:52 PM) Team 15 reported movement 75 meters approximately West of the teams location. At 1503HRS (3:03 PM) artillery began firing on the base camp area. At 1806HRS (6:06 PM) Team 15 was extracted.

**Team 14** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1749HRS (5:49 PM). At 1755HRS (5:55 PM) Team 14 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 30 meters West of the teams location running North, the team believed that they had been spotted. At 1801HRS (6:01 PM) Team 14 reported a small trail running East to West, the team also reported seeing a shelf along the riverbank. The team also reported 4 Vietcong, one with a carbine East of the teams LZ, these Vietcong also ran to the North. At 1806HRS (6:06 PM) Team 14's Chieu Hoi spotted a belly tank 30 to 50 meters East of Team 14's location, next to the riverbank, the team went to check it out. At 1813HRS (6:13 PM) Team 14's Chieu Hoi said that the team was in an old base camp area. At 1850HRS (6:50 PM) Team 14 reported movement 50 to 75 meters to the teams West. At 1856HRS (6:56 PM) Team 14 reported movement 75 meters North of the teams location. Team 14 also reported seeing 2 Vietcong

## F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

30 to 40 meters North and 2 more Vietcong 30 to 40 meters East of the teams location. At 1910HRS (7:10 PM) Team 14 reported finding a trail running along the riverbank which was about 3 meters wide. Team 14 also reported having 4 Vietcong moving in on the team. At 1912HRS (7:12 PM) the gunships were scrambled and began making their gun runs at 1929HRS (7:29 PM) and at 1943HRS (7:43 PM) Team 14 was extracted.

**Team 22** was a 7 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1517HRS (3:17 PM). After insertion Team 22 reported fresh buffalo feces all around the LZ and the grass had been crushed down. On April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1048HRS (10:48 AM) Team 22 reported an old elephant tracks heading Northeast of the teams location. At 1106HRS (11:06 AM) Team 22 reported movement to the teams front. At 1211HRS (12:11 PM) Team 22 reported movement 40 meters approximately West Southwest of the teams location. At 1215HRS (12:15 PM) Team 22 reported that the movement was closing in. At 1308HRS (1:08 PM) Team 22 reported that the movement was still closing in on the teams location. At 1503HRS (3:03 PM) Team 22 was moving toward a clearing. At 1536HRS (3:36 PM) Team 22 reported that as the team was approaching the clearing the team spotted a sniper 200 to 250 meters South Southeast of the teams location. At 1541HRS (3:41 PM) Team 22 reported seeing another Vietcong, wearing OD fatigues, 200 meters from the sniper and 125 meters approximately Southwest of Team 22. At 1556HRS (3:56 PM) Team 22 reported 2 more Vietcong observing Team 22, 125 meters East Southeast of the teams location. At 1616HRS (4:16 PM) the gunships began making their gun runs and reported taking automatic weapons fire. At 1637HRS (4:37 PM) Team 22 reported that when the gunships would finish firing the Vietcong would return to their positions again. At 1645HRS (4:45 PM) Team 22 was extracted with negative casualties.

**Team 23** was a 7man light team that was inserted into a Popular Forces outpost to help secure the outpost and the artillery FO (Forward Observer) on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1910HRS (7:10 PM) because of an expected attack. At 2300HRS (11:00 PM) Team 23 reported seeing 3 Vietcong outside the outpost. Team 23 fired M79 rounds towards the movement with negative results. On April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2140HRS (9:40 PM) Team 23 reported that Popular Forces security had movement 100 meters approximately Southeast of the outpost. Artillery and M 79 rounds were fired until 2230HRS (10:30 PM). On April 21<sup>st</sup> Team 23 was extracted at 1530HRS (3:30 PM).

**Team 21** was a 7 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 0815HRS (8:15 AM). At 0958HRS (9:58 AM) Team 21 reported that the teams rear guard heard 2 people talking 75 meters approximately South of the team. At 1017HRS (10:17 AM) Team 21 reported finding a base camp. The base camp looked like it was occupied and had fresh cut trees all around. There were no hooches around and leaves had been bent over for cover. At 1448HRS (2:48 PM) Team 21 reported a well used tunnel and trail. Team 21 set up at in the area to monitor the area. At 1618HRS (4:18 PM) Team 21 reported finding what looked like a new bunker without a roof. The team also found a row of 5 bunkers that were reinforced with overhead cover. Two of the bunkers in the process of being built and had long leaves over the doors. The bunkers were 5'X5'X5' and had been worked on in the last few days. At 1902HRS (7:02 PM) Team 21 was extracted by order of 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry.

**Team 44** was a 7 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 0823HRS (8:23 AM). At 0825HRS (8:25 AM) Team 44 reported movement on the LZ of 1 or 2 Vietcong 50 meters approximately South southeast of the teams location. Team 44 also reported the grass was beaten down as if people had been sleeping in the area. At 0908HRS (9:08 AM) Team 44 reported more movement in the above area. At 0927HRS (9:27 AM) Team 44 reported movement 50 meters approximately Northwest of the teams location. At 0930HRS (9:30 AM) Team 44 reported the sound of wood knocking 50 meters Northwest of the teams location. At 0940HRS (9:40 AM) Team 44 reported movement on a footpath near the teams and human waste around the LZ. At 0950HRS (9:50 AM) Team 44 reported that all movement had stopped. Team 44 formed a defensive perimeter and at 1007HRS (10:07 AM) Team 44 reported seeing 1 Vietcong running across the LZ. At 1008HRS (10:08 AM) Team 44 reported people running on the footpaths in the area and that he was being surrounded. At 1027HRS (10:27 AM) Team 44 reported movement 50 to 60 meters approximately Northwest of the team location and moving in. At 1047HRS (10:47 AM) the C&C helicopter and the gunships were on station and at 1052HRS (10:52 AM) the gunships began making their gun runs. At 1109HRS (11:09 AM) Team 44 blew their claymores and were in contact. At 1115HRS (11:15 AM) Team 44 was extracted with negative casualties.



## LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ID LRRP Detachment

#### Mike McClintock, Unit Representative

One of my oldest and dearest friends, SP/4 George T. “Skip” Algeo passed away this week. Skip was a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division LRRP Detachment from its beginning in November 1961 until he rotated stateside in late 1963. Like many of us, Skip enlisted right out of high school and was sent to Germany after AIT. He served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle Group, 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in Schweinfurt until he transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID’s LRRP Detachment in Bad Kissingen. I first met Skip when I was assigned to the squad room that he shared with Gavin Speirs and Dave Boone in the old Wehrmacht barracks we were billeted in. I had just come up from D Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle Group, 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in Schweinfurt. The 30<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> were line infantry units that spent more time on spit and polish than they did on field training. This was one reason that I, and most of my comrades, transferred out of our TO&E units to serve as LRRPs.

On the first Friday night in my new billets with the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID Lurps, I started to straighten out my wall locker and get ready to strip and wax the hardwood floors. I should have taken a cue from my new roommates, because that floor had never been waxed since the end of WWII, seventeen years earlier. This was contrary to my experience with the 38<sup>th</sup> where we stripped and waxed our barracks floor every Friday night in preparation for Saturday inspection. Saturday inspections under Captain Ed Jentz were very perfunctory and a prelude to all of us heading off to town for some serious drinking and skirt chasing. In Germany at that time there was a very strict dress code—coats and ties when off post for any occasion except athletic competition when you were off duty. No fatigues allowed off post unless on official business. Algeo asked me “what the heck I was doing down on my hands and knees cleaning the floor?” He said that in the LRRPs we were judged on our performance in the field, not on how things looked. As long as we kept our equipment clean, performed to a high standard in the field, and were able to keep up during PT and dreaded daily run, the CO could care less about any

spit and polish. I knew I had found a friend when Algeo asked if I wanted to go to town with him and the guys. He even offered to let me wear some of his civilian clothes (he was a very sharp dresser and could have passed for an Italian gigolo). Being a wannabe gigolo myself I gladly accepted his offer.



spit and polish. I knew I had found a friend when Algeo asked if I wanted to go to town with him and the guys. He even offered to let me wear some of his civilian clothes (he was a very sharp dresser and could have passed for an Italian gigolo). Being a wannabe gigolo myself I gladly accepted his offer.

Skip and I served together for only about two years, but our experiences as Lurps during those trying times bonded all of us together. In our hearts we will always be 19 years old and crazy. We must have been crazy because we stood toe-to-toe against the greatest military power in the world to defend Western Europe. Had the Russians decided invade, none of us would be here today. It was the job of our unit to move forward to meet the Russians and provide intelligence on their activities and movements if they crossed the border into West Germany. The Berlin Wall had just gone up and there were Russian missiles in Cuba, so the threat of a Russian invasion was real. I think we all knew that if the Russians came at us we would not last very long, but we had a job to do and we would have carried out our mission regardless of the consequences. Fortunately for us, the Russians were not suicidal Jihadists and we were able return home safely and, for some of us, get back to life as civilians. Others stayed in the Army and went on to have distinguished military careers, and some were highly decorated for their service in Vietnam. But for all of us, our time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Long Range Patrol Detachment was a defining moment in our lives, even though we never saw combat as a unit.

Downtown Bad Kissingen in the early 1960’s was about like downtown Bad Kissingen today—not a lot for young people to do. There were a lot of GI bars in town, and we had our favorites—the Stadtschanke, Snake Pit, and Bucket -of-Blood. Our favorite place was the Schweizerhaus, a

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ID LRRP DETACHMENT (CONTINUED)

SP/4 Algeo was one of us, and he will always be in our hearts and minds. I know his wife Charlotte and his two sons, James and Jason loved him very much, but what he did as a young man long ago should make them even more proud of him. Attached are some pictures of us from back then.



McClintock watches as Algeo cleans Company Street.



Skip, McClintock and Rampanelli.



### ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) Unit Director - Mike Martin



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Thick bacon frying and coffee bubbling on the stove has a special aroma that is hard to put into words, like the solitude....It's like waiting for the dawn to come—the time of day for all soldiers.

As the first gray light filters through the trees I walk barefoot across the yard in grass heavy with early morning dew, sipping my coffee as somnolent activity starts to move in the first signs of day.

It is my time of day to meditate and analyze the world affairs; this morning it is the military: I have come to the conclusion that after each war that we are involved in, the powers-to-be take all the “lessons learned” and lock them in a giant vault somewhere, never to be open or studied again—Vietnam is an example—then, we start learning, hopefully, all over again with the next war and its leaders. The heartbreaking problem with this is the number of young men and women in the service who give their blood and lives while leaders without experience learn anew.

“U.S. advisers must possess basic regional expertise and language capability. Their operations must avoid alienating the population, and they must never lose sight of their democratic

principles.” Sound familiar? This was written in the Jan-Feb 2007 issue of Special Warfare.

If my memory serves me right, we stressed this philosophy each day of the Vietnam Advisory Years, 1950 to 1973; and now, 2007, we are just emphasizing this to our Advisors in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It reminds me of Roy and Gabby sitting by the campfire and Gabby started to go out into the brush to do his business: Roy said, “Gabby, be careful where you drop your chaps and squat, you could get snake bit”—well, no “ca ca” Roy, great advice!!!

Recently, a ranking commander in Iraq, made a profound observation, stating generally, “In my view there cannot be an overall military strategy for Iraq, without political considerations.

“Hurrah, after four years of fighting we found the light at the end of the tunnel.....

How about this scenario Commander: The current assumption that the popular mind, especially in illiterate, unsophisticated societies, can be manipulated at will is false. Unlike machine-gun bolts, ideologies are not easily interchangeable....



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

Thus the tasks of counter guerrilla warfare are as much **political as military**-or even more so; the two continually interact. As with the guerrillas themselves, political considerations may often have to override military considerations if permanent success is to be achieved.

No, these observations are not new, they were correctly pointed out by Peter Paret and John W. Shy in their publications on Guerrillas in the 1960's.

Truong Chinh, a former secretary general of the Vietnamese Communist Party stated as early as 1947 in his book "La Resistance Vaincra" (The Resistance Will Win):

*Politics and military action.* These two questions are closely related: "War is a continuation of politics."...Military action is a measure by which politics are executed...

...[there are] those who have a tendency only to rely on military action...They tend to believe that everything can be settled by armed force; they do not apply political mobilization, are unwilling to give explanations and to convince people;...fighting spiritedly, they neglect political work. They do not...act in such a way that the army and the people can wholeheartedly help on another.

I wouldn't want to push the envelope, but just maybe, it would be wise for our military leaders to study history and just maybe, use the knowledge gained by American Advisors in Vietnam to enlighten the current advisors in Afghanistan and Iraq.... Information from the expertise of MAT TEAMS and Marine CAP platoons would be invaluable!

**Note:** From the Counterparts SITREP publication...Vietnamese/American to serve as an Advisor to the Iraqi Army. US Army Captain James Van Thach has become the first Vietnamese-American to be selected as Advisor to the Iraqi forces. Captain Thach said, "I volunteered to join the Military Transition Team (MiTT) The core goals of the Iraqi Assistance Group foundations are very to similar to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam." His father, LTC John W. Perkins, US Army (Ret) served two tours as an Advisor to ARVN forces. His mother Ngoc Thi Thach, was a member of the Republic of Vietnam's Olympic team.

## PRESENT ARMS

Two legendary Rangers passed away in March of this year; one was General Robert C. Kingston—Senior Advisor to the South Vietnamese Ranger High Command; we did an interview with General Kingston in the last issue of the Patrolling (Spring 2007). The other is Colonel Ngo Ming Hong, Vietnamese Rangers—Biet Dong Quan. Colonel (Ret) John C. Cruden has

eulogized Colonel Hong in his vivid recollection of their sojourn together as presented in his words.

### IN HONOR OF COLONEL NGO MINH HONG\*

I write this in honor of a great soldier and Ranger who died this year-Colonel Ngo Minh Hong. As I twice served as his senior Ranger advisor and have known him for over thirty years, this is my tribute.

I first met Hong in a small firebase south of Saigon, having just arrived in a shot-up jeep. Hong was an energetic Major, a graduate of US Command and General Staff College, and full of ideas, enthusiasm, and humor. We quickly bonded. The 38<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion was quite well known in III Corps as the hero of the Tet Offensive. In the battle of Cholon, when two regiments of the VC's 9<sup>th</sup> Division took control of the Phu Tho race track, the battalion fought their way into the middle of Saigon and freed that famous race track, which then served as headquarters in the area. Hong proudly showed the "wanted dead or alive" posters by the Viet Cong for him and his officers, and assured me that I would soon be "wanted" as well.

As one of the mobile battalions, we were constantly on the move for long periods- often weeks at a time-in company and battalion size operations. As logistics were always a problem, we soon learned that living off the land was a practical necessity and we all carried bags of rice dangling from our rucksacks. Hong, however, had one evening ritual on these long, arduous operations that I admire. Each evening, after we had received intelligence reports from the battalion patrols and planned for the operations of the next day, he and I would retire to a quiet place and plan for the operation the next day. At that time he would pull out of some hidden pouch in his rucksack a small flask of Drambuie Liqueur. He would then carefully measure out a small portion for each of us-his effort, I believe, in retaining some sense of decorum at a time of intense guerrilla warfare.

After serving with Hong on a number of successful operations, the Cambodian incursion heated up and I became the senior advisor of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion which led that phase into Cambodia. We were involved in difficult combat but were uniformly successful. Later, when I received the Cross of Gallantry from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Commander in a special parade, it was Hong who came to find and congratulate me, telling me how important and unusual it was for the battalion to make such an individual award to an advisor.

My second time with the 38<sup>th</sup> Battalion was after brutal combat in which they lost many of their soldiers and key commanders. Hong was able to lobby successfully for my return as we were starting ranger school for the battalion at Duc My. Again, he

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

showed himself as a master teacher and motivator, integrating new recruits into the battalion, promoting new officers, and endlessly practicing ranger skills in this famed school. On our final exercise, a live fire battalion exercise in hostile territory he saved my life in an unusual way. We were in dense vegetation and concerned about booby traps, so I had my eyes fixed to the ground. Suddenly, I felt him push me aside and shot above my right ear. Down toppled a bamboo pit viper, one of the most dangerous and lethal snakes in Asia which had been dangling above my head. It was, I had to admit, a somewhat tricky-though successful shot.

When I left the 38<sup>th</sup> Battalion to transfer to the Special Forces and join the Studies and Observation Group, Hong was probably the highest regarded Battalion Commander in the Group, and clearly destined for promotion. The members of my old ranger team kept me abreast of the Battalion's activities. He was rapidly promoted to Colonel and given command of the famed 5<sup>th</sup> Group in 1970. He was Commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> Group during the 1972 NVA Easter Offensive. As the situation in MR I became critical, the 5<sup>th</sup> Ranger Group was airlifted from Saigon to reinforce I Corps. During the ensuing battle the 5<sup>th</sup> Group literally overran an NVA Battalion size group, and then ultimately confronted and held their own against a NVA Regiment. Later, on April 27, 1972 when the NVA major drive hit Quang Tri city, one historical account says this: "At 7:15 am the enemy attacked positions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Rangers group with their infantry and T-54 tanks. The Rangers held off repeated attacks, Lt Col. Ngo Minh Hong, commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> group, tirelessly drove his men on as they cleared out enemy foxholes and blew up tanks.

As Saigon was falling in 1975, I wrote Hong giving him my US address and phone number, telling him he could come to the US and I would support him. However, with the rapid fall of Saigon and subsequent capture of the Rangers, I was convinced he was dead. Then, one day years later, Mike Martin contacted me to advise me that Hong was in the US and looking for me. We immediately established contact again and later came to my house to meet my wife. In one visit I took the opportunity to do my own personal oral history of him and taped it. The following is a summary from that taped conversation.

Before Saigon fell he was in an accident and lost part of his leg. That saved his life as he was in the hospital when Saigon fell. Instead of killing him, they took him to a prison in the north for "reeducation." His daily ritual included crawling on hand and knees to the field where he picked potatoes to keep from starving. He told me that one of the things that kept him going was that he had received my letter of support, and knew that if could get out of prison there was hope for him in the United States.

After over a decade of this unimaginable prison situation, he was finally released and allowed to return to Saigon. Although he still had a house where his two sons lived, he was not allowed to work and could not make a living. It was then that he learned the story of the final moments of the 38<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion. After the fall of Saigon the battalion refused to surrender. Instead, they become their own guerrilla battalion, operating in the III Corps area as a guerrilla force. The North Vietnamese were quite concerned about this incipient rebellion and targeted them with two full divisions. They were finally surrounded and forced to surrender. When they did so, the battalion commander who replaced Hong was brutally killed in front of his troops.

Hong stayed for a short time in Saigon, but was able to take advantage of the US program that allowed him to immigrate to the US with his wife as a number of other Rangers had done before him.

When he arrived penniless in California, the Ranger community took him under their wing. He told me that in the opening moments of his arrival the Rangers had a house warming gathering for him in his new apartment. As they left, each of them left what money they could, which allowed him to exist until he could find employment. He was also appreciative of the money my family sent him.

As many of you know, Colonel Hong became a well known figure in the Ranger community in the US, as he became President of Vietnamese Rangers General Association. In addition, although this is not well known, he collected money from some of us and traveled back to Vietnam and gave money to some of the Ranger veterans he had formerly commanded.

At this moment I am wearing the Ranger watch that he gave to me, a tribute to our friendship. At West Point, we often sang a song for soldiers that ended with verse: "And when my day is done, my time on earth has run, may it be said well done, rest thou at peace." Colonel Hong- well done. You were a great Ranger and I was proud to be your friend.

\*By Colonel (Ret) John C. Cruden, Senior Advisor 38<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion, Senior Advisor 33d Ranger Battalion, Operations Advisor, 5<sup>th</sup> Ranger Group, and Special Forces (SOG). John is currently Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, US Department of Justice. The other members of the 38<sup>th</sup> Advisor Ranger Team who all honor Colonel Hong are Ken Pliskie, Edward Abbadusky, and Malcolm Smith.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

## RANGER HALL OF FAME

General Edison E. Scholes has been selected for induction into the 2007 Ranger Hall of Fame. His military career included four combat tours in three major conflicts. His first tour in Vietnam was as a rifle company commander and battalion S-3 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav Div. His second tour was as Senior Advisor, I Corps Ranger (Biet Dong Quan) Command, which consisted of a Ranger Group of three battalions and nine Border Ranger Battalions.

Ranger Scholes was the Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force-South, which provided command and support of Operation Just Cause in Panama in 1989-90. As Chief of Staff/Deputy Corps Commander, he led the initial elements of the XVIII Airborne Corps into Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield/Storm on 8 August 1990, and provided command and control of all Corps non-divisional forces during combat operations in Desert Storm.

Since retiring from active duty, Ranger Scholes has utilized his leadership skills in support of national security objectives in defense related training and operations in Saudi Arabia, Columbia, Peru, Bolivia, Algeria, Jordan, Afghanistan, Iraq and the U.S.A.

Our berets are “off” to Ed and his wife, Elva, for their friendship and support; they exemplify the great American Family....

## U.S. ARMY RANGER ADVISOR REUNION 2008

It is time to start making your reservations for the BDQ reunion in Chattanooga, TN at the Chattanooga Choo Choo-Holiday Inn for 28-30 April 2008. Checkout is 11AM on 1 May 2008. Room rate with discount is \$89.00 per night. Be sure to tell them you are with the US Army Ranger Advisors Assoc. Make your reservations as early as possible to assist in all aspects of the planning and coordination. Complimentary transportation to and from Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport is available for hotel guests arriving by plane. Hotel is located downtown at 1400 Market Street. Phone: (423) 266-5000; Fax: (423) 265-4635; Web Page: [www.choochoo.com](http://www.choochoo.com); invitations with detailed info will be mailed in September. This will be a special reunion!!!

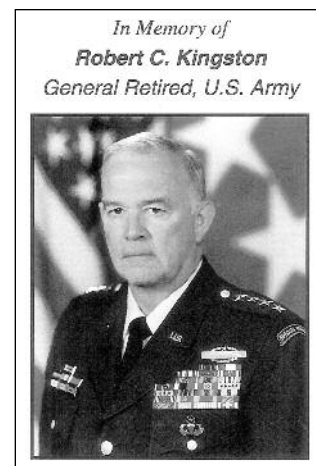
## CONTEMPLATIONS

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

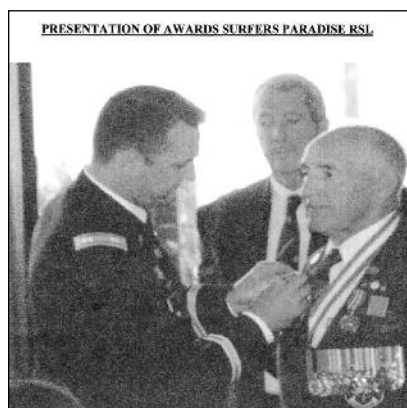
—John F. Kennedy

“No method of education, no system of promotion,  
No amount of common sense ability is of value  
Unless the leader has in him the root of the  
Matter—the fighting spirit.”

—Field Marshal Earl Wavel



Major General Ed Scholes, as a Major, Senior Ranger Advisor to the I Corps Ranger Command (ARVN) 1970-71; with two orphans he supported at I Corps Ranger Command, Danang, South Vietnam.



Mike, this is a copy of the only photo of the presentation I have, was being conducted by CTP Michael MESKUNAS, a Ranger who is doing an exchange posting at Canungra Training Camp.

I asked the RSL President if he could get me this young Ranger to present me with the Presidential Unit Citation and the Army Commendation Medal along with the Australian “National Medal” and the “Australian Defense Medal” which has just become a new medal for us. The young Captain did a good job. Credit to the US Rangers. Was proud of him. BDQ Robbie Robinson (Right-2007).

# MERRILL'S MARAUDERS



## GENERAL MERRILL'S CASUAL TALK AT THE NC REUNION IN 1952

Transcribed from a CD,  
received from, Danny Lee Fox,  
by R. Passanisi

I had the pleasure of meeting our former opponent in Burma, General Shinichiro Tanaka. He was commander of the 18<sup>th</sup> Division; General Tanaka assembled all his old staff, regimental commanders, and their staff.

On the first of April this year (1952) I had dinner with the bulk of the surviving regular officers of the 18<sup>th</sup> Division. You might be interested in the reaction of these Japanese people. They were just as curious as cats to check with me about the things that they had imagined had happened, and I was just as interested in the things they had been thinking about. General Tanaka had been thinking that when we arrived in the Walawbum area his first report was that two American Divisions had arrived in there. He said he didn't believe that but until he talked to me, he thought there were two regiments there.

He said that he had committed against the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Combat Team on the rim of the river, all the available men he could scrap up. He said he had about 5,000 men from out of his two Infantry Regiments, involved in the attack at the riverbank, at Walawbum. I thought that it be of interest, for you to know, that in addition, to the actual knowledge, some of you fellows who were there and here to night had. That there were at least a few people on the other side of the river who were mad at you. They had approximately twice as many men there against that one Combat Team, than we had in our whole outfit. I told General Tanaka that and he laughed, by the way, he doesn't speak a word of English.

He said, why didn't you tell me that eight years ago? I told him there were a lot of things that would have been quite different if we could have talked to each other eight years ago. He said he also, as someone reminded me tonight, the thing that amazed him the most was his inability to get his men to stop blocking our radios transmissions, when I was telling Japanese fairytale stories over it. He said I got so tired of you telling about Momotom. He said why couldn't you tell a different one.

Anyway, in a very serious mode General Tanaka observed that he had been in the Army for 43 years, by the way he had been a very senior officer in the Japanese Army. When he took command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Division, he was vice chief of the imperial general staff. He had a long tour as a staff officer and like most staff officers, lets change that, Like some staff officers he really wanted to get out and be with troops. So he asked them for relief of his job and had been given command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Division. As the commander of the 18<sup>th</sup> Division, he had been the first general to enter Singapore; it was his division that had gone across the straight at Japore and captured Singapore.

I said to him, General what did you think of the fighting at Singapore? And he said we all, we all wrote letters home. I wrote my will and left it in my pocket. I didn't expect that any of my division would come out of there. He said we went across the straight to Singapore, and after it was over I found that I lost less then 100 men. He said it's the fact of the deed I couldn't believe it. He said we fought the Chinese in China, we fought the Russians in the boarder incidence in 1936, up around the Remunga area of Manchuria, he said he fought down the straight of Malaya to Singapore and then we fought the English there. Of course you know, that you and I had some troubles there.

He asked do you have meetings like we have and I said yes, he said well you tell them this the next time you have a meeting, that I send them my regards and my respect. He said until we met your outfit, my division never had any serious problems. He said when he met you it was very serious. He said at the end of seeing you he had less then 600 men left in our division.

He said that his troops value have the great respect for you as an opponent. Not only for the fighting but for one thing throughout the entire campaign, we never found one wounded man abandoned we never saw one American body. He said as a matter of fact, before we went down the road, at Inkangahtawng, my division staff put flowers on the graves of the Americans buried there. He said to me that is the greatest thing I have ever seen. He said Japanese pride themselves on not leaving their wounded and their dead he said, but we left plenty in Burma. He said your troops left absolutely no sign that they have been there except the empty boxes their food came in. I think that General Tanaka really meant it. I am very grateful, I am very glad tonight, to be able to pass this message on to you. I think its a most unusual experience to be able to get their views of the fight that went on eight years ago.

**Merrill's Marauders (CONTINUED)**

At his side I met another acquaintance of some of you people, his name was Colonel Maruyama. Maruyama was a fellow that I'd say, he was some what annoying around Nhpum Ga. He was also the man that commanded Myitkyina and its defense. Colonel Maruyama was more serious then anyone else about how many men we had and what we were doing. He was also most interested in the terrible noise the mules made, he said it took him five days to realize that those were not ferocious animals or thousand of soldiers growling at him, but overgrown donkeys.

He said that at Nhpum Ga when he had moved in he had one Battalion at the foot of the hill in the Komang area, they were pulling back towards Myitkyina when we came in at Inkangahtawng. He had moved that Battalion opposite of the hill, trying to cut us off and he sent the other Battalion he had to Myitkyina. He said when he left there after Easter Sunday, and I think everybody who was there will remember Easter Sunday, that he had less then five rounds of rifle ammunition per man in his unit. I said why did you go back why didn't you have some more ammunition sent up, he said well I figured the way you fellows were running around me, I figured that you were just playing with me and running on to Myitkyina while I didn't have anybody in there.

When Colonel Maruyama arrived North of the Mandalay area, after Myitkyina fell, he could assemble only 73 men of his Regiment. He seemed to have held, let just say, some slight resentment for the way he was treated. The others were very professional about the matter. Colonel Maruyama, I think had too bitter an experience to be too friendly with people he was fighting with, never the less he was very polite. The other people were most friendly about it. I met all the other Regimental Commanders, they did not offer any great amount of enlightenment or anything of interest, I did find one thing however, they were very glad when they captured our mortar ammunition, although it warbled around in the barrel a little bit and didn't shoot very straight, they could pop it back to us out of their mortars. That was about the only thing they recovered from us, they didn't get too much of it. Maruyama did let out with one assertion; it was very, very good. He said if you ask my frank opinion of the food you people had in those little packages, he said I think it was terrible. I think we can all agree with that.

*From the March 2007 issue of "The Burman News" with permission of R. Passanisi*



**MY VERSION OF THE LANDING AT ANZIO**

*By Ken Markham*

I will try to give an accurate accounting to the best of my memory of the landing at Anzio, January 22, 1944.

I was on the lead landing craft with Colonel Darby. Company "F" 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion was to be point on the landing. I can remember the rocket ships opening up to our left and behind us. It looked like a solid wall of fire in the water when they were firing. We were told that the shelling was to knock out the land mines on the beach.

I hit the water, which was waist deep. I carried two bandoleers of ammo, cartridge belt, pack and three pineapple grenades.

On top of my pack, I carried one M-60 mortar shell. We were loaded down. I made it on the beach among the first to land. I remember a pier jutting out and I followed it directly into Anzio.

We hit the street and I couldn't believe the lack of resistance. We were wet and cold from the water and scared as hell, too. We formed up a single file and passed by some buildings. I heard some activity around a house. I looked up into the garage and saw a hole in the floor leading to a tunnel, which had been dug. All of the sudden, four or five Russian laborers came up out of the tunnel. They had been used by Germans. I heard some firing out to my right front. It was a German scout car with an officer and the driver. Both were killed.

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

By daylight we were ordered to move out through Anzio to the plains beyond. We went out about four or five miles and dug in. That night I was sent out on patrol to recon the front. We pushed out about three miles and about three miles to our right. No contact was made with the enemy. We sacked in for the night. The next morning Sgt. Schrader sent me back with a detail to get water. On the way back to get water, German planes came in and strafed and bombed Anzio. The bombs had a direct hit on an anti-aircraft gun next to me. We made it to the ocean and filled our water cans. I saw lots of objects floating in the water. I pulled one out and it was a sleeping bag of a British soldier. I opened it up and found a bottle of scotch. We had a good day. We did not see much action that day as all artillery fire and Anzio Annie were firing into the harbor and Anzio.

We sent out patrols nightly. After three or four days of this, we were informed to pack up and be ready to move out in the morning. We marched three or so miles to get on trucks. The area was surrounded by trees. We had our barracks bags there. We were told to rest up and take it easy because we had a busy night coming up. We were instructed to clean our weapons and sharpen our knives. About five PM we marched to a point where an irrigation ditch started. It was getting dark when Col. Darby met with Maj. John Dobson, Master Sgt. Ehalt, First Sgt. Mattivi, Cpl. Ken Markham, first scout, and Pfc. John Seay second scout. I can't recall seeing Lt. Fowler. I do recall seeing Lt. Van Schriver.

I remember after coming out of Venafro that our CO was first. Lt. McKinnon and I understood that Lt. John Vanskoy was our Platoon leader. Lt. Vanskoy went into the hospital in Naples and did not make the trip to Anzio.

Col. Darby's instructions were to keep concealed from the enemy and not fire unless necessary. We were not to break radio silence until we were in Cisterna. We were waiting for the jump off, and off to our left I heard German armor moving. I made the statement to Jim Brennan that we were in for a rough night. I was on point on the right and Seay was on the left side of the ditch. We moved along the ditch for about three or four miles when I was instructed to hold up.

I heard Maj. Dobson trying to contact Col. Darby. We had passed by a battery of 88's on our right flank about one hundred or so yards. We also had bypassed a machine gun nest. There is no one who can make me believe the Germans let us slip by. We could have killed them at any time. I think we did an excellent job of bypassing the enemy without their knowledge.

It was just breaking daylight when I cleared the ditch and crossed a road leading to Cisterna. I hit an olive orchard to the left side of the road and it was loaded with Germans in

foxholes. Maj. Dobson and I cut loose with Tommy guns. Maj. Dobson instructed me to make my way back across the paved road and contact Maj. Miller of the Third Ranger Battalion and lead him back to where he was. I made it across the paved road with bullets sounding like angry hornets all around me.

I came to a hedgerow, and I jumped over it and onto a dirt trail or road. There were five Germans right there. I reacted first and shot them with my Tommy gun and at the same time jumped into the bushes. Combat is like anything else, the first to react is the one who survives.

I made my way back several hundred yards and contacted a Sgt. in the 3rd Battalion. I asked him where I could find Maj. Miller, and he pointed to a hole where an artillery shell made a direct hit. Maj. Miller had been killed, so I told the Sgt. to contact 3rd Battalion Command and give them the information about our situation and where we were.

I started making my way toward Maj. Dobson. The paved road on my left was loaded down with tanks and armored cars. The firing down the road was so severe I could not make it across. I landed prone in the ditch beside the road with snipers working us over. We returned fire when we could spot a target. Capt. Shunstrom was lying in the ditch with me. I had one clip of ammunition left and one sticky bomb; everyone was running out of ammunition.

It was getting late in the afternoon when I looked up the road. I saw the walking wounded the Germans had captured from an aid station of ours. The Germans put them in front of tanks with loud speakers. The Germans said they were going to shoot down these one hundred or so wounded soldiers if we did not surrender. Capt. Samm and Capt. Shunstrom were the original Rangers and they instructed us to give up. If they gave up, I had no choice. The Captain or battalion doctor was killed by the Germans while trying to prevent them from messing with his boys.

By this time it was getting dark and the Germans marched us down to a gully and had machine guns set up all around us. I knew they were going to waste us then, but the die had been cast. About three hours later, German trucks picked us up and carried us between Cisterna and Rome. They piled us in a little church that night, and the next morning they took us to Rome and paraded us past The Coliseum. They said it was for propaganda purposes.

They loaded us up, back into the trucks, and moved us north of Rome to a temporary camp. This camp was an Italian camp used to keep British soldiers. Capt. Shunstrom was in the truck with me. He told me that he would not be here tomorrow. He escaped that night.

About ten days later the Germans moved us by trucks from the

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

Italian camp north to a railroad yard and loaded us onto railroad cars. We were attacked by American planes. They strafed and bombed our convoy. We jumped out into the bushes and Sgt. Scander escaped at this point, and I lost contact with him. They moved us back to the Italian camp. About two days later, they moved us again by train. The Germans gave us a quarter loaf of bread and told us that this was our ration for the next two days. We were told that it would take us that much time to travel the Brenner Pass into Austria.

At about twelve to one am, after the train pulled out of the Florence railroad yard, and it might have been twenty to thirty miles north of Florence, Ray Sadolki and I had been working on the floor of the box car. We were able to work a piece of iron loose. On each side of the boxcar were two portholes with partitions between them. Barbed wire was nailed on the outside of the portholes. I took the iron bar and worked the partition loose between the portholes. This made it large enough for a body to slip through. I began working on the barbed wire and finally got it loose. While I was working on the portholes there was a German soldier sitting on the roof of the boxcar, but apparently he did not hear what I was doing.

It was cold and dark. I told Arthur Lyons I was going to take a crack at it. We crossed a bridge, and I told him that I would work my way back to the bridge and wait for him for about one hour. I had a GI blanket I tied to the inside of the boxcar. I let the blanket fly out the porthole, and then I went out headfirst and slid down the blanket. The train was traveling about thirty miles per hour. The real trouble seemed in pushing away from the side of the train and not getting caught under the wheels. I pushed away from the train and landed on the rocks on the side of the tracks. It seemed as though I rolled forever. The guard saw me jump and shot at me three or four times, but missed. I cut out for the bridge. I heard some more shots and guessed that Lyons had made a break for it also. About thirty minutes later, Lyons showed up. The Germans stopped the train and took everyone off the boxcar we had been in and moved them to other boxcars.

Lyons and I took off running up a road. We must have traveled about five miles from the railroad, and we went into a house. I knocked on the door and asked for food. A woman came to the door and asked us to leave. She said if the Germans found out she had helped us, they would kill them. I decided to leave them alone, and we worked our way up the road about a mile. I heard someone coming down the road; a man was riding a bicycle. The man went into a house, and it seemed odd for him to be out at three or four in the morning. I just hoped that he was the underground. I knocked on the door, and the man came to the door and told us to come in. He fed us bread and raw bacon. We had not eaten very much in about ten days. I got sick, and Lyons was sick with a cold. The man took us to the

barn where we slept for three or four hours in the haystack.

The next morning, the man came to the barn and hooked up the horse to a buggy. He told us he was going to Florence to contact the underground. I was debating whether to kill him or trust him. I decided to trust him. The man left for Florence, and his wife came outside and I asked her if Lyons and I could have a bath. The lady heated up some water and poured it into an old wooden tub for us. While Lyons and I were taking a bath the lady took our clothes and washed them for us. The lady's daughter-in-law was also there with her, and the lady told us that her son had been taken POW in Africa and was in the U.S.A. Her son had written and told her how nice the people had treated him.

By nightfall, the Italian man had returned from Florence and said he had made contact with the underground, and they would be out to pick us up on Sunday; this was Tuesday. We rested up until Sunday when the underground came to the house riding bicycles built for two. They also brought some civilian clothes for us. I was real careful to keep my dog tags. We rode the bicycles into Florence and right through the heart of town. They were having a carnival, and it seemed to be a hundred Germans having a good time. We rode on for two or three blocks to an apartment building. A nice old Italian woman and old man met us at the door. We were introduced to three British soldiers who had been captured in Crete. They had been in prison, and when Italy capitulated, they got away.

The British soldiers could speak Italian very good and would go out at night. Lyons and I stayed in at all times. Lyons was redheaded, and I was blond. We discussed our options of getting back to the American lines. It was February and very cold in the mountains. We decided to give it until March 15<sup>th</sup>, and then we would try to go through the mountains and get to Venice where we could get through to Yugoslavia.

The British boys were in a bar, and a Gestapo member spotted them and followed them back to the apartment. We had escaped over a month earlier and were getting restless. I always looked out the window at the street and saw people going to lunch from work. This day I did not see anyone on the street, and I called Lyons and told him something was wrong. Within ten to fifteen minutes, someone knocked on the door downstairs and told us the Germans were coming. I looked out the window and saw the Germans surrounding the apartment. They set up machine guns on each corner of the building. I ran to the attic of the apartment and got on the roof. Lyons and I laid flat on the roof. The Italian man and woman came out on the roof and ran to the front of the building and stood to give themselves up. The German machine guns cut them down.

The British boys were captured, and thirty to forty minutes later, a German in a black leather coat stuck a Luger pistol over

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

the edge of the roof, and we surrendered. Five of us were put in a cell just large enough to lay flat down on the floor. We had a wooden bucket to use for a toilet. The bucket was changed once a day. We did not see daylight for thirty days. I got to talking to a guard, an Italian, and told him that this British boy was going to die if we didn't get him out of there. I asked the guard to contact the Swiss Red Cross representative; he did, and we moved to a POW camp in Mooseburg, Camp number seven.

Sgt. Bob Ehalt was camp commander and did a great job of representing us and keeping order in the camp. When we were nearing the end of the war in March and April of 1945, the Russians were moving in on our camp, Stalag IIIA. We were fifty or so miles from the Elbe River where the Russians and Germans met. The Germans marched us away from Stalag IIIA to Stalag IIIB in the snow. Some of the men were too weak to walk, and if they fell or could not move this German would walk up to them and shoot them in the head.

The Russians moved in and liberated us. I had maps and I knew the direction to the American lines. I jumped a fence and started walking to the Elbe River. The Russians and Germans were still fighting all around us. I caught a ride with a Russian and arrived in a German town called Torgaue. There must have been ten thousand German civilians waiting to get across the river. I told the Russians I was an American, but they would not let me over. That night, I went up river about a mile and swam across to the American side.

I was flown out of Germany to Camp Lucky Strike in La Harve, France. I was returned to Camp Shanks in New York in the last of April or first of May, 1945. I had one month of furlough and was sent down to Miami for one month convalescent leave. After my convalescent leave, I was sent to Ft. Myers, Virginia. I was in the cadre for honor guard that paraded for dignitaries coming into Washington.

*From the 2004 RBA reunion program book*

## **Ranger Infantry Companies Airborne**

While the guns of Joint Task Force Seven pounded Inchon, an officer was reporting to the Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief of Army Field Forces. Fort Monroe, Virginia. Col. John Gibson Van Houten had been personally selected by General Collins to head the new Ranger training program.

Born 11 March 1904 at Macon, Georgia, Van Houten received his education at the University of Georgia at Athens, graduating in 1926 with a degree in agriculture and a commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the cavalry reserve. The same year, he was commissioned in the regular Army, Infantry. In the years preceding World War II he served with various Infantry regiments in New York, the Philippines, and Texas. He also had three years of duty with the Civilian Conservation Corps. With the outbreak of World War II he served in combat with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as chief of staff, regimental commander, and assistant division commander. At the outbreak of the Korean War he was serving on the faculty of the Command and General Staff College and Army War College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Van Houten was an able officer but without experience in Ranger operations. That experience came in

the form of the executive officer appointed by Department of the Army, Col. Edwin Walker. Walker had served as a regimental commander in the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Service Force, a special operations unit that had distinguished itself during World War II. His bravery and devotion to his men was widely recognized. Walker was a combat soldier with little interest in garrison protocol. One officer said Walker did not care if the barracks were filled with trash cans, it was how things went in the field that mattered.

On September 17 Walker joined Van Houten at Fort Monroe, and after two days of joint briefings, they separated, Van Houten traveling to Washington, D.C., to make further arrangements, and Walker going to Fort Benning, Georgia, to do the same. It was a crash program, necessitated by the rapid pace of the war. Fort Benning was the logical location as it was the center of infantry activities, the home of the infantry school. While arrangements were made for barracks and training areas, personnel records were being screened for those who had served with the six Ranger battalions or the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Service Force or the 5307<sup>th</sup> Composite Unit Provisional (Merrill's Marauders) during World War II. Men were sought who could use their experience to put together the toughest training course in the Army. As leaders were being selected, the call went out for



## RICA (CONTINUED)

volunteers to serve as Rangers. The requirement that these be qualified Airborne personnel narrowed the selection base. The 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, had been significantly reduced in strength to fill the 187<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regimental Combat Team for duty in Korea, so the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, became the ideal recruiting pool.

Signs at Fort Bragg named the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division “America’s Guard of Honor.” It was common knowledge among the men that if war came, the 82<sup>nd</sup> would be the first to fight; that was why most of them were in the 82<sup>nd</sup>. The movie *Battleground*, a story of the Battle of the Bulge, had recently played at the post theater, exciting the imagination, but for the young, well-conditioned, and motivated paratrooper, there was little to do—men had their fights and frolics at Combat Alley in the town of Fayetteville, or if without funds, as most young soldiers usually were, stayed in the barracks. Sitting on wooden footlockers at the end of steel cots, they polished their Corcoran jump boots again and again. The boots were a badge of achievement. The rag, the water, and Kiwi polish were an intimate part of barracks life; men polished and talked about when the orders would come to go to war. The orders did not come, and each day the band would parade the division area playing the division fight song that began, “We’re all-American and proud to be. We are the Soldiers of Liberty.” Men went to training or pulled guard duty or “ash and trash” detail or sweated in the mess halls on K.P. War offered a chance to escape the routine of garrison life. When the news came that the North Koreans had invaded South Korea, the men reacted with enthusiasm at the prospect of mobilization, but the 82<sup>nd</sup> did not move.

The young, eager soldiers were not aware that though the American army had been gutted by the demands of war in Korea, Europe rested uneasily under the threat of invasion by a massive Soviet Army that had not been demobilized. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division was the strategic reserve that the United States held back from Korea in case Europe again became a battleground. But the men of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Divisions were not prepared to wait for action that might never come. With the announcement that Airborne Ranger units were being formed for combat, and volunteers were needed, long lines formed—in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division estimates ran as high as five thousand volunteers. These were regular Army soldiers, men who had volunteered for the Army and the Airborne. They had a wide variety of skills as light and heavy weapons infantrymen, and some served in artillery, or signal corps, or medical units. They brought to the Rangers a wide experience that would enable them to instruct each

other and to overcome problems beyond the skills of most units.

Many of the original officers were volunteers, but some were not. A few were shunted off from replacement depots or from units that did not want them. One gallant officer, who was later killed in action, was sent to the Rangers because he had received a parking ticket.

The interviews with the enlisted volunteers were conducted by officers chosen but a few hours earlier to serve as Ranger company commanders. As in colonial times, Ranger officers themselves selected the men they would lead in combat. They were pleasantly surprised to find that a number of noncommissioned officers had combat experience from World War II. There were privates, twenty and twenty-one years old, who had already served a three-year hitch in the Army or Marines. Their boyhood had occurred during a time of great national patriotism; service was expected, and the services did not make an extensive age check. Some Ranger volunteers in World War II had packed an unused razor and faced the recruiter at age sixteen.

Goaded by the spur of war, the selection process moved with incredible swiftness. On September 20, just five days after Van Houten had received his orders, the first group of volunteers arrived at Fort Benning. The facilities of the Infantry School were used to establish a Ranger training “section,” but a message and verbal orders from the commanding general of the Third Army resulted in the organization of the Ranger Training Center (Airborne), 3340<sup>th</sup> Army Service Unit, effective 29 September 1950.

The headquarters detachment was established with a strength of twenty-two officers and thirty-four enlisted men. Also activated on the 29<sup>th</sup> were the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Ranger infantry companies (Airborne). Unlike the Eighth Army Ranger Company which was initially a Table of Distribution unit (usually organized for temporary usage within a theater), these companies would be the lineal descendants of Ranger units of World War II—the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Infantry Company from Company A, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Infantry Battalion; 2<sup>nd</sup> Company from Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> companies respectively from companies A of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Ranger battalions. This practice would continue with each of the fifteen Ranger infantry companies (Airborne) designated as Table of Organization and Equipment units.

*From “Rangers In Korea” by Robert W. Black with permission of Ranger Bob Black*

# Special Operations Memorial Update

March – May 2007

During this reporting period we have sustained four Special Operations losses.

Navy SEAL SO2 Joseph Schwedler became the first SEAL bearing the new Navy Special Operations (SO) MOS to be lost in combat action.

Special Forces Staff Sergeant Michael Duane Thomas was lost on 27 April; Sergeant Timothy P. Padgett on 8 May; and Sergeant Major Bradly Dean Conner on 9 May.

Chapter LX, Special Forces Association (SFA) added an engraving in memory of the late Jimmy Dean who was a charter member of the SFA when it was formed in Saigon as the Special Forces Decade Club, and was a past two-time National President, and served for many years as the SFA Administrator.

Former Staff Sergeant Ron Books, Co I (Ranger), whom we are please to report is still with us, will be added to the new Special Operations Memorial. Ron used the application form that appeared in the last issue of Patrolling. The accumulated engravings purchased by members of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association have almost reached the \$10,000 point, at which time the Association will be elevated from the current \$5,000 accumulated total to the \$10,000 donor level.

Donations were received from The Mitre Corporation and from Community Lodge 292, Free and Accepted Masons.

As this goes to press, the original Special Operations Memorial is undergoing demolition, and the new Special Operations Memorial will be immediately rebuilt, to be finished and in place for a proposed dedication prior to 4 July. All engravings from the original Memorial were removed last week and have been labeled and stored in preparation for placement on the new Memorial.

A new road, skirting the Special Operations memorial site has been named SOCOM MEMORIAL WAY. As you can see in the attached photograph, the names have been removed from the Memorial in preparation for demolition and rebuilding. I will send a photo of the new site with my next report.

RTLW

Geoff Barker  
Director of Site Operations



# 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 **2006**” it means your membership number is 0628 and your dues were paid through **30 June of 2006**. 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. Dues can be paid by check, credit card (MC/VISA), or payment can be made online using Pay Pal. 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: **75<sup>th</sup> 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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HAVILAND, JR.	RICHARD L.	RGT	McCORMACK	WILLIAM J.	RGT
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## V. A. NEWS & BENEFITS

In a large number of cases over the past few years, there have been people with whom I have been working to obtain VA benefits or corrections to military records, where the veteran did not have a DD214. In many other cases, the DD214 data was incorrect, false or omitted important decorations and awards. Further, almost none had copies of their military medical records so compensation claims were delayed or, even, denied.

As we age, and for younger members, the keeping of accurate historical records will be vital to us and – eventually – our next of kin. The NARA repository will provide you, upon request, your entire 201 and medical files for your review. Also, it will replace all decorations and awards that may have been lost.

## Military Personnel Records

This site is provided for those seeking information regarding military personnel, health and medical records stored at NPRC (MPR). If you are a veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased veteran, you may now use [vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov) to order a copy of your military records.

For all others, your request is best made using a Standard Form 180. It includes complete instructions for preparing and submitting requests. Please Note: All requests must be in writing, signed and mailed to us at the address shown below.

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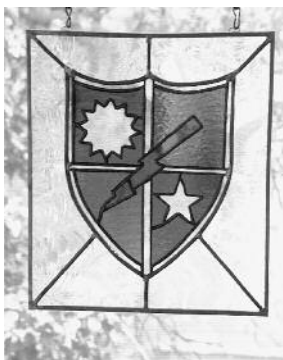
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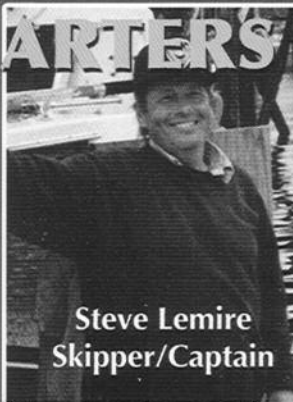
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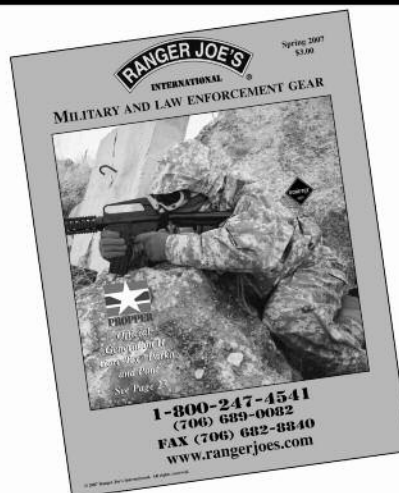


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