

PATROLLING

WINTER 2007 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 22 ISSUE III

*Color Guard, Dedication of First Ranger Battalion,
75th Infantry Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, GA,
October 18, 2007.*

Photo by J. Chester



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



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

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.

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.

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

PAST PRESIDENTS:

1986-1988	Bob Gilbert
1988-1990	Billy Nix
1990-1992	Bob Gilbert
1992-1994	Roy Nelson (resigned) Milton Lockett (resigned) Duke Dushane (appointed by Directors)
1994-1996	Roy Barley
1996-1998	Rick Erlher
1998-2000	Terry Roderick
2000-2002	Emmett Hiltibrand
2002-2004	Dana McGrath
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Manuscripts, photographs and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics. The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission, that is in bad taste, offensive or that discredits unnecessarily any individual or group.

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WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

MAGAZINE

Each issue of the magazine generates about \$30.00 to \$50.00 in expense, postage due on address corrections. This is an expense that is 100% avoidable. If you move or change addresses, please let me know prior to the month that the magazine will be mailed, (March, June, September & December). Each time an address correction is mailed to us, it costs \$1.00. Believe it or not, these mount up, last year we spent \$197.00 on address corrections, so please let me know prior to a move.

We are still looking for sponsors for the magazine. A business card sized sponsor is \$100.00 for 4 issues, \$150.00 with a link from our web site to the sponsor's web site. If we get a few more sponsors, we will have another issue of the magazine paid for. That will be three out of the four issues paid for, without use dues income to pay publishing costs.

WEB SITE

We want to run current photographs of the Unit Directors in each unit space. Please ensure that the web master and the editor each have current photographs. If you do not have an electronic copy of the photograph, send a hard copy to the editor so that it can be scanned. A copy will be sent to the webmaster and the original will be returned.

Notice

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen



Bill Bullen

Since the fall issue of Patrolling there has been a lot going on behind the scenes, your individual Unit Directors, for the most part have been doing a lion's share. It cannot be expressed strongly enough that, you as members need to contact these men and tell them what you think needs to be done; otherwise everything will be business as usual. I know when I was a member other than an officer; I was disappointed, at times, with the leadership. That meant calling or writing and discussing your concerns, they will for the most part be grateful and try to fix the situation.

There are those in the world over who would believe the United States of America, "One Nation under God", would be too apathetic or passive to challenge any threat to democracy. Our Modern Rangers are always there first, "Leading the Way". This leaves the Ranger family back home without their best. We as Veteran Rangers of times not so militarily friendly need to remember this and support the Family Fund with time and money. If there is anything you think you can do to help please contact me.

The Family Fund is one of the most important projects that we maintain. The family is enough of a priority that the Regiment has deemed it necessary to implement "Regimental Family Readiness Liaison". The man in this position is Oscar Edwards. In the past there have been situations when people would go directly to the office of the Commander, which is not the ideal way to do business, everyone needs a chain of command, now everyone has a way to get the ear of the Commander through Oscar. The program works; we've needed him as an Association and believe me it works! If you have not yet done so, get your contribution for the Family Holiday program, to your Unit Director or the 75thRRA secretary.

Major General Howard Garrison passed away September 13, 2007. General Garrison was an original Merrill's Marauder. Bryant Middleton was in attendance to represent the 75thRRA. I was informed via e-mail by one of our members of the death and would we have anyone in attendance. At this point we contacted Gene and in a matter of hours Gene had dispatched one of his State Coordinator Reps. Emmett Hildebrand implemented the State Coordinator Program several years ago; Gene Tucker has taken the reins and built it to where it is now. What Gene needs is complete contact information, to include most

importantly an e-mail address of everyone who has volunteered to be a State Coordinator Representative. We do most of our communication electronically and we need your e-mail address. This information will be shared with only Gene; he is very considerate of your privacy. You can contact Gene at egt12@comcast.net. See the State Coordinator article in this issue of Patrolling Magazine. Thanks Gene for what you are doing.

Most recently Past President Steve Crabtree paid a visit to Ken York's son Stephen at the Army Hospital, Hunter AAF. Stephen had severely broken his leg in an accident during Ranger Training. We send Stephen our best wishes for a speedy recovery and thanks to Steve Crabtree for making the visit.

We intend to have a list of Past Presidents in the forward area of the Patrolling Magazine, if you as a past President would like your contact information added to your name, please contact the Editor. Also, there will be an available space for submissions from Past Presidents. To make such a submission, subject to edition (censorship), again contact the Editor of Patrolling Magazine. There will also be business cards made for Past Presidents, with the information you wish, to include your dates of service. Once again contact John Chester to order your cards.

There is a news letter out there which may or may not be of some help to some of our members and any other combat veteran with PTSD. It is the S-2 Report. The author Dennis Latham is from Guilford, Indiana. If you are interested he may be contacted at; dennislatham@earthlink.net, or www.combatptsd.net, also www.dennislatham.com.

I know there is a minimal charge to receive his newsletter, but it has proven to be extremely valuable to me. Give it a look if you so desire.

Many Rangers leaving active duty desire to sign up for membership in the 75thRanger Regiment Association, the largest, and the most active Ranger fraternity out there. However they are misled and end up joining one of the other fine Ranger organizations. After a period of time there will be a call asking John or I why they are not receiving Patrolling Magazine. It is quite simple; they joined an organization other than the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. We require that you be assigned to one of the predecessor composite units or the 75thRanger Regiment itself. I would invite anyone who meets these criteria to join.

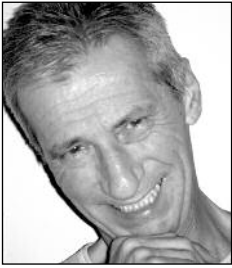
Rangers, Lead the Way!

FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Postelnic

RANGER HALL OF FAME

This was written in November, so by the time you're reading this the Association Committee for the 2008



Bill Postelnic

the Ranger Hall of Fame will probably have been submitted.

Reviewing the nomination packets and being able to select only three is a very serious and humbling undertaking. There is no shortage of deserving LRPs, LRRPs, BDQ Advisors and Rangers. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Roy Barley, Duke Du Shane, Kevin Ingraham, Wayne Mitsch, Terry Roderick and Jim Waters who willingly gave of their time to review all the packets submitted to the Association. As soon as the Ranger Hall of Fame announces the Inductees for 2008, the information will be posted on our website and it will be published in the next edition of *Patrolling Magazine*.

FINDING "LOST" TEAM MATES

For all of us, our military service stands as a most significant chapter in our lives, representing some of the best times and some of the worst. Sharing those memories with others we served with helps us deal with the past in ways we can't do alone. Just like it was way back when, we still need each other. There's nothing like the camaraderie at reunions and being with your own kind once again. Many times the talk turns to a discussion of a lost team mate who no one knows how to find, but it sure would be good to see him again.

In some cases, Association Units have spent hours on the Internet using various name search websites and/or paying for name searches with unit funds. Well, we're going to try and change that. The

Association is in the process of performing a test with a company that specializes in name searches and locating people.

The plan is that we will provide names, and as much other information we can, like the state they were from or social security numbers from an old set of orders, and the search company will do the rest. Phone numbers and addresses will be turned over to Unit Directors for follow-up. While the details of how this will all work and be funded are still being examined, now is the time to get the names of the men you would like to locate to your Unit Director.

MEMBERSHIP

At the Association Business Meeting last August, it was decided to form a Membership Committee to examine appropriate ways to recruit new members. But they can't do the recruiting job alone. We all need to take a part in recruiting new members. Word of mouth is the best form of advertising. A lot of men eligible to join are not aware of the Association and what we do, so spread the word. And for active duty Rangers in pay grades E-5 and below, dues are waived. When you see a soldier with a Ranger Scroll in an airport or anywhere, or someone wearing a LRRP or Ranger cap or shirt, or with a bumper sticker or window decal on their vehicle, introduce yourself and ask them if they are an Association member.

REUNION PLANNING

Our Reunion Coordinator, Dave Cummings, along with Terry Roderick and Duke DuShane, have begun planning for next Association Reunion and Banquet. A survey will be sent to all Unit Directors in February asking for their input and opinions on a number of ways to build upon the traditions and success of this event. The information gathered will be used to develop our next reunion. If you have suggestions for the next reunion, now is the time to contact your Unit Director and let your voice be heard.

R. L. T. W.
Bill

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

The Wall—Sixteen Years Later

BY: John Chester

Our first New Years Day as a married couple, indeed our first ever together, dawned bright, clear and cold, it was the first day of 1992. "Get up" she said, "Let's go." "Go where?" I asked. "To the Wall" she replied, "I want to see it." "Well I don't." I grumbled, "Who wants to see a goddam ditch anyway? Designed by a Vietnamese, probably to rub salt in the wounds of every Vietnam Vet that goes to see it." "Have you ever seen it?" she asked. I had to admit that I had not. I sort of let myself be talked into going, after all, was it fair to condemn something sight unseen? Of course not. So I went.



John Chester

I must admit, it was not what I expected, nor was my reaction to it what I expected. I had lived within 30 miles of the Wall for almost 10 years, and never felt the slightest inclination to visit. I had dismissed it as a ditch designed by a scheming Oriental bent on insulting every Vietnam Vet that visited. I compared it to the way the government seemed to want to sweep the War under the rug, the Memorial was below ground so as not to be seen, unlike all the other lofty monuments in the garden of stone that is Washington, DC and Northern Virginia.

We parked about a mile away, and began walking. I noticed, as we approached the Wall, the attitude of the folk around us seemed to become more somber. There was a reverence that was almost palpable. We made one transit of the walkway and a Park Ranger, perhaps sensing that it was our first time, asked if he could help. He pointed out the directories and I went to look up a few names. When Mary Anne came back and asked who I was looking for, I found that I was in the 'C's', the 'CH's' to be exact. I was looking to see if there were any Chester's. There were a few. I have talked to many vets since then, and many said that they looked up their surname at their first visit to the Wall. Searching for relatives? I don't think so. I think we were looking for our own names. I'm not sure if I was relieved or not that mine wasn't there.

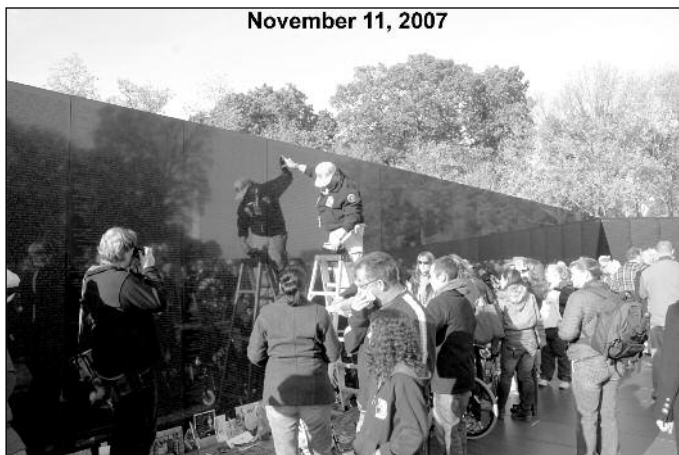
This Veterans Day Mary Anne & I again made the annual trek to the Wall. It has become somewhat of a freak show, though most all are very careful to show no disrespect close to the actual wall. Johnny Depp was there in his pirate costume, having a deeply soul searching conversation with his hand held recorder. The omnipresent bikers in their colors were in attendance, some so young that surely they were in their early teens when they were "in the Nam", some perhaps even younger. All the old guys with their parts of uniforms, hats walking sticks, etc. This visit I noticed that there were quite a number of younger veterans in attendance, veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and other points covered by the Global War on Terror. Perhaps, since they have no memorial of their own yet, they are coming to ours. For my part, they are welcome. I do think that the acceptance of the veterans of the GWOT by the country at large, is due in large part to the price we Vietnam Veterans paid when we returned to, at best indifference, at worst rejection and vilification. It was a high price to pay, but, in retrospect, worth it. I think we all agree that, it being a given that the above occurred, we (Vietnam Veterans) will not let the same happen again.

Mary Anne and I had the privilege of being invited to the first Ranger Battalion Memorial dedication and Ball, October 18 & 19, 2007. On the way south, we stopped at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum at Fayetteville, NC. We called Don Keller, the former First Sergeant of K/75 (Ranger), in Vietnam, who lives in Fayetteville, and had dinner with him the Wednesday before we got to Savannah. It was good seeing him again and also picking his brain about a place to archive all the copies of our *Patrolling* magazines from 1986 to present. There are several possibilities, after they are firmed up, I will let everyone know what's going on and open the issue to discussion.

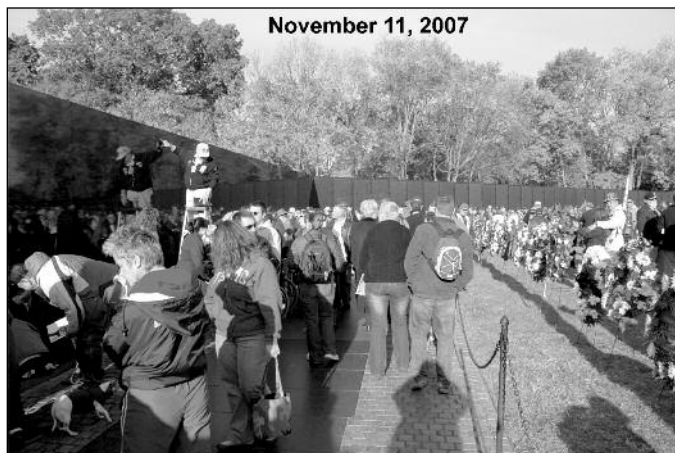
I suppose that I should be used to it by now, but, having been to several Ranger Balls, I am always impressed by the sheer number of good looking men and women that are in attendance.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

November 11, 2007



November 11, 2007



Mary Anne Colledge and John Chester at the 1st Batt Ranger Ball, Savannah, GA, in October, 2007.



A few of our tablemates at the Ranger Ball.



MG Leuer at the dedication of the 1st Batt Memorial. MG Leuer was the first commander of the 1st Ranger Battalion in 1974.



Piper, 1st Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

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, William Bullen - President

VA DISABILITY/COMPENSATION SYSTEM:

On 6 NOV the DoD and VA signed an agreement for a pilot program to begin this month to evaluate a single physical examination that would be used by DoD to determine the medical fitness of injured personnel to remain in uniform and by VA for awarding disability compensation. The DVA is commencing a study to determine the appropriate level and duration of transition payments that should be paid to all eligible veterans who are participating in a rehabilitation program. It also intends to solicit outside bids to be able to award one contract to conduct two important technical studies that will assist decisions to be made regarding the updating of our military disability system. Full details about the competitive solicitation for the studies will be available on <http://www.fedbizopps.gov>. The studies are part of the recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, co-chaired by former Sen. Bob Dole and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. The studies will:

- * Create a schedule for rating disabilities based upon current concepts of medicine and disability, taking into account loss of quality of life and loss of earnings resulting from specific injuries or combination of injuries.
- * Examine the nature of injuries and combination of injuries for which disability compensation is payable under various disability programs of the Federal and State governments and other countries;
- * Examine the extent to which quality of life and loss of earnings are independently taken into account in various disability programs of the Federal and State governments and other countries;
- * Examine the effect of an injury or combination of

injuries on a veteran's loss of earnings, such as inability to work in certain occupations, and on a veteran's quality of life, such as activities of independent living, recreational and community activities, and personal relationships, including the inability to participate in favorite activities, social problems related to disfigurement or cognitive difficulties, and the need to spend increased amounts of time performing activities of daily living; and

- * Address measurement of the effect of an injury or combination of injuries on a veteran's psychological state, loss of physical integrity, and social inadaptability.

The study will make recommendations concerning the following:

- * The appropriate injuries or combination of injuries to include in the schedule;
- * The appropriate level of compensation for loss of quality of life;
- * The appropriate standard or standards for determining whether an injury or combination of injuries has caused a loss in a veteran's quality of life;
- * The appropriate level of compensation for loss of earnings; and
- * The appropriate standard or standards for determining whether an injury or combination of injuries has caused a veteran loss of earnings.

[Source: VA Media Relations 8 Nov 07 ++]

SSN PROTECTION TIPS:

"What is your social security number?" is a question many of us are asked on a regular basis without realizing that large amounts of our personal information, including tax, credit, education, and medical information, are keyed to our social security number. Imagine the damage identity

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

thieves could do if they had this information. To protect your own social security number and those of the veterans you service, you can do the following:

- Never put a social security number in the header of an email.
 - Never file documents by social security numbers.
 - Ask creditors and merchants if you can substitute a special password or code to use instead of your social security number.
 - Shred any documents that have any personal information or credit account numbers on them before discarding.
 - Cover the screen or keypad when using an ATM so thieves cannot read your personal identification number (PIN).
 - Always drop your outgoing mail in the U.S. Postal blue boxes or at the post office instead of your home mailbox.
- [Source: FDVA msg 7 Nov 07 ++]

HVAC UPDATE 03:

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing on several bills designed to increase benefits and services for veterans. The following bills were considered:

- . HR. 3047, The Veterans Claims Processing Innovation Act, authorizes changes to increase effectiveness of the VA claims filing system and establish a work credit system within VBA regional offices. It also calls on VA to enter into a contract for evaluating employees of VBA.
- . HR 3249, The Veterans Burial Benefits Improvement Act would increase burial benefits to the IB recommended levels - non-service connected burial expenses from \$300 to \$1,270 and plot allowance from \$300 to \$745.
- . HR 3286 would reduce the period of time from ten years to one year for which a veteran must be totally disabled before the veteran's survivors are eligible for the benefits provided by VA.
- . HR 3415 authorizes memorial markers in national cemeteries for those interred in an American Battle Monument Commission cemetery.
- . HR 1137 increases the Medal of Honor special pension from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
- . HR 4084 requires a study on VA's disability ratings schedule with regard to recent commission reports that called for a quality of life payment. It also allows transfer of a pending claim in the event of the death of the veteran to the claimants' survivor and requires an annual report on the workload of the US Court of Appeals for Veteran's Claims.
- . HR 3954, Providing Military Honors for our Nation's

Heroes Act, would reimburse volunteers who provide funeral honors detail.

For more information on any of the bills visit the Thomas website and type the bill # in the box at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
[Source: VFW Washington Weekly 9 Nov 07 ++]

VA BURIAL BENEFITS UPDATE 01:

On 2 NOV the Senate passed H.R. 797, the Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act. H.R. 797, introduced by Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), which was modified in the Senate to include four additional provisions for burial and memorial benefits. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee authored S. 1163, the Senate companion to H.R. 797. This legislation:

1. Permanently authorizes VA to provide government headstones or markers for the privately-marked graves of veterans interred at private cemeteries. Current law authorizes VA to furnish, upon request, an appropriate headstone or marker for the grave of an eligible individual who died after 10 SEP 01, and who is buried in a private cemetery, notwithstanding that the grave is marked by a headstone or marker furnished at private expense. Thus, in some cases, an individual's grave may have two markers—one privately-purchased and one furnished by VA. Prior to 2001, this authority had been suspended for eleven years, making those who died between 1 NOV 90 and 10 SEP 01 ineligible for the benefit. Furthermore, the current authority is only temporary, set to expire on 31 DEC 07. This bill would address these temporal constraints by eliminating the sunset and making the authority permanent, and by making the authority retroactive to cover the eleven-year gap in current law.
2. Instructs VA to design a medallion or other device to signify a decedent's veteran status, to be placed on a privately purchased headstone or marker, as an alternative to a government furnished headstone or marker.
3. Extends the current two-year window for States to be reimbursed for the unclaimed remains of veterans. To assist States in meeting some or all of its cemetery operations and maintenance expenses, current law requires VA to pay to States a \$300 plot allowance for the interment or inurnment of eligible veterans and reserve component members.
4. Authorizes \$5 million for operational and maintenance expenses at state cemeteries.

[Source: Sen. Akaka Press Release 2 Nov 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.

TRICARE SHINGLES VACCINE:

Following a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation on 19 Oct 07, Tricare now covers Zostavax, the vaccine designed to prevent shingles for beneficiaries 60 and older. Shingles is a painful viral disease that affects more than one million Americans every year. More than half of those cases happen in people age 60 or older. Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox in children. It remains in the body for decades, sleeping in nerve cells along the spinal column. A shingles rash usually appears on one side of the face or body and lasts between two and four weeks. It is painful and can be accompanied by fever, headache, chills and upset stomach. The CDC recommends a single dose of shingles vaccine for everyone age 60 and older. In a shingles prevention study done by the Veterans Administration Cooperative Trial, run by Dr. Michael Oxman out of the University of California, San Diego, Zostavax was more than 50% effective in reducing the incidence of shingles and more than 60% effective in reducing some of its associated symptoms. Even in people who suffer from the disease, most of those who were vaccinated experienced less pain. Tricare covers all immunizations recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and formally endorsed and adopted by the CDC. For more information on shingles and the vaccine refer to the CDC Web site,

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-shingles.pdf. [Source: Tricare News Release No.07-89 dtd 13 Nov 07 ++]

VA AGENT ORANGE CLAIMS UPDATE 02:

The chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee has a radical idea to cut the huge and seemingly intractable backlog of veterans' benefits claims. To focus on handling new claims from Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans, Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA) says the Department of Veterans Affairs should approve - with minimal questioning - claims filed by Vietnam veterans, especially those whose claims deal with exposure to the toxic herbicide Agent Orange. In an interview 8 NOV, Filner said he sees no way for VA to make headway in reducing the backlog of more than 400,000 claims without "radical" reforms that must include eliminating an adversarial process that puts veterans in a defensive position. "We know Agent Orange is a carcinogen, and that people could be exposed directly or indirectly in Vietnam," he said. "We don't need to be demanding scientific proof any longer." Expanded compensation would include paying the disputed claims of Navy veterans who served in the waters off Vietnam and never came ashore but think they still have herbicide-related health problems.

Filner's idea would require an act of Congress. He envisions linking it with other disability legislation. Filner, a longtime advocate of improved Agent Orange benefits, has another motive in pushing for VA approval of Vietnam-era claims. He thinks it will be easier to pass disability benefits reforms aimed at helping Iraq and Afghanistan veterans - including a controversial plan that would consider income loss, quality of life and a veterans' continued participation in rehabilitation when setting monthly benefits payments - if older veterans think the government is also doing something to help them. "We have to do something for both groups," Filner said. To cut the backlog, Filner thinks VA needs a system that quickly approves relatively simple claims and provides partial benefits - maybe 30 percent or 40 percent of full payment - for veterans while they are waiting for their claims to be verified and approved. VA and some veterans groups oppose such a system out of concern that automatically approving claims with no prior verification could encourage fraud. [Source: NavyTimes Rick Maze article 9 Nov 07 ++]

HEALTH

VA VISION LEGISLATION UPDATE 01:

The Senate on 2 NOV passed H.R. 797, the Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act. H.R. 797, introduced by Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), was modified in the Senate to include additional provisions for blinded veterans. U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee authored S. 1163, the Senate companion to H.R. 797. The legislation expands VA's eligibility requirements for certain benefits available to visually-impaired veterans which are presently unnecessarily narrow. This legislation would relax the criteria for those benefits to cover all veterans who fit the standard definition for legal blindness. The Senate-passed bill would alter this standard for two groups of veterans: those with service-connected blindness in one eye who later lose vision in the other eye, and those who receive special compensation for multiple disabilities that include vision impairment. It would amend the vision impairment criteria used by VA so as to encompass veterans with 20/200 vision or less, the standard for blindness used by the Social Security Administration and the American Medical Association. [Source: Sen. Akaka Press Release 2 Nov 07 ++]

November 11 is Veterans Day **Honor the dead by Remembering the Living**

Soldier

I was that which others did not want to be.

**I went where others feared to go,
And did what others failed to do.**

**I asked for nothing from those who gave
nothing and reluctantly accepted the
thought of eternal loneliness...should I fail.
I have seen the face of terror, I have felt the
stinging cold of fear, and enjoyed the sweet
taste of a moments love.**

**I have cried, pained and hoped...but most
of all, I have lived times others would say
were best forgotten.**

**At least someday I will be able to say
That I was proud of what I was...A Soldier**

George L. Skyeck

FEATURE ARTICLES

Ranger Memorial honors 29 fallen Rangers

Story and photos by Nancy Gould
Hunter Public Affairs

It was a hot, emotional afternoon for those gathered at Hunter Army Airfield on Oct. 18 to pay tribute to the 29 Rangers who have fallen since the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment reactivated in 1974 and to celebrate the Ranger Memorial built in their honor.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Kenneth Leuer, commander and organizer of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment's reactivation, formed the modern day Rangers and co-authored the Ranger Creed. As he addressed the large crowd gathered at the memorial celebration, he praised Rangers past, present and future and said we should recognize the sacrifices and dedication of each one fallen.

"I knew many who went down," he said, choking back tears. "They are always in my heart."

The names of the fallen were read at the memorial dedication. Those 29 names were also etched into a large sheet of metal at the center of the complex, not far from concrete pavers that also bears their names.

Other symbols at the memorial include 29 palm trees planted throughout the site. A large steel dagger at the memorial's entrance, fashioned after a commando knife, represents the "tip of the spear" for Ranger military operations.

"This memorial is an inspiration to Rangers now and forever," said Lt. Col. Bryan Rudacille, commander of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, adding that it took five years to complete. "Rangers can take comfort in knowing that they don't stand alone and they will not be forgotten should they be required to make the ultimate sacrifice."



The memorial was partly the brainchild of Sheila Dudley, who has worked with the Rangers for more than 20 years and who served as the project manager of the memorial. After the death of the three Hunter Rangers killed in Afghanistan, Dudley said she and Lt. Col. Michael Kershaw, who later commanded the battalion, searched for a way to remember them.

A five-year process followed, beginning with a design of the Ranger Memorial by students from Savannah College of Art and Design's graphic design department. Alex Zartman was among the six students who created the design. Revenue for the project came from businesses and personal contributions and from effective fundraising events that generated enough revenue to fund the project.

"I'm proud to have had a part in this," said Zartman. "Walking up to this dedication site today and seeing all these people brought tears to my eyes. The memorial really impacts this community."

Susan Winters said the memorial is important to her. The name of her 22-year old son, Sgt. Frank Winters, is among those etched on the memorial. He died Sept. 25, 1985 when his helicopter crashed in a training accident.

"He was born to be a Ranger," she said, adding that she still has the notes he wrote her from Ranger school that she was saving for his children.

"He had morals and determination. Rangers are cut from a different cloth; they're a different breed of men. His devotion was my pain but it was also my pride."

Leuer said he is proud and grateful to those who have preserved our freedom. "The ground we walk on today is a result of the sacrifices those Soldiers made," he said.

The Ranger Memorial serves as a remembrance of those sacrifices and of the Soldiers who made *The author believes that there were four battlefield victories in Viet*



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Nam any one of which would in an earlier time have been capitalized upon and the enemy pressed to a military defeat. The NVA Eastertide Offensive of 1972, what the South Vietnamese press corps called the “Flaming Summer,” is one. In events described below, a dark chapter in American history is revealed. To achieve the two fold mission of subjugating South Vietnam and subversion of America, every aspect of warfare was used by international communist forces during the ‘Cold War.’ The fifth column ‘Red Army,’ a term they used to describe themselves and often spoken of by 60’s subversives like Cora Weiss, William ‘Mad Bomber’ Ayers, Jane Fonda, Tom Hayden, Bernadine Dohrn, Kathy Boudin, and others was real, deadly, and committed to coordinated planning with the NVA officials they met with to influence the outcome of the Viet Nam War and to permanently change America’s politics and culture by revolution.

Jane Fonda’s Red Easter Dress

© John Puzzo 2007

Any discussion of Hollywood Icon, Jane Fonda, and her activities in North Viet Nam is incomplete without the ‘rest of the story...’

Fonda’s 1972 trip to Hanoi was arranged by Hanoi for Fonda, a prominent American, to deliver a badly needed exhortation to the communist world and to the withered, war weary North Vietnamese Army - at that very moment being chewed to pieces. The NVA was in the process of being forced into a shameful retreat from the battlefield.

Giap’s Easter Offensive faltered and then disintegrated in catastrophe with the outcome tilted in favor of the ARVN. In a few short months, his army would be shattered, bloodied, and finally broken in a failed campaign. Giap kept his head – Communist regimes are not forgiving to failed generals - but not his job.

Traveling on a Soviet Passport under her married name, ‘Jane Seymour Plemianikov,’ Jane Fonda, aged 35, flew Aeroflot from Paris to North Vietnam. Fonda ‘toured’ the Communist country for 2 weeks during July of 1972. While the Battle for the Highlands raged and massive atrocities were carried out by the North Vietnamese Army against civilians, Jane Fonda made six broadcasts over Radio Hanoi – all scripted by Communist military planners.

Hanoi’s message to its army and to its people, delivered through Jane Fonda, was this: victory could be theirs. They needed but to hold on. “...all we have to do is to wait for the

time to harvest the crop...” [quote, 1972 Le Duan party journal; David Fulgham & Terrence Maitland, *South Vietnam on Trial*. Boston: Boston Publishing Company, 1984, p.122.]

This is Jane Fonda’s Legacy.

Fonda was an operative of the Hanoi government – their agent - in a high level military psychological operation. The thrust of her message was not, as many believed, directed at US soldiers or Airman - over whom she had little influence – they despised her, or even to the POW’s whose life she made so difficult. The POW’s were already out of the fight.

Jane Fonda, who will forever be tattooed as ‘Hanoi Jane,’ was speaking to the Vietnamese communists, to their Army in the field, to their regime, and to the oppressed North Vietnamese people so badly in need liberation themselves.

Listen to Exerpt:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOnG71EgAm4&mode=related&search=>

In those broadcasts, Jane Fonda betrayed her countrymen and pandered the virtue, courage, and honor of everyone defending freedom in Viet Nam. Fonda warmly embraced the darkest nightmare the world has ever seen, totalitarian Communism, and made it her own. Soon, the dark side would have their bloody victory in South East Asia.

Hanoi’s grotesquely failed military campaign was conducted over a six month period from 30 March to 22 October 1972. Fonda’s propaganda trip was made just as South Vietnamese forces were on the counterattack and pushing back a stunned NVA.

Called the ‘Nguyen Hue Offensive’ by the NVA, a name of historical significance to the Vietnamese communists, Hanoi gambled that a greatly diminished American troop strength in Viet Nam - 75,000 soldiers when they began their offensive and 29,00 by the time it was over, most of whom were in support roles – meant an easy battlefield victory for them. They were wrong...

Hanoi had fallen into the trap of overconfidence in their own abilities, contempt for their adversary the ARVN, and held the mistaken belief that Nixon would not unleash US Airpower. They were wrong. At this precise moment the Army of the Republic of Vietnam was one of the best equipped Armies in the world, a fact that would be reversed by the US Congress as the ARVN looked hopefully beyond their greatest victory.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

The Easter Offensive opened with 200,000 NVA troops pouring across South Vietnam's borders from the North, West, and South. Vo Nguyen Giap, the hero of Dien Ben Phu whose star had faded considerably after Tet, 1968, exercised control with over logistical matters and operational planning, but NVA chief of staff, General Van Tien Dung, was the ground commander.



Map of 1972 Easter Offensive

Dung's forces crossed the DMZ and attacked the northernmost provinces of South Vietnam. Eventually, 14 full Infantry NVA Divisions and 26 independent regiments supported by tanks and heavy artillery, "...virtually their entire army..." would be thrown at South Viet Nam. (Dale Andrade, *Trial by Fire*, p. 536; New York: Hippocrene Books, 1995) Quang Tri province was invaded from the north across the DMZ and from NVA sanctuaries in Laos. This wave of attacks was followed by maneuvers against Kontum Province on 12 April and the city of An Loc, in Binh Long Province on 19 April.

By June of 1972 the Communists launched general offensives against Kontum, An Loc and Quang Tri. During these offensives, thousands of unarmed South Vietnamese civilians were massacred by the NVA – many Quang Tri refugees were terrified survivors of the 1968 Tet massacres at Hue, not far distant from Quang Tri.



Vietnamese civilians flee Communist Onslaught. Many would be massacred by NVA forces.

Eyewitness account of NVA attacks upon refugees trying to flee the battle areas:

"Chaos occurred when enemy artillery began a rain of many hundreds shells from their 130mm guns on the refugees. A moment later, Communist foot soldiers attacked the crowd with infantry weapons that included mortars, machine guns, and grenade launchers."

<http://www.vietquoc.com/news2002/na051102.htm>;
(also see: *Historic Battles in the Vietnam War*, by Nguyen Duc Phuong, Dai Nam Publisher, California 1993.)



On the cover of Time Magazine: Giap, NVA General. The world knew but said nothing. Jane Fonda knew, and said plenty...to the other side, a loyal subject to a bankrupt ideology watered with the blood of millions.

In response, the U.S. and RVN negotiators withdrew from the Paris Peace Talks. Richard Nixon, one of this country's greatest presidents ordered B-52's, other Air Force fighter-bombers of U.S. Seventh Air Force and Thirteenth Air Force and the Naval and Marine Air Wings of the U.S. Navy's Task Force 77 back to the theatre. The VNAF (Air

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Force of South Viet Nam) defended its own territory.

“...the U.S. Air Force delivered a B-52 strike every 55 minutes to support the defense of An Loc. For the next three days, each time PAVN troops assembled to resume the attack, they were bombed in their assembly areas...”

The failed assault at An Loc was described by Colonel Walt Ulmer, the 5th Division’s senior advisor: “...they were simply trying to pile on and pile on and pile on. They frittered away an awful lot of manpower...”

During three weeks in the May/June 1972 Battle for the Highlands, approximately 300 B-52 strikes were conducted in the environs of Kontum. The B-52 had evolved as a tactical artillery platform of strategic importance.



US civilian advisor, Mr. John Paul Vann, and his Staff: Architects of NVA Defeat in 1972 Offensive. Utilizing massive B-52 strikes against Armored Infantry, Vann proved that intense aerial bombardment could defeat an army in the field. Vann was the subject of David Halberstram’s bright shining lie, “A Bright Shining Lie.”



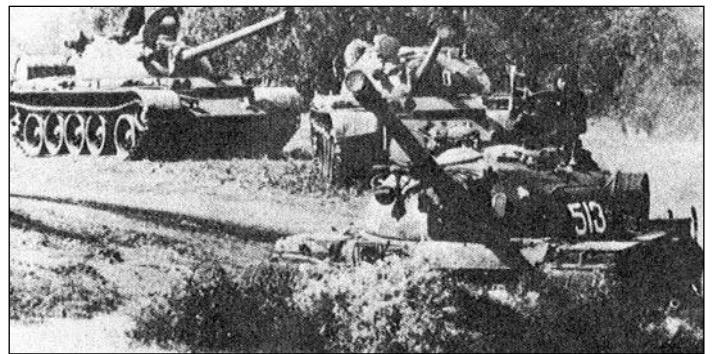
South Vietnamese celebrate victory, 1972.

Conventional Warfare – no Black Pajamas here:

Of the three regiments of artillery totaling several hundred heavy guns, two tank regiments, 17 infantry regiments in 14 Divisions and support personnel fielded by them, the NVA left more than 100,000 dead on the battlefield. More than 700 NVA tanks and most of its artillery were destroyed or captured, a defeat the magnitude of which has never been seen since. The destruction of the Iraqi Republican Guard by US forces in the 1st Gulf War is not even a close comparison.

“The North Vietnamese leadership had made two grave miscalculations concerning the abilities of its enemies. The first was to underestimate the fighting ability of the ARVN, which by 1972 had become one of the best-equipped armies in the world; the second was a failure to grasp the destructiveness of American air power unleashed against an enemy that was now fighting a conventional battle.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Offensive



NVA Tanks in South Vietnam, 1972



ARVN Soldiers atop Destroyed NVA Tank, 1972

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Entrance, Stage Left: Jane Fonda. Put on the Red Dress:

In the face of these grim facts – NVA atrocities and heavy NVA losses on the ground, North Viet Nam's military and political apparatus was in a state of confusion and near collapse. Giap was replaced and Jane Fonda rode into Hanoi wearing a red dress to encourage the North Vietnamese government and the NVA to 'Hold on,' while she condemned her own countrymen as "war criminals."

View from Hanoi:

"Support for the war from our rear was completely secure while the American rear was vulnerable. Every day our leadership would listen to world news over the radio at 9AM to follow the growth of the antiwar movement. Visits to Hanoi by Jane Fonda and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and [religious] ministers gave us confidence that we should hold on in the face of battlefield reverses. We were elated when Jane Fonda, *wearing a red Vietnamese dress*, said in a 1972 press conference that she was ashamed of American actions in the war and would struggle along with us...those people represented America...part of its war-making capability." (BUI TINH, former Colonel on the North Vietnamese Army General Staff, Politburo member, and editor of the People's Daily, the official newspaper of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; interview with Stephen Young, Wall Street Journal, 3 August 1995. Disillusioned with the reality of Vietnamese Communism, Bui Tin now lives in Paris.)

With their main goal to convince the U.S. as to the 'hopelessness' of continued support to the south and demonstrating the failure of Vietnamization, the American allies of North Viet Nam even fielded a U.S. presidential candidate: Sen. George McGovern

In the 1972 political campaign, Presidential candidate, Sen. George McGovern had one issue: the complete and total withdrawal of US forces from SE Asia, which by November numbered less than 29,000 U.S. soldiers in Viet Nam.

Jane Fonda returned to Hanoi in 1974 with Tom Hayden. After NVA tanks rolled into Saigon in 1975, Fonda again returned to Hanoi, this time with her two year old son, Troy, for a celebration in her honor for the work she had done for North Vietnam. During the celebration, her son was christened after Nguyen Van Troi, a North Vietnamese

agent who had attempted to assassinate Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara in 1963. The South Vietnam Government captured and executed Van Troi for the attempted assassination.

Later in 1975, Fonda traveled to Moscow to thank them "for sending assistance which the Soviet people are sending to Vietnam..." <http://www.vietnamwar.com/janefonda.htm>

When US POWs returned from captivity in early 1973 and detailed the torture and mistreatment they received at the hands of their captors, Fonda accused them of lying. Senator John McCain had both his arms broken, was tortured and placed in solitary confinement for years. Fonda called McCain a liar. (Armed Forces Journal, May'88: "Personalities.")

While we fought for freedom, Jane Fonda, her Hollywood friends, and others fought for 'the revolution.' Fonda utterly dismissed the population of South Vietnam whose fate she condemned to the cell, the shackle, and the grave. If they were lucky enough to get out millions of refugees fled Viet Nam as 'boat people.' The bloodbath, re-education camps, generations of discrimination against anyone who fought against the communists, and ongoing ethnic cleansing of the Montagnard was not far behind Hanoi's victory.

Even before NVA tanks had cleared the crashed gates of South Viet Nam's presidential palace, the Khmer Rouge, protégé of the North Vietnamese Army, was consolidating its position in Cambodia. Once in power, a third of Cambodia's population was slaughtered by the Communists as they reversed the clock to year zero. When they were finished only Communists, orphans and brain-mulched survivors were left in Cambodia.

[see: <http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/WF.CHAP6.HTM>]

Since the Bolshevik Revolution, it is estimated that between 180 million and 220 million lives have been taken by communism. By contrast, the other 20th Century "ism,"– Nazism–took 22 million lives during WW II. Communist-style terrorism is the model and method of revolution and population control used by all modern totalitarian dictatorships. (see: 'DEATH BY GOVERNMENT' by R.J. Rummel; New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 1994. <http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/>)

Those who made their choices will have to live with them. Eventually, they will die with them. Hanoi Jane Fonda will not be alone on judgment day...

Author: John Puzzo was with K/75th Rangers in Vietnam.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Behind every good Ranger is a woman

By: Carol Darby

U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office



Linda Davis, Secretary to the 75th Ranger Regiment CO.

FORT BENNING, GA. (USASOC News Service, Aug. 7, 2007) It's an over used cliché, 'behind every good man is a good woman.' In this case, the phrase should be 'behind every good Ranger is a good woman.' That woman is Linda Davis, secretary to the 75th Ranger Regiment commander.

In the fall of 1984, she was a clerk stenographer at Lawson Army Airfield here when she applied for the position and was stunned when she was notified of her selection for the job.

"Actually, I had never even heard of the Rangers," Davis recalls. "I had come to work at the airfield one morning in October and my supervisor screamed 'HOOAH' at me — I thought she had gone mad. I was shocked and ecstatic that I had been chosen and that I would be adopting 2,200 sons. You could have knocked me over with a feather. I was so proud."

Her first boss, then Col. Wayne A. Downing, was in the throes of forming the modern day Ranger Regiment as it grew to its highest level in 40 years. Her early impressions of the organization she had never heard of were not unlike the Regiment of today.

"Focused ... determined ... quiet professional. You didn't discuss what you did or didn't do; you just did it. We were at the very beginning of establishing a Regiment," she said of the command atmosphere in those days.

"We had to prepare SOPs, regulations, manuals — everything from scratch. We would work until eight or nine at night just cranking out regulations and policy letters, so we could get the Regimental Headquarters running in a full forward throttle. It was challenging, but so very exciting. If you have ever worked on an old C.P.T word processor, then you will know what I mean about 'cranking' out materials. They were slow, they were noisy, but they got the job done.

Even after 23 years, Davis says that every single day on the job is different. "I guess people would call that a challenge; I call it 'another day.'"

In addition to the typical personnel changes and

technological advances during her tenure, Davis is a part of Ranger history.

"I've watched them go from the old OG107 uniform to the ACU; from the black beret to the tan beret. I've witnessed so much history, it's mind-boggling."

She witnessed first hand the trials and triumphs of the Ranger Regiment. She watched the Rangers deploy to conflicts in Panama, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. She's been here to welcome them home and to mourn for those who didn't make it back.

"We laugh, we cry, we support each other, and we carry on the mission. We never leave a fallen comrade. When chaos rains down, we hold hands and make a chain so strong that no one can break us apart. We form a protective umbrella over us all. We hold our families in our hearts and we will do whatever it takes to help them, when they are in need," she said.

Born in Maryland and growing up in Alexandria, Va., Davis moved to Phenix City, Ala., in 1974 and has lived there since. She volunteered with the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon and is an adopted Blue Star Mom from a Ramon, Calif., chapter of Blue Star Moms. She served as Past Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star for a local chapter nearby. Davis also roller skates, dances and in her younger days, she was a race car driver at a drag strip developing the tenacity and endurance she applies to her professional work at the 75th.

Most people think of the Ranger Regiment as a Soldier-only organization when in fact there are about 30 civilian employees working in the unit in a multitude of areas such as clerical, arms, security, and information technology. Davis said civilian employees are the continuity for the unit.

"These guys are gone constantly and the civilians are the ones who stay behind and answer all the questions and fix all the snafus. Do we get overlooked? Well, yes, most of the time we do, but only because we handle things so well, that the guys never really know that anything was wrong. Why? Because, we fixed it."

Several years ago, Davis was inducted as an honorary member of the 75th Ranger Regiment. It is an honor that few civilians have earned and includes persons such as H. Ross Perot. "I was given the privilege and honor of being named Honorary Member of the 75th Ranger Regiment in 1999. Wow! That sends chills up my spine — talk about an honor!

"My second most memorable time was when I got to put my

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

arm around Mel Gibson and have my picture taken with him.



**Linda Davis
& Mel Gibson.**

Can you imagine trying to stand there and be a quiet professional while looking into those big blue eyes?" she said.

Davis said there have been many comical moments during her tenure with the Regiment but one of the most memorable was early in her career.

"When I first came to Regiment, we already had a battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash. Well, I was supposed to send out invitations to one of our functions, so I asked Mrs. Brunson, the battalion secretary, to send me her invitation list. I proceeded to send out an invitation to Lt. Toad, addressed it to the battalion, and thought I was good to go. You can imagine the look on my face, when the battalion commander called me, with an uncontrollable laugh, to tell me that Lt. Toad was a stuffed animal, and was fictitious. He was like a battalion mascot," she said. "It took quite a while for me to look him in the eye and you can bet I didn't live that one down for a while."

Deep-rooted pride and a solid love for her Rangers are evident when Davis talks about the men she supports. She

said her "love for my sons" keeps her going.

"They are my heroes and I am so proud of them and all they do. I trust them with my life and I trust them with your life. In troubled times, they are the ones I want on my side — they are my ultimate warriors.

"Most people don't realize what all these Rangers have done for them and what they continue to do on a daily basis. This isn't just a 9-5 job for them. They are in it 100 percent and then some. When they say, 'Rangers lead the way,' you can bet that's exactly what they are doing. I am in awe of these warriors. I couldn't imagine myself working anywhere else. If something was to happen and I had to leave, it would literally break my heart. This is my family, these are my sons and I don't let anyone mess with them. They have truly earned our utmost respect and gratitude."

Davis said her husband of 14 years, Mark, is a veteran and "he's known from the time I met him what the Rangers mean to me. I made that clear the night I met him, 15 years ago." She said though he supports her career wholeheartedly, he owns her true heart.

This is the woman behind the Rangers.

Not One but Two!

We received word last week that SP4 Stephen York, the son of Ken (our California Unit Coordinator) and Suzanne York, was hospitalized at Hunter Army Air Field. I drove down to see how he was doing and presented him with one of our silver 75RRA coins. York was on a training mission in late October of this year when he fell through a hole on the 2nd story of a building severely breaking his left leg. The injury resulted in surgery to reattach the ligaments in his left ankle and placement of two pins and six screws to repair the break. He is currently recovering from his injury, looking forward to returning to full duty with his squad and continuing the mission in Iraq.

SP4 York joined the Army with a Ranger contract immediately upon graduation from high school in 2005, leaving home on his 18th birthday. Following Basic, AIT, Airborne School and RIP he was assigned to the 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon of C Company 1/75, the same squad his father had served in from 1974 to 1977. Stephen has deployed twice with the 1st Ranger Battalion and has earned a CIB, Airborne Wings, Army Commendation

Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

Ken and Suzanne are the proud parents of not one Ranger but two! Their son Doug is currently assigned to A Company 1/75. They haven't heard from him in a while as he is currently at the RTB attending Ranger School. They suspect that the lack of communication is a good thing, I agree.

Crabs



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Spin (SPN) Numbers on your DD-214

Ed Note: I saw this exchange over the internet, and I was shocked. I have been helping Vets with their benefits for the last 10 years, and I had never heard of such a thing as a spin code. I asked Terry if he had time to write up a synopsis of what passed back & forth over the internet, and he agreed. This won't do most of us old guys any good, but the guys getting out of the Regiment to pursue civilian pursuits should be aware that, if they have a negative spin code, every time they furnish their DD-214 to a prospective employer, they might be cutting their own throat.

J. Chester

BY: Terry Rodericks

I recently got this message from a friend I met over the Internet several years ago. Rick is an active political and community service type in Kansas and has served this country in many ways over his lifetime. It speaks for itself and you can find this number on your DD-214 under the section #11, Transfer or Discharge Data. More specifically, in the Box #11e in most cases. There is a list you can reference on the Internet at a location listed below in this article. The list is way too long to publish and use up space in this outstanding magazine. It may or may not have affected YOU if you separated during the time they were using them. Many that are now aware of them are outraged and it seems to be just "another lick" laid on the Vietnam era veteran who separated from active duty..... HONORABLY..... after your service in Vietnam. I found it interesting and it may not be news for some, but it will be for most I suspect. Read along.....

Dear Secretary of the Air Force, and Chief of Staff of the Air Force,

Mr Secretary and General, there is a lot of talk by Air Force and Army veterans on the internet these days about spin codes that were placed on the discharge DD-214 forms, the documents that were given to us after service, to help us get jobs.

I became aware of these codes a week ago. Until then, I was under the impression I had received an honorable discharge. Then I was informed last Friday by an acquaintance that there was a secret

three digit code on my DD214 discharge paper.

Initially I did not believe it. I went on line and found many stories about this along with long lists of three digit numbers and their meaning – such things as criminalist, bedwetter, unclean habits, alcoholism, obesity, psychiatric disorder and so forth.

The worst one of these spin codes is the one which means one word, that of "minority."

Did I really have an honorable discharge? Now I wonder.

I am so mad I have not been able to get a good night's sleep for over a week now. I have no idea what the three digit number on my DD 214 means (SDN 715).

But whatever it means that is not the issue.

People who go into the military do so to defend the Constitution.

A right given every citizen of our Nation is due process. That means charges are made out in the open so that those labeled have a right to see the evidence and to refute it. In short, to have a day in court – and a right not to be slandered in an anonymous manner.

To deny Constitutional protection to those who pledge their lives to defend the Constitution is ludicrous.

Worse, it is dishonorable.

I was in the Air Force from 1962 until September 1969 when I came back to Travis from Tan Son Nhut Air Base, for the purpose of out processing. We got off the airplane at Travis, did a 24 hour out processing and were then sent on our merry way into civilian world.

How is it possible for a proper and lawful determination to have been made regarding the caliber of military service in a 24 hour period by stateside paper shufflers? Of course it is not.

We had airmen killed in Vietnam – two killed by rockets who were good personal friends. We had a lot of airmen badly injured, physically and mentally. We had people from all the services lose a part of their souls because of the combat, I as an Air Force staff sergeant saw ground warfare death up close, because the Air Force assigned me to what is now called public affairs duty.

I went to college, earned two degrees – but then

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

could not get a job, in spite of many resumes mailed out. In over a hundred contacts that were made I was offered two interviews, both luke warm, and I had to drive to Liberal, Kansas and Lincoln, Nebraska for them. No job offer was made in spite of a 4.0 grade point average in my masters program.

I had mailed copies of my DD-214s with my resumes. Now I am wondering if I got a bad code. Out at Travis there was a very angry senior master sergeant who yelled at me quite a bit for leaving the Air Force. He said I was a staff sergeant and I should stay for twenty. Now I am wondering what the code was that he and his folks put on the form that was mailed to me.

With a wife and two sons to feed. I went to work for the Army as a GS-7, though I had worked hard to become a community college teacher. You cannot even imagine how hard the last 40 years have been. Now I learn that spin code lists were given out to corporations and institutions who only cared about the three digit number and its hidden meaning.....and did not care or understand the word “honorable.”

I am guessing my code must be terrible. I now realize that the Air Force screwed me, and some of your personnel people had a good laugh.

You can trust me on this one....I am not amused one bit.

I further assure you that until this very week I was proud of my Air Force service, which had included time in Libya as a sentry dog handler, my first hitch in Air Police, and two years of war in Vietnam during my second hitch which included non crew member flying status in 7AF DXI combat news, with many A-37, AC-47 and AC-119 mission counters, among others, and also time reporting the USAF part at such places as Hue and Khe Sanh..

I saw a lot of people in the USAF, the Marines and the Army pay some horrific prices because our nation required their service.

They in no way deserved the lack of opportunity they experienced the rest of their lives because of the label of Vietnam Vet....and now even worse, these three digit codes.

These were people who gave everything they have

to give – and then the Air Force/Army has the gall to label veterans returning from Vietnam with a hidden meaning spin code. That is just unbelievable.

In our system of government I believe this spin code program started by the Republicans in the Eisenhower years is also illegal.

The code meaning “minority” I particularly find nauseating and despicable.

Presidents Kennedy and Johnson pushed through the Civil Rights Act which says the Constitution belongs to all citizens. This is backed up by the Voting Rights Act.

So what is with this spin code that secretly tells employers someone is not lily white?

How dare the Air Force/Army do that.

I wish we were having this conversation in person so you could hear straight from the shoulder how wrong, how stupid and how evil I think it is to do such an anonymous slander on people, and especially how wrong it is to brand someone as a minority.

I am white but I believe this, In military service, we are all one thing — and that is American.

At Khe Sanh in March 1968, I once saw a young Marine with half his head blown off. He was an African American but the key word is “American.” His personal friends who survived, if they were black, or whatever color their skin, should only be thought of as American.

This has been a very difficult letter for me to write. I grew up in the Air Force and always felt, at least until a week ago, that I and my fellow airmen had been treated legally and rightly.

Part of the meaning of America is that you get to face your accusers and you get your day in court.

Spin codes deny that.

Regardless of what our spin code means the fact that such a system even exists is enough to cause hurt and destroy pride in service.

The Air Force owes us an explanation and an apology. If spin codes are still being applied, then someone needs to go to jail, no matter how well they are connected.

Duty. Honor. Country.

Military values.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Do these notions exist or were they just some fairy story, told to people who were stupid enough to fall for a line?

If I found out about spin codes in Pittsburg, Kansas you can bet vets all over the country are now waking up to what was done to them.

Don't ignore this issue. Indeed I think the Air Force now has a responsibility to go to the VA and ask that they contact all veterans and give them a complete list of the meanings of the spin codes. Further, I think veterans are owed the right to be allowed to sue for redress, or else are compensated in some manner for the wrong that was done to them.

Most importantly, the USAF must ensure that those now serving today are not getting the same shaft that Vietnam vets apparently got from the services we gave so much to in time and circumstances of great adversity. People are far more important than spin codes set up for use by corporations. That is bottom line what the US Constitution means. People come first.

Respectfully submitted,

**Richard P. Fulton
Pittsburg, Kansas**

Type SPN CODES & DD-214 into the search area of any internet browser and get educated on the subject.
...Veterans blacklisted via secret coded number

[...http://forums.militaryspot.com/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/4761074/m/9621035251](http://forums.militaryspot.com/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/4761074/m/9621035251)

As of 1977, 20 MILLION vets had a secret coded number placed upon all 8 copies of their DD-214. Known as a SPN, SDN, or SPD code, this number is in the hands of banks, life insurance companies, State & Federal Government agencies. Millions with an HONORABLE DISCHARGE have a BAD CODE, and don't even know it. See, CROSBY v. USAF, U.S. Sup. Ct. Reporter 101, October 1980 Term, pgs. 199 & 797, (that's a law book.) This is an ongoing fight FOR ALL Veterans, as being branded with a number sounds all too familiar. There goes your LIBERTY, and your good family name is character assassinated. More than 188,000 suicides among Viet Vets, many homeless. Here is another reason.

SPD Codes are not new. I see them on DD214s and DD215s every single day. Army Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes are governed by AR 635-5-1. Separations are covered by AR 635-200. Obtaining military records is not an unachievable task either. With a name and a social security number, I can look up any US Service Member's ASVAB Scores, PUHLES code, SPD, and RE-Code.

SPN CODE DEFINITIONS

http://www.dallassecurity.com/Investigative_Services/Codes-SPNdefinitions.pdf

Never Again

Whether it be right nor wrong, our country's again at war.
We had hoped after Vietnam there would be no more.
Our generals, like our troops, are the best to be found.
Fighting for each alley way, street, every inch of ground.

Bureaucrats in charge try to do their part,
but they haven't the experience nor a soldiers heart.
It's hard to be victorious when lines haven't been drawn,
Like in the Nam, were again in the middle, again the pawn.

Each day the number of coalition deaths grow.
Insurgents and I.E.D.'s have taken their toll.
Politicians make promises but mostly talk,
most haven't served or "Walked the Walk".

Our men and women are so brave, I'm proud of them all.
Like so many before, they answered the call.
May this war soon be over, may our troops come home,
May we remember the Nam, let no returning vet. feel alone.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



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By: John Chester

Dennis Latham, a Marine Vietnam veteran, is possibly the leading expert in the country on the PTSD claim process. Since 1986, most often through word of mouth, he has directly helped over 2000 combat veterans receive PTSD service connections through advice and a bi-monthly newsletter *The S-2 Report*. In 1986, while he was a temporary counselor at the Cincinnati Vets Center, Latham discovered the VA gave no instructions to veterans on how to submit a PTSD claim or stressors. Any instructions the VA may currently include for a PTSD claim are based on Latham's 1986 booklet *How To Receive Compensation For PTSD*. Today, he spends most of his time on novels, but still receives several calls each week from combat veterans seeking advice and the newsletter.

"I'm a relentless advocate for combat veterans," Latham says. "When I know a veteran has a good claim, I won't let them give up no matter what the VA throws at them. I refuse to let a combat veteran be abandoned by the system."

You can contact him for information on PTSD claims or the *The S-2 Report* through his website: <http://www.combatptsd.net>

Or through email: dennislatham@embarqmail.com or ptsd@dennislatham.com

Dennis is also a writer of novels. Some would say bizarre novels. I read *Michael in Hell*, and enjoyed it. A mix of horror, science, fiction and drama, it is a sort of foretaste of life in the event that every thing possible goes wrong. Unless I am very much mistaken, any combat veteran reading one of Dennis' novels, will pause from time to time, and say, "Yeah, I can understand that."

See the attached for information on ordering.

Lord of Homicides

Who is Nathan Bright?

He's a drunken chronic casino gambler, living alone on a farm in Aurora, Indiana. His dog bites. His wife ran away. He watches cable on a nine-inch black and white and he's about to get fired for missing work, until a massive finger burns his name on a cliff

outside Denver and a winged demon, the Lord of Homicides, explodes into his life with his 27 million strong psychotic legion.

Nathan suddenly has gambling money, his dog talks, and he is the first human to see demons and to trash his life without their evil help. That makes him a special person, but none of them know why. The Lord of Homicides believes Nathan could be the Second Coming of Christ, sent to disrupt a plan to start a chain reaction war to destroy all humans forever. Nathan doesn't have a sober clue. He may die in Cincinnati on Fountain Square, and it won't be on a cross...unless someone can answer the question: Who is Nathan Bright?

Dennis Latham puts his dark comedy twist on the powerful control demons and angels often have over humans.

ISBN-10 0-9796744-0-9

12.50

Review Copy Available: contact
LOH@dennislatham.com



The Bad Season

Something stalks Owenton Hollow, in rural Kentucky during certain summers known as the bad season. Locals bury their dead and keep the events secret so the media will avoid Owenton County, which had become a prime marijuana source. By 1995, several outsiders had built houses near the hollow, and the DEA began enforcing drug laws in Owenton County.

None were aware of the danger they faced. Based on fact and myth, this is an account of what happened when a misfit squad of strangers led by a Marine Vietnam veteran faced the impossible...an enemy that could not die.

"Latham's prose makes Hemingway's look wordy and purple. A fast, hard, unnerving ride from first page to last."

Gary Braunbeck
Bram Stoker Award Winner

"The best horror novel in 2006."
Dennis Duncan/Horror World



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Michael In Hell



The future. Bizarre public executions provide mass entertainment. HIV quarantine camps and super-prisons surround Ohio cities. Michael Tucker, haunted by his father's abuse and Vietnam combat, lives in Cincinnati where he attends weekly therapy sessions to dis-

cuss how the past changed his life.

But Michael has a secret Indiana cabin with black walls and windows and a swinging light above a rocking chair spiked to the plank floor. A place he calls hell, where a monster rules. You are about to enter. If you dare. Once his door to Hell slams shut behind you there is no escape...and no one will hear you scream.

Michael In Hell pulls no punches. It is brutal and often shocking, but is high adventure, giving the reader a chance to exist in a world that most would be terrified to encounter or enter.

"A different kind of horror tale that draws you in from page one and holds you until the bloody end." Brian Knight, *Fcomante.com*

ISBN-10 0-9796744-1-7

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COMING SEPTEMBER 2007

GOLD STAR...



BY: Sandee Rouse

Well, here it is another year has come and gone. The older I get the quicker time seems to go. This year provided me some special times spent with a lot of you. You will never know what those times mean to me. To be blessed enough to have as friends our American heroes and their families is an honor and gift I am most grateful for. The Love, Honor and Respect that you show my family is most appreciated

Our thoughts and prayers go out to following families who have become Gold since our last writing may their faith give them the strength they need in the days to come.

Cpl Jason M Kessler 2/75 died 7/30 Iraq

Spc George V Libby 2/75 died 8/20 Operation Enduring Freedom

Cpl Benjamin C Dillion 3/75 died 10/7 Iraq

Sgt Steven C Ganczewski 3/75 died 11/16 Iraq

Since the last *Patrolling* article we were privileged to attend the dedication of the 1/75th Memorial. This was a very special time for our family since 1/75 was where our son served. I must tell you that our heartfelt thanks go out to Sheila. God planted the seed for this in her and boy did she do a great job of using all the people God sent her way to see this through. It is without a doubt one of the finest tributes to our Rangers I have ever seen. Thank you Memorial Board, all the benefactors & the students at SCAD that designed it. You will never know just what this means to us and all the families of the fallen Rangers of 1/75. Thank you is so inadequate.

The dedication brought together several of the families I have spoken with over the years as well as families we recently located. Rangers from all eras attended. Among those we were privileged to have their for this very special day were Lt General Robert Wagner, Regimental Commander Col. Clark and retired General Leuer

All the families were presented with a Memorial design picture from SCAD and a Beautiful nighttime picture of the Lighted Memorial from the Battalion. We also received copies of the engraved blocks of our Rangers. Ours now rest at the foot of our 15 ft flag pole in our front yard

The new barracks are named Anderson & Commons Halls. The headquarters is the Col Ken Stauss Bldg. Every fallen Ranger has a room or a Bldg named in their honor. The Medical conference room is named in honor of our son Ranger James Markwell, Panama 1989

On Friday 10/19 Bill Bullen, John Chester, Bill Acebes and I were able to be the first to conduct a ceremony at the new Memorial. We presented Lifetime certificates to;

Richard & Betty Cline parents of Sgt Randy Cline Grenada 1983

Robert & Sharon Rudess parents of Pfc Michael Rudess KIA Training

Sharon Winters mother of Sgt Frank Winters KIA Training

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

Sarah Moore mother of Sgt Harvey Moore Jr Training

Byron Bird Jr. father of Spc Jeremy Bird Training

Sheila McGaghun mother of Sgt Bradley Crose
Afghanistan 1992

Greg & Linda Commons father & step mother of Cpl Matt
Commons Afghanistan 1992

Pat Marek mother of Cpl Matt Commons Afghanistan
1992

David & Judy Anderson parents of Spc Mark Anderson
Afghanistan 1992

Bonnie Powers mother of Brandon Miller training

Words cannot express what it was like to be in that special
place on a beautiful morning with all these families as we
celebrated the lives of our Special Warriors.

We also presented a necklace slide of silver stars
surrounding a Gold star to Sheila from the fallen Ranger
families. It represents how she has always taken care of us.

We want to also congratulate Sheila on the award presented
to her by retired Gen. Leuer on behalf of the National
Infantry Association. You certainly deserve it for all the
ways you take care of our Rangers. You go girl!! I know, I
know, yours is bigger as it should be. You are the best.
Love you

Well as usual this is way past due so I will close for now.
Hope all of you have a Blessed Christmas and that you are
truly Blessed in the New Year. From one who knows how
Blessed I am, to each of you.

Thank you as always for allowing me to serve you. It is
truly an honor and a privilege

RLTW
Sandee

A Soldiers Lament

Sent off to a distant land to fight in a war,
only wanting to do my part, no less, no more.
When I left home I was young and naïve,
returned a cynic, unable to believe.

“I am a warrior, I will not show fear.”
“I am a warrior, I will never shed a tear.”
I thought like this till I saw a close friend die,
and I saw our Sgt., a 3 tour vet, kneel down & cry.

The horrors of war, they can happen so fast,
forever to torment, forever to last.
No one said a word when we saw a small child die.
There was no one to listen when we asked “Why”.

To my friends and family I was fearless and bold.
I was tired, angry and felt a million years old.
All I, all everyone dreamt about was making it home,
will I be like my Uncle, a Nam vet, always wanting to
be alone.

Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret.
27, September 2007

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Acebes



BY: Bill Acebes

Memorial dedication was truly an outstanding event put on by 1st Battalion and the Ranger Supporters. The ceremony was held on 18 October and the Ranger Ball was on 19 October. This was a culmination of LOTS OF LONG hours by Shelia Dudley - It was an honor to see her being awarded the St Maurice Medal by MG (R) Leur. It was great to see all the "old" Rangers interact with the "young" Rangers. All the Rangers and their ladies were a sight to behold. BG (R) Leszcynski was the guest speaker. He and Jennifer are the proud parents of an Infantry Captain assigned to 1st Battalion. We all remember BG (R) Leszcynski as the Regimental Commander.

LTG and PJ Wagner came for the Memorial Dedication – Always great to see them; COL and Mrs. Clarke came home for the festivities; CSM Hall was in for the Ranger Ball; RSM Pallister was in for ceremony and Ball. Bill Bullen and John Chester were in for the ceremony/Ball; and to make special presentations to the Gold Star Families. Joe and Pamela Heckard in from Dallas, Texas; Steve and Karen Murphy in from Lakeville, MN; Ranger Gene Peters created a rain storm in Tennessee and showed up at the Ranger Ball – Way to go Peters— We knew you couldn't stay away. Gary and Barbara Carpenter were in from Virginia. Joyce Boatman and her daughter Carol joined us at our table at the Ranger Ball. Charlie and Marie Laws in from Delaware; Sam and Linda Spears let Home Depot stand in their way. Joe Caligiure took lots of pictures and I have them posted to a web site. If you are interested in seeing them; send me an email acebes175@hotmail.com

The Ken Yorks were in town visiting their TWO sons in 1st Battalion — One is in Ranger School and will graduate on 16 November. Sandee Rouse did an outstanding job bringing in the Gold Star Families for the dedication. She continues to reach out and find these deserving families. Jack Daniels; Ken Ball; Pete and Carol Schetrompf were at the Ball; along with Art and Carol Silsby with their NAVY family.

Joe Caligiure insisted I put the following "The attached is a picture of Bill Acebes at his retirement ceremony from Civil Service. Is he really retiring or another one of his cruel jokes"

Gil Berg (General Greb) sent the attached picture of the



first Banner Day (LTC Leur; Major Hudson, CSM Gentry). I have also attached a picture of MG (R) Leur and COL (R) Hudson taken at the Ranger Ball. They haven't changed much in the past 33 years. Still scheming!!

CONGRATULATIONS to SPC Heyz Seeker for being recognized as the United States Army Soldier of the Year. SPC Seeker is an automatic rifleman with Charlie Company. He has been in the Army 10 years and is a native of Grover, California. A veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, he has his Airborne, Ranger and Combat Lifesaver qualifications. CONGRATULATIONS TO SPC Matthew Matosic; winner of 3rd Annual Dragon's Peak Competition held in June 2007 at Fort Leonardwood, MO. SPC Matosic competed against 22 other top enlisted noncommissioned officers in the Chemical Corps.

Brenda and I quit work in August and started driving - While in Utah; we made a trip to Antelope Island to visit the Memorial dedicated to the Rangers and Airmen lost there October 29, 1992. While in Las Vegas; we stopped in to visit with Helen Conrad for a couple of hours. Sure was good to see her.

I have to acknowledge the passing of a good friend and loyal Ranger supporter – 1SG (R) Patricia Leigh Jones (Salinas). Trish was my Admin Assistant when I was Post Command Sergeant Major at Fort Benning; a damn good soldier; and always a true friend. Trish battled leukemia the past fourteen months - She was laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston with full military honors. She will be missed by many in our Ranger family.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

By the way; if any of you were taking a break from Vietnam or Ranger units; and served on the DMZ/Korea; with the 2nd Infantry Division; please contact me. I am on the Membership committee of this great organization.

This is my last submission as Coordinator for 1st Battalion. I am passing the torch on to Ranger Michael Etheridge. Ranger Etheridge is well known throughout the Ranger

Community; being one of the original cadre of the Battalion. Ranger Etheridge recently retired as the Southcom CSM. Please continue to give him the support you have given me.

As always, keep your head down; powder dry; and see you on the high ground.



First Banner Day, 1974 MAJ Rock Hudson, LTC Leuer, CSM Gentry



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Nate Smith



Greetings Rangers and welcome to my first Patrolling article as the 2/75 unit director. A little bit about me. I entered the Army in 1993 from Michigan. I completed infantry OSUT, Airborne and RIP at Ft. Benning. I was then assigned to A co 1/75 at Hunter Army Airfield. In 1994 I deployed aboard the USS America to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy. Upon return I went to Pre Ranger and Ranger school class 3-95. A few recycles later I graduated with class 5-95.

In 1997 I reenlisted and was assigned to B co 2/75 at Fort Lewis. I ended my time in the Army in S-3 as the BN training NCO in January, 2000. That same

month I became a civilian police officer in the Seattle area and have been doing that ever since.



Since I took over for Rich Hecht, it's been a steep and sad learning curve. My very first order of business was to represent the association at Ranger Jason Kessler's funeral in Mount Vernon Washington in August. Ranger Kessler was killed in action in Iraq on or about 30 July, 2007. Ranger Veteran Michael Stiner shared the long drive up with me. The local sheriff's office provided a motorcade and the Patriot Guard riders were out in force. On or about 20 August, 2007 Ranger George

Libby was killed in a training accident in Afghanistan. Ranger Libby was laid to rest in North Carolina.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

The next order of business was to help raise money for a bronze memorial marker for 2nd Battalion Rangers Dale Brehm and Ricardo Barazza. Both Rangers were killed in action in Iraq on or about 18 March, 2006. Their Ranger buddies erected the memorial at forward area in the Global War on Terror in their honor. To all who helped, thank you much.

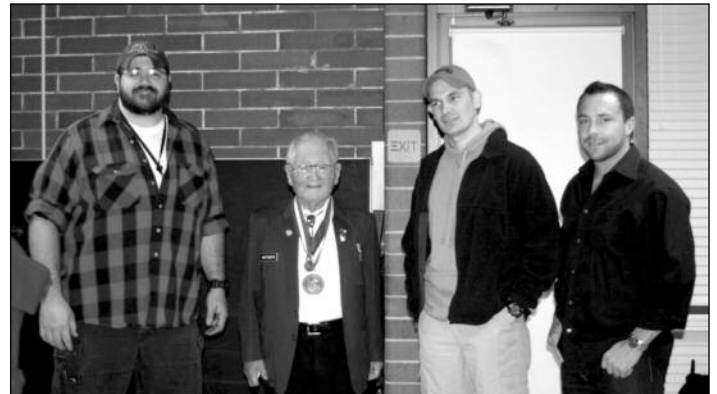
Next up was a young Ranger from 1/75 who was wounded and lost his leg as a result. He was at Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis recovering. Several of us had the honor of visiting him and his family. In true Ranger style he wasn't bent about losing his leg, he was mad that the medics lost his knife when they cut his gear off. The knife was a gift from his father. Several Rangers pitched in and got him a replacement. Quantico Tactical in Tillicum sold it to us at cost and we had it engraved for him. Thanks again to everyone for helping.

Shortly after that another young 2/75 Ranger came to Madigan with a significant leg wound. At time of writing the doctor's have been able to save his leg. His family was enduring significant financial hardship to be at their Ranger's side. With the help of the Ranger veteran community and several other special operations types from socnet.com we were able to cover the lodging for his family while he was at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle for surgery as well as helping his family with some of their living expenses. The Army has come a long way in caring for soldiers and their families, but there is still a long way to go. To everyone that helped, thank you. "I will never leave a fallen comrade, "doesn't just apply to the firefights. It also means that we're bound to stand by our Ranger buddies side in the emotional and physical battles that follow the fight.

The last bit of association business that I conducted was attending a presentation of Japanese Americans in World War II. One of the speakers was Merrill's Marauders and 1993 Ranger Hall of fame inductee, Roy Matsumoto. Attached to this article is a picture of Ranger Matsumoto, myself, Stiner and Cardillo. It was an honor and a privilege to have stood in the shadow of true greatness.

On 21 November, 2007 2nd Battalion will be formally activating D co 2/75. As of this time we're expecting members Rudder's Rangers D co 2/75 to be in attendance. I will be submitting pictures and stories for the next issue. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Ranger Kevin Ingraham. When I was behind on everything, he picked up the slack and tracked down all the WWII Ranger's so that we could invite them to the activation ceremony. Thanks Kev!

As always, there's a whole Regiment of heroes going into harms way everyday on our behalf. Get involved in the association. The boys need your support. Not sure who you can help, call me. I always need help.



3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea



Gentlemen, not too much to report this month. As I stated in the last issue, one of my primary goals is to help Rangers locate and link up with Ranger Buddies in their AO. To that end I have received a number of letters and emails asking if there are any Rangers in their vicinity. Keep the letters coming! I also hope to soon begin working on an article that will give some insight on the various web resources available to Rangers. Having found a couple of these resources and using them personally, I can tell you finding and linking up with Rangers in your AO is a great experience.

One of the best ways to grow this Ranger community is the 75th RRA. Encouraging your Ranger buddies to join. Whether you're still on active duty, just ETS'd or you've been out for 15 years, you're what this organization is all about.

On a more somber note, one the harsh realities of living in a time of war is losing more of our Brothers. Since our last publication, we've lost another Ranger.

Cpl. Benjamin C. Dillon, 22, of Rootstown, Ohio, died Oct. 7 in northern Iraq of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga.

Please remember the men and their families still standing in harm's way. This time of year is especially tough on the families. One of the things you can do to help is donate to the Family Fund. 100% of this money goes to the enlisted men and their families to get food and presents for the holidays.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

Please make checks payable to the 75th RRA and *make sure you note on the checks or money order that it is for the Holiday Family Fund. All money should be sent to:*

75th Ranger Regiment

Attn: Treasurer

7924 NW Anita Drive
Kansas City, MO 64151
PO Box 10970
Baltimore, MD 21234

Have a safe holiday season.

RLTW,

Scott Billingslea



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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte



Veterans Day Flags

The Healing Field Memorial began in 2002 in Utah as a remembrance for those lost in the 9/11 attacks, but quickly became a symbol for those lost since 2002. The project started for us, last year in Cathedral City a small community in the Coachella Valley next to Palm Springs. The program is a way to commemorate the lives and honor the men and woman who sacrificed their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq. Organized by the local Rotary Club and using volunteers to set up the field in Patriot Park, 4200 flags are tagged with the names of each person and stood on 8 foot poles at spaced intervals in straight lines over the whole park. It is impressive to stand in the middle of the Stars and Bars going in every direction. It was a beautiful day in the desert with the temperatures finally dropping to the 76. There was a slight breeze blowing and as I walked through the flags I saw vets looking at the tags and I spoke with a women looking for the son of a friend. The names were in alphabetical order but it still took me another trip to find Gunnery Sergeant Darrel Boatman the son of one of our own Roy Boatman. There was a stone structure in the center and around it were flags of countries that had also



lost sons and daughters helping us with this conflict. Not necessarily larger, wealthier countries that you would expect. Sure our larger allies like the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia were there but most were small countries many of which have only recently won their freedom and independence. Countries like Latvia, Kazakhstan and Holland to name a few. There was an opening ceremony with the Cathedral City High School Marching Band and United States Marine Corps Band from Twenty nine Palms. The field is lighted and taps are played each evening.

After closing ceremony on the 12th the flags, name tags and a certificate could be had for a donation.



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



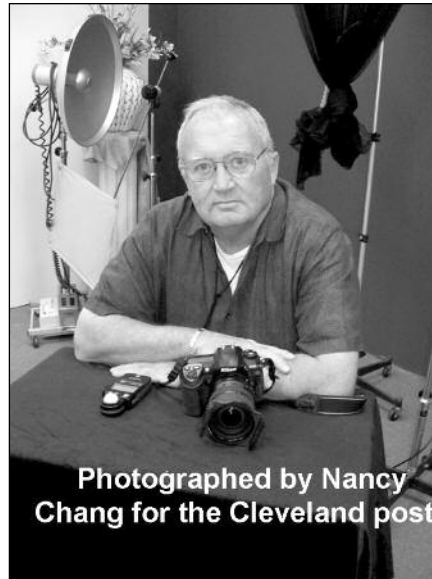
Hell in the desert

Chiriaco Summit a vast expanse of unforgiving desert just east of the Coachella Valley helped save the world two generations ago. Just two months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and during some of the darker days of World War II, the United States needed a place to train troops for combat in other parts of the world. Major general George S Patton was selected to find that place. His selection didn't take long. The Desert Training Center was established on Feb. 5, 1942 when chief of staff, Lt Gen Lesley McNair approved the concept and put Patton in Command. Patton a hard driving ex-cavalryman was the nation's first expert in armored warfare. He chose a massive area in Southern California that extended from the Mexican border to Nevada and into Arizona. The center was over 81,000 miles of terrain designed to prepare our army for armored combat with the likes of Rommel in North Africa. With summer day time temperatures that reached 120 degrees and winters with near freezing nights, the troops and equipment were exposed to the harshest conditions. Barracks were not built. The 190,000 troops lived in tents and trained continuously. Patton lived out in the desert with his troops and his training process hardening them for conditions that they would face against the Japanese in the Pacific, the Germans in North Africa, beaches of Anzio, D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. By it's closing in 1944, 1.8 million soldiers had been readied for combat at the center. The Gen. George S Patton Museum stands at the site of the old headquarters at Chiriaco Summit. Aerial photographs still show many of the trails left behind in the desert floor by the vehicles and soldiers who pass through the center.

PS

So much equipment and vehicles were brought into the center that when the army left, as stories go, some of it was just buried. I worked with a guy in 1970 who rode motorcycles in the desert by Anza Borge with his MC Club. On one

occasion, riding through the pucker bush he executed a flying W and came off the bike. Landing on something hard and pointed he dug down a bit and found what looked like an antenna but it would not come out. Going back a few weeks later with some friends they dug out a 1942 Willys Jeep left behind from the Desert Training Center.



Photographed by Nancy Chang for the Cleveland post

Ron Dahle Fails Again

Ron Dahle once again has failed at retirement. The 18th of October marked the grand opening of The Enchanted Image, a full service portrait studio by Ron. This is Ron's fourth studio over the past twenty five years. He has owned studios in Washington State, Maine, New Hampshire and now North Carolina. The yearning started in May of this year. By July a location had been selected and Ron started swinging a hammer and slinging paint. A lesson in good old boy local politics taught Ron a coup[le things about dealing with the building inspectors delaying the opening by 45 days, but undaunted by what Ron refers to as their "antebellum mentality" he drove on and finally opened. Ron's services include weddings, families, high school seniors, pets, and Ron says with as grimace "even kids". Ron had his first darkroom at 8 years old where he created some extremely interesting studies of his 9 year old niece. Since then Ron has never been far away from a camera. He teamed up with a Gypsy in Germany and honed his skills mastering the nuances of fine imaging among other skills. Ron closed his last studio in New Hampshire in 2002 with the passing of his wife of 43 years. He bumbled around managing a horse ranch, playing lumberjack, dabbling in the corporate world as the Operations Officer of a defense company, but finally the screaming in his head to open a studio prevailed. At 64 Ron plans to run the studio for about 4-5 years and turn it over to a close friend. Ron says she has more raw talent than he ever had, and has decided to help her develop it. As he says, "at this point in my life all I have to offer is my knowledge. If I can pass that on before I check out of the net we all win."

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



Sgt Benvenuto

PFC James Marshall Peeler. 1964 Remembers

I was the assistant radio operator in Benvenuto's patrol along with Sgt. Traylor as the radio operator and PFC Bielma was the forward scout. I vividly remember one night jump out of a CH-34 where I almost drifted off the DZ into some power lines. We gathered our patrol together, turned in our chutes and set out towards the area of our patrol site. When we had gone about three miles or more and were real close to our destination, the first traces of light were becoming visible. That's when I saw Sgt Benvenuto's pant leg was bloody from the crotch to the boot. I asked him what had happened and he asked me if I had seen the power lines. I said yes and he told me that he had managed to miss the power lines but landed on the barbed wire fence on the other side. He never said "Ouch" or complained. About 3 or 4 days later we were picked up by another CH-34. To this day I would follow "Uncle Ben" to the very gates of Hell if he asked me.



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson



Greetings from balmy tropical Pennsylvania... the weather here has been a little odd this fall... the leaves, at least most of them, didn't really turn color the way they usually do, and we've had on-again off-again heat spells and cold snaps. Lots of folks are running around fighting colds and flu-like symptoms, although we're told that the flu hasn't really hit here yet – hmmm...

This article may be a little shorter than the usual ones I've submitted in the past, since returning from the reunion, I've been involved in a migration for local networks to a global network for one of my clients headquartered in Germany, and haven't had as much time as usual to stay in touch with people. Anyone who has any news to report, give me a yell on the phone, or shoot me an email, will ya?

Tidbits:

Check the website for some pics of some of the following guys from Fort Benning:

Dirty Eddie White has been through the divorce mill, and is currently building a house on his property west of Colorado Springs. He seems to be doing well, but hasn't been able to make it to the reunions, like the most recent one in Fort Benning. His (new) email is: drtyeddie1@msn.com – they hosed him again, so it is changed.

Richard Stutsman is still a deputy Sheriff in Cloud County Kansas, and one of their sons recently returned from the big



sandpile in one piece, for which we are all grateful. He and the family are doing well on the health front, and it seems as though the environment for law enforcement officers in the state is improving, so that is good.

Don Purdy was at the reunion also... he's looking good and lives in Phenix City, Alabama. He's on the board which reviews submissions for the Ranger Hall of Fame, and spent some time discussing Bo Baker's submission with the 2nd Batt Boys. He still looks the same, too.

I will be getting in touch with Doc Schenks before the next issue, courtesy of Dirty

Eddie, so will catch you up on him next issue.

John Henry Voyles didn't make it to the reunion, but I've had some talks with him during the summer and fall, he's still in Lakewood, Washington, and reports that Vernon Lund, Christopherson, Bill Walter, Don Harris, Doc Jeans, and the rest of the Washington crew are all plugging along.

Eldon Bargewell retired this year, and is living in the Columbus area. He stopped in at the reunion as his schedule permitted, and we discussed submissions for the Ranger Hall of Fame, and will make sure we stay in touch with him. He may not have been a member of this Association up until now, but I will talk to John Chester, and get him enrolled, and send some copies of Patrolling along to catch him up.

Bill Nissen missed Benning due to being with Team Bullett out at Bonneville, so let us know how that went, Nasty...

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

Jim Broyles evidently returned from Bosnia back to Texas in one piece, and I hope to talk with him soon, especially since it seemed that for about a year or so every jump I was manifested for, Jim was the guy next to me in the stick.

Doc Wentzel is still in Horseshoe, North Carolina, and discovered at the reunion that he and Larry Jordan (from the original 2nd Battalion boys) live within rock-throwing distance of each other... small world.

Sam Snyder lives in the Fort Bragg area, and spent the week at Benning also. He still looks almost exactly the same, check the website for his photo

Steve Murphy attended with his son (who is a fully-grown man) (damn, I don't FEEL that old – ha, ha). He's still not back to full flying status due to his knee thing, but he's hanging in there.

Larry Coleman has been back from the Mideast for a while, but didn't make it to the reunion this time. I've seen his name recently on emails forwarded from Stan Harrell, so suppose that he's doing okay too.

Mike and Mary Hines are back in Arkansas, and think no news is good news for Mary's dad, so will keep you posted on that.

Haven't heard from Steve Gamble and Steve Bump in a while. Steve Gamble is in Texas working on the expansion of Fort Sam as a contractor, and the last I heard from Steve Bump, he was still back in Oklahoma. Also haven't heard from Joe Griesi or Lidio Kercado recently, so no news to report there. Also, Dean Papka – give me a shout.

Gary O'Neal is still teaching Phase 1 at Camp McCall in the Fort Bragg area as a GS-something, still riding his Harley, and lives on the reservation in Dakota when he isn't shepherding the new classes of green beanies through the obstacle course and keeping them awake by having them sit up in the rafters (some things never change, do they?).

Dave Walker lives in California, and has done a lot of the slick-looking graphics you see in the Patrolling magazine and on the website (www.75thrra.com). He looked good at the reunion in August, and I'll report more from Dave when I get some time.

Stories and Tales

Gary Dolan (the author of "Of Their Own Accord" – about Charlie Rangers in Vietnam) and I discussed trying to get some of the stories we all know or have heard from many of you guys recorded on tape from interviews, and possibly editing them into book form. Now... we realize that there will be quite a few stories that will either not be

publishable, or will require some sanitization in order to protect the guilty – er, innocent, er... yeah, well, anyway... so we'd appreciate some feedback on that, what you think either way, and if you think we should try to proceed, then maybe you could give us some ideas of specific things that should be included...

Like (Doc Wentzel) – I was reminded that you recalled drinking beer in the NCO club at Fort Greeley, Alaska from a vapor-barrier (Mickey Mouse) boot after our stay up at Gulkana Glacier. I think I remember some other things from that night myself, but, for some reason, my memory of the evening is a little hazy... hmmm...

Ranger Memorial Bricks

Again, one of the functions conducted during the reunion in August was the memorial service for the fallen Rangers of all the units, at the Ranger memorial itself.

Included in that article was a photo of the stones we purchased for CSM Gooden, CSM Schmidt, and CSM Haugh. There are still stones to be added from VII Corps, and as soon as we have definitive information concerning these, I will forward it to you all and include it in the future issues. Again, anyone wishing to help defray the cost of these stones may contact me, Doc Wentzel, or John Henry Voyles.

VA Issues

I know that there is usually a lot of reporting about the VA and associated issues in the magazine, but I recently heard some statistics about claim submissions and appeals that I thought I'd pass along. Now, don't quote me as being exact on these numbers (I was driving at the time), but it seems that the average processing time for an initial claim is around 6 months, give or take. The average processing time for an appeal is somewhere between 1 and 2 years, so if any of you were not getting around to timely appeals (like me), you may want to put it in gear, since it looks like it would be a while before the VA gets anything done for you.

There was also an article in the Washington Post by Bob Dole and Donna Shalala on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, (Page A19) entitled: "A Duty to the Wounded: Our Newest Veterans Need Help Now".

The article covers the political machinations going on in DC, while the newest disabled vets wait for coverage and comprehensive congressional and executive action. For those of you who may have the time to make your voices heard on the behalf of these newest disabled vets, you can contact the DAV, Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, VFW, or other organizations for their help in

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contacting the congress and administration to give them a little boost in taking care of this. All those organizations have information which will assist you in that effort.

They served, they sacrificed, and if we don't make our voices heard on their behalf, few others will.

Pictures from Carson:

Here is the text I received from Dirty Eddie:

"I am sending a photo of the sunset over the mountains from my trailer on the prairie.



Sunset at Dirty Eddies, July 7, 2007.

...And three photos I found of some of the guys. The lone Ranger is Dave Brocki in September of 1971 up in the Tarryall Mountains near Hartsel, CO. We had been patrolling

for two weeks up around 11,000 feet and his patrol and mine joined up and shared our food because re-supply was a bit thin. We



we were both team leaders at the time. I had not been out of Ranger School too long and we were preparing for REFORGER with all the field training.

The other two shots I took right after I got to the company when I was still a leg non-Ranger but a proud MACV RECONDO School grad. Top Gooden made me the company morning report clerk until I could get some

training. At this time the company was going downrange into the Sawtooth hills on Ft. Carson. Bugs Moran re-enlisted on the drop zone that day, taking a burst of six. This was just a few months before the big race between Bugs and Hosea Amos with pink slips in the hat for the winner. The one shot with four guys in a row are Left, Dave Brocki. He was a SSG then. I don't recognize the middle two but the end guy is SP/4 Moore. These guys were all in 2nd Platoon. The last pic shows the same guys but CPT Hess is also in the photo in a soft cap.



2d Platoon: Dave Brocki, Captain Hess (soft cap), Unknown, Unknown, SP4 Moore (rear).

Hope you can use these.

Hooah!!!

Dirt"

Does anybody recognize any of the other guys in the photos? If so, please let us know.

WEBSITE

Dave Regenthal (the webmaster for the website, and also the "F" Company unit director, has overhauled and revamped the site, following up on the work Emmett Hildebrandt originally did, and has made some significant improvements. Check it out when you get an opportunity.

Email

Please check the Unit Director's email address to make sure you have the correct one:

T out.

Marc L. Thompson

mthomp@dejazzd.com



Dave Brocki.



C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Chuck Vaughn



Reunion 2007, Fort Benning, GA

If by any chance you missed the reunion, you missed a great time. This one really lived up to the name "reunion." Our good friend, and last of the Kit Carson Scouts, Nguyen Van Trinh and his lovely wife Rosa made this years get together very special. It was the first time out of Vietnam for both, and through connections of Mr. Cal "Preacher" Rollins, we secured a six-month Visa so they could be there. Also, I believe for the first time, we had a complete team (Team 4-4) show up. This issue's main article is about how the team got shot up, and split up back in "68," and how this year, for the first time since then, they have come back together. For forty years, each has wondered what became of the others. Through the words of Sgt. Oscar Caraway and the entire team, he retails the harrowing story of how LURP Team, Chippergate 4-4, came through impossible odds, and survived to tell about it.

Rangers from Echo/Charlie Company began showing up at the Country Inn, at Benning August the week of the 6th. A lot of back slaps, and big hugs were going around. Oh yea, and a lot of Miller Light was being consumed in the evenings. Friendships that only the Brotherhood of War can produce were rekindled. For this Ranger, having my old teammate, Nguyen Van Trinh come back to life after forty years was an emotional experience I cannot describe in words. Wondering all those years if he had survived, knowing if anyone could he would, I never lost hope that one day I would see his ugly face again, and here he was, grinning from ear to ear. It was great.

There was a pretty full agenda to keep everyone occupied. There was a mass tactical jump on Monday. On Tuesday Boxing and Combatives finals were held at Hanger 301, and of course we had the Ranger Bar-B-Q there at Lawson Field. The food was great and the company even better. I never fail to run into someone from the past while there. This year I had a good surprise. I had just finished my meal when I heard my name being called a few table away. I turned around, and a guy from back home in the Philadelphia area was waving to me. It was Ken Hansen. He and I belong to the same chapter of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Ken is not a fellow Ranger, but he was



there to spend time with his daughter and her husband, who happened to be the 3rd Battalion's Commander, Col Jenkins. Ken brought him over (and I have to say, to me he looked a little young) and introduced him to our table. What a great guy he turned out to be. He said he was honored to meet some of the *old* guys from the Nam Rangers, so I invited him to come to our banquet. The memorial service at the monument, where the names of the many rangers who gave their all were read off by one by one, was done with great dignity and grace in the 100% Georgia heat.. It

moved me deeply to see that there were a handful of WWII rangers there to take part. Later, I made it a point to shake their hands, and to thank them for their service. Our banquet was held at Ruth Anne's again this year, with a very special speaker, General Charles R. Viale (Ranger Buddy to our own LT John Eder) gave a talk on what the government has done, and continues to do to account for our MIA's. He was in charge of the military side of the operations for some years before he retired. Colonel Jenkins did show up for our get together, and we asked him to say a few words. He was very gracious, thanking our group for their time in service. He then and reassured everyone that the current rangers were fit and ready for the missions ahead.

All too soon it was time to say our goodbyes, and to head back to our individual homes. I headed back to Philadelphia. My buddy Trinh and his wife went to spend some time at LZ Daniel (Dan Pope's hide-out) and then came to visit me for about a month. We had a good time getting back into each other's lives. We visited fellow Charlie Ranger Dave Dolby (MOH recipient) who was happy to see Trinh again after all these years.

Trinh is back in Vietnam presently, but we are making every effort to get him and his family resettled back in the good old USA.

Chippergate 44, Feb. 19th, 1968

(The call-sign for the day was Chippergate, the Team was team 4, 4th platoon)

This story is a recollection of events by Sgt. Oscar Caraway in collaboration with all of the men from Team 4-4; in their own words.

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

It was Feb. 18th, 1968, early morning; our team was on down time when Sgt. Johnston got the call. He wondered who was in trouble this time. Wishart was the usual suspect; he was 18 years old and full of energy. Sgt. Johnston thought it must be something serious to be called in to see Colonel Conner. And he was right, dead right. The colonel needed our team to cover some very dangerous territory. Our team was aggressive and always wanted to be in the field. We were the perfect men for the job.

While I began to ready the team, Sgt. Johnston went up in the aircraft to conduct an VR (visual recon) to look over the terrain. He needed to look for drop sites and pick up locations. He knew this one was going to be difficult. All you could see was the dense canopy of the jungle. It was nothing but extremely steep slopes. He picked some spots that he thought would *maybe* work.

By afternoon it was hot and sticky, Sgt. Johnston came to the team and I, and it was time to brief us on the mission. We were anxious, but always ready for whatever mission the team leader said was next. Sgt. Johnston looked as serious as I'd ever seen him. My team just waited for him to speak. That team consisted of: myself (Assistant Team Leader) Oscar Caraway, (Medic and Radio Operator) Del Ayers, (Scout Rifleman) Lievan Hanson, and (Medic and Rifleman) John Wishart.

Sgt. Johnston started the briefing by telling us to "take only a small ration of food but pack double the ammo and grenades". He said to bring water but don't expect to eat. I could tell this one was going to be different. You could see in his eyes, he had a bad feeling. I knew that this meant we were going into a hot area and were sure to get into a fire-fight. Our normal 20 mags for our M-16 were now 30. We were used to hard missions, and danger was part of our job description. Any of us would follow Sgt Johnston anytime, anywhere and under any circumstances. We were ready to do our duty.

It was Feb. 18th, 1968 and all our attention was on being prepared for this mission. That night there was very little sleep by anyone on the team. The next day, Feb. 19th was another hot day and we woke up sweating. As we loaded on the Huey for the first light insertion, I paused and relived a moment of the Tet Offensive from only about a month earlier. I had to focus on this day, this mission. Today this mission was to locate and identify NVA troops and look for battalion sized bivouac sites west of Plie Jurang. There had been reports of large groups of enemy troops throughout the area and along the Cambodian border.

As we lifted off the tarmac, we all looked at each other and I wondered what we were going to face. We were all young and proud, all Army Airborne Rangers and we always led the way. We were a seamless team, with complete trust and confidence in each other, and

everyone's ability to perform. Not one of us knew this would be our last mission together, for some of us, our last mission ever.

After a ride of what seemed to be a lifetime, we finally arrived at the first insertion point, but the chopper could not get us low enough to allow us to exit the bird. The second insertion point was the same way. Our third and last insertion point put us three or more miles into the jungle, deep beyond the Cambodian border, a place no American soldier was supposed be. We didn't hesitate though; we were ready to do our job.

The jungle was very dense with trees and vegetation; our only way to ground level was with rope ladders. Our bodies hanging almost parallel to the ground, hand over hand, foot to the next rung, muscles straining with a 80 lb *ruck*, anxiety building with each step closer to the ground. Our brains screaming commands to muscles, we had to get to the ground. We must do the mission, and then, my team and God willing, come back alive.

After penetrating the triple canopy of trees, the helicopter disappeared. All was quiet. We waited for our leader to give the order to proceed, ready for anything. We talk in whispers and hand signals to organize our team. We then began to move through the jungle, following our LRP team marching order which was: PFC Wishart on Point, SSG Johnston (Team Leader) Spec. 4 Ayers (RTO), Spec. 4-Hanson, then me, then Sgt. Caraway (Asst. Team Leader and Rear Security).

We moved thru the jungle like a well oiled machine, few words were spoken. We set out to complete the mission, resolved in spirit and secure in our experience as a LRP combat-team. Stealth is our protection, training our confidence, duty our motivation, and Brotherhood our salvation.

Within an hour we were able to locate a bivouac area. The jungle floor was clean and well kept, under triple canopy camouflage, to prevent aerial detection. This was a large enemy base camp, well hidden and obviously being used. It consisted of many bunkers, a tunnel complex, and aid station, and troop quarters

As a team we had been on many missions and seen many villages and NVA base camps, but this one was unlike any other. We knew they had just been there. Their smell lingered, the cook pots were still warm. We saw a barber station, hair on the ground, not yet swept up. Also, there was a grave site, the dirt fresh and moist. The NVA buried there could hold valuable information. Do we take the time and the risk to dig him up? The team decided that he must be exhumed but we should wait until leave out day, so as not to be detected. We would come back for him!

We quickly inspected the bunker/tunnel complex to determine what, if any supplies were available to the NVA

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

upon their return from the Plieku Tet Assault. We moved through the area to try and gather as much intelligence as we could. With the mission complete, we had no reason to stay. We needed to get out of there and call in an air-strike. The entire team was nervous, and on edge. We could feel the presence of the NVA all around us. Then the jungle sounds changed. The hairs on the back of our necks were up; and we knew we had to get out of the bivouac area. We left no trace as we went through the jungle, staying away from the trails, doing what LURPS do best.

After locating the NVA base camp, which was estimated to hold between 1200-1500 NVA, we called in exact location through the aid of a O-1 (Observation Plane). We then made a late afternoon position fix. We confirmed the azimuth to a Landing Zone for extraction on Feb. 20th. The end of the mission was in our grasp. Our team needed to cross a heavily used and a well traveled trail to get to the planned go-to ground night site.

We moved parallel with the trail. It was on a steep slope, heavy foliage, and very windy. Suddenly, Sgt. Johnston's hand went up, a signal to stop. We all instinctively followed our training and immediately crouched down. Our eyes were peeled. He had heard something, a clank; what was it? Was it only our minds, or was it NVA? We waited about 5 min., heard nothing and then SSG Johnston motioned to Wishart (who was point man) to fall back. Being Team Leader, Johnston was now going to take the lead. This was not protocol, but Johnston knew we were in trouble, and he would protect his men even if it meant his life. He did not turn around to check our positions; he trusted our performance as a team. Controlled fear was our courage, and a plan was in place. There was no choice; we knew we must cross the trail. Just 10 more feet, and we would be safe; back in the thick foliage.

Sergeant Johnston waited until the trail looked clear to cross. He then stepped out carefully with his left foot. The ground hid a low spot, and his foot slid onto the trail. He regained his balance, looked up from the ground only to make eye contact with NVA. They were caught off guard, we were alert and ready. They knew we were not supposed to be there, and I guess we knew this too. Sgt. Johnston's left side was exposed. Immediately a fire-fight began. The first round penetrated low into his torso, breaking his rib, and puncturing his lung. His body spun around from the force of the bullet, only to catch a 2nd round, taking out his spleen. He went down, and the bullets continuing to make contact with him. Wishart, further back at the trails edge, was hit in the leg next, and fell to the ground. The two of them were completely exposed, with Johnston out on the trail and Wishart at its edge.

As quickly as their feet hit the trail, a column of NVA soldiers appeared right on top of us all. They had

probably heard the helicopters looking for a place to drop us, and went to recon the area. We were in full camo, they were in gray, off duty uniforms. Apparently, they had been heading back to the bivouac area.

Wishart tried to put out fire with his M-16, but it completely jammed up. Sgt. Johnston's AR 15 (a smaller version of the M-16) was within his grasp, so he reached over and secured it. Both were immobilized and still laying in the open.

Ayers immediately, correctly, and instantly called in coordinates. I could see Ayers next to Wishart, he was now shot thru the arm but continued to treat wounds with one hand, and fire his weapon with the other as if he was not injured at all. All three men were in a terrible cross fire

Hanson and I, still 15 ft back, instinctively began giving cover fire, I headed to high ground. My position was perfect; I could cover any one of the men. I had to hold the NVA back, until my team could be pulled back to a safer position. Hanson fired the M-79, taking out two NVA directly in front of Ayers and Wishart. I could see Sergeant Johnston and Wishart, although injured, were not out of this fight, they never stopped firing at the NVA. The Sgt. was putting out fire, using his 45.

Hanson took a position next to the trail behind a small boulder. Chaos began to lose its grip. We were gaining back control, and we were going to fight. The NVA may kill us but we refused to submit! Hanson became targeted by an NVA. As I looked to my left, I could see he was still behind the boulder, but now he was pinned down, shot thru the hand.

I could see the NVA thru the foliage. Hanson yelled out, "Get rid of this one!" and with the squeeze of a trigger, that one was no longer a threat to us. My attention shifted back to the trail. In horror, I could see an NVA had made his way to SSG Johnston, and was standing above him. As I turned my gun, Sergeant Johnston raised his 45 caliber pistol with his left arm, and put another one down. No one should ever underestimate *my* sergeant. That NVA had realized there were only a few of us, but SSG Johnston was not going to let any NVA expose our one weakness. Hanson sounded like an army all by himself, spraying fire and grenades all 360 degrees.

We had to move forward, the gap between us had to be closed. The enemy was trying to out flank us, rather than rush us. This mistake on their part saved our lives. You could here them scrambling. Apparently, they could not believe there could be anything but a great number of soldiers this deep into Cambodia; this close to their base. The NVA decided not to overrun us, they were confused, they had no idea how many and how fierce we were.

No one quits, no one folds. We all knew this was the fight of our lives, and a fight for life itself. We had to pour

out fire-power. Hanson and I continued to cover our fallen team-mates. Sergeant Johnston, almost fatally wounded, was still barking orders (what a leader!). We were all returning fire. Sergeant Johnston was shot in the chest, the side, the leg, and two times in the right arm.

The world was moving in slow motion, as I moved through the broken falling branches and jungle leaves to my Sergeant's side. Hanson covered me so I could make it. All I could think of was that I had to retrieve my fallen friends, my team. As a team, we worked together and helped drag Sergeant Johnston back to a sheltered position.

Hanson readied the blood and Ayers inserted the IV in Sgt. Johnston's left arm. Sgt. Johnston placed his 45 caliber pistol into his right hand and continued firing at the enemy. He didn't realize his arm was broken; it had two bullet holes in it. With every shot his arm was flailing violently. I grabbed the 45 in fear of him shooting himself (or one of us). He wasn't ready to stop fighting.

Ayers ordered Wishart to call for an extraction, and threw him the radio. Not 15 minutes earlier we had called in our location. LURP teams are skilled in reading maps and compasses correctly, and Sgt. Johnston had a practice of regularly calculating our location, and marking our maps. Wishart called out wanting the call sign, he gave position, and the pilot replied, "Please use proper radio procedure." We really loved those guys, but it was no time for proper radio procedure. It was like, "Just get your butt here now!"

At this point we were only 10-15 feet from the faces of the NVA troops, they were everywhere, the faces seemed to be never-ending. The more we shot, the more NVA came. Out of nowhere it seemed. I realized we were in a no-win situation. There was nowhere to retreat, and we were surrounded. We were too shot up to get away, with only 5 men, of which only 3 could run.

We were Chippergate 44. A commitment made long ago required that either all of us made it, or none would be saved. All that was left to do was to fight to the end, together as a team. We looked at each other; we knew we were going to fight to the last bullet, the last breath, taking no prisoners.

The minutes begin to blur, one by one the NVA fell. I yelled to the team each time I eliminated another threat. I thought to myself, "I may not get them all, but I was going to make sure that some of them would not be around to kill another day."

The whole thing was surreal, and then I saw purple smoke. It was a miracle. There was no wind, and the smoke stayed directly above us. The gun ships had arrived. Three or four began blanketing the entire area, surrounding us with rockets and machine guns support. The gun ships continually fired almost directly upon us; the enemy was being forced back.

There were NVA scattering in every open space. Suddenly a Huey was hovering over us, and a jungle penetrator was lowered; first for the ones who were wounded the worst. The penetrator was not something the ships always carried, but in Sgt. Johnston's foresight, he had told the helicopter crew to have it aboard that day.

Wishart pulled Sgt. Johnston on to the rig, which was not, much more than cables, and a small plank. As the penetrator lifted up and away, Sgt. Johnston began to slip. Wishart was there, grabbed him and held on to him, as if he was holding on to life itself. They reached the helicopter but did not have the strength to climb in. The helicopter was under heavy fire, the gunner climbed out onto the strut to pull the men to safety. They were finally secure, but the gunman took a hit to the leg. Half our team was out. Wishart continued to do his job, applying pressure to the sucking chest wound on Sgt. Johnston, showing great dedication to his Team Leader.

Ayers was doing all the coordinating for the team while Hanson and I laid down fire with our next to last mags of ammo. The steady firings of the gunships were able to push back the NVA's point attack-force, so that finally an Extraction helicopter was able to feed a McGuire rig thru the trees. Small arms fire continued as the McGuire rig was dropped. Now was our chance to get out!

Hansen and I fired the last mags at the NVA troops that were still close by. Ayers gathered all weapons and gear ready to leave. As we secured ourselves in the McGuire rig, I continued to fire at the enemy until I emptied my last mag. I had no ammo left. At that point, I was the only one not wounded. We strapped into the rig, held on tight, and looked up trying to see the blue sky beyond the canopy. The helicopter was taking too many hits, and they had to pull forward before we were completely clear of the tree tops.

As we were dragged through the trees, the branches pummeled me, which caused a severe concussion, lacerations, and neck trauma. The only thing that kept me in the rig was the two wounded soldiers that refused to let the jungle take me back.

Hanson yelled up to the pilot to slow down. We were flying at 80 knots for what was to be a 40 mile ride. As we were ripped threw the canopy it caused the rig to spin violently under the chopper, it spun at such high speeds that the bolts of the weapons broke, the slings flew off Hanson's shoulders and the guns fell 1200 feet back into the jungle.

We made it back to base, to safety! We were deposited on the ground in a tangled heap without strength to move, exhausted, and near dead. At this point, base medics split us up for specific medical care. Chippergate 44 was no more.

I guess I was transferred to a dust-off helicopter for transport to Plieku Hospital, because the last thing I remembered seeing before I faded out was the jungle. I

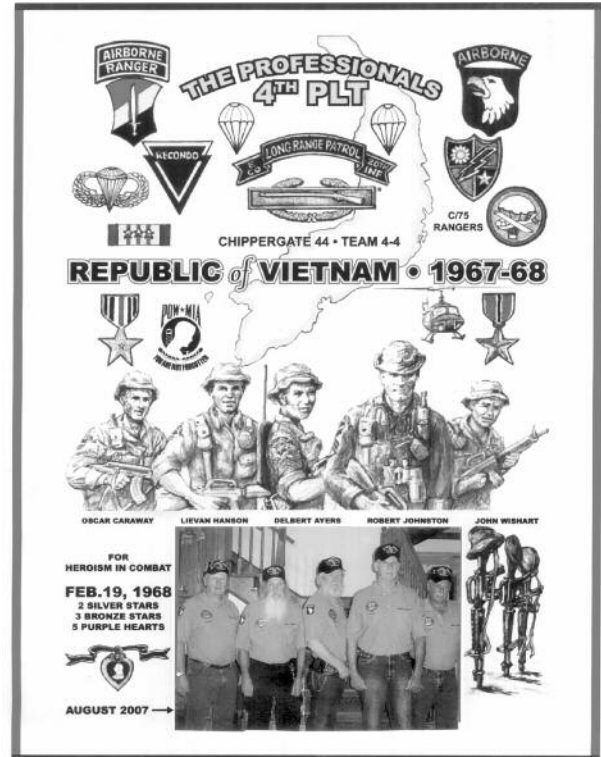
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woke up in the Intensive Care Unit at Plieku. I opened my eyes, and across from me was Sgt. Johnston. Both of us were bandaged and could hardly move. I looked at him knowing how badly he had been wounded, and watched him raise his hand as best he could to acknowledge me. I raised mine back, and then the nurses immediately wheeled him away. Was that our good-bye? I wondered how he could he survive? He had been through so much.

This is how it happens in war, so many of our team mates, all of the sudden, are gone. We go forward to whatever the army says to do next, never knowing the other's condition, whether dead or alive.

On Feb. 19th, 1968 each member of Chippergate 44 performed their job to survive an experience only a combat soldier can grasp. Others struggle to understand, but only those who live it can comprehend. Our need to protect each other, and prevent an overwhelming NVA force from overpowering us, saved our lives. I am alive today because of my team, their heroic deeds made survival possible. We lived and breathed thought and worked as one; without question. Each one of us was a volunteer. "Sua Sponte" (Of Their Own Accord) is the Ranger motto, no lag time, no indecisiveness. We were adaptable, systematic, and eerily calm.

In time I recovered from my wounds and returned to E-Company LRP 20th Infantry. I was awarded my own team, and did not have the opportunity or privilege to patrol with any of those fine soldiers ever again. As a team we experienced what only those who serve know. We have a bond that can never be severed. My friend, Del Ayers (Spec 4/Medic and RTO), survived that day as well. As a Sergeant, he was awarded his own team until he Derosed back to the USA. He then began another mission, one that continued for 39 years, up until April 3rd, 2007. This mission was to determine the whereabouts of team Chippergate 44, each and every one of us. He did retrieve the following stats: As a team we were awarded for that day, Feb 19th, 1968: two silver stars, three bronze stars, and five purple hearts, but our biggest reward of all was that "We all survived!"



**D/75****Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson**

Well another Veterans Day has come and gone and it's now time to get ready for the holiday season. I was able to participate in the parade here in Orlando, I think it was the largest parade Orlando ever had. The streets were lined throughout the entire Parade route.

Moe and Cindy sent me a CD with the Photos that they took at the reunion so I'll start putting a package together now to post on our page of the 75th Ranger Regiment web site. They should be posted by the time you receive this copy of Patrolling. Moe is continuing to work on finding a place to meet out near him in South Dakota for those of us who are able to get together during the off year. Thank you Moe

When I talked to Bear on Veterans Day he told me his son will be home in about 21 days, so by the time everyone receives this copy of patrolling another member of our family will be out of harms way. He also told me that he was awarded his CIB during an awards ceremony a couple of weeks ago.

Mike and Sharon are doing well, and Mike also submitted an article for this copy of patrolling. I certainly enjoyed reading it and think you all will also.

The last time I talked with Maddog he was getting ready to go out and bag his Thanksgiving turkey as it is Bow season in Wisconsin now, and he is getting ready for the regular hunting season to open. Ken and Linda Dern are doing well and so are our (Jacksonville) Jaguars, when I talked with Ken he said they were getting ready for a large Thanksgiving with their family. Fitz and his wife are enjoying the good life up in New York, and he asked me to tell everyone he says hi.

Carl and Rosie had just come home from the Veterans Day parade where they live when I talked with him the last time. Life is still good for him and Rosie in Arizona. Daniel Hughes is getting along well after his knee surgery but will have to have the other knee worked on next year sometime.

The below memory was written by Mike Warren, about one of the missions his team was on. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.



New Years 1970

BY: Mike Warren

The moon was full on New Years night 1970 in Vietnam with the light coming through the tall canopy making our shadows on the jungle floor look like a black and white movie and reminding me of how strange and beautiful the bush could look at times. Just ten days prior to this night we were in this same area having made contact after being set up for only a few hours. As result of our ambush, we killed one Viet Cong and another crawled away. This area was hot with enemy sign with fresh trails easy to find.

Steve Johnson, a smart and dedicated non commissioned officer, led our LRRP team of six, call sign Ranger 3-3, and had long since earned our respect and admiration. Our assistant team leader was a tough rancher from Wyoming, Marc (Moe) Lamphere. Moe carried the M-60 machine gun and like all the rangers who carried the big weapon was well respected by their team members. Moe, like Herd Nelson, and Ed (Maddog) Krause (other LRRPs who carried the M-60) was key to his team's survival when contact with Charlie Cong occurred and heavy firepower was necessary to break contact or to buy time for the Cobras and Hueys to show up. A lot can be said about Moe, his bravery, his quite mannerisms, but overall this western rancher was a well-respected and liked non commissioned officer, a sold performer in every respect. I remember Moe cutting off the end of his M-60 to make it easier to maneuver in thick jungle (had to have been there). When the going got tough, Moe got tough with it.

At 2:30am the next morning, I was on guard duty and had to wake Steve Johnson because he was groaning and struggling in his sleep. He whispered to me that he had a troubling dream about some men after him in Detroit Michigan, an omen of things to come. The rest of the night passed without incident.

The next morning we very carefully retrieved our claymores, packed our rucksacks and prepared to continue our recon when we heard a signal shot close to our location, somebody knew we were in the neighborhood. When Steve spotted movement to our front, things really got interesting. Movement in the jungle is usually up close and personal so we waited, being in no hurry to give our location away. I distinctly remember Moe suddenly standing up and firing his M-60 in a 360-degree sweep.

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Steve had spotted several NVA walking directly in front of our location approximately 10 meters. Of the 1000 rounds Moe had carried in at the beginning of the mission, he must have easily expended 500 rounds. Everything got quite for a minute and then the air support showed up with Cobras flying in a tight circle around our location. Somewhere overhead was Warlord 1-6, Carl Norris and Major Drisko, our CO. Without their direct air support we would have never survived.

Someone popped smoke, I called for fire on my PRC 25 radio, when suddenly a rocket from somewhere came in on our location. I remember SP4 Latham who was lying next to me after the explosion screaming out with pain and looking at him I saw his jungle cammies red from the top of his boots to his belt. His left index finger was severed and the remaining stump was just dangling with the ligament and bone hanging out but not bleeding. Four other team members had varying degrees of shrapnel wounds including me with a minor wound in the right foot.

Everything seemed to slow down with Steve requesting a jungle extraction and when the McGuire rig was dropped through the canopy the three more severely wounded were taken out leaving Moe, Steve and me. Unable to carry their rucksacks and not wanting to leave anything for Charlie to find, the next Huey to come in carried out the rucks of the first three. Finally our turn to leave came and after getting in the McGuire rig and lifting off, the nylon rope became wrapped around a small tree and suspended us off the ground about ten feet. I remember telling Moe and Steve that it had been good serving with them, fully expecting to be shot any second. The Huey lurched upward, both freeing and swinging us like a clocks pendulum. We finally cleared the treetops and were airborne.

I estimate we were flying about 1000 to 1500 feet over jungle to a LZ somewhere yet unseen when I yelled at Moe that I couldn't hang on any longer. Fatigue and to many adrenaline rushes had finally taken their toll, not to mention my eighty-pound rucksack on a 130 lb body frame. Without giving it a second thought, Moe turned loose of the McGuire rig with one hand and wrapping it around my neck and shoulders held me in for what seemed to be a long ride. We were finally dropped in a LZ and transported back to the rear.

That afternoon Steve returned to the contact site with a group from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Two members of that unit were killed, one from small arms fire, the other, a short time Lieutenant, from falling out of a McGuire rig after being wounded in the abdomen.

Last Christmas and thanks to Herd Nelson, I talked with Moe for the first time in nearly 37 years. As we talked about our lives as young men and missions we shared while serving with Co D 75th Infantry in Vietnam, I thanked him for saving my life that day in early 1970 and how that as I looked at my family I would never forget what he did for me. I don't know if Moe was awarded a medal for saving

not only me but all of Team 3-3 on that fateful day in Jan 1970 but he should have been. If he is never awarded anything for that mission he achieved the highest honor one soldier can give another, he saved a life and for that will always be remembered for his bravery and wiliness to give all that he could to help another soldier in need.

My wife Sharon and I saw Moe and his lovely wife Cindy at the 2007 Ranger Reunion and as we talked about our adventures in Vietnam which seemed like another lifetime, I realized that after all these years, Moe still possesses the same spirit and attitude that I remembered in 1970, a spirit and bond which Tom Delaney, (Team Leader 3-5), characterizes in his description of Company D LRRPs as a Band of Brothers that only a select number of men truly know.

Mike Warren

I hope you all have a very Happy Holiday season!

RLTW

Richard "Herd" Nelson



Carl & Rosie Norris



Moe Lamphere & Mike Warren



Johnny White, Mike Warren & Moe Lamphere



Moe Lamphere

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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson



By Rick Stetson Unit Director

E Company was saddened in October to learn of the death of Raymond Hulin, one of the original members of the 9th Division long range patrol. The headline in the "Port Arthur News" read: "Local rodeo legend Hulin dies at 65." The article recognized Hulin for his induction into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame and mentioned his high school and college rodeo championships. In E Company, Hulin was known as a consummate patrol leader, a brave and dedicated sergeant who led his team with great distinction.

Ray Hulin had the quiet demeanor of a true cowboy and when he was in Vietnam, he never bragged about his many rodeo championships. Instead, he volunteered to lead dangerous patrols, like the night his team was inserted by boat on a place in the Delta that was called, and for good reason, VC Island. There, Hulin was met by automatic weapons fire as he waded ashore. The Navy commander threw the landing craft in reverse as the patrol members scrambled back on board, all except Hulin, who had managed to grab some bar armor as the boat backed away with all aboard returning fire. As the boat picked up speed, Hulin could no longer hold on and dropped off in the middle of the Mekong River. He was struggling to stay afloat while trying to get rid of a heavy pack that held extra ammo the team's radio when E Company member Howard Munn jumped overboard and swam to assist the patrol leader until the boat could come alongside and pick them up.

Hulin survived that patrol and numerous others and his team brought back valuable intelligence about enemy activity in the division's area of operations. His leadership was evident from the day E Company arrived in country and he was among the first in the unit to be promoted to sergeant and designated as a patrol leader.

When he was discharged from the Army in 1968, Hulin resumed rodeo competition and started an equipment company that manufactured his specially designed bareback riggings. Unfortunately, he was thrown from a horse in 1981 while riding in the Mesquite Rodeo and his back was broken, paralyzing him from the neck down. Doctors gave him less than a ten percent chance of surviving and he was placed on a respirator in order to breathe. Hulin defied the doctors' odds and despite being confined to a motorized wheelchair and enduring constant



pain, he lived for more than a quarter century after his accident always displaying the most positive of attitudes. His sister, Shirley DeCuir, was quoted in the "Port Arthur News" as saying, "Where he got the courage to do what he's done, I don't know. His strength, determination and courage are a legacy of a great man admired by many."

Besides Shirley, Hulin is survived by sister Sharon Raccaforte, daughter Stacy Hulin, son Steven Hulin and a grandchild, Cayden Hulin. Memorials can be sent to: Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 104, Walnut Springs, TX 76690. Family members will be notified of memorials made to the Hall of Fame.

In November, Jonesy sent out an email from Shirley Parrish who is setting up a fund so that Kenneth Frank can donate a kidney to his daughter: the Kimberly Frank Kidney Replacement Fund. Our unit has a history of responding to assist those in need so members who are able to do so can contact Shirley Parrish with a contribution at 12909 Tallowood Ct., Riverwood, FL 33579.

Shirley writes that she is looking forward to seeing everyone at our next E company reunion which will be held next May 14-17 in Colorado. Mac MacCallum made a recon of Colorado Springs last fall and reports there is much to do in the mountains. He has been busy arranging for a full slate of activities and tours and all E Company members are encouraged to attend. Reunion headquarters will be the Clarion Hotel Downtown, 1-800-477-8610. Be sure to mention E Company when making your reservations and if you plan to attend, be sure to let Jonesy know so he can add your name to those listed on our E Company web site.

Speaking of web sites, I recently received a nice email from the webmaster for the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry's web page. This distinguished unit was attached to the 9th Infantry Division in Nam. Since several of their members (including Robert Hill, Warren Lizotte and Michael Volheim) had transferred to the Lurps from the 6-31st, they wanted to know if our website could be linked to theirs. I replied that we would be honored to be linked to them. E Company members can check out their web site at: www.vietnam6bn31inf.com. On their opening page is a quote that I especially liked by an unknown author that reads:

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“A veteran is someone who at one point in his life wrote a blank check made payable to the ‘United States of America’ for an amount of ‘up to and including my life.’ That is honor and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.”

To all of you who have at some point in your life written that blank check, thank you for your service to our nation. Until next time, stay safe and don’t forget that, Rangers Lead the Way.



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

Unit Director - David Regenthal



Company Reunion

There have been a few inquiries regarding an off-year get together. A few of the 66-67 folks are going to the Delta Troop Reunion in Cincinnati next June. Rich Martin and I discussed the potential for Atlantic City as a possible site.

Basically it takes “boots on the ground” to set up a reunion, “mini” or otherwise. There is no less work involved in putting one together for a dozen people than it is for a couple hundred. Part and parcel to such an undertaking there must be some sense of just how many folks would be willing to attend. . . this effects guarantees (regarding room rates, catering, and hospitality accommodation).

We may already be too late to get something started for Summer ’08. I plan to post a survey in the members section at LRRP.COM which will provide each of you an opportunity to weigh in on the matter. I’m open to any and all suggestions provided we are able to identify and match tasks with personnel.

Company Website

LRRP.COM has been with us for 11 years (Sept ’96). The bulk of the work accumulated over the first two or three years. It’s a good site (and excellent URL) but could stand some modernization. I will be taking a look at doing just that immediately after the holiday season is behind us.

Should we add a “Quartermaster” section (Company Store)? Do we need to clean up any of the sections . . . some of which are somewhat dated? How do we go about reorganizing the In-Country and other pictures? These, and others to be identified by you are all questions the need answers so that our site continues to serve our membership while providing accurate education and information to our frequent visitors.

I believe the time is now, for those of you not locked in your rooms feverishly working on your next new novel, to write down what you have to say about YOUR Vietnam



experience. There, in my view, should be a section devoted to the writings of our spouses (both past & present), and children to have their say as well. I would like to make some sort of arrangement with the Smithsonian or History Channel so that this site lives on even after the last of us is gone. My thinking is that we (should) have a lot to say and that it we want it said correctly, honestly, and accurately, this would be a good time to get started on this project. I don’t know about you but I’d much rather do it now than rely on some liberal history major to be telling what it was like after we’ve gone . . .

I am as certain as I can be that there are many more excellent pictures in your personal photo albums that others would enjoy seeing. If you can scan and e-mail some of your favorites there is no need to wait until the first of the year. I will count on you to state what it is you expect from our company website (as well as the 75thRRA.com site).

Ranger Hall of Fame

F Company will not have a submission this year. I sent packets out, asking for help, to a number of people. To be fair, no one requested this information but I needed and requested help. Didn’t happen. This leaves plenty of time to get our ducks in a row for next time. If you have a potential candidate in mind and are willing to do the paperwork please contact me for a link to an electronic packet.

We can submit more than one name. The Association then reviews all submissions and submits select ones to the RHoF Committee. We can’t just submit someone because we like them—there are criteria which must be met. I am confident that, among our 25th Infantry Division LRP/LRRP/RANGER body there are more than one deserving candidates. I will also, on behalf of the unit, extend the offer to perform this task to our spouses. The ball’s in your court . . .

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

Company Video

The video project continues, albeit at a slower pace than I would like. The good news is that I have, over time, accumulated a fair library of video that should be of some use. All of the earlier stuff was shot on cameras inferior to today's standards but is, none the less, a moving picture record of us and some at gatherings in D.C., reunions, and other events. We can also include still pictures from "back in the day" that will help complete a chronology.

Corky and I are in Fort Myers until at least 05MAY08. Not being entirely certain of our plans beyond that date I can only speculate that I will be in Washington for "one more Memorial Day" and perhaps New Jersey for anywhere from a month to the entire Summer this coming year. If you are within a reasonable proximity to my location(s), let's find a way to get together. If you can't come to me I am certainly willing to travel (within a reasonable distance) in order to get this done.

Make no mistake; this is a massive undertaking. I am willing to do the work and will do so at no expense to the unit fund. What I'll need from you are the pictures and the opportunity for you to sit in front of the camera (or audio recording device) so that we have the best available representation. I think this thing is really going to be cool when completed but I'd sure like to get it done while there are enough of us left alive to enjoy it, no?

Company Roster

Bill Mrkvicka continues to maintain our roster. The most current version is always available to you in the members section on LRRP.COM (as are the After Action Reports, AAR's he put together). Gene Tucker has volunteered to help and I know that Bill has given him an assignment. If nothing more, it would be useful for you to keep him apprised of any changes in your address, telephone, and e-mail. There is a form for this right on the main page of our website.

Not wishing to leave this topic on a negative I feel it necessary to add that if you are aware of a death or memorial service for any of our folks, please let us know as soon as possible. Life's end is an inescapable event for all of us . . . many have gone before, the rest of us will follow in due time. While often, attending a funeral service is more of a personal initiative I believe we're better than that. Let us please be diligent in notification.

Many of you who know me also know that I'm not much of a flowers kind of guy. I believe that in most cases money is better spent on a personal telephone call to the individual while he is still in a state where he can answer you back then sending a box of weeds after it's too late for that. But that's just me . . .

Company Fund

There has never been a lack of ideas regarding how to spend our limited funds. My position (while maintaining an open mind to your suggestions), is that we have (or should not have) any expense excepting a mailing to all members.

Events may unfold differently than what I or anyone else can anticipate—thus the "open mind proviso" above. I would like your feedback on the following two thoughts: (1) What would be wrong with someone suggesting a need and our dedicating any funds raised to satisfy that need towards that particular need (and thereby not exhausting the present treasury)? (2) How about, and I would be in favor of this, our sponsoring up to 10 "newly found" people each year with initial membership to the 75thRRA? At \$25 a pop and a self imposed limit, I think it's a bargain and actually does some good for our guys (again, without exhausting existing funds). We generally take in at least this amount of money while passing the hat at our company business meetings.

I will establish a survey on LRRP.COM where you can indicate your approval, or lack of, (in the members section).

That's it for this issue. You've got my e-mail and phone in the staff section . . . let me hear from you.

Finally got my feet firmly on the ground in Fort Myers, Florida. On the way down we had the pleasure of dinner with the Brantley's on Veterans Day in Rosslyn, Virginia. Many of you that have visited the D.C. area over previous Memorial or Veterans Day's have had the pleasure of dining at Bill Sarris Orleans House. I am sad to report that it has been sold so those days of the best prime rib east of the Mississippi have about come to a close—It is going to be torn down and replaced with a high rise. I'm going to miss that place!

I had the good fortune to be able to shoot the Veterans Parade on Saturday, November 10th and be involved in the video crew capturing the 25th Anniversary ceremonies at the Wall on Sunday. Pictures will be included here and I expect to have video up on our own LRRP.COM before this edition hits your mail box.

Small turn out in D.C. this year. I expect that some of you were in the area but we just didn't get to connect (I spent a fair amount of time under the news crew bleachers forward of the podium transferring data from camera to hard drive for a gentleman working on a documentary of Country Music Star Darryl Worley's performance and upcoming USO Tour to Iraq in the coming weeks. Despite multiple

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

attempts (phone tag) between myself and George Flannery, we were not able to hook up—darn cell phone battery bit the big one on Saturday and I ran off and left it on the charger Sunday when leaving the Sheraton National. I know our own Joe Little was there with Operation Freedom Bird but I managed to miss him too.

One thing I will say is that watching the parade was a wonderful experience. Seeing a lot of corporate support for Veterans and the Troops speaks volumes. There were any number of high school marching bands participating in the procession and they were really good. Almost too many motorcycles (but nothing like Rolling Thunder), as always the “Nam Knights” were right up front. I suspect Rich Martin will enjoy the video clips of that.

A lot of different groups marched the entire route . . . Veterans, Veteran’s organizations, nurses, women who served, native Indians (Navaho). Corky and Pablo marched with Sons and Daughters In Touch . . . Trouble made the trip albeit in a stroller (a little tired and overwhelmed but patriotic just the same).

Something that always makes the trip worthwhile were the hugs from our #1 Donut Dolly (and Park Service volunteer), Nancy Smoyer. Not certain why but they always just seem to get better. She said to say hello to all of you and gave me extra hugs to pass along when I see you . . . I think I’m going to keep them for myself—selfish I know but otherwise people would talk, ha ha!

It’s different for me each time I’m in Washington over the M and V-Day holidays. There are moments when it’s still a little difficult but worthwhile as becoming well has a price. Most often it’s the absolute best – I think about many of you, and I certainly remember them, our brothers (and sisters) whose names are on the Wall. This year I was most impressed with the overall turn out of Americans . . . Veterans and civilians alike. The ceremonies were moving, entertainment, organization, and participation was as good as I’ve ever witnessed. The weather was cooperative. I became aware, perhaps more so than in recent years how proud of I am of our modern day counterparts, how proud I am to be an American, and a Veteran.

I almost failed to mention, following the weekend in D.C.,

as we were beginning our migration to Fort Myers, I broke down in Springfield, Virginia. Had I not had Trouble to keep me company for two days in the Red Roof Inn while AAMCO was getting into my wallet for \$2100 I’m not sure I would have made it. (God or Nature sure did a good thing when they invented dogs).

Corky had gone ahead in our other vehicle with Pablo leading point. They managed to visit with one of her oldest friends while Trouble and I held down the fort in Springfield. The best part is that this allowed time for us to make contact with Captain P. A minor course correction of about 235 miles (I always wondered where the Okefenokee Swamp was and now I know . . . drove right through it on my way over from Savannah) put us right in the driveway of Mark, Jo, and Laura Ponzillo . . . soon to be joined by their youngest daughter Kerri, her husband Jay and their 7 month old, Carolyn.

Now you have to understand the situation. These guys almost appeared glad to see us! Hey, some people are easily entertained—Corky arrived hours before I did so that probably served to soften ‘em up a bit before Trouble and I (can you say, “Double Trouble”) hit with the second wave. All kidding aside, our nearly two days with the Ponzillo’s was better than a comp suite at the Ritz Carlton. They fed us till we near exploded (thanks Jo), entertained us, cared for our wounded, and kept us in conversation (thanks Laura . . . and for the coffee too). If we hadn’t gotten out of there when we did I’m not sure we’d have ever left!

Truth be known, there is nothing – NOTHING better than the opportunity to sit back, have a smoke (or a sarsaparilla) with a fellow veteran. Making it that much better is for my wife to be able to be in the company of (and swap stories with) that veterans wife, and adult children. The Ponzillo’s are exemplary hosts . . . the pleasure and enjoyment, the R&R I got out of our stop defies my ability to describe . . . they are just flat out the best people on the planet!

I have no difficulty understanding the respect and love that each of you that served with Mark so many years ago maintain to this day. I am just so pleased to have become a friend—thanks Mark & Jo you’re absolutely tops with us too!

Regenthal ’68-69

F Company Unit Director (but only until the next reunion).



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



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

Unit Director - Clifford M. Manning



**Submitted by Clifford M. Manning
Deserving Recognition and Praise**

**Tom Nash, President of Company G (Ranger)
75th Infantry Association**

And

**Jerry Schuster, Secretary of Company G (Ranger)
75th Infantry Association**

**Editor and Publisher of Sua Sponte – the Official
Newsletter of Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry
Association**

Tom Nash

As President of Company G Ranger 75th Infantry Association, Tom Nash is doing an outstanding job of keeping members of the Association informed on all need to know information about the Association, reunions, and information on VA.

Tom is always willing and ready to help anyone that needs help. Tom has helped several members of the Association with VA. Claims. As President of this elite organization Company G “Ranger” and LRRP Association Tom Nash’s extraordinary leadership has been showcased with his ability to organize the Association’s reunions. Tom is a dedicated professional of the highest quality. His outstanding qualities and traits have earned him the respect of all who have been associated with him.

Jerry Schuster

As Secretary of Company G “Ranger” 75th Infantry Association and Editor of Sua Sponte, Jerry’s untiring efforts and his knowledge of the Association and all personnel within the organization, have made him an asset to the organization. His ability to locate personnel that had served in Company G “Ranger” E/51 LRP and the 196th LRRP and explain the function of the Association and the Reunions are just another of his contributions. His ability to answer all questions that have been asked about

the Association and the reunions and why they should become members is what made him invaluable to everyone.

As a direct result of Jerry’s ability to locate former personnel who served in Company G “Ranger” E/51 LRP and the 196th LRRP he has contributed immeasurably to the success of the Association. Through Jerry’s personal efforts the Association and reunions have always been successful. Jerry’s dedication, ability and performance of his duty as Secretary and Editor of Company G “Ranger” is what makes him an outstanding asset to the Association.



I did not know Tom or Jerry in Vietnam, knowing them now, their dedication and performance of their duties as President and Secretary of the Company G “Ranger” Association it is obvious as to why they were chosen to serve. Tom Nash and Jerry Schuster had to be dedicated and outstanding Soldiers and “Rangers” of the highest quality. It’s a pleasure to know and call Tom Nash and Jerry Schuster my friends. I have the highest respect for these two extraordinary and exceptional “Rangers”.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

**Clifford M. Manning
G/75-E/51 LRP – 196th LRRP
Unit Director**



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

Unit Director - William Anton



HISTORY OF THE 1st CAV'S LRRP/RANGERS OF THE VIET NAM WAR

An editorial by Bill Carpenter

It has been written that the First Cavalry's LRRP/Rangers of the Viet Nam War is the most decorated unit of the Viet Nam War, and the most decorated Ranger unit in the history of the United States Army. The history of this unit needs to be preserved for future generations. Who better to preserve this history than us, the men who lived that history?

Mike Brennan has been working with this idea for several years. It is time for the rest of us to give him a hand.

Several very good books have been written by 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers about our unit. I understand three more are in the works. These are biographies and autobiographies, each one describes very well the time period covered in the book. But there is no book that covers the entire history of our unit, from November 1966 through July 1972.

If you read any "History of the Viet Nam War", or even "History of the First Cavalry Division in Viet Nam" books, the stories are all about divisions, brigades, generals, and colonels. If a LRRP/Ranger unit is even mentioned, it is one or two sentences about "gathering intelligence".

I had a high school history teacher tell me that the American history book used in his class (an "outside" committee decides which book he uses) has about one page about the Viet Nam War. ONE PAGE!!!!!!

Our history is worth more than one page. No one else is going to write it, so let's do it ourselves.

I am not referring to just the "Historical Occurrences", although they should be part of the story. My idea is a book about who we were, what we did and how we did it, in detail. As the 1st Cav moved from II Corps to I Corps to III Corps, the enemy changed, the terrain changed, so our missions changed, how we ran the missions changed, what we took on missions changed. I'll bet that when the division commander, or the division G-2 changed, our missions changed. Is that right?

What is needed is the perspectives of the war from everyone's viewpoint, primarily the teams in the jungle, but

also the CO's, XO's, PL's, first sergeant's, platoon sergeant's, and each man in the TOC.

How about describing the hows and whys of the quick reaction drill and the Australian peel in a way someone who has never held a weapon in their hand would understand?

Does anyone have an itinerary for the training when each of us came into the unit? What did each team take on a mission, in detail? How were these items distributed among the team members?

I was in a conversation at the Riverside reunion. I mentioned the sawed off M-79, and how we had one on each team. Larry Curtis said that when he was there, there were two per team. Wayne Okken said that in his time there were probably two in the entire company. Why the change? You can probably think of a dozen other things that changed during the war.

Our roster lists about 960 names of men who served in our unit. By the summer of 1967, the unit was at company strength, how many platoons were there, and how many teams per platoon? How many teams were in the field at any given time? Was a four-man team ever inserted?

A very good list of the men who served in our unit has been compiled. Lou Bruchey has compiled a list of who completed Recondo School. Who were the commanders, the executive officers, the first sergeants, the platoon leaders, the platoon sergeants?

One figure has over 60% for us earning Purple Hearts, several of you have more than one. BUT the roster shows only 45 of us dying in Viet Nam. Six of these deaths were while the men were serving in different units after leaving LRRP. Only 22 of the remaining 39 were killed by enemy fire while in direct contact.

Granted, each death was taken very personally, especially when that person was a friend and team mate. How many total "in contact" extractions were there? And only 22 were killed in direct contact. That number is amazing, we need to tell why.

The enemy killed seven of us in the first half of 1968, but none in the last half of that year. The enemy killed nine of us in 1969, but only one in 1971. Why? What was different?

What were the different living conditions from II Corps to I Corps to III Corps? Did the company ever have its own



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

mess hall? Were teams still farmed out to different LZs in III Corps?

When did we start setting up our own radio relay points? We need to explain why. How did communication change through the war?

At times, the TL and/or ATL always did a “fly over” of the team’s insertion point before a mission. I have heard stories about this not happening and the team being inserted at the wrong place. Why the change?

These events, actions, memories, call them what you want, are what we were in our youth. In many ways

they are a major influence on what we are today. Although we may not be old enough to turn out to pasture yet, we are not as young as we like to think we are. Our history is worth more than one sentence in a history book.

So bring it on. If you would want to work on any part of this venture, volunteer again, you volunteered to create this history didn’t you? Send your contributions to Mike, one of the association officers, or me.

WE NEED TO RECORD OUR HISTORY BEFORE IT IS LOST.



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

Unit Director - Julian Rincon



1st Infantry Division LRP, LRRP, F Co. 52nd Inf. I Co. 75th Inf. Airborne Ranger

Submitted by: Julian Rincon Unit Director

During our Reunion Cruise in May of this year I had heard some of the guys talking about going to Kansas City to attend the first LRS reunion. As some of you know the Long Range Surveillance (LRS) Unit of the 1st Division took the place of the LRP, LRRPs and Rangers of F Co 52nd Inf and I Co 75th units of Vietnam many years later. I decided I would make an effort to attend the LRS reunion. When I got home I called Robert Busby and got the information I needed and made plans to go to Kansas City, Kansas for the LRS reunion set to be held the 14-17 of June. I asked my cousin Joe Reynoso, who served with the 1st Marine Division in Vietnam to come along. He is jokingly known as “Joe The Wanna Be RANGER” by some of the LRRP/Rangers in our unit. This I thought would be an adventure for both of us to make new friends reminisce and talk about and add all these experiences we both could share. We left early in the morning with the route all mapped out; yes we were driving to Kansas City. We took highway 15 driving north through the tip of northern Arizona. We then took Highway 70 known as the Purple Heart Highway crossing the middle portion of Utah, climbing the mountains of Colorado passing Vail the well known ski resort, resting overnight in Denver, Colorado, finally reaching our destination Kansas City a little past noon on the second day.

There we met up with Ron Imel who rode his Harley Davidson all the way from Mountain Center, California. Ron

had stopped at Peter Lemon’s (Medal Of Honor) house. Ron Imel was Pete’s team leader in Nam and remained close. Unfortunately Pete could not join us for the reunion in Kansas City. Robert Busby and his charming wife Sharel flew in from Florida to attend the reunion. Busby (BUZZ) as everyone in our company affectionately knows him by and is

currently our Unit President. He was also our president the term before this one. Dave Flores also flew in from Long Beach, California to attend the first reunion of the LRS Unit. Dave Hill flew in from Dayton, Nevada to attend the reunion. Dave Hill is considered the Historian of our company in my opinion I do not believe there is anyone that is more knowledgeable about the history of our unit or who has meticulously studied all that has been written past and current of our unit than Dave Hill. Last but the most important of this group was our own Lt. Jerry Davis he was my Lt. during my tour in Nam. He has always been very supportive and active in our Units activities. We all gathered at the Wolf Creek Lodge Inn in Kansas to celebrate the first reunion of the First

Division Long Range Surveillance Detachment.

The following information comes from John A. Schatzel LTC USA TRADOC. Who was company Commander at the time the unit was activated:

Veterans of the Big Red One Long Range Surveillance Detachment held their first reunion from 14-17 June in Kansas City.

The detachment which traces its lineage from the LRP, LRRPs and Rangers of F Co 52nd INF. And I Co 75th provided intelligence to the First Infantry Division from its



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

activation 1988 until its deactivation in 1995. The detachment participated in REFORGER '88, JTF border security missions and set dwell time and distant communication records at the National Training Center. In 1990 it was recognized as the division's first Expert Infantry Company since Vietnam and was further honored as the division's only AIRBORNE unit. In 1991 the LRSD conducted 14 combat surveillance missions during The Gulf War and recognized as a Combat Infantry Company.

The reunion was a huge success and preliminary planning for another has begun. Many LRSD Soldiers and family members, joined by several F/52nd and I/75th Vietnam War Veterans, attended the 4-day event which featured a fish-fry, family picnic and opportunities for ranger buddies and teams to enjoy local attractions and each others' company. At Saturday's Banquet everyone toasted SFC Randall Lamberson, a BRO LRSD Gulf War veteran who was KIA on 10 April 2006 while assigned to the 101st in Iraq. Subsequently, each attending Vietnam War Veteran was awarded the National Infantry Association's Order of Saint Maurice. Mrs Dana Lamberson received LRSD gifts and our Vietnam brothers made a generous contribution to the BRO scholarship fund in memory of SFC Lamberson

As of this writing I have been informed that LTC John A. Schatzel has retired from active duty and is now an instructor. Many of the LRSD members are still on active duty drawing tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. The fish fry we attended was just excellent the family that held the fish fry in their beautiful home were gracious host. The picnic at the park was an event to remember plenty of food and drink, but most of all the camaraderie and bonding of everyone was PRICELESS!!!





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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk



Greetings once again to all my Brothers. The time since we were together in Georgia has passed so quickly that I find myself once again unprepared to put an article together but I will endeavor to do this anyway. As I write I am at Wayne Mitsch's house in Berkeley Lake, Ga. along with Tom Sove and Harry Phair for a Veteran's Day visit. This trip began on 5 Nov. when I left home (Fruita, Colorado) and drove to Denver. Next day Tom Sove flew in from California. I picked him up at DIA and we headed east. Our first stop was Kansas City



and a wonderful visit with Reuben Siverling and Herb Reichel. We worked on finalizing some issues with the reunion next year – details below. Next day we were on to St. Louis for a visit with Mark Estopare and some fun time at the water front river boat casinos. Didn't win any money but had a good time. The next day, Thursday, saw us in Clarksville, TN meeting up with Bill Grimes, whom we had not seen in 37 years. We spent a day and a half with Bill, catching up with his recollections of those days, and stories that included Grguric,

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

Gamble, Giles, and Duren. Bill retired an E-8, and has stayed healthy and happy all these years – at least as happy and healthy as the rest of us. He's looking forward to meeting all of us in Kansas City next June.



The most amusing (read PTSD-provoking) time of this trip was my latest attempt at obtaining a DOD ID card. Yet another runaround failure in this six month odyssey. Wait 'til next time. I have been assured once again by those who know these things (Sove, Grimes, Elke, especially Elke) that it will happen. On Friday it was on to Wayne's house and his and Fran's world class hospitality center. Killed a few more brain cells deep in to Friday night, and on Saturday Harry Phair drove up from Florida to join us. On Sunday we observed the Atlanta Veteran's Day parade and had a great time. While there we met Col. Martin Zellman, an original Darby's Ranger from World War II and recipient of the DSC. Another heartwarming moment in our lives.



By Monday we were mini-reunited-out, Harry drove home to Florida, Tom flew home to California, and Wayne went back to work. My plan is to travel to Huntsville, AL to visit with Charlie Elkins, then on to TN to visit family, and return to Colorado via Oklahoma City and a visit with Jack Werner.

On the issue of the LRRP chapter with the National 4th Infantry Division Association, Sove advises all has been approved. Our charter is in the process of being mailed out, all who signed up last August are paid up members and will be receiving the winter issue of Ivy Leaves by the first of the year. Any others who wish to join the LRRP chapter of the National 4th Inf Div Association let me know and we'll get it done.

We are taking great steps forward in our pursuit of a new search service for finding current addresses of unfound fellow LRRP's. We have a source in California (Sove is the point element on this) who will search our data base for \$1.00 per name. We hope to have all available addresses in the next month and will start sending letters of solicitation by the first of the year advising our lost brothers of the reunion scheduled in June. We also have plans to send at least two succeeding follow-up letters through the spring in a concentrated effort to get them to rejoin us.

Another item along with that, I am searching for photos of our KIA's which will be posted in the memoriam section on the the web site. If you have photos of any of our KIA's please send a copy direct to me so we can get this important task completed as soon as possible. If you wish to write a memoriam about one of our KIA's, send this along also, as this can be posted with the photo. Thanks for your consideration in this - we need to be true to our lost brothers.

Now for a few words from Reuben Siverling, our mini-reunion coordinator:

Roger has permitted me to make a few comments to be included in the Winter 2008 Issue of Patrolling. I will attempt to be brief. It was a real honor to have Roger and Tom Sove do an overnight layover in Kansas City earlier this week. Herb Reichel of Lee's Summit joined with us at breakfast as we shot the fat and shared the blessings of good times, past and present. Nothing is gained by rehearsing the bad times. We allowed that it is O.K. to look back as long as we don't try to go back. Thanks gentlemen for the privilege of having a few more hours together.

Collectively we are attempting to assemble a great venue and menu for the enjoyment of all who attend the upcoming 40th Anniversary Reunion here in Kansas City Missouri. The purpose of my insertion into Roger's A.O. is to get some of the information to each of you so you can begin planning accordingly. Succinctly stated, we are planning a "40th Anniversary Reunion" for all former members of E Company 58th Infantry (LRP), 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigade 4th Infantry Division LRRP, and K Company 75th Infantry (Ranger). The 40th moniker is just a pleasant reminder that I was appointed the C.O. of E-58 and ultimately K 75 on 5 July 1968. Thus it is fitting and appropriate that is 40 years later, we again have the opportunity to show our appreciation for each other. My wife, Bonita and I and the church family of Northland Cathedral are honored to be the hosts of this event. Space limitations in this article limit the amount of detail that needs to be disseminated but here are some key points:

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

The dates are 26, 27, 28 and 29 June 2008. Lodging will be in luxury suites at the Embassy Suites Hotel at Tiffany Springs Exit and I-29 just a few minutes south of Kansas City International Airport. These are \$110.00+/per night suites but thanks to some very generous members and local sponsors, are being made available to you for \$75.00 night. Your reservation includes a full breakfast buffet each morning from 0600-1000 hours and evening "Happy Hour" free drinks from 1700-1800 hours. The point here is that we want it to be nice yet affordable. We have reserved 50 suites and we are confident they will be reserved very quickly. Please don't hesitate, book your reservation immediately. On-line or by phone, you will be asked to identify your Group Code.

By phone: 1-800-Embassy or direct 1 (816) 891-7788
On Line: www.kansascityairport.embassysuites.com
Your Group Code is KCR (as in Kansas City Reunion)

The most important information at this writing is to encourage you and your guest to attend and help us honor you individually and collectively for your many sacrifices. As space permits, I am sharing more highlights for you to consider: 4-person golf scramble at a nearby championship golf course, plenty of shopping time in nearby Zona Rosa, quaint and historic Parkville, and downtown at Crown Center the home of Hallmark Cards. We will be buses in air conditioned tour busses to some events including a tour of the only WWI Monument and Museum in the United States. It has been restored at a cost in excess of \$100 million and is absolutely beautiful. On Saturday evening, we will be enjoying a scrumptious banquet, receive greetings from special guest and honor our fallen Rangers and LRRPs. On Sunday morning our group will be the group honored at Patriotic Sunday Services at Northland Cathedral. Tom, Wayne and others will be notifying us soon of how to order the special polo shirts that have been designed for this special occasion and we'll be proud to wear at future gathers. That being said, I'll sign off for



Mike Katchur, John Martin, Steve Gamble

now. Please help us locate and get invitations to as many as possible. Tom Reid has done a tremendous job of getting us historical information and names of many who we so proudly served with all those years ago.

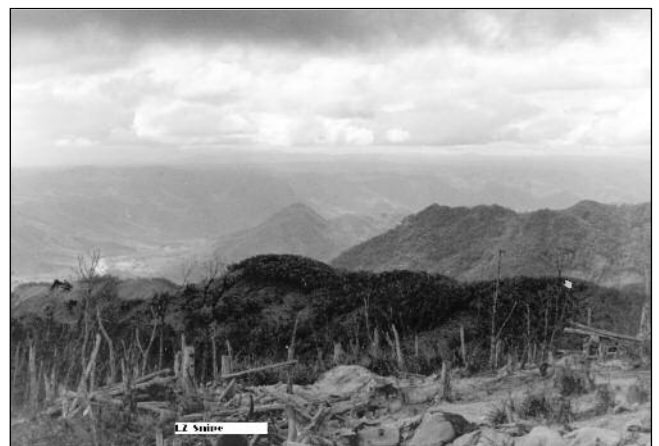
Wayne Mitsch and others will be providing us with Reunion Registration information and the Registration Fee information at a later date. For now, get your hotel suite reserved - even if you may need to cancel at a later date. This is YOUR event-help make it one of the best ever! Thanks and God Bless!

Just as a fun thing, included in this column is a photo of the top of LZ Snipe, looking NNW down at the former site of LZ Pluto at the big bend in the river, with LZ Hardtimes about a click to the left down the river, out of the photo. You can see this same image today by logging on to Google Earth, and going to 14 01' 01.37"N, 108 51' 21.07"E. You should be at elevation 3,005 ft, otherwise known as BR693613, Hill 975. Check it out.

To conclude this issue's column, I have recently been in contact with Mike Katchur with whom I have had no contact for thirty-seven years. He sent me a photo of my team-Romeo 7- packing before my last mission. I can't thank Mike enough for the memories.



Richard Beam, Roger Crunk, Angel Fatten, Al Gomez (KIA 8.19.70)



LZ Snipe



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

Unit Director - Ralph Timmons



No Submission



M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Steve Houghton



No Submission



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



Reed Cundiff

N Rangers

Reed.cundiff@gmail.net

(575) 635-5220

Chuck Vaughn, Unit Director for C Ranger, has agreed to have Charlie Rangers co-sponsor SGM Frank Moore for RHOF. He has signed the Nominating Letter so that Frank Moore will be jointly nominated by two of the best Ranger units to ever serve this country. Below is the photo of SGM Moore that will be part of the packet.



I was called by Eric Hitchcock, the current president of the 173rd Airborne Association to represent the Association at the burial of a young medic from B/503rd. SP/4 Hugo Melendez was killed going to the aid of one of his men. The burial was held at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery and was overseen by the commandant of Ft. Bliss. SP/4 Hjelmstad, a fellow medic (1/503) from the 173rd accompanied the body from Afghanistan. The Air Defense School provided the burial/firing party and BG Bob Woods, CDR of 32nd Army ADA (served 101st in Iraq) officiated and did a magnificent job. The family of SP/4 Hugo Melendez were wonderful. There were about 10 active duty personnel



attached to Ft. Bliss who had served with the 173rd that attended the ceremony. Another 20 active duty attended along with about 15 RVN era paratroopers and SF personnel. Eric Hitchcock was able to get eight or so 173rd veterans to attend.

Have received word of three guys who have been out of the loop. Joe Costello got in contact with Rudy Teodosio and Chuck Moseby contacted Robert Henriksen and Bob has Chuck's particulars. Richard Baker was able to contact me after telling a woman at the Special Forces museum at Ft. Bragg that he didn't know how to contact anyone from N Rangers. She dug out a copy of

Patrolling and he called me from Ft. Bragg where he was visiting his son in SF. Richard lives east of Albuquerque, NM and works as a crane operator and enjoys flying around the southwest. We have tried to get together twice but haven't been able to hook up.



Have received interest in having folks give information on what they've done since RVN and received the following from Dave "Varmint" Walker "I was separated from active duty and re-assigned to the Army Permanent Disability Retired List on 12-08-'76. I immediately commenced

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

advanced flight training under the GI Bill at Stockton, CA with Bridgeford Flying Service, eventually working into flight department from flight line aircraft servicing. I presently hold FAA professional credentials for Airline Transport Pilot (AMEL), Commercial Pilot ASEL Instrument, Flight Instructor ASME Instrument, Ground Instructor. Additionally hold USFS/CDF Pilot Certification and NOAA/NWS Aviation WX Observer Certification. I've logged appr. 16,000 flight hours in 42 general aviation acft. without swapping any paint. Most of my flying was hauling overnight freight for carriers such as UPS, Fedex, ABX, DHL, etc. Also flew prisoners for a year as a Tulare Co. (CA) Sheriff's Deputy.

Am married to Chris and have a daughter Allison, 34, Grandson Kenneth, 14, Granddaughter Isabella, 4, stepson Jeff, 35, and stepgranddaughter Fayth." Dave is looking for folks who can provide him information for his book on his time with N Rangers.

Tom Eckhoff sent me the following concerning Roy Boatman's burial at Arlington. This has been e-mailed around.

Roy Boatman's burial (from Tom Eckhoff) I just learned that Roy and his son Darrell's ashes will be interred side by side in the Arlington Cemetery columbarium on 3DEC07, 13:30 hrs. This all came up rather quickly. They are to be placed in Arlington on December 3 at 1:30. We are to meet at the administrative building and then proceed to the Columbarium. They will be side by side. Roy really wanted Darrell's ashes to be in Arlington. It seems so fitting that the two of them will be together. There will be full Military Honors. (sent to Tom by Roy's sister Faith)

Terry Ziegenbein sent in a photo of Team Bravo, circa 1971 taken by Ziggy. Picture was taken in the area outside the hootch. That was behind the orderly room, right next to the showers and potable water bag.



Back Row-Left to Right: Chris Simmons, Mark Harriger, Walter Sogalow, Terry Ziegenbein
Front Row Left to Right: Mike Hines, Curtis Owens

Bart Stamper this photo of team Charlie taken in 1969. He has located Bobby and Greg and is trying to find Casebolt and Ozzie.



Left to right: Bobby Colston, Greg Deperio, 'Ozzie' Osborne, Bart Stamper and in front, Casebolt.

Sam Schiro sent in photos of Team Echo and Tango the Wonder Dog.



Have been asked for Hal Hermann's whereabouts but e-mail to his last known address gets returned.

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

Got a call from someone whose Dad served with N Rangers at LZ English in 1969 and then with 2/503rd in 1970. His Dad has a lot of friends from his platoon in 2/503rd but doesn't talk about his time in N Company. All he has gotten is that his Dad was on a heavy team insertion that got lost for a week or so and the teams were dissolved and everyone sent back to the batts. Does this ring a bell with anyone?

I have received notice that we have had a number of our band pass on. I should like to get more information on them so that an in memoriam can be put into Patrolling

I had some free time today and decided to try and find two of our 1971 Bravo team team mates. Unfortunately I found out that Curtis W. Owens died in 1982. I also checked on our team leader, the Mad Russian, Walter B. Solgalow. He lived in California. I spoke with his wife and he died in 1992. God rest their eternal souls. - Ziggy

We need to see if these guys have bricks. If not we need to fix that.
- Carl Millinder

This is really sad news, Owens was added to my Team and was a great assets to any Team. I would like to know if possible why so a untimely death? The Mad Russian there is another one I can't believe he wasn't much older to the majority of us. Thanks, Zig for taking your time to finding our lost Rangers! I agree with Mill we must place a brick with the rest of our rangers!
- Rudy Teodosio

Both were fine warriors and certainly deserve their story be told. I fully support bricks for both in our N Company Section.....we should get Wilkie's moved to our "neck of the woods" at the same time. - Jeff Horne

Frank Vansevers wrote that Raul Santiago died but asked that I contact Bob "Doc" Clark on this and Doc wrote back

Reed, Yes. I will give you the particulars and draft a summary of information. Long bout with Lung cancer. Brooks has most of the details and his girl Sandy has a letter I wrote to him during his battle. Dude saw a lot of combat, LRRP and the Batts. Santiago was one tough MF.
- Robert "Doc" Clark

The next issue should have more information about Raul and the man he was.

I received a number of letters in a thread concerning the deaths of Sgt George Morgan and PFC Joe Sweeney.
Joe Sweeney

I've spent the last 35 years trying to figure out what went wrong on that May 29, 71 mission when he gave his life for our country. Thoughts kept going through my mind of what I forgot to tell him to do replacing my position.

When the chopper came in on the 40 foot wide blue line (river) LZ, thinking this is not good place for a drop off. As we jumped out of the chopper, Point man Dan Zurbuch went right toward the heavy covered hill. Suddenly he changed direction heading toward the other side of the river which had a 3 foot bank with low growing scrubs and flatland. As I, radioman followed the TL up the bank and got 20 feet from the river when we came upon a wide trail (lumbretta size trail - three wheeled vehicle). As I stepped out on the trail, AK-47 fire from across the river opened up and bullets passing my head. The team jumped back toward the river into the low brush. As I hit the ground and took up a defensive position, looking toward the river, seeing "Philly" (Joe Sweeney) half way sitting against a tree and no movement. Zurbuch was between me and "Philly" and our eyes meet. I'll never forget that sight of "Philly" and Zurbuchs look. Some more AK-47 fire came from the other side of the river. We were basically pinned down and didn't know where the enemy was positioned. Wind direction was not down river as usual so using smoke was not an option. Sound came from "Philly's" chest and he was in plain view of the enemy. I positioned myself to cover the large-wide trail as it went up the valley and crossed the river about 60 yards up. I called in the contact and reported the situation. As I found out later: our team was operating and taking orders from one 173rd Battalion Commander and our own Ranger Company CO could not respond. We laid in the same position so the enemy wasn't sure where/what we were doing until another Ranger team was inserted. Of all the places to drop them was on the river where we dropped off. Door gunner got wounded and the pilots joy-stuck for controlling the chopper was shot in half. To this day I do not remember which team came to help us. Philly was removed from the scene and about two-hundred yards away was a two-chopper LZ which picked up "Philly" (he was hit 6 times and didn't suffer as the hits were fatal). Also, a new sniper from 3rd battalion had just joined the team and his mouth told us how he was going to kill the enemy. As we loaded "Philly" in to the chopper, the sniper jumped on board holding on tight. He was completely soaked with fear-sweat as if he had jumped in the river. I remember

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

telling him if he is at the company compound when I get back I was going to kill him. One thing I think about now is if he would have panicked doing the contact it could have been deadly for team members. After the choppers left we quickly got out of there and were told to head to hill 168 on the map to investigate NVA Regiment movement. That's another story which I will cover at another time.

In 2004, before the Fort Benning at Reunion, I search for Dan ZurBuch and found him in Hollywood, Florida. I talked to him about what has been bothering me about that mission. He said the reason he changed direction at the river LZ was he spotted several enemy bunkers on the hill side of the river. It was helpful to me after all those years of wondering but it must be too much for Dan even after all these years as he stopped communicating after the first contact with me. I struggled mentally with that mission and what happened at Hill 168, but have found closure after three tours at the Seattle VA Hospital PTSD Ward and the right medication. The pain will never go away but as VA doctor said: you have had the mental pain for so long about "Philly" and he is in heaven looking down on me and saying "MY PAIN IS GONE A LONG TIME AGO, SO WHY ARE YOU HURTING FOR ME"

Cummings was close to Peel and wounded in same contact that Peel KIA. Rangers were leading a platoon of 173TH Herd in the Suoi Cai Valley to locate a downed F-14. There were three 51 mm anti-aircraft guns positioned in a triangle. Ranger team was ambushed as they moved on a finger ridge by two enemy soldiers who fired on the point man, Cummings and the 60 machine carried by Peel. TL weapon was hit by a round and was not able to return fire. By the time the rest came around the ridge the two took off leaving a large home made clay-more unexploded. Bob Cantu was there when Borja KIA so he will bring you up to par on what happened. I was there when Sweeney died.

- Robt "twin Henriksen

Rob, it was a terrible day indeed. I was Alpha TL. We just got back to base when all this went down. We were sent back to the pad to wait for instructions. I don't remember which team headed back out but I remember Purple Haze and Doc Daniels were on the ship.

- Carl Millinder

All, I trust I can do the memories of Sweeney justice. He was a grand Soldier and I was fortunate to have him as a battle buddy from Basic, AIT, Airborne and then ship together to the Herd. We were both in the transient billets when the N Co Ranger "recruiting ¾ truck" came to Sharang Valley to look for potential Rangers. Both of us

figured we should "try out". Going to different teams was the first time we hadn't been together since enlisting. He never seemed to let the frustrations of Soldiering or life get him down and he was one of the most positive people I've ever encountered. He loved the Army boxer shorts and the Phillies. Joe was the first Army friend I lost and regret to this day I wasn't with him when the times got tough. The Army and America lost a fine man when he died and I don't imagine many folks of his caliber and life outcome replaced him back on the block. He came from a big family with little money but plenty of values. He would have enjoyed knowing how well the rest of the men have done in their lives after the war. At some point as a soldier you realize that tears and ceremonies don't bring Soldiers back to life. The best you can do is tell others of the day in and day out heroes we were so incredibly fortunate to serve with. They all made a difference in how we turned out. Sweeney's impact on me can't be fully told as every day I think of him and BJ, and how much I miss them. God bless them all and cradle them in heaven till we can join them again - Jeff Horne

Sgt Morgan

Brian Danker and myself were on radio relay with SGT Morgan on the day of his death. We had just received word that we were going home and George had received word he was going to the 3rd Infantry on the day of his death. I know I will never forget that day. We were having a mad minute before the chopper came in when Sgt Morgan pulled the pin on a grenade. It must have had a short fuse, because as soon as he let go of the spoon the grenade went off killing him instantly. A very sorry day - Chuck Moseby



**SGT MORGAN, 2ND
FROM LEFT**

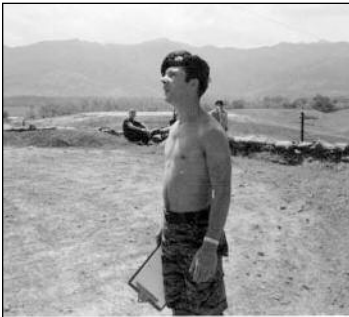
Left to right are Mike Staffin, Morgan Robert Barnes, and Don Vallencourt (identified by Carl Millinder)

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John Blake

I'm not sure of when he died, but to this day, the Canadian Government will not bury his remains in a military cemetery as they do not recognize the Vietnam War. This has been a big issue with the VVA which is not happy with the situation. The reason I know this is because my brother, Sven and I know the VVA Secretary during the 2000-2004 years. I remember that he was from Nova Scotia and his family wanted to bring him home. For the number of Canadians that came down and joined the US Service in Nam was between 20,000 and 24,000. We only hear about the ones that RAN to Canada to avoid the draft. The real story is of those who came and served along with us. God Bless Them

John Blake was on Golf Team for a short time and was a Canadian feather-lite boxing champion. He volunteered for service in Nam. After Nam in about 1988 he walked across the United States for the VVA/DAV to bring awareness to veterans problems. He joined his Rangers brothers in heaven in 1996 - Robert Henriksen



The following poem by John Blake, N Rangers, was sent by Bob Henriksen

Written for: Sergeant John Morgan
Dedicated to: SGT Patino (KIA)

RAGBAG MEMORY

My mind is burdened! I am heavy of heart
As I look at the picture I have of you
I remember you Ragbag, though you're apart
You're with me now and the others too

With me but in a different way.
For I can't see you anywhere
Things catch my eye each day,
Reminding me, still you are here!

I remember, too, the times we'd talk.
How we'd laugh and raise such hell
Along with the days we each would stalk the gooks
Hey Pat, it sure was swell!

Today with you picture, all is clear
Why you should want to go ahead of me
You never knew the end was near
So you kept going, you just wanted to see!

To see what, Pat, what have you done?
Didn't you know you'd hurt us to?
The days aren't nearly so much fun
As when I would walk and talk with you.

Things are different! Yes I know!
Though still, sometimes, I talk to you.
It will all pass and time will go!
I wish I knew what I was going to!

I remember now the way you fought
The way you felt and the way you cared.
In life you're passed a lesson well taught
The end you found wasn't one you feared

Things will go on! And me, somehow,
Will join you somewhere, by and by
I'll keep feeling around for now
Remembering you Pat, you didn't die

Didn't die? No! Because I remember
The way you were when you were here
Nothing in the future could ever dismember
My memory of that is very clear
With honest pride in having known him as a friend
and a comrade





O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael Feller



“Willy Maket” the continued true-life story part II.. From an article submitted by Bruce Cotton.

I had been in Vietnam for almost six months a seasoned vet in the art of sneaking around in “Charlie’s” back yard and gathering information for the 82ed Airborne Division. We had become Oscar Company 75th Ranger attached to the 3d Brigade of the All American Division stationed at Phu Loi

I had made Sergeant in charge of my own team, the previous month. I double and triple checked the load list, the mission and ensured I briefed the team on the mission. A “stay-behind “ where we would be inserted by helicopters as the last of the line soldiers were extracted .We would set up ambushes and wait to see if any VC would come out and sweep the area looking for ammo maps, C-rats or other items they could re-cycle to use against us.

There was a river next to us and I set up a quick kill zone with two Claymores, the M60 and assigned sectors of fire for my six men team. I had two seasoned Rangers from the old F Co 51st LRP, two FNGs of less than sixty days , and a “Shake and Bake” E6 from Ft Benny Ga. SSG Bernard Ford was a SSG E6 , Ranger , Airborne, and Infantry , One of the new breed of instant NCOs the Army was sending us to make up for the critical shortages of Non-Commissioned Officers in the Nam . I was told to train him , show him the ropes on a couple of missions so he could take over his own team.

We were quiet , anxious , nervous and waiting and waiting . After thirty minutes I got to my knees to relieve my self . I was facing the river and the rest of the team was facing the opposite direction. Suddenly I saw a movement, I froze, my M16 was by my side, an old man with only a loincloth and a 45 cal. pistol had come out of the water, his legs shifting, looking, water dripping from his body and the American made .45 in his hand. I patiently waited for some one on my team to open fire on the old VC but no one did. Then I remembered I had orientated the team facing away from the river 7 meters away. I then saw three more VC, across the river and waiting for the all clear from the old VC in front of me. Suddenly the old VC pointed the .45 at me and fired missing his target. I picked up my M16 and fired a few rounds at the old VC and then shifted my fire to the three VC across the river .My team had been caught by surprise, they shifted there fire to across the river. As the team laid down a base of fire the RTO called in “Contact”

and shortly Cobras arrived and made a run across the river.

The 82ed launched a” React” and they swept the far side of the river finding only a few blood trails and no weapons or equipment. The one old VC I had shot 3 times and was dead and we had a 45 cal. pistol.

There are three things you do after a mission, first you “Debrief“. Next you pick up your mail to read later, and clean and secure all your equipment.

The de-briefing did not go well. There was a Major there along with a Captain and an old mean SFC Operations Sergeant. The Major looked mad. He ask me half way through the briefing what cycle of fire we had used, I told him except for the first few rounds the cycle had been auto. He began yelling and saying negative things about Rangers and “Elite Units”. I got up and silently walked out of the bunker, as I walked out the Major started yelling more and making threats. The team followed me out except for the “Shake and Bake “ I found out later he had locked and loaded in the bunker explaining to the Major that he a Ranger and that his comments about Rangers were unnecessary, and that we could probably done better if we had better intelligence and coordination at the start of the mission.

As we cleaned our equipment our Commander came out and asked what had happened, our Company Operations Sergeant was at the briefing and the CO wanted the facts from me He ask a few questions and walked away. I was feeling really dejected and depressed .My first mission as a Sergeant and as a Team Leader had not been a good one.

That evening after dinner the Bde Operations Sergeant-Major summonsed me to his NCO Club. I had already resigned myself to the fact I was to loose my new stripes. After a few beers the SMA told me to drive on and not to sweet the small shit.

I never saw the Major again but the next mission the new Ops Officer would make an error in judgment potentially dangerous to my team.

We were going into an area called the “Pineapple” because of all the pineapple groves in the area. Plants about waist high on berms about a foot all in neat little rows. Most of the rows and all the footpaths home to the local VCs own brand of homemade booby traps.

The insertion by helicopter went smoothly and we set up a few clicks from the LZ just before dusk. As I was setting my claymore IO saw two Vietnamese walking



O/75 - 78TH LRP (CONTINUED)

toward me about 10 mergers away. I froze only glancing back to insure the new man who was covering me was aware of my situation. He had froze I grabbed my weapon and fired full automatic in the direction of the on-coming VC striking one [a female] and missing the one with the AK as he leaped to the next row. I looked at the VC I had shot and all of a sudden started receiving fire from two directions. I took cover behind the dead female and could feel the bullets hitting the body searching for me. I looked around and didn't see my teammate but suddenly I saw the Shake and Bake SSG Bernard Ford running up to me firing his M16. Sliding to a halt beside where I hid beneath the dead female, the Ranger told me "Sergeant you can have a girl later but right now you need to come with me." I laughed and we gave covering fire to one-another as we ran back to the team's perimeter. The team, who until now could only fire with M79, for fear of hitting Ford and me began to take fire superiority with a heavy volume of M16 and M60 added to the M79 fires and contact was broken.

We called HQs and asked to be extracted, to be rearmed and resupplied and reinserted at another location in our AO we were told "drive on continue the mission"

I informed HQs we needed re-supply on 5.56 and 30MM grenades, HQ said no problem and sent the re-supply out on a LOH who dropped 3 boxes of ammo and left.

We moved away from the recent firefight and set up another perimeter for the night. For the next two days we made four contacts with the enemy. Each time was the same we ask for reinsertion and HQ would reply "Drive on continue mission".

After the second re-supply my CO Captain. Peters

came on the radio and asked for a Sitrep I explained the mission so far and we were picked up about an hour later.

As I mentioned before there 3 things you do after a mission so you can guess where I'm at now. During the debrief I asked why were we not picked up after any of the contacts. The Operations Sergeant, ignoring my question ask where my company's NCO/OIC was I said the Company Commander was in Phu Loi with the company and I was the team leader of the 6 man team setting in the briefing. The Opns Sgt asked for every one to leave except me it seems the HQ believed us to be a Ranger Company not a recon team of 6. That was why we were not pulled and had been instructed to "Drive On" I was surprised I was not upset with this knowledge but I guess I was just relieved that none of my men had gotten hurt.

After the breakup of the company I did see SSG Ford again briefly at a military function at Fort Sill.

Bruce Cotton not only kept his stripes and survived his tour in Nam but went on to obtained the rank of Master Sergeant and survive operations in Granada and Desert Storm He is now retired and trying to survive among the goofy fu(k)n civilians down in Beautiful Tenn. Thanks Bruce

Coming next issue an introduction to Michael Dolsen a former member of O Co Arctic Ranger and historian of the same Mike stopped by my place while visiting family this summer and he has compiled a rather elaborate history on the arctic phase of O Co. But I'll stop there Mike will fill in the blanks in February.

By the way all ya all have a good Holiday Season.

Later, Feller



P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Terry Roderick



The Papa Company Rangers have lost two of our mates in the past few months. On June 11, 2007, we lost Ranger Bobby Turner after a long illness. Bobby spent over a year with us in P/75th and lived in Ruidoso, New Mexico. During the recent Ranger Rendezvous in August, his wife, Gail, drove from there to Fort Benning to honor him and his service with a short memorial service and a ceremonial scattering of some of his ashes at the Ranger Memorial. Although she was unable to spend as much time with us as she would have liked, she fulfilled a promise to Bobby, and regrettably, we



didn't have much time to spend with her. She got there early and missed a few of the guys, but we also had a nice remembrance of Bobby ourselves one evening at the Ranger Memorial and it was a time to reflect and laugh and remember Bobby. I'm sure if he's up there watching he laughed with us and appreciated the gesture. Rest in Peace, Bobby. You've earned it.

On October 3, 2007, we lost one of our original members of P/75th. Samuel John Pacurari was one of a group sent up from Bien Hoa and F/51st LRP (ABN) to Quang Tri in early 1969 to start up a new Ranger

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

Company assigned to the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (MECH). When I got to Papa Company, later in 1969, Sam was in his final few weeks with us and he ran our Club in the company area after serving on teams in the field for most of his tour. And what a Club it was !! It kept us away from the “tread-heads” somewhat and gave us a place we could enjoy ourselves and relieve some of the pressures that we all felt from the work we were doing. Sam was a friendly, smart, “movie star handsome” guy who befriended anyone who ever came into his world. That’s the way I remember him. He showed me how to “throw down” the infamous Flaming Mimi that all of our new guys were required to do in the Club as a simple initiation prank. I will say that many burned or singed their facial features on occasion doing this, but Sam showed me how to do it without any hesitation and how to keep from burning my lips or face. I never forgot this generous gesture and always remembered that for some odd reason.

Samuel John Pacurari was born in North Tonawanda, New York on January 7, 1949. He graduated from high school in 1967, joined the Army, and eventually ended up with the 82nd Airborne Div. at Fort Bragg, N.C. During his time with the 82nd, he was involved with the monitoring of the anti-war protests in Washington, D.C. before volunteering for service in Vietnam. He spent 13 months in Vietnam and returned home in early 1970 and attended college in Buffalo, N.Y., where he received his degree in Police Sciences. Sam joined the U.S. Army Reserves and went on to Special Forces training and was a member of the 19th Special Forces Group in Buffalo until 1974 when he relocated to Clearwater, Florida, to be closer to his family. Once in Florida, he joined A Company, 3rd Bn., 11th Special Forces Group in Tampa, Florida and served with them until they were disbanded in 1994. He then transferred to the 3rd Bn., 347th Regiment of the 81st Regional Support Command for the last two years of his 27 year military career. He volunteered to serve in the first Gulf War at the age of 41, but was needed more here in the states at the time. Sam was a long time employee of the U.S. Postal Service and was well known for his generosity and holiday spirit as he took care of his customers that were alone or elderly on his route and he often visited people in the local hospitals and rehabilitation centers. His memory will live on with his community and us for a long time to come. Sam is survived by his wife, Theresa, and 5 children, Jason, Eric, Ryan, who are grown, and Samantha and James, who still live with their Mom in Safety Harbor, Florida. Sam had 3 sisters, Ann, Rita, and Patty, and a brother, James Pacurari, who is serving in Afghanistan. Rest in Peace, Sam. You’ll always be in our hearts and memories.

Garry Norton and his friend, Guy Anhorn, took Garry’s photos from the 1969-mid 1970 era of the company and put together a video on **YouTube** that is just outstanding. If you have access to a computer or know someone who does, you’ll be glad you took the time to see it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gd9K4pLD7w0>

The next Papa Company Reunion will be held in Buffalo, N.Y. next Summer, July 23rd through the 27th. Arrangements and an itinerary are “in work” and we urge you all to join us if you can and any other Rangers in the area are invited to join us if they dare !! We adopted another Ranger, Ed Perkowski, and his wife, Dee, at the reunion. They are from the area and Ed served with the 2nd Battalion and got out about 10 years ago. He’s talking about going back to the Regiment, but hopefully, he’ll come back to his senses and stay home and raise his family !! Ha! Ha! They are from the upper NY area and plan to join us in Buffalo, NY next Summer. We’re looking forward to having a big, strapping, “young” Ranger to carry our baggage at the hotel/motel.

We were honored to have Michael Burke, and his wife, Marge, join us this year in Columbus, too. Michael was Roy Burke’s brother (Dowd’s Dirty Half-Dozen) and he came to the Reunion with Larry Smith, the lone survivor of that team to meet us and enjoy the brotherhood we try to incorporate within our small unit. He brought some very interesting WWII artifacts with him and donated them to the Infantry Museum via CSM Rick Merritt, CSM of the 3rd Ranger Bn. at Fort Benning, to be displayed at a later date when the new and improved Infantry Museum in completed and opened in 2009, I think.

We were also honored to have Mary Rossi and her granddaughter back with us. Mary lost her husband, and Papa Company Ranger, Mike Rossi in 2003 and she continues to be an integral part of our family. Mike was very active within our company and the 75th RR Assn. and had a great deal of love for P/75th and his mates. Though we might not like it, and I don’t, we are getting older now and these losses are beginning to become more often and many times, unexpected. I urge you all to come join your units for their reunions and take some time to enjoy the fruits of our labors and the relationships we have formed over the years.

I’d like to recognize everyone who came out this year and wish I had kept a note or two from August so I could properly recognize everyone who was there and have a newsier article for you. We are changing our Unit Director position at this time and I want to thank Bill Davis for the things he has done for us for the past 4 years or so. It’s a thankless job in many ways, but an important one to keep the lines open within our unit. For the time being, I’m

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

going to try and fill the void, but any one of you is invited to assume this position if you would like. It is not a part time job if you do it right. It takes some time and dedication and someone who has great love for our unit and wants to do this. Personally, I'd rather someone who has a new perspective and dedication for it, but in the meantime, I will assume the position until we can get someone else to take it. It's not much fun at times, but it can be very rewarding serving your mates. I speak from experience.

I'd like to take a moment here to again remember my wonderful friend, brother, "loverboy", and mentor in the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Ranger Roy Boatman, N/75th and 173rd LRP. Roy and his son, Master Gunnery Sergeant Darrell Boatman, USMC, will both be buried in December at Arlington National Cemetery, on December 3rd, 2007, at 2:00 P.M. Roy was very deservedly inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2007. Darrell was killed while serving our country in Iraq and late 2005. Rest in Peace, Brothers !!

With the holidays coming up, please take a moment and contribute to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association Christmas Fund if you can. This great program is doing so much good for the younger Rangers serving us today that have young families. With that said.....Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe and Merry Christmas. **NO, I won't run for President again!!!** Out Here!! RLTW!! In Ranger brotherhood. Terry B. Roderick



**Christmas on the DMZ with
PAPA CO., 1969**



**Sam
Pacurari &
Bobby
Turner**



**Sam
Pacurari,
Vietnam.**



Sam Pacurari, Ranger Bartender.

<p>Samuel John Pacurari January 7, 1949 – October 3, 2007 Safety Harbor, Florida.</p> <p>He is survived by his wife Theresa (Barber)</p> <p>His five children Jason Pacurari and Johnna (Flores) (Hope Mills, NC) Eric Pacurari (Hope Mills, NC) Ryan Pacurari Beres and Heather (Sweet) (Raeford, NC) Samantha Pacurari (Safety Harbor, FL) James Pacurari (Safety Harbor, FL)</p> <p>His siblings Ann Marie (Pacurari) and James Zimmerman (Gray, ME) Rita (Pacurari) and Bob Alexander (Hawthorne, FL) Patty (Pacurari) and John Keleman (Niagara Falls, NY) James Pacurari, stationed in Afghanistan (Sebring, FL)</p> <p>His grandchildren Hayley Fay Beres and Hensley Kay Beres (Raeford, NC) Jonathan Lamberth (Hope Mills, NC)</p> <p>His brothers- and sisters-in-law Maryfran Barber (Detroit, MI) Dan Barber (Redford, MI) Greg and Lisa (Groves) Barber (Westland, MI) Peggy Barber and Susan Haase (Santa Fe, NM)</p> <p>His mother-in-law, Carol Barber, six nieces, eight nephews, four great-nephews and two great-nieces; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and thousands of lives he touched every day of his life.</p>



D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Leon Moore



BY: Leon Moore

Hello fellow Rangers, LRP's, LRS's and family. As everyone knows Tom Blandford has chosen to step down as Unit Director due to health reasons.

This is Leon Moore of the 1st Platoon who has been talked in to taking on the Unit Director's duties for the 151st.

For those who do not remember me, I will give you a bit of information about me and those who do remember me I'm sorry. I was in the 1st Platoon with Mike Bronnenberg, Alan Brown, Don Holland and Charlie Robinson. As a kid growing up I always wanted to jump out of planes. When I was old enough to be drafted a friend of mine and I chose to get hooked up with the Greenfield Guards because they were airborne. We took our physicals and I passed and my friend did not, do to high blood pressure. By the way he was drafted one month latter and passed his physical. He ended up as a secretary for a Colonel in Guam and played basketball for a year and we all know what happen to me.

Well I hope I can fill Tom's shoes as Unit Director. He has done a great service for the 151st for the last few years and we want to thank him for all he has done. I think he still has a little more to give only in a different way. Again thanks Tom from all of us!

Now getting down to business as Unit Director, I can only do this with all of your help from the men and women of the 151st, LRS and LRP. This newsletter can only happen by receiving pictures, stories, articles and up coming events. Please help me in providing information to all our brothers and sisters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

As you all know our 40th reunion is coming up in August 2008. We are starting to put the reunion together. We need your help with suggestions. So far it looks like Camp Atterbury is the location. We will be working with Zita since she is our liaison to Camp Atterbury to make this a big blowout event. Please tell everyone you know who has not been involved with the unit for a while to please come and make it the best reunion yet. More information will be available in the spring issue.



June 19 thru 23, 2008 the 117th reunion – received this via the Rangers from Allen Bennett. This year's 117th AHC reunion will be June 19 thru June 23, 2008, in St. Louis. It will again be in conjunction with the VHCMA.

The hotel is: Crown Plaza Hotel at the airport, 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044. Room rates are \$79.73 (taxes included per night) and is good for the four days before and four days after. Reservations can be made at no up front cost and can be canceled up to 4:00 PM CT of the day of arrival with no penalty. Use the group booking code of: VHC, reservation number is: (314) 291-

6700 when you call request IN HOUSE RESERVATIONS.

Note: Book early VHCMA web site page for the reunion is: <http://www.vhcma.org/reunion.html>.

PAST EVENTS

September 9, 2007 **Lieutenant Larry Kleiber, SSG Jimmy Worley** Memorial Services were held. After services we met at the Greenfield VFW for fellowship and a business meeting. New officers were elected. President, Robert McIntire; Vice President, Leon Moore; Secretary, Doug Hagan; Treasurer, Gary Bussell; Board Members: North – Tom Blandford and Terry MacDonald, South – Gary Angrick and Loren Dixon; Chaplin, Jim Johnson and Ted Dunn was still strapped with the job of Quartermaster. Also that was the day I was volunteered for Unit Director of the 75th Ranger Association. We also voted and made Wes Kleiber an honorary member.

In a special note, Ted Dunn's son Nathan Dunn is serving in Iraq again. Please keep him in your prayers and all the other men and women who are away from home. God speed to all of them.

The Kokomo Veterans Reunion had a great turn out plus "Ernie", aka (Doug Hagan) performed on stage. A lot of 151st brothers and sisters showed up in large numbers throughout the four-day reunion. Terry MacDonald's group was on hand to provide a gathering place to rest and bullshit (mostly bullshit).

On October 6, 2007 a group of Rangers and their wives came to my house to help me celebrate my 60th birthday.

D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

A good time was had by yours truly listening to long and tall tales by my brothers (and yes there was a beer or two consumed by the time it was over). I want to thank all those who came. It meant more to me than any of you will ever know. Thanks!!

One of my birthday gifts was very special from my daughter-in-law. I would like to share it with you. It really is to all of the Vietnam Veterans who came home without a thank you from outside our families and close friends.

When America Called

When America called you were there to defend and protect a nation that did not care. You fought in the fire with a son on the way. Emotions ran deep and the risk became steep. With God on your side and a country not, you fought a war that was already lost.

Gratitude not shown and a thank you never said, you returned home with emptiness instead. The years have come and gone and still it's not enough to make up for the time and memories lost. They say time heals all wounds but not yours, the memories never left and the nightmares still occur.

For the soldiers still alive they live it everyday with pain in their hearts, I'm here to say "Thank You" for it all. It may not matter now, but just to let you know, your service to our country did matter.

Apologies aren't enough and the Thank You a little late for a man who fought hard and saw his son when he arrived too late. A family not shattered, the Moore's have risen above, to become the wonderful family that I have grown to love.

To my wonderful father-in-law on his 60th Birthday.

Angela Moore
September 30, 2007

November 12, 2007 the Veteran's Day Parade at Indianapolis had a good turn out. About 16 Ranger participated and their wives came out for support. Terry MacDonald brought his chopper cart and the 151st cart. Gary Bussell drove his vintage World War II Jeep of which Pappy rode in the parade.

Operation Support Our Troops

Brenda Manis still needs your support in sending packages with food and personal items to our deployed troops. \$15.00 pays for a forty pound package. Please support this cause if you can. We all sit around and talk about the war; here is your chance to do more than talk. You can send

your contributions to Brenda Manis, 605 Turnberry Lane, Yorktown, IN 47396.

I would like to give a special thanks to Brenda Manis and all those who work behind the scenes to provide our troops with a small touch of home.

Sergeant Butler Dedication

August 29, 2007, Camp Butler Dedication: A small contingent of Indiana Guardsmen from Joint Forces Headquarters and the 151st Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance) boarded a plane bound for Columbus, GA on August 28th. Of those on board, three had served with Butler in the 151st Infantry Detachment (LRS), command Sergeant Major James Brown, Sergeant First Class Brian Morris, and Staff Sergeant Edward Lewis, who also served with Butler in Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry. As the Guardsmen flew, the Butler Family and members of Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry drove from Indiana (Ron Himsel & Chuck Eads), and Florida (Tom Sloan). On the morning of August 29th, everyone met at the Warrior Training Center. Brown and members of the LRS reacquainted themselves with the staff. LT. Benjamin Tooley, 151st LRS, had recently completed training there.



In the headquarters building was a giant poster with Butler's biography and photographs. The ceremonies were held in their large classroom. Major Breck Paris, Commander, Warrior Training Center, gave a briefing detailing the accomplishments of the school and how the training equips the trainees for success in future training and real-world endeavors – a training aspect that Ranger Butler was all about. After the briefing, a tour was given of the center. First Sergeant Billy Paul, Company A (Pre-Ranger and Light Leader Course's) gave the family a tour of the facilities for the courses for which he is in charge and an equipment display. After that First Sergeant Doug Conaway, Company B (Air Assault and Pathfinder Course's) briefed Butler's family and friends on his courses, which are primarily mobile training courses. First Sergeant Butch Cady, Company C (Bradley Pre-Master Gunner and Bradley Crew Evaluator Course's) had his equipment on display at Kirby Field. The facilities for the Bradley courses are in the process of being built. The tour took everyone through Kirby Field, with its obstacles and field classrooms. Then it was on to the helicopter simulators and the rappel tower. The rappel tower at Camp Butler is the tallest wooden rappel tower in the Army. The

D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

helicopter simulators are wooden “boxes” made in the shape of the body of a helicopter, designed to train soldiers on various aspects of helicopters (i.e., loading, exiting, etc). Mrs. Butler took the tour via a Gator and she was very impressed with the facilities. She said that Butler would have loved the place.

Once the tour was complete, the dedication ceremony began. Commander Sergeant Major Brown spoke about his “First Sergeant”. He spoke of Butler the warrior, Butler the Citizen Soldier, Butler the father and husband. He gave insight about what it was like to serve with Butler. He also informed those in attendance that Norma and the kids are a patriotic family. Norma is not only the matriarch to her family but also to the Rangers from Company D and the 151st LRS.

The Warrior Training Center made a presentation to Mrs. Butler to commemorate the dedication of the center to Master Sergeant Butler. Presenters were Colonel Lee Durham, Outgoing Special Assistant to the Commanding General – ARNG (Senior Guard/Reserve Advisor), Colonel Jerry Wood, Incoming Special Assistant to the

Commanding General – ARNG (Senior Guard/Reserve Advisor), Command Sergeant Major Brown and Command Sergeant Major Siter.

The Ranger Creed was then recited. Six motivated young men led the Ranger Creed and Mrs. Butler joined them in reciting the Creed. She didn’t miss a word. When the ceremony was complete, she said, “This camp IS Bill Butler. It is everything he believed in”.

As new Unit Director I can be contacted at:

Leon Moore
3433 W. Randolph County Line Road
Fountain City, IN 47341
Phone: 765-874-1996
Cell: 765-730-9140
Email: leomoo@verizon.net

A foot note: If any one decides to have breakfast with Chuck Wallace, make sure you **write it down and give it to him** where you plan to meet.



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon



**OPERATION TOAN
THANG PART 5**

This continuation covers from May 3, 1968 until May , 1968. From April 25th until April 29th F/51 LRP was under operational control of the 2nd Brigade 25th Infantry Division and was operating out of Cu Chi and worked in the area South of Duc Hoa in the Pineapple and Orange operational areas. From April 30th through May F/51 LRP were under operational control of 3rd Brigade 101st Airborne Division and operated once again in the “Catchers Mitt” area in the operational areas of Upshur II, Los Banos, and Los Banos East. The general missions consisted of trail, canal, and rocket watch to detect enemy movements.

Team 32 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on May 3rd at 1457HRS (2:57 PM). On May 4th at 0958HRS (9:58 AM) Team 32 reported trails at his location running Southeast to Northwest and had been used recently used. At 1012HRS (10:12 AM) Team 32 reported finding a stack of 10 bomb initiator fuses, 8



inches wide by 20 inches long. It appeared that the Vietcong were using them for claymores, they had legs on them and 1 had been blown. At 1035HRS (10:35 AM) Team 32 reported hearing a rifle shot 100 to 150 meters North Northwest of the teams location. At 1045HRS (10:45 AM) Team 32 reported possible movement 100 meters approximately West of the teams location. At 1115HRS (11:15 AM) 2nd platoon of A 3/17 CAV sent in a force to detonate the fuses and at 1240HRS (12:40 PM) Team 32 and the CAV platoon were linked up.

At 1325HRS (1:25 PM) the fuses were destroyed and Team 32 was relocated to another area. On May 5th at 1738HRS (5:38 PM) Team 32 reported that they were in contact. At 1740HRS (5:40 PM) Team 32 reported Vietcong movement 50 meters from the West to the South of the teams location. Team 32 believed that they had killed 2 Vietcong. At 1744HRS (5:44 PM) Spurs 36 reported that he was on station. At 1750HRS (5:50 PM) Team 32 reported they were still receiving fire. At 1753HRS (5:53 PM) Spurs 36 started his covering gun runs. At 1803HRS (6:03 PM) Team 32 was extracted. At 1805HRS (6:05 PM)

F/151 LRP (CONTINUED)

Team 32 reported that there was a column of Vietcong moving North to South, Team 32 saw the first 4 but they were receiving fire from more than 4 Vietcong. Artillery was fired into the sighting area. At the debriefing Team 32 reported seeing 7 Vietcong, but hearing many more. Of the Vietcong the team saw: 2 with AK-47's, 1 with a carbine, one Vietcong wore blue pants and shirt, 1 wore tiger fatigues, and 2 wore khaki's. The team also reported seeing many graves along the trail.

Team 35 was a 6man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 3rd at 1535HRS (3:35 PM). At 1600HRS (4:00 PM) Team 35 reported that while moving from their LZ their point man spotted a Vietcong who also saw the point man and took off running. On May 4th at 1425HRS (2:45 PM) Team 35 reported finding a company sized bunker complex, burned tin cans and a dugout position in one of the bunkers. The team also reported next to the water point near the complex were some water cans. Team 35 reported on May 5th that there was negative activity in the area. On May 6th at 1125HRS (11:25 AM) Team 35 reported seeing 3 Vietcong, dressed in black, entering the woods 200 meters approximately South Southwest of the teams location. On May 7th at 0900HRS (9:00 AM) Team 35 was extracted.

Team 17 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 5th at 1405HRS (2:05 PM). At 1424HRS (2:24 PM) Team 17 reported hearing movement 60 meters Southeast of the teams location. At 14453 Team 17 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 50 meters approximately East Southeast of the teams location. At 1540HRS (3:40 PM) Team 17 reported having approximately 3 Vietcong 100 meters to the teams rear and appeared to be following them. At 1548HRS (3:48 PM) Team 17 reported seeing 2 Vietcong camouflaging a hole or bunker 100 meters approximately Southwest of the teams location. At 1640HRS (4:40 PM) Team 17 reported movement of an estimated 3 Vietcong 35 meters East of the teams location. At 1645HRS (4:45 PM) Team 17 reported seeing 1 Vietcong moving around the team and crossing a stream. At 1652HRS (4:52 PM) Team 17 reported that 2 of 17's scouts were in contact with a small group of Vietcong. At 1710HRS (5:10 PM) Team 17 reported that the gun-ships had uncovered 6 to 8 Vietcong who were heading East. 1713HRS (5:13 PM) Team 17 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 30 meters approximately East Southeast of the teams location and moving East. At 1720HRS (5:20 PM) Team 17 was extracted and artillery was fired into the area. At the debriefing Team 17 reported seeing 7 Vietcong, 2 were wearing dark gray or brown uniforms and the rest of the

uniforms were nondescript. The team also saw a large bunker or foxhole. Vietcong KIA were 2 by the gun-ships and 1 by the team.

Team 15 was a 5 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 5th at 1428HRS (2:48 PM). At 1429HRS (2:29 PM) Team 15 reported movement 75 to 100 meters approximately North of the teams location. At 1430HRS (2:30 PM) Team 15 reported seeing 4 Vietcong approximately South Southeast of the teams location, wearing black with floppy hats and carbines. At 1432HRS (2:32 PM) Team 15 reported Vietcong to the East and West of the teams location. At 1436HRS (2:36 PM) Team 15 reported that they were in contact. At 1447HRS (2:47 PM) gun-ships began their cover fire. At 1450HRS (2:50 PM) Team 15 was extracted with 1 team member receiving a minor wound and unknown Vietcong casualties.

Team 14 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 6th at 1450HRS (2:50 PM). At 1451HRS (2:51 PM) Team 14 reported seeing 3 Vietcong 50 meters approximately Northwest of the teams location. At 1522HRS (3:22 PM) Team 14 reported they were in contact with a reinforced platoon (approximately 20 Vietcong), dressed in a variety of black, khakis, light blue and green uniforms, some had floppy hats and all were wearing web gear. Weapons seen and heard were: SKS's, AK-47's, and carbines. Team 14 reported that he had Vietcong 40 meters from the teams location and circling the team. At 1522 gun-ships began their coving fire and Team 14 reported the Vietcong were withdrawing approximately to the Northeast of the team. At 1533HRS (3:33 PM) another gun-ship expended his ammunition on the withdrawing Vietcong. At 1555 Team 14 was extracted with negative team causalities and artillery was fired into the area.

Team 34 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 4th at 1425HRS (2:45 PM). At 1452HRS (2:52 PM) Team 34 reported finding casing at their current location. At 1453HRS (2:53 PM) Team 34 was at the edge of a clearing and reported seeing a complex of foxholes and expended AK-47 ammunition on the ground. On May 5th Team 34 reported negative activity in the area. On May 6th at 0703HRS (7:03 AM) Team 34 reported hearing hammering 200 to 300 meters East of the teams location. On May 7th at 1405HRS (2:05 PM) Team 34 reported hearing 2 carbine shots 250 to 300 meters West of the teams location. On May 8th at 0945HRS (9:45 AM) Team 34 was extracted.

F/151 LRP (CONTINUED)

Team 36 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on May 6th at 1902HRS (5:02 PM). On May 6th Team 36 had negative activity in their area. On May 7th at 2058HRS (8:58 PM) Team 36 reported hearing a fire fight 400 meters from the teams location. On May 8th at 0719HRS (7:19 AM) Team 36 reported hearing 1 Vietcong talking at an unknown distance approximately Southwest of the teams location. On May 9th Team 36 was extracted.

Team 12 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on May 6th at 1442HRS (2:42 PM). Team 12 reported negative activity and ROned (Remained Over Night) near the LZ (Landing Zone). On May 7th at 1435HRS (2:35 PM) Team 12 reported finding bunkers that were in the early stages of construction. At 1600HRS (4:00 PM) Team 12 reported they had planted a listening device at he bunker area. On May 8th at 1412HRS (2:12 PM) Team 12 reported finding a cache of ordinance that included: five 25lb. Chicom shaped charges; three 12in. Chicom claymores; 1 US claymore; and a sandbag full of Chicom fragmentation grenades. On May 8th at 1412HRS (2:12 PM) Team 12 reported movement 25 meters

approximately East and South, in the water and the brush. At 1550HRS (3:50 PM) Team 12 reported finding bunkers and placed their second listening device. On May 9th at 1546HRS (3:46 PM) Team 12 was extracted.

Team 11 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on May 6th at 1747HRS (5:47 PM).

F/51 Reno Reunion

The Reno reunion was a was well attended by 37 members. Everyone had a good time with a side trip to Virginia City, the town that the Comstock load helped build in the 1800's. In our free time some made the trip to Lake Tahoe which has some impressive scenery We also spent an evening with Ed and Pat Devorak's relations, Rob and Sue French. The evening was spent in the country with a very good Bar-B-Q and listening to a couple of bands that happened to be meeting at the time at the French's. After the formal dinner there was a memorial to 1st SGT Butts where members related heart felt memories of 1st SGT Butts.



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

No Sumission



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Mike Martin



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

The fragrance of the woods and fields on a crisp morning like today, as I write this article, obscures the heat and severe drought of summer that we endured this year...the natural beauty and changing seasons awakens your senses like dark crimson wine—old port of course—and the taste of strong-flavored aromatic cheese; they provide stimulus to your taste buds without overwhelming them: like the vivid colors against extraordinarily blue skies on this autumn day. As you read this though, the chill of winter will be nipping at your doorstep.

I turned the ripe old age of seventy last month (September) and looking back, World War II, perhaps as much as any



other singular historic event, conjures up fond, sad and nostalgic memories from my childhood and the past. It was one war that was equally important to both men and women, the young and the old, and to the poor and the affluent as so factually presented in Ken Burns' documentary "THE WAR".

What strikes me most, as I reflect, is the tremendous sense of solidarity among the citizenry and neighbors, their friendliness and the desire to share and help each other. The "we are all in this together" spirit.

Perpetual experiences belonging to that period of my life and those shared with my family are incapable of being effaced; they are deep-rooted in my heart and soul. Manhood and a military career

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

represented the end of an epoch in my life, but not the images: my grandmother donning her helmet and with flashlight in hand patrolling the neighborhood after dark as a blackout warden; standing in lines at the meat market with my mother and the use of ration cards; eating with my father and mother in army mess halls on holidays; decorating a Christmas tree in Texas, with homemade ornaments that my mother and I had made; and the return of my father and uncles from overseas after the war....

Our history is punctuated by wars and conflicts, but none have encompassed the image of both servicemen and women, and the Americans at home as World War II has!

SEASON'S GREETINGS

We wish all our members a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity.

To those of you on active duty scattered in many lands afar, our thoughts and prayers are for you and your families; you are the foundation of our country's freedom...you will be in our hearts during the holidays: at our tables and in our homes in a kindred spirit of Ranger brotherhood; as tangible as the sounds of gaiety, firesides' warmth, brightly lit trees and closeness of loved ones....

THE EARLY YEARS

The Advisory program in Vietnam began to expand after the Geneva Agreements of 1954—the number of Advisors was strictly limited by Washington and no serious thought was given to raising the limitation until the end of the 1950s.

Officers and enlisted men newly assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group received little orientation in Vietnamese culture either before or after arrival. Through 1960, all incoming officers received a standard four-hour briefing on some dozen subjects, none touching directly on the government, politics, or recent history and South Vietnam.

The heart of the American Advisory effort was the Combat Arms Training Organization (CATO), formed after the demise of the Training Relations and Instruction Mission in April 1956. The Combat Arms Training Organization functioned as a kind of operations staff for the chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group and also controlled all the MAAG field detachments assigned to Vietnamese schools and commands.

Many of our Ranger Advisors served in Vietnam during this relevant but turbulent period. Ranger Allen Imes has provided us with an insight into those early years and the profile of General Tran Van Hai (Captain Hai at that time) in the following recollection titled "A Most Impressive Ranger".

Imes served other tours as an "A" Detachment Team Leader with the 5th Special Forces Group and again, as a member of Detachment B-56, Project Sigma with SOG (Studies and Observations Group). He plans on attending our reunion in April....



Photo was in the Fall 2004 issue of Patrolling: General TRAN VAN HAI, former Ranger High Command Commander and Division Commander, ARVN 7th Inf. Div. A Soldier of distinguished courage; he committed suicide—at about 1500 hrs. on 30 April 1975, in lieu of being dishonored by the Communists. General Hai had refused an offer to be evacuated by President Thieu: his last comments were to his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Huynh Van Hoa: "I thank you for standing by me at this last hour. It is the destiny of our nation, nothing more can be done—as a Soldier, we must obey the "order" from our Superior...absolutely!"

"A MOST IMPRESSIVE RANGER"

I imagine many of the earlier Advisors to Vietnam had similar experiences as I did. It was late August 1961. I was getting out of the Army on the 12th day of September 1961 to go back into my career as a football coach. I had been a training officer at Fort Jackson, SC. Then one morning in August we all awoke to a troubled Berlin Crisis and it looked like we might be going to war over it. President Kennedy froze everyone for another year so I never finished my processing out. Instead I was assigned to a new company as the Company Commander and we were taking mobs of new recruits into the Army for training. In November, I received a call from the Brigade Duty Officer informing me that some orders had come down assigning me to a place called Vietnam. I wasn't even sure where it was. I soon found out.

In February 1962, we were met at Tan Son Nhut Airport and carried directly to MAAG Headquarters. Along the way, we slowed down long enough to watch some Vietnamese Air Force pilots attack President Diem's palace just at the same time as we were passing by it. We were clapping and cheering because we thought they were after the VC. When we arrived at the MAAG compound, we were met by MG Timmes of 101st Airborne fame. He told us that the attack on the Diem's palace was an assassination attempt that

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

failed. He then pulled us aside and said, “fellows, we like the Vietnamese very much but that’s not why we are here. We are here because the greatest threat to world peace is Communism. Most of the world is talking about somebody needs to do something but these Vietnamese people are the only ones in the world who are actually doing something about it. Now I want to help them and I want you to do your very best to help them also.” He kinda hinted that we were there to work ourselves out of a job. We then went into the operations room to get our orders. All the Advisors names and locations were written on acetate hanging on the walls. I don’t remember how many names there were but it was more like high hundreds and not thousands. That was soon to change. Pretty soon, I found myself at the Ranger Training Center at Duc My, Vietnam. It was there that I saw this most impressive man. Walking around without a shirt on, looking as much like a wrestler as a soldier, broad shoulders, much thicker chest than most Vietnamese men and barking out orders like a Drill Sergeant. It was Captain Tran Van Hai. CPT Hai glanced at me and continued on with his mission. I don’t think he was too impressed with a bunch of young Rangers, some who were still trying to figure out the Patrol Order format, coming to advise him and his battle-hardened Officers and NCOs. Over the weeks and months, I grew to greatly admire and respect CPT Hai, who later became General Hai and the highest ranking Ranger. I think anybody who ever got to know and work with him would agree that he would have made a good Officer and leader in anybody’s Army.



Vietnamese Ranger Training Center, Duc My, Vietnam; circa 1962-63. From L to R: CPT Tran Van Hai, 1LT Allan Imes, SGT Weir-Australian Special Air Service (SAS), and a Vietnamese Ranger (Biet Dong Quan).

One time we were training Ranger recruits and I looked across the dry rice paddies (it was the dry season) and way over there was CPT Hai sitting on a rice paddy dike. I walked over his way and I could see he was deep in thought. I spoke and asked him what he was doing. He answered that he was contemplating. I bit, and asked him what he was contemplating. He responded with “that most wonderful day when all the American Advisors go home”.

With that he got up and walked on into the bamboo scrub barking out orders to any Ranger he could see.

Another time. CPT Hai gave me a well-deserved lecture on the war in Vietnam. I don’t remember just how we got into this discussion but he was sharing some intimate feelings with me. As I said earlier, I was just a 1LT with a little over two years in the Army and no combat experience at that time. On the other hand, he was a veteran of many years in the Army and all of it was under combat conditions. He said to me, “I know that America is a very wonderful country. I have been there. I know that Democracy and your way of life is worth fighting for. But you know, he said, my Grandfather knew nothing but war. My father knew nothing but war. Since I have been old enough, I have known nothing but war. Now, my greatest fear is that this war will never end and my young son will have to go to war, just like his father and grandfathers.” I assured him that that wouldn’t happen because America was there to help them. He walked away shaking his head and I walked away probably thinking this advisor stuff isn’t all that hard after all! Several years later I was with SOG and at one of our launch sites, a young soldier came up to me and asked me if I remembered him. When I said no, he said he was just a little boy when I ate in their home but he remembered me. He said, I am Col Hai’s son. He was in the Vietnamese Special Forces. It took my breath away because my mind immediately went back about 6 or 7 years to that conversation where CPT Hai shared his deepest fear with me. I wonder now what might have been his son’s future? (Note: I should point out that this memory is 44 years old. I know that Cpt Hai spoke those words but it might have been one of the other Officers in the conversation whose son spoke to me. Nevertheless, the point Cpt. Hai was making is the same.)

I would like to share another memory of the Ranger CPT Hai. It was some sort of holiday, I don’t remember which one, but most of the Rangers had the day off. Since we didn’t have much to do, I went over to the Ranger Training Center to visit with my good friend and counterpart, 1LT Hong. Hong was one of those very professional, highly qualified Officers I worked with at Duc My. In fact, I think he was more of an advisor to me than I was to him. We became very close friends and I am very glad that I got to see him after 44 years just a few weeks before he died.

Anyway, I heard a jeep horn blowing over and over and shouting that sounded much like a stage coach driver yelling at his team of horses. It was right up the road from the village of Duc My on the way to Ninh Hoa, which was a little village about 10 clicks away. When I got there, I saw CPT Hai, in his jeep, stripped to the waist, blowing his horn and yelling at about 10-15 Rangers with weapons and

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

field gear who were running in front of his jeep. They were running all the way to Ninh Hoa and back to Duc My with CPT Hai nudging them along with his jeep. He had threatened them that if they quit, or fell down, he would not stop but would run over them. If they slowed down too much, he would bump them with his jeep and keep them moving. I never knew what they had done to get CPT Hai down on them but they must have believed him because no one tested him and they all made it back to the Ranger Training Center. Frankly, I didn't think CPT Hai was bluffing then and still, to this day, think he was serious as he could be. It also serves as another example of why those Vietnamese Rangers (Biet Dong Quan) were so tough and feared as good fighters.

SITREP – BDQ REUNION 2008

A Ranger "salute" to those on "point" who have made hotel reservations and sent their registrations in for the BDQ Advisors' Reunion in April. As is the norm, contracts are signed for the rooms reserved and the number of individuals attending the banquet so we are most appreciative of those who support our reunions and have an understanding of the work required in organizing an event of this size. *"Cam on qui vi"*.

CONTEMPLATIONS

My lance in hand, for years I have waged war across the kingdom, leading my valiant troops to battle, with untamed courage. To be worthy of the name, a man must pursue glory through the mightiest exploits. And until he has succeeded he should be ashamed to listen to the stories of the Heroes of the past.

...by Pham Ngo Lao

Beautiful as the Moon Goddess: her waist slender as an apricot twig, her skin pure as snow, her face radiant as the sun, her parted lips sweet as a morning rose, her words rare as jade, the clouds lost their loveliness beside her long black hair, the snow lost its splendour beside the whiteness of her skin, her glance flowed like autumn waves, her brow evoked the quiet of a spring wood. The flowers were jealous to find her more radiant than they. Her beauty proved unique and her talent uncomparable. She lived withdrawn behind closed blinds and brocade hangings while the bees and butterflies turned and fluttered about her....

– Nguyen Du

No man is so foolish as to desire war more than peace: for in peace sons bury their fathers, but in war fathers bury their sons.

– Herodotus

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

Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit Director



Vietnamese Rangers (42nd Ranger Battalion) and their American Ranger Advisors; August 1969.

Ranger Jim Waters is second from left.



LT Trung Pham, 52nd Ranger Battalion. Pham is a friend and is an important liaison link between the Vietnamese Rangers and the Ranger Advisors....



Legendary Ranger of three wars, LTC Glenn W. Metcalf: 5th Ranger Battalion WWII, 8th Army Ranger Company in Korea, Senior Advisor 4th Ranger Group, Vietnam. Right: LTC Phei, Commander Vietnamese 4th Ranger Group; Nov. 1969.



Ranger "Pop" Almo Mercier, Advisor to the 41st and the 44th Ranger Battalions. Almo is from the "old school" having served with the "triple nickled" and several tours as an instructor with the Ranger Dept.

STATE COORDINATOR – ADVOCATE

STATE COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES

BEHIND THE SCENES, YET IN THE FOREFRONT:

Bryant Middleton attended the funeral of Major General Howard Garrison who was a member of Frank Merrill's Marauders. General Garrison was buried in Anniston Alabama at 1100 hours Tuesday September the 18th 2007.

Here is Bryant's account of his activities.

"Gene

The services for General Garrison went very well and the family asked me to say a few words. I had anticipated that so I was prepared, so I provided information on the today's Ranger community and a brief history of Merrill's Marauders as well as the Ranger creed. The family expressed their thanks for the 75 RRA sending someone and I told them that's what we do for our fellow Rangers. They weren't quite sure of General Garrison's unit with Merrill's Marauders. I was contacted a few days ago by Robert Passanisi, the Historian for Merrill's Marauders. He indicated he was surprised and wasn't aware the 75 RRA was sending representatives to funerals services and was overjoyed when he heard I had been there. Their association was so thankful that I attended and spoke at the services that Mr. Passanisi has made a donation to our associations from the Merrill's Marauders Association. I was unable to find a Ranger or Special OPS coin at Eglin AFB or Camp Rudder before departing so I picked up an Army coin and gave it to the family "from" the Army community. I informed them of our association's custom of having a silver coin engraved and that I would forward it once it was finished."

The following message was received from General Garrison's family.

"Captain Middleton drove 700 miles one way to represent the Ranger Association at Dad's funeral. Rangers do indeed "Lead the Way".

The coin is beautiful and will be affixed to the chest containing Dad's ashes. Thank you Captain Middleton".

"Services provided by Bryant E. Middleton for the funeral of General Howard G. Garrison.

I drove 1500 miles round trip from Fort Walton Beach, Florida to Anniston, Alabama for the funeral of General Garrison. I spent two days in Anniston, arriving Monday 17 September 2007 and departed 19 September 2007. I attended the viewing at Anniston Memorial Funeral Home and briefly spoke with General Garrison's son (Steve Garrison). Mr. Garrison was quite pleased that a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association would take the time to attend his fathers funeral. The family requested I speak the next day at the services and wanted to know if they could take pictures of me beside the casket?

The next day, 11 A.M. 18 September 2007, after Pastor Dave Roberts spoke, I was asked to speak. Prior to attending the services, I had researched General Garrison and his unit (Merrill's Marauder) and was prepared. I spoke of the Ranger history from World War II to present and the Ranger Creed. I gave a brief background history of the 75 RRA and our desire to provide a Ranger presence at funeral services for fallen Rangers. Additionally, I spoke of Merrill's Marauders and how men such as the General had been instrumental in defeating the Japanese in Burma and China. In summation I explained the current Ranger Regiments mission and how they are serving and maintaining the Ranger history and pride of being a Ranger. I explained that Rangers Lead The Way in all aspects of life and never leave a fellow Ranger behind and that is why we send a member from the 75 RRA to services of fallen Rangers.

My dress attire for the viewing was causal; dress slacks and shirt; for the funeral and presentation I wore a dark blue suit, white shirt and tie. I presented the family an Army coin signifying the pride of service with the Army and indicated it was from the Army community. Later when the 75th RRA Silver coin from the association arrived, I forwarded it by Priority mail with a letter. That concludes my report for the services for General Garrison."

RLTW

Bryant E. Middleton

NOTE: One of Bryant's sons has returned home unexpectedly from Iraq. He is on his second tour. Bryant as I mentioned we are all praying for both your sons' safety. Bryant has two sons serving currently.

2. Marshall Huckaby:

As many of you know Ken York is one of our State Coordinators. His two sons are both in the 75th Rangers at Hunter Army Airfield. His son Stephen was injured in training. He is now recovering and looking forward to returning to his unit. I put out the call for assistance and Marshall Huckaby immediately responded. Marshall went to visit Stephen but he was on an appointment. Marshall spoke with some soldiers in his unit and left one of our coins and an "F" company patch.

3. Mark Ponzillo:

Mark also answered the call and asked if he could provide any assistance to Stephen. He emailed this request to Ken.

4. (Crabs) Steve Crabtree:

Visited Stephen and they had a great conversation about military experiences, especially the funny ones. It appears in the picture that Steve took he also presented Stephen with a 75TH Ranger regiment Association Silver Coin.

It always pleases me to acknowledge how wonderful it is that we have State Coordinators that do these wonderful things for our sick and fallen comrades. These volunteers who give of themselves and take time from their families to assist and comfort the families of our brothers in arms both past and present day are always in our thoughts and prayers. You are always there when we need you and we certainly do appreciate your support. The families of our brethren have told us time and time again how wonderful it is to speak with some one that has had similar experiences as their loved ones.

Words cannot express how much the entire 75th Ranger Regiment Association appreciates the State Coordinators deeds and actions. You always come through in a time of need!

NOW THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT!

We still have states with no State Coordinator at all. Please consider supporting our Association, LRRPs, LRP's or Rangers with this tremendously important mission.

Please consider being a State coordinator for your state. As you can see our volunteers do a great service for the families, and the association. You may contact me at the email address below for more information.

If you attend any services or events representing the 75th Ranger Regiment Association please let me know so we may recognize your efforts.

FIELD COORDINATORS

John Chester has certificates for the mothers.

I will be able now to provide silver coins that you may present to the families of our departed brothers. Please notify me as soon as you know what you want engraved on the coins and the address to have the coin sent to. You may have 14 letters including spaces engraved on the first line and 4 or 5 on the second line.

Be sure to visit any wounded, injured, or ill brother also.

Now is the time to step up and be counted!

Gene Tucker
State Coordinator – Advocate
75th Ranger Regiment Association
Egt12@comcast.net



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War of Tears

Wars were once valiant, enemies met on the battle field,
both sides courageous, vowing never to yield.
Marching off to war as a hometown band played loud,
fighting for a cherished flag, wearing a uniform so proud.

Our war, like all others to wage I'm afraid, could not be won.
A "Peace", if any, decided not between leaders but by the gun.
No longer fought between soldiers being brave,
the very old, the children, all between, will fill a grave.

Our soldiers fight because they are told,
our enemies fight for their beliefs, hundreds of years old.
No longer aiming thru a scope into the enemies eyes,
bombs detonated from afar, shrapnel ablaze like the stars in the skies.

Who is to say in war, who is right or wrong.
The victor in battle is not always the strong.
Politicians mean well, or so they want you to know,
Most haven't served nor will their children go.

Endless are the reasons whence wars are born.
Endless are the tears we shed for those we mourn.

Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret
29 September. 2007

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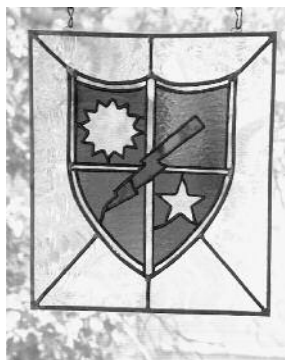
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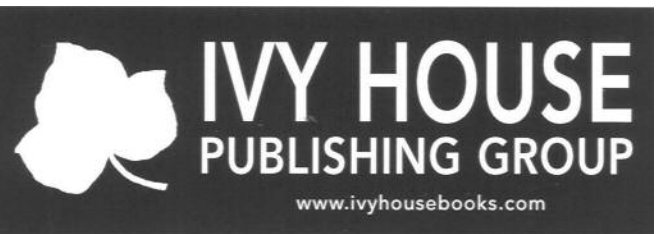
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