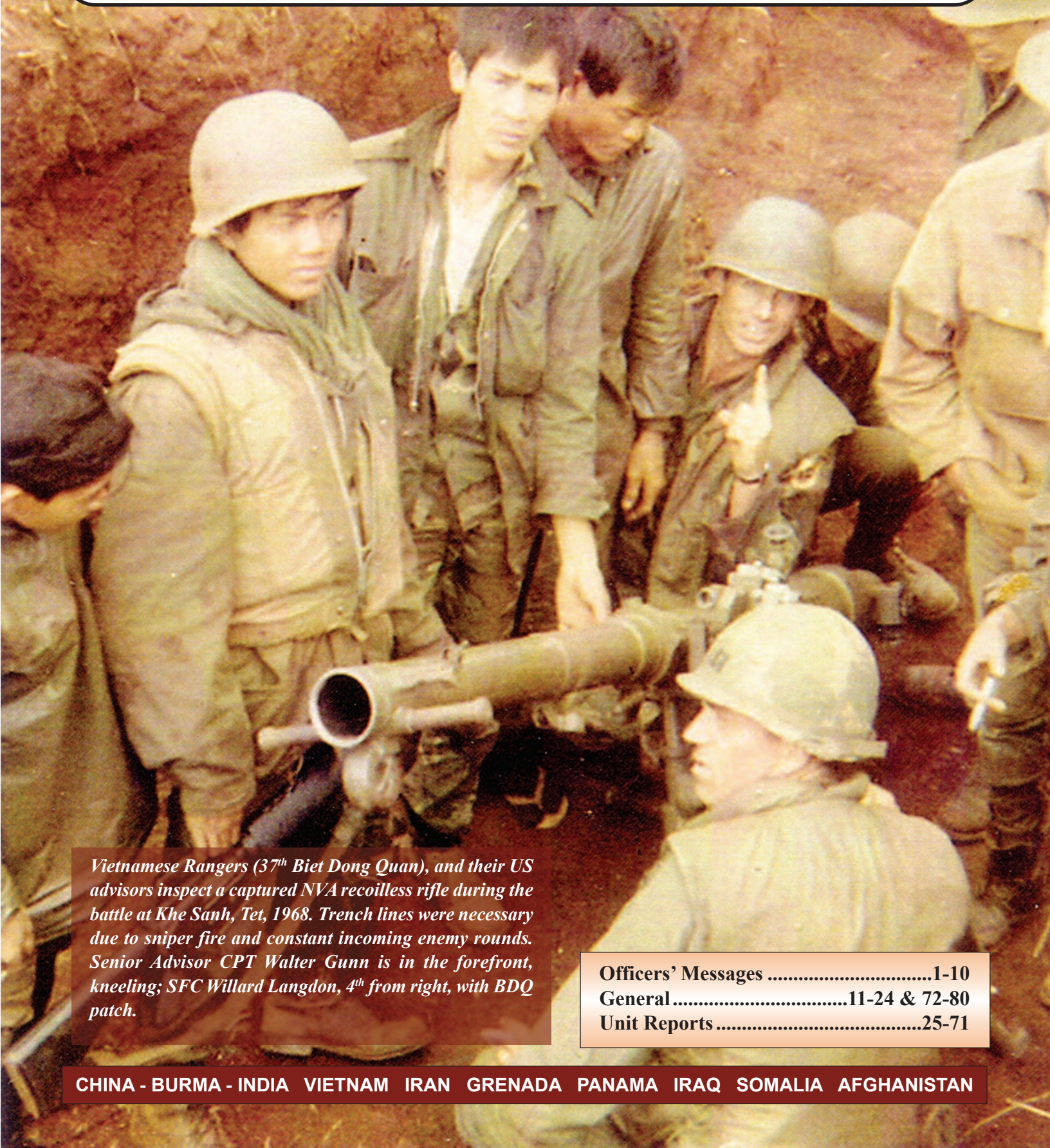


# PATROLLING

FALL 2008 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 23 ISSUE II



*Vietnamese Rangers (37<sup>th</sup> Biet Dong Quan), and their US advisors inspect a captured NVA recoilless rifle during the battle at Khe Sanh, Tet, 1968. Trench lines were necessary due to sniper fire and constant incoming enemy rounds. Senior Advisor CPT Walter Gunn is in the forefront, kneeling; SFC Willard Langdon, 4<sup>th</sup> from right, with BDQ patch.*

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General.....11-24 & 72-80  
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CHINA - BURMA - INDIA VIETNAM IRAN GRENADA PANAMA IRAQ SOMALIA AFGHANISTAN



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**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.

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
2004-2005	Emmett Hiltibrand
2005-2007	Stephen Crabtree
2007-2009	William Bullen

- M. Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- N. Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- O. Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- P. Co D (RANGER) 151st Inf.

**SECTION 5:** Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

**SECTION 6:** 75th Ranger Regiment

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

**SECTION 7:** Long Range Surveillance:

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





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# WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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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 refuse any submission, that is in bad taste, offensive or that discredits unnecessarily any individual or group.

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

**POSTMASTER**

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

## MAGAZINE

Well, we're back to the original printer, maybe we can arrive at some sort of level where we are all comfortable. As you can see we have acquired some new sponsors. We are getting more and more self sufficient in terms of the magazine paying for itself. If you know of anyone who would profit from exposure in our magazine, please put them in touch with me. The cost is really quite small in terms of exposure and as far as a target audience is concerned, a readership of current and former Rangers, (and a few old LRRP's and LRP's) is as about as concentrated as you can get.

We have a dilemma. The printer now has the capability of printing a page in full color in only one pass through the press. That means we could have a full color magazine in the same time that we have the present model. The cost is about \$3,000.00 more than the present cost, (about \$6,000.00 per issue). I would be interested in what the membership thinks relative to this issue. Give me a call or send me an e-mail with your thoughts.

## WEB SITE

Rangers! Thanks due in no small part to a group effort we've regained control of our domain name: 75thrra.org and 75thrra.com and moved our hosting package to a different provider. This will permit updates to actually appear on the website (for a change). New75thrra.com will remain on-line for backup and testing for a period of time.

By the time you are reading this issue of *Patrolling* most of the changes and upgrades will already have been implemented. Unit directors will have received a personal letter from me (this assumes the contact information we have for each is current), requesting a current mug shot, and a request that they proof their contact information and unit losses as appears on the association website. If this has not been accomplished please contact your unit director and offer your personal assistance. UD's if you are up to your "3<sup>rd</sup> point of contact" in alligators . . . ask someone to assist you.

This would be an excellent time for any of you with suggestions for the website to send a clue to: [webmaster@75thrra.com](mailto:webmaster@75thrra.com)  
Regenthal, out.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen



**Bill Bullen**

One year has passed since my becoming President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. One president should not aspire to be a better one than his predecessor but to improve and move the Association forward. I don't think we've had any bad presidents but I do believe we've had some who have done more for the progress and improvement of the Association. My self appointed mission is to set in place some avenues which will make it easier to run the organization and make future executive transitions smoother. I have a great group of men to work with who have similar views, also the assets of previous Presidents and Secretaries. Together we will get accomplish this mission.

There have been several requests for Officers' and Unit director's pictures to be in the magazine. For some, they are there but need to be professionalized. If you don't know how to use a digital camera ask your child or grandchild they could surely help. If you need to get it done professionally the association will pay for it "WITH PRIOR EXPENITURE APPROVAL," only. The members need to know what we look like today, and in my case not by the side profile of my "clenched toothed cheek"! Gentlemen please get these photos made and to the editor ASAP.

You may have heard or will be hearing of the ARMA or "American Ranger Memorial Association, Inc.", not to be confused with our "National Ranger Memorial Foundation". The mission of the ARMA is to have a nationally visible Ranger Memorial dedicated to all Rangers as far back as The Pequot War 1633-37. The mission is not to detract from our beautiful Memorial at Ft Benning but for Rangers to be represented at a nationally visible public place. There are many people working on this project, I don't have a solid opinion at this time, but I do think it is a fine idea and a whole lot of effort is going into this project. There are some folks, retired Ranger types who are heavily involved in this. One in particular is a modern era Ranger; he will remain nameless until he desires to come forward. The project need not be funded by the 75thRRA, so it is a WIN, WIN situation. The only thing I may want to do is buy a brick or paver or whatever the program comes up with. I mention this because I feel it is something you'll be hearing much more about, and want you to be alerted. BG (RET) James Herbert has assembled a brief for "Patrolling Magazine", this will be in the next issue. I'd like to have feedback.

I've got to tell you fellows, today I was molested by the security at PIE. I had a ¼ full tube of toothpaste, had to throw it out. Then there was a wine cork remover with a ¾ inch dull blade to cut the seal of a wine bottle, which was confiscated. I was nearly arrested! Why does a combat disable vet or any American citizen need to be subjected to this stuff. I think the terrorists are winning! If we were to just allow our disapproval be known I believe it may make a difference.

Not much more at this time, just get in touch with a Ranger Buddy and invite him to join the best Ranger association in the world. This is not a "Last Man Standing" association. We need to reach out to the "Modern Day Rangers", they are the future.

RLTW

Bill Bullen

By: Jim Herbert BG, USA (RET) Chairman, ARMA

The American Ranger Memorial Association, Inc. (ARMA) met on July 11, 2008 with the US Army Heritage Center Foundation at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The main purpose for ARMA was to respond to their invitation for a visit and to consider a number of options for inclusion in the memorialization of the American Ranger within the US Army Heritage and Education Center. The Center wants participation of ARMA in their continuing development and has space available now.

The presentation was well organized, included a tour of the growing Army Heritage Trail and a splendid luncheon briefing which was convincing. ARMA officers and members voted for participation. Proxy votes for those who could not attend were cast in the affirmative.

Therefore, a revised mission statement for ARMA is required and is presented herewith for your review and approval or recommended revision.

### MISSION STATEMENT

"The American Ranger Memorial Association mission is to develop and construct appropriate memorials to the centuries of service of the American Ranger in this country from the 1600's to the current time and beyond, with memorials currently planned for the National Capital area and the US Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Additional sites can be added when appropriate."

Individuals with questions can contact:

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## FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Postelnic

### 2009 RANGER HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

It has been said many times before and it is worthy of repeating a thousand times more: There has never been a



**Bill Postelnic**

shortage of LRRPs and Rangers deserving to be in the Ranger Hall of Fame. But often there is a shortage of time in preparing nomination packets for our deserving brothers. The time when nomination packets will be due is coming fast. Now is the time begin the research and writing that successful nominations require.

For those of you taking the time to prepare a nomination packet for a brother, it is very important to precisely follow the format and instructions. When extra information like additional letters of recommendation and testimonials are included, or when some required information is not included, those packets can not be assessed fairly in relation to other nomination packets and are thus at a disadvantage.

For planning purposes, the format and instructions will be substantially the same as last year. The nomination packets will probably be due by the end of November. I will send out the new instructions and a sample packet to all Unit Directors as soon as I receive them from the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment S-5 shop. I will also have this information posted on the Association website. If you have any questions regarding the Ranger Hall of Fame or the preparation of nomination packets, call or e-mail me.

### THE BOND OF BROTHERHOOD

Of all in my life, save my wife and children, there has been nothing more important to me than having had the privilege and honor of serving with the best of men... Sharing sacrifice and success, sorrow and anger, fear and excitement, the rush of adrenalin standing in the door or grasping the rope, the unknown of insertion and the anticipation of extraction, the comic moments, the most

tragic situations, the mission and preparing for it, and above all the camaraderie and feeling that you are part of something special that is much bigger than yourself... Nothing compares.

It is this common bond we all share, and not just with those whom we had the opportunity to serve with, but with all those who have earned the title of LRRP and Ranger from whatever era. I feel this bond of brotherhood every time I am with a man who serves in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment today, or who served in Grenada, Panama or Somalia. I feel it when I reunite with a brother I have not seen for 40 years. I even feel it when I meet a veteran of Pointe Du Hoc who served years before I was born. There is something special about being with your own kind.

### 2009 ASSOCIATION REUNION AND RANGER RENDEZVOUS

It will probably be in late July or August and it will be at Fort Benning and Columbus Georgia. It will be the largest gathering of LRRPs and Rangers. There will be Rangers and Merrill's Marauders veterans from World War II. There will be veterans from the Ranger Companies of the Korean War. There will be veterans of every Vietnam Era LRP and LRRP Unit and Ranger Company. There will be veterans and active duty members of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. In all, it will be link-up of several thousand.

It is the place where and the time when you can gather with those you served with, honor our brothers who gave their lives in service, and share brotherhood with the men who led the way before you and for whom you led the way. There are many events including Ranger demonstrations, range firing, a mass tactical parachute jump and even the chance to make a jump yourself, the Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, combatives competitions, and plenty of time for camaraderie with men of all ages with whom you are indeed brothers. It is indeed unique experience and more information about it will be published in future editions of *Patrolling* and on the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association website.



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester



**John Chester**

It's been a while since I had anything to get real upset about. These pages have been remarkably free of any recriminations or rants from me. That changed abruptly when the courts up held civilian courts rights to try military personnel for "crimes" committed in a combat zone. I don't know the whole story, but what I could glean from Google, AP and other sources, the story is as follows.

Jose Luis Nazario, Jr., a former Marine Sergeant, is being prosecuted by a civilian court, (Federal District of California), for war crimes allegedly committed in Fallajuah, Iraq.

He is charged with one count of voluntary manslaughter on suspicion of killing or causing others to kill four unarmed detainees in November, 2004 in Fallajuah. The actual details of the case are relatively unimportant. The crucial point of the case is;

Should a civilian court be able to try a service member for an alleged crime committed while on active duty in a combat theatre? The law used to prosecute Sgt Nazario, The Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Law, was written in 2000 and amended in 2004. Its primary purpose is to prosecute civilian contractors who commit crimes while working for the U. S. overseas. One of the authors contends that prosecuting military personnel was "not the motivation for the law. I don't fault the Department of Justice for using what legal authority they have if a clear criminal act has been committed. But I do think that it would be preferable for crimes committed on active duty be prosecuted by Courts Martial, rather than in civilian courts," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.

As a matter of fact, there is a provision of the law that allows review of cases under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, (UCMJ), by Federal Courts for procedural or legal errors. Most folk are not aware that all criminal courts, civilian or under the UCMJ, are at two levels; trial courts, where FACTS are decided, and appellate courts, where legal and procedural actions are reviewed. In other words, if a jury decides that SGT Nazario shot a civilian, EVEN THOUGH testimony placed him 100 miles away at the same time, that decision is not subject to appeal. (***This is hypothetical, I do not know of any such testimony***). In other words, when a case goes up on appeal, WHAT was decided is not subject to review, HOW it was decided is the point of the appeal. It follows that a defendant's best

chance is to win is at the trial level. Loose there, and it becomes more and more difficult to win. A very small number of appeals are successful.

If the trier of fact is not competent to make an informed judgment, as would certainly be the case if an individual with no military experience was judging an individual in a combat situation, a successful defense becomes very unlikely. It may sound as if I am saying that anything done in combat is not subject to review, but I am saying that apples should be judged by apples, not by cherries. Trial by Courts Martial seems to me to be the only fair way to try offenses committed while an individual is on active duty, since the Court consists of members of the military. All decisions are subject Appellate Court review, and if egregious legal or procedural error was found, the case would be remanded for a new trial. At least the people judging the facts would be familiar with them.

Our political system has always kept the military separate from the legislative and judicial branches of government. It seems that that is no longer the case. It seems to me to be impossible for ANY civilian courts that tries fact, (a trial court), to render an informed and impartial verdict in a case involving combat. The old saying, "If you weren't there, no explanation is possible, if you were, no explanation is necessary," appears particularly apt here. How could anyone without military experience possibly judge the actions of an individual in a combat situation? I could go on ad nauseum about the split second decisions necessary for survival, about the cumulative stress that months and years of combat operations puts on an individual's psyche, about the fundamental differences in how an individual with combat stress experiences the world from someone without combat stress, about the rage and frustrations soldiers feel when the comrades are killed and mutilated by a faceless enemy, about the personal convictions shaped by combat stress that merge 'good' and 'bad' into something that just 'is', another day at the office, an office that those sitting in judgment could never conceive. But then, I'm preaching to the choir, aren't I?

I intend to bring my opinion to the attention of the elected representatives in my district. Hopefully, if enough of us do this, the law may be changed or amended.

On a related note, I keep hearing about the difficulty the military has in recruiting in these times of multiple deployments and longer tours on each deployment. I had an errant thought. Why not improve the Educational Benefits under the GI Bill. When I looked on the VA web site I



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

found that some other genius had a similar thought. The curious thing is, benefits under the new Act don't begin until August 1, 2009, and that it took nearly 7 years after the beginning of the GWOT to get it in place. (See information under Legislative Update). This is still a pretty anemic benefit. If you were a member of the greatest generation, were discharged after WW II, even if you never went overseas or heard a shot fired in anger, you got tuition and a living allowance at any school of higher learning you could get into. This act, at least, does take tuition into consideration, paying all or a portion of the maximum tuition charged by a public institution in the state in which you are going to school. It also last for 9 years after discharge (you could be institutionalized for PTSD, go through treatment, recover, and be discharged, and still finish college), and covers 36 months of benefits, enough to finish most four year colleges and universities. This isn't perfect, but it's a hell of a lot better than the GI Bill available to those of us who served in Vietnam.

When I went to law school on the GI Bill, I got a flat rate, regardless of where we went to school, (if memory serves it was \$640.00 a month, nothing for books, or for housing), and that was it. I might have been able to get into Georgetown Law. I couldn't afford it. I ended up at the University of Baltimore, not bad, but certainly not Georgetown. But maybe that's what was meant to be, if I went to Georgetown, I probably wouldn't be writing this. I'd probably be an Undersecretary of Something, never have been in touch with Jellyroll, Fones, Reiley, Anderson, Harris, Billie, Holmes, Mullinax, Hiltibrand, Bullen, Mitsch, Crunk, Frazier, the Blue Bucket Brigade (thanks Herb), Noble, Rodericks, Boatman, Gilbert, Herman, Parker, Ingraham, Postelnic, Little, Siverling, Nesbit, Edwards, Benner, Dushane, Cummings, and all the other people who have made my life interesting and meaningful for the last 10 years or so. *If I didn't mention your name it's because I'll be 65 in a few weeks, and we only have so much space in the magazine.*

On a lighter note, at the end of June, the K/75, E/58, 4th Div LRRP reunion was held in Kansas City, MO. As I mentioned before, Mary Anne and I bought a house in her hometown of



**Tom Sove, former Secretary, Bill Bullen, current President, Wayne Mitsch, former Vice President, John Chester, current Secretary.**



**Banner that greeted us when we entered the host hotel.**

Altoona, PA. It's a real nice 5 bedroom brick house, but it has been owned by a couple for 60 years and it needed some work, (a lot of work). Needless to say we started in early June, (Fred Fones came out from Arizona to help), and Mary Anne worked me like a borrowed mule. As I write this, I'm still not finished.

Bill Bullen & I had agreed to attend the reunion, with me driving from Altoona, much further west than his location. Bill & Donna flew their airplane from their home to the Martinsburg airport, about 12 miles from Altoona. We picked them up and left for Kansas City the next day at Oh dark thirty. After a relatively uneventful trip (only one major and two minor arguments), we



**Don Keller, former 1SG of K/75**

got to KC and the games began. It was an eventful trip. We went to the National World War I museum, and that's certainly worth the trip if you're in KC, as well as



**Brian West, Larry Moore, Joe Robertson**

number of great steak houses that are in the area. I had recently acquired a Garmin Nuvi, a sat nav for cars; just stick it on the windshield, tell it where you want to go and it starts talking to you. It was worth its weight in gold, we didn't get lost once. And for a couple old LRRP/Rangers, that ain't bad.



**Ray Allen, Harry Phair & Roger Crunk, Unit Director.**

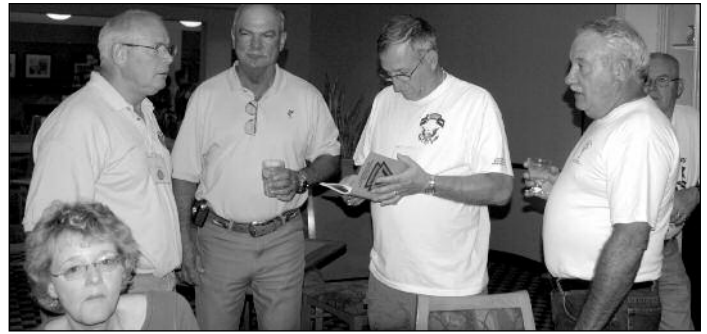


## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

We got to catch up with everyone and even got some Association business done, since 4 of the 5 elected officers were present. Another interesting point occurred, Don Keller, former 1SG of K/75, brought it to our attention legislation has been passed that makes it permissible for veterans of military service to salute the flag during the playing of the National Anthem.



**The Ranger ladies, Cass Sove, Donna Bullen, Cindy Phair, Mary Anne Colledge, Fran Mitsch, Nancy Sanderson, Carol Noble, Pat Warren, Rachel Fusser.**



**Tom Sove, Boydston, Nelson, Herb Reichel**



**Rick Nobel**

That's all that's fit to print. We hope to have some reunion, 2009 information in the December issue, and some information on the election of officers at that reunion as well. As I have said in nearly every issue, we always need photos with captions, poems, cartoons, short anecdotes, etc. to use as filler if we fall short of pages to make it 4 up.

**PLEASE DO NOT IMBED PHOTOS INTO A TEXT FILE. I CAN'T USE EITHER.** Send the text file and the photos as separate files.

### **Subject: New Law on Saluting the Flag**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and service members not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and service members not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.**

**"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."**

**This bill was passed July 25, 2007. Let your veteran friends know about the passage of this bill.**

**MSG Valdez C. Matthews  
Sr. Operations NCO**

**New law allowing veterans to salute the flag.**



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

### The Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside all people. He said, 'My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all..

One is Evil.

It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, and

superiority and ego.

The other is Good.

It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, honor, courage and faith.

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: 'Which wolf wins?'

The old Cherokee simply replied, 'The one you feed'!

## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Reuben Siverling

Foreclosures, stock market plunging, Fannie, Freddie, Sub prime Mortgages, a run on the banks, \$5.00 per gallon gasoline——Whoa! Enough!



Reuben Siverling

Stop! Where is the good news? Well it is right here within Your Association. The emphasis is Your. You are doing great and need to be assured of it. If there is a recession, thankfully the majority of us have elected to not participate. I will attempt to keep the Treasurer's message brief so if this is as far as you read, relax and be aware that you are doing well.

As your Association deals with many issues, many times there are income or expense dollars associated with those issues. Lifetime Membership at a graduated or declining payment, charitable giving, sponsorship, housing for the homeless, help for the disabled, rent payments for those families suffering financial hardship due to multiple deployments of the sponsor, joint financial ventures with other not-for-profits, reimbursement for members providing services or comfort to the families of fallen Rangers. Oh yes, we read and discuss them all with an acute sensitivity to the needs and sincerity of each request.

We are a self-funded not-for-profit association with elected officers (each one a dues paying member - not reimbursed for personal expenses- committed to stewardship and operating in a manner that promotes growth as opposed to zero sum balances. Our finance and fund control decisions are not made in a vacuum thus we are financially healthy and pleased with our mid-year report. Succinctly stated, during the past three years, we have maintained sufficient balances in the operating account to pay bills on a timely manner. This involves "living within our means" and not incurring

any current or future debt. This is evidenced by the continual cost cutting measures John and others focus on in selection of vendors, printers, mailing costs, media mailings, website maintenance, etc. Conversely we also look at the income side with equal scrutiny. This is reflected in the paid advertising in our magazine, continual growth in dues paying membership, and maintaining interest income bearing accounts on funds not restricted or dedicated for disbursement within the subsequent six months. For example, and I'll use rounded figures here, last week we had a six-month Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$53,000 mature which during the past six months has earned more than \$1,400 interest. Interest rates on savings accounts have dropped more than two percent (2%) per annum since the first of this year. Accordingly, we "shopped" the banks to get the best rate for the next six months.

To some, that small amount of interest on that relatively small amount of principal may seem insignificant. The significance is that the interest earned and accrued in savings accounts pays for the postage/ mailing costs of Patrolling Magazine each quarter. The compound effect of decreasing printing and mailing costs while increasing the amount of income by placing excess funds into interest earning accounts close funds control has served us all very well. We realize this is banking strategy 101 for most and is entered here as information we are entitled to.

I also take this space and opportunity to commend the stewardship and generosity of our members. The growth of our Ranger population and families is very evident. Not coincidentally is the fact that contributions to the Family Fund have been steady and increasing. Your Association Officers have already entered discussion on the desire to increase the amount of funds that will be distributed to the Family Liaison representatives within each battalion. See



## TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Patrolling Winter 2007/Spring 2008 Volume 22 Issue IV  
for more information about the Family Fund.

'Tis the season of Unit Reunions and I am confident there will be after-action reports from many Unit Directors in this and subsequent issues. My first hand (and obviously biased) report of the 4<sup>th</sup> ID LRP/LRRP K 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Reunion here in Kansas City is glowing in every sense of the word. The plan, the planning and the execution all had glitches to overcome and brother we are surrounded by over-comers. What a generous outpouring of community, organizations, and individual support. Again, the generosity of our attendees was evidenced and no demands or requests for individual recognition. From the very first announcement more than a year ago, and with no appeal for funds from the Association, some of our men began offering assistance in locating our brothers, getting the word out and sending in tangible donations from \$10 to more than \$1,000. In April, one former Ranger from a Vietnam Unit far removed from the 4<sup>th</sup> Division graciously called me and paid for one of our men's lodging for a night. Not one, I say again, not one of these men will permit our Planning Committee, Roger Crunk (Unit Director) Wayne Mitch (Unit Treasurer) Tom Sove (Unit Historian) Herb Reichel (missing Hat Ceremony Director) or I to identify them or the amount of their gift(s). However, I would be

so remiss to not mention, recognize and commend their generosity and go-give spirit which is yet another example of Rangers Leading the Way, In Every Way. The local community leaders and individuals in Kansas City also caught more than a glimpse of the desire to welcome and honor our brothers and families. Their many contributions are nothing short of overwhelming.

My wife Bonita and I are receiving much of the credit for this and we will admit to attempting to provide a lifetime memory of a great homecoming reunion. However, my point in mentioning it here is to again emphasize these good things are not ever accomplished alone. Don't keep putting off the opportunity to honor your brave and steadfast brothers. Show your appreciation to them in a real meaningful way. I am obviously blessed beyond description having an impeccable detailed, and accountable planning committee whose sole purpose was nothing but the best for honoring our courageous men so deserving of this much delayed welcome. Having now done it once in a very big way, I do not claim to be the world's best event planner and fund raiser but know we are willing to share some ideas that worked. Get involved, stay involved then witness and experience the gift of giving it your best. Let's pass on good practices and a rich "still serving" atmosphere to those who are going to replace us.



**Dennis Kim, (R) & Robbie Robinson from Australia**  
**They were toghted at the Duc My BDQ Training Camp**



**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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 L. Bullen, President

### **ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE UPDATE 07:**

The Internal Revenue Service wants retirees and veterans to know that it is not too late to file for an economic stimulus payment. The IRS plans to send a second set of information packets to 5.2 million people who may be eligible but who have not yet filed for their stimulus payment. The packages will contain everything needed by a person who normally does not file a tax return but who must file this year in order to receive a payment of up to \$300 — \$600 for those married and filing jointly. The deadline for filing for the payment is 15 OCT. For more information call the rebate hot line at (866) 234-2942 or check the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov/newsroom/](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/) [Source: Veterans Journal article 11 Aug 08 ++]

### **DISABLED VETERANS MEMORIAL UPDATE 02:**

Congress approved legislation which the president signed into law requiring the U.S. Mint to issue 350,000 silver coins to raise money for a memorial near the U.S. Capitol honoring disabled veterans. Across Independence Avenue from the U.S. Botanic Garden are two acres dedicated to the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, but raising the \$86 million for design, construction, maintenance and outreach has been a campaign for supporters. A \$3 million pledge from H. Ross Perot earlier this year put the total collected near \$70 million. The House and Senate authorized the minting of 350,000 \$1 coins, which will be sold with a \$10 surcharge. The proceeds of the surcharge will be paid directly to the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation. The foundation was incorporated in 1998, but fundraising did not begin in earnest until 2002. The memorial will honor 3 million veterans currently living with a disability as a result of their military service. The design, approved by the Commission of Fine Arts in 2004, features a star-shaped

reflecting pool, an everlasting flame and grove of trees. The memorial is designed "not just to show all of the veterans how much we care about them and honor them but also to remind future Congresses that freedom is not free, that a price is very high when the president calls on our armed forces to deliver, and when they do, we honor them and will always remember their memory," Rep. Mark Steven Kirk, R-Ill., said recently on the House floor. The coins will be issued in 2010, weigh 26.73 grams, be 1.5 inches in diameter and contain 90% silver and 10% copper. For more information refer to <http://www.avdml.org>. [Source: EANGUS Minuteman Update 7 Aug 08]

### **FORECLOSURE UPDATE 03:**

"The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008", H.R.3221 was recently signed into law (PL 110-289). To review the full law, go to: <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and type HR 3221 into the search field. This legislation is designed to help homeowners keep their existing homes and provide first-time buyers access to affordable housing. Military families should know that there are several provisions within the Act that uniquely impact service members and veterans. The law will:

Exclude military housing allowances from counting as income when service members try to qualify for low-income housing;

Expand the foreclosure protection for service members returning from deployment. Previously, service members had 90 days of protection from foreclosure, now they have nine months. This temporary protection expires on December 31, 2010;

Provide a temporary increase until the end of the year for the maximum loan guaranteed by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). The cap can be as high as \$720,750 and as low as \$417,000 depending on the median housing prices for the area;

Require the Secretary of Defense to develop a program to



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

provide financial counseling to returning service members, including credit and home mortgage counseling;

Provide a moving benefit to service members who are forced to move out of rental housing if the owner of the housing is foreclosed on;

Increase grants for severally disabled veterans from \$50,000 to \$60,000;

Make totally disabled service members held on active duty for medical reasons eligible for VA grants for home alternations before their discharge;

Extend grants for specially adapted housing and assistance to veterans with severe burns and veterans residing outside the United States; and

Allow veteran benefits received as a lump sum to be treated as monthly benefits for the purposes of eligibility for Section 8 Housing assistance.

[Source: NMFA Government and You E-News 12 Aug 08 ++]

### **USFSPA & DIVORCE UPDATE 02:**

The USFSPA Litigation Support Group (ULSG) closely monitors cases filed in state courts where former servicemembers, who are receiving military retirement pay, are locked in disputes with former spouses when that pay is converted, by election, to military disability pay under applicable VA benefits. This is a common move by former servicemembers who receive a VA disability rating because of the tax advantages of receiving disability pay over retired pay. Former spouses usually dispute such an election and demand that foregone share of military retired pay be rendered to them, even though the former servicemember's only (or major) source of income is now disability pay. Usually, former servicemembers (and their lawyers) rely solely on the provisions of the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA) which prevents the treatment of military disability pay as disposable pay for purposes of payments to former spouses. See USFSPA, 10 U.S.C. §

1408(a)(4)(B). But state courts continue to ignore that provision and rule against the interests of former servicemembers.

It is vital, therefore, that ULSG members and constituents also rely on the relevant provisions of the Veterans' Benefits Act, 38 U.S.C. § 5301, which provides that payments of benefits due or to become due under any law administered by the Secretary [of Veterans Affairs] shall not be assignable except to the extent specifically authorized by law, and such payments made to, or on account of, a beneficiary shall be ... exempt from the claim of creditors, and shall not be liable to attachment, levy, or

seizure by or under any legal or equitable process whatever, either before or after receipt by the beneficiary. Congress recently amended the VBA and this applicable provision Id. § 5301(a)(1). , to clarify that, in any case where a beneficiary entitled to compensation, pension, or dependency and indemnity compensation enters into an agreement with another person under which agreement such other person acquires for consideration the right to receive such benefit by payment of such compensation, pension or dependency and indemnity compensation, as the case may be ... such agreement shall be deemed to be an assignment and is prohibited. Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, Pub. L. No. 108-183, § 702, 117 Stat. 2651, Dec. 16, 2003, codified at § 5301(a)(3)(A).

ULSG members finding themselves in litigation on questions related to this advisory should instruct their lawyers to brief and argue – from the very beginning of the case, and at every opportunity thereafter – the Veterans Benefits Act (VBA) issue, in support of their position. While ULSG, LLC cannot provide individualized legal advice to its members and constituents, or answer individual queries, ULSG leadership believes that this is a prudent course to follow in cases such as this. ULSG would appreciate hearing reports on this issue from those concerned. They can be reached at [Leadership@ulsg.org](mailto:Leadership@ulsg.org) or by mail to ULSG, LLC, 20770 US Hwy 281, Ste 108-12, San Antonio, Texas 78258-7500. [Source: ULSG Advisory 5 Aug 08 ++]

### **VA MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE 05:**

The House overwhelmingly approved a bill that—among other things—would increase the mileage compensation paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by nearly 50% to help vets who have to drive long distances to receive medical care. The increase in mileage compensation—to 41.5 cents per mile—was included in the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, which must still be considered by the Senate and approved by President Bush, said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Dave Obey (D-WI). The spending bill—which passed 409 to 4—would provide \$336 million above Bush's FY 2009 budget request for servicemember quality-of-life projects to improve living conditions and health care delivery. Projects include the modernization of training facilities, as well as the building of child care centers, barracks and housing, Obey said. The bill also would address the backlog in maintenance at VA medical facilities; improve access to health care for vets in



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

areas where VA does not offer services; increase availability of new generation prosthetics; substantially increase funding for research into trauma, mental health and other critical areas; and provide additional case workers and medical services for homeless vets. [Source: Rep. Dave Obey press release 1 Aug 08 ++]

### **VA COLA 2009:**

S.2617, the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008 introduced by Senator Akaka, was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate 30 JUL. If passed in the House, it will adjust veterans' compensation rates to keep pace with inflation effective 1 DEC 08. According to recent data provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs this increase will go to 2.8 million veterans and over 300,000 surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation. The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for their consideration. While this year's cost-of-living increase has yet to be determined, the congressional Budget Office has projected a 2.8% increase. Last year's increase was 2.3% [source: Sen. Akaka press release 21 Jun 08 +]

### **POST 9/11 GI BILL**

By: John Chester

The Post- 9/11 GI Bill is a new benefit providing educational assistance to individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. It has taken 7 years after 9/11 to get this in place, but it does offer quite a few improvements over the Vietnam era GI Bill and the Post Vietnam era GI Bill. The fact that it does not begin until next year will certainly have a deleterious affect on anyone who is eligible and is currently in school. If you served, for example, three years active duty from January, 2002 until January, 2005, enrolled in school in January, 2005, all the time you were enrolled before August 1, 2009 would not be compensated. I suppose the prime motivator here was to prevent a logjam of claims (not unknown to the VA), that would be difficult if not impossible to authenticate, but it does seem to penalize the individuals that got out and got on with their life.

#### **When Can I Receive Benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill?**

Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

#### **Am I Eligible?**

At a minimum, you must have served at least 30 days of continuous active duty service after September 10, 2001

and be discharged due to a service-connected disability, **or** served an aggregate of 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001, and—

- Be honorably discharged from Armed Forces; or
- Be released from Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable and placed on the retired list, temporary disability retired list, or transferred to the Fleet Reserve or the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; or
- Be released from the Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable for further service in a reserve component; or
- Be discharged or released from Armed Forces for:
  - o EPTS (Existed Prior to Service)
  - o HDSP (Hardship) or
  - o CIWD (Condition Interfered with Duty); or
- Continue to be on active duty.

#### **If I am eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill (chapter 30), Montgomery GI Bill- Selected Reserve (chapter 1606), or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (chapter 1607), am I eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill?**

You may elect to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill if, on August 1, 2009, you have met the requirements to qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and you are eligible for chapter 30, 1606, 1607, or are serving in the Armed Forces.

#### **How many months of assistance can I receive?**

Generally, you may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

#### **How much will I receive?**

You are entitled to a percentage, as determined by your length of active duty service, of the following:

- Amount of tuition and fees charged, not to exceed the most expensive in-State undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education (paid to school);
  - Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing (BAH) amount payable to a military E-5 with dependents, in same zip code as school \* (paid to you);
- and
- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1000\* per year (paid to you); and
  - A one time payment of \$500 may be payable to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas. (paid to you)



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

☐ **NOTE** –Housing allowance and books and supplies stipend is not payable to individuals on active duty. Housing allowance is not payable for those pursuing training at half time or less or to individuals taking distance learning.

Individuals must serve an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:

If you serve:	Percent of entitlement:
A least 36 months.	100%
At least 30 consecutive days on active duty & discharged due to a service connected disability.	100%
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months.	90%
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months.	80%
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months.	70%
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months.	60%
At least 6 months, but less than 12 months.	50%
At least 90 days, but less than 6 months.	40%

**Examples:**

Tuition and Fees charged for full time: \$6700

Highest In-State Tuition and Fees: \$7000

**Example 1:** If you served for three years on active duty and separated, and you are going to school full-time, in the above example you would be eligible for \$6700 for tuition and fees, the monthly housing allowance, and \$1000 for books and supplies.

**Example 2:** If you aggregated 12 months of active duty service in the guard or reserves, and were going to school full-time, you would be eligible for \$4020 (60% of \$6700) for tuition and fees, \$600 (60% of \$1000) for books and supplies stipend, and 60% of the monthly housing allowance.

**How long am I eligible?**

You will be eligible for benefits for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days. If you were released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, you will also be eligible for benefits for 15 years.

**What does The Post- 9/11 GI Bill cover?**

You may receive benefits for training programs approved for chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning. This includes graduate and undergraduate training, and vocational/technical training. You may also receive benefits for tutorial assistance and reimbursement of one licensing and certification test.

Additionally, if you were eligible for chapter 30, 1606 or 1607, and you elected to use benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you would be eligible to receive benefits for on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, correspondence courses, flight training, preparatory courses, and national exams.

**Can I transfer my entitlement to my dependents?**

If you are a member of the Armed Forces on August 1, 2009, the Department of Defense (DoD) may offer you the opportunity to transfer benefits to your spouse or dependent children. DoD and the Military Services will issue policy on use of transferability in the coming months.

Visit **WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV** for up to date information on this and other education benefits.

**DO NOT RELY SOLELY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ARTICLE TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY.**

**Ed Note:**

All you modern Rangers who served after 9/11/2001 should take particular notice of this item.

Authority: WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV



# HEALTH

## 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.*

### Agent Orange

Veterans exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange are twice as likely to get prostate cancer as other veterans, UC Davis researchers found in a study published online by the journal Cancer. Prostate cancer in those men also comes on earlier and is more aggressive, said Dr. Karim Chaime, chief resident in urology at UC Davis and the study's lead author. The findings are a clear signal that men who worked with Agent Orange should be cared for differently, getting earlier biopsies and more aggressive treatment, he said. "This is a high-risk group." Chaime described the study of more than 13,000 Northern California veterans over eight years as "the biggest study ever done" on Agent Orange effects. It will be published in the 15 SEP print edition of Cancer, after online publication last week, and Chaime hopes it soon could lead to new Department of Veterans' Affairs treatment standards.

For Vietnam vet James McKasson, who participated in the study, the findings are a reminder that no one exposed to Agent Orange should delay prostate-cancer testing. McKasson, 62, a retired auto mechanic, said he's doing well after being diagnosed with prostate cancer last year – 40 years after he helped load Agent Orange onto planes in the 1960s. He worked with both liquid and powdered forms of the chemical, and "this stuff would slop around; it would drip on you," he recalled. "You'd walk through it and get it on your shoes, on your clothes, on your hands. ... They didn't give us any protective clothing at all." For decades, McKasson didn't worry much about studies that linked exposure to diseases ranging from diabetes to soft-tissue cancer to birth defects in veterans' children. "I'm an advocate now," he said, telling his "stubborn" friends to have regular checks for prostate cancer.

The chemical was used widely during the Vietnam War to defoliate jungle areas where U.S. forces believed enemies were hiding. It also was used around U.S. military facilities at home and abroad as early as the 1950s, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. About 375,000 men nationwide are on the military's Agent Orange registry of those exposed, and roughly one-third can be expected to develop prostate cancer, Chaime said. "This has huge implications for men, especially in the VA," but also

for those treated by private insurance, whose primary care doctors and urologists may not have seen the latest data, he added. Of the 13,000 men followed by the study, just under half had been exposed to Agent Orange. Among the 6,214 exposed, 239 were diagnosed with prostate cancer over eight years, compared with 124 of 6,930 unexposed veterans. [Source: The Sacramento Bee Carrie Peyton Dahlberg article 5 Aug 08 ++]

### HEP-C INFO

Ed. Note: The following links are easy to read and understandable. If you have Hep-C, they will be most beneficial. Pass them on to anyone you know who may be at risk.

### Finally the truth about what it means to have hepatitis c.

This 4 part series- Jonathan Gems "You Tube" video- Clears up many misconceptions in a most entertaining, informative and alarming reality.

Please pass these links on to your friends, family, but most important, Capitol Hill. Encourage legislators to rethink the policies of our "for profit" public health system and failure of our VA-

### **"Each hour of every day, three people die from Hepatitis C or it's related conditions! Two of these people have Military backgrounds"**

This film will provide Hep C advocates with a powerful tool to make awareness happen. Jonathan Gems "You Tube" Video- Me, Hep C and the NHS

#### Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRplOylfgjI>

#### Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkikoGnW6VM&feature=related>

#### Part 3

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJWM0Ie\\_JHk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJWM0Ie_JHk)

#### Part 4

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWSQLTEjjjQ>



# HEALTH

Find Capitol Hill Representatives Senate  
[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)  
Congress <https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>

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UPDATE: Hepatitis C Virus Transmission Methods-  
Research & Documentation Risk Factors: How the  
Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Transmits  
[http://hcvets.com/data/transmission\\_methods/transmission.htm](http://hcvets.com/data/transmission_methods/transmission.htm)

## **PTSD leaves physical footprints on the brain**

Justin Berton, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writer,  
Sunday, July 27, 2008

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/26/MNH611UUP5.DTL>

At a recent conference for some of the area's leading neurologists, San Francisco physicist Norbert Schuff captured his colleagues' attention when he presented colorful brain images of U.S. soldiers who had returned from Iraq and Afghanistan and were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The yellow areas, Schuff explained during his presentation at the city's Veterans Affairs Medical Center, showed where the hippocampus, which plays major roles in short-term memory and emotions, had atrophied. The red swatches marked hyperfusion - increased blood flow - in the prefrontal cortex, the region responsible for conflict resolution and decision-making. Compared with a soldier without the affliction, the PTSD brain had lost 5 to 10 percent of its gray matter volume, indicating yet more neuron damage.

Schuff, who was dressed in a Hawaiian shirt just as colorful as the brain images he'd brought, reminded his colleagues that while his findings were preliminary and the trials ongoing, researchers were at least inching closer to finding the biological markers that distinguish a brain affected by PTSD. As the technology of brain imaging improves and the resulting data are refined, doctors believe that one day they will be able to look at a computer screen and see PTSD as clearly as they now see a brain tumor.

"But we're still in the infancy of neuroimaging," Schuff cautioned later in his office. "Do you get PTSD because you have a small hippocampus? Or does a small hippocampus mean you'll develop PTSD? That, we still don't know."

Schuff's research is at the forefront of a bold push by the Department of Defense to address PTSD, the psychological disorder that will haunt an estimated 30 percent of the

veterans returning from the current two wars, according to the Pentagon. Forty thousand veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, Pentagon officials say, have already been diagnosed with PTSD, which is defined as an anxiety disorder triggered by exposure to traumatic events; symptoms can include nightmares, flashbacks and panic attacks.

Left untreated, clinicians say, patients with PTSD are more likely to engage in anti-social behaviors such as alcohol and drug abuse. The disorder, neurologists are now learning, can also lead to long-term maladies, such as Alzheimer's and dementia.

## **Manhattan Project urgency**

The quest is to understand how the disorder begins inside the brain. The Defense Department has invested \$78 million in San Francisco's Northern California Institute for Research and Education at the VA center in the past four years, making it the largest VA research institute in the country and the only one that specializes in neuroscience. With 200 researchers on staff, and an estimated 40 ongoing studies that rely on 60 to 80 veterans as research participants, the center has the urgency of a Manhattan Project site, this time searching for a way to end a mental health crisis.

The Department of Defense "has such a compelling need for these answers," said Dr. Thomas Neylan, an associate professor of psychiatry at UCSF and director of the post-traumatic stress disorder program at the VA center. "They want to know these answers now, which is the right approach. We want the answers now; people are still going off to the war, coming back, and a lot of them are suffering for a long time."

The search for PTSD biological markers through brain imagining is the primary concern of five research centers in the country, including teams at Harvard and Emory universities. Researchers believe that once the markers are defined, successful treatments can be developed.

Since 1995, magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, has been used to explore the brain through mostly black-and-white images with fuzzy resolution. But in the past few years, advances in computer-imaging technology have enabled neurologists to detect the smallest changes in brain activity. At the San Francisco VA center, thanks to the installment five years ago of a \$4 million MRI machine called the 4T - T stands for Tesla, a unit of magnetic field - Schuff and his colleagues are now able to look into the brain at 1 millimeter resolution, in color and in 3-D. By contrast, Schuff said a 1.5T MRI machine could not register atrophy on PTSD brains. But the 7T MRI machine that was installed at the UCSF Mission Bay campus last year can detect microscopic neuron damage that a 4T is incapable of "seeing."



# HEALTH

“With each stronger magnet, we get a finer view of what’s going on in the brain,” Neylan said.

These advances allow neurologists not only to further understand PTSD, but to study its relationship with brain trauma, one of the leading injuries incurred by soldiers in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

## The effects of IEDs

At the VA conference, titled “The Brain at War: Neurocognitive Consequences of Combat,” Col. Karl Friedl, director of the U.S. Army Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, explained why brain injuries have become more prevalent. The main cause: the improvised explosive device, or IED, a homemade device that has become the enemy’s signature weapon.

While some well-armored soldiers were able to survive the IED blasts, incurring no outward signs of damage, they later complained of dizziness and “having their bell rung,” symptoms consistent with the lesser-known mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI).

As many as 150,000 troops have been diagnosed with brain injuries, the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force reported last year, but it’s unknown how many suffer from mTBI. Mild brain injuries are less often diagnosed because soldiers often believe getting knocked around is part of the job. But over time, with each successive mild brain injury, the effects can become more severe.

The link between mild brain trauma and PTSD is being studied at the VA center in San Francisco by Dr. Gary Abrams, whose preliminary studies show that the overlap between PTSD patients and sufferers of mild brain trauma injury “is tremendous.” Abrams has yet to release definitive numbers.

During the next two years, Neylan expects the center will produce a few major findings in terms of possible treatments and advances in neuroimaging. One of the outcomes of the advanced brain imaging could be a prescreen test for soldiers to detect brains already showing PTSD tendencies. Neylan, who specializes in the role sleep plays in a healthy mind, is working on a study of police officers who are resistant to PTSD.

“We’re using this opportunity to also see why some people are able to walk away from these situations and live healthy lives,” he said, “and why others are not.”

## Recent attempts to estimate frequency

**Iraq and Afghanistan:** The number of post-traumatic stress disorder cases is in dispute. The Pentagon estimates

30 percent of veterans from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars will be diagnosed with PTSD. **Vietnam War:** In 1988, a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated the rate of Vietnam vets with PTSD at 14.7 percent. But the 1990 National Vietnam Readjustment Study calculated the rate at 30.9 percent. Both relied mainly on self-reporting. In 2006, a paper in the journal *Science* added to the debate by estimating the rate at 18.7 percent. **World War II:** Though there was no official PTSD diagnosis until 1980, after World War II the term “shell shock” was reported by veterans troubled by combat experiences. Researchers such as Dr. Charles Marmar at the San Francisco VA center’s Northern California Institute for Research and Education estimate the number of WWII vets with PTSD is consistent with the 1-in-5 figures found in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf War. - Justin Berton

## Experiments probe further into post-traumatic stress disorder

Four PTSD-related research experiments at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center:

**Nasal spray:** Scott Panter is developing a battlefield-ready nasal spray for troops who suffer brain trauma. After the trauma occurs, the brain swells, causing tissue damage. Panter’s nasal spray, applied within 20 minutes of a trauma, would aim to stop the swelling process. Troops could carry the spray in their packs and self-apply or administer to others.

**D-cycloserine:** Dr. Charles Marmar is conducting trials on PTSD patients using D-cycloserine. The drug, which was originally used as an antibiotic for tuberculosis, has also proved to help lab animals “unlearn fear responses.” Given in small doses 30 minutes before a therapy session, D-cyclo is meant to help PTSD patients open up about their traumatic experiences and become more willing to engage in therapy. The hypothesis is that the group taking D-cyclo will make more and faster progress in therapy.

**Blood/gene test:** Dr. Lynn Pulliam is trying to establish a blood profile to diagnose PTSD. Using gene array technology, researchers will be able to take an RNA test, much like a DNA test, to determine whether a patient “tests positive” for PTSD.

**Sleep experiment:** Dr. Thomas Neylan is conducting a study on improving veterans’ sleep habits without drugs. Neylan said PTSD patients often feel anxious about sleeping, in part because they anticipate insomnia but also because they worry about nightmares. Subjects are coached to avoid substances that interfere with their sleep. “If we get them to sleep better at night,” Neylan said, “they’ll have fewer nightmares and feel better during the day.”



## FEATURE ARTICLES

### Our Three Sons

Dear members of the 75th Ranger Regimental Association,

Over the last 10 years we've had the honor to have our 3 sons serving in the 75th Ranger Regiment. SFC Kris Conklin HHC RRD, SSGT Curt Conklin HHC RRC, Sgt. Casey Conklin 3rd Batt C-CO.



I won't elaborate on their deployments and all the things they and Regiment has done because I'm not qualified, they did this, not me. I will instead write to you from a parent's perspective about how we have felt over the last 10 years about our son's service in this elite Regiment.

We first landed at Ft Benning to visit our oldest son when Col. Stan McCrystal was the RCO. During our first visit I ran into Ranger Terry Roderick in the lobby of the Sheridan Hotel in Columbus where your organization was bunked for the Ranger Rendezvous that year. He began a long process of educating me as to what type of unit my son had joined and very graciously invited me to have a beer with him (ended up being several beers over the next few days) and others of your group.

Along on this trip were my wife Peggy and our two younger sons who were still in high school. Peggy and I and the younger boys, the bear cubs as I called them back then, were treated with the respect and hospitality from your group and those at Regiment during that visit which I can only liken to that which is reserved for family and close friends in my life's experience. Since then our 2 younger sons joined the Army and Regiment and between the 3 have served 10, 8 and 4 years. We've been honored to visit Regiment many more times since we met Col. McCrystal on our first visit and subsequently, Col. Keen, Col. Votel, Col. Nixon, Col. La Camra and now Col. Clarke and to have attended all their Change of Commands.

Each time the experience was the same. Each time we left so impressed with the young Rangers, their NCO's, Commanders and your members. For selfish reasons I was humbled each time. I came way knowing all my sons were doing what they had set their sights on, accomplishing their dreams of serving with the best and doing much more than I had ever done at their age. As a father I wanted like all fathers for them to best me and they have. Peggy and I have treated their experience and our involvement in support of the Regiment and the Army in the work we do as if our sons were at Stanford or Yale. The education, experience and life lessons they have learned at Regiment, the friends for life they have made will, I'm sure, as many times I've heard said by you older Rangers become their foundation in life. This is an education that few experience or can earn and I'm convinced that it cannot be measured in dollars nor like any national treasure can it be bought.

I know you all understand where I'm coming from. We just raised them, the Ranger Regiment and their personal resolve made them men. Peg and I cannot totally express in words on paper the immense honor and pride we feel to have our son's at Regiment. Nor to be able to ever thank you adequately for the kindness all of you have shown by allowing us to stand on the sideline near you while visiting our sons. It has been an amazing journey with times of joy, fear, and sadness. All experiences that have made us better people. We place a very high value on knowing our sons served with your legacy, men such as yourselves, your Rangers, the best of the best.

Again it has been our honor to know you.

God bless you all,  
Mike & Peggy Conklin

Rangers Lead The Way!

**Ed. Note:** I first became aware of the Conklin family through the good offices of Terry Rodericks. Mike is also the president of an organization called Sentinels of Freedom, which provides scholarships and other assistance for wounded veterans of the GWOT. I have seen evidence of some of the things they do to assist severely disabled veterans. I have enclosed contact information below, as well as a photo of the annual Sentinel's of Freedom golf tournament. The title of this piece was not Mike or Peggy's doing, it was mine, because in a sense all of these young men making the sacrifices are indeed the sons of those of



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

us who went before, just as we were the sons of those who went before us.

“We shall never leave you, We shall never forsake you”

MIKE CONKLIN

President

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation

350 Montgomery Street

San Ramon, Ca. 94583

925-242-8921 off. 925-242-8900 fax 925-216-8583 cell

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[www.sentinelsoffreedom.org](http://www.sentinelsoffreedom.org)

IRS-EIN Non-Profit Number 20-8139201



### PASSING OF A RANGER

On April 18, 2008, Major James Joseph Altieri, Original Darby Ranger, 1F/4F, was called to a higher authority. While a bagpiper played, Jim was laid to rest at the Pacific View Cemetery, Corona del Mar, CA overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It was a bright, shining day with Commando Geoffrey Parrot, Chaplain to the Western Chapter of RBA, officiating. Frank Lenaghan made a comment that Jim had always referred to him as his aide de camp. Frank explained that it meant; he took Jim to the airport, watered his plants, fed his cat, and got Jim coffee! What Frank didn't say was he took great care of Jim, especially these last few years. Rangers from many eras performed the Once an Eagle ceremony, followed by taps. As if on queue, a jet taking off from John Wayne Airport flew overhead. Believing in Ranger Angels, we thought we saw the plane lower its wing acknowledging the passing of a great American Soldier. We knew that Jim was being carried away first class to be with his Ranger Brothers. Major James Altieri had the honored burial service he deserved.

Altieri volunteered for the 1st Ranger Battalion in June 1942 in Northern Ireland. He trained in Scotland under the British Commandos and took part in the raids at Arzew, Algeria; the Sened Station Raid and Dernia Pass battles in Tunisia, winning for his bravery and valor battlefield promotion from corporal to sergeant. As a S/Sgt with the newly created 4th Battalion, he helped train the new volunteers when the Original 1st Battalion was split into thirds to create and train the new volunteers for the 1-3-4 Ranger Battalions at Nemours, North Africa. These three Battalions came to be known as “Darby Rangers.” He took part in the invasion of Sicily at Gela. He was awarded a battlefield promotion to 1st Sgt there. General Mark Clark also awarded him a battlefield promotion at Casserta, Italy on Christmas Day, 1943. He received another battlefield promotion after Cisterna, this time to 1st Lieutenant. He received two purple hearts and two Bronze Stars.

Upon his return to the states, Ranger Altieri wrote two books about his Ranger experience: The Spearheaders and Darby's Rangers. He also wrote and supervised the filming of Army-sponsored color documentaries including This is Your Army. His book Darby's Rangers was the basis for the screenwriting and movie Darby's Rangers starring James Gardner.

Ranger Altieri has served as president of the Ranger Battalion Association of WWII and is among those to be awarded the General William O. Darby Memorial Award. Among his many other outstanding accomplishments was his spearheading of the monument at Ft. Benning that appropriately sits on Sacrifice Field honoring WWII Ranger heroes who lost their lives during World War II. Ranger Altieri was very involved in the Ranger School at Ft. Benning and was the speaker at many graduations.

Ranger Altieri has been active these many years since his days as an active duty Ranger and has communicated with and been honored by countless dignitaries throughout his life for his unwavering dedication to memorializing the great legacy of the WWII Rangers. He has perpetuated the Ranger legacy through his books, several movies, and also through his dedication inception and involvement in countless Ranger related organizations, which eventually became his life's work.

Among these many contributions was his endeavor to find and unite the Sons & Daughters of all six Ranger Battalions of WWII across our great nation. The S&D roster has now grown to exceed 600 WWII Ranger family members, which includes honorary members in France and other countries who remain steadfast to this day in their gratitude to WWII Rangers for their liberation. Through his foresight, Ranger Altieri has given many family members of rangers the tools to make contact and pay tribute to their ranger as one united, global Ranger Family.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### An Anonymous Encounter

BY: Tim Leadbeater

I was on a flight from Tallahassee to Charlotte in the late afternoon on June 26, 2008, and ended up sitting next to someone I immediately identified as either a Marine or Airborne/Ranger soldier even though he was in civilian clothes. He was sporting what I knew from personal experience was a ranger haircut. He was not overly friendly and up until take-off he had headphones on listening to music on his I-Pod. In preparation for take-off, he removed his headphones and I took the opportunity to say something to him asking him what for me was a rhetorical question “are you in the Service?” followed by “where are you stationed?” and “how long have you been in?” He said he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 101st Airborne Division and that he had been in the service 21 years entering active duty in 1987. I mentioned that I had served in the 82d Airborne and was now a retired soldier after 30 years of service on active duty and in the Reserves, enlisted and commissioned. He responded that he had served 10 years in the 82d Airborne Division.

That was the extent of our conversation as he immediately put his headphones back on after take-off until we started preparations to land in Charlotte about an hour later. In spite of the fact that he wasn’t overly friendly, I again initiated a conversation with him as we prepared to land (and his headphones were off). During the flight I had been thinking, this soldier has undoubtedly experienced war first hand and I wanted him to know how much I appreciated his service. I asked him if he had served in Iraq or Afghanistan. He responded that he had two tours in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan and was returning to Afghanistan in the fall for another 18 month tour. Based on his 21 years of service I guessed he was either a Sergeant First Class (E-7) or a Master Sergeant/First Sergeant (E-8) so I asked him if he was either. He surprised me by telling me he was a Captain which told me he had been enlisted and then became an officer. I said “that’s cool man I was enlisted too (a B/75th

Army Ranger at Fort Lewis) and went through Officer Candidate School”. This is where the conversation got very interesting as he started to open up to me. He told me he didn’t go to Officer Candidate School he had received a direct, battlefield commission to Lieutenant in Baghdad in 2003 when he was an E-8 First Sergeant in his company. “Wow” was all I could say. In fact, he had been promoted to E-8 after 14 years of service which is incredibly fast to make E-8. He told me he had been in Panama in 1989 when we removed Noriega from power and he was in Mogadishu, Somalia with the 10th Mountain Division in 1993 when we evacuated after the Blackhawk Down fiasco.

This nameless American soldier then started to tell me about how brutal our enemies were based on his personal experiences. He also expressed the opinion that unlike World War II where the entire nation was mobilized in support of the war effort, this war was disproportionately effecting a relatively small segment of our population and that this was not good. I said to him “I bet you feel under appreciated”. That’s when he really unloaded. He made it clear that he believed (and I concurred) that most Americans have no idea of the perils we face and how tenuous our freedoms are. While most Americans are grouching about gas prices, or the price of airfare or some other trivial, inconsequential event, a few and their families are putting it all on the line to keep us free and yes, be self-absorbed with the trivial. This soldier suspects most of us do not appreciate the sacrifices he and others like him are making for us.

I now knew why he had been somewhat reclusive and less than friendly to those around him on the plane. And, when I told him I understood his frustrations and honored his service, his appreciation was visible on his battle-hardened face. So I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to sit with one of our heroes as I did recently and they aren’t initially receptive to your attempts to start a conversation, be patient with them and look for the opportunity to sincerely thank them for all they do for us. After all, they have been patient with us.

### 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Annual Soldier, NCO & Junior Officer Of the Year

By: John Chester

One of the things I love about this job, is that just when you think you have it figured out, everything changes. It was early June, the sun was shining and I was on the roof of the garage at our new house in Altoona, PA, when the (cell) phone rang. It was none other than MSG Chad Campbell,

NCOIC of the committee to select the winners of the above competition. They were changing things this year and wanted to know if the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. wanted to contribute to the prize pool for the three individual award recipients. (Similar to the way it is handled at the Best Ranger Competition).

I said that I would poll the other elected officers & let him know. The kicker was, the award ceremony was in two days.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Thanks to the miracle of cell phones and speed dial, I was able to reach a consensus among the five of us in a few hours; we agreed to award each winner a \$100.00 gift certificate to Ranger Joe's, and a years free membership in the Association, (remember, I'm still on the roof). I called Ranger Joe's, talked to our contact there, and secured three \$100.00 gift cards. The dilemma was, how to get them to the awards ceremony and have our Association represented? Well, they say the cracked pitcher goes oftenest to the well, so I called my go to guy at Ft. Benning, C. J. "Duke" Dushane. Duke graciously agreed to go to Ranger Joe's, pick up the cards, take them to the awards ceremony and present them to the winners, once again illustrating that Rangers do indeed Lead the Way. All this without leaving the roof. Thanks Duke.

And the winners are:

### Soldier of the Year:

SPC Barrett Kauling 3/75

### Runner Up:

SPC Jacob Sparks 1/75

### NCO of the Year:

SSG William Isreal RSTB

### Runner Up:

SGT Austin McCall 2/75

### JR. Officer of the Year:

CPT John Bata RSTB

## Battle Monuments Project Ft. Benning, GA

By: John Chester

The Airborne was born in 1940 at Ft, Benning, GA. It was, from the beginning, an all volunteer force on men who were willing to risk all for their country and for the cause of freedom. There have been, by War Department standards, 19 Airborne invasions. The Battle Monuments Project will consist of a memorial that will consist of a separate monument commemorating each of these airborne invasions. There will be room left to commemorating any future actions.

The Project originally asked the Associations linked to each unit to contribute a sum equal to the cost of the individual monument. The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., paid for the monuments for the three Airborne invasion that the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment was involved in, (one, Panama, shared with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division). I do know that not all Associations have come through in similar fashion.

Thursday morning, April 10, 2008, ground was broken at Ft Benning, GA for the Battle Monuments Project. The memorial, 100 yards west of the Airborne Walk, will memorialize the Airborne troops of the United States Army. Duke Dushane and Charlie Kankel have represented our Association during the course of this project, and were present at the ground breaking on April 10. See photos below.





## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

The 19 Airborne invasions as listed by the Defense Department are;

#1	8 & 15 Nov, 1942	
	North Africa	509 <sup>th</sup> PIB
#2	10 July, 11943	
	Gela, Sicily	504 & 505 PIB
#3	5 Sep, 1943	
	Nadzab, New Guinea	503 PIR
#4	13-14 Sep, 1943	
	Salerno & Avellino, Italy	504, 505, 509 PIB
#5	6 June, 1944	
	Normandy, France	82 <sup>nd</sup> & 101 <sup>st</sup> ABN DIV
#6	3-4 July, 1944	
	Neemfoor, New Guinea	503 PIR
#7	15 Aug, 1944	
	Cote d' Azur, France	517 PIR, 509 & 551 PIB
#8	17 Sep, 1944	
	Nijmegen & Eindhoven Hol.	82 <sup>nd</sup> & 101 <sup>st</sup> ABN DIV
#9	3 Feb, 1945	
	Tagaytay, Luzon, Phil.	511 PIR
#10	16 Feb, 1945	
	Corregidor, Phillippines	503 PIR
#11	24 Mar, 1945	
	Wesel, Germany	17 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> ABN DIV
#12	23 June, 1945	
	Aparri, Luzon, Philippines	511 PIR
#13	20-21 Oct, 1950	
	Sukchon, Korea	187 ARCT
#14	23 March, 1951	
	Munsan-Ni, Korea	187 ARCT
#15	22 Feb, 1967	
	Katum, Vietnam	503 PIR

#16	25 Oct, 1983	
	Pt. Salinas, Grenada	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ranger BNS
#17	20 Dec, 1989	
	Panama & Rio Hato	75 <sup>th</sup> RGR RGT & 82 <sup>nd</sup> AD
#18	2001	
	Afghanistan	75 <sup>th</sup> Ranger Rgt.
#19	27 Mar, 2003	
	Bashur, Iraq	173 ABN BDE

As I finished this article, I received a phone call informing me that Don Lassen, Mr. Airborne, had died. He was the longtime editor of *Static Line* magazine, the organizer of the Airborne Man of the Year awards each year in Atlanta, GA, and the promoter of all things Airborne. His passing will certainly create a void in the Airborne Community. At this time, I have no information relative to the continued existence of *Static Line*, or the Man of the Year awards. Several of our members attended his funeral, and I sent flowers on behalf of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. I'm sure that all of us extend our condolences and best wishes to Don's family.

Donations to the Battle Monuments Project had been going to Don at his College Park, GA office. I would counsel holding off until we have a good address. I am sure that Duke Dushane and Charlie Kankel are in contact with the other committee members. As soon as I get good information, I will put in the next issue of this magazine and see that it gets on the web site.

### USSR 'secret' Vietnam soldiers speak out



*Russian veterans have gathered to mark the anniversary of America's withdrawal from the Vietnam War. More than 3,000 Soviet soldiers fought in the conflict despite years of government denials that they were ever involved.*

It was America's longest and most divisive war, with almost 60,000 young men dead in a conflict that killed more than five million on all sides.

Most still think of Vietnam as a war the U.S. and its South Vietnamese allies fought against the North.

But Soviet Union's men were there, too, doing their part to advance the spread of communism. They are some of the Soviet Union's forgotten soldiers, veterans of a war their government denied involvement in for almost twenty years.

It was only after the regime collapsed in 1991 that officials admitted more than 3,000 Soviet troops fought against the Americans in Vietnam.

Now, some of these old soldiers are together again to mark the 35th anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal.

*"Officially we were known as a group of Russian military*



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

*experts. The commander was referred to simply as the senior expert. Thus, technically, there were no Russian units in Vietnam. The only thing we knew was that we were Soviet people, Soviet soldiers, and that we had to do whatever it took to stop air raids, which is what we did,"* Nikolay Kolesnik, Vietnam veteran, remembers.

Soviet expertise played a vital part in training Vietnamese forces and Soviet anti-aircraft missiles to inflict heavy damage on American planes.

Those who fought alongside the Russians say it's difficult to overestimate the impact they had.

"The Soviet Union was a huge help in the war. We have a lot of respect for Russian equipment and Russian experts. Their equipment was better than what the Americans had. That's why we were able to win," Lee Cong Niem, Vietnam veteran, said.

Saturday's ceremony was a chance for the next generation of soldiers to meet the men who have done it all before and for a grateful nation to thank the veterans who were its unsung allies for so long.

For years, those were the men who 'weren't there', veterans of a war their government said they never fought in. Now, thirty-five years after the last of them left the jungles of Vietnam they can properly commemorate their part in one of the 20th century's most significant conflicts.

**Ed. Note:** I want to thank Brent Gulick for bringing this article from "Russia Today" to my attention. I remember that during my time in the Central Highlands, there were always stories circulating that LRRP teams had made contact with or observed NVA units with 'white men' attached to or operating with them. They were variously attributed to disaffected French or Russian advisors. They were usually dismissed as war stories or just plain bull—. Perhaps this is a vindication of some of them.

### Montagnards

By: Dave Bristol

From the earliest days of the 4<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division LRRP units, there were Montagnard scouts with the teams. Casual contact with the Montagnards in the villages was also common. Respect for these people was pretty much universal. Very early on, the Army realized that holding the Highlands would be nearly impossible without the support of the montagnards or Dega, as they called themselves. The Dega realized that their goal of an autonomous home land would require the support of the Americans. The result of this was a strong connection between the Americans and the Dega. American CIDG units further solidified the alliance.

When the war ended for the Americans, the diplomatic language of the withdrawal led the Dega to believe that the US would provide support in their battle for a free homeland. Of course, no such support ever materialized. What is not as widely known is that the Dega built an army of more than 20,000 men and fought on. They eventually signed a truce with the Vietnamese Government in 1992! A small number of these fighters and their families, (about 400) were found imprisoned in Cambodia and brought to the US. A small number have been allowed to leave Vietnam since then. From the time of the North Vietnamese victory, the Dega have suffered

discrimination and what can be called ethnic cleansing. Religious persecution, denial of education and cultural assimilation has been the tools of the Vietnamese control in the Highlands.

Two America GIs who worked with CIDG began to send some monetary help back into the highlands. They were able to establish an open and legal way to continue the support when they established the Friends of the Central Highlands (of Viet Nam). The organization supports the Dega in several critical ways. They have provided help with irrigation, sanitation and other infrastructure projects. They have built schools and provided materials. They support an orphanage in the Kontum area. Appropriate clothing and a bicycle to ride allow the kids to attend school. Small loans to start a business are made. Scholarships for high school, university and medical school students are part of the program.

The cost of these programs is tiny by US standards. A year's tuition at medical school was less than \$400 in 2004! I have been giving to this organization for more than 12 years. I know the money goes to the projects. All of the travel to Vietnam is done at the personal expense of those traveling. I trust this group!

The contact for the organization is: FoCHVN.org, or FoCH Inc. Box 123. Kersey PA.15846



Please take a minute to look at this web site and become a member of the group support our “Yard” brothers. It seems unlikely that the dream of a free and autonomous home land will ever become a reality. A good life, with help from those of us who know these people, is very real. We know that the fire in their hearts for that freedom can be preserved, and who knows where that may lead.

Ed Note:

I worked with Montagnard from 9-'67 'till I went home in late 1968. I have always felt that, of all the people we left behind in Vietnam, they got the roughest deal. They lacked the sophistication and resources of the native Vietnamese to protect themselves and to find ways to leave if they desired. I am satisfied this is a legitimate operation. You can always Google the organization. Each registered non-profit files an annual report, so you can see what percentage of collections goes to the stated ends.



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## **K/75, E/58, 4<sup>TH</sup> DIV LRRP MEMBERS**

IF YOU MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE 75<sup>TH</sup> RRA  
CHRISTMAS – FAMILY FUND, YOU WILL  
RECEIVE A CUSTOM DESIGNED TEE SHIRT  
WITH THE K/75, E/58 , 4<sup>TH</sup> DIV LRRP SCROLL  
ON ONE SIDE AND THE  
ASSOCIATION EAGLE ON THE OTHER.

Send checks (made out to K/75 Unit Fund) and shirt size to:

WAYNE MITSCH  
826 LAKESHORE DR.  
BERKELEY LAKE, GA 30096



# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Michael T. Etheridge

I get to watch the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion from a very interesting perspective. As a retired Ranger who spent a fair amount of time in the battalion I have a historical view point. As the Operations Specialist for Range I Control at Ft Stewart I have a current point of view as well. I bring this up because of several phone calls from "old" Rangers talking about long hair, etc. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment is not the unit I grew up in. They are not the unit I served with. They are not the Vietnam Rangers. They are much better. No they don't look the same, maybe they don't jump to attention every time an officer walks on post. But they are more proficient and clearly battle hardened and tested. They are very much like the senior NCOs I grew up serving with. Hard, no nonsense professionals who go about their business and still know to have a good time. The only legitimate complaint there is, is that I too damn old to serve with them.



**1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion Formed at 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Monument.**

By now everyone has seen the Ranger Memorial. Memorials are used for many things and mean different things to different people. But how many people do you know who get married on the Ranger Memorial. Well that is exactly what CPT Stephen Dobbins and Miss Jessica Eddins did on 22 May 08. The Bride was of course beautiful, the groom was dynamically handsome. My question is which one of those thugs in the background is the maid of honor?



**The Bride's Maids**



**CPT and Mrs. Dobbins.**

June and July must have been a very bitter and sweet time for LTC Rudacille. On 2 June 08 he was promoted to COLONEL. Now that has to be sweet. On 2 July he changed command with LTC Brian J. Mennes. To have commanded the premier Infantry Battalion in the U.S. Army, to have lead them in combat and had to turn them over to some one else had to have just sucked. Of course if you were LTC Mennes it was a great day. All Rangers share our best wishes for COL Rudacille and his family as they go off for the next adventure. Unfortunately I don't know his next assignment, but I do know the Army ain't done with him yet. LTC Mennes welcome to Savannah. Take care of the boys and they will take care of you.



**Sheila with Grandbaby.**

Now we all know how time fly's. But how is it possible for Shelia Dudley to have served 20 years (July 1988 – Jul 2008) with the Battalion? Hell, I remember the day she came to work. Everybody had to "drop" by and check out the Commander's new secretary. I look in the mirror and time has not been nice, but I look and Shelia and she hasn't aged at all. Damn life ain't fair. On the other hand she is a Grandmother and that is a sure sign of aging.

Now a Bill Acebes update. As you know Bill retired again and left me holding the bag. Bill and Brenda have been traveling all over the country playing tourist and having a good time. How good a time you ask? Just look at the picture.



**Bill Acebes retirement activities.**





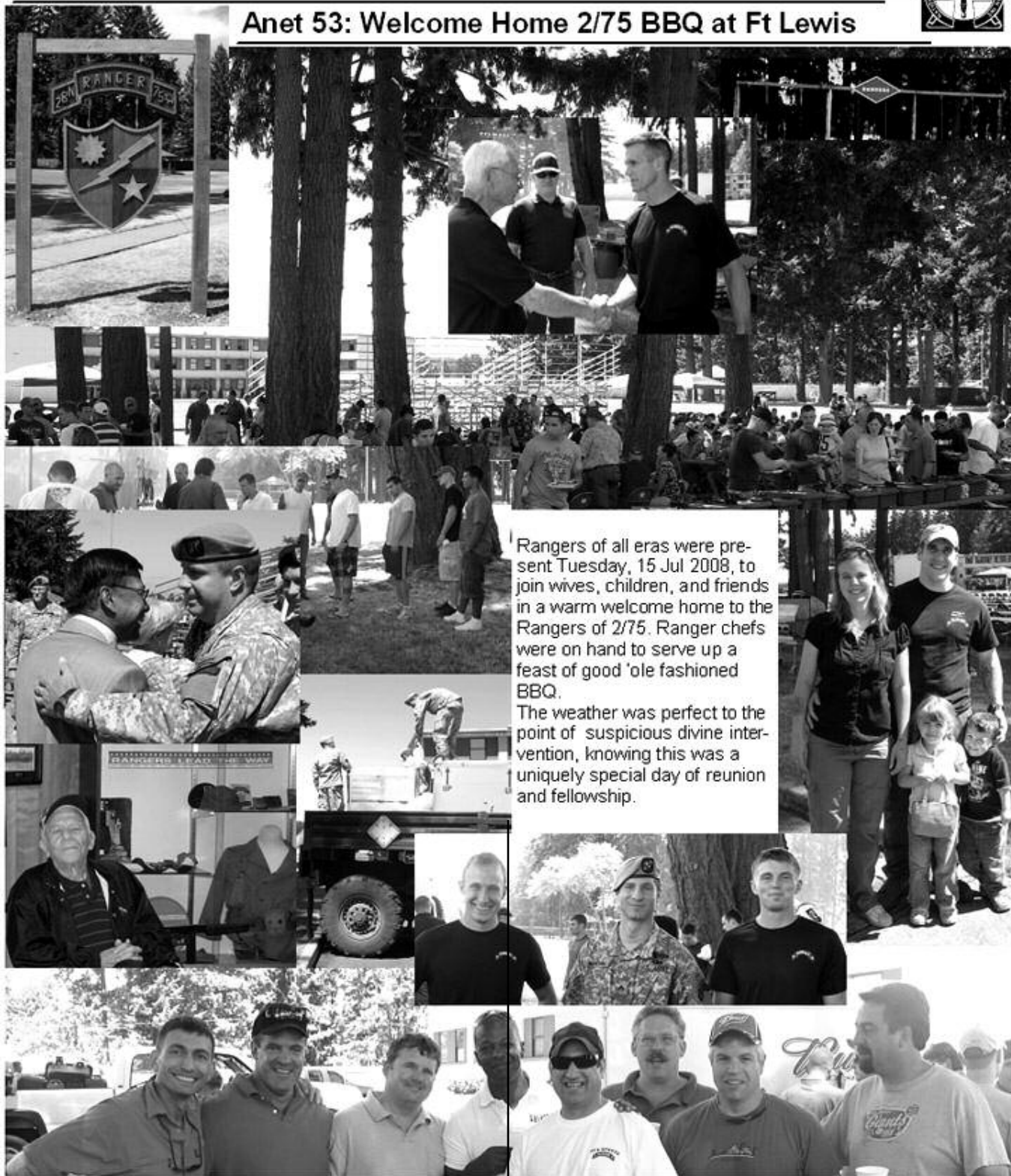
## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Nate Smith

Anet 53: National Ranger Memorial Foundation, Inc.



### Anet 53: Welcome Home 2/75 BBQ at Ft Lewis



Rangers of all eras were present Tuesday, 15 Jul 2008, to join wives, children, and friends in a warm welcome home to the Rangers of 2/75. Ranger chefs were on hand to serve up a feast of good 'ole fashioned BBQ.

The weather was perfect to the point of suspicious divine intervention, knowing this was a uniquely special day of reunion and fellowship.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Anet 53 26 July 2008





## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

Rangers,

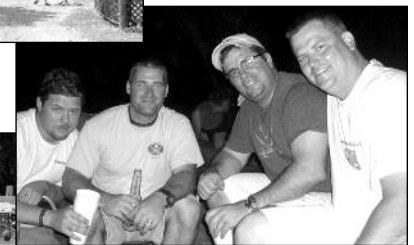
I hope everyone's summer is going well, I know mine has flown by! It started off with a bang, literally, at a link up in central Texas with about 40 other Rangers from every era since Vietnam. Lots of shooting, good chow and outstanding fellowship. I've included some pictures at the end of the article. Our host was a retired CSM who was one of the first to sign into 1/75 when it was reformed. Some of the stories this man can tell...well, they're simply amazing. I will continue to encourage everyone who reads this to find a way to link up with other Rangers. It's especially therapeutic if you've been out of the service for any length of time. Finding like-minded men is hard to do in the civilian world. If you're not sure how to find any Rangers in your AO, contact me ([rangerinvictus@gmail.com](mailto:rangerinvictus@gmail.com)) and let me know.

The next rendezvous is less than a year away. Start planning to attend now. I intend to go for the entire week, and it can't get here fast enough. If you've not yet been to one, you are missing the greatest reunion/party going! It's a week packed with events, starting with a Regimental Mass Tactical jump at Fryar DZ, and culminating in a huge party at Lawson Army Air Field. As always, if you have any ideas on how we can improve the experience please let me know.

I would also like to give you a preview of the new Infantry Museum that is being built at Fort Benning. It should be finished in the Spring of 2009, in plenty of time for the Rendezvous. I can tell you that it will have an area dedicated to the Ranger Hall of Fame, as well as numerous memorials and outdoor areas, one of which will be a parade ground for Basic Training graduation. Unfortunately, I'm still waiting on the press packet to come from the Infantry Foundation. I expect to have a detailed preview for you in the next issue.

That's all for this issue Brothers. Keep the men still at the tip of the spear in your thoughts and prayers.

RLTW





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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

**The Tales of Digger**

Now that summer is behind us we can start preparing for the change in climate. There are other changes in the wind and I shutter to think of their outcome so I won't go there. I will look to the Holidays ahead of us instead. I hope they are enjoyable to all of you as well.

This summer I read an article in American Rifleman (May 2008) about MACV-SOG and Project "Eldest Son" by Major John L. Plaster, USAR (Ret.) and it caused me to recall some of the tails of Digger. More on John Plaster and his book SOG later.

I arrived in the V Corp 3779 LRRP ABN in late 64 and the company was going through preparation for a long stay in the field. There was a lot of discussion as to what kind of a unit this was and what kind of soldiers manned a company of this nature. One of the first characters that I started to hear about was Digger. Jerry Michael Shriver was one of the many eccentric personalities in this LRRP unit. Much of the legion of Digger started when the company was stationed in Wildflecken. Jerry got the nick name Digger because his appearance coupled with the look on his face and depth of his blue eyes gave him the look of an undertaker. Many guys have mentioned the chill you sometimes got when Jerry looked at you. Apparently the long cold winters caused these young LRRP's to create some of there own entertainment thus entered the Mahoginites. The Mahoginites, started by Philip Ven Ditto, held their service in the upper floors of the barracks usually in the evenings. Since most of the legend of Digger, as I relate it here, will be from many of the guys that remember Jerry well, I have opened some of these doors and hopefully it will make sense.



**Jerry Shriver in  
Wildflecken in 1962 from  
G. White's collection.**



Ron Dahle says Jerry was a weird duck to say the least. He really played on the mahogany role he was cast into. He would squat perched on top of wall lockers and pounce randomly on people as they came into the room.

Sonny O'Steen recalls of the cult: I read his (Jerry's) online profile and believe that I remember him. I definitely remember the start of the "Mahoginites". If memory serves me correctly I believe that when the XO stumbled across them for the first time, he remarked, that he wouldn't send anyone to the stockade, just build a fence

around the company.

Phillip Ven Ditto noted that Jerry taught him to play chess. Phillip remembers jerry as a great friend and they played chess frequently, Jerry always won. Phillip tried to get him drunk so he might have a chance to win but it didn't work. It seems that Ven Ditto had a knack for handing out obscure titles.

Terry McClure – A mahoginite says Jerry's cult name in Flecken was " Lord High Protector of Princess Mary Louise Louise". I think that he got the title on the night that they had him in a casket and carried him through the dark halls with only candle light. We were singing a Gregorian chant. ( Maah-Hogg-onee). Winter of 63/64 before we moved to Frankfurt Jerry opened the windows on the 3rd floor front which was the 4th floor in the rear (steep hill). Anyway he backed into the hallway, ran to the window and jumped out yelling FILIAHO. There was about 5 ft. of snow and we had to dig him out none the worse for wear.

Then there was the Dancing Christmas tree. One Christmas in Wildflecken they cut one of comrade's trees for a Christmas tree. With it suspended in the room between posts, when you hit the wire it would jump up and down. They decorated it with various objects available to lrrps at the time. It was left up for an inspection and they knew they would get in deep stuff but Oh Well... When the first shirt walked into the room the wire was hit and the tree danced in the middle of the room. He went into and instant burn and his face got red. The Major walked in and never broke stride, finished inspecting the room and left. The guys waited for the shit to hit the fan when the 1st Sgt returned. He came back and informed the group that the tree could stay but the condoms had to come off.

Digger was a taciturn young man, tall and thin but in great



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

physical condition. He often went out on his own in the evening to find a gasthaus and something to drink. The guys would see this lone figure coming up the road, trudging through the snow, late at night as Digger came



back for the night.

**V CORP LRRPs standing in front of their unit crest at Drake-Edwards Kaserne in Frankfurt, Germany. Left to Right, Holloway, Shrive, Stanton, Carter, Kruse and Malloy. From White's collection**

The company moved to its first location in Frankfurt. The Drake-Edwards Kaserne and the stories continued. Chet Smith remembers on his first arriving in the company.

The next day...Jerry Shriver was assigned to provide me orientation and walk me around the "post," Drake-Edwards Kaserne, and the Main PX. I figured out real quick that Jerry was just a little "out of plumb..." but he provided me a good indoctrination to the unit!

I heard tell of Jerry getting into a physical fitness routine where he ran around the basketball court in the gym, some said for hours. Guys would run with him for their workout and when they finished he just kept running. This would get worked in with his learning martial arts.

Terry McClure recalls hand to hand combat. The style that George Klein taught us at Gibbs was Tae Soo Do. Also Korean. Jerry Shriver was a student of George's and was told to give it up cuz he was not very agile. Jerry did not quit and after a while he became very proficient to the point of going to undesirable parts of Frankfurt just to start altercations. He never lost.

Dennis Mulloy was a husky young Lrrp that played football with the Corp team when the season was in. He said one evening something flew down from the floor above past his window. Digger had jumped from an upper floor and started calling Dennis out saying he was going to kick his ass. Dennis jumped out his window and when his feet hit he pitched forward to his hands and knees to absorb the fall. As he was standing up Jerry sent a karate kick to his head

stopping just a couple inches from Dennis's face and holding his foot there. Dennis grinned at him and said "Well Jerry I guess you got me this time". Jerry got that slight smirk on his face and that was it.

**Jerry on rappel during training. This is one of the better pictures of Jerry. From White's collection.**



Yes he got into martial arts, unfortunately he wanted to exercise his skills whenever given the opportunity. Ron Dahle was on CQ at Drake Edwards one night when he came in drunk and drenched in someone else's blood. He had that simple eerie snaggleteeth grin of his and proclaimed he had got three of them off post. ". In the field I understand he was excellent.

After leaving Germany while in Special Forces training back in the states. Ron Dahle, Jerry and Roy Link occupied a house in North Carolina. The neighborhood, although already low rent, was forever changed. The house was a three bedroom cinder block dwelling that served their purposes very well. The second weekend there they were hanging around drunk watching their neighbors, one of which was a cute redhead. The trio decided the neighborhood needed a little excitement so they decided to liven up the tempo. They went into the house and fired off about ten rounds from Ron's Bernadelli and Jerry's Walther P-38 and then Ron and Roy drug Jerry out the front door, dumped him in Roy's trunk and they sped off. They wound up at the Spring Lake Drive In. They raised more than one eye when they opened the trunk and Jerry uncoiled out of it and brushed himself off, jumped in the car and ordered a cheeseburger. Later when they went home as they drove up the street it was immediately obvious that they had a problem. It seemed that every law enforcement agency in North Carolina had representatives at their house, looking for evidence of the murder; well obviously there was none, but the guys got one hell of an ass chewing by a barrel chested sheriff's deputy. They would have been arrested, but there were no clear cut charges, they were not in city



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

limits so firing a weapon was allowed, and as they discovered, that neighborhood fell into an area of contested ownership, consequently no one really knew what agency or municipality if any it fell under, and none were in a real hurry to claim it. Of course all of this worked into the guy's hands beautifully. From that point on gunfire in the house became a daily occurrence and was never again questioned or reported. Bugs and cockroaches on the wall were targets, as were beer bottles, glasses and cigarettes in each others hands and anything else that didn't already have a hole in it for that matter.

So, any way, digger did run from hostilities once in his life. In 1965 Jerry, Roy A. Link and myself were still in the house in NC. To make a real long story short, my wife came down and screwed everything up. Three days after she got there she had finally got the bottles/cans shoveled out and the place cleaned up. She came home that afternoon to find Jerry giving his dog a bath: in the middle of the living room with a hose. The last time we saw Jerry that day he was running across the back field with my wife in hot pursuit wielding a butcher knife.

Gary Crossman SFA D-6103

I have the distinction of being the only person to trade Jerry Mad Dog for a case of beer to another Patrol Leader after spending 14 days trying to keep up with him on a V-Corp LRRP (Abn) training mission at Wildflecken Germany 1962. At that time Jerry was my scout and I was Patrol Leader of a Long Range patrol, I would send Jerry to scout an area he would disappear for two or three days and come back with a big shit eating smile on his face wearing German farmer clothes and a rucksack full of wine of course trading his GI issue equipment to the Germans to pay for wine and clothes. I got to see Jerry just before he went to SOG and we both had a good laugh over the famous trade.

Enter the Mad Dog as Jerry was so named by Radio Hanoi. Having joined MACV-SOG while with the 5<sup>th</sup> SF group, Jerry's reputation grew from his skill and expertise in the field. He was considered a consummate woodsman and cultivated a close relationship with the Montagnard tribe's men.

Ron Dahle ran into Jerry several times in Nam. Always drunk, with a platoon of montagnard bodyguards with him. Ran into him in Nha Trang one day, he was really pissed. He had been called in to receive a silver star and the group CSM wouldn't allow him to go get it. It seems Jerry had come in from the bush wearing nothing but a loin cloth armed with a crossbow.

This from the internet for you rotor heads:

I had the privilege of knowing and working with Jerry Shriver in 67 & 68 at B-50 (Ban Me Thuot East). As a Green Hornet (20th SOS) gunship pilot, I knew that whenever Shriver was in the field things usually got pretty hot. On one occasion his team called for extraction and everything went off without a hitch. After landing at B-50, we all went to the club for a cold beer. While standing at the bar with Shriver, I asked him what went on during his recon. "Nothing," he said. "It was a dry hole". About that time a SF Major walked in and asked Shriver basically the same question. This time he said they had spotted a battalion sized force of NVA and several trucks. The Major told him to finish his beer and then report for debriefing. After the Major left, I turned back to Shriver and said "I thought you said it was a dry hole". "It was," he said. "I didn't get any kills." He was the best ever at his profession and I consider it an honor to have known him. James R. (Jim) Tolbert 20th Special Operations Squadron 1967/1968

There are many stories of Jerry "Mad Dog" Shriver's exploits in Vietnam. Most covered very well in John L. Plasters book "SOG - The secret wars of America's commandos in Vietnam". The book covers the remarkable accomplishments of these small teams inserted into extremely hostile territory. For those of you that are comfortable with the internet there are many sites relating to Jerry "Mad Dog" Shriver and his saga. Here is one if you don't mind a lot of typing.

[http://www.ultimatesniper.com/View\\_News\\_Details.cfm?NewsID=161&CategoryID=32&title\\_bar=THE%20UNTOLD%20TRUE%20STORY%20OF%20MAD%20DOG%20SHRIVER%3A](http://www.ultimatesniper.com/View_News_Details.cfm?NewsID=161&CategoryID=32&title_bar=THE%20UNTOLD%20TRUE%20STORY%20OF%20MAD%20DOG%20SHRIVER%3A)

They will tell of the incident of his dog Klaus in the club and of the last sighting of Jerry as he charged off into the jungle toward the sound of gun fire. He was never seen again.

I have attempted to illustrate an earlier period in the forming of this unusual warrior as remembered by those who served with him. I have other stories of Digger of a more violent nature that I will not relate here, some things will stay within this LRRP company out of print. Suffice it to say this quiet young man had a passion for training and conditioning himself into a fierce fighting machine and the talent to put his skills to good use in for his country. Probably to skilled for those in command to allow him to stop.

As Ron Dahle has said about Jerry, "Jerry had to die in Nam, there was no place in a civilized world for him. He was great sober (seldom) unfortunately he was a total alcoholic and



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



totally crazy when drunk. Don't misinterpret what I am saying, I loved Jerry to death, but what was ...was."

**One of the most published pictures of Jerry "mad dog"**

**Shriver. Photo form MOH recipient Jim Fleming.**

From the wall

**JERRY MICHAEL SHRIVER**

MSGT - E8 - Army – Regular, Special Forces MIA on Apr



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

**Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson**

**SITREP:**

Heard from:

Pat Fuscaldo

John Henry Voyles

Stan Harrell

Wild Bill Ramsdell

Pete Alvarez

Richard Stutsman

Larry Coleman

**Company and Platoon pictures from Fort Carson.**

Several of you guys (Pat Fuscaldo, among others) have been asking for copies of the company or Platoon photos taken at Fort Carson.

Some of those photos were on the website prior to Dave Regenthal's reorganization of that site, but Pat and others were having difficulty downloading the pictures and having them printed. So, we could use some help. What we need to know is:

Do any of you have the original hardcopies of those photos? I have the original photo of Third platoon, but not the others. We believe that there were pictures of:

The entire company  
Headquarters Platoon  
First Platoon  
Second Platoon  
Third Platoon.

I am not aware of any other photos from that series, but if anyone has any other info concerning that, please let me know.

If anyone has hardcopy photos from that original series, please let me know so that we can start to assemble a complete collection that we can not only post on the



website (one Dave Regenthal completes the humongous task of reassembling it at the new host), but also so that we can find a way to provide copies of the photos to those of you who want them.

Pat Fuscaldo let me know that has undertaken to duplicate the original t-shirts that we wore at Fort Carson also, and says that they turned out well. I don't know how many of them he produced, but am certain that if there were enough demand that he would be able to produce another run for sale to the company members who wanted

them. You can reach Pat at:

[Pfuscaldo01@snet.net](mailto:Pfuscaldo01@snet.net)

(telephone number available on request).

**RICHARD STUTSMAN**

It is my unfortunate responsibility to report the death of Eddie Stutsman, Richard's oldest son. After his discharge from the military, he returned to Kansas, and through a series of terrible events, eventually would up suffering from liver failure, primarily due to misdiagnoses on the part of the primary physicians. By the time that someone familiar with liver problems was able to correctly diagnose the real problem, his son was hospitalized and in deep trouble. Eddie then passed away last month (July) after a lengthy stay in the ICU.

Richard has an unlisted telephone number due to his occupation as a sheriff in a county in Kansas, so if anyone wishes to get in contact with Richard, please contact me, and I will provide you with his telephone number, or his home address.



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

Richard's home address is:

Richard Stutsman  
PO BOX 246  
Miltonvale, KS 67466

**VII CORPS**

I am sure that most of you saw the reunion information for VII Corps due for September that was published in the last issue. I doubt that we will see this issue before that reunion occurs, and am sure that Kirk will provide a recap of the reunion for the next issue for the benefit of those who were not able to attend.

**FIRST AID AND LYME DISEASE**

Some of you know that I also serve as a Boy Scout leader for a local Scout troop. One of my responsibilities is to serve as the troop medic, which requires me to maintain a complete field-level medical kit for emergencies, up to and including airways, collars, blood-pressure cuffs, stitching equipment, scalpels, and the like, in addition to the basic first-aid equipment.

During one camping trip earlier this year in upstate Pennsylvania we had an urgent need for that kit. We hiked early in the day through a canyon with 90-foot waterfalls and rock cliffs along the side of the river. After we returned to camp in the afternoon, the boys went down to the nearby lake to fish, but after discovering no fish were present (or at least biting), they decided to get wet instead.

They returned to camp, and the wettest among them removed their shoes to dry them out near one of the two fire rings in the camp. One of them then stood up to return to his tent and get some dry clothes, and promptly stepped on a loose hot coal which had escaped from the fire ring. He stepped on the coal right in the center of the bottom of his bare foot, and the movement of the coal compressed some of the burnt layers of skin away from the burn into a "wad" at one side of the burn (which was about 1.5 inches square).

We immediately flushed the burn with sterile saline solution, applied a Betadine wash to disinfect the area, applied bacitracin ointment, and loosely bandaged the now-sterilized wound. Despite the administration of painkillers, and changing him into warm dry clothing and procedures for prevention for shock, the victim's pupils continued to contract and he required frequent bladder evacuations, which often occurs during prolonged periods of pain. The nearest hospital was over 30 miles away, so I transported him there as soon as possible, encountering one road closure on the way, as well as making several bladder stops for him. The emergency room staff of Bloomsburg hospital

was terrific, and we were soon on the road with the wound treated, debrided, and scrubbed, having avoided my son going into shock during the entire exercise. Yes, it was my own son who managed to do that, which was good in a way because I didn't have to worry about another parent second-guessing my treatment.

Needless to say, we now have a new rule in the troop; shoes must be worn at all times around any fire. My son had to stay off his foot for a week, with no Phys Ed for another 2 weeks after that, while I changed the medication and bandages daily. So the money Uncle Sam invested in teaching me basic first aid was not spent in vain.

I did notice later that the official Boy Scout website publishes a complete list of approved publications which are to be used in addition to their own literature, and one of them is...The Ranger Handbook !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here in Pennsylvania we have been enduring what is essentially an epidemic of Lyme disease, primarily borne by deer ticks. One of the symptoms of the disease is the development of a "bull's-eye" rash around the site of the infected bite. This, however, does not occur in all cases of the infection, and in fact only occurs in about 60% - 65% of the cases of infection.

Yours truly was having some recurring symptoms of sinus infections, things similar to the flu, and various other things which were making me think that getting older was a lot more difficult than I had thought, including swelling and arthritis-like symptoms in my hands, particularly.

After visiting the doctor for the umpteenth time to get antibiotics for what appeared to be another sinus infection, they sent me to get a CAT scan of my brain and extensive blood tests. The CAT scan results came back first, and they reported to me that my brain scan appeared totally normal, which my wife promptly remarked was obviously a result of the laboratory somehow switching my results with those of a normal person.

The blood test results returned later, and confirmed that I had Lyme disease, and not a brain tumor or something like that (some of the symptoms of Lyme can be similar to those of a brain tumor). I then began a month-long (and eventually longer) treatment of antibiotics, during which I began to feel remarkably better (imagine that...).

If you live in the Northeast US, you may want to educate yourself about the symptoms of and treatment for this particular disease, especially since it "masquerades" as so many other maladies, and is often not diagnosed



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

immediately. Failure to diagnose and treat this disease early can lead to a wide variety of neurological problems, including brain, heart, and motor issues. Another side effect is on your balance (even resulting in dizziness), which may explain the time I tripped, gashed my left hand (receiving nine stitches), and cracked several ribs during the fall.

There is a website here in Pennsylvania which lists the symptoms, recommended treatments, and associated issues which also has downloadable PDF files listing all the symptoms, treatments, and effects of various antibiotics. You can find that information at:

[www.lymepa.org](http://www.lymepa.org)

If John Chester or any of the other officers want to, I am sure we can provide a website link to that page, and could also reprint information about Lyme in the Health section of Patrolling, if necessary.

**COMPUTERS**

I will enclose here basic information that I was asked for by various other members of the unit or the Association. Many of you will have personal computers at home which run some variety of the windows operating system, and other software designed to run on Windows (such as Microsoft Office or the like). (Note: Windows and Microsoft Office are registered trademarks and copyrighted by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington.)

The cost for purchasing and maintaining those products can be quite high, depending on how extensive your software library is. There are, however, alternatives, which can cut your cost significantly.

If you are familiar with the phrase “open-source software”, you have already partially learned about this. Some of you, for example, may be using the Firefox web browser instead of the Explorer browser which comes embedded in Windows itself, and are aware that Firefox is totally free, all you need to do is download it and install it on your computer. Open-source software is developed by other computer users and programmers all over the world, and is freely available to anyone.

You may not, however, be aware that there are also free operating systems (such as various Linux systems) available for you to similarly download and install, as well as free office productivity software, such as “Open Office”, and free email systems such as Thunderbird (another product of the Mozilla project which produces the Firefox browser also).

If, for example, you were to install a free Linux-based operating system on your computer, the free Firefox browser, and the free OpenOffice office productivity software, you would significantly cut your computing costs, essentially paying only for the hardware transport which all this software ran on.

Just as there are local resources where you live who can install other operating systems, etc. on a computer, there will also be local resources capable of installing and maintaining open-source systems on your computer. In fact, many of the younger computer “geeks” in your area will probably already be using open-source Linux and other systems themselves.

You may, therefore, want to investigate what would be required for you to download and install these operating systems and application software on your computer. Below you will find some basic links to get you started. If there is more interest in this topic, perhaps we could write a more comprehensive guide in a future issue.

Links:

<a href="http://www.Openoffice.org">www.Openoffice.org</a>	(OpenOffice software)
<a href="http://www.Mozilla.com">www.Mozilla.com</a>	(for Firefox browser)
<a href="http://www.Mozilla.com">www.Mozilla.com</a>	(for Thunderbird email software)
<a href="http://www.tucows.com">www.tucows.com</a>	(downloads for free software and Linux OS's)
<a href="http://www.redhat.com">www.redhat.com</a>	(one of the Linux versions available)

**MORE FROM JOHN HENRY****RANGER SCHOOL AND INSTRUCTORS**

We all know about the peer rating system in place at Ranger school. If you happen to be in a class where the majority of the class is comprised of one group of students from a similar background, and you are not a member of that group, you may have had some concerns about the tendency of the one group to “stick together” and rate each other more highly than they do other students not members of their group.

When young Ranger Voyles was serving on the Ranger Committee at Fort Benning, he told me that when it came to peer ratings, the Ranger Instructors had to take into account that certain groups of trainees would “stick together” and rate each other well, no matter what, which meant that the other trainees in that group would, by default, be the ones not rated as highly on the peer reviews. Therefore, in evaluating the individual trainees, the RI's had to account for the presence of various groups as to whether the peer ratings for the individual were “skewed” due to that factor.



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There was one particular incident where this was even more apparent, that RV related. When Ranger Voyles was on the Ranger Committee, along with Brinker, Burnell, and others, at one point another unnamed instructor complained during a meeting of the Instructor Committee that he had seen Brinker throw all 5 of his peer review reports in the garbage can. When he was asked about this, Ranger Brinker snapped to his feet, and said, yes, it was true. He asserted that the complaining instructor was so stupid that he had to go through the Ranger course himself twice just to pass, and that having observed the complainant in question hanging white t-shirts on the wire surrounding objectives so that he could make sure that his patrol actually returned to the correct location, that this particular individual was obviously too stupid and unqualified to be a Ranger Instructor, and that he (Brinker) considered any ratings that he submitted to be of no value, and he would continue to throw them in the garbage, because that was where they belonged.

**WEBSITE**

You may have noticed the reorganization that the Association website is going through under Dave

Regenthal's direction. Please check the website info contained here for the addresses for the website, as the location of the primary site and guestbook have changed. Once we get the picture section back up under the new site, we will be re-posting the photos that were there before, as well as other photos from the reunions and links to the Flickr site maintained by Pete Parker containing massive numbers of reunion photos.

Pete's photos are available at his Flickr page (Ranger Pete 2/75 is his ID): <http://www.flickr.com/people/rangerpete/>

If anyone else has photos or other items which you want posted on the site as it changes, please let me know, and I will pass them along to Dave.

T out

**CONTACT INFO**

(for VII Corps, contact Kirk Gibson...  
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Marc L. Thompson  
[mthomp@dejazzd.com](mailto:mthomp@dejazzd.com)



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

By the time this issue of Patrolling gets published, the October reunion for Echo/Charlie will be history. I trust that all who attended had an enjoyable time.

I apologize for the lack of a profile this issue, but my subject was two busy to get me his information in time for the deadline. It will be forthcoming the next issue.

Instead, I have recounted a trip I recently made to Arlington Cemetery.

Chuck Vaughn

**Trip to Arlington**

Towards the end of July, I got a call from my Ranger buddy Dave Dolby who asked me if I wanted to attend a funeral of an old friend of his. He said his friend was a combat veteran from WWII, and was going to be interned at Arlington Cemetery on August 7<sup>th</sup>, and would I like to go with him. I had never been to Arlington, so I checked my schedule, got back to Dave, and told him, "Sure, I'll go." A



few questions about who this fellow veteran was, led me to realize that he was in fact a true American hero. Dave informed me that there had been only three surviving Medal of Honor recipients still living from Pennsylvania, and now there were only two. His friend, Knappinger, was a WWII recipient. I have included his citation in this article.

It goes as follows:

**Knappenberger, Alton W.**

*Rank and organization:* Private First Class, U.S. Army, 3d Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, 1 February 1944. *Entered service at:* Spring Mount, PA. *Birth:* Cooperstown, PA G.O. No: 41, 26 May 1944.

*Citation:*

*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk life above the call of duty in action involving accrual conflict*



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

with the enemy, on 1 February 1944 near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy. When a heavy German counterattack was launched against his battalion, Pfc. Knappenberger crawled away to an exposed knoll and went into position with his automatic rifle. An enemy machinegun 85 yards away opened fire, and bullets struck within 6 inches of him. Rising to a kneeling position, Pfc. Knappenberger opened fire on the hostile crew, knocked out the gun, killed 2 members of the crew, and wounded the third. While he fired at this hostile position, 2 Germans crawled to a point within 20 yards of the knoll and threw potato-masher grenades at him, but Pfc. Knappenberger killed them both with 1 burst from his automatic rifle. Later, a machinegun opened fire upon his position from a distance of 100 yards, and this weapon was also silenced by his well aimed shots. Shortly thereafter, an enemy 20mm. antiaircraft gun directed fire at him, and again Pfc. Knappenberger returned fire to wound 1 member of the hostile crew. Under tank and artillery shellfire, with shells bursting within 15 yards from him, he held his precarious position and fired at all enemy infantrymen armed with machine pistols and machineguns which he could locate. When his ammunition supply became exhausted, he crawled 15 yards forward through steady machinegun fire, removed rifle clips from the belt of a casualty, returned to his position and resumed firing to repel an assaulting German platoon armed with automatic weapons. Finally, his ammunition supply being completely exhausted, he rejoined his company. Pfc. Knappenberger's intrepid action disrupted the enemy attack for over 2 hours.

Pfc. Knappenberger was buried with full military honors while friends and loved ones attended. If you have never been to this type of affair, it is a comfort to witness our country's salute to one of its heroes in this fashion. His casket was hauled upon a caisson, drawn by six horses, and attended by the "Old Guard."

It was with deep emotion I viewed this sacred ceremony at Arlington. I had seen many photos, and news reels of our nation's national cemetery, but nothing would have prepared me for the indelible impression that all of those head stones left upon me.

To look out over the vast expanse of grave markers, one has to reflect on the great sacrifice that has been, and continues to be made for our freedoms and for our liberty.

For this old combat veteran, it was a reminder of that great cost, and of the privilege to be present, as one of our country's heroes was laid to rest there.

**News Updates:**

Our brother Nugyen Van Trinh has contacted me, and so far it is looking positive for him and his family to immigrate to the US. He is guessing it could happen as soon as this Christmas holiday. Please keep him in your prayers.



Far Left - (MOH Recipient) **Wesley L. Fox**  
(USMC, Col, Ret.)

Middle - (MOH Recipient) **Harvy "Barnie" Barnum**  
(USMC, Col, Ret.)

Far Right - (MOH Recipient) **Brian Thacker**  
(US Army (1st LT, Ret)

Photo by Chuck Vaughn



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

BY: Richard Nelson

As you may remember I was preparing to fly out to South Dakota for the little get together that Moe & Cindy put together for us. That was just a few days after I had to submit the last article. I also promised to include a report of that get together in this article for those members of D Company 75<sup>th</sup> who were not able to attend.

We had such a good time out there it is fun to reminisce about that fun as I write this article. I flew into Rapid City Airport on May 21<sup>st</sup>, George (Psycho) Christiansen and his wife Julie arrived from New York about an hour or so before I did. Moe and Cindy were there to pick us up and drive us to the hotel we were staying at in Hot Springs. We stopped along the way and ate diner at a restaurant that had Buffalo on the menu, so I had to order a buffalo burger, and it was great.

After we got to Hot Springs and checked into the hotel we went out to Moe and Cindy's house for the evening, incidentally there house was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is pictured in a book about ghost towns in the west. When they bought it the house was in almost condemned status and they had to do major repairs on it before they could move in. Now that they have lived there for 25 years and much reconstruction it is a very nice cozy home. There house sets on a creek at the base of what I began to call Moe's Mountain, as his property line is at the top of the mountain.

Hot springs is the kind of town that people still don't have to lock their doors, and wild deer walk through the streets and eat from the lower limbs of trees. We saw the deer walking through town every day we were there. The people were very friendly. The restaurants were so reasonably priced that we would stop in town to eat breakfast before we went on our sightseeing trips everyday.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> we started our sightseeing at Jewel Cave which is currently the fourth largest cave in the world. The reason I say currently is that they are still exploring this cave. On the day we visited they had explored 142.13 miles of this cave so far. With the wind monitors and other equipment that are placed around inside the cave they believe they have only found and explored only about 1/20<sup>th</sup> of this cave.

It was at this first stop on trip that I earned the klutz of the weekend award. We arrived at the parking lot where the tour



of the cave was, which was on top of the mountain and we had to walk down a couple of flights of stairs to hit the plateau where the welcome center and start of the tour was. As I hit the second flight of stairs my knee collapsed on me and I fell onto the hill to the side of the stairs and started rolling down the hill. From where I fell to the plateau was about 25 to 30 feet, and under the grass were rocks. So I started off my weekend with skinned knees elbows and I was very sore. Since I had forgotten my cane in Florida I told everyone that I would buy a new cane the next day when we

went to Crazy Horses Memorial, I had figured that their gift shop would probably have a nice carved cane I could buy.

Once we got into the welcome center we bought our tickets for the tour and then I started seeing signs all over the center which said if you had cardiac or respiratory problems that you should not take the tour. Even though I have cardiac problems I decided that that warning didn't apply to me, after all I was once an Army Ranger. This tour lasted about 90 minutes and was a hike up and down staircases. We had a great time on the tour but about half way through I realized I should have probably taken those warnings seriously. I didn't tell anyone I was concerned if I could make it to the end of the tour, and started to act like I did in training when I wasn't sure if I was going to make it, I just kept putting one foot in front of the other and kept going. Psycho was right in front of me and Moe was behind so I knew if I got into really serious trouble that they would help me make it through. I asked the tour Guide (Park Ranger) how many steps there were on stairs of the tour and she said she didn't know for sure but people who tried to count them always came up with more than 700.

After we left Jewel cave we started heading for Deadwood, on the way we stopped at the Alpine Restaurant and Inn in Hill City for lunch. This was a Bavarian Restaurant during the day and at night the only entree you could get was either Prime Rib or Filet Mignon. I can't remember which now, but we ate both lunch and dinner there. They had the best bread pudding I had ever had in my life.

As we were driving from one location to the other we traveled through Custer National Park as well as Wind Cave state park. The view was awesome, but also there were wild Buffalo, White Tail Deer, Mule Deer, Elk,



**D/75** (CONTINUED)

Donkeys, and Prairie Dogs all along the countryside. I'm talking about literally hundreds of each over the whole weekend. Along the way to Deadwood we passed a building which said that it was a wood carving museum so I asked Moe to turn around so I could see if they had any carved canes, and in the gift shop there I found a really nice cane and also a carved hiking stick that I wanted and bought them both. By this time my thighs and calves were starting to stiffen up from the tour of the cave. My muscles were not used to all of the step climbing.

When we reached Deadwood I wanted to find Saloon #10 where Wild Bill Hickok was shot back in 1876. We got there and found out there was a reenactment of this incident and decided to donate a little money in the slots while we waited for the show. After the show we had our pictures taken with the actor who played Wild Bill, and since we were Ranger Brothers he asked us to stay and participate in the 7 o'clock show, which was a two hour wait and my knees and back were starting to really bother me so we decided to find the Graveyard where Wild Bill & Calamity Jane were buried, and then head back to Hot Springs. As I mentioned before, we stopped back at the Alpine for supper on the way back. Once I got back to the hotel I iced down my knees and got some relief, and some sleep so we would be ready for the next day.

The next morning after breakfast we decided to just drive around through Custer National Park and Wind Cave State park until we could hook up with Richard Badmilk and his family. We also stopped at a rock souvenir store and bought several types of Rocks native to South Dakota. I also wanted to buy a gold nugget for a souvenir and was able to find a small one that I could afford there. Once we heard from Badmilk we decided to go back to the Alpine, Richard Badmilk met us there. He had some sort of training for work he had to attend every morning we were out there. His wife was doing some shopping with one of her friends at that time, but we were able to take some photos in front of the restaurant with all of us Rangers and two of his Grandsons. We were then going to meet at Bear Country. However when we got there it was so foggy that the park was closed. We were then going to meet in Rapid City for some shopping and dinner. But Badmilk and his family were not able to join us, so we decided to all meet at The Crazy Horse Memorial early the next afternoon after Badmilk got out of training. On the way back to Hot Springs we stopped at a restaurant with elk filets on the menu, since I never had the pleasure of eating elk before I just had to have some. Boy was that a great tasting hunk of meat. Once we had gotten back to the hotel my back and knees were feeling a little better but I still thought it was a good idea to ice them down again.

The next morning we once again caught breakfast in Hot Springs, and just drove around Custer National park taking pictures of the wild animals we saw. This was to kill some time before we were supposed to meet Badmilk and his family at Crazy Horse. The Crazy Horse Memorial was just fabulous, it houses the largest Native American museum I have ever seen. And the exhibits were all very interesting and the history of the Memorial was flabbergasting. The statue of Crazy Horse which is being carved (blasted) out of the mountain is so large that all four heads on Mount Rushmore will fit into his (Crazy Horses) hair. They have been working on it for 59 years and only have his face complete. This memorial is being financed through donations from private citizens and the profits from the gift shop. The government has offered to help finance it but they have turned them down. This is mostly because no one who is involved with this project wants the government to have any say in its construction. After seeing this project and also learning about the history of the area I fully understand that decision. When Richard Badmilk and his family got there it was raining and rather nippy but we had several photo opportunities there. When I got into the gift shop there, I was wishing I could have afforded to spend a few thousand dollars there. Some of the jewelry was beautiful and I saw one quilt that I was afraid to even ask the price of. That doesn't mean I didn't get to shop, I just wanted more than I could afford to spend.

When we left Crazy Horse we were going to head on up to Mount Rushmore but since it was raining and cold, Badmilk and his family decided not to join us since his granddaughter was ill and they didn't want her to get any worse from being exposed to the foul weather. The rest of us headed to Mount Rushmore anyway and stopped at a restaurant (The Blue Bell) along the way which had buffalo stew on the menu so once again I decided to try it. As you might guess I don't have much of an opportunity in Florida to eat Buffalo.

When we started to get close to Mount Rushmore we found out that the road had been built so that as we went into the tunnels along the way we could see the four heads on the mountain through the tunnels. Also from the road we could look out over the countryside and see the Badlands. Once we arrived at Mount Rushmore I was surprised at the size of the heads. I had just assumed they were larger, this is not to say they are small, I just thought they were larger. The eyes on the heads are six feet tall so this is not a small carving. Again we had several photo opportunities while we were there. Moe had a banner made with the D Company (Airborne Ranger) 75<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regiment shoulder scroll on it. We held this banner up when we posed together, and while at Mount Rushmore other visitors came up to us to thank us for our service. By the time we decided



**D/75 (CONTINUED)**

to leave Mount Rushmore it was starting to get cold at least for this Florida boy and we decided to stop back at the Alpine for supper, but when we arrived there was a huge waiting line and we decided to go back to Moe and Cindy's house. Cindy and Julie decided that they were going to cook dinner that night and us guys hooked up Moe's laptop to a projector and watched movies that Psycho had shot in Nam and put on a DVD. We also watched the DVD that Moe had purchased at the last Benning reunion that D 151 had put together. After we ate we decided to go back to the hotel and get some rest. We also decided to meet up the next morning and go out to Moe and Cindy's before we decided what to do the next day.

After we got to Moe and Cindy's the next morning we hooked my laptop up to the projector and downloaded all of the pictures we had taken over the weekend, and reviewed them, there were over 700 between the three cameras. Then we decided to just sit around on the deck and relax, it was such a beautiful day. We also decided to have a buffalo bar-b-que that day. Moe, Psycho and Julie hiked up the stream a ways and picked some wild asparagus. Then Cindy decided to bake a rhubarb pie and went out to the garden and picked enough rhubarb to make two pies. Us guys ran back into town and did a little grocery shopping and returned to watch the wild birds that feed in their yard. Most of these birds were very brightly colored and fascinating to this Florida Boy. Moe started calling down a wild turkey from his mountain. We could hear it getting closer but people were moving too much on the deck for it to actually land in the yard.

Moe and Psycho fired up the grill and the women prepared the rest of the meal in the house. After we finished eating the bar-b-que we decided to pack up all of our souvenirs to ship home. I had picked up so many rocks and other items I was going to be way overweight to fly home.

Psycho and Julies flight home left the Rapid City airport rather early the next morning so Moe took them to meet that flight and Cindy picked me up at the hotel later and drove me to Rapid City where we met Moe for breakfast, and returned the rental truck before I had to be at the airport.

We had such a great time out there that we decided we would do it again in 2010 during the next off year from the reunion at Benning. For those of you who attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association Reunions, the drive around the countryside in South Dakota was like the reminiscing sessions we have in the lobby of the reunion hotel. Telling funny stories and jokes, and as Julie put it in an e-mail to me after our return home, lots of belly laughs.

As a matter of fact here is a copy of that e-mail:

We must say we had a wonderful trip to So. Dakota, meeting with Moe and Cindy, Badmilk and his lovely family, and last but not least you, our visit to the State Parks, in the parks roamed buffalo, antelope, donkey that poked his head into our vehicle, prairie dogs just breathtaking, Crazy horse, Mount Rushmore, the Jewel Cave, Deadwood and watched a reenactment of the famous shooting of Wild Bill Hickok, searching the cemetery for Wild Bill's grave and Calamity Jane's in the rain was quite an experience, all the good food, we ate like horses, was just a perfect trip, we had great belly laughs and a whole lot of fun. We are certainly going to go back and visit Moe and Cindy!!! Just can't say enough about the warm welcome from everyone we met, this is got to be one of the best trips we have ever had!!! On our last day of the trip we had to rest and full circle we had such a great time at Moe and Cindy's Mountain where they live, again ate good, the buffalo burgers were out of this world, good eats good company great memories, it was nice to go picking wild asparagus on their land, picking fresh rhubarb from the garden and watching Cindy bake from scratch, also watching Moe climb his mountain and snapping pictures of us on their huge porch, the birds landing on their many bird feeders was amazing, the many different types of birds that were so pretty, it was awesome, and a wonderful way to end our visit, Moe and Cindy's home is just picturesque!!!!

With warm memories sincerely,

Psycho and Julie Christiansen

PS while the girls were busy the guys sat and reminisced about the ole days, and looked at old pictures and remembered the heroism of the time of Viet Nam Company D Rangers 75th Infantry, R.I.P. to all the brothers that gave their lives to this battle.....Psycho

Now on to an update about how some of the Delta Company Rangers are doing. I have talked with Moe a few times since my return from South Dakota and each time he and Cindy were on their deck relaxing and taking in the view. They continue to do well.

The last time I talked with Carl and Rosie they were preparing to take a little trip to San Diego and then they are having some company coming to visit them in Arizona. I talked with Bear a few times also and he has been enjoying the time he has been able to spend with his son (between training) before he has to return back to Iraq. Bear says that his son is supposed to have a shorter deployment on his next trip to Iraq, he does already have orders.



**D/75 (CONTINUED)**

I had an enjoyable phone conversation with Wally Hawkins a few weeks ago (this article is being submitted on August 15<sup>th</sup>). He and his wife have been spending a great deal of time with their Grandson. Hopefully he and his wife will be able to join us once again at the Benning reunion in 2009.

Ken and Linda Dern continue to do well in Jacksonville Fl. Ken has had a little time off due to the weather. We are getting a good deal of rain here in Florida this year, which we have needed desperately, since we have been in draught condition for the last few years. Ken says his mother is doing well also, as you may remember she had some health problems a while back, now she has made a good recovery.

Mike Warren as you may remember is still in the Army Reserves at least until early 2009. He has been activated for a 90 day period and is serving in Lexington Ky. He spends all week there and then returns home on the weekends he doesn't have duty. As I understand it, this activation has to do with processing since he has decided to retire and has submitted paperwork to that effect. During this activation he had to travel to Buffalo New York so he took his family with him so he and Sharon could take the Grandkids to Niagara Falls. They weren't they very long but they were able to take in the falls.

I talked with Psycho and Julie yesterday as they were headed out to do some clamming before they headed up state today. He and Julie are headed upstate to work on his tree house/condo in preparation for hunting season. He e-mailed me pictures of it after we talked, and I have to say he does hunt in comfort. Julie is excited about coming to the reunion at Benning next summer.

When I last talked with Fitz he informed me that his daughter (Aileen) has finished Officer Basic at Ft. Sill and was headed to her next duty station. As you may remember from the last article she had graduated from college and ROTC and had received her commission. Fitz is planning to go down to Texas and visit with Bear this fall.

Richard Badmilk continues to recover from his knee replacement surgery. When I saw him in South Dakota I couldn't tell he had it done, but he has told me he is still experiencing some pain as he recovers.

The last few times I talked with Tom Delaney he and Janice were doing fine there in Fayetteville N.C. I had some trouble getting in touch with Maddog for a while until I remembered to check and see if I had a cell phone number for them. As soon as I looked up that number I talked with his wife Janice, and they were doing well. She told me that their home phone wasn't working at that time, but was scheduled to be fixed the first part of August. They had received the messages I had left on their voice mail. My concern at that time was that there was a great deal of flooding in Wisconsin and I thought it may have affected their home. She assured me that none of the flooding had affected them.

After I got home from South Dakota I got serious about losing weight as my back and knees are still giving me a lot of trouble. I have lost 30 pounds since I last saw any of you. I hope after I lose another 20 pounds or so the VA will order an MRI. With this weight loss I have had some problems with my blood sugar dropping to low so my diabetes doctor cut me way back on the insulin and now is increasing it slowly so I don't go into insulin shock. The diet I decided to go on was to just eat tuna fish and veggies. Sometimes I eat canned tuna and sometimes I buy sushi grade tuna steaks and cook them in my bar-b-que grill.

Well it is now time to end this article; I have waited until the last minute to write it because I have been glued to the TV for the Olympics. I normally write it a week or two before the deadline and then continue to edit it up until I have to submit it. This means there are probably going to be more typos than usual.

RLTW

Herd Out



**Psycho, Moe, Cindy & Herd,  
Rapid City, SD Airport.**



**Psycho, Moe, Herd & Badmilk at  
Alpine Inn with 2 of Badmilk's  
grandchildren.**



**Psycho, Badmilk, Herd & Moe at  
the Crazy Horse Memorial.**





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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

I have heard from Nhan, our honored guest at “Mac’s Party” in Colorado Springs, who is back in Vietnam conducting his many Boy Scout duties including organizing patrol leader camps and wood badge courses. In addition to his scouting activities, Nhan is telling what he calls his “America Trip Story” to all who will listen.

Nhan’s journey to the United States was made possible by many in E Company who have not forgotten the assistance he provided to our patrols. He has asked me to be sure and thank all who contributed to covering his expenses with special appreciation going to those who escorted him on his visits to the following states: Sal DiSciascio, North Carolina; Fred Wheeler, Georgia; Bill Anderson, Virginia; Stew Koontz, Washington DC; Bill Cheek, West Virginia and Roy Barley, New York.

I’m sad to report that Norm Breece lost his mother in April and thus was unable to join us at our last reunion. Also missing was Wayne McDaniel who underwent an open heart quintuple by-pass operation last spring. And speaking of medical issues, our prayers go out to Dennis Skinner who has been in a good deal of pain due to bone cancer. Apparently, the doctors have been unable to pinpoint the source of the cancer and treatment has not started as of this writing. Let Dennis know we are thinking of him: Dennis Skinner, P.O. Box 233, Burnet, TX 78611.

Planning is well under way for our next reunion which will be held in San Diego May 13-17, 2009. Be sure to



click on the San Diego links on our E Company web site from time to time for updates. Reunion headquarters will be the Mission Valley Resort in San Diego (619-298-8281.) Don’t forget to mention the Ranger/LRRP reunion to get the special room rate of \$85.00. Those attending (and I hope that will be everyone) should send a registration check for \$100 to Bob Hernandez, 4424 Rock Island Drive, Antioch, CA 94509. The registration fee covers the dinner, banquet room and hospitality room along with its food and drinks.

Bob reports that there is a golf course less than a mile from the hotel and all kinds of fun activities in the San Diego area.

Working with Bob on the reunion planning are Ron Tessensohn, Greg Foreman and Marshall Larsen. They have been busy coordinating with the Navy for a visit to Coronado Island, the home of the SEALs BUD Training Center. If you have watched the documentary about the SEALs on the History Channel, you know about the intensive training those warriors go through. I had a chance to meet some of the SEALs who were working in the Delta and have always admired their toughness. I’m looking forward to seeing their training center on Coronado Island.

That’s it for now. Time for us to start our “short timer’s calendars” for San Diego. Can’t wait to see everyone again. Until then,

Rangers Lead the Way



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

Unit Director - David Regenthal

Wow, it took me a while to peel apart all 74 pages of the Winter Patrolling — literally, because somehow I managed spilled a half cup of coffee on it and it went unnoticed until after it dried. I’ve said this before but it’s worthy of repeating ... it’s not a magazine, it’s a book! I’ve read technical manuals and textbooks that were smaller. My hat’s off to each of you that has contributed your words or pictures to Patrolling and I simply cannot say enough about the tireless work of John Chester. I suspect he either has a small army of helpers hidden in his basement or otherwise

is simply a magician. My bet . . . it’s the latter. It is my hope that one day our website will reflect the same quality.

Writing for Patrolling . . . Many of you have far more interesting things to say then do I. Got something to pass along, an interesting tale to tell, or just some good poop? You don’t need a special invitation — just write it down and fire it off to me. And if the cat’s got your tongue, anything at all that your wife (or ex-wives) have to say might provide interesting reading! Ha ha, a little humor



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

here, but you get the message. Even something from one of your children (or grandchildren) might not be out of place in this section.

Two years ago I had the good fortune to have been invited to spend Fourth of July with Marshall Huckaby & Co. at his annual barbecue in Senoia, Georgia. Mark, Jo, and Laura Ponzillo were kind enough to permit me to bunk with them over the holiday (and I got a wonderful coffee-maker and smoking partner in Laura as part of the deal).

Marshall had super representation of his 66/67 guys, and it was really special when chief pilot Mike Squires (who flew our folks in the very beginning) was also there. I bring this up now because they were celebrating their 40th anniversary of having served as the original 25th Infantry Division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

40 years ago I was nearing the end of my second month In-Country with F Company. A lot of you have already, are or will be celebrating some 40th anniversaries this year. No doubt some of those memories will be difficult ... others likely will have more pleasant aspects. Some of our guys would prefer not to have any memories at all — that choice is certainly yours as it's just really a personal issue. For those of you able to do so . . . let me suggest that you, through whatever medium, begin a record of your own experience.

You see I believe that each of us that served with "the unit" made a valuable contribution and has an interesting story (or more) to tell. If you don't write it down, record it, or tell it to someone then that information will eventually be lost forever. I think that what we did as a unit and as individuals was very important and unique... it would be a real shame to leave it to some academic (who probably won't get it right) years after we're all gone to tell about the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division LRRP/LRP/RANGER. Not everyone is a storyteller but trust me when I tell you that all you have to do is speak your truth and it will be more than good enough.

A couple of weekends back I attended a presentation by Carl Burns at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I really appreciated the opportunity to thanks some of the gentlemen that came out and got us when we were in "Indian country" and in need of a lift (like pronto). Carl, with the help of his wife, some of the men from D Troop 3/4 Cav, and others wrote a book entitled "Centaur in Vietnam, Untold Stories of the First Year."



They accomplished this by way of letters, e-mail, telephone conversations, video, and other means, including contributions from Marshall and Capt P. Wow, what a good job they did . . . available on-line through: <http://trafford.com/>



A number of you have sat in front of the camera and related at least a part of your experiences for the record. I'd sure like to have additional appearances from those of you willing to participate in this exercise while there are still enough of us left alive to enjoy the finished product when it's done.

So, if I can help you by way of video interview or sending you an audio recording device I will be happy to do so. If I may be of service to you in this regard or if you just want to talk give me a shout. And if you are anywhere within a reasonable driving distance and would like to get together please let me know... I'll make the time.

Something else that would be extremely valuable to the project would be your pictures — should any of you have some to share or audio recordings, film, or a video that would be appropriate to this project please let me know right away (please).

I passed up D.C. this Memorial Day in favor of the cookout at John Chester's place. I'll be stopping by on my way back down to Fort Myers to pay respects as I usually do. I hope to be able to check in with a couple of you along the I-95 corridor along the way.

I spoken with a few of our guys since the first of the year—most are doing okay. Rich Martin's made a couple runs to the ER, as has Captain P but both seem to have bounced back sufficiently. Chuck Boyle's struggling a little bit—if you know/knew Chuck, give 'em a call. Joe Cassilly's had some really cool embroidery done on a selection of pull-over shirts (which I had intended to have on LRRP.COM by now), wait until you see them! Marshall & Company headed to the 3/4 Cav Reunion in June . . . see his article after this, or elsewhere in Patrolling.



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

Tom Fevurly and Rose drove down to pay us a brief visit. I have not seen Tom, probably in 10 years now – son of a gun is better looking than last time I saw him . . . not sure how he does that (pictures appeared in the last issue of Patrolling, we'll have to re-print them so that they make sense with this story)? The most extraordinary part is how he got here . . . Tom & Rose started out in Missouri (driving), got to Fort Myers Beach by way of New Orleans, Panama City, St. Petersburg, then finally here! I spoke with him when they were still up in Panama City – this was during their spring break and there had been some pretty nasty weather in their home state shortly after they left. He kinda got held up (and off schedule) in the western part of the panhandle . . . was thinking about whether or not he should re-schedule due to the situation at home (I mean just about the entire state was under water). Not Tom though, he and Rose wanted to see Corky and I. Sure enough, a day and a half later they come driving up (with only a few hours left to stay with us—got here mid-afternoon and had to leave before lunch the following day). What a grueling trip! God bless 'em, it was so good to see Tom, and to meet Rose—we loved her immediately. We're hoping they'll retire and move down here with us, or at least close by. Tom Fevurly, you are one exceptional guy . . . I couldn't have a better friend, thanks partner!



Bill Mrkvicka, Joe Gentile and I will be in D.C. for Veterans Day, 2008. If you're thinking of being there as well please let one of us know so we can get together at/near the Wall.

We'll be returning to Fort Benning next summer for the Ranger Rendezvous. The dates will be published on the association website and our own LRRP.COM as soon as they are set (BTW, LRRP.COM turns 12 this September). It would be really cool to have a big turn out again for 2009. Where the heck are you guys: Rick Carr, Jesse Moreland, Chuck Reau, Dwight Hampton, Pat Serna to name a few? Need a roster? We keep it on-line at LRRP.COM in the members area – you can either request a password or e-mail Bill Mrkvicka for a current copy in PDF format.

Hey, don't forget there's a national election taking place this November. You folks have, more than anyone I know, earned the right to vote. Get out there and cast your ballot for someone!

Regenthal, out.

***Captain Mark Ponzillo, LTC Ret.***

One of the tours at the 3/4 Cav reunion was a river boat cruise. And while on that cruise we thought it was time to set things right with Mark. Now we have all referred to Mark Ponzillo as "Captain P". So with this in mind we thought it was only appropriate that he have the proper headgear.

In ceremony which was brief but laced with decorum, we presented Capt "P" with his own River Boat Captain's Hat.

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

**Unit Director - Clifford M. Manning**



### **LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT**

#### **G/75-E/51LRP-E/51LRS-196<sup>th</sup> LRRP**

Like many of you I became a soldier as a young teenager in 1952. I served 14 months in an Infantry unit in Korea. During that time Korea was a hard place to be. It was cold and wet and if you were not on the offense you were on the defense in trenches, bunkers or in foxholes. Or on combat

and recon patrols. Most of your personal hygiene was performed by using your steel pot. You could have a bad attitude and look at life as all bad. I chose to look to the future for good things to happen.

After Korea I was assigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. I volunteered in 1955 to go to Germany with the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. I spent 4 years in Germany.



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

During my tour in Germany in 1955 I met Theresia whom I fell in love with and married on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1956. After my tour in Germany I was assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1959.

In 1965 I received orders to Vietnam. In route to Vietnam I went to Fort Bragg, N.C. to a military assistance training advisor course. In Vietnam I was assigned to a Infantry battalion, Army of the Republic of Vietnam as a Infantry advisor. The living conditions were not very good. You lived with the Vietnamese and ate and drank what they had. You slept whenever and on whatever you could find depending on the location they decided to stop at overnight. During that tour of duty a lot of things happened that could have caused me to develop a helluva attitude. I chose not to.

During Dec of 1966 I departed Vietnam and requested a tour of duty in Germany. I received orders to Germany and was there from 1967 until December of 1968. I received orders to return back to Vietnam with the reporting date of February 1969.

I was assigned to Company "G" Ranger 75<sup>th</sup> Airborne Ranger Infantry Regiment Americal Division as First Sergeant. The men I served with were some of the best men I have had the pleasure to serve with during my time in Company "G" Ranger. After my tour with the men in Company "G" Ranger in 1970 I was assigned as First Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Company at Eglin Air Force base, Florida. The Headquarters TSB Fort Benning, Ga.

By August 1972 I retired from the Army. I met a lot of good men during my time in the Army that I am proud to call my friends. Certainly there were bad times that could have caused you to develop a bad attitude, but there were also many good times. I learned to think about the good times and to let the bad times stay in the past. During my time in the Army, Theresia and myself had five loving and wonderful children. We now have grand children and great grand children. If the gift of your family will not help your outlook on life then I can't think of anything that will.

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude is more important than the past, money, circumstances, failures, successes and also what other people think, say or do. The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past, or the fact that people will act a certain way. We do not have the ability to change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that is our attitude. We as individuals are in charge of our own attitude.

I wrote a little bit about my past so you can see that life is what you make it and everyone has a choice.

Clifford M. Manning  
Unit Director "G" 75

Rangers Lead the Way

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

Unit Director - William Anton

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

**Keith N. Phillips**

18288 Acre Lane

Kemp, Texas

(903) 498-4194

darby7172@embarqmail.com

Shoot low Rangers, they're ridd'n Shetlands!

As the world turns LRRP/RANGER Reunion 08 came to a conclusion with no arrests or Bail money having been spent. This year we were in Jacksonville, Florida. Most stayed at the Hyatt on the River. (Forrest had to rent a

Dingy to get across the river). The rooms were great with a number of restaurants and watering holes near the Hotel. Some took a Dinner Cruise on the River while others, such as myself, David **Russell**, Bennie **Gentry** and John **Trumbull** plus our wives, terrorized the Florida Highways on our motorcycles (actually three motorcycles and a Honda) to Daytona and back. We also spent a day in St. Augustine the oldest city in the U.S. Since Bennie had been there as a young boy he gave us a guided tour.

This was an election year. The following are our new officers: Keith (Standing Two Hairs) **Phillips**, President; Douglas (No Show) **Parkinson**, Vice President; John (ain't



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

he cute in his nylons) **LeBrun**, Secretary; Bob (BBQ Float your Boat) **Carr**, Treasurer (IRS has already implemented an investigation); and “Doc” (I’m in love) **Gilchrest**, Sergeant-At-Arms. The Trustees are Michael (Capt.) **Gooding**, Bennie **Gentry** and Ken **White**.

The following members were in attendance and signed the rooster:

Samuel Dixon (71)  
John LeBrun (69-72)  
Doc Gilchrest (67-68)  
Bob Raab (68-69)  
Forrest Decker (67-68)  
Ronald Wood (71-72)  
Larry Curtis (67-68)  
David Russell (67-68)  
Scott Hancock (67-68)  
Gene Sprague (69-70)  
John “Jake” Geiger (69)  
Gary T. Lorenz (70-71)  
David Klimek (70-71)  
Bennie Gentry (67-68)  
Mike Ryan (70-71)  
Wayne Okken (70-71)  
Randy Kimes (67-68)  
Howard Coble (67-68)  
John A. Trumbull (67-68)  
Ken White (67-68)  
Bill Carpenter (67)

Dave Shows (67-68)  
Doug Matze (70)

Roger Simmons (70-72)  
Lou Bruchey (70-71)  
Tom Campbell (67-68)  
Howard Shute (69-71)  
Bill Hand (67-68)  
Tom Ford (67-68)  
Ronald Chistopher (66-67)  
Chuck Donahoo (70)  
Samuel Surgeon (68-69)



That makes 33 total plus most brought their wives, children and grand children. We had five first timers.

My first Reunion was in 1999 and what I experienced in those brief five days has put the Reunion as a priority in my life. Those who have made a Reunion owe it to yourselves to reach out to every brother of our unit who

honorably served and help them experience the bond of the LRRP/RANGERS, irrespective of what year the popping blades of a Huey became apart of their unconscious behavior.

God Bless all our fallen LRRP/RANGERS  
Keep Your Powder Dry

Keith N. Phillips  
President



**THE PASSING OF CSM JOHN G TAPIA**

As a young buck sergeant assigned to F Co 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry LRP and a FNG, who had just graduated from Recondo School, I was assigned to SFC Tapia’s team for training. I had gone out on a training mission with our company commander, Captain Price and his assistant team leader for this mission SFC Morgan. Captain Price was an Ex-Special Forces officer and an excellent artilleryman as he showed me when calling in artillery at night all around our position. But the exceptional leader was SFC Morgan who carried an M-14 in the field. My training really started with SFC Tapia who was in an artillery unit before volunteering for LRP’s. I don’t remember all of his team members but I do recall Chief

(Vaughn Isaacs) who was Tapia’s point man. Isaacs was a big man over six feet tall around 230lbs but in the field he would crouch down and carefully walked in the jungle with out making any noise, unbelievable. On my own team later on I would have three point men who had the same trait as Isaacs, Blankinship, Glen Ellis ( from the Makah Nation )and Robert Busby. Tapia was an excellent team leader and an excellent teacher, he knew the practical application of map reading making me understand that this was one of the most important skills to have in case you needed to call in artillery, gun ships or give your position for extraction. His Patrolling technique had been honed from all of his experiences as an artilleryman and after numerous missions as team leader. But his forte lay in his ability once you were back





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

in base camp to go over the mission and ask questions to better prepare you, so when you had your own team. Tapia knew all the rules and procedures of the Army, he was in charge of all our ceremonies including when we saluted our Killed in Action

John Tapia was a professional soldier and an outstanding Ranger. He made the Army his career and retired as a Command Sergeant Major. He and his wife Nona Lee Tapia made their home in Tucson, Arizona until his passing on June 25, 2008. He leaves behind his lovely wife Lee, 11 sons and daughters, 27 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. I personally mourn the passing of a great warrior that of Command Sergeant Major, JOHN G TAPIA.

**REUNION INFORMATION 2009**  
**SAN ANTONIO TEXAS**

Where: San Antonio, Texas

When: June 11, 12, & 13 – 2009

Hotel: Radisson Hotel Downtown Market Square.  
502 West Durango  
San Antonio, Texas 78207  
Res: (888) 201-1718  
Tel: (201) 224-7155 Fax: (210) 224-9130  
Hotel is located just off the I-10 the airport  
is 20 minutes away

Rate: \$109 per night, which includes the following:

Free parking (usually \$17 to \$22 per night at other hotels)  
Complimentary Hospitality Suite – we can bring our own snacks, food & adult beverages – they provide ice.  
Complimentary Welcome Reception • Free shuttle to River Walk, downtown restaurants & entertainment venues • San Antonio Trolley Service right outside right outside front door, running from 8 am to \*8pm for \$1 (Group rate is good 3 days before and 3 days after)

The hotel has a restaurant. Breakfast runs around \$7-8, lunch & dinner runs from \$6 to \$25. There is a bar inside and outside the hotel. They have a banquet hall that will cater Saturday's dinner with a sit down dinner or buffet. The dinners range from \$20 (Chicken Pasta Primavera) or \$36 (Filet Mignon) – there are choices in between. You also have the Texas Barbecue Buffet at \$28 per person which includes: salad, Texas potato salad, marinated onion salad, pickled chips & cherry peppers, vegetable tray with dip, barbecue chicken and smoked brisket, country sausage, corn on the cob, pecan pie and apple pie drink include.

Thanks to our President, Robert (BUZZ) and Sharel Busby who organized this coming years Reunion and for all their hard work. Buzz told me to let every one know that T-shirt, polo shirts, hats and patches will be sold. **WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE AT THE REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO JUNE 11, 12 & 13 - 2009**

**TWO MEN LONG RANGE PATROL**

**ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY: LARRY CUFF**

In the later part of September 1968, our C.O., a captain [I don't recall his name] came to me. It was about 2230hrs. He informed me that there was a team that had been on a mission and that there had been no radio contact with this team for several days. During this time period all of the teams were working out of Lai Khe. The captain stated to me that he wanted me to pick someone else to go with me and to try and make contact with the team. I asked him when he wanted this done. His reply back to me was "At 2400hrs, and that I had better get started gathering my supplies. The person that I picked was Sergeant Heckencamp. In talking to Heckencamp it was decided that he would carry the PRC-25 radio and that I would pull "point". At the time when we were told we were going to be doing this I thought it was strange that the captain would not send out another full team and not just a two man team. It didn't leave us much fire power if we got into something along the way. About the only thing that we could do was escape and evade any enemy we might run into. Whatever his reasons, we had our assignment and would carry it out to the best of our ability. At midnight Heckencamp and I were driven to the South end of the Lai Khe Base Camp. The Army had "Rome Plowed" (cleared of trees and other vegetation) approximately two hundred yards around the Lai Khe Base Camp back when it was decided they would use Lai Khe as a Base Camp. The reason for this was so that the VC could not sneak in close without being detected. Sgt. Heckencamp and I began walking through the Rome-plowed area. The mosquitoes were bussing us like crazy. If we had been out for a few days they would not have even come close because we would have smelled pretty rank. Each step of the way was scary; you didn't know whether the VC were in waiting or maybe a booby trap would be just setting there for someone to step on or into.

After patrolling for about an hour we came to a clearing. We stopped and I checked the map. I pointed out to Sgt. Heckencamp that we would need to cross the clearing to get back into the jungle and then bear to the east. As it turned out the clearing was actually a rice paddy. We both knew it was going to be risky but had no other choice but to hurry along and get to the thicket as quickly as possible.



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

As we walked along it was decided that we would not have the radio on because we did not want any kind of noise if we could help it. When we were about 400 meters out into the Rice Patty and just about 75 meters from the thicket, Sgt. Heckencamp tapped me on the shoulder. I was concentrating on everything right in front of me as we got closer to the thicket. I stopped as Heckencamp whispered: "Get down". Without ever questioning I got off the rice paddy dike and into the water and mud. Heckencamp whispered: "Over to our right". I looked over that way and I think my heart stopped right there for just a second. Coming out of the wood line were twenty or so VC. They were about 50 yards from us and walking the dike in the opposite direction we were going. As we watched it appeared as though they had not seen us. Then almost a heart beat later, off to our east through the rice patty another group of VC came walking out of the wood line. When we first saw them there were four or five, but more were coming behind them. They were a lot closer than the first group. Suddenly, without warning, they called out to us. They had seen us coming and thought that we too were VC. I told Heckencamp we had to do something before they got any closer. We got up and began walking back the way we had come. Now the twenty or so other VC seen us. They too called out to us. We just kept walking only now we were walking faster and hoping that they kept thinking we were VC. Each step we took I could feel my shorts getting tighter and tighter. I must say I thought that we were pretty much history on this one; things weren't going to turn out good. When we got back to the thicket where we had come from I told Heckencamp that we were going to run like hell and try and get away from the VC. We didn't have time to check the map but just to run and try and get away. We ran to the east in the thicket. By now the VC had figured out that we probably weren't their buddies. We could hear them calling out and coming after us. After running for about a half hour we came to a field that had elephant grass. The grass was about seven or eight feet high. We ran into the grass and hid, hoping the VC would pass by and not continue looking for us. As we laid there we soon could hear the VC. They were walking through the grass and they were definitely looking for us now. At one point three VC walked past us not more than ten feet away. I thought we were finished and would have been if they had found us. We laid there and didn't do anything. The bugs were eating us alive, but we figured it was better to be bitten some rather than be killed or caught by the VC. We stayed put in the grass until daylight. The VC must have thought we had gone straight through to the next wood line and they had continued that way on their search. When we got up we were bitten up pretty badly by the bugs, but at least we were

both alive. I had Sgt. Heckencamp get on the radio and try and make radio contact with our unit to let them know what had happened and pass along the information regarding how many VC we had seen. Heckencamp tried several times but could not make any kind of radio contact with our unit. Now we were without communications and to add to that we didn't have any idea where we were. We had had to run quite a ways to get away from the VC. I got out the map and tried to figure out where we were. Using the compass and the map I was able to determine that we were probably somewhere to the east of where we were suppose to be, but I wasn't real sure.

Before most missions we were able to do an over flight of the area within which we were going to be operating. On this mission we didn't have the chance to do that and so were stuck only with our ground-level view of the area. That morning we decided that we would continue on in a easterly direction; with any luck we would run into the other team or make radio contact with them. Just as we were getting out of the elephant grass and more into the open, a friendly sight came along. It was a helicopter gunship. We were about fifty meters or so out away from the elephant grass when the gunship spotted us. They must have figured that we were VC. Just as quickly they swung back around and came down apparently to make a gun run on us. I quickly told Sgt. Heckencamp: "Get back in the grass. They think we are VC". We ran back into the high grass and again hid. They did make a run on us but didn't come close. Thank God for that. They circled back and forth for several minutes and then left. Again Heckencamp got back on the radio to try and make some kind of radio contact with any friendly unit to let them know that we were out there. At this point we weren't sure whether any "friendlies" even knew we were out there. Even our CO could not possibly know our present location (since neither did we)! That morning we continued eastward until I was finally able to match terrain to map and determine our approximate location. We heard the sound of outgoing artillery from what we believed was our Lai Khe Base Camp and began to carefully patrol in that direction. Finally, at about 4:00pm that day, after reestablishing radio contact with our CO, we walked into Lai Khe and got picked up by our company ¾ ton truck for the ride back to the company area. At that point we also were advised that the other "missing" team had also walked back into Lai Khe. They had not been in contact or lost, but their malfunctioning radio had kept them from communicating with the company. When we got back to our company area I went to the captain and reported what had happened. It was just another day in the life of a Lurp.



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



**SFC John Tapia in front of formation, ceremonies for SGT William Cohn's team.**



**SFC John Tapia, preparing ceremonies for Sgt William Cohn team October 21, 1968.**



**R-L John Tapia, Barry Crabtree.**



**John Tapia reunion April 2005 Jennings La.**



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

**Unit Director - Rodger Crunk**

Greetings to All,

It is hard to figure out where to start with this. It has only been a week since our reunion in Kansas City and I miss being with so many Brothers who were in attendance. It turned out to be the largest gathering of 4<sup>th</sup> Div. LRRPS / Rangers since we started this several years ago.

We all owe Reuben and Bonita Siverling a debt that we can't repay for being our hosts and logging so many hours for the past two years putting it together. The amount of support they brought forth from their friends and community was awesome. I hope they are getting some well deserved rest.



The honor and respect we received from Northland Cathedral at their annual patriotic service was wonderful to say the least. Renowned videographer Ken Smothers and his wife put in so many hours filming and interviewing



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

“of their own accord” so that we will have a great remembrance of our time together. Can’t wait to see the DVD. Reuben’s friend, Roy Ford, his wife Marie, and granddaughter Carle’ came all the way from Columbus, GA. just to help honor us. His rendition of Amazing Grace on the Dulcimer during our missing hat ceremony was beautiful. The Embassy Suites was great, the staff went out of their way to accommodate us and welcome us to Kansas City. Our dinner at the Majestic Steakhouse in honor of Reuben and Bonita was great. Again, they went out of their way to accommodate us at the last minute. Thanks to David Bobo for putting that together for us

I was so proud to have my friend Donnie Lail with us. Donnie was the crew chief on the Blackjack slick that rescued my team Romeo-7 when we were ambushed on our LZ. Donnie and door gunner Brad Stutz “former K-Co Ranger” left the ship to help carry us to the ship. They are both special to me. Thanks for being there.



There were a lot of guys who had never seen some of their brothers for nearly forty years. Harry Pair’s team Romeo-4 were together again for the first time in thirty-eight years. It was great to see their bond remains as strong as ever.



**Rear L-R Thomas Schadeeg, Jerry Mele, Ed Mateer, Gary Heald, John “Festus” Gibson.  
Front L-R Merle Freed, Larry Massoletti.**

**Reuben Siverling  
presents Gods  
Own Lunatics  
by Joe Kline to  
raffle winner  
John Gibson.**



#### Reuben’s Comments

I am aware that others may be submitting comments about the K 75 Reunion in Kansas City. From all indications the positives will outweigh the negatives. What a tremendous response we have experienced from the initial planning right on through the execution and now the after-action reports. The kind expressions that have been rolling in during the past two weeks are gratifying and will fill many pages in our memoirs. All that attended will attest to the fact that this was much more than a Reuben and Bonita production. Internally, the untiring efforts of Roger Crunk, Wayne Mitch, Tom Sove and Herb Reichel (the planning committee) and those submitting articles for the commemorative book will be compensated for the ages. Thanks to each one of you for “mission completed”-well done.

Externally, dozens of friends, federal, state and local elected officials and business associates in the Kansas City community went all out or all in to make this an over the top welcome home event. The obvious was the impact of the greeting banners, the posters, the hospitality room displays and mementos, the hospitality kit packed with shirts, books, a DVD tribute, a beautiful keepsake Anniversary Reunion Program, and the extended facilities in the parking lot featuring a 53 foot long hospitality suite, the Huey helicopter, tents chairs and tables for gab sessions, and on an on ———.



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

We are also aware of many sacrifices of time, energy and resources that were expended to make the trip. All reports indicate the difference was worth the distance. I am confident we could nearly fill this magazine with photos and comments concerning this reunion. My point in “chiming in” on Roger’s greetings is to again emphasize that our gratitude is due and extended to lots of individuals. All your efforts to make this a fantastic lifetime memory of good things are sincerely appreciated by Bonita and I and the 130 or more attendees. The testimonials of joy and thanksgiving from those who huge returns on our “service have never attended a LRRP/Ranger Reunion - and had heretofore not felt the joy of a community expressing thanks for their sacrifices – are confirmation that we will forever have “above self”.



It would take the whole magazine to include all of the wonderful reunions that took place among old team-mates.

It was great to see it happen as that was our intention. Who wants to host the next one?

Roger Crunk  
Unit Director

When Wayne and Rosemary Hamilton friends of mine from church, asked for donations to help sponsor a fishing tournament for their daughter, and her buddies I thought it was something we would be interested in backing. Their daughter, PFC Jessica Hamilton is presently serving with the 11th signal brigade in Baghdad Iraq.

To put on this tournament, we needed thirty rods, reels, tackle and prizes. We made about \$300.00 in just a few days, and most of the equipment is on the way to Iraq. I would like to thank Roger Crunk, Wayne Mitsch, and the rest of the LRRP’s and Rangers of K Co. of the 75th RRA. I would also like to thank Curtis Berridge, and Tim King of the Academy sporting goods store in Pasadena, Texas for giving us a 50% discount all the items needed. It takes people with big hearts to do this for our troops. It takes even bigger hearts from these kids to put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms we enjoy in this country. Jessica will be coming home in December, please keep her as well as all our troops in your prayers. Once again thanks.

Ray Allen

			<b>L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP</b> Unit Director - Jerry Gomes		
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Well, Jerry Gomes 3/506 101st LRRP is the new recruit to submit articles to the Patrolling Magazine for the 101st LRRP Ranger Group (He’s the one who jumped in Normandy etc remember?) Taking over for Randy White and Pres Ralph Timmons.

The L75-F/58 LRP- 1/101<sup>st</sup> LRRP-3/506 LRRP Ranger Association 2008 Reunion was held June 18 – 22 at the Satellite Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Meeting was held and officers were elected:

Ralph Timmons, President  
Kip Rolland, Vice President  
Treasurer, Jim Phillips  
Secretary, Linda Cox  
Assistan Secretary, Marilyn Bengston  
Unit Director, Jerry Gomes

Reunion Banquet was attended by over 100 veterans, wives, friends & family.

The traditional lighting of candles and reading of KIA’s names Memorial Service was held that evening. It is always a moving ceremony.

Riley & Linda Cox invited their close friend John Giduck, author of “Terror at Beslan: A Russian Tragedy with Lessons for America’s Schools” to be the banquet speaker. Giduck and Archangel Group have become some of the busiest law enforcement and military trainers in America. He gave an inspiring talk about the safety of America and Freedom.

Dave “Mad Dog” Dolby Congressional Medal of Honor recipient was the guest of Rey Martinez.

He served in Co. B 1/8ABN, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Airmobile ‘65-‘66, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne- ‘67, 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers-‘69, Advisor Vietnamese Rangers-‘70, Green Beret: Cambodian Army-‘71. It was an honor to have him attend our banquet.

Juanita Walkabout, widow of Billy Walkabout, attended from Connecticut. Bobbie Cunningham, Billy’s cousin traveled from Sedona, Arizona and enjoyed the reunion.



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

Walkabout served as an Army Ranger in Vietnam, in the Co. F, 58th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. He was awarded his Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in a reconnaissance mission behind enemy lines in November 1968. Under fire for several hours, Sergeant Walkabout was seriously wounded, three members of his 12-strong team were killed at the scene, and one other died later from his injuries. The citation for his award notes that he simultaneously returned fire, helped his comrades, and boarded injured soldiers onto evacuation helicopters. He spent six months in a coma, recovering, and later returned to Vietnam. He retired as a second lieutenant. Billy Walkabout (March 31, 1949 - March 7, 2007) was thought to be the most decorated Native American soldier of the Vietnam War. He received the Distinguished Service Cross, five Silver Stars, ten Bronze Stars (including 5 with valor device), seven Air Medals, 10 Army Commendation Medals (including five with valor device), and six Purple Hearts.

Walkabout was born in Cherokee County, Oklahoma. He was a Cherokee of the Blue Holley Clan, the son of Warren Walkabout and Bobby Jean Chaudoin Walkabout.

Veterans had time to spend sightseeing around Colorado Springs. Some traveled to Pikes Peak, the Olympic Training Center, Airforce Academy, and other beautiful places in the area.

We are sorry to report that we have lost two of our buddies:

Limey Walker 101<sup>st</sup> AB 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade LRRP, 1967 – he was the only British citizen in the 101<sup>st</sup> LRRPS. Born March 27, 1945 – Died April 4, 2008. Limey's wife and daughter also attended the reunion.

Pascaul 'Pass' Meza died on 21 July 2008. He served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Group Special Forces, 1/101, 82<sup>nd</sup>. His son Chris wrote "I remember when thunder would jolt him from his sleep, when movies about that time were difficult for him, and how he carried himself like he was 10 feet tall. I will never forget. I hope you do not either, the price men like my father paid." Pass will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The reunion was wrapped up Saturday night with a BBQ.

Other News:

Lt David Glen, 3/506 LRRP made a jump in Israel for the 60th Anniversary this past May. He jumped with the Israeli Airborne School, the I.D.F. and fellow paratroopers from

around the world. Now he can add the Israeli Paratrooper Wings to his Flower Powers.



Arthur Heringhausen, Jr., F Co LRRP, 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div received the Silver Star posthumously for gallantry in action in Vietnam on November 20, 1968. His hometown of Oregon, Ohio has built a Memorial honoring all the Vietnam Veterans who called Oregon, Ohio their home and invites you to join them Oct. 18, 2008 for the dedication.

For more information please go to their website: [www.oregonvietnammemorial.com](http://www.oregonvietnammemorial.com) Next reunion will be at Ft Benning in conjunction with the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Assn.

Looking forward to meeting the active duty Rangers.

Airborne all the Way.

Submitted by:

Jerry Gomes

[azores46@verizon.net](mailto:azores46@verizon.net)

503-668-6127

## JUMP INTO ISRAEL

You may not recall but I have been traveling with my job 4 to 5 times a year to Israel for the last four years. I work with Israel Air Force (IAF) as the Program Manager for Boeings Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM), and Small Diameter Bomb (SDB) programs. I have always respected the Israel military and particularly their paratroopers. Through my contacts I had tried a number of times to get on a jump without success. I visit a lot of IAF bases, one of which they share with the IDF Airborne school. I could see the aircraft mock ups and longed to do just one more military jump.

Late last year I learned from Kaye Gomes that the International Airborne Society had arranged a jump with the IDF paratroopers. I was signed up in a few days and got all the releases, medical clearances, proof of military jump training, recent logbook, waivers, and insurance, and so on completed as quick as possible. The jump was going to be concurrent with the week of Israel's 60th anniversary and I had a business trip planned for that time so everything fell into place. Kip was going to join me but things did not work out for him. I was able to take my wife on the trip, something we both had wanted to do for a long time.

We arrived in Israel late in the afternoon on 3 May. The jump HQ was at the Dan hotel in Ashkelon, a few KM north of Gaza. The bus departed at 0600 the next morning



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

for refresher training at Tel Nof IAF Base where the airborne school is located. That morning I put on a uniform for the first time in about 40 years. They were flowpower camo jungle fatigues that were worn by Sgt Payne in Vietnam. Fortunately, I had some jungle boots I used for hunting and my green beret. I was ready!

We began by doing PLF's, over and over again. Got sand in every pocket too. We then went to review emergency procedures followed by aircraft procedures in the C-130 mock ups. They do things a little differently than the US. For example the jumpmaster hooks you up before you stand up. Their static line hook is different too. All the commands to get ready and prepare for jumping are a bit different also. After aircraft procedures they showed us aerials of the drop zone and got us oriented. We finished up with lunch and bussed back to the hotel.

At 0400 the next day, 5 May, the bus left for Tel Nof where we drew parachutes, reserves, and the gear bag. The parachute is similar to our T-10 and was not steerable. We already had our IDF helmets from the previous day. We then got back on the bus with a big heavy bag in our laps and drove to the ready area on the IAF side of the base next to a taxiway. We got our gear laid out and checked again then got some refreshments. It was then time to gear up. We were all ready in time to do the universal hurry up and wait drill. Finally the C-130 landed and taxied over to us and we boarded via the ramp. I had forgotten how noisy a C-130 is. I was the last man in the first stick of ten right door jumpers and would go on the first pass. The DZ was located at Palmachim on the coast very near Tel Nof. We made a wind dummy pass at about 0730. The pilot made a turn; they stood us up, moved the first jumper to the door and before you knew it the stick was doing a rapid shuffle to the door and exiting. I looked down as I left the aircraft and noted I was making a Ft. Benning classic body position exit. As a result when I checked canopy I was in good shape. I got the camera out and took the three pictures I sent you from the air. Then it was time to land. I made a good PLF but could have done a stand-up. The land was soft sand.

Soft sand is great for landing but hard to walk a mile or so with all the gear. As the last man out I had the longest walk.

I got official orders signed off by the Colonel in charge of the Airborne school and was presented my IDF paratrooper wings.

It just shows old paratroopers never fade away. I'm 65 years old.

Dave





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

Unit Director - Steve Houghton

What's new, another deadline, that's what's new! Seems like I always open with that same lame line, as these things always sneak up on me.

Summer's fading up north here, with cooler nights and shorter days. It seems like I just got last years heating bill conquered! By the time this article appears in print, we'll be starting on the next one.

Gosh how the seasons go by so fast any more! They go by faster each year it seems. Just yesterday I was a young man, what happened?

I was looking through the photo album Terrel Ross loaned me last summer at the reunion, looking at the young men I served with, the Lrrps and Rangers of the 199th, M Company, and 71st LRP. God we were young then!

I'm including a photo taken at fire base "Barbara" We're playing a game of basketball in between missions. We were going out for 3-4 day missions during that time, we had a couple days to rest before the next one, read some mail from home, share a "care" package somebody's mom, girlfriend, little sister, or wife sent from home. Time to smoke and joke and drink a little, and play a little basketball.

I don't think there was one of us older than 21 in these photos. I turned 21 a couple weeks either side of the time these were taken. This was taken in late December 68, or at the latest mid January 1969. I remember these guys, these men, these brothers of mine. I remember most of their names except one or two, but I remember them. In the photo of the basketball game, I'm on the far left. In the background is David Wolfenbarger, "Wolf" watching the game, next is Rick Wintermute, I believe his nickname was "the Pope", it looks like he is trying to box out Dan Fisher "Fish" who's looking at the shot. Victor Bosquez is trying to block the shot. The guy next to him looking toward the basket is Kirk Rich. In the background is Tim Henderlieter aka "Funny" sitting this one out. And Terrell Ross is taking the jump shot. One other in the background is covered, and the fellow to the far right I don't remember.

At the time these were taken I don't think anybody ever thought they'd live long enough to look back one day and wonder "what ever became of so and so", or what



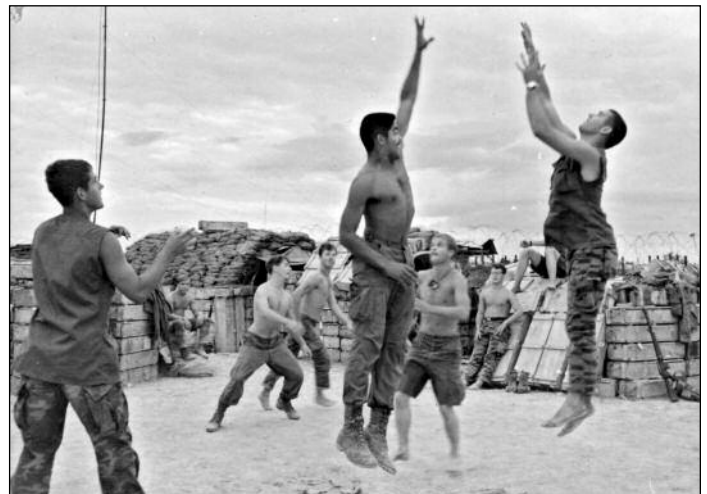
happened to the unit when I left? That was one of the shitty things about Vietnam, as a replacement, you showed up by yourself one day, without a friend. You make friends eventually. But then after fitting in, making friends and becoming brothers, you one day leave to go back to the world.....the same way you came in, by yourself, but this time you're haunted by the fact you're leaving your Buddy's behind. I took a chopper out of Barbara one day in Feb 69 and never came back. I didn't hear from or see these any of these guys again for 35 plus years. To this day I feel guilt

about the sudden way I went home and left my brothers behind. It doesn't make any sense I know, as I had little choice in the matter, but it doesn't change the way I feel about it. Anybody else have similar haunting?

I am honored to have served with these fine men. Not just the men in this photo certainly, but others before and after me, that I've had the honor to meet through our Association reunions. There is something constant in the character of the men who served as LRRPs and Rangers in Vietnam that bonds us all together. The 199th LRRP, 71st LRP and M Co Rangers are the best. How could I not say that! I am honored to say I was one of you.

No news is good news as far as current status is concerned. Everyone seems to be doing ok. Keep in touch guys. Share your stories and news items.

Till next time  
Steve Houghton





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

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



A few new names have shown up in the last several months. Mike Gayler says he is living in the back of nowhere in Washington State:

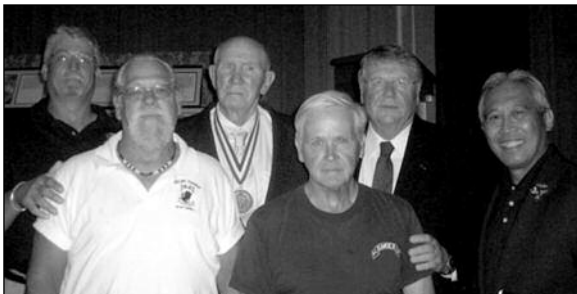
[gaylermr@centurytel.net](mailto:gaylermr@centurytel.net)

Joe Keshlear sent an e-mail in which he wrote "...I'm a lifetime Ranger member but I haven't recieved "Patrolling" for four years until an issue arrived a couple of days ago. I recently wrote a book I'm currently vetting. Some of the history in it doesn't jive with the facts you have listed. I'd like to clear up discrepancies before it goes to print. Please contact me- Joe Keshlear- 803/272-2987 or return email. I sent some samples- if you'd like to see whole book I'll pop it to you.

Robert Henriksen is working on a Member Master List and E-Mail contact list. He is also working at organizing photographs from the entire time frame of the unit from 1966 through 1971. He would appreciate it if folks would include dates of service with unit and teams served on. His e-mail is [novrgcrco@yahoo.com](mailto:novrgcrco@yahoo.com)

Regan Kelly has put together an on-line photo album of later N Ranger times. It can be accessed at [regankelly@mac.com](mailto:regankelly@mac.com)

Rudy Teodosio sent me photos taken at SGM Moore's induction into the RHOF.



**Bill Wilkinson, Chuck Moseby, Frank Moore, Roger Brown, Bill Shippey, Rudy Teodosio.**



*Dick Davis is my Nomination this year, if anyone opposes it I need to know why. I will do all the paperwork, when I get home in Aug, and get it turned in before Dec, the one big reason I want him in the RHOF because I think he earned it. It was a mission he was on in the fish hook, his team was hit bad 3 team members down he was one of the 3 hit bad, I took my team in to get them out, I took Doc Taitano, with me, and when we got there the bad guy's NVA was still around them, so it took me and my team a few min's to run them off, and when it was halfway clear I told Stinky, my RTO to get dust-off in, and when it got in as doc was getting the wounded in, I heard Dick say to Taitano, get my men in before you put me in there, and I walk up to dick, gave him a pat on the shoulders, and said all will be ok, he is the type of Team Ldr, we all can be proud of, his men before himself RLTW Take Care Robt if you like you can share this email.*

*Tad*



*Ya'll,*

*Just got a update from Fletch who was at Benning last weekend and saw the new BRICKS installed! Just my thanks in helping out put these names of our brothers at the Memorial. Keep looking out there, there are few more of our ranks, we don't know of their status. We can continue work on the names for our Brothers!*

*Thanks again, Bradda*

*Rudy*

*Rudy - yep - saw mine, right between Schoony & Dapello- with Walker on the right of me - or left depending on your point of view - Later Fletch - Next time I'll take a toothbrush & water as some of our people need some touch ups!*

*Have not received much from N Ranger days but did get a nice photo of Golf Team: Peel, Swisley, Morgan, Duval,*



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

Data, Cummings. Swisley wrote "...my last mission, good patrol, nobody hurt, no contact, Morgan TL. LZ English was flooded ..."

**History of the original OD beret**

Tom Roubideaux is pursuing developing an oral history of the unit from Pre-Provisional LRRP through N Rangers. As a start he has written an excellent 28 page monograph on the lineage of the OD beret worn by the 173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP and 74<sup>th</sup> LRP. Retired Colonel Bob Carroll, the 2<sup>nd</sup> CO of 173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP sent us the following on how the beret came to be.

*Here is my memory on this: Our NCO's recommended the beret, and initially, I was not too turned on to it. I guess I mixed up "elite" with "wild and undisciplined" and was leery of the latter. I also had worn the wool Vietnamese Ranger beret for 8 months before the 173d, and thought it was very hot. I vaguely remember having a talk with Gen Smith who argued for the "elite", and without ordering it, told me to think it over. I did, and we went ahead with it. Sutton was quite tough to work for and had his priorities and heart with the Cav. I remember him making me wear Crossed Sabers with E/17 on them instead of crossed rifles. I also vividly recall Carl Vencill, when we got the order, telling me nicely where he thought Sutton could place the brass. But Sutton never got in our way, and I respected him. I do know he was later killed in Nam. Hope everyone is doing well.- Bob Carroll*

I spoke with Bob about this on 3 August and he admitted that going along with the Brigade and Troop commanders was a smart thing to do for a captain who planned on making major. The unit held a vote on five or six possible headgear: red, black or OD beret, black cap and black CAV type cowboy hat. Nobody wanted to look like jump school cadre (black cap) or some kind of cowboy, and certainly no one wanted to be mistaken for an Air Force Security Policeman (black beret). I do remember the ceremony when we were issued in the berets in January 1967. Collins had been killed during the Iron Triangle Operation and the entire E/17<sup>th</sup> Cav (to which LRRP was attached) attended the memorial ceremony. Major Sutton

commanded "LRRPs uncover" for the ceremony. We stuffed our baseball caps in one pocket and pulled out the berets. At the end of the ceremony, Major Sutton commanded "LRRPs cover" and we donned the berets. The quite tough Platoon Sergeant of the Aero-Cav platoon raised his hand. "Yes Sergeant." "Sir, the Aero-Cav has the mission of immediate reaction for the entire brigade, shouldn't we get a distinctive headgear?" Without missing a beat, Major Sutton inquired "What would you suggest, black beanies with propellers on to?"

I received the following from retired Colonel Alan Phillips who was the third CO of 173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP.

*I've racked my brain with some success. You may recall that the E Troop CO was Major Bryan Sutton, born in the UK but immigrated to the US as a young man - he retained a fair bit of his English accent. I believe he came up with the idea of the tan beret, got the approval of the CG, and purchased them locally. His inspiration, no doubt, would have been the elite units that Tome Ribideaux has cited. At any rate, after he left the 173rd he was assigned to the Pentagon in the Ops directorate somewhere as I recall. One of his projects was to gather the various LRRP units into some type of formal Table of Organization - to make the structure permanent as it was ad hoc until then, meaning that the troops had to be scrounged from within the unit. Sutton was responsible for the research that led to the LRRPs becoming descendants of the 75th Rangers (Merrill's Marauders) that resulted in the 173rd LRRP being redesignated N Co, 75th Rangers. He was a hard charging, very talented officer and committed special ops guy - unfortunately he was KIA as a Bn CO with the 101<sup>st</sup> a year or so later as I recall. The other LRRPs became other lettered companies of the 75th and I think the designations remain - itself a nice tribute to Bryan Sutton and all the LRRP troopers. I hope this sheds a little light on the matter. - Alan*

*CPT Sutton was a hell of an Infantry Officer and some kind of Company Commander when I was in C/2<sup>nd</sup> Battlegroup/501<sup>st</sup>/82<sup>nd</sup> Inf in 1962. The next time I ran into now Major Sutton is E Troop 17th Cav 173 Abn. Bde. 1966 whee he took over from ASSHOLE !! CPT. ( BULL ) Moore. It was not long after that, I do believe CPT. Palmer just left and CPT. Carroll just took over. Some of the Team Leaders got in a bind and I was one of them, believe there were 4 or 5 of us. Something about missing a recon of AOs for infiltration. MAJ. Sutton gave us our rights under Article 31 and was going to give us Article-15's. We refused the Article-15's and to make a long story short. I was in MAJ. Suttons office and he was reading me my Article-31,*



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

and I asked him. “ All due respect SIR “I knew you when you were an Infantry Officer and my Company Commander, and now you sitting their with your crossed butter knives acting like Armstrong Custer of the famed Cavalry Troop. He looked at me, and said “Do you know what most Majors do in the US Army ? They take care of the Units SHIT PAPER and other Admin jobs and make sure that the Commanders have someone to blame for their incompetence. My ONLY wish in life is to lead troops in combat that’s why I’m in the Calvary here I’m a Major and Combat Commander.” And I could see the old CPT Sutton, a Infantry Company Commander and doing best he can with what he got. My respect for him doubled and the Article-15’s never happened. But I also do believe it was our CPT Carroll and LT Vincell had a lot to do with it. I do respect them both and will never forget all they did for us that we don’t even know about. As I always say, “Sometimes you have to eat shit, as long as you don’t acquire a taste for it. “ So long ago, but will never be forgotten. - Jake

You got love these type of “Old Breed” Officers and Senior NCOs, I pray that brand of leadership traits is passed on to the next generation of soldiers. I remember once our SF Company re-deployed back to Okinawa from Thailand. As we got off the C-130 we were told to unload our equipment and get in a formation by teams with our individual carry on equipment in front of us (wpns,rucksacks etc). I was instructing our Team to lay it out for the drug dogs and USAF Customs Agents check selected few from each Teams. Two of the biggest Agents with their dogs came directly to me and asked if I was MSG Teodosio and of course I said, yes! Then they gave me my rights and then one approached the Company SGM (Franquet) and spoke to each other. Then the SGM approached me with the one of the agents and he started saying you better have a good explanation for this for what they found on you as he was speaking he was shaking a piece of paper in his hand. My thoughts went back to Thailand, and how one of my NCOs got into a fight with a some Euro-trash in Bangkok and the news went all the way to Bragg. Then they started taking apart my ruck, my thoughts drifted back on some of the live fire exercise we conducted and I may have left a grenade in my equipment? But I was good in checking on that deal of not happening or someone planted one on me? Then the SGM started to open that piece of paper in his hand and saying you better have a good answer to this as the C.O. just stood there with a blank look on his face! Then I started to drift back to Nam and tried to think back on every mission, in what I saw or done as the agents stood side by side to me with the cuffs coming out and my Team eyes were widen in what was unfolding.SGM started

to read; Attention to Orders,.....as the words came out I wasn’t quite focus in what he said (something to affect promoted to the rank of!?! ) until the agents started laughing and tapping my back and the C.O. start laughing as well the entire company. In the end between the hand shaking and laughing, I just asked the agents if they still wanted to check out my ruck and they continue to walk away laughing. It was a happy and sad event for me, cause I got promoted, and I just lost my Team and was being kicked upstairs to battalion as the S-3 SGM slots until they had a company open for me! I have a great respects for the “Elders” of Army, they were hard and yet they can be human at times!Thinking back, I was about to say that famous respond,..I have no recollection of that,...RLTW, Bra - Rudy



**(TL) SSGT Tome Roubideaux, (1st Scout), SP4 Jawers, (ATL) SP4 B. Cantu, Sp4 (RTP) Campbell, (Tail Gunner) SP4 Witlock, Missing (1st Scout) B. “Tennessee” Andrews (temporarily indisposed).**

Again, no matter what our former CO’s have to say and what Tome has researched, a few still feel that the berets were fabricated from old Army blankets. It is to be noted that the berets were Vietnamese Ranger recon berets and were to be worn in the French fashion with the unit crest over the right eye and the hat sloped over the left eye. It was decided to wear the berets in British/SF fashion, so the caps were rotated 90 degrees to the right so that the crest was over the left eye and the cap slopes over the right eye. This put the drawstrings over the right ear.

It is to be noted that the 173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP (Provisional) was attached to E/1/17<sup>th</sup> Cav. The CO of the Cavalso assumed operational command of D/16<sup>th</sup> Armor, Company E (Combat Engineers) and the Combat MPs when the Brigade was in the field. This command was the Autonomous Battalion. Since the brigade was the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade (Separate), this meant that the LRRP was at the end of a very creaky command structure.

**The Lineage of the OD Beret of the LRRP Detachment (Prov) and the Early 74<sup>th</sup> Infantry Detachment (LRP)**



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

**of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade (SEP) to the French, British, Vietnamese Special Operations Forces.**

### **Tome Roubideaux**

According to the legend, the SAS variation of the OD Beret of the former 1<sup>st</sup> Observation Unit (Lien Doi Quang Sat Sq 1/LDQSS 1) was bestowed and passed on to a 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade (SEP) S-2 officer in 1965 by Col. Le Quang Tung, a veteran of the French 1<sup>st</sup> BCCP-SAS, GCMA, and Vietnamese 1<sup>st</sup> Observation Unit. The intent of this informal “passing on” was the personal recognition of the first American Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol unit formed in the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne as ad hoc patrols organized by the Brigade S-2 officer (retired LtCol Homer Van Zandt who currently resides in Las Cruces, NM).

Whether this legend is true or not is irrelevant. The final reality is the OD beret became a unique symbol of courage and fortitude of the reconnaissance soldier. This irrefutable fact is directly related to the deed and action of the men who wore the OD Beret during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Indochina Wars. The team leaders and team members of the 173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP Platoon and 74th LRP's actions that lead to numerous personal awards and decorations continued their legacy of unquestionable courage and resolve. Both units received additional recognition in three Valorous and one Presidential Unit Citations during their activation as operational combat units. That fact is simply a hallmark that serves as a full measure of leadership, e'spirit and cohesiveness of a very small group of men as an elite force multipliers.

In 1947, in an effort to re-establish their original colonies and protectorates in Indochina, The British and French were tasked to organize effective colonial defense forces. The British and French special operations organizational experience and effectiveness in reconnaissance, commando, and early air mobility operations largely defined and influenced the formation these units.

The first unit to be organized by the British and French Expeditionary Corps was the Ecole de Troupes Aeroportees (ETA) and Groupment de Commandos Mixtes Aeroportees (GCMA) for Defense Force operations. The first these Special Operations Forces goes back to July 1947 when the SAS DEMI-BRIGADE (Demi-Brigade de Parachutes SAS - DB-SAS) conducted a series of airborne training courses in Phnom Penh, Thakhek, Vientiane, and Saigon which was to produce the nucleus of all Airborne and Special Operations Forces engaged in the First and Second Indochina Wars. It is to be noted that the original SAS beret was “sand”, a much deeper shade than the “tan” beret currently used by SAS and US Rangers, and basically light OD in color.

The first Vietnamese candidates were a squadron from the South Vietnamese Republican Guard who were destined to be an operational core unit assigned to the Airborne Defense Forces. They became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indochinese Parachute Company (1<sup>st</sup> Compagnie Indochinoise Parachutistes – 1<sup>st</sup> CIP). The 1<sup>st</sup> Compagnie Indochinoise Parachutistes completed rigorous training and was deemed combat ready on December 4, 1947. On January 1, 1948, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> SAS Battalions were combined to form the 1<sup>st</sup> Colonial Parachute Commando–SAS (1<sup>st</sup> Bataillon de Commandos Parachutistes SAS – 1BCCP-SAS). At this point, the 1<sup>st</sup> CIP officially joined the French Paras of the 1<sup>st</sup> BCCP-SAS as the third company. Although, having previously made ten combat support jumps to their credit as the South Vietnamese Republican Guard. The first “official” spearhead combat jump by the 1<sup>st</sup> Compagnie Indochinoise Parachutes (1<sup>st</sup> CIP) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Colonial Parachute Commando – SAS (1<sup>st</sup> Bataillon de Commandos Parachutistes SAS - 1 BCCP-SAS) was made at Tan Tich on January 11, 1948.

The distinctive headgear of the commandos was the olive drab beret with its unit device. While the French expeditionary Airborne forces wore a mixture of olive drab, green, white, and the red berets in the early days of evolution of the Airborne and Para Commando Forces. The unit also wore French Parachute Badge, the Jump Designator Badge, as well as their pocket unit badges as a part of their BDU's and dress uniforms. The 1<sup>st</sup> BCCP-SAS was rotated back to France to rest, reorganize, and re-equip for future deployment to Indochina. During this period the 1<sup>st</sup> CIP briefly disappears from the 1<sup>st</sup> BCCP-SAS TO&E. As mentioned earlier, The Vietnamese Cadres for the Compagnie Indochinoise Parachutistes (1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> CIP) were to be developed and gain experience to become the nucleus of the ARVN Airborne and Special Operations Forces.



Half of the GCM went to Duc My (RTC) LRRP Course, the half went to Aussie SAS LRP course at Van Kiep National training Center.

They were led by French Officers and NCO's, and fought as integral elements of the French Airborne (Ecoles des



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Troupes Aeroportees), Parachute Commando (Bataillon de Commandos Parachutistes, and Long Range Parachute Commando (Groupment de Commandos Mixtes Aeroportees) units. A force of twelve CIP's were recruited and deployed under eighteen different unit designations. All of which fought with honor, unshakeable resolve, and distinction in all of the major combat and long range commando operations throughout Indochina. The South Vietnamese Combat Reconnaissance responsibility was given to The Ranger Training Center (RTC) ARVN Reconnaissance Units and teams trained at Duc My RTC's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Course, or at the Australian SAS sponsored Long Range Patrol (LRP) course at Van Kiep National Training Center. The South Vietnamese Reconnaissance graduates wore the old French Para Commando olive drab beret with distinctive unit device to mark them as reconnaissance soldiers.

In 1957, President Diem ordered the creation of a special unit to conduct clandestine external operations. The initial training of 70 officers and noncommissioned officers was conducted at Vung Tau. Upon completion of training, 58 men went on to a four month commando course at Nha Trang under the supervision of a U.S. Army Special Forces Mobile Training Team. This unit continued to wear an OD beret as a possible carry over from Australian SAS sponsored Long Range Patrol course at the Van Kiep National Training Center and French Special Operations units of the First Indochina War until 1960.

In November 1957, the graduates formed the 1<sup>st</sup> Observation Unit (Lien Doi Quang Sat so 1 – 1 LDQSS). The unit was placed under the control of the Presidential Liaison Office, a Special Intelligence Bureau outside of the auspices of the ARVN. The commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Observation Unit was an experienced airborne officer and a veteran of the French Special Operations units, Lt. Col. Le Quang Tung. The unit was composed of largely men from North Vietnam, thus, reflecting its external operations capability and orientation. The LLDB Command had direct control of Delta Operations Center and its Delta teams and the 91 Airborne Ranger Battalion (91 Biet Cach Du/Luc Luong Dac Biet). Both units were operational with Project Delta, the special reconnaissance unit of the U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam's Studies and Observation Group (MACV/SOG) whose mission was deep strategic reconnaissance into VC/NVA sanctuaries. It was during this time that Colonel LE Qung Tung bestowed the OD beret of the 1<sup>st</sup> Observation Group to the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade (SEP) S-2 Officer.

### **Setting the world record for the 2000 meter broken-bamboo steeplechase**

Team 3 was led by Sgt Guill until he ETS'ed after 25 or so years of service. Sgt Guill made one combat jump with the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne in the Philippines, both jumps with the 187<sup>th</sup> in Korea and had a second combat tour with 2ID. He was on his fourth RVN tour when he was with us. He retired as an E-8. We had an in memoriam write-up on him in Patrolling a few issues back. His corporate knowledge of small unit warfare was only matched later in the war by the likes of Tad, Roy, Tome and a number of other N Rangers. If you wanted to stay alive, you listened to him when he spoke. The combat jump was made at Katum on 22 Feb, 1967 in III Corps within 2 km of Cambodia. Two LRRP teams had been inserted four to five kilometers from the DZ two days before the drop. Team 3 under Guill was one of these teams. At this time Team 3 was composed almost entirely of guys who had joined the unit when it had been formed in March and April of 1966 and was extremely proficient. Their joke was that they were brewing coffee as they watched 2/503<sup>rd</sup> hit the silk. They were told to remain in the open and to turn their caps inside out so that the orange panels could be seen.



The rumor was that at least one previous BDE drop had been called off when throngs of enterprising VNs were discovered on the highly classified DZ with vans and Lambrettas full of beer, soft drinks, and ice cream. The rest of the LRRP teams almost made the jump since the Air Force BG in charge of the aircraft supposedly requested that LRRP jump in with his pathfinders as their security and Captain Phillips supposedly pushed for LRRP to make the jump; however MG Dean wanted to be the first Army paratrooper out the door. Captain Phillips did make the jump.

Teams 3, 4, and 8 were to have been infiltrated on the evening of 23 February for screening actions to the east and west of the BDE position. Guill's team was fired on before landing at both primary and secondary LZs. Silsby's team was run out within half an hour. Team 3 tried to infiltrate on



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foot through the VC lines the next morning but came under skirmishing fire and aborted. It was Guills' last run before retirement after 24 years and 3 wars. Team 4's insertion was postponed until the following night. The next evening a LIFE magazine photographer wandered by while the team was waiting by the helicopter for insertion. He took photographs and spoke with them. One of the shots taken was used for the cover of Lannings "Rangers in RVN". Unfortunately, Larry Cole was getting short and he was removed from the team. Losing a first rate fighting man just before you infiltrate is not a joyful situation.



Team 4's mission was to perform area recon to the east of the 173rds and north of 25<sup>th</sup> ID's AOs and just north of road 246. The LZ was a small round clearing about 50 meters on a side in the middle of very tall timber, 3 kms south west of the Cambodian border between two south flowing streams. These streams effectively funneled infiltration from a number of all weather roads that ended at the border onto an unknown small road on the high ground. The team found this road as soon as they got into the wood line. It was marked with the tires of small trucks and three-wheeled Lambrettas. The team moved moved 100 m into the woods and gave the sitrep. Brigade changed the mission to point recon and requested that the trail be kept under observation. The sound of squeaking bicycles was heard during the night. The team made first light sitrep to aerial relay and were told to move back to the trail and continue to observe the trail. As the team moved into position, two VC were spotted wearing blue/yellow-checked neckerchiefs. Each was wearing black pajamas, no packs, no hats, and each carried an RPD. We mentioned the neckerchiefs at the debrief and were told was the COSVN palace guard, the 70th Guard Regiment. The team were only about 30 m from them but remembered Sergeant Guill saying not to engage troops not wearing packs, they're near home base. The team pulled back 200 meters. The team was told that exfiltration was not possible for several hours since all helicopters were in use. They moved back another 150 meters into a good hide. The

terrain was open forest with two to four foot tall termite domes interspersed through the trees. The team found a cluster of these domes that allowed them to have good cover and concealment for 360° coverage with good lanes of fire were probably good for about 100 meters in all directions. Lanes of fire out meant lanes of fire in. After about an hour of hiding, a cacophony of birdcalls erupted about 50 m away as about 40 red headed blackbirds started screaming at each other. O God, just like in the movies, they'll find us because of the birds. The team then realized that half a dozen colonies of these birds sounding all over the jungle floor. Our limited ornithological studies indicated that these birds group up and raise hell at between 8 and 9 in the morning. An hour later, Captain Phillips called that he was in a command ship and for the team to get ready to exfiltrate. He told them that to "lean into the fire" - just what the hell does that mean - and that they were to head back to the original insertion LZ. The team was able to indicate their position with a signal mirror and Phillips had 105 mm WP marker rounds pop above them. He then brought rounds into the team position until they could hear limbs falling from nearby trees. He then dropped a battery three round volley (18 rounds) within 75 m of the position and they sprinted into the impact area, He dropped in a second volley 75 m closer to the LZ. Three more volleys and the primary trail was seen along with the sunlit grass and brush on the LZ. The TL requested that they cease fire. The team moved slowly in column but went into line to set up for the trail crossing. Moya moved up to investigate the trail and three guys peddled right into him on bicycles. He opened fire from about 2 meters and the ambushing/covering RPD fired at him a moment later. Moya was seen fly through the air and a short scream was heard - just wonderful - they'd walked into the kill sack of an ambush and the point man is apparently down about 5 meters from three wounded VC and a machine gun.

The entire team opened fire to the direct front and the 11 am gloom of the forest floor was lit up with ball/tracer mixture (every other round is tracer for our locked/loading magazines). The shock effect of the 50 or more tracers ricocheting off the trail and deeper into the brush gave the effect of a much larger force and allowed the team to gain immediate fire superiority. They were able to finish off the three wounded on the trail at about 10 to 15 meters range. The RPD lashed across and Bumgardner had the déjà vu of having rounds go into a the tree several inches above his head, a very nice thick tree. Ray Hill had been carrying two reversed magazines - one taped upside down to the one in the magazine well and his weapon jammed as soon as soon as he switched the magazines - the lips were damaged on the second magazine. He grabbed the radioman's weapon



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(Bruce Baughn) and told him to keep talking to Captain Phillips as he, Bruce, had more important things than to shoot for the time being - Bruce is still somewhat annoyed about this 41 years later. The team was able to locate the RPD from dust thrown up by muzzle blast. The TL remembered Guill saying that their only way to take out a dug-in MG was to stand up and fire down into the position; the gun is set to graze the ground. Someone yelled, "We got them!" Moya and Bumgardner had seen two guys bounce a foot off the ground. The team had either hit an ammo can or a grenade. There was still automatic fire from behind a termite dome 25 m away. Someone had told the lad to "keep up the fire" and he was triggering 3-5 round bursts but the rounds going through the leaves 50 to 100' over his head. He was cringing behind the mound firing straight up about 30 meters from us. Ray Hill tossed a WP frag on the guy. It at least got his attention and indicated our position to Captain Phillips. The team moved through open triple canopy forest towards a 100 meter wide LZ about 750 meters SW.

Phillips dropped a lot of artillery behind the team to cover movement and they stopped and listened for a bit. Moya indicated that they had come to within 50 meters of the turnpike again. They sat in light brush and listened for several minutes to cool down and consider options. Everyone drank a bit of water in turn ("take two salt tablets and drive on"). Baughn had fixed Hill's weapon and got his weapon back (Bruce has since taught at Jeff Cooper's combat pistol school at Gunsite Arizona). Bumgardner took the radio for the next portion of the evasion. There was some broken bamboo about 1000 meters to the NW and the TL requested a Tonto. They were told to head at 300° for 1200 meters. Fast movement time was over and it was time for covert movement and stalking. The terrain remained fairly open - some scattered bamboo clumps and brush but mainly open high canopy primary forest - no good brush to get lost in and hide.

After about 500 m of travel they could hear chickens squawking and some conversation to their right. It was about noon - "paht" time or siesta. They came upon some shovels, picks, and unopened bundles of sandbags next to a very fresh excavation. The bunker builders were at lunch - strong union - they'd probably picked up the tools and sandbags on the drop zone ten kilometers away. The team had to move very stealthily now as the terrain transitioned into fairly open bamboo. More folks were heard to the right. The bamboo was all tied overhead for aerial concealment and there were hundreds of raised sleeping positions arrayed in rows. A check of the map showed that the terrain turned into high timber in 50 m and swamp 100 meters beyond that - not a place to be cornered. The team

gave a sitrep on the situation to include the personnel heard and the bunker and sleeping complexes observed. Brigade thought about having the team recon further and develop the situation but finally decided a damned good assessment of the area had been performed and should get the hell out. The team moved into the timber at the edge of the unoccupied portion of the VC base camp and were told to cut a large enough opening for a ladder exfiltration. Everyone put on their Swiss seats in case they were engaged while climbing the ladder. The ladder was dropped and everyone scampered up. Ray Hill as assistant team leader was first up the ladder with Moya right behind him. Ray crawled across the cabin and Moya's bumped into his rear and Ray went right out the left door some thirty feet up. The crew chief was able to grab his leg as he went out the door. The team was back at BDE in about eight minutes. Moya received a Bronze Star for engaging the three VC at about 2 meters range.

Ray Hill worked for a number of years as a hard hat diver and now runs a limousine service in London using Daimler sedans. Roger Bumgardner is an insurance adjuster in Indiana. Bruce Baughn is a retired police officer and handmade excellent hunting bows (until he decided that he breathed in too much fiberglass dust) and is now happily retired in nowhere New Mexico. Moya was killed in a car accident over 20 years ago in northern New Mexico.

**Team 3's big patrol**

Vencill as our XO/Operations officer. He had just left 4/503<sup>rd</sup> after seven months as a platoon leader where he was very highly regarded. Team 3 was without a TL with Guill's ETS and Stowell took the team out: Stowell, Gary Wolfgang "Wolf" Lotze, David Liebersbach, Forrest Kendall, Sid Smith and Roy Gilmore.



Lt Stowell decided to set up an ambush on a trail near another landing zone. Liebersbach went 40 m down the trail as right flank security. Gilmore went out as left flank security. Stowell waited with Lotze as ambush element with Kendall (RTO) right behind them and Smith as rear



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security. Soon after the ambush had been prepared two NVAs walked past Liebersbach and into the ambush position. Lotze detonated a Claymore at Stowell's command and killed one VC and wounded the other. Stowell wanted to capture him but the NVA still had a weapon and he was shot down.

Stowell and Lotze were searching the bodies when an NVA shouted a command. There was an exchange of gunfire and Stowell was wounded. 10 NVAs appeared in front of Liebersbach's position and he detonated a claymore killing or wounding most of them. Three more NVAs approached Gilmore's position and he detonated his claymore, killing two of them.

Kendall called for immediate extraction. Gilmore saw six NVAs with a MG coming down the trail firing from the hip. He fired back with his M16 killing one of them. Although Stowell was wounded, he and the other men in the center exchanged heavy fire with the NVAs. Stowell decided to withdraw to the LZ. They shouted to Liebersbach to come in but he decided to wait since he didn't want to give his position away. A squad came down around an S-turn led by a machine gun and in column. He stood out on the trail and fired aimed semi-automatic fire at short range. He managed to put them all down. The guy being hit was not seen by the guys behind. It was like shooting down steel plates at an IPSC combat pistol match.

The team withdrew to where Smith was standing rear guard. Gilmore saw an NVA point a MG at the team but his M-16 jammed. He drew his .45 and shot the machine gunner and threw a grenade on top of him.

The NVAs were firing green and white tracers while the Americans were replying with red. "It was beautiful, just like Christmas" said Lotze. Two gunships and a slick arrived. The men on the ground ignited a yellow smoke and told the gunships to make strafing runs just beyond it. The NVA moved closer to the team to avoid the strafing. Stowell requested that the gunships fire into the VC even though the range was within 10 meters. Gilmore ran onto the LZ and lay on his back, holding the orange panel as a signal for the slick to land. A MG opened up on him from the far side of the LZ just as the pick up ship landed. Gilmore pointed to the MG so that the team could silence it. The pilot interpreted the gesture as a wave-off signal - and took off.

A gunship tracer set the panel on fire in Gilmore's hand. The pick-up ship came back and landed. Lotze placed a Claymore at the tree-line and got tangled in the detonator wire, decided to hell with it and fired the mine and knocked flat on his face. The gunships were low on ammo and the pilot

of the pick-up ship fired his pistol from the window. As the pick-up ship lifted off, two NVAs bloodied from the claymore explosion and two uninjured ran out into the clearing and fired at the ship. It was only after the ship was airborne that the others learned that Stowell was seriously wounded.

I remember meeting the team when they landed and they were higher than kites on absolute adrenalin rushes. Reality set in the next day when they realized how close it had been. It is very likely that the team had been spotted and the two poor SOBs that were ambushed had been sent down the trail to draw fire. Most of the team had bullets through pack, hat, rifle etc. Stowell took three rounds though none of them were critical and he was back three weeks later with 18" of metal staples in his belly, but now a Captain. We had "water training" at the swimming pool at Train Compound a day after he returned and someone commented to him that he looked a bit pale. He answered, "what do you expect after three weeks in the hospital." Gilmore had a round through the sole of his boot from the NVA MG as well as the "friendly" round that set his cerise panel on fire, Wolf had a round through his bush hat and the left shoulder pocket of his tigers, and one had a bullet go through the buffer assembly of his M-16 as he was firing. I was talking to Kendall as he was taking his pack apart to clean and do maintenance on the PRC. He had mentioned that he thought he had been hit during the fight since he felt warm liquid flowing down his back. He pulled his canteen out of the left pocket of his RVN pack and there were two bullets through it. He then pulled the PRC-25 out. There was a round in the metal frame between the radio and the battery. An inch higher and it would have taken out the radio and an inch lower it would have taken out the battery, either of which would have meant no ammo in a very hot fight. Of course, two inches further forward and it would have taken out his spine. Wolf said that he twice saw assault lines of 10 to 15 NVA's coming out of the smoke from the team's identification grenades, firing from the hip and maintaining position. He said he emptied a magazine at full auto both times and everyone went down, mainly ducking but slowing down the assault. The team got credit for over 20 confirmed and almost as many probables. The end result was that the team received one DSC, three Silvers and two Bronzes, probably the most decorated team action in RVN. Wolf was invited to teach at Recondo and spent six months there. He extended again and went to Alaska to see friends. He lost his return ticket and took a Navy hop to Seattle in December. The plane was not spotted and remains recovered until 1991 on Mount Fairweather. Dave Liebersbach and he had gone through high school together, enlisted together and went over to LRRP together in March 1966. I was discussing this with



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Dave and his son when we got together a month ago. Dave said they only found half the bodies and his 11 year old son Sam suggested that perhaps they ate the others ala the Uruguayan rugby team. Dave became a smoke jumper, head of wildfires on Alaska/Canada borders, Director of Alaska Emergency Management Agency and head of Homeland Security for Alaska and is now retired. Elaine and I went with Dave and family for a week of camping on

Kodiak. Roy later became police chief of Laurel Maryland and is still in security work. Sid is an artist. Stowell left the Army and became a lawyer in Ord, Nebraska. I have met two of Stowell's classmates from USMA and they thought he would be the first to make general. The folks from 4/503<sup>rd</sup> have told me he was about the best platoon leader they had. We have lost contact with Kendall.

**O/75 - 78TH LRP****Unit Director - Michael Feller**

I'll begin by wishing you all Holiday Greetings for the upcoming season. Also have a good Veterans Day. Remember if you can read this thank a teacher, if not, well hell I ain't no teacher. Grade school, reform school + jump school what more can ya ask.

Gonna need some help in the year to come. I volunteered O Co to host the F Co reunion in 09. I've got the Location, Manistee Mi. and the dates 08 - 14 September the arrangements are being made, hotels with beds, showers and such, but I need O Co to show up and support this as it's the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Unit. I've talking with Manistee and the 82d Abn Assoc and as now it looks as if we might get this thing goin. There's a chance for a jump team to arrive in town by parachute. Speaking of - [ if any one out there wants to join a jump team I have a POC for ya. Oh by the way you LRRPs and Arctic guy can get off your ass and show up also. No dues or memberships are needed. Excuses, for not showing, unlike asses are mighty slim.

For any of you who have not as yet heard, F Co has a web page that carries some of our stuff also elite bastards.org. But don't let that stop you from using the 75<sup>th</sup> sight or sending in flix there.

If you ain't guessed by now tomorrow is the dead line for this article and I got nothing. Gonna have to discuss the most hush - hush mission I was ever on. Yes as clandestine as the Great Meat Raid, although not as glamorous nor was it ever publicized till now. Shortly after the Meat Raid the legs fenced the short cut to the mess hall as you all recall. This led Bob Shade and my self to take the initiative and cut the wire, how ever this is not a job that should be conducted that drunk. Especially in full light of the leg CQ. We were not taken alive or at all now that I think of it. BUT this action was the icing on the cake as the culprit

in the meat raid had just came to light. Orders were issued that no one was to go within 100 ft of the fence and that every one was to fill sand bags till the MMFIC got tired. Well this lead to the bright idea that if they wanted endless sandbag filling why not use C-rat spoons and every one went and got one. Well just so happens the head shed was busy out side the Co area and arrived to find the spoon Bde at the same time some teams were coming in. To this day some believe the CO ordered the spoons but no. In the mean time it was discovered the club manager detail had fallen victim to severe boredom, as well as 18 Black Labels. This led to that and there was some talk. But a voice from the darkness assured all that things would be taken care of.

The assurance from this unseen and as yet unknown specter appeased the gathering freeing it to take up more important B.S.ing.

Earlier Bob had the foresight to go to each in the Co and ask for any Kool Aid that could be spared. This led to a 3 lb coffee can full of every flavor pre sweetened Kool Aid. When things calmed for the evening Slade and I climbed the slats on the front of the NCO hooch and crossing same proceeded to the Officer's end of the Quonset Hut. This being where the officer shower tank was located. We then proceeded to mix a 200 gallon batch of Kool Aid. The mission was not a success as the XO was first in the shower that next morning. So the Old Man dodged one more attempt (pre) sweeten his day. What of the mysterious voice in the dark. Was it the notorious Kool Aid de Camp or some one more sinister? Ah! that's for another time my friends. For now simply revel in the fact that you have been privy to a little known and totally worthless bit of unnecessary and un recorded history. Later Feller







## P/75 - 79TH LRP

### Unit Director - Terry Roderick

First of all, since I'm writing this article, I personally, along with the other members of Team 15 in late 1969 and early 1970 (Dave "Mac" McNulty, Eddie "Hardcore" Johnston, Steve Printz, and Jim Femiano) want to send a "Shout Out" to our former Team Leader, Linvel "Sgt. K." Karres, and invite him to come and join us next Summer at Fort Benning. We'd love to see you again and it would sure fill a void for some of us to be honest. We're all still kicking and full of it like we were back then. We might be a bit better, but who's judging ?? We all felt very fortunate to have your skills and leadership years ago and from the conversations I have had with the others, it is obvious that you made your mark on our lives in a BIG WAY !! Thank you sincerely for all you did for us. I'm writing this article in Ranger Ted "Teddy Bear" Tilson's home as we are on our way in the morning to attend Hardcore's youngest son, Mason's wedding on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. We're picking up Ranger Jim Testerman (4<sup>th</sup> ID LRP's) in Marion, Virginia on the way as he has been a guest there along with me on a few occasions over the years. We all wish Mason and his new wife, Haley, a long and happy lifetime together. Ted's son, Mark, is due home from Iraq in the next few weeks and they will be glad to have him home safely again. Mark and Mason and the other "kids" pretty much know each other from other reunions in the past.

The Papa Company Rangers just recently spent another great reunion together in Buffalo, N.Y. from July 23-27<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Clyde, Susan, and Sara Tanner. They did a nice job setting up trips to Canada, local attractions, casinos, and Niagara Falls and made our visit a memorable one. We had a real nice cookout at their home while we were there and it was just perfect. As usual, we had some of our closest friends and other Rangers join us and they always add to our enjoyment and brotherhood. This year we were honored and privileged to have Roy (E/50<sup>th</sup> LRP and a Past President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association) and Sharon Barley join us from Springville, N.Y., along with their son Matt, and their daughter, Allison. Joyce Boatman joined us as she and Roy (173<sup>rd</sup> LRP's and N/75<sup>th</sup> Rangers) used to do every year and it was just so nice to have her back in our midst again. Many of you know her and what a wonderful and "special" lady she is and continues to be. We love her dearly. Roy was sorely missed by all of us but many of us shared our thoughts with

him while we were there. He continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. Pam Via, Eddie "Hardcore" Johnston's sister-in-law joined us along with his family for the fun too. She was an absolute pleasure to have with us and we hope she will join us again in the future. Ed "Tater" (he was known as "Piggy" along with his Ranger Buddy, "Ziggy" when he was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion about 10 years ago or so but in true Papa Company tradition created by the late John "Iron" Orr, we gave him a new moniker of "Tater") Perkowski and his lovely wife, Dee, who came and joined us for a couple of days too. We adopted them last year at the 2007

Ranger Rendezvous and the new blood is exhilarating. We look forward to enjoying them in the coming years. We were also blessed to have Michael and Marge Burke join us again too. Mike is the brother of one of our KIA's, Roy Burke, and we have really enjoyed having them with us. A fellow Vietnam vet, Guy Anhorn, who works with our own "PhotoRanger", Garry Norton, joined us and did some video interviews and some photo taking for a video he is planning to do for us down the road. He did a nice video that ended up on YouTube a while back that honored our Team 16 and the rest of the company that used photos from Garry set to music that we felt was very well done. We enjoyed his company and he added to our reunion this year for sure. At our banquet, we were joined by several members of the family of one of our brothers who passed away recently, Sam Pacurari. Sam's wife, Theresa, their son, James, and daughter, Samantha, along with Sam's sister, Patricia Keleman and her husband, James, and their son John and his wife joined us for fellowship and a very nicely done memorial service prior to our dinner. Also attending, in no special order, was our Papa Company Papa and Momma, Duke and Marion DuShane, Rick and Marge Foringer, Jim Femiano and his significant other, Terrea Henson, Garry Norton, William "TROLL" Lloyd, Barbara and Steve Nash, Marlene and Jerry Cornelius, Ted, Cheri, and Jessica Tilson, Jay and Marcia Lutz, Eddie, Kitten, Nick, Mason, Haley, and Kiley Johnston, Bonnie and John Beckwith, Jose Dominguez, who we had not seen in a long time, the Tanners of course, and last, but in no way, shape, or form least, the Lovely Mary Rossi. I'm told that Marion, Joyce, and Mary didn't have as good of a time as they wanted to because their "team" wasn't complete for this mission. Grace Mayer didn't make it and she better let Mark know that sh-t won't fly in the future. He needs to





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

bring his helicopter too !! She tried to make it but she's still a "working girl" and we'll give her a "mulligan" on this one ONLY !! Ha! Ha! It was a real nice time and we all enjoyed it. By the way, I was there too, much to the chagrin of somebody I'm sure. As usual, when it comes to the time to all go home, it's a bit of a letdown in a way, but we all know we have plenty of time to gather again. I hope everyone who can make it will join us next Summer at Fort Benning for the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association Reunion during the annual Ranger Rendezvous. As soon as we get some dates, we'll pass them along and they will be posted on the Association website at: [www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org).

An added treat for us this year was the attendance by first timers, Fred Tomkins, and his wife, Trish, and Richard King, who was an original member of P/75<sup>th</sup> and came up from F/51<sup>st</sup> LRP in late 1968 to start Papa Company with others from that unit. Rick rode his Harley from Minnesota and totally fell right into the gutter with the rest of us and had a great time. Fred and Trish Tomkins came from eastern NY near the Catskills and it was the first time he had seen anyone since he was wounded along with 3 others by a 175mm round that impacted their RON site one lovely, rainy and wet, evening on March 5, 1971. RTO, Ed "Carney" Walters tells me that a 2<sup>nd</sup> round followed the first one and impacted a few yards away before they could get "Redleg" on the horn and get the fire mission cancelled. I'm sure many of you who know artillery know that 175 mm rounds are "danger close" at 1000 meters and it's not their most accurate gun. Instead of a hug and kiss on the cheek by the TL, Leonard Valeen, before they went to sleep, they got an artillery round wake up call. It's not funny in any way, but it was a case of a fairly new artillery officer who made a major mistake and put friendly fire on one of our teams on the wrong side of a mountain top. I know it's not the only time it ever happened in Vietnam, but it was the only time it happened in our company to my knowledge. Rangers Frank Pickton, Larry Mandrell, Fred Tomkins, and Eugene "Zeke" Rasmussen were all seriously wounded with one losing part of a limb. This happened late at night and the team was not extracted until about Noon the next day due to inclement weather. I'm told by the guys who were in the company and those on the ground that the Team Leader, Leonard Valeen, saved the lives of a couple of Rangers that night who might have bled to death and that he was on the radio with a surgeon at the medevac facility we used overnight in a desperate attempt to keep all 4 wounded Rangers alive. He succeeded and they all got back from a very intense and dangerous situation for them. Fred Tomkins had some serious wounds too and he was medevaced out of the company at that time. Fred, like many others who served in our units, was only with us a short time, approximately 4-5 weeks, before he got wounded and never really got a chance to bond with guys in the unit as he was moved around to fill needs on different teams until

he could get settled into the company. Plus, it was more the norm than the exception back then in the units that were short-handed at times and were trying to fill the slots and keep operational. I'm sure many of you can relate to that and it took Fred a while to find us and us him. We're just pleased as we can be to have him back with us and just want to send a Shout Out to Fred and let Trish and Fred know that you can pick your nose, but you can't pick your Ranger family. We're all anxious to enjoy your company again. We hope you feel the same way!! I recently had contact with Dan Wagoner, Bill Davis, Charles Pickering, Tom Perry, and possibly a few others. If I missed anyone, please excuse me and let me know. If you have anything to add, please let me know. Rangers Lead the Way!! Out here!!



**Fred & Trish Tompkins,  
Buffalo, 2008**



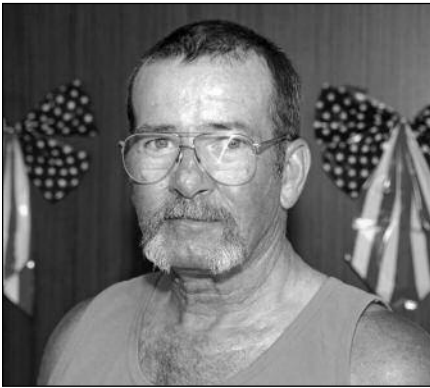
**Mary Bin Laden Rossi.**



**Norton, Perkowski, Dominguez, Tompkins,  
Tanner, Tilson, Femiano, Troll, Roderick,  
Barley, Cornelius, Foringer, Beckwith,  
Johnston, Lutz, Nash, Dushane & King.**



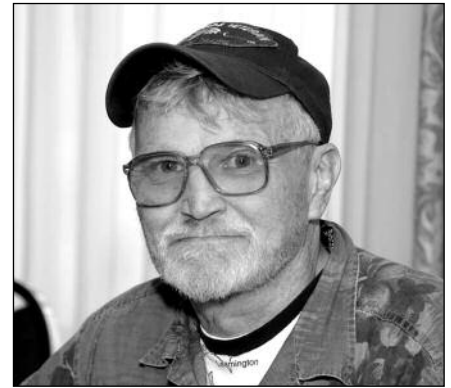
**P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)**



**Richard King, Buffalo, 2008.**



**Susan, Sara & Clyde Tanner, Buffalo, 2008.**



**William 'Troll' Lloyd, Buffalo, 2008.**



**Patty Keleman, James Pacurari, Theresa Pacurari, (back) Samantha Pacurari, John Keleman, Buffalo, 2008.**



**Papa Company Memorial Table, Buffalo, 2008.**



**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

**Unit Director - Leon Moore**

Hello fellow Rangers and LRS

July 31, 2008 began our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion, three days of pure joy! We had brothers who had not seen one another for 40 years. It was awesome; everyone had a great time. There was a lot of beer, stories and of course lies were flowing like water. We had brothers from California, New Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado and Florida flying in for the reunion. Ken Bucy rode his motorcycle from Arizona some 2,000 miles (his wife flew in). We played golf, had a poker run and the wives had an outlet mall within walking distance. About seven of us received a Ranger Co. D.151 scroll tattoo on the right arm including yours truly (and I was even sober at the time). We can all thank Chuck Wallace for getting the tattoos.



The LRSs did a jump for us at Camp Atterbury out of a C17 jet. They made 6 passes with 6 man jump teams each pass. Camp Atterbury also graciously allowed us to use the Engagement Skill Trainer and Virtual Convoy Operator Trainer. I would like to thank Camp Atterbury personnel and all involved for going all out for our reunion.

Our President, Bob McIntire did an awesome job of putting our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion together and thanks to everyone else who was involved in making this a successful reunion. I want to especially thank (AKA Ernie) Doug Hagen for singing and doing the auction and to all who took their time in putting this reunion together. We had over 180 people registered for the reunion at last count. This was our biggest reunion ever!



**D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)**

**Continuation of 40 years past:**

**September 1968**

Well we are still coming and going to schools. Now we are going to Pathfinders, Rigger and Ranger Schools. I just found out at the reunion that there were so many of us going to different schools that there was hardly anyone left in the company, so Capt. Himsel sent everyone home for two weeks that wasn't in a school (go figure I was in school).

During this time some of our wives came and set up house, which helped cut down on the trips to town and beer consumption, but it was great to have them there for the last three months. Some of us would get a small bite to eat in the mess hall before going home (sometimes) due to being newly married.

Terry McDonald and Woody, at the time still had dish pan hands from KP and Sgt. Moss was still enjoying it! When the company finally got most of their men back from the schools we started training as a company.

**October 1968**

The company went through a three-week excellerated Ranger School, one week at Benning, one week in the mountains and the last week in Florida where we trained with the Australian Special Forces. We already had all the ground work plus jungle training in Panama. Even though the school did not give Ranger tabs, Co. D still kicked ass through the three weeks of the school.

Pathfinder School was a great school although I never had the chance to use it in Viet Nam. Choppers did not need a large area to drop us in or take us out.

**November 1968**

The company still trained and trained and trained. At the time we were getting a little tired of training, but to this day I still look back and thank God for all that training. It makes us stronger, confident and most of all brought most of us home! I tell all the soldiers today when I talk with

them they can not get enough training. Co. D is living proof of it. Well at this time the Platoon leaders and Sgts. got together and worked on the list of who would go and who would not go to Viet Nam due to the fact Co. D was over the limit as an LRP Company such as brothers, short timers, etc. With the company at full strength they made up three platoons with 5 to 6 men teams. We finally got our orders for Viet Nam and were given a 30 day leave to get our affairs in order and say our good byes. This brings us to the end of November 1968. We will start our journey in Viet Nam in the next winter issue.

This is Sgt. Moore signing off.



**F/51 LRP**

**Unit Director - Russell Dillon**

**OPERATION TOAN THANG PART 6**

This continuation covers from May 3, 1968 until May 10, 1968. From April 25<sup>th</sup> until April 29<sup>th</sup> F/51 LRP was under operational control of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 25<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> through May F/51 LRP were under operational control of 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 101<sup>st</sup> 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



## F/151 LRP (CONTINUED)

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 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1457HRS (2:57 PM). On May 4<sup>th</sup> 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) 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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) 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 hear 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> that there was negative activity in the area. On May 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



**F/151 LRP (CONTINUED)**

**Team 14** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 6<sup>th</sup> 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 gunships 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 casualties 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Team 34 reported negative activity in the area. On May 6<sup>th</sup> at 0703HRS (7:03 AM) Team 34 reported hearing hammering 200 to 300 meters East of the teams location. On May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1405HRS (2:05 PM) Team 34 reported hearing 2 carbine shots 250 to 300 meters West of the teams location. On May 8<sup>th</sup> at 0945HRS (9:45 AM) Team 34 was extracted.

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

**Team 12** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 1442HRS (2:42 PM). Team 12 reported negative activity and ROned (Remained

Over Night) near the LZ (Landing Zone). On May 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 of Chicom fragmentation grenades. On May 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 1747HRS (5:47 PM). The team reported negative activity for the day. On May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1430HRS (2:30 PM) Team 11 reported hearing a metallic sound 25 meters approximately North Northeast of the teams location. At 1450HRS (2:50 PM) Team 11 reported that a person was outside their area and that the team may have been spotted by the person. At 1508HRS (3:08 PM) Team 11 searched the area and did not find anything of the person the team had spotted. At 1900HRS (7:00 PM) Team 11 reported hearing 8 to 10 short burst of .50 caliber machine gun fire 1000 meters Southwest of the teams location. At 2215HRS (10:15 PM) Team 11 reported hearing approximately a squad sized element 25 to 30 meters North Northwest of the teams location that was moving East to West. On May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1425HRS (2:45 PM) Team 11 reported that a flock of wild chickens passed through the teams perimeter. At 2009HRS (8:09 PM) Team 11 reported hearing .50 caliber machine gun firing 1500 meters West of the teams location. On May 9<sup>th</sup> at 0647HRS (6:47 AM), 0655 HRS (6:55 AM), and at 0710HRS (7:10 AM) Team 11 reported hearing single shots being fired 200 to 300 meters North of the teams location and continued all day. At 1856HRS (6:56 PM) Team 11 reported hearing shots being fired 1000 meters South of the teams location and .50 caliber machine gun fire 800 to 900 meters to the Southwest. On May 10<sup>th</sup> at 0857HRS (8:57 AM) Team 11 was extracted.

**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

*No Submission*





## ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

By late morning the sky had closed in, with low gray clouds above the mountains that surround the area, justifying the need for a second glass of cognac as I worked on this article; earlier Ms. Hilda had prepared me a meager breakfast of dark German bread with Brie, and slivers of wild Alaskan smoked salmon topped with capers and fresh tomatoes.... “Ah, the palate of a King—the purse of a pauper.”

The shadowy world of the past seems to occupy my mind at times like this: sitting by the window of our hotel room that is now streaked with beads of rain—huge raindrops that come at measured intervals—overlooking the Tennessee River; the lush countryside that is distorted by the downpour, and the small watercraft now heading for shelter...my thoughts grasp the prodigious memories of humid summer monsoons in the Delta and the meandering, muddy Mekong; the river’s traffic of junks (*thuyen*), sampans (*ghes*) and the Mobile Riverine Force traversing its murky waters and the ever present possibility of a deadly ambush from the shoreline.... And always the underlying feelings of anger and frustration due to the media, the military, and the people at home, who seemed determined to debase the Vietnamese and the overall reluctance to credit their courage on the battlefield. “Are we doing this in Iraq and Afghanistan?”

Readers of history are familiar with the stories of human fortitude as exemplified by the Greeks at Thermopylae and we all have read of “Horatius at the Bridge” and other similar legendary tales of stark courage.

Far be it from me to dispute or to endeavor to disparage the exploits of those ancient heroes, but I most humbly submit the opinion that these were singular acts of bravery and not the harsh reality of twenty-five years of bloodshed endured by the Vietnamese soldier in his homeland in a seemingly never-ending war against guerrilla and main-force units from the North and the daily struggle for their families to survive: the French-trained Vietnamese National Army (VNA) was established in 1950.

Vietnam and its people have felt the yoke of foreign armies since the first Chinese occupation in 3 B.C. and the landing of a French contingent in the port of Tourane, (now known



as *Danang*) in August 1858, was the beginning of the colonial occupation which lasted almost a century. The Japanese occupation of Indochina (including Vietnam) lasted from 1940 to 1945...the British even controlled sections of South Vietnam after WWII.

Vietnamese units fought along side the French at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954. With the departure of the French in 1956, and the division of North and South, the Communists intensified their revolutionary and armed conflicts in the South that initiated the involvement of the United States until its withdrawal in

1973. Under the new banner of Communism, Vietnam would engage the Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) their ancient enemy in a new cycle of war....

The cost of the Vietnam War has been as dear to the Vietnamese as to any country that fought there, with a military loss of more than 200,000 dead and more than one million people sent to the North’s reeducation camps.

This historical testimonial to the perseverance of a nation and its people should be evidence of their unquestionable love of country and their tenacious spirit of resistance. Those of us who served there as Advisors—with field units—have a deep abiding respect for the Vietnamese Soldier and his family. Their order of rotation was: **dead first—severely wounded second!**



**Comrade-in-Arms: Fellow Ranger carrying wounded BDQ to safety as a Ranger medic treats the other wounded.**



**Wounded Vietnamese Ranger aided by a Ranger Advisor (L) as other wounded are being medevaced; August 1969.**



**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)****BDQ CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER J. O'SULLIVAN, REMEMBERED**

In the Vietnam War, many sacrifices often went unnoticed and unrewarded—obscure places in the rice paddies, jungles and isolated mountains, became some of the bloodiest battlefields, taking their toll, leaving dead comrades behind.... The Advisors who fought as individuals against a pertinacious enemy accepted anonymity in adversity, therefore, much was not recognized or recorded; it becomes a tangible and permanent part of military history when one then, is so honored as is the case of Ranger Advisor Chris O'Sullivan, who was killed while fighting with the 39<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion; May 1965. Note: See the two-part narrative on the deaths of Captain O'Sullivan and U.S. Marine Ranger Advisor Willie D. Tyrone, in the Summer and Fall (2002) issues of Patrolling by Ranger Advisor Fred Caristo.

It is most apropos that on a peaceful summer day (11 June 2008)—three days prior to “Flag Day”—that a flagpole in front of the local Catholic school in Astoria, New York would be rededicated in honor of CPT. O'Sullivan; it is a fitting tribute to a native son.... Also, most meaningful was the attendance of BDQ Fred Caristo, guest speaker, who had volunteered to take O'Sullivan's place as the Senior Advisor in this deadly operation. Fred was serving with the 37<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion at that time.

Fred presented his Vietnamese Ranger beret to the school's historical group who had made a mannequin (diorama) of O'Sullivan that is on public display. His reverberating remarks to the students concluded with, and I quote: “War Sucks”. Fred has a way with words....

The ceremony was conceived by Mario Massa, and the Catholic War Veterans in Astoria. Members of the New York City police band shared in the event with other dignitaries, invitees and students.

To the US Ranger Advisors who fought in all Corps with the BDQ, your achievements are noted; they are emblazoned in spiritual letters of heraldry on the Vietnamese Ranger “escutcheon” even as the ghostly battle cry of the Biet Dong Quan still echoes across distant battlefields, “**SAT CONG**”.

As a result of his extraordinary heroism and gallantry in action, O'Sullivan was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (April 1965). Fred Caristo, who served with the Rangers and Special Ops units in Vietnam for a period of almost seven years, was also a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross.



**Colonel Fred Caristo at the ceremony in honor of Ranger Advisor Christopher O'Sullivan (KIA); 11 June '08, Astoria, NY. Caristo served seven years in Vietnam with Rangers and Special Ops units.**

**BILL MILLER “FRONT AND CENTER”**

As of September of this year, I have to relinquish my position as the ARVN Ranger Advisor (BDQ) Unit Director to Bill Miller...I have held the position for 12 years.

I was 71 years old (72 in Asia) in September and Hilda and I decided we needed more time for sex, travel, and my writing; not necessarily in that order—Ha-Ha.

I want to thank past Presidents' (Roy Boatman (P), Terry Roderick, Emmett Hiltibrand, and Dana McGrath) for their support to the BDQs; and especially Ron Edwards and John Chester—the horsepower of this Association in their Secretariat positions.

I “salute” Jim Waters for his unwavering professionalism and our friendship...Jim did all the E-mails when it was a rainy day and my smoke signaling was as wet as my feathers...and Bobby Jackson for his many contributions during our growth....

And of course, Major General Ed Scholes who brought a touch of class to our group and a steadfast bond with all our members.

Recognition is due to Doug Perry, and members of the Mountain Ranger Camp Association too, who never failed to support our efforts and always extended a Ranger welcome to our visits in Dahlonga, and to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion, Camp Merrill; also, to Colonel Clarence K.K. Chinn for his assistance in providing an insight of the Ranger Advisory history into the Ranger Training Brigade.

Last, my personal thanks to each member of the Biet Dong Quan (American and Vietnamese) for their backing during



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

my time as the director and to all the Rangers and their wives at our reunion in Chattanooga; your comments and shown gratitude made it all worth while. Rangers Lead The Way!!!

Have no qualms about Bill Miller's ability or desire to lead...Bill and his wife Susan are two patriotic Americans who will get the job done! I'm proud that Bill has stepped forward to be our Unit Director.



**ARVN Ranger Advisor (BDQ) Unit Director Bill Miller, as of 1 September 2008. Bill served as an Advisor to the 23d Vietnamese Ranger Battalion in 1968.**

**CONTEMPLATIONS**

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if American plans for Iraq were 'just an example of empire building' by George Bush. He answered by saying, 'Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.' It became very quiet in the room....

From: Red Beret International Australian Paratroop Assn.

**CO VAN LINEAGE**

Master Sergeant Gregory A. Matteo, arrived in Vietnam with the first Vietnamese Ranger Advisors in 1960...his Biet Dong Quan Ranger Certificate is dated 29 May 1960; number 0246.

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

**SITREP:**

I want to thank all those who have contributed to the BDQ Memorial Fund. I realize that two other monuments have already been placed, however those monuments included the Vietnamese. This monument is in recognition of the US

Army Ranger Advisors. Contributions are steadily arriving and the following is a list of contributors thus far. Thanks again for your support in this endeavor.

Freddy McFarren	John Tippen
Mike Martin	Bill Miller
Burton Patrick	David Schofield
Joe Mattison	Dan Donohue
Sidney Baker	Greg Gile
Ron Payne	Jim Waters
Wally Crain	John Thomas
Joe Connelly	Alice Brinkley
Ed Briggs	Louis Constantini
Edison Scholes	Jack Woodall
Bill Schwartz	Hans Zaglauer
Dale Shipley	Mark Truhan
Robert Sparks	John Holecek
Allan Imes	Bob Reitz
Mike McNamara	Willard Langdon
Steve Leighton	Harris Parker
Andy Baxley	Joe Carino
Joe Guerra	Hans Tees
Robbie Robinson	Frank Casey

US Army Ranger Assoc

Several of the contributors above are "Friends of the BDQ". Contributions may still be sent, made out to "BDQ Advisors Memorial Fund" Mail to Bill Miller, 1090 Brightwood Dr., Aiken, SC 29803.

BIET DONG QUAN SAT

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

Congratulations are in order for Ranger Doug Perry for his June 11, 2008 induction into the United Stated Army Ranger Hall of Fame

Ranger Perry enlisted in March 1959 and upon completion of Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training was assigned to the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Germany. In 1961 he was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Training Company, Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonaga, GA. Doug was the U.S. Army Ranger School Class 6-62 Enlisted Honor Graduate. From there he went on the Jungle Warfare School, Panama. Ranger Perry spent nine years as a Ranger Instructor and also was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's Counter-Guerilla Warfare School in Korea. In 1966 he served two tours as a US Army Ranger Advisor (back to back) with two of the most decorated combat units in Vietnam, the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalions. The year 1970 saw Ranger Perry assigned to



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

the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the U.S. Army Alaska Command. Doug Perry's last assignment was as First Sergeant of 14<sup>th</sup> Company TSB, Fort Benning, GA. Ranger Perry retired in 1979.

The list of his military Qualifications and Awards include, The Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Canadian Parachutist Badge, Vietnamese Ranger Badge, Bronze Star Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Palm.

To see a complete list of Ranger Perry's accomplishments please see the "16<sup>th</sup> Annual Ranger Hall of Fame" program. Congratulation to Ranger Doug Perry on a job well done.



**Ranger Doug Perry in civilian attire at his induction into the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame on 11 June 2008. Doug served with the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalions.**

**Mike Martin & Rod Wijas, BDQ Reunion  
Chattanooga, April, 2008**





## *Would I Go Again*

*With my country at war, I ask, "Would I Go Again?".*

*Would I be allowed to fight, be allowed to win.*

*Could I face the hardships, put my life on the line.*

*There is no draft this time, the choice would be mine.*

*Our leaders smile as they discuss how combat deaths grow.*

*Would that grin still be there if their children had to go.*

*I raised my hand once and quickly went off to war.*

*I had close friends, like brothers, maybe even more.*

*Home just two days, I heard my best friend died.*

*I went to his funeral, held his mother as she cried.*

*His little sister asked me, "Why he had to go away".*

*As much as I wanted, I couldn't explain "Why".*

*Thru her tears, she said she was glad I made it home.*

*Never in my life had I ever felt so alone.*

*"Taps" echoed as they laid my friend to rest.*

*I told his father that he died, doing his very best.*

*Like Lotto numbers, our dead tallied and put on display.*

*For most it's hard to phantom, a soldier died this day.*

*"Would I go again?". The answer is so plain to see.*

*If another soldier must die, please let it be me.*

*Michael D. Monfrooe*

*"E" Co. RECON 3/506<sup>th</sup>, "L" Co. 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers*

*August 16, 2008*



## STATE COORDINATOR – ADVOCATE

### BEHIND THE SCENES, YET IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE ASSOCIATION:

**Jim Altieri** An original Darby's Ranger passed away on April 18, 2008. The following information has been provided for his services. One of our own State Coordinators **Eduardo Tinoco** will attend the services and provide a report. (**Note** due to last minute scheduling problems Eduardo was unable to attend but several WWII rangers did attend) The 75h RRA presented an engraved silver coin to his caretaker. (See Feature Article, this issue).

Pacific View Cemetery  
3500 Pacific View Drive  
Coron del Mar, CA 92625

Date: May 31, 2008 at 11:00AM

Services will be performed by Commando Geoffrey Parrot, Chaplain to the Western Chapter of the WWII Ranger Association. No finer man could assist. Jim and Geof were close friends as well. There will be a bugler playing taps and Once An Eagle will be performed.

The marker will read:

Major James Altieri

Date of Birth and location

Original Darby Ranger 1F/4F (1<sup>st</sup> Bn "F" Co/ 4<sup>th</sup> Bn "F" Co)  
"Carry on but don't let them carry you out"

A statement made by Jim every time he signed off of a telephone conversation.

I'm Lynn Towne, daughter of a WWII Ranger, 2E. I am also the past president of the Sons & Daughter of WWII Rangers; and currently for the past 6 years am the secretary to the Western Chapter of the National Ranger Battalion of WWII. Beyond the secretarial duties, I organize and assist any ranger of any era with whatever it is that I can do for them. Jim Altieri is a man held in the highest esteem of the WWII Rangers; the list of accomplishments that he has done for rangers is huge: author of The Darby Rangers; Spearheaders; assisted on the movie set of Darby Rangers, got the monument at Ft. Benning in honor of WWII Rangers, started the Sons & Daughters organization, past President RBA of WWII and Past President of the Western Chapter. I could go on and on.

#### Ranger Christopher Gathercole

**Ken York** has once again conducted himself with selflessness and attended a service for a fallen ranger. Let's speak of Ken York for a moment. Ken has had three surgeries for a very serious illness in recent times. He is looking

forward to another surgery this summer but he still has taken time to assist the family of this Ranger. Ken's own two sons are Rangers; **Stephen** had a broken leg and is recovering. **Doug** graduated from Ranger School in January and his youngest son **Kenny** is off to ranger school in September or October this year. **Now that is a Ranger family.**

**Kens' Comments:** The public turned out in the hundreds to show their support and the Patriot Guard Riders did an outstanding job as usual. The crowd was filled with veterans from as far back as WWII; many of them in uniform. The Santa Rosa Fire Department had two ladder trucks at the entrance to the cemetery with a large American flag draped over the driveway and the Santa Rosa Police department provided motorcycle and vehicle escort. I attended along with my wife Susanne and our youngest son Kenny. I spoke to Mike McClintock in advance of the funeral and we met at the cemetery. Mike is a 75<sup>th</sup> RRA member and was attending the funeral as a representative of the USARA. Also in attendance was Marie Martinoni whose son Daniel is assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion. A 75<sup>th</sup> RRA coin will be presented to the family also.

**Please inform us as soon as you know about a departed LRRP, LRP or Ranger. Please give us the warning order and point of contact early. The more time we have the more we will be able to assist the family.**

### NOW THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT!

**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 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association please let me know so we may recognize your efforts.

#### **FIELD COORDINATORS**

**John Chester has certificates for the mothers. Be sure to request them when needed.**

**I (Gene Tucker) 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 as all the State Coordinators have been doing, we all appreciate their unselfish giving for their fellow LRRP's, LRP's and Rangers.!

Gene Tucker  
State Coordinator – Advocate  
75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association  
[egt12@comcast.net](mailto:egt12@comcast.net)

---

## STATE COORDINATOR ROSTER

Alabama - Bryant E. Middleton	Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Arizona - Joseph Little, Gordon 'Snuffy' Smith	Nevada - Harry Bell
Arkansas - William J. (Bill) Boyd III, Thomas A. Jones	New Jersey - (North) Rich Martin, (South)
California - Errol B Hansen, Rodolph Linde,	Dan Nate, William B Bullen
Eduardo M Tonoco, Ken York	New Hampshire
Colorado - Gene Tucker, David Bristol	New Mexico - Reed Cundiff
Connecticut - Kat (Cardona) Blamire, Michael and Vicki	New York - Tom Finnie
McKenney	North Carolina - Hal Hermann
Delaware - Charley (Rick) Laws, William B. Bullen	North Dakota
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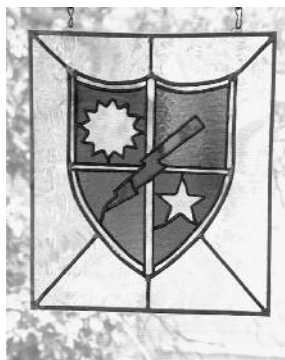
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A MEMBERSHIP YEAR in the association runs from 1 July this year to 30 June next year and the mailing label on your "Patrolling" will always reflect your dues status. For example if above your name on the label it says "0628 2007" it means your membership number is 0628 and your dues were paid through **30 June of 2007**. Annual dues are \$25 and you may pay them at any time during the membership year or if you want to pay ahead you can pay for multiple years. Dues can be paid by check, credit card (MC/VISA), or payment can be made online using Pay Pal. Check your address label now and see when your membership year ends. Life Membership is \$250 and can be paid by check in up to five monthly installments or by credit card. Mail your dues to: **75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regt. Assoc., P. O. Box 10970, Baltimore, MD 21234**. If you have a question on your membership status you may contact me at that address, or email: [john.chester3@verizon.net](mailto:john.chester3@verizon.net) or call (410) 426-1391. The following have joined, rejoined, or became Life Members in the association since the last issue of "Patrolling".

Due to space constraints we are not listing the new members this issue. An up to date list will appear in the December issue.

**WE WILL BE MAILING STATEMENTS THIS MONTH. EVEN IF YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER, YOU WILL GET A STATEMENT.**



## *Today I Saw a Soldier*

*Did he have dreams, to serve he put them on hold?  
Had he seen combat and by fate proven to be bold?  
Was he a clerk or grunt, does either carry more weight?  
Was he a hero or coward, determined by fate.*

*Was he airborne, a soldier from the sky?  
When faced with hard decisions, did he wisely ask “Why?”  
Was he single or not, did he leave a family back at home.  
Did he read his mail more often when he felt alone.*

*Did he have a good buddy, held him as he died?  
Could he ever forget, no matter how he tried?  
Did he look them in the eye, strangers on the street?  
Did he get his due respect from people he would meet?*

*Today I saw a soldier, my heart filled with pride.  
My wife took my arm in hers as she stood by my side.  
Today I saw a soldier, no finer American to be found,  
Today I saw his coffin, lowered beneath the ground.*

*Michael D. Monfroe USA Ret*

*16 August 2008*

*Written in consideration, respect both our gallant men and women.*





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*SFC Willard Langdon, advisor to the 37<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, (BDQ), during a lull in the fighting at Khe Sanh, 1968.*







*Above is an artist's rendition of the New National Infantry Museum located at Fort Benning, GA. The 190,000 square foot museum dedicated to the 233 year legacy of valor and sacrifice of the American Infantryman, is located on a 200-acre campus linking Columbus, GA, and Fort Benning, the Home of the Infantry. Inside, era specific galleries ranging in size from 2,700 to 5,600 square feet, tell the infantry story from pre-Revolutionary times to the present. All the galleries open onto a central grand hall large enough to seat 500 for special events, and a Soldier Center that will feature a 3-D IMAX Theater, themed restaurant, gift shop, simulator attractions and classrooms. The Museum will open in the spring of 2009.*



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