

PATROLLING

SPRING 2008 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 22 ISSUE IV



*Recon element, mass tactical,
Ranger Rendezvous, 2007.
Photo by: J. Chester*

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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.



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

Bill Bohte
44155 Camino Azul
La Quinta, CA 92253
760-345-5590
Email: lrpbill@verizon.net

B/75 – C/58 LRP – VII CORPS LRRP

Marc L. Thompson
80 Rock Ridge Road
Morgantown, PA 19543
H-610-913-8183
C-610-763-2756
F-610-873-8665
Email: mthomp@dejazzd.com

C/75 – E/20 LRP

Chuck Vaughn
2808 Audubon Drive
Audubon, PA 19403
(610) 676-0691
Email: emptyhand@comcast.net

D/75

Richard “Herd” Nelson
1515 W. Washington St.
Apt. 9
Orlando, FL 32805-6705
407-454-7478
E-mail: rnelson@cfl.rr.com

E/75 – E/50 LRP – 9th DIV LRRP

Rick Stetson
Box 1250
Duxbury, MA 02332
H-781-934-8504
Fax 781-934-0395
Email: rickstetson@aol.com

F/75 – E/50 – 25th DIV LRRP

David Regenthal
PO Box 2374
Ft. Meyers Beach, FL 33932
H-609-709-9436
Email: dregenthal@comcast.net

G/75 – E/51 LRP – 196th LRRP

Clifford M. Manning
PO Box 148
Woodbine, GA 31569
H-912-576-5881
Email: tulmann@tds.net

H/75 – E/52 LRP – 1st CAV LRRP

William T. Anton
H -702-648-9836
Email: polar_bear_01@runbox.com

I/75 – F/52 LRP – 1st DIV LRRP

Julian Rincon
9269 Layton St.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739
H-909-948-2908
C-909-732-2745
Email: lrpwildcat7@msn.com

Unit Directors

K/75 – E/58 LRP – 4th DIV LRRP

Roger T. Crunk
1159 19 Road
Fruita, CO 81521
H-970-858-4579
Email: RTCRUNK@aol.com

L/75 – F/58 LRP – 1/101st LRRP

Ralph Timmons
309 N. West Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-836-5141
703-475-2547 (cell)
Email: Toptimmons@aol.com

UNIT DIRECTORS

M/75 – 71st LRP – 199th LRRP

Steve Houghton
4972 N. Hillman Rd.
Lake View, MI 48850
H-989-365-9213
Email: escort@pathwaynet.com

N/75 – 74th LRP – 173rd LRRP

Reed Cundiff
125 San Ysidro
Las Cruces, NM 88005
H-505- 523-5081
Email: reedcundiff@gmail.com

O/75 – 78th LRP

Michael L. Feller
16676 6th St.
Wellston MI 49689
231 848 4948
Email: michigami@kaltelnet.net

P/75 – 79th LRP

Terry B. Roderick
25 Carleton Dr.
Cocoa, FL 32922-7003
H-321-631-3213
Email: rgrock@cfl.rr.com

D/151 LRP/RANGER

Leon Moore
3433 W. Randolph Co. Line Rd.
Fountain City, IN 47371
H-765- 874-1996
Email: leomoo@verizon.net

F/51 LRP

Russell Dillon
39 Pearl St.
Wakeman, OH 44889
H-440- 839-2607
Email: russmarilyn@verizon.net

HQ, 75th RANGER REGT

Richard (Rick) Barella
PSC 45 Box 1248
APO AE 09468
PH 011-44-1423-507480
Cell 011-44-7711-129772
Email: dabarelas@msn.com

1st BN, 75th RANGER RGT

Michael T. Etheridge
912-884-6157
Email: michael.t.etheridge@us.army.mil

2nd BN, 75th RANGER RGT

Nate Smith
PMB 276
17404 Meridian Ave.
Suite F
Puyallup, WA 98375
253-255-3085
Email: rangersmith275@comcast.net

3rd BN, 75th RANGER RGT

Scott Billingslea
5513 Costa Mesa Drive
Keller, TX 76248
817-741-2505
Email: rangerinvictus@gmail.com

LRRP DETACHMENT- 3rd ID

Michael McClintock
2323 Armada Way
San Mateo, CA 94403
H-650- 341-7331
Email: oldlrp62@aol.com

ARVN RANGER ADV. (BDO)

Mike Martin
P. O. Box 1463
Tullahoma, TN 37388
H-931-455-3824
Email: bdq@75thrangers.org

The following individuals are appointed by the President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to their respective positions in order to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Association.

Association VA Advocate

Dan Nate
408 Elm Street
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097
H-856-848-9174
Dannatel1@comcast.net

Web Master

Dave Regenthal
dregenthal@comcast.net

Health – PTSD

Mike Wise
wmwise@bellsouth.net

Health – Cancer

Tom Athanasios
toma@computer.org

Health – HEP-C

William (Bill) Schwartz
billschwartz@west-point.org

Gold Star Mother Advocate

Sandee Rouse
GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com

Gold Star Wife Advocate

Sandy Harris
SANDY5790@aol.com

Association Legal Counsel

John Chester
john.chester3@verizon.net
James Savage

Association Photographer

S. J. “Peter” Parker
75thPhotographer@airborne-ranger.com
Link to site:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rangerpete/>

Graphic Artist

Dave Walker
lrp67aviator@prodigy.net

State Coordinator

Gene Tucker
egt12@comcast.net

Reunion Coordinator

David Cummings
Davidf4f4@aol.com

75th Ranger Regiment Association
P. O. Box 10970
Baltimore, MD 21234
www.75thrra.org

President

William B. Bullen
P.O. Box 34
Palm, PA 18070
H-215-679-8856
C-215-828-5645

K75ranger@comcast.net

First Vice President

Bill Postelnic
303 Kirksway Lane
Lake Orion, MI 48362
H-248-693-9515
C-248-622-3835

postelnic@comcast.net

Second Vice President

Joe Little
3616 W. Bohl St.
Laveen, AZ 85339
H-602-237-0282
C-602-315-9227

jclittle@hughes.net

Secretary/Patrolling Editor

John Chester
3208 Rueckert Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21214
H-410-426-1391
C-410-382-9344
F-410-426-0243

john.chester3@verizon.net

Treasurer

Reuben Siverling
7924 NW Anita Drive
Kansas City, MO 64151
c-816-221-7777
rsiverling@kc.rr.com

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Manuscripts, photographs and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics. The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission, that is in bad taste, offensive or that discredits unnecessarily any individual or group.

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mcolledge@aplusprintinginc.com

WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

MAGAZINE

You may have noticed that we have a sponsor for the inside front cover. We are closing on making the magazine pay for itself. If you know ANYONE who might want to sponsor our magazine, please put them in touch with me, (John Chester)

WEB SITE

Get ready for a modernization of the website format. We've come to realize that some of the information is either dated or obscure. I'm going to remedy that post haste. My planning is to make the site more user friendly (a little less clicking to arrive at the page or information you seek).

The unit pages will be getting a more standardized look so that pertinent information is at the top. Accuracy of lists, rosters, and news is the responsibility of your unit director – if you're not getting what you want let 'em know (and please copy me in). Some units are doing off year reunions . . . if you'll get the information to me well in advance I will see that it's posted so everybody gets the word, including the guy out there you haven't seen in 40 years and might actually show up if he has sufficient time to plan.

Got Pictures? Wedding announcements, births, memorial announcements . . . get it to me I'll see that it gets top billing.

You active duty folks, carrying out the business of our country . . . this is your website too! Let us know how you're doing—got a picture to post . . . let 'em fly—we have the power! If you have a message, post it in the guestbook. Whatever we can do to support you let us know. Be well—God Speed. RLTW.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen

At this time, deadline February 15th, 2008 is staring me in the face, and my article is due. I'm wishing that I would not have



Bill Bullen

so many personal issues to deal with, and then I'd be able to concentrate more effectively on my duties as President of the 75thRRA, a position I consider a true Honor. Then I think about all the other business going on, and I thank God for the elected board members, the unit directors, the State Coordinator, Gold Star Family Advocate, and our contacts and cadre at the Battalions, Regiment who maintain our Rangers and the RTB who train our Rangers. This is not to say anything about our members on the ground all around the country that stand up for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association at funerals, hospitals, memorial dedications, Ranger Hall of Fame meetings and numerous other affairs. There are individuals coordinating off-year reunions as we read. As I look at the enormous human resources and man hours it takes to maintain the Ranger Community the duties of President 75th RRA seem very insignificant.

Then there is the generosity of our members' it boggles my mind. Once again this past Holiday season the Family Fund proved its value. All year round John Chester gets checks from people for many different things mostly dues, but often time it is a generous donation to the Family fund. I'd like to think our members would find it in their hearts to replenish this account so we can do as much or more this Holiday Season 2008. The Regiment is growing at least a new company per Battalion, this creates a need for more funds or they will need to be trimmed somewhere. This is a call to help for our deployed EM Rangers families this coming year, so let's start the Family Fund drive early. The Family Fund is also for use by Ranger families in need all year long. Any active Ranger reading this, if you have an issue let your chain of command or the Family Readiness Liaison know of your situation. If we can, we will help. This is your money for your needs.

Last issue had three Feature Articles which I especially enjoyed, I'm not going to go into them but it is another way people contribute to our Association. John Chester wears many hats one of them as Editor of Patrolling, is a very difficult and thankless job. It is difficult to fill a magazine without submissions; he depends on these Feature Articles to enhance the already fine publication. So if you have anything you think may be of interest send it in to John. And drop him a line and thank him for the job he is doing.

In the winter 2007 issue of Patrolling, John Chester introduced Dennis Latham, PTSD advocate/ author. If you haven't done so and you are having issues with a PTSD or any VA claim, give the article a look. Dennis is very accessible and extremely helpful. Feed him a question and it will be address in the next mailing of the "S-2 Report", an information platform in newsletter format. His website is: www.combatptsd.net. Further if you know anyone or business who would like to sponsor the Patrolling let John know.

Past presidents' opinions and guidance have been coming in regularly and I thank you gentlemen, I only hope a lot of the information is passed to the Editor for publication. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Duke DuShane for standing in at the RHOF meetings for the 75thRRA.

Often times we have members who can help other with employment situations. On the other hand members may be looking for something employment wise. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience in our ranks and this should be shared. The Editor has suggested we have a section in the Patrolling Magazine to do just this. Anyone who might have such a position available or if one is seeking a position, please submit this to the Editor of Patrolling Magazine. This would be another way we can help one another.

Just one last reminder to let Gene Tucker "egt12@comcast.net", know if you are available to be a State Representative for the State Coordinator Program. This is one of the most important programs we have, along with the Sandee Rouse's Gold Star Family "GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com" program and the Family Fund. The Ranger Families do appreciate these functions. I know any I have attended have been very rewarding. So drop a line and get involved.

There has been quite a bit of polling and discussion about a proposal to change our by-laws to include, into the 75thRRA as regular voting members, the vast majority of RTB Ranger Instructors. Many have made a strong case to favor this by-law change but the poll was heavier on the negative side. So to be quite direct I'll go on record to say there will be no such recommendation from the President at this time or anytime in the foreseeable future. Thank you all for the feedback.

In closing, again I ask the Past Presidents to get your contact information to the editor if you want it attached to your name in the front cover of Patrolling.

Thank you for your continued support of Your Association.
Bill Bullen

FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Postelnic

RANGER HALL OF FAME

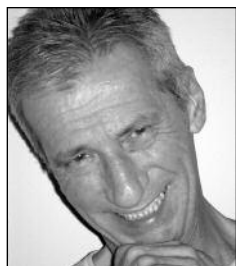
In accordance with the Ranger Hall of Fame Bylaws, each year our Association is able to submit up to three nominations for admittance to the Ranger Hall of Fame. For 2008, we have nominated three men:

Frank Moore submitted by C-75/E-20 LRP
and N-75/74th LRP/173rd LRRP

Doug Perry submitted by ARVN Ranger Advisors (BDQ)

Earl Toomey submitted by G-75/E-51 LRP/196th LRRP

This was written in February, so by the time you are reading this, The Ranger Hall of Fame Executive Board will have convened in March and selected the 2008 Inductees for the Ranger Hall of Fame. That information will be included in the next edition of Patrolling Magazine and posted on the 75th Ranger Regiment Association website. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Roy Barlley, Duke



Bill Postelnic

DuShane, Kevin Ingraham, Wayne Mitsch, Terry Roderick and Jim Waters who served as members of the committee to review the packets submitted to the Association.

Many of us have personal knowledge of someone who deserves to be in the Ranger Hall of Fame. The only way to make that happen is to submit a Nomination Packet. To be successful, nomination packets must be very well written and adhere precisely to the required format. This is a job that can not be rushed at the last minute. It takes time and effort to research, prepare, review and revise packets. The time to start gathering information and writing is now. If there is any way I can help, contact me.

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUILT

Last December, a number of Rangers carrying large amounts of beer found their way to my home in Michigan. When they left, there was no more beer. There is nothing unusual about that, but the interesting thing about this link-up is that only a few of these Rangers also live in Michigan. One came in from Texas, two came from New York and one came all the way from Finland. We are members of an on-line community of LRRPs and Rangers. We are all active on the website ArmyRanger.com. During our festivities, a number of photographs were taken including the one shown here

with the 75th Ranger Regiment Quilt, which was made and donated to the Association by Mrs. Roy Boatman.

This impressive quilt is more than five feet wide and almost eleven feet long. It bears the scrolls of all the Association Units. So we do not have to have a few Rangers on step ladders to display the quilt in the future, I am working on getting a portable display stand for it. Unit Directors interested in displaying the quilt at reunions and other functions can contact me and I can arrange to have it shipped to you.

2009 REUNION

A lot of effort goes into planning Association Reunions and work on the next one has already begun. With the help of Reunion Coordinator Dave Cummings, Terry Roderick and Duke DuShane, a survey questionnaire has been sent to all Unit Directors asking for their input on ways to build upon the success of our past reunions. We have asked all Unit Directors to return the survey no later than April 15th. If you have not yet returned your survey, please do so. We will be using the information gathered to finalize our plans for the next reunion.



The Official 75th Ranger Regiment Association Quilt, made and donated to the Association by Mrs. Roy Boatman. Left from top: Timo Koivusalo, Kevin Ingraham, Andy Clive and Steve Cornelius. Right from top: Karl Maier, Bill Postelnic, Scott Billingslea and Rick Bennett

SECOND-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Little

Greetings: from Joe Little, 2nd VP

First an apology is in order for missing last issue of Patrolling. Many things are taking place on the home front and I developed a senior moment. I am still on the mend from fourth back surgery and will have both shoulders worked on as result of jousting with a fire truck a year ago. I also was promoted to Team Leader (a familiar ring to that title) of Phoenix Vet Center. It seems familiar like I'm jumping from frying pan into the fire again, but I asked for it.



Joe Little

I would like to address some items that are close to home. Shortly after my new assignment as Team Leader I was asked to attend a round table discussion with a congressional and the VA hospital director and his co-director along with many department chairs. Also in attendance were several Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans. The discussion was about the needs of the new generation of veterans and services they need. It had a very familiar ring to it and another tone I was well accustomed to. One area was dealing with time limited health and psychological care, and the window that was for two years from return home or discharge date (now expanded to five years) without a rating or service connected injury. Many stated they were never aware of their benefits and most stated they did not exercise these benefits in a timely manner. When I asked a question about transition packets, some recalled them and they became what I term shelf help packets, because that is where they eventually landed. I used to do a lot of outreach to returning soldiers and handed out the benefit packets. Most already had them as part of reentry programs. As part of my presentation to groups I asked about their knowledge of benefits and if they read their packets. An example was one group I presented to 20 remembered the packet. Eight read them out of 134 in attendance after they were home for six months or more. I also mentioned the services of the over 230 Vet Centers that have no time restrictions for psychological; and eligibility was only a verifiable DD 214 indicating they were in a combat theater/operations. Most were not aware that Vet Centers existed. They have been around for over 25 years as a result of Vietnam Vets having no desire to walk into a medical center to talk to anyone, something about trust; therefore a beginning of a store front

atmosphere. The familiar ring was, we returned home with only a few things on our mind as a priority. Mine was find a new girlfriend because of a dear Joe letter, good food (Big Mac) and long shower with plenty of hot water. I recall my fascination flushing the toilet several times and my mother asking if it was broken. I also partied till I dropped and was back at it again a taking in everything I could before I returned overseas for my second tour. I wonder why we refer to it as a tour. Was that some type connotation we were taking a vacation? Well anyway we want to enjoy what we missed and all the rest was on the back burner. A hard argument is, as one Iraq Veteran suggested, we make all those retuning go through a debriefing process. Sounds good; however when I reflect on my experiences, if someone asked if I had some issues to deal with while my mindset was my personal priorities, my obvious way of answering would have been a question. What is the quickest way to airport from here? What I just described is basically the same as or new veterans are experiencing. I personally feel the veteran was correct with his suggestion of mandatory debriefing. I feel that some process be implemented for returning soldiers as part of the adjustment phase or part of how we were not allowed to change duty stations or ETS until we cleared post; thus making one of the check off boxes being screened by mental health. Because of some of our beliefs we tend to believe there is stigma attached to PTSD.

As defined Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a natural emotional reaction to a deeply shocking and disturbing experience. It is a normal reaction to an abnormal situation.

I guess according to above those that have experienced or have been scared by war will not return home the same.

I have had calls from brother Rangers asking for help with their friends and getting them into the system. I had that familiar feeling of being powerless as they write back describing certain problems or what some might view as atrocities as one reads about as sensationalized by the news media. I am aware my last comment might cause some to disagree and there will be others with first hand experience of some of the gaps that exist. I am not going to dispute personal experiences or sensationalized media coverage. Remember the familiar ring and the one tone I have heard before mentioned earlier. Well there is a tone called

SECOND-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

entitlement that more often than not when used, tends to cause one to shoot themselves in the foot. I witnessed it when one Iraq Vet started to make demands stating he fought for this country and the sacrifices he had endured. He also went as far to make comparisons with other war eras WW II, Vietnam and Korea in that order. My hair on the back of my neck started to rise and then I thought for a moment we were angry when we came home, and it would be wise not to buy into his venue for a public forum and better to have a conversation with him later. I forgot to mention there was news media present; another deterrent (Joe steps on tongue, News at five). My conversation later with our young Vet was about another approach regarding how one could alienate those that could help most if he continues to fence his generation against another. He was difficult, maybe more linear or black and white thinking, sort of like us. I asked how we define insanity after he stumbled on some terms, even PTSD. I explained doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result; or no change, no change. Some have learned how to deal with a very large system that is not perfect, and some have an approach that is adversarial, "They are the enemy." From the moment they walk through the doors they are ready for resistance. I have had a lot of resistance in my dealings with the VA or should I say individuals, as many of you have. I spoke to someone the other day and he mentioned how well he was treated at a clinic where he went for an exam and medication. He stated he wrote a letter to make them aware of how he was treated. I have had many such responses in the past as well as the valid horror stories; and some that are perceptually embellished due to the adversarial approach.

Dr. Albert Ellis teaches a rather simple method for behavioral change however; easier stated than implemented, it takes practice.

IT IS A SIMPLIFIED METHOD OF COPING WITH STRESS AND BECOMING MORE RESILIENT BY REFRAMING OUR THOUGHTS WITH THE USE OF THE RATIONAL THINKING.

Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy

It is merely a tool to distinguish if we are using rational or irrational thinking that determines our emotions. You feel the way you think.

Absolute thinking – black & white

Catastrophizing – blowing things out of proportion

Low frustration tolerance – easy to anger

Personal worthlessness

A sense of duty is a pervasive theme of irrational thinking

How it works:

There is an Activating Event

There is our Thoughts or Beliefs about the event

Our Emotions

Dispute our Thoughts or Beliefs (i.e. did he really cut me off or he just did not see me)

Change the Emotion (I guess he did not see me, and I have made the same mistake myself) plus I do not walk on water; therefore why do I expect others too.

Remember the Event has nothing to do with our emotions. It is the thoughts or beliefs that dictate our emotions.

I added another thought and that is if we are justified being angry over an event. **Will my actions or behavior be worth the consequences?**

This was merely a one of many tools I and other therapist teach and use to help some of the Vets treated get through life. Another is when some have this problem with anger I ask them if there is someone that can go with them to help negotiate or assist in explaining their case. Imagine that; isn't that why we have Veteran Service Officers or advocates.

I am seeing many returning home that seem to fill a mold that no one has broken. Their war might be different; however the results are the same. We might be able to recognize the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and we as brother Vets can assist them in seeking help at the early stages so they will have an opportunity to an improved quality of life.

If this forum is acceptable to the members I would like to continue with similar topics with next one explaining some of the adjustment problems with signs and symptoms that our new generation of Warriors is experiencing.

The service this generation is receiving is far more than past Veterans, and we can only blame ourselves for yelling loud enough so that future Veterans would not experience the same fate so give yourself a good ole pat on the back.

Thank You for making your voices heard; continue by making sure you vote.

I have included Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs by; Patrick Campbell a Combat medic served in Iraq.

Joe Little

SECOND-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Statement of Patrick Campbell, Legislative Director, Operation Iraqi Freedom Vet (2004-05), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

February 14, 2007

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Subcommittee on Health, on behalf of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), thank you for this opportunity to address the issue of VA's Mental Health budget for FY08.

My name is SGT Patrick Campbell and I am a combat medic for the DC National guard, an OIF vet and the Legislative Director for the Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America. IAVA is the nation's first and largest organization for Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. IAVA believes that the troops and veterans who were on the front lines are uniquely qualified to speak about and educate the public about the realities of war, its implications on the health of our military, and its impact on the strength of our country.

As my counselor at the local Vet Center would say, "No one goes to war and comes home the same person." And unfortunately for many soldiers the real battle begins the day they get home.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs proposes spending \$3 billion on Mental Health Programs in FY 08. Of that \$3 billion, 80% "will be devoted to the treatment of seriously mentally ill veterans, including those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder." Another \$360 million will fund the VA's mental health initiative and \$115 million is assigned to readjustment counseling. The VA proposes commendable increases to these vital mental health services, however the President's budget fails at a fundamental level. It assumes that the veterans who need help will ask for it.

Mr. Chair, as I have testified many times before, we in the military are a proud bunch. We are trained to overcome any obstacle and defeat any enemy. For most of my buddies the thought of attending counseling is admitting defeat in the mental war that rages well beyond the days we turn in our weapons and take off our uniforms.

I am a combat medic, a graduate student, an advocate of mental health services for a veteran's service group and someone who has counseled many of my battle buddies to seek counseling. When it came time for me to admit that I

needed help, I just avoided it altogether. Thankfully I am blessed to have amazing friends who did not let me run away from my issues. After spending a year in denial, last month I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Every time I admit I have PTSD it gets a little easier to say. That being said, I will never be able to shake that feeling that some soldier watching this testimony from home is shaking his head at me and under his breath calling me a whinier. So here I am before you in spite of myself and my own insecurities.

I can from personal experience that to think that even a majority of veterans who need help will ask for it is just plain naïve. The VA's passive approach of waiting for veterans to come to them just isn't working. Returning soldiers need and deserve mandatory mental health counseling. We understand this is a radical shift from the incremental and passive approach the VA has undertaken since the beginning of the Global War on Terror. This approach is the only effective way to remove the stigma of seeking mental health counseling.

This subcommittee should lead the fight to ensure that every veteran receives at least one mental health screening with a trained professional. Every veteran should be required or incentivized to visit their local Vet Center within 6 months of their release of active duty. The VA could model their incentive program after the military's new recruitment plan (e.g., a massive PR campaign combined with paying soldiers to enroll in the program with prepaid credit cards). Lastly, the VA must ensure that those new veterans will be seen in a timely manner.

They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of intervention. By requiring all soldiers to submit to a mental health screening today we will be preventing millions and billions of dollars of intervention services.

There is a wooden sign that hangs over the door to the DC Vet Center, that says, "Welcome Home." I will never be the same man that I was before I left for Iraq. But I know that who ever I have become I will always have a home to go to when at the DC Vet Center. I just pray that every one of my battle buddies has the courage to find their way home.



Insertion of LRP Team by the Navy Swift/PBR boat.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

Joe Kline Prints

Most of you are aware of Joe Kline's aviation art, the print *God's Own Lunatics*, in particular. Well. There's good news & bad news. The bad news is that the print has sold out, that means that there are no originals left. The good news is that those of us that had purchased a print have realized an increase in the value of their investment. The Association has purchased a few prints for future reunion raffles, gifts to distinguished members, etc., but when they are gone, that's it. The better news



John Chester

is that Joe has begun work on another LRRP, LRP, Ranger print, featuring a Huey in a Vietnam era setting. We will premier it in the *Patrolling* magazine when it is available.

This will be my 34th issue of *Patrolling* magazine, going into my 8th year as editor of your magazine and my 5th year as secretary of your Association. I have learned more about computers, Rangers, LRP'S & LRRP'S, than I ever thought, (or wanted) to know. I have met some great people and a very few real jerks. I have become acquainted with legends in the Ranger community and some legends in their own minds. Very much in the same manner as combat, leadership in a service organization such as ours, brings out the best and the worst in people.

I think that not a few of us with PTSD tend to mask our symptoms by hiding them behind something else, work, involvement in other activities, (being secretary or editor for example), or most commonly from my observation, that premiere hiding place, the good old ego. I have run into some egos that would make Mt. Rushmore look like something a kid with a sand bucket & shovel built at the beach out of wet sand. Then there are the people who are legitimately well known, admired and icons of the Ranger community. They tend to be the most humble and well meaning people that you will ever meet. I have learned a lot about egos and how to handle or avoid them. In order to be involved in the leadership of an organization like ours, ego management is a very necessary skill, the management of my own as well others.

Mary Anne & I have attended far too many funerals for young Rangers at Arlington, and not a few funerals for my contemporaries at the same place. For the most part, this is

an honor to represent our Association in this manner, but it also takes its toll. I guess the reason for the foregoing is that when Reunion 2009 rolls around, I will be stepping down as secretary and as editor. Within the next 15 or 16 months from the publication of this issue, we need to come up with replacements for both positions. Mary Anne & I am getting tired and by July/August, 2009, we'll be about wore out. It would be ideal for someone to step up now while there is time to learn the positions gradually, rather than have them dumped in your lap the day after the reunion ends. From the time that Ron Edwards took over the secretary's job in July of 2000, the position has become more complex and demanding. We now have more than 2,000 active members. Dealing with the invoices alone is a time consuming task. Now I'm not trying to get any sympathy, but the job has become more demanding each year. I am looking at ways to help lessen the workload, having an outside company process the checks and other payments might be a start. If any one has any suggestions, please make me aware of them.

This is in the nature of an inspirational piece. From time to time I see someone claim service in Vietnam, and think to myself, "He's too young to have been there." If a person was 19 in 1974 he or she would be 53 now. That's the youngest he/she could be. We are getting to the point where we are all eligible for AARP. Well one of our members, a Vietnam veteran, took a little 2,300 mile hike last year. Ralph Timmons, unit director of L/75, walked the Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine last year. He left in April and got to Mt. Katahdin, in Baxter State Park, Maine in October. That's quite a feat.

Ralph and his wife and Rod Wijas, another of our members, came to the house a couple weeks ago for dinner and we discussed his walk with a great deal of interest. He actually inspired me to perhaps attempt a great adventure of my own. Being an avid cycle enthusiast, I have always wanted to ride my bike across the country. The more I think about it, the better the idea sounds. Maybe I could tie it in with a Vietnam Veteran's commemorative, get a few more folk to go along, and make a cause out of it. Maybe get people to sponsor us at a penny a mile for the Family Fund. If we made it all the way across, that would be about \$30.00. Anyone interested?

One thing about the Secretary's job, as soon as you think nothing new will happen, it does. I got an e-mail from an individual, with attached documents, showing service in one of the Battalions, orders for medals awarded by the

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Battalion, etc., etc. Looks like a no brainer? The interesting thing is, the guy's in the Air Force, not the Army, he was one of the Tac Air guys assigned to the Battalions. I went through the by-laws with a fine toothed comb, there is nothing that says an individual needs to have been in the Army, only that he be assigned to one of the Battalions or Regimental Headquarters. That was certainly true in this individual's case. He attended the Airborne Course and Ranger School, had been assigned to the Battalion for over six years and had made a combat jump as well.

I called the President, Bill Bullen, and we discussed the

situation. There was no valid reason to NOT make him a member, consequently we now have an Air Force member of the Association, with another on the way.

I will close with a few photos from last year's (2007) reunion. I always have such a good time at these things, even when working, that I really do anticipate the next one. Bill Postelnic will be working on the next one in 2009. He has sent a list of questions to each of the Unit Directors concerning the reunion. If you have any suggestions for the next reunion, please communicate them to your Unit Director so that they can be communicated to Bill.



The attending WW II Rangers at the banquet.



Bill Bullen, our President, and his wife Donna.



Sandy and Bill Rouse at the banquet.



Kevin Ingraham and S. J. "Peter" Parker.



L to R, Sid Smith, Mary Anne Colledge, and Bob Stouch at the banquet.



Student & Teacher, our Yoga Director, Mary Anne Colledge, (my wife) and first time practioner, Bryant Middleton.



L to R, Loren Sayers, Julie Edwards and her husband, my predecessor Ron Edwards.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Reuben Siverling

Greetings from (beautiful?) snow and ice packed Kansas City, Missouri. It has certainly been an interesting winter with lots of activity and many varieties of weather. Tornadoes in the winter in Missouri-unheard of? Not anymore!



Reuben Siverling

Amongst the warmer messages of this season is the Winter 2007 Issue of *Patrolling*. The featured articles, unit reports individual submissions, unit history stories—and more are there. This is a quarterly publication cherished by many. Great work gentlemen! Tell your Lurp and Ranger buddies about this as just one of many benefits of membership.

As all of our officers and many members have stated many times, the support in time, energy and money you invest in our Ranger Families is an investment with far-reaching and long-lasting returns. What a thrill to see and account for more than \$16,000 being distributed to the Battalions as a means of providing warmth, food and good cheer to the families of our Rangers serving throughout the world. I have seen your inquiries and received your phone calls asking what you can do to help grow and perpetuate this fund. Some have asked how to get credit others have stated emphatically that they don't want credit or written acknowledgement in the magazine. Still others are asking the source of these funds while others are not comfortable with how the funds are distributed.

Each of the Association Officers encourages support of this very worthy endeavor but we do not make an appeal for funds. Individuals and groups voluntarily send in money designated for the Family Fund throughout the year. Succinctly stated, that means that your generosity makes it possible to have funds to distribute for the purchase of turkeys, gifts, etc to the family members. Did we have such a fund or display of support thirty, forty or more years ago? Not that I am aware of. Neither did we have e-mail, cell phones, Global Position Devices, or long-range communication devices. Does that make today's brave and effective soldiers either more or less deserving? Not in my book! Maybe our prior limited resources gives many us even more resolve to continually and generously support the individuals and families who continue our defense of freedom.

You continuously show your generosity and support by sending a check to your Unit Director, Unit Treasurer, John Chester, or me. Family Readiness Liaison representatives

within each battalion make the determination as to the distribution of the gifts. We, the officers you elected to be the stewards of the Association resources, do not make the decision as to where the money comes from or how it is disbursed. Briefly stated, the Family Fund is received and accounted for outside the operating fund. Please excuse this bold type as I state: **No contributions to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association are ever used for the operational expenses of the Association.**

All contributions to the Family Fund are safeguarded and disbursed 100% for the intended purposes of the Family Fund. No operational, administrative fees or expenses of the 75th RRA are ever taken from the Family Fund. Inasmuch as possible (and to a fault) the contributions are placed in interest bearing accounts to enhance the actual gifts received. No matter the route or method you choose, please be aware that your contributions ultimately go to John Chester, Association Secretary for accounting and deposit into the Family Fund Account. John then prepares a "giving credit letter" which is mailed to each respective individual donor.

The fault I just highlighted is my own personal fault and inattention to detail in placing excess funds in an interest earning six-month certificate of deposit (CD) last May. The maturity date of that CD was a few days beyond where Bill, John and I had desired to get checks to each Battalion Family Fund Coordinator in November. To move that money into the Family Fund Checking account prior to the maturity date of the CD would have caused a penalty of a couple hundred dollars. That is not acceptable stewardship, thus I intentionally waited till the full maturity date. We then moved the funds as rapidly as possible to the individual Battalions. The delay was completely unintentional but did cause unintended angst. For this, I apologize to each of you individually and collectively.

As I am trying to get this message in for publication we are aware that many of you are enclosing gifts (monetary contributions) with your dues renewal payment. Hopefully this message will reinforce your spirit of generosity. Rangers do not go through life wearing a catcher's mitt. Rangers continue to lead the way in giving, caring and, of their own accord, caring for the welfare of others. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

P.S. Unashamedly, I encourage the Vietnam era 4th Division LRP's/LRRP's/Rangers to look further into this issue of *Patrolling* for more information concerning the upcoming Unit Reunion to be held in Kansas City.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DISCLAIMER

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

POSTAL RATES: Beginning 3 MAR Military families will get a price break on the U.S. Postal Service's flat-rate shipping boxes to send care packages around the globe. The discount applies only to the new "Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box," which normally carries a \$12.95 price tag for shipping. However, when the 12-by-12-by-5.5-inch box is sent to an AFO or FPO address, a \$2 discount applies, dropping the cost to \$10.95. The new boxes will be available in post offices nationwide on 3 MAR. Those who can't wait to start packing the boxes, however, can order them from www.usps.com/supplies beginning 20 FEB. They're also available by calling 1(800) 610-8734. Some of the new boxes carry the America Supports You logo. America Supports You is a Defense Department program connecting citizens and companies with servicemembers and their families serving at home and abroad. The boxes bearing the America Supports You logo will be available only online or at select post offices near military bases. All flat-rate boxes are available for international shipping, though the discount applies only to the large flat-rate box, and only if it's being shipped to an APO or FPO address. [Source: American Forces Press Service 14 Feb 08 ++]

MOBILIZED RESERVE 13 FEB 08: The Army, Air Force and Marine Corps announced the current number of reservists on active duty as of 13 FEB 08 in support of the partial mobilization. The net collective result is 481 more reservists mobilized than last reported in the Bulletin for 30 JAN 08. At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. The total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 73,769; Navy Reserve, 5,029; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 7,128; Marine Corps Reserve, 8,703; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 343. This

brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been mobilized to 94,972, including both units and individual augmentees. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are currently mobilized, can be found at

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2008/d20080213ngr.pdf>. [Source: DoD News Release 13 Feb 08 ++]

CRSC UPDATE 37: The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was signed into law on 29 JAN 08. The NDAA expanded Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) eligibility to include those who were medically retired under Chapter 61 with less than 20 years of service, effective 1 JAN 08. A Chapter 61 retiree is anyone who was medically retired from military service. Chapter 61 is a new component for CRSC. Medically retired Veterans must still provide documentation that shows a causal link between a current VA disability and a combat-related event. CRSC will not begin processing claims until the DoD provides program implementation instructions. Potentially eligible retirees can begin to gather the required documentation (VA rating decision, DD214, medical records) needed to submit their claim. Required documentation includes a signed claim form and:

1. Copy of Chapter 61 Board results (Chapter 61 claimants only).
2. Copies of ALL VA rating decisions which include the letter and the narrative summaries
3. Copies of ALL DD214's
4. Medical records that support "HOW" the injury occurred for each claimed disability that meets the criteria for combat-related. Refer to CRSC website to learn what combat-related is.

The CRSC website www.crsc.army.mil will be kept updated with program guidance and claim information.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

For questions and further guidance send email to crsc.info@us.army.mil or contact the CRSC call center at 1(866) 281-3254. [Source: U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program Northeast Team Ayandria Barry input 5 Feb 08]

MILITARY DEATHS UPDATE 01: The claim that there were more U.S. military fatalities during the Bill Clinton administration than there have been to date under George W. Bush is false. Moreover, that erroneous conclusion was based on falsified statistics. Using the actual figures from the Congressional Research Service report on the subject which can be seen at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL32492.pdf>, the total military deaths under each of the two administrations are Bill Clinton (1993 - 2000) 7,500 deaths and George W. Bush (2001 - 2006) 8,792 deaths. Moreover, of the 7,500 fatalities that occurred on Clinton's watch, only 76 were attributable to hostile action; the rest were the result of accidents, homicide, illness, self-inflicted injuries, or unknown causes. For the record, here are the accurate totals for the past 26 years:

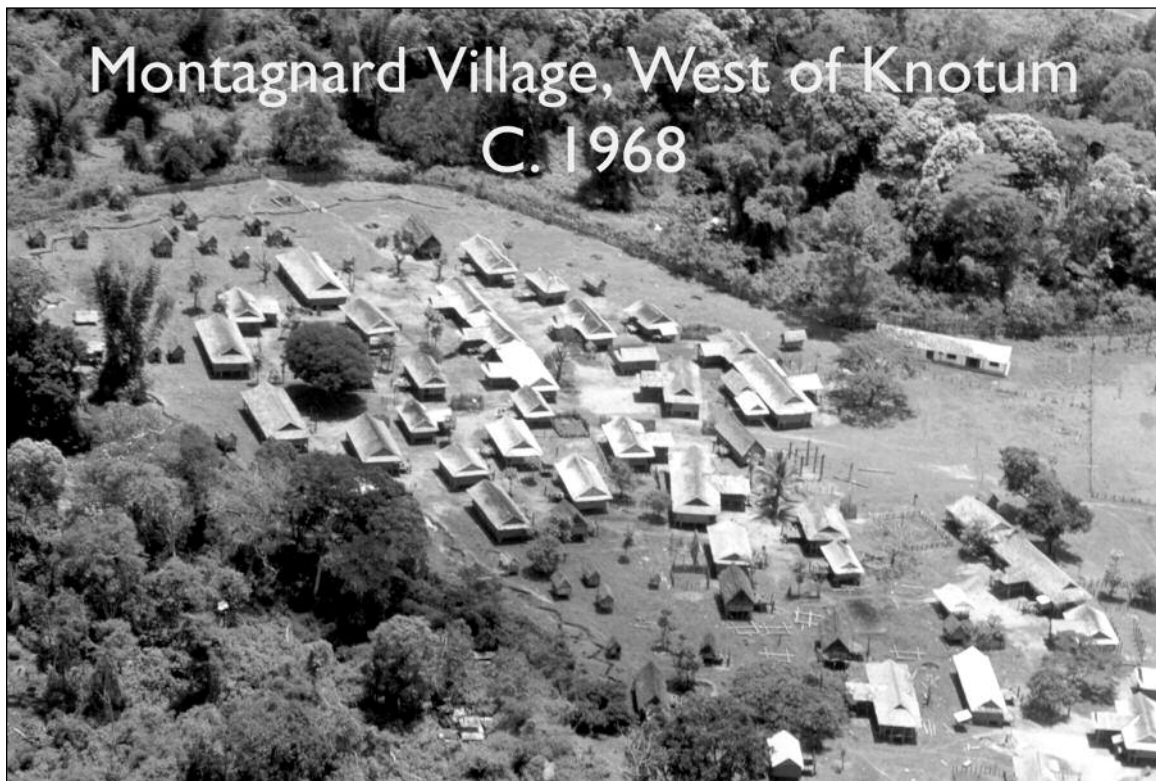
U.S. Active Duty Military Deaths 1980-2006

1980 2,392	1994 1,075
1981 2,380	1995 1,040
1982 2,319	1996 974
1983 2,465	1997 817

1984 1,999	1998 827
1985 2,252	1999 796
1986 1,984	2000 758
1987 1,983	2001 891
1988 1,819	2002 999
1989 1,636	2003 1,228
1990 1,507	2004 1,874
1991 1,787	2005 1,942
1992 1,293	2006 1,858
1993 1,213	

[Source: Urban Legends <http://urbanlegends.about.com/> 26 Jan 08 ++]

MILITARY RETIREE ALERT: Military retirees need to check their beneficiary information on the reverse side of their Military Retiree Account Statement. Some retirees have reported an unauthorized beneficiary name change. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service said it has no way of ascertaining whose identity may have been stolen, resulting in a beneficiary change. If this becomes a widespread issue, they most likely will put out at notice. Those retirees that have the wrong beneficiary on their statement should contact DFAS immediately to change their beneficiary, and let them know it was changed without their authorization. The DFAS number is: 1-800-321-1080. [Source: VetJobs Veteran Eagle 1 Feb 08 ++]



H E A L T H

DISCLAIMER

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 26, 2008

Five Years of VA Health Care for Combat Veterans

**Peake: Honoring Commitment
to Newest Combat Veterans**

WASHINGTON – Military veterans who served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998, including veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, are now eligible for five years of free medical care for most conditions from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This measure increases a two-year limit that has been in effect nearly a decade.

“By their service and their sacrifice, America’s newest combat veterans have earned this special eligibility period for VA’s world-class health care,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

The five-year deadline has no effect upon veterans with medical conditions related to their military service. Veterans may apply at any time after their discharge from the military — even decades later — for medical care for service-connected health problems.

The new provision, part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 signed by President Bush on Jan. 28, 2008, applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient clinic or nursing home. It also extends VA dental benefits — previously limited to 90 days after discharge for most veterans — to 180 days.

Combat veterans who were discharged between Nov. 11, 1998 and Jan. 16, 2003, and who never took advantage of VA’s health care system, have until Jan. 27, 2011 to qualify for free VA health care.

The five-year window is also open to activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, if they served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Veterans who take advantage of this five-year window to receive VA health care can continue to receive care after five years, although they may have to pay copayments for medical problems unrelated to their military service. Copayments range from \$8 for a 30-day supply of prescription medicine to \$1,024 for the first 90 days of inpatient care each year.

PROSTATE CANCER DILEMMA

Whether or not to treat prostate cancer is one of the biggest medical dilemmas today. The disease is the most common cancer in American men — about 220,000 cases will be diagnosed this year — but most tumors grow so slowly they never threaten lives. There is no sure way to tell which tumors will. Older men with early stage prostate cancer are not taking a big risk if they keep an eye on the disease instead of treating it right away, suggests the largest study to look at this issue since PSA tests became popular. Only 10% of the 9,000 men in the study who chose to delay or skip treatment had died of prostate cancer a decade later. The vast majority were alive without significantly worsening symptoms or had died of other causes. Even the 30% who eventually

sought treatment were able to delay it for an average of 11 years. Chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society Dr. Otis Brawley said, “It is important news. It may persuade some middle-of-the-roaders that we are over treating this disease,” and that PSA testing may be amplifying the problem, he said. The PSA blood test to help detect tumors has been widely used since the 1990s.

PSA tests can help find tumors many years before they cause symptoms, but routine screening of men at average risk of the disease is not recommended, because there is no proof it saves lives. Prostate cancer treatments are tough, especially on older men. Many men are left with sexual or bladder control problems. Some doctors instead recommend “watchful waiting”

H E A L T H

to monitor signs of the disease and treat only if they worsen, but smaller studies have given conflicting views of the safety of that approach. The new study looked at the natural course of the disease in men who chose that option. It is the first involving so many older men — half were over 75 — and so many whose tumors were found through PSA tests. Using the federal government's cancer database, researchers studied 9,018 men diagnosed from 1992-2002 with early-stage prostate cancer who did not get surgery, radiation or hormone therapy for at least six months. Most never got any treatment at all. A decade later, 3 to 7% of those with low- or moderate-grade tumors — rated by how aggressive the cells appear — had died of prostate cancer, versus 23% of those with high-grade tumors. Overall, prostate cancer killed 10% of them.

Grace Lu-Yao of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey led the study and will report results at a cancer conference in FEB in San Francisco. "The great majority of patients ... are going to die of something else," so most older men with early-stage tumors could delay treatment, Lu-Yao said. "If people are younger or have more advanced disease, I wouldn't say this is a safe option," but most cases

are diagnosed in men 68 or older, and most are early stage, she noted. Dr. Howard Sandler, a radiation and prostate specialist at the University of Michigan, cautioned, "there are exceptions to every rule," and some very active, healthy older men may do better having treatment right away, along with older men who have higher-grade tumors. Earlier this month, a scientific review published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* concluded that evidence was too thin to recommend treatment over watchful waiting, or one treatment over another. Studies do show that prostate cancer surgery mostly helps men under 65, said Dr. Timothy Wilt of the Minneapolis VA Center for Chronic Disease Outcomes Research, who led the review. The new study shows that for men older than that, "observation is a very reasonable approach," he said. "Many men do quite well for a long period of time with no treatment." Although routine PSA testing is not recommended for all men, the cancer society does advise giving men information and the option to have it starting at age 50. Screening is recommended starting at age 45 for men with a family history of prostate cancer and for black men, because of their higher risk of the disease. [Source: Associated Press article 13 Feb 08]



Sean Flynn (Erol Flynn's son)

Kontum Province, 1968

Ed Note: He stayed with our unit (E/58 LRP) for about a month.

FEATURE ARTICLES

MOVING TO ALASKA?

BY: John Chester

When you reach a certain age, surely not the same age for everyone, depending on their experience, you think you're pretty much immune to surprises. One of our subscription members, Richard Fulton, a friend of Terry Rodericks, brought to my attention that, (a) this was the 40th Anniversary of the 1968 Tet Offensive, and (b) that it had gone pretty much ignored by everyone but the great State of Alaska. Now I know that a lot of us in the Association missed Vietnam and Tet altogether, indeed many of us who were in Vietnam still managed to miss Tet, 1968 as well.

I happened to draw the right (or wrong) card, the one with Tet on it. I was there from June 1967 to August, 1968. I was lucky that I had been country long enough to be able to fight smart rather than hard, as a result my people and I came through the period relatively unscathed. My impression at the time, (we were in I Corps, up around Chu Lai and Tam Ky), was that we were kicking serious ass. My teams were seeing lots of dinks headed west, just trying to get back across the borders. By March – April, 1968 the NVA had their backs broken and the VC were just about finished as well. There were pockets of resistance here and there, but for the most part they were circling the drain.

Of course the press didn't see it that way. I remember coming home in August, and having my family question me about our losing the war back in January, and did I have any close calls, etc., etc. When I reported that WE kicked THEIR asses, not the other way around, the statement was met with skepticism, doubt and outright

disbelief. Now, finally, 40 years later, the Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska, has issued an Executive Proclamation, (facing page), that acknowledges the fact that Tet occurred 40 years ago, that American and Allied troops fought the enemy to a standstill, that the battles occurred far from our shores, and that "the people at large have been saturated with faulty accounts coming from the self-serving media and academia." Ain't that grand? Somebody in a Government position finally got it. We won the damn thing on the battlefield and the politicians screwed the pony and gave it away. I love that woman. I wish I could vote for her, whenever she runs for whatever she runs for.

My understanding from Rick Fulton, (unconfirmed) is that Alaska is the only State that acknowledged the anniversary and celebrated it by proclamation. It was not lost on me that the Governor is a woman. I don't know about the rest of you, but I am going to write that woman a letter. In fact, I am going to send her a copy of the magazine, with this story in it, AND a letter. I want her to know that, from the bottom of my heart, I appreciate her gesture of healing across the last 40 years, some of which were very painful, not only to us, but to our families, wives, children, parents, friends, and ultimately, to ourselves.

If you wish to thank this extraordinary woman, her address is:

Governor Sarah Palin
Office of the Governor
PO BOX 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Thank you Governor Palin, I just wish it wasn't so damn cold up there.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

STATE OF ALASKA



*Executive Proclamation
by
Sarah Palin, Governor*

WHEREAS, in early 1968 there were Alaska men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, in uniform or as civilian employees within the military environment, during a time of armed conflict in Southeast Asia.

WHEREAS, these citizens of Alaska in Land, Air, and Sea forces who with countrymen, Republic of Vietnam forces, and international allies, all stood fast together and did what was right when the enemy launched a massive surprise assault early in 1968 against the populace and the legitimate government of the Republic of Vietnam.

WHEREAS, the fighting raged for long months at fixed installations and outside the perimeter wire from the delta to the DMZ, in bamboosed hamlet, ancient city, along forested tracks and rice paddy dikes, in red clay valleys, up sheer hills, under triple canopy, in the air, on brown rivers, and out on blue water close to white sand beaches, and to twisted canals in massive swamps growing from the mighty Mekong.

WHEREAS, our forces properly and completely held at every point around the compass, in spite of heavy direct and indirect fire; first, stopping, defeating, and then pursuing the enemy in their many thousands from Hue, Dong Ha, and Khe Sanh, among others, in the north, and in the central highlands around Pleiku, Nha Trang, Cam Rahn, Dalat, Tay Ninh, Cholon, the ends of the runways at Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa, the joyless streets of the capital city, down through the Rat Song to the southernmost tip of an embattled land.

WHEREAS, because it was so far from U.S. shores, families and friends in Alaska homesteads, people overseas, as well as citizens all across our land, heard fragmentary reporting of the great Tet battles, without context and other than direct communication with those who were there, the American people at large have often been saturated with faulty accounts coming from the self-serving of media and academia. It is time for the bottomline truth of Tet 1968 to be told: the enemy's battle was lost, and freedom – at least for a time – was sustained.

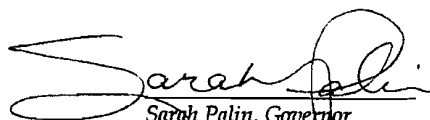
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sarah Palin, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim February 2008 as:

Tet Offensive 40th Anniversary Remembrance Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to remember the courage brought forth in support and defense of freedom and render long overdue honor and respect to those who were there, drew fire, and sacrificed so much and tell them WELCOME HOME.

Dated: January 10, 2008




Sarah Palin, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

“Should Old Rangers Jump?”

By: Sherry M. Klein

So I gave Zeke a call on 16 Jan 2008 and asked how things were going. His response, “No more ring around the collar!!!!!!” Many of you attending the 2007 Ranger Rendezvous last August will appreciate the significance of those words. For those of you, who for some unknown reason, passed on this fantastic event, allow me to tell you a story...

Zeke, as he is fondly known, is Hank Zyrkowski, a D/2 Ranger, World War II. Zeke doesn't think of himself as all that, “I was a replacement,” he'll tell you. But Zeke replaced those Rangers lost on D-day Normandy less than a week after the landing, then made his trip through France, and into Germany. A story, but not the one I have to tell.

This is a more recent story on Zeke and his hanging with the wrong crowd during Rendezvous. Months before RR, I spoke to him over the phone. He asked about opportunities to “jump” while at Fort Benning. I told him I was sure all slots had been filled. He believed me and I was relieved.

Then August arrived, Rangers of all generations rolled in by the car, van, and bus load. Serving Rangers from all three Battalions arrived via bus for a mass drop on Fryer Field. Zeke was among those Rangers that arrived by car, driving with Ranger Buddy Don McCormick, a 3rd Bn WWII ex-POW, and wife Shirley from Chicago. He was all smiles, winking at the ladies, and on the ready with a joke for the Rangers.

There was a rifle shoot at Ranger Joe's Friday afternoon. This is also a story for another time, but a good one. I arrived at Ranger Joe's ready for an afternoon of fun when I was approached by Ranger Don, Zeke's Buddy from Chicago. “Zeke's not here, he's out to earn his Airborne wings!” He knew this would upset me and I proceeded to pump him for details, feeling I had well aborted this mission in advance of the Reunion. It seems Zeke was headed for the hotel lobby for a ride to Ranger Joe's when he met up with Ranger Michael McKinney. “Are you gonna jump?” he asked Zeke. I wasn't there to see it, but I'm sure Zeke's eyes lit up like Christmas, asking where they were meeting, completely abandoning the rifle shoot.

He met up with the jump group in the lobby and rode out to the airfield with Ranger Bill Hill from Utah. They arrived at Tuskegee Airfield and met up with a group of 75th RRA members and some of their ladies who were there to jump.

They gave him a suit to put on, but it was too small, Zeke towers well over 6 feet and he's filled out nicely. So they

found another that fit just fine. After some brief instruction from the Jump Master, they were in the air. Someone did a static jump ahead of Zeke. Once out the door, it was Zeke's turn. Because he was jumping tandem, they climbed to 10,000 feet. Once there, he was told to get in position for the Jump Master to hook them together. As he tethered them together, he asked Zeke, “So, do you have any health problems?” To which Zeke replied, “Two heart stents and high blood pressure, but I'm going anyway!”

As the door on the plane opened, Zeke stepped out onto a tiny platform and grabbed the strut. The Jump Master told him, “Going out on three...one...two...three” and they were gone. Zeke described this as a great feeling! He had straps that were flapping around, so he held his hands tight to his chest...the Jump Master grabbed Zeke's arms and pulled them far apart as they fell through the air. The chute deployed and Zeke described it as a “hard open.” He felt his neck snap to the left and thought, “What the hell am I doing???” After the jolt of the chute, he could feel two straps near his crotch pulling up harder and harder. Wondering what it will be like to sing soprano after his landing, in retrospect, he thinks he may have passed out for a bit.

He knew he was to land on his butt, as instructed by the Jump Master, but for some reason, the two ends were confused upon landing and he came down on his head, the Jump Master landing on top of him, then throwing them into a hard roll.

Before realizing his ride was over, there was a crowd around him asking, “Are you okay? Are you okay?” Checking for missing parts, confirming all was still intact and not even singing soprano, he assured them he could walk. They insisted on bringing a truck around and taking him to the hanger. Someone grabbed a hose and started washing the dirt and gravel from the open gouges in Zeke's head. More men came, Zeke thinking they were paramedics or something, that sprayed some “stuff” that stung on his cuts and scrapes, but it seemed to stop the bleeding. They sat him down and filled him with Gatorade. “Those guys were so nice to me. They huddled around me like a mother hen around her little chick.” He was concerned about the Jump Master, who had one more tandem jump to make, another tumble for him on that landing, too!

Once back at the hotel, Zeke became an instant celebrity! He bore the wounds of his mission while at the Saturday night banquet. His status with the ladies grew! All were there to have a picture taken with the now famous “Zeke.” Parting from the attention a bit, he sat at the bar with Ranger Bill Postelnic. Over their cocktail, Bill, who also

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

jumped that day, told Zeke, "I hope I have the balls to jump out of a plane when I'm your age!" Then he reached down on the lapel of his jacket, removed his Airborne Wings with Ranger Tab, and in a nostalgic moment between the Ranger generations, Bill pinned his wings on Zeke.

With the close of the week, Zeke, Don and wife Shirley loaded up the car and drove back to Chicago. One week later, I called Zeke to see how things were going, "Oh just fine, feeling just fine." Two weeks later, I called Zeke to see how things were going. "Well you know my neck was still kind of achy, so I asked the doc about it. He did an x-ray and I drove home. When I got home, the doc calls and says, 'Hey Zeke, you need to get into the hospital ASAP for a CAT scan, you cracked a couple vertebrae in your neck!'" After Zeke's CAT scan, they put him in some big contraption to immobilize his neck, staying in it, and out of a plane, for the next 5 months. They finally put him in a soft collar, good thing, because he and all D/2 WW II Rangers were invited to Fort Lewis for "D" Co. activation in November. This was over Thanksgiving, Zeke being the only WW II D/2 Ranger able to attend.

While still in the soft collar, he participated in the passing of the guidon from WW II to the Active Duty Rangers at Fort

Lewis, another nostalgic moment between Ranger Generations. What a time he had! He was escorted all over base, treated like a king, given a 2/75 jacket, covertly labeled with a 2 in an orange diamond to mimic that on the backs of helmets during WW II, and it fit.. He celebrated Thanksgiving with Ranger Jon Chung and family, was driven by Ranger Shaun Curry through the beautiful state of Washington to lunch with Ranger Buddy Bob Prince who led the Raid on Cabanatuan, and flew back home....all this.... still in his soft collar.

On 16 January 08, I called Zeke to see how things were going. His reply, "Hey, no more ring around the collar!" Seems no one was more excited to remove the collar, than his doctor. Smiling from ear to ear, he told Zeke, "No more jumping!" We'll see...



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CSM (ret) Nethken from his Urban Patrol Base



As those in our great nation hunker down with the recent cold snap gripping most of the lower 48 states, a message and pictures were received from CSM (ret) Arlie Nethken from his Urban Patrol Base in Fairbanks, AK (Fort Wainwright).

He had just returned from an early morning patrol. Temperatures had dropped to -44 through the night, but warmed up to a balmy -39 when Ranger Nethken ventured out. The purpose of his mission was to watch as mushers embarked on The Yukon Quest, a 1000-mile International Sled Dog Race running from Fairbanks, Alaska to Whitehorse, Canada. Ranger Nethken had this to add to his pictures:

The Quest started today and so far, it has been a great start. As the first team hiked off, the temp was -39. Needless to say "dress warm early" was an implied task. I was five miles down-river at the Bailey Bridge when the drivers came by. Look hard and you can see frost on their muzzles and only 995 more miles to go. These guys are harder than Superman's knee caps!



Among Nethken's accomplishments are in his service as the Command Sergeant Major of the 6th Ranger Training Bn from 1995 to 1997 and Command Sergeant Major for the Brigade from 1997 to 1998. Nethken is currently the Lead Training Administrator, Wilson Battle Command Training Center, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. He's a Georgia native!

danethken@aol.com

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Michael T. Etheridge

fullname: Michael T. Etheridge

unit: 1st Battalion

comphone: 912-884-6157

remarks: My name is Michael T. Etheridge and I have the impossible job of replacing Bill Acebes as the 1st Battalions' point of contact. How I got this job is still a mystery to me. Bill just walked in one day and told me it was mine and that was that. I asked him what am I supposed to do and he said tell you who I am (was), write an article once in a while and answer the mail. It is fast becoming obvious that he lied. You want and deserve much more than that. I will try to deliver.

Who I am:

I graduated from Groves High School in Savannah Georgia in 1973 and joined the Army. My first assignment was with Battle Company 1st Battalion (Ranger) 75th Infantry Regiment. I served three tours with the Rangers where I held every leadership position from Team leader to First Sergeant. I served with the 24th Infantry Division as a Squad leader, the 25th Infantry Division as a Squad Leader, two tours with the Corps of Cadets at West Point as a Battalion Tactical NCO and as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 4th Regiment; I served as the Deputy Commandant of the Henry Caro NCO Academy at FT Benning. As First Sergeant of HHC 1st Bn (Ranger) 75th Infantry Regiment I participated in Operation Just Cause. I served as Command Sergeant Major of the 3rd Battalion 11th Infantry Regiment and the Officer Candidate School. (OCS); the Battalion Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment (OPFOR) at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Ft Polk Louisiana, the Brigade Command Sergeant Major for the 3rd Brigade 25th Infantry Division, the Garrison Command Sergeant Major for the United States Army Hawaii and the Division Sergeant Major of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks Hawaii. I served as the Command Sergeant Major of the Multi-Division North and SFOR 11 in Bosnia. My final assignment was as the Command Sergeant Major for U.S. SOUTHERN in Miami Florida. I am currently a Department of the Army Civilian serving at



Range Control Operations at Ft Stewart Georgia.

What's new in the 1st Ranger Battalion?

Major Chris A. Rice retired, Ranger Coordinator, after 23 years of service. He started his life of service to the nation when he enlisted in 1985. As a Sergeant First Class he was called to a higher level of service and attended OCS. He received his Commission as an

Infantry Officer and was assigned to the 2/9th IN at Camp Casey Korea. He served as a Company Commander and various staff positions until his assignment to the 1st Ranger Battalion in September 2004 and served there until his retirement. During his years of service Major Rice deployed for combat operations seven times. He participated in OPERATION JUST CAUSE, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. He earned the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Order of St Maurice (Centurion Level) and many other awards.

Major Chris A. Rice was a Ranger's Ranger, always moving to the sounds of the guns. He was someone who could be counted on no matter what. The Army and the greater Ranger Family is a better place because of his service. He will be missed.

Command Sergeant Major Frank Ashe retired, 3rd Army Command Sergeant Major, after 32 years of service. He began his life of service to the nation in 1975. He has served three tours with the 1st Ranger Battalion, one tour at Regiment as the RIP Commandant and one tour as a Ranger Instructor in the Florida Ranger Camp. He was the Battalion CSM for the 1/46 IN and the 1/27 Wolfhounds. He served as the Brigade CSM for the 2nd BDE 25th IN Division. As the Division CSM of the 25th IN DIV "Tropic Lightning" he deployed to Afghanistan as the CSM for the Combined Joint Task Force-76. He has earned the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal. He holds the Order of St. Maurice (Centurion Level), the Order of St Barbara and the Order of St Michael and many other awards.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

CSM Frank Ashe is the consummate Warrior. He has lead Soldiers for more than 32 years. He is a professional Soldier, a husband, father and a true friend. His retirement looked like a Ranger reunion. Old Soldiers, fellow Rangers, General Officers and new Soldiers all came together to thank this man for his service. CSM Mike Hall, CSM Tyrone Barlow, LTC Gary Bolos, Ranger Bobby Beck and many others joined with me, LTG Lovelace and the Soldiers of the 3rd Army to bid farewell to CSM Frank Ashe.

The Army isn't done with Frank Ashe. He is moving to Columbus, Ga. where he has accepted a job on Ft. Benning. Old Soldiers never die, they just PCS.

Missing is Action/Requests for Information/Help

1. Does anyone know Seth Lucente from San Clemente CA.? If so contact Mark Voigt at mvoigt3@cox.net.

2. My name is Melinda Petrignani, Michael D. Rudess was my father and I have recently been researching about the 75th rangers, I was only 8 months old when my father died so I do not know much about him.

I found the website for the rangers and noticed that the date my father died says July 7, 1986. It was actually July 31st 1986.

I want to find out as much as I can, and I would think that those soldiers that were with him would know more about him then my grandparents since he was not close with them.

Give my email address to any of the soldiers who knew my

father and would be willing to e-mail me. (melindapetrignani@yahoo.com)

3. Ranger Ray Polk's four-year-old son Eli has been successfully battling leukemia for the last year and, according to Ray, is currently doing well. Eli is now going through a maintenance treatment schedule until 2010. The majority of children's cancer research is privately funded, so Ray is doing a series of long distance cycling events in 2008 to raise money for cancer research and provide awareness for those children facing the daily challenge of living with cancer.

You can find more details, sponsor Ray, or make a contribution by going here <<http://www.active.com/donate/csathletics/repolk>>. If the link does not work, cut and paste the following into the address field on your web browser: <http://www.active.com/donate/csathletics/repolk>.

Honorary Colonel and Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment:

As I sure by now everyone knows that GEN® Buck Kernan and CSM® Gary Carpenter were recently named as the Honorary Colonel and Honorary Sergeant Major for the Ranger Regiment. GEN Kernan was a previous Commander and CSM Carpenter was a previous CSM for the 1st Battalion. Both are Ranger Hall of Fame members and will serve this generation of Rangers well. No one is more qualified to mentor Rangers than they are.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Nate Smith

On 21 November, 2007 Ranger's Michael Stiner, Rich Hecht and myself had the honor of attending the activation ceremony of Company D 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment. Not since WWII has there been a, "Dog Company". The following was issued via a USASOC press release

RELEASE NUMBER: 071127-01

DATE POSTED: NOVEMBER 27, 2007

Rangers Reactivate Historic Company

Story by Staff Sgt. Andrew Kosterman

1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) Public Affairs Office

FORT LEWIS, WA (USASOC News Service, Nov. 27, 2007) – When Henry "Zeke" Zyrkowski joined the 2nd

Rangers in France 63 years ago, it had been five days since they had completed arguably one of the greatest and most daring assaults in the history of warfare at Pointe du Hoc.

The unit that then-Pfc. Zyrkowski joined was Company D, or Dog Company, and it later would go on to further distinguish itself in Huertgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge. Shortly after the conclusion of World War II, Dog Company was inactivated and its history lived on only through the veterans that served in its ranks.

On Nov. 21, a new page in that history was written at the Evergreen Theater with the reactivation of the company that helped coin the Ranger motto, "Rangers lead the way."

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

“This is truly great,” said Zrykowski of the activation of his former unit. “I’m proud to see Dog Company back in action.”

Zrykowski, a former mortar man, was on hand to uncase the unit’s guidon with Lt. Col. Michael E. Kurilla, the 2nd Ranger Battalion commander.

Kurilla said he was honored to have Zyrkowski participate in the ceremony.



“Our founding fathers spirits from World War II live in the Rangers of today,” Kurilla said. “They carry with them the spirit of our WWII Rangers that led the way up the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc and the same spirit that defended Castle Hill against several German divisions.”

Maj. Jonathan M. Chung, the new commander of Company D, said he looks forward to adding to the lineage of the Rangers and his new unit.

“I’m truly honored to a part of this elite organization, especially during this historical occasion,” said Chung. Chung added that it is “special to take command of a Ranger company that was last activated in WWII.”

The addition of this company to the Ranger ranks “increases the flexibility on today’s battlefield,” said Company D’s 1st Sgt. Reese Teakell.

While the battlefields of WWII are different from those of today, the spirit of the Rangers lives on. “They guys I served with were really good men,” said Zrykowski. “Today’s Rangers are just as great, even better.”

A few days later we had the opportunity to have lunch with Maj Bob Prince and Zeke Zrykowski. The following was written by Ranger Wayne Beals.

**A Day with some Fellow Rangers
By Ranger Wayne Beals**

I received an email from Ranger Nate Smith the Unit director for 2/75 Association. He was requesting people to join him for lunch in Port Townsend, Washington. Somehow through my membership my name was on his email bang list. The request was to have lunch with Ranger (Major) Robert Prince of the 6th Ranger Bn of WWII as well as Ranger Henry “Zeke” Zrykowski D Co. 2/75 from WWII.

I knew Robert Prince was the assault team leader of the famous World War II POW raid at Cabanatuan, Philippines, in which he lead members of the 6th Ranger Bn. This raid ended up freeing the remaining remnants of the Bataan death march and the killing of hundreds of Japanese combatants in the process. I had visited Major Prince on two other occasions prior to this visit and his recounting of the raid fascinated me.

Bob was a Ranger that was technically and tactically proficient in Ranger tactics. Bob is a very humble man and gave a lot of credit to his Commanding Officer Col. Mucci, not only for the raid, but also for him becoming a Ranger. He not only gives a lot of credit to his CO, but also the Philippine Guerrillas and the Alamo Scouts. Major Bob Prince was awarded the Distinguish Service Cross for his actions at this Ranger raid. Bob never talks about his award or his very large contribution to the planning and execution of this world famous Ranger raid.

I arrived early so Major Prince, my wife and I had a chance to visit prior to the main group coming for the lunch. Bob had talked about his retirement and how it has kept him busy. Bob lives in one of the most beautiful places in Washington State that overlooks the Puget Sound and the North Cascade Mountains. His condo is on the third floor of this complex and overlooks Indian Island.

Shortly thereafter Ranger Smith and his beautiful wife arrived with the other members of the visiting group. I was fortunate enough to meet Rangers “Zeke”, SSG Shaun Curry, S5 NCO for 2/75 and Sherry Klein, Marketing/public relations’ director National Ranger Memorial Foundation. We then all departed for the near by diner where we all had a very enjoyable lunch and great conversation.

We returned to Major Prince’s condo. We sat for several hours listening to Ranger Prince and Ranger Zeke exchange stories of their Ranger units that fought different enemies in different theaters, during the same war. There were some new stories from the younger Rangers in our group about how things are accomplished in the Ranger Bn. today. We were three generation of Rangers who talked and acted as if we were old comrades.

Ranger Zeke had a very good sense of humor and beamed with the Ranger spirit. It was interesting to know that the

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

same type of 60mm mortar he used in WWII Ranger Bn. was also used in the mid-1970s when I was at the 2nd Bn.. Zeke comes from the Chicago area and is now retired. Zeke is still active in the Ranger organizations and enjoys visiting with Rangers from all around the country.

This ended up being an occasion that I will take to my grave.

Rangers Lead the Way!

In closing, if you're not on the 2/75 e newsletter mailing list, drop me a line at rangersmith275@comcast.net so I can get you added. I use this as a means to plan link ups and conduct support operations for our brothers on active duty



3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

Brothers,

I don't know about ya'll, but the holiday season flew by in my house. I had the opportunity in December to travel to Detroit, MI and attend a linkup at Bill Postelnic's patrol base. Bill and his wife were very gracious hosts and all had a great time. I've said it before and I'll continue to preach it, attending these type of linkups is a great experience. If you have the opportunity to attend one, don't pass it up!

A quick word about Ranger Hall of Fame nominations. If you know of someone you believe should be considered, please contact me. I believe we can do a better job identifying and nominating Rangers for this than we've done in the past.

Continue to encourage Ranger buddies that aren't yet members of this Association to sign up. We need to bring those stragglers into the fold. To those that have written me and haven't yet received a response, I apologize. I haven't forgotten about you, just a little behind on responding to the mail.

Bill Postelnic is heading up a committee to start planning for the Rendezvous at Fort Benning next year. Please let me know any feedback you have from last year's and any suggestions for the next one. This event is for you and men like you, so let us know your thoughts.



For those of you that flip straight to the unit specific sections and skip the rest of the magazine (you know who you are) check out the short article I wrote up on "Ranger Website Reviews". This will be an ongoing article in future editions, please let me know your feedback.

We've lost another Brother. Remember his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Rest in Peace Sgt Ganczewski.

FORT BENNING, GA. (USASOC News Service, November 18, 2007) — An Army Ranger assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, was killed in northern Iraq, Nov. 16.

Sgt. Steven C. Ganczewski, 22, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., died from injuries sustained in a combat-related incident. The incident is under investigation.

Ganczewski volunteered for military service and entered the Army in July 2003. After completing One Station Unit Training, Basic Airborne Course and the 75th Ranger Regiment's Ranger Indoctrination Program training, he was assigned to 3rd Battalion at Fort Benning in May 2004. He was a fire team leader.

Ganczewski is a graduate of Niagara Falls High School in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Ganczewski was a veteran of

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

His wife Rachel and daughter Makayla, of Columbus, Ga., and his parents Mark and Maria Ganczewski of Niagara Falls, N.Y, survive him

RANGER BROTHER WOUNDED

Martin Lawing, served in B/ 3/75 from 95-98, and is now a Deputy Sheriff in Burke's County, NC. In the course of serving involuntary commitment papers, Ranger Lawing was shot in the neck and paralyzed. He has been taken to The Shepherd Center in Atlanta, GA.

There is an internal message system at Shepherd by which you can give encouragement via email. At first the staff printed out the messages and brought them in, but now he has a voice activated computer he can use.

The web address for this is: www.carepages.com/shepherd

you have to establish an account to go to his page, but this is quick and self-explanatory. Martin's user name is **martinjlawing**. Type that in for the page you want to visit, hit the message link, and let him know he's not alone.

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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

Another year starts. The Chinese calendar lists 2008 as the year of the Rat. Maybe they know something. For us it will probably be the year of the Rat race. Well time will tell. I thought last year was a rat race and was glad to see it pass.

There was an interesting phenomenon that occurred at the end of last year brought on by this electronic age. On November 30, Ron Dahle in Clayton, North Carolina got on the LRRP site and indicated he was "having a period of dyslexia. If it don't stop I am an going to have it checked out." Paul Edwards in Durham replied "Get going... or call EMS now" to which Ron replied he didn't feel any "disserent". (Ron's command of the language and spelling are usually flawless.) Ron's spelling was going to hell. After a couple more exchanges, Paul who works at Duke University medical showed the thread to the attending physician who said he should see a neurologist now. After a couple more exchanges Paul indicated he should get Cindy and told him "Do Not Drive!" Chet in Citrus Heights, California gets on the phone to North Carolina and reports that paramedics are there. Well, Ron gets a trip to the hospital. Cindy gets back



on line looking for information on Ron's medical history and Paul updates her as best he can. And this thread goes on for a total of 63 entries over three days. I thought it interesting that a malady affecting one of this Band of Bandits could be spotted so fast without face to face contact. Possibly faster than in a group of friends in the same room. All the way across the country anyone logged in could spot a problem. Paul's quick recognition and reaction helped get things in motion and we all knew what the status was. Ron spent a couple day in the hospital so they could run test. After

they caught him a number of times using the hospital computer to log on to the site, he got the boot. If you could imagine the CSM, LRRP and x-sneaky pete sneaking down the halls in his hospital gown looking for a computer, well that's more than they can handle in North Carolina. What happened? Well Ron was diagnosed with a rare condition called Polycythemia vera, a rare condition that occurs in mostly men over 40. It is caused by the bone marrow producing too many cells and the result is too much blood. The only fix is for Ron to go in every other week, from now on, to have a pint of blood drained.

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

Ron and Mattie
Here the CSM is holding the granddaughter of a close friend. Taken earlier in the year.

Mini's

This year has started out fairly quite. There are plans afloat for a couple of mini's this year. The A/75 side boys have issued a warming order for the "meadow trip" which was once the cabin trip that became the meadow trip but is now the hill top or ridge trip. I do not know what these boys do to get evicted but if you consider that the knob creek range has used the same place for years, you have to wonder. Maybe it's Mike's home made Kimchi. At any rate the peace and quiet of Tennessee is in serious jeopardy. Some where around the second week in March there should be a meeting in the woods.

There is also a SOS breakfast mini planned in Pigeon Forge TN. for some time in April. John Simmons has taken the lead for this event and is securing accommodations. If you can make it, contact John for details.

There has been talk of another mini to take place in Reno some time this summer. No details have been defined yet so I will try to keep you informed as decisions are made.

Killer vs. Recon

There was a discussion online about the book Shadow Warrior. I am not into book reports much and the only reason that I mention it now is that it opened a question from John Simmons regarding the changes in concept of the missions we trained for and the evolution to the Long range Patrols of today. As the thread went on, there was some mention by many that a book with the unit history should be put together, John asked of Norm Carlton. *Capt. How do you feel about LRP's being use in any role except recon. Should a Lrrp team be use as a killer team?* Captain Carlton was the CO of the company when I got there in 64. He wrote much of the TO&E for the Long Range Recon Patrol.

Norm's reply:

Recon versus Killer! Now that is a question that has been

hammered every since the first Table of Distribution for the unit was proposed. Many arguments on both sides of the coin. The concept of the recon units was and is RECON!! That is why the TD and later TO&E stayed away from "Heavy" weapons of any type except automatic fire for the individual arm. RECON is to see and not be seen, to hear and not be heard, and to report accurate observations. Weapons were only issued and expected to be used to "Break Contact" and escape capture. The concept that was proposed to the Department of the Army by the V Corps LRRP was the formation of an Airborne Ranger Battalion. Each Bn to have a Hq element, air transport section, and one recon company and two quick reaction (Killer) companies. That was the basic proposal and the method of accomplishing this is much too lengthy to discuss here. Part of the proposal was accepted i.e. activation of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Alas, again the ranger companies/Battalions are seen as "shock" troops and superhuman machines. As my time permits I will be happy to provide information as to what, who, when, where, why and how the concept evolved if anyone is interested in turning it into some form of publication. I like the idea of making this a joint project with many authors/contributors (but please one editor) and the proceeds passed along to the surviving and needy RANGER spouses and children. i.e Christmas Fund.

John Jersey was a V Corp LRP and went to the 173rd, added:

Norm, Having left V CORP LRRPS and then transferring from the 5th SF to the 173rd Airborne LRRP, we went through some changes and mission objectives. The designation of 173rd LRRP to 74th INF happened first, went from total recon with no contact to doing our recon then reeking some havoc on the last day by ambush or arty, air, anything also going in for a prisoner snatch, this was usually done by ambush and saving one of them The designation them changed after I left in April 68 to 75th Ranger Regiment and the hunter killer teams were formed and least that's how I recall.

Bob Murphy (Robert T) was in the company in 63 and presented a comparison of the change in the mission:

The recon vs. killer argument was totally different in Europe and 'Nam, guys.

Our mission in Europe was much more strategic, the stakes much higher (nuclear target acquisition), and there was virtually no chance of resupply or extraction.

Plus we would have ended up much farther out in "Injun

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

country” with contested airspace because with a 10:1 superiority in tanks the Russkies would have pushed our lines back into France before their lengthened supply lines made them more vulnerable to air attack and our reinforcements from the US poured in.

We would have been virtually irreplaceable when far behind Warsaw Pact lines and it would have been sheer idiocy to use us in a killer role except perhaps to emplace SADM's (small nuclear mines with Davy Crockett type warheads).

I would have heard, seen or reported nothing less than a very important target once we were well behind their lines. Damned if I would have put my lily white butt on the line for a minor target.

‘Nam was a whole different kettle of fish. Our line troops couldn’t sneak and peak worth a f—, most of them did poor recon compared with the Australians over there for instance.

We had air superiority, our LRRPs were operating often within artillery range and with voice radios (sometimes through relay stations) but not using CW code at long distances.

Part of our aim, given the shortcomings of our line troops was to keep the NVA and VC off balance and deny them security in their rear areas. That is why it was far more important for killer operations.

Like JJ points out, most of the time they would do recon missions and only go ambush some dinks when it was time to go, anyway.

In Europe, given the likely war scenario it was never going to be time to go once we were inserted or stayed behind.

One pull on the trigger you wuz dead meat and your strategic recon mission totally compromised with little chance of any other patrol being inserted into the area.

From Norm:

Bob T. your comments are right on! The evolvement of the mission and role of the LRRP Company from the early days to the present is a work that should be completed by someone (or group). The US Army needs to know. How do you get a group of young men (I think America’s finest) to volunteer to perform a mission that while it might be successful, the patrol had VERY LITTLE, or NO chance of survival.

John added:

I Just checked my old briefing notes. Can’t find the part about you not expecting to get any of us back. But that may explain why we got away with so much. The thought that we may not get back was a subject we did not talk about much. I always knew that I would make it if no one else did and I assume that I was not alone in that belief. That was one of the reasons we tested the limits on field problems to see what we could get away with. The only time that I was worried was with a German squad that had a dog. The dog knew we were there and they did not pay any attention to him.

And Norms reply:

OK, we never talked about it much. However, it did not take a rocket scientist to figure out the chances of recovery one you are in “DEEP” penetration. Thus the extreme emphasis on E&E, Survival Skills, and personal, aggressive, will to survive. While I understood the mission, and the risks involved don’t ever think that I would NOT have moved Heaven and Hell and utilized EVERY resource at my disposal (and some that were not at my disposal) to retrieve every swinging Richard in my command. That among some other personal beliefs is why I had to trust the integrity of every person in the unit at all times.

Well there was much more to the thread but that was some of the thought regarding Killer versus Recon. The time frame was basically 40 years ago and it reflects the ever changing face of warfare and the need to adapt and adjust. The one constant that I see, from then until now, is the determination in the faces the young men and women in our military. The honor and courage demonstrated by the ranger battalion over the past few campaigns is and indication that the traditions carries on.



Capt. Norm Carlton in freefall in Germany in 1964. Many in the company were skydivers and some went to the French freefall school but the company was not trained for this type of deployment.



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

No Submission



C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Chuck Vaughn

Hey gang, here is another profile of a Brother Ranger, Mr. Regis Murphy, AKA "Murph." I must say it was like trying to boat a marlin to get Regis to talk about himself, but after I bugged him enough, he consented to share his experience of his impressive military career with me.

Following is the trek of a great warrior and patriot through the annals of military history. While writing this article, I kept thinking this story would make a great movie, but then again, probably no one would believe it. Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. Here is Murph's story, in his own words.

Chuck Vaughn

Profile of First Sergeant Regis H. Murphy

In his own words: "My association with E/20 began at West Point in the spring of 1965 when I met Major Dandridge M. Malone. He was the liaison officer from the Military Academy and I was an instructor with Recondo School, 101st Airborne Division. We were preparing for the cadet summer camp and Major Malone was overseeing the construction of a confidence course and monitoring class preparation among numerous other logistical tasks."

"One particular warm night he invited the Recondo Cadre to his home for dinner. It was that night that Major Malone discussed in detail his concept of a Ranger Company he said, "Someday I'll command this unit and you men will be my cadre." He drew the design of the unit organization and discussed its mission. We remembered this conversation due to his solid conviction that this was the type unit the Army was desperately lacking and his obvious passion for the value of highly trained, motivated men who could display the American Traits of Innovation and commitment to victory on the battlefield. That night his ability to command the attention of men and instill confidence in him became an indelible memory."



"About thirty months later, while on my 2nd tour in RVN, this time with the 101st after serving one tour as a platoon commander of Airborne Chinese Nungs with a-503, "The Mike Force 5th SFGA, I received my one time Typhoon Switch, "land line" call from Major Malone and I remember the conversation almost verbatim. "Hello, is this Ranger Murphy who was at West Point with Recondo School a few years ago?" "Yes, who's calling?" "This is Major Malone; do you still get by in Chinese and Vietnamese?" "Yes sir" "Well do you remember our discussion

at my home about a unit I would someday put together?" "Yes sir" "Well, it's here and now and I could use your talents and familiarity with Special Forces operations. I would like you to work in my ops/Intelligence Section?"

"Remembering the impact this man had on me a few years ago, without hesitation, I agreed to "take the job." It became the most rewarding and memorable decision of my military career. I eventually became the original team leader of team 4-7 (the team with the shortest recorded successful time on the ground of 17 minutes that had the mission to 'find and establish contact with the enemy.')

"Upon completion of that tour or duty I returned home wounded with a profile that temporarily kept me from jump status and was assigned to Ranger and Special Forces Procurement at TRADOC where I served until my profile was completed and reassigned to The Airborne Department where I worked at Jump and Jumpmaster Committees."

"It was here that while working in Jump Committee, Sgt. Rudolfo, another original member of E/20, fell to his death while jump mastering students aboard a C-119. Rocky Stone and Cpt. Gary Dolan were also in the Airborne Department at this time. From this assignment I was sent to Alaska where I originally was assigned to O/75, Ranger and eventually worked directly for the Rescue Control Center and participated in the, then, highest rescue off of Mount McKinley."

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

“In 1974, I volunteered for 1/75 which was then forming up cadre at Ft. Benning. Upon completion of cadre training we were assigned to Ft. Stewart, Ga., where shortly there-after I received orders for an overseas assignment on a joint service team with the US Navy. (I began my military career in the Navy by completing 11 weeks of basic training during my Jr./Sr. year of high school and a two week cruise over the Christmas Holidays 1960 after participating in the rescue and fire fighting aboard the USS Constellation, I decided to inter-service transfer to my father’s WWII unit, The Army Airborne.)”

“From that assignment, for security reasons, I was sent to become a Drill Sergeant at Fort Benning where I participated in the first “One Station Unit Training” Program, combining basic and advanced infantry training with the same cadre at the same facility.”

“Next assignment was to Wichita State University as an ROTC instructor at Garden City and Dodge City Community Colleges where, with the help of fellow Rangers on leave, increased the enrollment from 12 to 93 students, one of which was the first female student to become Airborne qualified. It was while on this tour I was promoted to E-8 and requested First Sergeant Duty.”

“It was here that I received my 4th “Congratulations you’ve been selected” call from DA assigning me to the 9th Division at Ft. Lewis, Washington, where I was to select a cadre, then on to Ft. Jackson to interview and recruit men from the replacement company to train together and stay together at Ft. Lewis to evaluate the “individual replacement” technique against unit integrity deployment.”

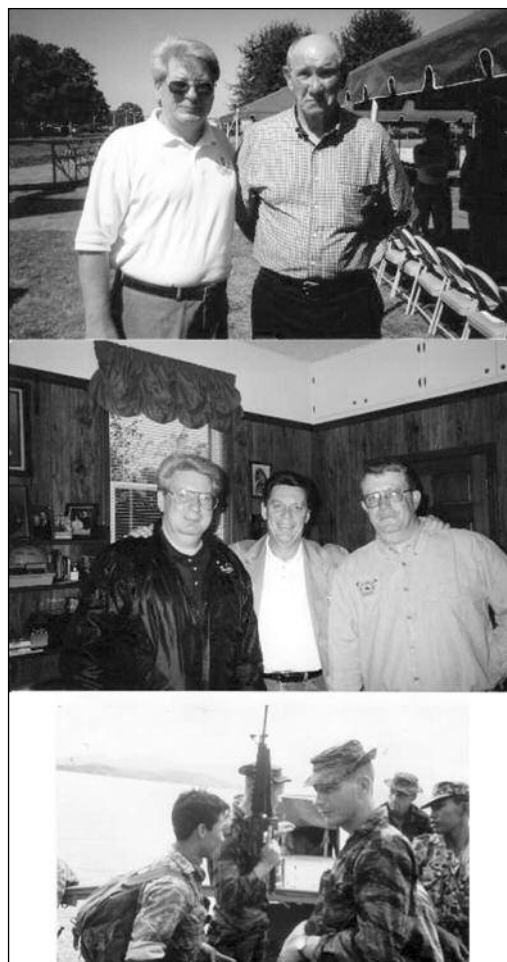
“B, 3/60 as the training unit was finally designated was field tested against the US Marines, Australian and New Zealand Forces, the 25th Division and the famous Hawaiian National Guard where the results were unanimous. The success of this program can be seen daily as our units now are deployed as such rather than as individual replacements.”

“From such a rewarding assignment as this, there was no where to go but onto another career; stints in law enforcement, Diplomatic Security with Department of State, bridge and heavy highway demolition and then owning and operation an over the road truck company led to my ‘un-disclosed’ bayou where ‘life is good’.”

“One of the highlights since retiring has been serving as Pres. of E/20; it confirmed to me that our men were, and still are, ‘extraordinary.’ I am very proud to be counted

among them. The best experience ever given to me (my highest award) was one night during a reunion, when folks were discussing medals and awards brought home from Vietnam, several of my men thanked me for ‘bringing them home!’ It was the proudest moment of my life.”

“And not a day goes by that I’m not reminded by *sheep*, that I once walked with the lions and soared with the eagles of E/20!”



Top photo is Regis Murphy and Frank Moore. The next one is Regis, Sam Pullara, and a Guy named Ray. The bottom photo is of Regis when he was in Vietnam.

Time in the Military-Chronological Order:

4/60-3/61 USNR...

3/61 Inter-service transfer to US Army, Jump School at Ft. Bragg, NC, (this is where I first met CSM Frank Moore, the original 1sg of E/20) assigned to 17th Cav.82nd, while a member of the 17th Cav., 82nd. Abn. Division LRP.

It was also here where I was selected to be Gen. Westmoreland, the 18th Airborne Corps Commander’s orderly;

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

01/1964 re-enlisted for the 101st Abn Div. while there graduated: Jumpmaster Course and Flame Warfare School and Graduated Ranger School and became a RECONDO Instructor. From there to:

07/1965; 9/65-9/66 Original member of: A-503, 'Mike Force' 5th.SFGA, RVN;

10/66-1/67 2/17th Cav. 101st Abn Ft. Campbell, Ky.

2/67-9/67 Classified assignment,

9/67-10/68 Original member of: E Company, 20th. Inf. Abn LRP ,

11/68-11/69 SF & Ranger Procurement, Recruiting Command

11/69-11/71 Airborne Instructor Duty, Ft. Bng., Ga. Jump, & Jumpmaster Committees

12/71-03/74 Alaska. Attended NWTC, Ft. Greely, Ak

03/74-07/74 original member of: HHC, 1/75th. Inf. Ranger, Ft. Bng./Ft. Stewart, Ga.

7/74-7/76 classified assignment

8/76-8/78 Drill Sgt., Ft. Benning, Ga. Member of first OSUT Company

8/78-9/79 ROTC Ins. Wichita State University/ Garden and Dodge City, Ks

10/79-3/82 Ft. Lewis, Wa. 1SG, B/3/60th. Inf.

3/82 Retired as First Sergeant from Army active duty

Nguyen Van Trinh, a "Kit Carson Scout" from the old Echo Company, shortly after the reunion last year, came to

visit me so he could spend a couple of weeks of just hanging out. It gave us time to do some catching up on each other's lives since we had last seen each other back in Vietnam, about mid 1969. It was great to be together with my old teammate again, to meet his lovely wife, Rosa, and to enjoy each other's company.

While Trinh was here with me, we decided to visit another old Ranger Buddy, Dave Dolby. Of course everyone knows Dave and who he is; one of our country's true surviving war heroes. Dave was awarded the MOH before he came into Charlie Company while humping with the 1st Cave.

We had a nice mini-reunion, telling stories about one-another, and reminiscing about our time with the Rangers. Before we parted, we got this photo of the three of us; looks like the *Three Amigos*.

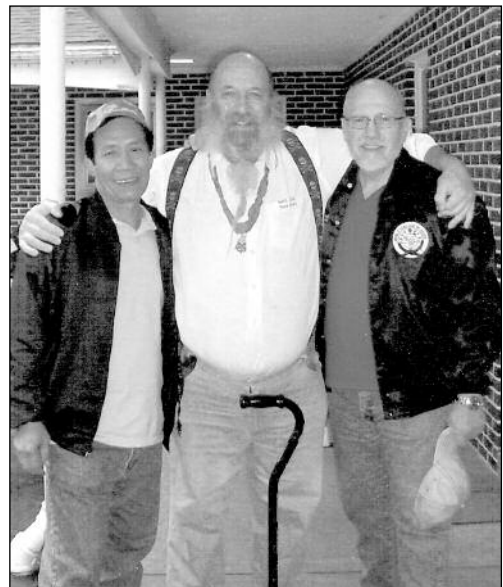


Photo courtesy of Chuck Vaughn

TO A CHERRY

Now Chum, I'm telling this but once,
For we don't have time for niceties.
And on the morrow when we un-ass,
That Huey bird, and hit the grass.
There won't be time for chat and chat.
We may have to scramble to Rat-ta-tat-tat.

A hot LZ, that's what I mean.
Where the tiger roars and the monkey's scream.
So Mind you now to what I say,
And you just might make it through the day.

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

It's my third tour; now don't ask me why,
But I'm living proof; you don't have to die.
What's that you ask me, "What's the trick?"
To my good fortune, to my success.
I'll tell you true, you needn't guess.

It's when you hear that buzzing sound,
With bullets flying all around.
When things go crazy, and then get worse;
A shit storm rises; you've run your course.
And thoughts are running through your head.
"Within a moment, I might be dead!"

Just think of me, of what I say now;
This works, I back it with a vow.
Don't be concerned, or try to hide, from the bullet,
Which has your name inscribed.
The one that gets you, I have learned, on it says;
"AIRMAIL, TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN"

Chuck Vaughn (Chessy Cat)



D/75

Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

As it is time for another article I am happy to say that two more of our brothers have checked in with us. The first was Melvin "Smitty" Smith who now is living in Minnesota. He and Richard Badmilk were best of friends when we were all at Delta Company. He was able to find Badmilk who gave him my phone number. He is like several of us who are now medically retired due to service connected disabilities. I have had several phone conversations with him since his first call.

The other brother who checked in was George "Psycho" Christiansen, many of us were discussing him at the last reunion and wondering what had happened to him. He contacted me by e-mail in December and we have talked on the phone once but send each other e-mails on a regular basis. He is currently living in New York where he retired from the Sheriff's Department where he lives.



As I reported in the last issue we were expecting Bear's son to arrive home from Iraq. This is now a reality as he arrived home safely just before the last patrolling magazine was mailed out. So here is a big attaboy for a job well done, and welcome home.

The get together that Moe Lamphere has been putting together for the end of May is in its final stages. Moe put a lot of work into organizing it for us now we just have to show up and have a great time. As of the writing of this article we have had a few people confirming their attendance and a few others who aren't able to commit until we get closer to the event and they see

what their work schedules will be like. Thanks for all your hard work Moe.

The last time I talked with Maddog he told me that they were getting a lot of snow this winter up there in Wisconsin. Fitz on the other hand told me that they were having a relatively

D/75 (CONTINUED)

mind winter in up state New York. Carl and Rosie are staying busy out there in Arizona and all is well with them.

The weather here in Florida as been warmer than it usually is in the winter, we have been running about ten degrees above normal for the entire winter. We only had one record breaking cold night here in Orlando but the next day it went back up into the 70's. Because of this warm weather we have had a few more problems with tornados also but none have been close to me or Ken and Linda Derns. Speaking of The Derns they have been doing well also. Even though our Jacksonville Jaguars didn't quite go all of the way this season we are still proud of them.

The last time I talked with Badmilk he had just gotten home from the hospital where he had a joint replacement surgery. I can't remember if he said it was a knee or hip that he had replaced. I have had some difficulty talking with him since then as he has been asleep every time I have called, but was told that he is doing better now. I didn't want his family to wake him as he needed the rest to heal.

I have been trying to locate Johnny White through the internet but haven't quite got him tracked down yet. One of our brothers had a set of orders with Johnny's social security number on it so I ran it and got a hit in a little town just north of Houston, but the Phone number didn't match



when I called it. I'll keep trying and hopefully we can find him alive and well since several of us would like to see him again. If there are any of the Rangers we served with that you want to find I'll try to help if you let me know. I have had some luck with finding some of our brothers so far. Part of my problem is that there were many of the rangers with us that I only knew them by their nick-names so when I see a name on a set of orders I don't know who they are, I could use some help in that area. All of my contact information is on the 75th Ranger Regiment association web-site. Also both my e-mail and my snail mail addresses are in the front of this magazine.

If any of you want to write an article about one of your favorite missions while you were with Delta Company feel free to do so and send it to me and I'll add it to the end of my article just like I did with Mike Warren's in the last issue. This could be something that was funny or if you wanted other members of your team to know how much you appreciated their roll in your life. We can all us some attaboys from those we served with. As we continue to get older our chances to pay those tributes are slipping away.

RLTW

Richard "Herd" Nelson
Out



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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

By Rick Stetson Unit Director

By the time this is published, we should be “short” for our E Company get together in Colorado Springs. Reunion coordinator Doug “Mac” MacCallum is calling it a “Pikes Peak Party” and he has done extensive planning to make May 11-18 a fun-filled week with a variety of activities. Mac says it will be a “social event for friends” and will differ from a typical reunion in that there won’t be a formal banquet with a featured speaker. Instead, Mac has put out an “op order” listing events that attendees can select as they desire.

The Clarion Hotel Downtown (1-800-477-8610) is “party headquarters” and Mac is inviting those arriving on Sunday to meet in the lobby at 5:00 and then head over to the Antlers Hotel for drinks and dinner. Monday activities include a tour of Bishop’s Castle, lunch in Westcliff and a trip to Royal Gorge Park. Mac reports the park has a suspension bridge over the gorge that is as deep as the World Trade Towers were tall.

On Tuesday, we will travel to the Air Force Academy Visitors Center and then take a look at the inspiring chapel on the Academy grounds. From there, we will go to the Garden of the Gods and then to Seven Falls. Wednesday’s activities include riding up to the old mining town of Cripple Creek, one of three Colorado towns where gambling is permitted. Then we go 1000 feet deep inside the Mollie Kathleen Mine followed by a trip down the winding Shelf Road to Canon City.

A world premier of “Painted Faces,” a documentary film produced and directed by Erik Spink will be shown at the Clarion on Thursday morning. Erik is the nephew of Ranger Richard Bellwood and the “stars” of the film are E Company Rangers interviewed by Erik last year during our Orlando reunion. Erik is majoring in film studies at SUNY Purchase in New York and has spent considerable time editing the interviews along with creating titles and a



musical score. The documentary is eagerly anticipated by all who were interviewed and the film should be a valuable addition to E Company historical records.

On Thursday afternoon, those who have signed up with Mac in advance will join him for a tour of the NORAD facility inside Cheyenne Mountain. Those not taking the tour will have “commander’s time” to do as they please. Friday morning, “First Call” will be sounded bright and early as we depart at 0800 for a trip on a cog railway to the top of Pikes Peak. We will be over 14,000 feet in elevation where it can be cold even in May, so everyone should bring along some warm clothing. After lunch in Manitou Springs, it is back to the hotel to

prepare for a 3:30 departure to the Flying W Ranch where we will have a tour, dinner and then see a western show.

Saturday’s excursion will be on the Royal Gorge Railway. We will travel along the Arkansas River beneath 1000-foot high sheer granite cliffs. Dinner that evening will be at the Edelwiess which features authentic German food and beer. Sunday is departure day and we should all return home with some panoramic images in our cameras in addition to warm memories that take place any time E Company gathers to renew old friendships.

Those planning on joining us in Colorado should click on the reunion link on our E Company web page to get additional details about the Pikes Peak Party. Many of the activities require advance reservations and Mac has posted the appropriate links where reservations can be made on line along with the prices. We all owe Mac a world of thanks for the work he has done to put this together as it promises to be a great vacation week for E Company members and their families. In my next director’s message, I’ll try and have a complete “after action report” from our gathering in Colorado Springs. Until then, don’t forget that: Rangers Lead the Way!

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

Unit Director - David Regenthal

No Submission

**G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP****Unit Director - Clifford M. Manning****G/75-E/51LRP – E/51LRS – 196th LRRP****Unit Director – Clifford Manning****From: February 1969 – February 1970**

As having the opportunity to serve as First Sergeant of Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry, Americal Division, Republic of Vietnam. It has always been one of my most treasured times in the Armed Services. During the year with G Ranger was truly a memorable year to have served with such outstanding Rangers' as the men of Company G (Ranger).

All of the Rangers in the Company did everything that was expected of them and went above and beyond the call of duty. They also completed their missions and tasks assigned in an outstanding and responsible manner.

Nowhere in the Army are there any two men who serve just alike, just as no two people in the world are the same. Each individual has different qualities and strengths that allow them to stand out and be recognized for their individualism. Some people are more dedicated than others, some possess more experience, some are leaders and some are followers. With that being said each member of the Ranger Company G/75 brought something to the plate that made the Unit stronger.

By far the men who served as Rangers in Company G were some of the finest, dedicated and professional Rangers that I have ever had the pleasure to serve with during my entire twenty years in the Armed Services. These Rangers always gave their best effort for the Unit, the Company G (Rangers) and their Country. Some gave up the most precious thing that all of us have to sacrifice,

which was their life, for the sake of their Country and the freedom of the United States of America.

After serving in Vietnam G Company (Ranger) 75th lineage was passed to E51LRS and served in Iraq. On October 3, 2003, Spencer T. Karol was killed in action by an IED blast. Also wounded in the same blast was Sgt. Bruce "Rob" Robinson. The explosion cost Rob the loss of several limbs. He spent several months recuperating and in rehabilitation at Walter Reed Hospital. Tom Nash, our Unit President, was notified in early December of 2007 that Rob had passed away in his sleep peacefully at his residence in Phoenix, Arizona.

A memorial service was held at the First UMC in Phoenix, Arizona on Saturday December 8, 2007. John Haines from our Unit, along with several representatives from the 75th RRA, attended the memorial service. His remains will later be spread in his home state of Maine. Rob, like Spencer was one of our own.

Please feel free to contact Tom Nash or Jerry Schuster if anyone wishes to send cards or letters of condolences to the family. They will be happy to provide you with the address of the family.

All of the Rangers of Company G/75, E/51 LRP – E/51 LRS and the members of the 196th LRRP were the finest of those who served the United States of America.

Clifford M. Manning

Unit Director

"RANGERS LEAD THE WAY"



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

Unit Director - William Anton

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

From Larry Curtis

Now that the holidays are over it's time to think about making plans to attend this year's reunion in Jacksonville, FL. The reunion is June 18-22, 2008 and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel in Jacksonville. Make your plans now. We will not have a block of rooms this year. Unfortunately, last year we had a few people who booked rooms but did not show up to the reunion and did not cancel their reservations. We were obligated to pay for the rooms. This was a large expense and we will not have that happen again this year. I have talked to the Cav. and they assure me the Hyatt is big enough that everybody should be able to get a room.

This year there will be an election of new officers. We are still looking for people to run for offices. If you would like to run for an office or know somebody that would like to run, please contact Bob Gill. This is a great opportunity to be involved. Many of you have ideas on how to increase membership and involvement. Now is the time to step up and be heard. (Or sit back and keep your mouth shut for the next two years!)

As you all know this is my last year as President of the LRRP/Ranger Chapter. It has been an honor to serve you. I would like to thank my Vice President, Keith Phillips; Treasurer, Doug Parkinson; the Board of Trustees: Forest Decker, Bennie Gentry and Walter Seymour. All of these men have made my job a lot easier, but the guy who should get most of the credit is Bill Carpenter. He does a great job with the newsletter and the mass e-mails to keep everybody informed. (Hey Bill, give my thanks to Stacy too!) Thanks again to each of you for your assistance during my term. On a sad note, the LRRP/Ranger team lost two good men in



December with the passing of Rudy Torres, and Jon Varesko. Rudy passed away December 12, 2007 in McAllen, Texas. I had known Rudy for 40 years. When I came into the LRRPs Rudy was the Communication Sgt. What I loved most about Rudy was when you made contact or were in a crisis, he would always tell you to stay calm. I remember telling him, "That's easy to do when there's nobody shooting at your ass!" Rudy would just laugh. Rudy had over 30 months with the unit. He knew the guys at the start and the ones at the end. Whether you were a LRRP or a RANGER it was all the same to him. Rudy was a devoted family man. He loved coming to the reunion to see everyone and talk about the old times. He will be missed by all. Three Rangers were able to attend the funeral: Doc

Gilchrest, Bennie Gentry and Tom Campbell.

Jon Varesko passed away December 27, 2007 in Rices Landing, Pennsylvania. Jon was a Ranger in '69/'70. I did not know Jon in Vietnam, but had gotten to know him over the last 20 years at the reunions. He would always help out at the reunion and help any Ranger in need. Jon was a devoted family man. He too will be missed by all. Eight Rangers were able to attend the funeral: Bruce Judkins, Sam Dixon, Jim Regan, John Trumbull, Stan Freeman, Howard Shute, Bill Carpenter, and Larry Curtis.

I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Inez and the Torres family and to Margie and the Varesko family. In honor of both men the LRRP/Ranger family has ordered two bricks in the names of Rudy Torres and Jon Varesko to be placed on the Ranger Walkway at Fort Benning, GA. May they rest in peace.

In Heaven or on Earth, Rangers Lead the Way!
God Bless.



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

Unit Director - Julian Rincon



STOLEN VALOR

I believe the majority of us were happy to finish out our time in the service, especially our tours in Vietnam. As time passed we married, had families we remained proud of our service to our country— especially those of us that served in elite units. From time to time we would hear of

persons posing as Vietnam Veterans, usually either in the Army or the Marines. Even our illustrious 75th Ranger Association has posted names of some of these imposters on its web site in the past. The only time these people have been prosecuted up until now, is if they used fraudulent claims of their alleged veteran status to receive VA

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

benefits or for wearing medals in public that they never earned. Yet never have I heard of anyone being brought to justice for just “stealing valor”. That, My Friends, Is About To Change! In July of 2005, Colorado Congressman John T. Salazar with the help of our very own MOH recipient Peter Lemon along with the efforts of Pam and Doug Sterner of Pueblo introduced legislation called the “Stolen Valor Act”, this legislation penalize distributors of phony medals and those who fraudulently claim to be decorated veterans. Current law at the time only allowed prosecution of imposters who wear an unearned Medal of Honor on their person. Congressman Salazar’s legislation has expanded the law to include those who publicly claim to be decorated veterans, allowing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to finally prosecute these individuals. President George W. Bush signed “The Stolen Valor Act” into law on December 20, 2006.

This now brings me to my current story that is taking place as you read this article. There is a person living in the City of Pomona in the County of Los Angeles, California. His name is Xavier Alvarez and he is the newest official elected to sit on the Board of Directors of the Three Valley Municipal Water Board District in the City of Claremont, California. Mr. Alvarez known as the “Rambo” of the water board by its members because of all the horrific combat stories he has told. He has stated that he was a twenty-five year veteran of the Marine Corps and retired as a Sergeant Major, and was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He has said that in 1979 he rescued the U.S. Ambassador during the siege of the embassy in Tehran and was shot twice, while hanging from a helicopter, removing the American flag from the embassy on the way out. He has said that he was married to a “Mexican Starlet” but couldn’t be seen with her because of all the paparazzi. He said he played ice hockey at a minor level for the Detroit Wings and was a cop for the City of Downey, California until he was let go for “excessive use of force”. He stated that he was a life long member of the American Legion and had graduated with an engineering degree from Cal Poly Pomona. The American Legion has no record of Alvarez being a member and Cal Poly Pomona has no record of him attending their school. Despite, in particular, his alleged combat feats, authorities say Alvarez never even served in the military.

But when Alvarez 49, was recorded on July 23, 2007 to a gathering of water officials and the public that that he had received the Medal of Honor, (an award held by only about 120 living people) a call soon came from the FBI.



Alvarez became the first person in the nation charged with making a false claim of having been awarded “The Medal”. Alvarez, was arraigned in Federal Court in November 2007 for falsely claiming to have won the Medal of Honor, a misdemeanor charge, he pleaded Not Guilty. As of this writing Alvarez has been charged with a second count of publicly claiming he won the Medal of Honor (while running as a candidate for mayor of Pomona in 2006) doubling his maximum punitive exposure to two years in prison and \$200,000 in fines, if convicted of both counts. He is presently waiting trial. Hopefully word of this prosecution of Alvarez will serve as a warning to others who have, or may contemplate it in the future, making false claims regarding their military service and claims of medals of valor.

PASSING OF NOBLE COX

It is with great sorrow that I must report the December 2007 passing of another, I Company Team Leader and team member - Noble Cox. As many of you know, Noble “Nob” Cox was quite active within our own 1st Infantry Division LRRP/LRP/RANGER unit association. Noble held the title of Unit Treasure for a number of years, as well as hosting and co-hosting unit reunions. He provided continuity in our unit’s leadership positions and was always ready to pitch in and help without reservation, wisely managing and utilizing our unit’s monetary resources in coordination with others in unit leadership positions. Though I did not serve with Noble in Vietnam, all I heard was good things about him. We were great friends from the first time we met at the earliest unit reunions. I had spoken to him recently about going to the reunion held this May 2007, but told me he was “a bit under the weather”. Little did I know that this would be our last conversation. He was laid to rest on [date] in Greenfield, Indiana. Some of our members were present, retired Ranger 1st Sergeant Carl Cook and his wife Sue; Ranger Dennis McLaughlin’s Son and Daughter-in-law, there representing Dennis and his wife Sue; as well as Ranger Danny Wiggins and his wife, Brenda – all close friends of Noble over the past 40 years. Our Company also sent flowers via Danny Wiggins. Danny Wiggins also eulogized Noble and read two poems written by him (printed below). I would like to add that I also had read one of Danny’s poems at Ranger Bill Crawley’s funeral services, held earlier in 2007. May those beloved brothers, Noble and Bill< Rest in Peace. We all will miss them.

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



**1st Sergeant Carl and Sue Cook
cruise reunion 2007**



**Left to right- Bill Crawley, Danny
Wiggins, Julian Rincon**



Robert Busby, Julian Rincon



Danny and Brenda Wiggins



**L-R Robert Busby, NOBLE COX,
Julian Rincon, Dave Flores at 2001
Tucson Reunion**

***“Tribute to a Hero”
by Danny Wiggins***

*Last night I received a call
From a friend of many years
When I finally recognized his voice
My throat choked up with tears*

*We were about 20 when we first met
Our meeting was not by choice
Now when you’ve heard my story
You’ll understand why I lost my voice*

*We talked what seemed for hours
Reminiscing mostly about our past
When you’re talking to old friends
Time really seems to go by fast*

*We talked mostly about our training
By men who really knew their stuff
And we remembered wandering
If all this training could ever be enough*

*Finally after weeks of classes and drills
Our intense training was complete
We were now proud, don’t you see
To be members of the very elite.*

*We were appointed different teams
And our positions were assigned
We were now accepted as “Lurps”
Everyone there seemed totally aligned*

*We started to talk of our last mission
By that team of volunteers
And I was about to ask the question
The answer which has eluded me for years*

*Suddenly, there was nothing but silence
I awoke, the phone I tightly grasp
What happen to my friend, please don’t go
My question I really need to ask*

*You see, my friend received the Medal of Honor
For dying so others could keep their life
And the question for which I need an answer
Is why did he choose to make that sacrifice*

*Robert D. Law you’re one great Ranger
And for my answer I must wait
Until you call again in the future
Or until I meet you at that gate*

*I felt compelled to make a tribute
I challenge my brothers to do the same
Love, strength, and courage
Three reasons to honor his name.*

*Thank you Bob
My Hero*

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

*To have been "Lurps" gives us honor and as Rangers, we served with pride
There is a special bond between our brothers and a void within for those men who have died*

*Several years have passed in time but the memories are still very real
Of those special events of our past that all too often control the way we feel*

*Many of those memories are very painful and all too often cause us to weep
Many nights we lie awake and just think of events that won't allow us to sleep*

*There are many things that happened there of some we are proud and others we do not tell
It was our year of that war in Vietnam often we speak of as "A Tour in Hell"*

*For years we tried to forget them, hoping those memories might fade away
But the more we tried to forget the stronger they grew day by day*

*We seldom talked to others about it: things most people can't comprehend
You had to be there, you had to live it, to understand this feeling we have within*

*We often found our self in trouble; we had been trained by the very elite
To seek and destroy the enemy: this it was hard to change in only a week*

*We tried to deal with it all alone not knowing where help to find
The bottle often seemed our friend but in the end, was not very kind*

*We often think about our brothers who is alive and how many are gone
And wonder how many of them, like us, also feel so isolated and totally alone*

*How do we deal with all the memories? Is there a secret that we do not know?
We wanted to talk to others, but were so afraid our problems would only grow*

*Our Ranger unit starting having reunions and for this not all of us were prepared
For the thoughts of surfacing more memories really and truly made most of us scared*

*Finally, the need and desire overcame, we went, we talked, we cried and faced the fears
The healing process now finally began that had eluded each of us all these years*

*It woke up many more memories but that was OK, for it felt so good
To see and talk to someone at last who you really knew understood.*

*Most of us have learned to live with the memories. We cope with them day by day
One of these days we'll each go to sleep and all those memories will just fade away*



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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk

Greetings to all My Brothers,
Hopefully by the time you receive this issue the plans for our Kansas City reunion will be set and you will have your reservations made and registration turned in. At check-in you will get an updated itinerary, I've included the short version for now so you can make appropriate travel plans. The info has been on the 75thrra and 4th ID websites but I will include it here for those who have missed it or who don't do the computer thing. There has been a lot of hard work involved in putting this together and Reuben Siverling has done the majority of it so thanks



Reuben for all you have done on our behalf.

In the last issue I identified one of Mike Katchur's friends as John Martin, it should be Ken Martin. My apologies to Mike and Ken. I do have a John Martin of K/Co on my database with no other info so if any of you K/Co guys can confirm that John in the unit I would appreciate it.

I'll keep this short so as not to take up too much space but I did want to include one other item. Recently a certificate of appreciation was given to 1st Sgt. Don Keller and a stone was purchased on the Ranger Walk in grateful appreciation for all his efforts [and

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

headaches] in pushing and guiding those of us in K-Co to be the best. It had to be a Herculean task. Top, I hope you are not embarrassed if I include your letter for we are truly grateful that you were our Guideon, getting us through to the other end, and being a big part of who we are today. I'm sure we did not realize it then but we do now. Roger Crunk

The following is from 'Top' Don Keller:

To the men of Company K "Ranger" 75th Infantry,

I received your package this day and was very surprised by it.

You all give me too much credit. I had been in many GOOD units in my time in the Army but no truly GREAT ones—until K Company in 69—70. I have always likened GREAT units a picture puzzle. When all of the pieces are neatly in place, a picture then becomes complete. If there's one piece missing or defaced, in some way, then the picture lacks something very important—completeness.

When K Company absorbed Bde LRPS, and when they finally were placed into their individual places the picture became bright and complete. The company became a complete puzzle—a picture that said a thousand words—one word at a time—one individual at a time. Any act or acts were not for a team, nor an individual but for the whole. Few occasions arose where a "black day" occurred. We lost a few men, some because they were surprised by the ever elusive enemy while other lives were lost because "someone failed" to "take care of other members." Hence, very valuable lives were lost, not just to the unit, nor just to their families, but most importantly "themselves." A loss of a single life, when someone has let the team down, resonates deep into the very heart and soul of a unit. Surviving any kind of combat, anywhere, requires that each and everyone in the "team" takes care of all others by his actions AND DEEDS regardless of the threat.

The Division Commander expressed his "pleasure" about K Company during many conversations to us, about us, and the Division Cmdrs, one of the very reasons why we were "looked down" upon by many of the Division officers (and the units as well). He never missed an opportunity to express it. When the men wanted to (and ultimately did) put the "Ranger Sir" sign on the roof Gen. Pepke called down and told me personally that he liked the sign very much and to "Drive On" and "keep up the great work."

Every event that took place was not because of one individual or a couple but many and in a "team" effort. The

men became very proud to have it known that they were K Company, 75th Rangers and that they stood out because they were "in fact" different than all those around except they were part of a "great picture" and a "great Unit" that would always be called upon to "spearhead" the Division. Every member of K Company set a standard, one that everyone met and were proud to do so.

When the mission was hard and important—the "Rangers" were called upon to take on the task. I'm speaking of the preparation for and execution of the POW Camp Raid. There were many units within the Div, nineteen companies from within the three brigades organic to the Div, who could have been called upon to "handle the task" and "get it done." So K Company was given the MISSION and "WHY???" Even the other Cmdrs from within the DIV openly criticized "US," deep down they surely were glad it was the "Rangers though and not them. This only added the units' jealousy toward the "Rangers." The company was not just "sitting around" but had several teams on missions. But—K Company was told to pull everyone into base camp and prepare for the mission. It was executed in "style" and with perfection. Of course, someone will always have "negative words" for anything. So be it—but K Company "Rangers" executed the only "Ranger," company size operation of the nineteen companies in RVN.

When the LRPs were taken from the control of the BDEs they complained but overall they were glad, AND as the men were moved to the company area many did not want to stay—so they were sent back and missed being a part of a great unit that was made up of some of the greatest young men in the Army or the US Army and this great country of ours.

So—this sets my picture of a great unit—still meeting together to "talk" about the past and "keeping" as many of the puzzle pieces together. K Company 75th Rangers will always be a complete picture because all of the pieces are still there. Although as time goes by it will take its toll and faces and bodies will disappear but K Company will be there if no more than a Guideon and a lone soul to keep it straight. So let's, please, give credit to the "Whole" rather than just one piece of the puzzle, a puzzle that became a "picture of a thousand words."

THANKS VERY MUCH AND I HAVE VERY PROUDLY PLACED IT UPON A WALL THAT HOLDS MANY GREAT MEMORIES FOR ME. I WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE STONE IN THE RANGER WALK, KNOWING THAT MANY OF US "NOTED"

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

THERE WILL BE BUT A “MEMORY AMONG MEMORIES” SOON.

1sg DON KELLER COMPANY K, RANGER, 75TH
RANGER REGT, 1969-1970 RVN

SUA SPONTE

RLTW

4th Div. LRRP/E-58 LRP/Ranger Reunion

WHY: It has been 40 years, more or less, since we became entwined in each others lives as we surveyed by air and on land exotic jungles, tea plantations, rice paddies and other points of interest. All of us are responsible for any one of us who remain above the ground and enjoying the freedoms we are enjoying. We owe it to ourselves and our families to renew the camaraderie and express our thanks individually and collectively to God and each other.

Sponsor: Northland Cathedral

Host& Hostess: Reuben& Bonita Siverling

Time: June 26-29 2008

Place: Kansas City, MO.

Hotel: Embassy Suites Hotel I-29 @ Tiffany Springs
Exit

Room Rate: 75.00 per Night

Includes full Breakfast 6:00 AM-10:00 AM

Happy Hour/Free Drinks 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Reservations 1-800-Embassy

or Direct 1-816-891-7788

Also you can go to www.embassysuiteskc.com

SUITE RATE INFORMATION:

When you book on-line or via phone, be sure to mention Group code KCR. While entering your reservation information, you will be shown the daily rate of \$109/night for single or double occupancy. Triple Rate is \$119 and Quad Rate is \$129. **At your check-out, you will be charged \$75.00/night + \$10/night for each of 3rd or 4th occupant. The difference of \$34/night is being billed to Northland Cathedral for payment. This is being made possible by donations from some very special individuals who are honoring your service.**

CHECK IN INFORMATION:

Thursday 26 June: 1200-2200 Arrival and Orientation.
Hospitality Room Opens at 1200 and room check in at 1500.

Other activities May be added but some highlights are
WWI Memorial, Hallmark Crowne Center, Huey
Helicopter static display [flown in Vietnam]

CHECK OUT INFORMATION

Sunday 29 June: 1100-1500 Room Check Out. 1000-1330
Last scheduled activity will be Patriotic Services and
luncheon at Northland Cathedral.

REUNION REGISTRATION FEES

Reunion Registrations must be made with Wayne Mitsch. The registration fee will be \$70.00 for the service member and \$50 for each guest. Registration fees are being disbursed for costs of the daily refreshments at the Hospitality Room, the Saturday Evening Banquet (an excellent buffet with three meat choices, lots of vegetables, salads, and desserts) and miscellaneous expenses.

SHIRTS

Ranger/LRP/LRRP registration fee includes payment for one specially embroidered black sport shirt, to be worn only by former service members of E-58 LRP/K-75 Ranger/4th ID LRRP. Register early to assure adequate time to produce your shirt in the quantity desired. Shirt sizes XXL and XXXL are special ordered black sport shirts that will have the unit logo embroidered but will not have the red trim on the sleeves and neck. Additional shirts can be ordered @ \$20.00 each for sizes SM-XL. Sizes XXL-XXXL are billed at \$22-\$23 respectively. Consider ordering at least one extra so you have one or more for wear during this reunion and future reunions. The planning committee and other members have expressed the desire that we proudly wear our embroidered shirts for the Patriotic Sunday Service at Northland Cathedral our reunion sponsor.

Note: Attendance at the Patriotic Sunday Services is strongly encouraged and highly recommended. Casual, comfortable dress is recommended. This service features Patriotic music by a 75-voice choir, 25-piece orchestra, several quartet and solo numbers and is a stirring tribute to all living military service members. Every active duty and former member of the U.S. Armed Forces attending this service will be recognized. Our reunion attendees will be seated in a reserved section and be invited to the front of the congregation to be recognized and receive an American Flag Pin. It is desired that our reunion Rangers/LRRPS wear the black/embroidered sport shirts for this service.

GOLFERS ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY: Golf foursomes can be arranged at Tiffany Springs Golf Club, nearby the Embassy Suites or Paradise Point which is approximately 30 minute drive at Smithville. T-times must be made one week prior to your desired play.

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

For more information or questions you can contact:

Roger Crunk

Home 970-858-4579 or Cell 970-640-3815

rtercrunk@msn.com

:Print and mail in the registration Part:

2008 4th Div. LRRP/Ranger Reunion Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Number of Guests: _____

Members Only**Spouse/Guest**

Registration Fee.. [\$70.00/LRRP/Ranger] \$ _____

Guest [\$50.00/Per Person] \$ _____

Registration fee includes one

Reunion shirt for member only

Member Shirt Size _____

Extra Shirt Order—Members only-not for spouse/guest

Sm/M/L/XL [\$20.00/Shirt] Sm # _____ \$ _____

M # _____ \$ _____

L # _____ \$ _____

XL # _____ \$ _____

XXL [\$22.00/Shirt] XXL # _____ \$ _____

XXXL [\$23.00/Shirt] XXXL # _____ \$ _____

Tee-Shirts for Spouse/Guest

Sm/M/L/XL [\$12.00/Shirt] Sm # _____ \$ _____

M # _____ \$ _____

L # _____ \$ _____

XL # _____ \$ _____

XXL [\$12.00/Shirt] XXL # _____ \$ _____

XXXL [\$12.00/Shirt] XXXL # _____ \$ _____

Donations [Specify] _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to K-Company**Mail To:**

Wayne Mitsch

826 Lakeshore Drive,

Berkeley Lake, GA 30096

If you wish to pay by credit card [Visa or MasterCard only]

call Wayne at Office: 678 -325- 5959 Fax: 678-325-5960

or email to: wmkma@comcast.net

Note: Of our block of 50 rooms, 18 are reserved as of Feb. 1

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

Unit Director - Ralph Timmons



What possesses a man to volunteer for a dangerous assignment? Is it the challenge, the excitement, the chance to prove something to oneself, to some other? When I announced to my wife, Janet, and co-workers a couple of years ago that I was going to hike the Appalachian Trail when I retired these were the kind of questions I faced. They already knew I was a little demented so that wasn't even an issue.

Last winter I began updating my equipment some of it dating back some 30 years. I started going to the gym making feeble attempts at putting a dent in the 30 or 40 pounds that

had crept on over time. Gradually I picked up new clothing and searched for the best shoes. It is amazing how these things have improved in quality and weight. I began looking at maps and guidebooks planning meal drops and timetables.

In many ways it was just like planning for a mission. The primary difference was that this trip would be 2175 miles long and would take five to six months according to the best information I could glean from the many sources. Eventually I decided that starting on May 1, and finishing in early October by averaging 15 miles a day would provide the best window to avoid really cold and wet weather.

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

There seem to be two schools of thought in planning these things. One is, “if you think you might need it, take it.” The other is, “if you think you might need it, don’t take it.” Under the heading of be prepared for anything I loaded up about 60 pounds. Obviously some compromises were called for. Over a couple of months I pared and whittled until I got it down to a manageable 40 pounds. Once on the trail I made more adjustments.

Through it all Janet kept asking, “are you sure you can do this?” You have to understand that we’ve only been married a couple of years and her experience with rangers limited to the reunions she has attended with me. So, it is probably not surprising that she was concerned. I told her that 95% of the challenge would be mental and the rest physical and that the mental was a no brainer. Where there’s no sense there’s no feeling.

On the appointed day, April 26, 2007 Janet dropped me off at Amicalola Falls State Park at the base of Springer Mountain in Georgia. True to form, the trail started up steeply and within a short time a light rain began falling. Several miles later I crested Springer Mountain cold, wet and with several pained toes. The first day I hiked 13.5 miles and collected several blisters including one under my big toe that later became infected to the point of requiring daily draining and antibiotics, all in all a great start.

I won’t bore you with all of the details. There are books aplenty that discuss the trail and all of the flora and fauna-plants and animals to most of us- and the geography and history along the way. It was certainly beautiful country for the most part. The weather ranged from hot and dry to colder than necessary. The summer was dryer than usual but I did get caught in a hail, rain and thunderstorm in Virginia that cost me a new camera and snow and driving winds around Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. I also suffered a spider bite resulting in a severe infection that cost me several slow days and one recovery day in Pennsylvania.

I expected I would be able to walk myself into shape in about three weeks. Because of the distances and the elevation changes it took a couple more weeks than that. The trail tends to follow ridge lines and views are often blocked by trees. As a result rocks and roots take a lot of attention. Some of the trail requires more climbing than hiking and

rocks, especially when wet, make traction suspect. I met a number of hikers with scabbed over knees and many would be through hikers were forced from the trail because of knee and ankle problems.

So, placing one foot in front of the other over and over again with only 7 days with no hiking I made it through Georgia and North Carolina through the Smoky Mountains, the Blue Ridge on up through Pennsylvania into the Northeast to the Presidential Range in New Hampshire into Maine and eventually to the summit of Mt Katahdin on September 13. At the end I had averaged 16 miles a day and finished in a week or so shy of five months.

So, what did I gain? One of the biggest benefits was that for four and a half months I avoided radios, television, and newspapers. I did not read of wars and soldiers dying or of any of the campaigning or the thousands of other disasters that assault our senses daily especially if you live in the Washington, D.C., area as I have for the last 20 years. The hot topic around the campfires each evening was the weather and how many miles we’d made that day. I weaned myself from 8 years on Prozac. For those like me who take it to avoid dispensing with the idiots we meet daily on the roads and elsewhere that was a plus. I lost over thirty pounds, roughly the weight of my pack and probably improved my lung capacity by a few centimeters. I had the satisfaction of setting and meeting a worthy goal and walking past a lot of young people in the process.

The Appalachian Trail is a National treasure. It goes through beautiful countryside and brings you up close to nature and all of its color and liveliness. There are places on the trail that I must experience again and others so aggravating that I hope never to see again. What I really cherish though is the memory all of the people I met along the way. I met a Major from a Cav unit in Iraq who was spending a good part of his 30 day leave hiking. I don’t know how he cleared that with his wife but I suspect she is a saint. I met Patrick, a retired first sergeant from the Ranger Battalions and 10th Mountain Division, who had no desire to be on the trail except to help his wife realize her dream to hike it. I met a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel who was out for much the same reasons as me. Mostly, I met people in the little towns along the trail who gave me rides to town for supplies, or left water or soda at trail crossings, or who provided a place to stay and good company for a night.



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

My feet are slowly regaining full feeling. My bladder no longer screams at me for pounding it loose going down all of those rock fields. My weight has stabilized about 25 pounds below where I started and I have finished most of the honey dos that went undone. Janet says no more 5 month treks but my mind is already looking for a new challenge. What is yours?

REUNION – REUNION - REUNION

The 101st Airborne Division LRRP – Ranger Association 2008 Reunion will be held from June 18 – 22 at the Satellite Hotel, 411 Lakewood Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80910. Rooms are \$70.00 plus tax and include complimentary breakfast. Reservations can be made with Shyla at 1-800-423-8409 or 719-596-6800 and tell her you are with the LRRP – Ranger Reunion. This is the same hotel we used for a reunion 10 years ago. It is well located and has a number of amenities. You can check them out at <http://www.satellitehotel.net/home.html>. We are planning a number of activities in addition to our banquet that is tentatively scheduled for Saturday June, 21. If you have questions please contact me at toptimmons@aol.com or Linda Cox at Dozer101@earthlink.net. Updates will be posted on <http://www.lcompanyranger.com/>. We're looking forward to seeing friends old and new.



Another rock pile



Start of trail is Springer Mountain GA



Georgia – North Carolina border



Pat



End of trail Mt Katahdin, ME



Entering Maine



Bald, North Carolina



Spider bite

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

Unit Director - Steve Houghton

71ST LRP - M/75
by Steve Houghton

Well here I am again with another deadline staring me in the face. My apology for not having an article last issue. It won't happen ever again! Thanks guys for all the input this time!

Sometimes I do believe we would all be better served with a new coordinator every couple of years. I've been "IT" since the Seattle Reunion. I think it's time for a new coordinator. I'd like to see articles and views from somebody else. So if anybody is willing, please step forward, at least by the next reunion. My situation has changed since I first became coordinator, and I know I'm not doing as good a job now as I did at first, but I'll continue until someone else will take a turn. Enough about that for now. On to the NEWS.

I've heard from Terrell Ross and James Hill several times since the reunion. We've had some nice long phone chats. Terrell had knee replacement surgery some month's back, and it's caused him a lot of pain and the recovery is slow. He said he'd never ever do it again! He's not bouncing back liked he'd like to. It is delaying his return to work and I know that's not making life any easier for the Ross family. On a more positive note, Terrell and Kay are grand parents again with the birth of Hanna-Kate Garrett, the new baby girl born to Terrell and Kay's daughter Khristie, and son in law Rick Garrett. Congratulations all!

Jim Hell calls often, what a caring brother. Things are good with him and his family out Washington State way. Washington hasn't been hit as hard economically as some other states I guess.

I had a chat with Dave Wolfenbarger recently. It seems they're surviving the winter ok. He says they're still recovering from the ice storm that hit Oklahoma so hard last December. Sure must have been a lot of damage since it's February now and they're still working on it. David is working on building a Bow...I'm sure it's a recurve bow.....big surprise uh? We all remember Dave's bow he carried while walking point. Gosh, that still amazes people when I tell them that story. Dave put some venison in the freezer this fall too, like that would surprise anyone. He says he and his are doing well, that's good to hear.



Jack Fuche has sent a couple of photo's to share. He's wintering in Tenn this winter. He still has his place in Grayling Michigan but won't be back up here until May. Wish I was in Tenn with him as it's 3 degrees below zero here in Michigan today! Thank goodness for "Global Warming".....think how bad it would be without that! Anyway back to Jack and his photo's.....he tells me they were taken at Firebase Barbara in the spring of 69. The one is of Sgt. Peter Groom, Deshaw and Jack. Pete was a short timer, less than 30 days, and they had him back at Frenzel Jones, doing what short timers

do, when he got a ride on the mail chopper to pick Jack up. Jack's arm wasn't healing right, and since he had less than 45 days, and this was his second wound, they were sending him to Japan for surgery, hence the big hug! Jack was in Japan within days and eventually heading home and discharge from Fort Devins Mass after surgery and recovery. I think Jack said he got out of the Army 3 days early. Anyway, thanks for the story and photos.

Ron Piper reports in with news he's about to fully retire this July. Also Ron has been elected President of Chapter 31 of the Special Forces Association in Dallas Texas. Congratulations Ron! Ron recently sent me an email with a photo attached of a what's probably a LRRP team, unit unknown. His local chapter is trying to gather information on one of the men shown who may be an imposter. I said may be and imposter, but I guess there are some reasons for question. I'm including Ron's correspondence and a photo in this article. Ron asks if anybody recognizes anyone, or anything about this photo, please let him know. He can be reached thru email directly or through me. Ron's address is scuba.folk@verizon.net. The following is Ron's email to me, for your consideration.

Steve

Myself and some other SF/Ranger guys are looking to sink a wannabe, can you get this to national and see if anyone can identify the outfit or the guys? The wannabe claims this is a SF recon team that ran missions from the highlands to the delta... I don't think so... This is important, because this SOB is a Veteran counselor, looking at the photo; we all know that is a LRRP team. Hope all is well and say hi to your lovely wife...Ron

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And speaking of stories guys, I wish you'd find time to share some of yours. I've never heard a story from the men I've met at the reunions that ever bored me. Get them to me, and I'll pass them on. The only thing required, is they come through the unit coordinator. And they shouldn't make the kids blush, and save the politics for another time, as we're a non political organization, that lets us stay tax exempt.

Tim Henderlieter checked in and contribute to the article this time. Here is what Tim calls, "Fragmmments of Remembrances"

Fragments of Remembrances:

hot mornings
 hotter nights
 rotting crotches
 failing boots
 no socks
 what are underwear?
 pet scorpions
 they eat mosquitos too
 no snakes please
 105 artillery cases
 culvert halves
 mud bags, who ever heard of sand?
 building a compound floor out of the muck
 rain
 rain
 knee deep muck
 hip deep muck
 swimming the slime at low tide river crossings
 pineapples
 dysentary
 bomb crater water supply, oops there's a body in that one
 cs artillery rounds
 HE on the ground, don't give me that damned smoke!
 F-104 launching napalm
 release right overhead to get the tumble on target.
 flattened grasses
 Spooky
 spider holes
 tracking
 stay behind mission
 PBR insertion
 Alpha boat insertion
 LCM insertion
 Helicopter insertion in the delta. How dumb was that?!
 Swedish K
 M-40
 m 16
 45

hand grenade
 God awful heavy packs
 Broken operating rod on an M60
 mortars in the graveyard
 last man running with a strobe at night
 hot extraction
 bunkers and blast walls
 our personal sniper
 No enemy in Loung Hoa?
 Christmas 1968
 Poor Fisher
 Heartache from killing a man
 Mind f--- from killing a child
 captured weapons
 souvenir hunters
 inspection upon return from mission
 troop, you need a shave!
 Contact!
 booby traps
 disassembly with a O-38 and bandolier pin
 bunker line
 ammo search
 crawl down that hole
 blow that dyke
 I see a hand!
 Crap, were compromised
 restricted fire zone
 No fire zone, what sense was that?
 free fire
 don't call Arty in the rubber
 wouldn't want to destroy a Frenchman's tree
 blow a swimming hole in a canal
 cook Jumbo shrimp in a helmet
 Thank you, Robert Gardea
 eat that lizard raw
 ha ha you spit out the feet
 peppers and bananas
 plain of reeds
 elephant grass
 fall forward on the grass with your weapon
 snail progress
 how hot can it get
 mosquitos blocking the sunrise
 more grass
 did any hear of tidal zone
 Vam Co Dong
 40 feet wide at low tide
 108 feet at high tide
 don't poop at the end of the tide run, it will come back to see you
 dip for fish at the end of the latrine pier
 Want to go to the ARVN compound for lunch?

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payday stakes
Sherm at cards
pop smoke
use another color
we have company
stay down
be calm
they don't know we're here
SP packs
whatever happened to our beer ration?
rice paddies
don't walk the dyke!
booby traps, punji pits
clamore close
Willy Peter
Striker fatigues
Camo face and hands
washed off in the
rivers and paddies
before dark
Moon out
re-apply
tape the metal
clad the barrel
stone toss
frag tag
Sh—!
so alone
such good friends
what sort of goodbye?
med evac
Japan
3rd field?
blocked emotions
don't get close
starlight scope new toy
anti personnel sensors more toys
implant air SID by hand
Remember Jack?
No transport this week,
have a nice walk back
floppy hats
PRC 25
extra batteries
extra grenade launcher ammo
extra m-60 belt
heavy team HK
hunter becomes the hunted
If they were that close, they'd be in here
Incoming
lower than a snake's belly in a wagon rut
I hope they can really see this orange signal flag

early out?
Always at a price
Prayers for friends
Prayers for families of friends
don't get close
short round
Recondo School
damn proud of that patch
extra magazines
team leader
team responsibility
SGT exam with the REMFs
will I win
got it!
overflight
after action report
map correction
trails
heavy or light
infiltration
gunships under spooky's flares
smoke on the bodies
don't forget that count
wade through the fire
soak up first
stay behind
heck, you got new rations didn't you?
How many days have we been out now?
No mail
They lost me.
Mom thinks I'm MIA
write her a letter.
no phone
back to brigade HQ
where the heck is that?
go home now
just leave
no long goodbyes
don't get close

Tim Henderleiter
AKA SGT Funny
71st Inf Det. (LRRP)
Co. M (RANGER) 75 Inf.

—————Pretty good uh guys—————

Here is another one of interest to us all. I got a mail from a family member of one of our KIA's, Robert Carmody, killed in Oct 67 with four other members of the team he served on. I'll included the whole email for your consideration. It seems an article has been written about

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the mission in a quarterly magazine titled, "Vietnam", the Dec 2007 issue. I looked for it but couldn't find it. Maybe you can. Anyway here is the correspondence.

Hello Steve

This is Bob Carmody and just letting you know that a magazine article I wrote for Vietnam Magazine is out. In

the Dec edition of the magazine on page 48 is the story titled "Split Decision".

The second half of the article deals with the fatal mission in some detail.

Bob

		N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP Unit Director - Reed Cundiff		
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Reed Cundiff

Reed.cundiff@gmail.com

575 635-5220

Retired a year ago and we're now full time RV'ing and camped out in SE Arizona. See photo.



SGM Tom Moore was selected by the 75th RRA panel and has been submitted with two others to the RHOF selection panel. This meets in March and will announce those selected in April or thereabouts.

Joyce Boatman sent out an e-mail to a number of folks and I received her permission to use it in this article

Ranger, I don't know if you remember Roy talking about a multi-million dollar EOD complex being built on Eglin AFB in Florida. Well, it is finished and will be dedicated to Darrell the first week of May. It will be "Boatman Advanced EOD Training Center." I know Roy would be really proud. - Joyce Boatman

She doesn't have the final details on the dedication but will pass them on when she learns more. I can be contacted on this.

Received the following from Hugh Mills, a retired LTC who served with 101st.



Reed:

Looking for info on a LRRP with November Co first tour 69-70, Sgt. Fernando "Ringo" Figueroa. He was KIA in 72 as a ranger with the 101st under my command.

Hugh Mills

LTC ret US Army

HMills16@aol.com

Kindly contact him and possibly myself if you know anything about him. Part of this column is getting folks together. Figueroa was killed in a helicopter crash.

Terry "Ziggy" Ziegenbein of Bravo Team wrote the following

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



Carl Millinder wrote that "we need to see if these guys have bricks and if not, then we should fix that" — Carl

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

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CSM Jeff Horne, living in the lap of luxury at Ft. Hood Texas wrote "Both were fine warriors and certainly deserve their story be told. I fully support bricks for both in our N Company Section.....we should get Wilkie's moved to our "neck of the woods" at the same time. – Jeff

Rudy sent the following on Owens

In one of my missions Owen was assigned to our team, I was fortunate to have him he was good soldier and a experienced ranger. Like most of the young rangers in our company he was confident in his abilities and very likeable character about him. He was kind of a joker especially in our team picture taking. He either had a K-bar in his mouth or he is aiming his empty weapon at me, making a statement that I was mistaken for the other side.LOL, Our Team was inserted on a steep hill top, I call it a hill top unless it has snow cap, I consider it a hill top even tho it may be as high as a mountain!



We took over a position that a company of Line Doggies from our brigade had held, and for us to hide out and observed the multi-trails that surround it. As soon we touched down on the ground, the line unit exchanged with us in series of helicopters being extracted from that position. They left a fire going in one of their fire pits, Owens was behind me as we got off the helicopter and then something blew (loud pop) and I went to one knee and turn around to see Owens grab his face with his hands and he began to tear off his ruck in anger with his weapon still in his hands wanting to bust some caps on someone with it. The line company had left some c-rations in the fire and one c-ration can blew up with some of the chow hitting his face and little in his eyes. Lucky for him he wasn't hurt bad just stung him on his face, I felt really bad for Owens at the same time angry at those guys that just left that mess knowing Charlie would come up there to check it out for ammo or food. Since that hill top was too big for our team to cover it all, we discovered that there was only one path

leading up to it that was passable, the rest was really steep and a sheer drop on most of it. I had team position close to the only trail entering the hill top and had two guys observe throughout the night and day. One evening, while I was exchanging some thoughts with some of the other team members in my poncho hootch, Owens burst in and was quite excited and talking pretty fast about a bunch of flashlights coming up the trail to us and at the same time asking me what are we going to do? My thoughts were to stay calm (control panic they used to call it) like what the older guys taught me, so I slowly I went into my ruck to get my binos and walked with Owens where his companion was still watching the trails.

He was correct. There were a bunch of lights, like a long snake coming up the path to our position, all the while Owens was still asking me what were we going to do? After getting my eye balls full, I lowered my bino and even in the dark I can see the Team looking at me asking the same questions in their eyes. So I gave Owens a map and asked him to give me a position on those lights. He quickly went and covered his head with a poncho and took out his flashlight. I asked for a hand set to talk to the TOC about the situation and asked for Arty, before I finished my transmissions, Owens gave me the coordinates and we sent it and watched and adjusted our own private fireworks display for that evening with flashlights going ever which way but loose. I still remember Owens had this silly looking grin on his face that evening when I asked him to call me if he see anymore movement that evening and that I was going to bed down for the evening. I was really saddened to learned of his untimely death from Zig, for he was only several days younger than I was in birthdays. I would have loved to see him at our reunions. But like most of the losses I have had in my life, I would like to remember 'not' how he died, but how he lived as a young Ranger,..among us!

Sua Sponte,
Rudy
Charlie/Juliet Team

Ranger Roger Brown was able to dig out a 173rd Airborne Newspaper clipping that mentioned Sogolow

BLACK BERETS GRAB BAD GUYS' BOOTY
Suoi Ca Valley – N Company, 75th Infantry Rangers, in support of 173rd Airborne Brigade units fighting the North Vietnamese regulars in the Nui Cung Chap Mountains, made a platoon sized combat assault in the Suoi Ca Valley to keep the enemy reinforcements from from aiding their comrades trapped in the rugged Nui Nung Cap hillside. The Ranger teams were inserted late Tuesday afternoon, April 6 on the

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western periphery of the Suoi Ca Valley. At Sunrise Sunday, Kilo and Oscar Teams linked up. The enemy, unaware of the Ranger presence in the area, ran into their ambush. The teams, led by SSgt Juan S. Borja, a native of Guam, discovered two enemy killed at the ambush site. Ranger Team Lima found themselves in rather an awkward predicament. Early Wednesday morning, the team was surrounded by an unknown sized enemy element. Specialist Four Michael Bowers, Albuquerque, New Mexico, called in artillery that pounded the area all morning long to keep away the enemy. Later on Wednesday, Tango Team's mechanical ambush went off. Before long, the team led by SSgt Walter Sogalow, Bloomington, ID, realized that they had made contact with an enemy element. When the smoke cleared there were four enemy KIA and two WIA, who were taken prisoner. The loot included five AK-47's, seven mortar rounds and various equipment and supplies. On the same morning, Echo Team led by Platoon Sergeant Roger Brown, Fresno, CA was inserted as a reaction force for Tango Team. The Team found a large enemy base camp in the eastern periphery of the eastern highlands of Suoi Ca. The base included several bunkers and hootches. Platoon Sergeant Brown requested artillery support from FSB Crystal, Alpha and Delta Batteries of 3rd Bn, 319th Artillery, which pounded the base camp.

Frank Vanservers sent me an e-mail that Raul "Sandy" Santiago as died last January. He had quite a reputation from the early days.

Robert "Doc" Clark sent me the following on Raul

The picture is one that Frank Vansevers sent me of, Sandy, Pete and myself, three of us who spent a great deal of time together, throughout 67-68. Some of which will remain in the depths of my mind. When your stacking arms in a Central Highland bar, scoring chicks in the day that were shared with the NVA at night, partying in between highly adventuresome missions in the area of Dak To in 67, those are the kinda of guys you want around. Not some dew dick O types looking for promo. Sandy was silent and cold as steel in war, but you could never find a bigger heart or steadfast friend. The guy was no bullshit (EVER). He belonged in the NAM and he knew it. Photo below.



I wrote Doc that I haven't received much from the LRP days of late 1967 through mid 1969 and Doc wrote that he and Brooks are working on a pieces..

Robert Henriksen has been working e-mails and wants to get CD's put together of folks photos and tales from Viet Nam and "after" photos from current times (family and friends) as well as photos from the reunions. Or in his words:

"I'm backed logged 67 radio-communication that need my personal attention: gathering info on members / contact email/ address/ phone/ and editing photos that come across the air-waves. Eventually I'll gather it together and forward it to you in a simple form. The Ranger Disc for: 1.Nam tours / 2. Members who stayed in Army continuing service/ and Current Members pictures with family will take a little more time." I want to mention that we need to buy stones (each paying for their own) as a group for those of us who haven't bought one yet. I'm guilty of that and would like to get a list together so that we at least be together. The area to the Memorial entrance is running out of space. We need to buy stones as a group!! Bob Stouch, Tome Roubideaux and myself are three that I know of. Contact Rudy and let him know that you need to be added to the list. GO to the site listed below and find section for purchase stone. Send filled out form, D-214, and orders to prove Herd Ranger. Send paper work to Rudy with a payment of \$280. If there is a financial problem, please contact Reed, Rudy or me. NOTE: I'm very happy/proud to see so much radio-relaying between team members. We have been way behind on N/CO exposure to all of the 75th Inf. Regiment unit. My goal is to be the unit at the TOP as our company team's history / performance / completed our missions / stories will be documented.

Later, 'twin' golf/delta team 70/71 Herd Ranger 'Robt' Golf/Delta 360 778-1305

Got a request from John Chester to verify Rocky Houser's service. John was quite satisfied with the following among four or five other replies sent to him.

"Rocky was Echo Team leader in N-75, to my knowledge he made the last kill and contact in the Company prior to our Bde being send home to Campbell. Prior to joining us he was a adviser with 33 Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, later in his career he was 1SG in the 2d Ranger Battalion, and top off his career as CSM I Corp in Fort Lewis, WA. Enclosed a picture of him and I at Ranger Hill on LZ English 1971 – Rudy"

Someone else wrote in the Rocky was one of the guys who looked like a recruiter's photo of what a Ranger should look like. John wrote back that CSM Houser is now a member of 75th RRA. Rocky Houser & Rudy, below.

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



One of the ongoing bits of N Ranger mythology is the trophy leopard and a photo of this has been submitted. I have been told that everyone on the patrol had a different story since they weren't sure they had done the proper thing, like not having

a leopard tag on their hunting license. Baugh writes that he had to go through some paperwork with Med Detachment to get the hide approved to bring back to the US. Photo below.

Left to right: Millinder, Thompkins, Akuna, Campbell Kneeling: Baugh Alpha Team 1971



The only thing I know of even remotely similar from the early days was when Chester McDonald was on outpost at the Katum DZ and a Pangalon (spiny anteater) stumbled into his trench and Chester beat him/her to death with a entrenching tool. I believe that Chester got the Recondo knife at Class 0 in September 1966 when the entire 173rd LRRP en masse and got it again at the last Recondo Class when he was with G Rangers.

Rudy has made contact with another N Ranger, John Flahive. Rudy has his address and phone number but as Rudy puts it "He hasn't crossed over to the 20th or 21st Century techology (NO Internet) so those that know him, stamps are sold at the local post office!" Rudy sent me a photo of John

which I will put in next Patrolling. Rudy wrote that John was "sawn off" and I wrote back to ask how tall that would be since most of us weren't terribly big. He wrote back

"Well I am 5'6" and Flahive is a weeee shorter if memory served me right. I spoke to him several days ago, in his conversation he stated that he wasn't able to fit into his cammie anymore for quite a few years (not too many who can?)! LOL You know at one of the first reunions I went to, I noticed most of the guys of our sister companies. One company I noticed was taking a group picture. The majority of them were well over 6'2" and huge, kind of like a bunch of Top Moore's brothers or family members. I mentioned it to one of our people standing next to me as we watched the picture taking and I said how did these guys hide in the bush? My companion just looked at me with a puzzled look, and I said these guys are huge, there isn't enough jungle in Nam to hide these guys,...we both laughed!

I will be contacting the RHOF committee to determine who already has bricks and where they are located. Rudy Teodosio is handling the treasurer job and is working at getting folks to send in funds to help pay for bricks fo our Rangers who have passed.

There is an on-going thread between folks from the unit. If anyone is interested in getting on it, please e-mail me

End this with a photo that I think was from Dave Walker of the An Loa Valley.



O/75 - 78TH LRP

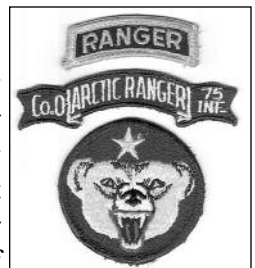
Unit Director - Michael Feller



SP/4, Michael L. Dolsen
August 1972, Ft. Richardson, AK
Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf.

Seeking all you Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf, veterans.

Hello, my name is Michael L. Dolsen, here in Anchorage, Alaska and though my tour was short, and not due to anything I did, I'm also a veteran and proud former member of Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf. Alaska, and was there until just a few days prior to the official deactivation on 29 September 1972. I'll keep this intro short and in future issues, maybe I can tell some more. After High School, a neighbor buddy whom I've know all my life, and I were recently laid off from a local factory job. Wanting to get out on our own, we decided to look into joining the military. So, we looked into our options and



Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf.
USARAL, Alaska

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joined the Army on the Buddy Basic option and for Ranger School in our contracts. Granted, that was only if you could make it through Basic, AIT, Jump School, then you could “try” and pass Ranger School. Well, we did just that. On 1 June 1972, we graduated Ranger School in class 12-72 and from what I remember, there were about 140 or so who did graduate out of over 300 that started the course. Looking at the class photo on the Ranger Training Brigade web site, you can find me. I’m the skinny read red, third up from pretty much dead center behind the Cadre Class Captain. Wish I were that skinny now.



you as quickly as possible. I very much would like to get some extra original Co. O unit patches if anyone has any and I’d be happy to purchase them at a reasonable cost. If any former members remember how the patch came to be and where it was made, I’d would really like to know this. Along with the stories and such, I’d like to put together an album of such, with pictures of former members over its history, showing them then and now with short bios and contact information, if provided, so fellow veterans and their families and friends of Co. O can have to enjoy, and reconnect with their fellow Co. O, Arctic Rangers.

Well, now a SP/4 and with new orders to report to the 75th Infantry Arctic Rangers (Company O) at Ft. Richardson, Alaska, about 20 of us headed to our new assignment, but first were given about a 30 day leave enroute, we reported in on 12 July 1972. Oh, yea, my good friend who I joined up with also made the grade and also was assigned to the Arctic Rangers. I’m sure some of the other class graduates were assigned to one of the other two Ranger companies in the lower 48 (as we in Alaska refer to the contiguous States), that being Co. A at Ft. Hood, TX and Co. B at Ft. Carson, CO. We had no idea reporting in to Co. O that our tour would be short and not of our doing. Though the unit was only active from 4 August 1970 to 29 September 1972, and our tours were short, we none the less were a part of a proud and very fine Ranger unit, and enjoyed a few adventures during our short tour in the company too.

I recently joined the 75th RRA and on a visit to Michigan to visit my old homestead, I met Michael Feller, the Co. O unit director, whom by chance lives in Michigan as well. I took the time to contact him, and we had a very nice visit and he reviewed my documents to confirm my Ranger history for membership. I deeply appreciate he and his wife’s openness to allow a total stranger to stop by and visit. As I pointed out to Mike, I have appointed myself the unit historian, and am reaching out in an attempt to find as many of the former members of Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf as I can. I wish to document as best I can with everyone’s help, as complete as possible a factual history of Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf for all to enjoy. So, with that in mind, I’m asking for individual stories, bio’s, pictures, copies of awards, orders, certificates, about anything one might have to contribute to put as through a history together as possible on Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf. Any original items loaned to me I assure you will be returned to

So, to all my fellow Rangers out there, if you were a veteran of Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf. Alaska, or know of someone who was an Arctic Ranger member during its short life between 4 August 1970 to 29 September 1972, I would greatly appreciate it if you or you could tell them to contact me at P.O. Box 190346, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0346, or via Email at: arcticranger75th@gci.net. My home phone number is; 907-243-5339 as well.

For the next issue, I’ll try to go into more detail of what I have found already, and relate some of the exploits and adventures the Arctic Rangers accomplished in its short history and what I’ve found on how the unit was formed. Again, I would like to personally thank Michael Feller for his support and to John Chester for allowing me to introduce myself here and reach out to my fellow Rangers for help, but most of all to say hello. So to close, I want to say to all the past and present Rangers out there, this Ranger is very proud of you all and honored to be a Veteran and most of all to be a fellow Ranger. It doesn’t matter if you’re a civilian now or still an active duty Ranger, Rangers Lead the Way! And always will.

In Memorial

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

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

O/75 - 78TH LRP (CONTINUED)

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

Beck, Jerry D. KIA
 Kelly, Michael J KIA
 Koenig, Daren L. KIA
 LaPolla, John A. KIA
 Wright, Charles KIA
 Chairez, Gilberto
 Clemons, Donald L.
 Goodner, Gary E.
 Kane, John P.
 Maggart, Thomas H.
 Martinez, Arthur R.
 Wilkerson, Robert L.

Prestwood, Jonas S. Jr.
 Trinajstick, Steven J.
 Ervin, Leslie W.
 Fenner James C.

Recalling these individuals makes one remember the tragic circumstance of their death. At the same time one also recalls some of the better times; an island sunset over the South China Sea, the Northern Lights, in their full majesty, on a deep arctic night. Or that exit from an aircraft at dawn threw a wisp of cloud into brilliant sunrise as the opening shock lets you know you are OK for the time being .The friendship of men such as these, men willing to share danger in hopes that in doing so, all might better appreciate the beauty of life. Even as some have stopped in the collection of those memories, as will we all, they become the memory. And like that opening shock, they give us the security to face the danger and the awful drop.



P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Terry Roderick

The Papa Company Rangers are all gearing up for our upcoming Reunion in Buffalo/Niagra Falls, N.Y. If you are in the area, please feel free to stop by and join us!! The contact would be Clyde Tanner, former F/51st LRP and P/75th Ranger. If anyone has concerns or needs special assistance give him a call (716) 308-6445.

Buffalo/Niagara Falls Reunion

JULY 23 to JULY 27, 2008

The hotel info is as follows:

HOLIDAY INN – BUFFALO

AIRPORT

www.hibuffaloairport.com

4600 GENESEE STREET

CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. 14225

716-634-6969

Problems ?? Contact: Sue Walker

(716) 829-1417

The room rates are 109.00 per night plus tax. There is a block of 20 rooms for now. This is the itinerary as of today with possible changes later, depending on the size of group that attends.

Wednesday July 23: Check In – Hospitality Room - Buffalo Naval & Servicemen's Park

Thursday July 24: Trip to Niagara Falls: Depart at 9:00



– Return ????

All day event –There is a Jet Boat Ride that takes you through the rapids and whirlpool of the Lower Niagara River (www.whirlpooljet.com). The group rates (10 or more) for the Jet Boat is 49.00 for adults & 40.00 for kids. The link will show you what to expect to help you decide if this is something you would like to do. Seneca Casino & Hotel for those who want to gamble is located about 2 blocks from the falls. There are a lot of attractions on the Canadian side of the falls. The requirements for crossing into Canada and getting back to the USA is a valid

photo drivers license with a copy of your Birth Certificate for 18yrs and older. Just a copy of their Birth Certificate for kids younger than 18 yrs. Here is the link to see what we will be doing (www.niagarafallsstatepark.com) The Maid of the Mist Boat Ride, Cave of the Winds and other State Park attractions will be approx. 30.00 per person or we can purchase just the Maid of the Mist and the Cave of the Winds separately for under 30.00. The 2008 season prices for most attractions have not been released yet.

Friday Jul 25: Company Banquet – 6:00 PM Buffet: Cost is 25.00 per person-which includes tax and gratuity. It will be at the hotel. This is the menu selection:

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

Carved Roast Top Sirloin – au jus
Salad w/Rolls & Butter
Seasonal Vegetable
Boneless Chicken Breast
Barbequed Spare Ribs
Buttered Parsley Potatoes
Penne Pasta w/Marinara Sauce
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Ice Tea
Assorted Pastries and Desserts

Saturday July 26: Lockport Caves Boat Ride 10:00am with a Picnic at the Tanners Home afterwards. This will depend on how many attendees stick around Saturday. We will discuss this further at check in when we can get a accurate count.

The money for the banquet only will need to be sent in advance

This is so the Hotel can order everything for the banquet which needs to be paid for in advance and gives me a count for activities. Right now I have reserved a room for approximately 50 guests. If we get more I might have to try to sweet talk them into a larger room if available. Send the checks payable to **SUSAN TANNER, 7077 ACADEMY LANE, LOCKPORT, NY 14094.**

If you opt to fly into Niagara Falls Airport Clyde or someone will pick you up and shuttle you to the Hotel.

This is a link to a no frills airline that flies to Niagara Falls Airport www.myrtlebeachdirectair.com It flies direct from Myrtle Beach, but also has flights from Florida. Compare the cost to other airlines. If you opt to fly into Niagara Falls Airport I can pick you up and shuttle you to the Hotel.

For the folks that live in the Ohio area, who wants to save alittle money on airfare this link will get you some low fares. www.skybus.com

There is a Hotel Shuttle available for pick from the Buffalo Airport or if you are renting a car, all the major rental companies are available at the airport. If you fly into Niagara Falls Airport they have car rentals available there also or if you need a ride just call my cell (716) 308-6445 before you arrive so I can be there when you arrive.

Well that's it for now. We look forward to seeing everyone and would love to see more then 50 people make it. If anyone has concerns or needs special assistance give me a call (716) 308-6445. Oh, don't worry I can guarantee it won't be Snowing, despite what Terry has told you.

Got some news from Jaci Glidden. She is the daughter of one of our KIA's, Johnny Lawrence, who graciously joined us a few years ago along with her husband, Lance,

who is a military pilot. Many of us were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to meet her and she is a beautiful young woman and has a lovely family. Here's what she had to say.....We are doing great! I had my mom for a visit this summer - the first times she's been to TN. She had a great time. We have talked about another Ranger reunion...She is EXTREMELY nervous about that for some reason. I will continue to work on her! This next one should be fun up in Buffalo...I have never been to Niagra Falls. My brother lives in MD and my sister in PA...They are close enough. I may work on them! We are adding on to our house. So I can't wait until the dust clears. My youngest daughter and I were in Orlando for the National Cheer Competition and their squad got 3rd in semi-finals and then 12 in the nation for finals. We are so proud of her/them....We are just an extremely busy household. You remember what it is like to have school age kids! But I am loving every minute of it! We may be spending Spring Break on Panama Beach Florida. We'll see. Lance has a TDY up there, so we are looking for places to stay... Hope you are doing well....I love hearing from you! Sorry I am not better at keeping in touch. Talk to you soon! Jaci (RLTW)

From Ken Emmick, former F/51st LRP and P/75th Ranger: I've spent the last seven months working in Nashville and have had the opportunity to get together with Dave Barfield and Bobby Hampton. I played golf with Bobby and his son Brent on several occasions. We spent one night hanging out at Dave's house — his wife Judy and Bobby's wife Lydia are absolute sweethearts. I've just finished up the project I was working on here in the Nashville area and am packing up to move back to Detroit. (Most unfortunately, my office is in Detroit but as of about six months ago, my home is in the Tampa area.) I hooked up with Dave and Bobby last night (Feb. 13) at the American Legion (the same place we partied a couple of years ago at the F/51 reunion) for a couple of glasses of milk and Dave, ever the storyteller, kept us entertained. I'm looking forward to Tanner Town in July. I believe I'll be working in northeast Ohio at that time, so it should only be about a 3 1/2 hour drive. Unfortunately, I think I'll only be able to get about two days away from work....I'll just have to wait and see how things are going. Hope all is well with everyone. Emmick Out...

Bill Davis has made an offer and it has been accepted on a home in Tucson, Arizona. He'll be moving from the Oakland, California area in April probably. Needless to say he is pleased to finally have made the big jump into home ownership. For us single guys, it's hard to get yourself to make that commitment sometimes to ensure you have a place to live. Troll has moved back to his hometown of

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

Akron, Ohio and is doing well. He has gotten into the VA for some of his health problems and they have done their part to assist him as they are doing for many of us. Ring him up if you want to be entertained!! **330-255-1495.....!!** I know he will love to hear from you. ****SPECIAL BULLETIN**** Larry “The Reb” Smith has e-mail and Internet access now. You can e-mail him at: **smith707482@bellsouth.net** and I’m sure he will be glad to hear from you. With all due respect..... I’m just saying if Larry has decided to join cyberspace, I just think everyone should join us now. The true Mountain Men have always been holdouts in the ways of the “flatlanders”, but this is an exception to the rule!! Ha! Ha!

In closing, I want to send a “shout out” to my Ranger Brother (in every sense of the word), Jay Lutz, and thank him AGAIN for all his support and service to not only Papa Company, but the 75th Ranger Regiment Association too. Jay is one of those guys who is the hardest worker at any task, maybe one of the most genuine people you would ever have the good fortune to meet, and one who you can trust with ANYTHING that is near and dear to you. I’m not doing him justice here because I’ve used up most of the

allotted space I have for this article, but he’s just always there for anything we do or need done for a long time now. He’s made me look good on more than one occasion and he is a diamond in the rough. When we have a Ranger who is sick or even after their demise, Jay is one of the guys who goes and represents the Association or our unit usually without even being asked to. I could go on and on, but I thank my lucky stars every day that I know him and many others in this great 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Some of the Rangers I’ve met that I’d have never met like Roy Boatman and Rick Ehrler for example, have inspired and motivated me way beyond my normal standards prior to meeting them and others. There are so many LRP’s and Rangers in this Association that are all great men. I’m humbled to be a part of it. Thank you, Jay, and especially, our Ranger Daddy, Duke DuShane, for all of your contributions over the years. There are also several others I should mention but I’m running out of space. For you guys, thanks for your money and emotional support and when should I expect your next check ?? Also, a shout out to 3rd Ranger Battalion and my personal favorite active CSM, 3rd Bn. CSM Rick Merritt and his family, Elizabeth, Lindsay, and Bonnie. Out Here!! RLTW!! CSPM Roderick



Those fabulous Lutz gals and a proud Papa Company Papa.



Jay Lutz, 1969 – 1970.



Jay Lutz, William “Troll” Lloyd, Bill Davis & Terry Roderick, April 18, 2002.

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Unit Director - Leon Moore

Hello fellow Rangers & LRS’s

This issue is dedicated to the wives of Co D who waited, worried, took care of affairs at home in our absence, and most of all put up with us and stayed with us upon our return.

In the next 2 years in the Patrolling Magazine issues we will be stepping back in time to 1968-1969. Each issue will cover that period of 40 years ago, so if any of you have pictures, stories, articles, etc. of that time frame please call, e-mail, or mail me anything you can.

The following is by memory so don’t hold me to the exact information

February 1968

It was Feb.1968; Co D is getting ready to go to Alaska for our two-week training. Not real sure why we going to Alaska for winter training unless we might be going to war with Russia in Siberia, but those were our orders. Now looking back, I wish we had gone to Alaska.

As things go or (the army way) our orders were changed. Now we are heading off to Panama for jungle school in March. First thoughts were “well at least it is a lot warmer”. Second thought was “why are we are going to

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jungle school?” After all there were not that many jungles in Indiana to guard against.

March 1968

As a side note: Yours truly had his 1st date with a gorgeous blonde the week before going to Panama (more on this latter).

Well we are on the plane heading to jungle school. The flight down was pretty uneventful. We enjoyed riding 1st class, fine food and great in flight movies. (NOT!)

At first I thought this was better than going to Alaska, warmer weather, get a tan, enjoy the water. After two weeks we finished the school with 97% of Co. D receiving jungle expert patches. As far as I know no other class had a higher percentage of graduates go through this school. Again looking back, not so sure we should have been that good and pass jungle school. At the graduation ceremonies the head of jungle school was addressing us and said, “95% or more who had received jungle expert patches has orders for Vietnam. You boys will be going very soon.” Well that statement was the main topic on the flight home. Between the 1st class food and in flight movies, (Not!) We get to Indianapolis get on a bus go back to Greenfield Armory and get in our cars or have loved ones or friends meet us. One person as I remember, had two different loved ones meet him at the same time. One being his wife and one being his girlfriend. I won’t mention this person’s name; I will use a made up name for privacy reasons. Let’s call him Bob McIntire. Well as expected, there was a change of address for this person we call Bob before the next guard meeting. The rest of us went home to our loved ones or friends and families. Things were back to normal except we kept thinking about Vietnam. Yours truly called that hot babe he had dated before going to jungle school and got her to go out again & again & again. In fact we went out every night from then on.

April 1968

Well I finally got up the nerve to ask that beautiful blonde to marry me and she said yes. To this day I don’t know why or how I got her to say yes, but she did and I thank God every day for the last 40 years he has blessed me by allowing me to be in her life. About a week later I was driving home from work and had the radio on WIFE AM and the news person broke in and announced that 20,000 plus National Guardsmen had been called to active duty with Co. D 151st of Greenfield, Indiana being one of the units. *Well, that was an enjoyable trip home.* I changed clothes, went to pick up you know who and we talked &

talked. I told her we could call off the wedding until I came back but she wanted to go ahead with the plans we had somewhat made and get married that summer.



May 1968

We got our orders to report to Ft. Benning, Georgia, said our good-byes and got into a Duce and a half army truck. *Pure luxury, five star meals (box lunches) and in flight movies, Not, first class seats laying atop duffel bags after bouncing around in the back of the duce and a half.* Rest areas were a welcome site. Got to Ft. Benning, hotter than hell, went to Kelley Hill and we’re home for the next eight months. Sgt. Moss decides to move in with the help of Woody and Terry McDonald. He made them start unloading footlockers and etc. with

instruction of what stairs and route to use. Well Terry and Woody change route plans in hopes of getting out of moving. They go the other way out of the building and Sgt. Moss is standing there waiting on them smoking a cigarette. (*You can guess what happened next.*) Co. D now started training and training. The other companies on Kelley Hill enjoyed waking up every morning listing to us singing cadence as we ran. During this time regular army personnel were embedded into Co. D to fill the expanded roster.

To be continued.

Past Events

December 5, 2007 the passing of Ranger Brother, Noble M. Cox.

Noble M. Cox, October 20, 1942 to December 5, 2007 at age 65, Greenfield, Indiana. He was a life-long resident of Hancock County. He was raised there by his parents, Herb and Lula Cox and graduated from Mt. Comfort High School in 1961. He served in Vietnam 1968 & 1969. Mr. Cox was employed at Eli Lilly, Greenfield labs, until his retirement in 1993. He also worked for many years for the Hancock County Sheriff Department Reserves. He loved to go fishing. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Elaine Wallace Cox; sons, Brett of Indianapolis and Kevin of Greenfield; granddaughters, Jessica and Caitlin. He was also anticipating twin great-granddaughters in January.

February 10, 2008

Memorial services were held for K. Hensel, C. Larkins and T. Smith. Afterwards an association meeting was held at the American Legion in Greenwood. Items discussed were the 40th reunion and Treasurer’s report was given. We had

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a great turn out with about a total of 35 Rangers and wives to work out the details for the reunion and a lot of good suggestions were brought up.

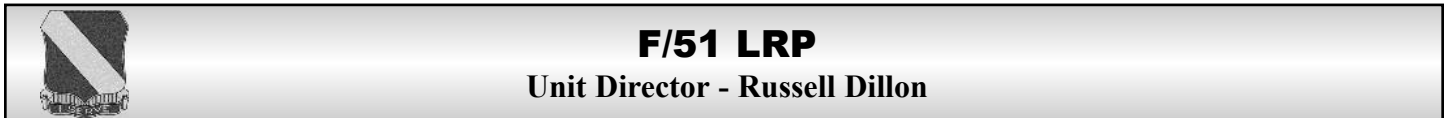
Upcoming Events

July 31, 2008 thru August 2, 2008

The 151st 40th reunion.

The decision was made to make a three-day reunion

starting Thursday, July 31st with a golf outing in the afternoon and social evening. Friday, August 1st registration and a motor cycle ride in the morning. There will be a social gathering at the old NCO Club throughout the day with raffles and 151st items for sale ending in the evening with Doug Hagan performing. Saturday, August 2nd an Association meeting at 11:00 AM. In the afternoon there will be a Virtual Convoy Operator Trainer, Engagement Skills Trainer, and the LRS jump. We may try to fit in a tour of a Forward Operating Base like the ones in Iraq. In the evening we will have the Banquet and the auction.



OPERATION TOAN THANG PART 5

This continuation covers from April 30, 1968 until May 5, 1968. From April 25th until April 29th F/51 LRP was under operational control of the 2nd Brigade 25th Infantry Division and was operating out of Cu Chi and worked in the area South of Duc Hoa in the Pineapple and Orange operational areas. From April 30th through May 4th F/51 LRP were under operational control of 3rd Brigade 101st Airborne Division and operated once again in the "Catchers Mitt" area in the operational areas of Upshur II, Los Banos, and Los Banos East. The general missions consisted of trail, canal, and rocket watch to detect enemy movements.

Team 43 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on April 30th at 1500HRS (3:00 PM). At 1643HRS (4:43 PM) Team 43 reported two bunkers with a tunnel running between them. At 1650HRS (4:50 PM) Team 43 reported 2 more bunkers and that they heard chickens to the teams North. At 1659HRS (4:59 PM) Team 43 reported hearing ducks and chickens 100 meters South Southwest of the team. At 1803HRS (6:03 PM) Team 43 reported hearing automatic weapons fire 300 meters West of the teams position. At 1847HRS (6:47 PM) Team 43 reported sighting 3 Vietcong 200 meters South of the teams position. At 1912HRS (7:12 PM) Team 43 reported that the 3 Vietcong had disappeared. At 1915HRS (7:15 PM) Team 43 reported mortar rounds landing 75 meters South of the teams originating 150 meters West of the teams position. At 1924HRS (7:24 PM) Team 43 reported that the mortar rounds were getting closer. At 1935HRS (7:35 PM) Team 43 reported mortar fire 200 meters South of the teams location and a machine gun firing 200meters North of the



teams position. At 1940HRS (7:40 PM) Team 43 reported movement 50 meters approximately North Northwest of the teams location. At 2017HRS (8:17 PM) Team 43 reported extremely heavy movement Southeast of the teams location. At 2022HRS (8:22 PM) Team 43 reported that the movement was getting closer. At 2028HRS (8:28 PM) Team 43 reported 1 shot being fired 75 meters South of the teams location. At 2113HRS (9:13 PM) Team 43 reported another mortar round being fired 200 meters South of the teams location and

that they had movement 40 meters approximately South Southeast of the teams location. At 2139HRS (9:39 PM) Team 43 reported movement of between 10 to 20 people. After the movement of 2139HRS (9:39 PM) Team 43 reported that movement had ceased. On May 1st at 0620HRS (6:20 AM) Team 43 reported firing at 100 meters approximately Southwest of the teams position. At 0633HRS (6:33 AM) Team 43 reported hearing a mortar firing 300 meters South of the teams position. At 0900HRS (9:00 AM) Team 43 reported a possible base camp 150 meters approximately North of the teams position. At 1003HRS (10:03 AM) Team 43 reported hearing AK-47 firing 200 meters approximately West Northwest of the teams position. At 1200HRS (12:00 AM) Team 43 reported hearing 2 personnel 150 meters approximately Southwest of the teams position. At 1248HRS (12:48 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong in black PJ's 125 meters approximately South Southwest of the teams position. At 1332Hrs (1:32 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 60 meters approximately South Southeast of the teams position. At 1402HRS (2:02 PM) Team 43 reported hearing loudspeakers at an unknown distance

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approximately South Southwest of the teams location. At 1419HRS (2:19 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 40 meters approximately Southeast of the teams position. At 1445HRS (2:45 PM) Team 43 reported movement 50 meters West Northwest of the teams position. At 1448HRS (2:48 PM) Team 43 initiated contact on 2 Vietcong 40 meters approximately Southeast of the teams position. Team 43 reported 2 Vietcong possibly killed. At 1510HRS (3:10 PM) Team 43 reported finding a trail heading approximately Southeast with blood markings and C ration cans on the trail. At 1543 Team 43 was extracted and gun-ships fired up the area.

Team 23 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their operating area on April 30th at 1540HRS (3:40 PM). Team 23 reported seeing 1 Vietcong wearing black PJ's and had straw hat 50 meters from the teams LZ. At 1937HRS (7:37 PM) Team 23 reported hearing a rocket or mortar leaving the tube 500 meters approximately South Southeast of the teams position. At 1951HRS (7:51 PM) Team 23 reported hearing loud voices and ox carts 500 meters approximately South Southeast of the teams position. At 1955HRS (7:55 PM) Team 23 reported 4 or 5 people on ox carts moving North. At 1957HRS (7:57 PM) Team 23 reported that voices were heard that sounded like they were coming from a loud speaker an unknown distance approximately South of the teams location. The team called for artillery fire at the location of the loud speakers. Two rounds of HE (High Explosive) were fired. At 2004HRS (8:04 PM) Team 23 reported that voices they heard earlier sounded like a woman. At 2024HRS (8:24 PM) Team 23 reported hearing music 300 to 400 meters South of the teams position. At 2040HRS (8:40 PM) Team 23 reported mortars firing 600 to 700 meters South of the teams location. At 2045HRS (8:45 PM) Team 23 reported 4 more mortar rounds being fired. On May 1st at 0700HRS (7:00 AM) Team 23 reported hearing a loud speaker 300 to 400 meters approximately South of the teams position. Team 23 also reported many mortars being fired during the night from the South and South Southeast of the teams position. At 0720HRS (7:20 AM) Team 23 reported smoke rising from slope approximately Southwest of the teams position. At 1800HRS (6:00 PM) Team 23 reported the location of a rally with a PA system and a lot of noise. At 1835HRS (6:35 PM) Team 23 reported hearing what sounded like a high powered rifle shot 250 meters approximately East Southeast of the teams position and smoke rising from the area of the rally. After the shot was fired all noise and talking stopped. On May 2nd at 1045HRS (10:45 PM) Team 23 reported hearing outgoing mortars off and on all night from 600 meters East and Northeast. On May 3rd at 1723HRS (5:23 PM) Team 23 was extracted.

Team 46 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 1st at 0928HRS (9:28 AM). At 1003HRS (10:03 AM) Team 46 reported movement 200 meters approximately Northwest of the teams location. At 1145HRS (11:45 AM) Team 46 reported hearing chickens 350 meters East of the teams location. At 1437HRS (2:47 PM) Team 46 reported movement 75 meters approximately West Southwest and more movement 100 meters approximately North Northwest of the teams location. At 1439HRS (2:39 PM) Team 46 reported movement moving closer to the teams location. On May 2nd at 0035HRS (12:35 AM) Team 46 reported movement and 3 flashlights 55 meters approximately East Southeast coming towards the team location. At 1709HRS (5:09 PM) Team 46 reported movement of approximately 3 Vietcong that the teams Cheiu Hoi had spotted 75 meters approximately North Northeast of the teams location. At 1713HRS (5:13 PM) Team 46 reported that they were about to make contact. At 1719HRS (5:19 PM) Team 46 reported seeing 2 more Vietcong 75 meters approximately North Northwest of the teams location. At 1730HRS (5:30 PM) the gun-ships began making their gun runs Northeast of the teams location and at 1739HRS (5:39 PM) Team 46 was extracted.

Team 26 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on May 1st at 1447HRS (2:47 AM). At 1513HRS Team 26 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 400 meters East of the teams location. At 1853HRS (6:53 PM) Team 26 reported hearing a mortar being fired 300 meters approximately South Southeast of the teams location. At 2046HRS (8:46 PM) Team 26 reported hearing wood being chopped 100 meters South Southeast of the teams location. At 2245HRS (10:45 PM) Team 26 reported hearing 2 carbine shots 150 meters approximately East Southeast of the teams location. On May 2nd at 1320HRS (1:20 PM) Team 26 reported hearing talking 200 meters approximately North of the teams location. The team also heard a helicopter with Vietnamese language coming from it. At 1742HRS (5:42 PM) Team 26 reported hearing automatic and small arms fire 100 meters South of the teams location. At 1753HRS (5:53 PM) Team 26 reported automatic fire 100 meters approximately East Southeast of the teams location. At 1800HRS (6:00 PM) Team 26 reported 2 rounds of artillery being fired into the area that the automatic weapons were fired. On May 3rd and May 4th Team 26 reported negative activity and on May 5th at 0910HRS (9:10 AM) Team 26 was extracted.

Team 41 was 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on May 1st at 1753HRS (5:53 PM). At 1859HRS (6:59 PM) Team 41 reported finding 6 foxholes that appeared to be a month old by a stream bed to the

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teams West. At 1923HRS (7:23 PM) Team 41 reported hearing movement 50 meters West of the teams location. At 1932HRS (7:32 PM) Team 41 reported hearing a radio West of the teams location. At 1937HRS (7:37 PM) Team 41 reported hearing sticks being banged together approximately East of the teams location and across from Team 41's LZ (Landing Zone). On May 2nd at 0420HRS (4:20 AM) Team 41 reported movement of 2 or 3 individuals 20 meters West of the teams location. At 1157HRS (11:57 AM) Team 41 reported finding a 250 LB. Bomb but did not approach the object as there may have been booby traps in the area of the bomb. On May 3rd Team 41 reported hearing a carbine being fired 250 meters approximately Northwest of the teams location. At 1843HRS (6:43 PM) Team 41 reported hearing mortars leaving the tube 800 to 1500 meters approximately South Southwest of the teams location. On May 4th Team 41 reported negative activity in their area. On May 5th at 0410HRS (4:10 AM) Team 41 reported hearing rockets being fired from launchers from an undetermined distance approximately West of the teams location. At 0920HRS (9:20 AM) Team 41 was extracted.

Team 22 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their Area of Operation on May 2nd at 1814HRS (6:14 PM). At 1832HRS (6:32 PM) Team 22 reported that the LZ (Landing Zone) was surrounded by trails and that they had

spotted a new grass hut 50 meters off the LZ. At 1825HRS (6:25 PM) Team 22 reported fresh footprints on all the trails around the LZ and believed that it was a base camp area. At 1829HRS (6:29 PM) Team 22 reported finding many fresh cut logs and holes about 6 inches deep. At 1850HRS (6:50 PM) Team 22 reported hearing whispering 75 meters approximately North Northwest in the area of the grass hut. The team believed that they were in a occupied base camp. At 1855HRS (6:55 PM) Team 22 reported hearing a rooster 75 meters approximately North Northwest of the teams location. At 1900HRS Team 22 reported more talking by the grass hut. At 1906HRS (7:06 PM) Team 22 reported that they were about to make contact 50 meters approximately South Southwest of the team. At 1909HRS (7:09 PM) Team 22 was in contact and gun-ships were making their gun runs approximately Southwest and approximately North Northwest of the teams location. At 1914HRS (7:14 PM) Team 22 reported that they had blown their claymores and were moving to the LZ. At 1921 Team 22 was extracted. During the extraction the C&C (Command and Control) and the gun-ships as well as the extraction helicopters drew ground fire. One extraction helicopter was hit by a hand grenade or RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade). At the debriefing Team 22 reported seeing 4 Vietcong in black PJ's and 3 of them wearing floppy hats. The team also reported that the grass hut had cots inside.

**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

No Submission**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)**

Unit Director - Mike Martin



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Metaphorically speaking, "Yellow Fever" is a disease quite common to those of us who have served several tours or lived an extended period of time in Southeast Asia. It is not so much an affliction of the body, but more so, an allusion of the mind—more prevalent in those who are referred to as the "old China hands". It encompasses one's spirit; way of life; cultural antecedents; lyrical feelings for color and sentimentality, along with a sense of actuality.



As I sit here on a linen-covered tatami, elbows resting on a table carved from a pine stump in Korea, wearing a deep crimson kimono embroidered with a tiger silhouetted against a background of bamboo, eating a bean-paste soup with freshly made rice cakes and sipping from a cask of sake wrapped in a rush sleeve while Ms Hilda effortlessly cools me with a fan of exquisite beauty...I'm so thankful that I have yet to succumb to the symptoms of this "yellow malady".

"Ah", another paroxysm of mirth and jest for the New Year....

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

In most of our articles we strive to present a bit of humor while seriously upholding the true purpose: to inform and document our Vietnamese Ranger history. We do that without any fictional construct but with a historic personage such as Sergeant First Class John L. McCoy. When 16 years old, McCoy was turned down for military service in the U.S. Army during the early days of WWII; he was told to come back when he “grew up”. Three wars later, SFC McCoy died a hero leading a Vietnamese Ranger assault in the “Delta” of South Vietnam....This article is a tribute to an “unsung hero”.



L to R: Captain Raymond Rau and SFC John McCoy holding a VC flag taken by the 43rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion after the battle at Long Hoi.

Japanese prison guard Tomoya Kawakita—accused of treason and torturing Americans—after the end of WWII, until his death sixteen years later in a rice paddy in South Vietnam while serving as a Ranger advisor, McCoy’s career was one filled with danger and unparalleled events; many highlighted by paramount moments of historical significance.

Death does not silence deeds performed in battle, but in fact, has a way of immortalizing the courageous deeds of many an unsung warrior; the deeds of Ranger John McCoy, a veteran of three wars, ring loud and clear.

WORLD WAR II

Military service has always attracted young men with dreams of adventure and the opportunity to visit remote and exciting places. For many, it is their “rite of passage”.

So, during the patriotic furor that existed in this country in 1941, as a result of the impending war with Germany and Japan, sixteen year old John L. McCoy made the decision to become a soldier in the U.S. Army.

When he was rejected because of his age and his diminutive size, the enlistment sergeant told him to come

back when he “grew up”. Swallowing his disappointment, McCoy decided not to give up. Saying “good-bye” to family and friends, he went north to Winnipeg, Canada and joined the Canadian Army, becoming a machine gunner with the Winnipeg Grenadiers.

In October, 1941, the Grenadiers were shipped to Hong Kong to reinforce the British garrison there. Heavy fighting broke out on December 8th when Japanese troops advanced on the city. McCoy received serious wounds to both arms, but continued to fight alongside his outnumbered unit. On Christmas Day, the British garrison at Hong Kong capitulated on orders from the British government, and those defenders who had survived the battle were marched away as Japanese prisoners of war.

As a POW in China, McCoy experienced the sadistic nature of his Japanese captors. He was twice placed before a firing squad, then not fired upon at the last minute. The inhuman cruelty of the Japanese led to another episode where he and the other prisoners were forced into a large warehouse, then were bombarded by grenades and mortars, and fired at by machine guns until only forty were left alive. John McCoy was among them.

For the next four years, McCoy suffered the abuse and humiliation characteristic of incarceration at the hands of the Japanese. He would also undergo a series of painful operations, without the benefit of anesthesia, performed by Canadian and British medical officers to correct problems caused by the wounds he had received during the defense of Hong Kong. One operation lasted over four hours; another took place on his seventeenth birthday.

In December, 1943, McCoy was sent to Oeyama Prison on mainland Japan where he endured the loneliness, frustration and physical torment of a POW for the duration of the war. He stated after the war that he had experienced and witnessed numerous cruelties that were unimaginable to the human mind. “We survived on sweet potatoes, carrot tops, pumpkin vines and rice. We made tea from the bark of trees and cherry leaves. The tea always had chunks of wood floating around in it,” he recalled.

The burden of his imprisonment was made even more severe by the sadistic treatment he received from an American-born Japanese named Tomoya Kawakita, nicknamed “Meatball” by the prisoners.

“Meatball” enjoyed his work. Armed at all times with a wooden sword, he would beat the POWs at the slightest provocation. He would often tie their hands behind their

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

backs and throw them into a cesspool, then beat them unmercifully. In the winter he had some of them stripped and taken out into the snow, then beat them and left them to die of shock and exposure.

McCoy bore the brunt of many of these unprovoked attacks simply because he was the only American in the camp at that time.

In August 1945, he was liberated and flown back to the U.S. the following month. During the more than 45 months he was held captive, McCoy's family received no word of him. He was just another one of the many young men who had gone off to war, proudly serving in the forces of the Free World, but who had now to reestablish themselves in the civilian community and set new goals in life....

In the fall of 1948, the U.S. government summoned John McCoy to testify in the war criminal trial of his former enemy, Tomoya Kawakita, who had been accused of treason and torturing prisoners of war. Because McCoy had been at the prison camp longer than any other witness present at the trial, his testimony played a major role in the Japanese/American's conviction. Kawakita was sentenced to die, but President Eisenhower later commuted his sentence to life imprisonment.

KOREA

Sergeant John McCoy, kneeling on the left, with members of the 23rd Raiders in a rear area in Korea, 1952. (Note the CIBs worn on the field jackets.)

U.S. forces were deployed from Japan to stop the invaders; Task Force Smith making the initial contact with the enemy on 5 July, near Osan, 30 miles south of Seoul. By 13 July, the North Koreans had overrun half of South Korea.

At the time, John McCoy was working in construction in California and had been giving serious thought about reentering military service. With the United States involved in another "shooting war", and with his prior

combat experience, this time McCoy was accepted by the U.S. Army with open arms. Thus began the next phase of his rather unorthodox military career.

McCoy arrived in Korea in July 1952, and was assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division (Indianhead Division), where he soon distinguished himself as a volunteer with the company's "Raider" platoon. The "Raider" platoon, an Intelligence & Reconnaissance platoon, had the mission of capturing prisoners, reconnoitering enemy emplacements and troop movement, through means of guerrilla-type sorties.

In the latter part of 1952, as the third winter of the Korean War was about to begin, the peace talks at Panmunjon were recessed indefinitely. On the battle front, the UN forces launched a series of limited drives aimed at forcing the Reds back to the peace talks. Despite the UN's determined effort to avoid costly hill fighting, there were still savage battles at T-Bone, Old Baldy, and Porkchop hills.

The "battle of the hills" was a characteristic of the final months of the Korean War as each side struggled for control of dominating outposts along the slowly emerging truce line.

These small but tactically critical outposts on T-Bone, Old Baldy, and Porkchop dominated the main avenues of approach to Chorwon to the east, Yonchon to the southeast, and the Imjin River defense sector to the southwest. Porkchop Hill, situated in the no-man's land between the opposing forces, where the Chinese tried desperately to dislodge 17th Infantry Regiment soldiers from the crest, later became famous in story and film.

Bitter hand-to-hand fighting continued for days, buying time at the "peace table" where both sides postured as to where the final boundary between North and South Korea would be established. This time was paid for in the blood of both US and Allied riflemen as they repeatedly attacked and defended the ridge-crests and hilltops along the front lines. Patrolling actions characterized the warfare during this stage of static positioning, with all front line elements dispatching combat and recon patrols, both day and night, along with nightly ambushes.

The 23rd Raiders, as McCoy's platoon was called, took part in these operations, but more often was assigned Ranger-style missions by their headquarters command. One of their more famous raids was known as "Operation Chocolate Drop", a sneak assault on T-Bone Hill.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

On this particular raid, Sergeant McCoy and other members of the platoon crawled over 4,000 yards to their assault position deep behind the enemy positions atop T-Bone Hill. At the appointed time, they charged the enemy emplacements using the Chinese tactic of shouting, yelling and screaming.

In the attack, the Raider platoon leader, Lt. Emery M. Folmar, was wounded in the back and legs, and the ranking NCO was killed outright. Sergeant McCoy immediately took charge and conducted a successful withdrawal from the hill under an advancing Chinese counterattack. During the withdrawal, McCoy took five Raiders with him and went back up on the hill to recover their wounded—some who were unable to walk—and move them to a rear guard position he had set up.

Due to the loss of their radio from a shrapnel hit during the assault, the Raiders were unable to call for supporting fires to break up the Chinese counterattack. McCoy grabbed PFC William Mushynski and another soldier, and the three Raiders slipped through an irrigation ditch running back through the valley from the base of T-Bone, to the friendly lines of G Company, 23rd Regiment, who had failed to support the Raiders during the assault. Enemy artillery fire had forced them to withdraw.

Sergeant McCoy secured a radio from Captain Pikas, G Company's commander, and directed artillery fire onto the advancing Chinese. Under cover of supporting artillery, and a subsequent smoke screen provided by that same artillery, McCoy took the two Raiders and a pair of G Company volunteers as stretcher-bearers and made the trip back up the valley to the base of T-Bone Hill to bring out the wounded and the remainder of his platoon.

McCoy was later wounded on one of the many raids he participated in behind enemy lines, but returned to duty four days later. He would receive the Bronze Star for Valor for his actions at T-Bone Hill.

VIETNAM

In 1961, the first US soldier died in Vietnam; the first of over 58,000 who would die in that war...a war that would

Captain Raymond Rau, Senior Advisor 43rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, standing with fixed bayonet on his carbine; SFC John McCoy, kneeling with carbine slung over right shoulder. Photo taken in Vinh Binh province, July-August circa 1964, after a successful combat operation...staffers from the ARVN 9th Division Headquarters conducting debriefings....The 43rd lost three Company Commanders in one battle during this period. On 26 September 1964, John McCoy was KIA.

be unlike any that Americans had ever fought in before. Still, there was an attraction to it for both the old soldier missing the thrill

of combat, and the young officer or NCO desiring a CIB and other medals and awards to validate his courage.

Terms like: insurgency, pacification, strategic hamlets, eagle flights, SOG, unconventional warfare, Montagnard, punji stakes, ARVN, Cholon, Dragon Lady, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, and Co Vans would add their color and mystique to the lure of fighting guerrilla—forces that slipped away to disappear into the night. Vietnam became a war of shadows.

It was the war that Sergeant John McCoy had been waiting for. His rank had fluctuated much like his duty assignments since the end of his last combat tour in Korea. He had little patience for incompetence or lack of professional standards from senior NCOs and ranking officers alike, and on several occasions found himself up to his neck in hot water. While serving both in Germany and in South Korea, McCoy was continually being brought before the “brass”....

His experience as a former POW in Japanese prison camps during WWII and his behind the line operations in Korea, were both put to good use. He served as an instructor on the E&E (escape and evasion) course during his last stateside assignment. But true to his calling, no one was surprised when McCoy, veteran of two wars, volunteered for Vietnam in the summer of 1964; it would be his last one.

Still, the epic saga of Sergeant John McCoy had a historical event and many more battles to add before it ended.

The September 25, 1964 issue of **TIME** magazine ran an article titled, “*Remaking a Revolution*”, which provided an overview of an attempted effort to topple the shaky Saigon government headed by Premier Nguyen Khanh, stating that General Duong Van Duc (commander of IV Corps) had sent elements of his command north to take part in the

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

coup, but failed due to poor organization and lack of support from Air Commodore Nguyen Cao Ky—a flamboyant general officer who would find himself in the limelight of future Saigon government.

What the article neglected to say was that the “saviors of the day” were two Vietnamese Ranger advisors, Captain Raymond R. Rau and SFC John L. McCoy, who had risked their lives to warn Gen. William C. Westmoreland, MACV Commander; the American community, and the current South Vietnamese government.

What had started as a quiet weekend for Sergeant McCoy and Captain Rau had turned into another Paul Revere.-like ride through the Viet Cong controlled Mekong Delta on the dark, rainy night of September 12, 1964.

Their battalion (**43rd Biet Dong Quan**) had moved out from the provincial capital of Vinh Long late that Saturday night, acting as the vanguard for other elements involved in the coup. The two American advisors were unaware of their unit’s final destination or the fact that this was no ordinary combat operation.

After crossing the Mekong River and reaching the city of My Tho, the two Americans first realized that this was a power move to seize control of Saigon and the government. It was then that Captain Rau made the decision to slip away from the unit and dash ahead—two Americans and two Vietnamese privates in a single jeep on an unfamiliar road. They sped past darkened hamlets, along foreboding rice paddies and shadowy canals, to the very outskirts of Saigon to alert the MACV Commander. It was a decision that could have cost them their lives from either the ARVN soldiers or the VC. And if they were wrong in their suspicions, it could cost them their careers.

Sergeant McCoy’s loquacious response to Captain Rau’s bodacious sojourn into military stardom was, “Sir, you can get us into more dangerous predicaments, without even trying, than any man I’ve served with in over twenty years in the Army.”

News of the impending coup had come as a complete surprise to General Khanh, the South Vietnamese premier, and the US military, but the warning by the two advisors had provided ample time to move loyal troops into the city and prevented actual bloodshed.

Because of their actions, Captain Rau was reassigned. The Advisory Command felt that it would not be safe for him to return to the unit he had “spilled the beans” on. The

Vietnamese Ranger commander—a true combat officer—who was merely following orders was also replaced. Because of Sergeant McCoy’s rank and the strong bond he shared with the Rangers, he was permitted to remain with the battalion—a move that would soon cost him his life.

Captain Rau and SFC McCoy had helped to train and motivate the newly formed battalion and both soldiers led by example. The previous June, they had been decorated for gallantry in the field on an operation 70 miles south of Saigon, near Long Hoi, Vietnam. In heavy fighting the 43rd Rangers had crushed a Communist battalion that had tried to make a stand in dug-in positions. Two American advisors and several Rangers were killed during the battle.

The 43rd had earned a fearless reputation, and were recognized by both the Vietnamese Army command and their US advisors.

Only two weeks after the coup episode, the 43rd Ranger Battalion was ordered to relieve the district town of Cau Ke, Vinh Binh Province, which had been harassed frequently by the Viet Cong over the previous 10 days. After the operation, the Rangers had remained in the vicinity of the town to search and destroy any VC units that were still in the area of operations.

On 26 September, 1964, the Rangers engaged a hostile force at 1320 hours. Held up in a small tree line, the newly appointed battalion commander would not give the order to attack. Captain Dave Fried, the new senior advisor, made a “judgment call” in the heat of the battle that he would contemplate for years to come. Without calling for any fire support, he boldly stepped forward into the open and began moving in the direction of the incoming fire. Grinning broadly, the brave Vietnamese Rangers along with Sergeant McCoy, immediately went into an assault line.

Rushing across nearly 400 meters of open rice paddies while under enemy fire, the unit reached the protective cover of a dike before being pinned down by machine gun and sniper fire.

McCoy and Fried used their carbines, firing tracer rounds to direct suppressing fires from the Rangers. Suddenly, Captain Fried peered over the top of the dike to evaluate the effect of their fire. A single enemy round slammed into the berm in front of him and another round whined overhead. Sergeant McCoy, who had exposed his own position several times to direct the Rangers’ fire, shouted, “Keep your head down Captain, that guy knows where we are.” He saved Fried’s life but lost his own seconds later when

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

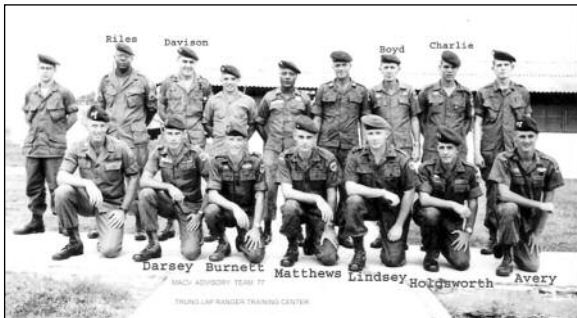
the sniper found his mark. Sergeant McCoy lay dead in two feet of water next to a nameless paddy dike with a bullet hole in his head.

Several of the Rangers would be killed in the battle and more would be wounded before Captain Fried would see the following morning, and the area would be secured.

Colonel Francis Conaty, put it very eloquently when he wrote of Sergeant McCoy's death: "He died as he lived, in the forefront of the fight. In his long and varied military career, he has been the personification of the American Fighting Man. Tough, courageous, yet humble, never shirking his duties."

But the Vietnamese paid McCoy the ultimate tribute months after his death, when Rangers who could not even speak his language, approached Captain Fried saying, "McCoy, McCoy, McCoy". They still remembered their fallen American advisor!

Note: A few years ago the son and daughter of John McCoy, made a visit to the site of his death in Vietnam and his wife went to the location of the former Oeyama Prison in Japan where McCoy had suffered so much....



Vietnamese Ranger Advisors (Cadre) at eh Trung Lap Ranger Training Center, 1966.



Ranger Advisor Captain Joel Darsey (Left) , and his counterpart Lt. Thieu (Right front); Trung Lap Ranger Training Center, 1966.

"LAST CALL"
This is the last **SITREP** on the U.S. Army Ranger Advisor Reunion, 28 – 1 May 08; as you read this—maybe past tense—Rangers from all points of the compass are assembling at the objective in Chattanooga.... The lone wolves of the Vietnam

War (Ranger Advisors) have infiltrated through the lines of both North and South Forces; negotiating the bluffs and crags of Lookout Mountain and crossing the scenic Tennessee River at Moccasin Bend by day and night forays, arriving at their clandestine headquarters: the Chattanooga Choo Choo. Maroon beret wearing individuals have been sighted at several Sour Mash watering holes with cleverly concealed weapons...the flames of a past war will be fanned but only in deep camaraderie. Whatever the verdict of the Vietnam War is in the historical future, it will certainly verify the professionalism of the Biet Dong Quan Ranger Advisor!

CONTEMPLATIONS

When certain people hunt for certain other people, they look for the secretive, for the hidden, for the obscure. Not for what's in front of their eyes.
Robert Ludlum/The Scorpio Illusion

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

STATE COORDINATOR – ADVOCATE

STATE COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES

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

Joseph Little 2nd Vice President of the 75th RRA attended the funeral of **Sergeant “Bruce “Rob” Robinson”** in Phoenix Arizona on Saturday December 12th 2007 at 1400 hours. **Bruce** was a member of “E” 51st LRS. Joe and two other Rangers **John Haines** from “G” 75th Rangers (Vietnam) and **Gordon Smith** “L” 75th Rangers (101st LRP Vietnam) put on the “Once An Eagle” ceremony for the family. They also presented a Silver Coin from the 75th Ranger regiment to the family. **Bruce’s mother** will be presented a certificate from the association. The family expressed their heartfelt appreciation at the attendance of the Rangers at the funeral and said that they were surprised at the comradery displayed.

Sadly the family did not know how to arrange for a military funeral and we were notified too late to assist them in doing so. This family would have liked to see Bruce have the ceremony he deserved and it is sad that we were unable to contact them in time. They were certainly appreciative because of what the Association was able to do for them and Bruce. **GREAT ASSISTANCE RANGERS WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!**

2. One of our past unit presidents, **Roy E. Barley, E CO 75th** received information of the whereabouts of one of our Gold Star Mothers. Her son **William Piaskowski** was a member of E 50th (LRP). He was killed on March 14, 1968 while on a mission with that unit. We were able through Roy’s diligence to get a Gold Star Certificate and an engraved silver coin to her. She is Shirley Paikowski of Anchorage Alaska. **Way to go Roy!**

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 75th 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
75th Ranger Regiment Association
egt12@comcast.net

RANGER WEBSITE REVIEW

BY: Scott Billingslea

One of the most appealing aspects of this Unit Director gig, is being able to serve this Brotherhood in a number of ways. Another is having this magazine as a vehicle to accomplish that. With that being said, I'd like to introduce a new feature that will run in this space each edition. This "Ranger Website Review" will cover a wide range of websites available on the World Wide Web. The scope of the sites previewed can serve a number of purposes, from educational to entertainment to being cathartic or even finding an old Ranger Buddy. Some may accomplish all of the above. I welcome any feedback you have, as well as any ideas for websites you think would be of value.

Magic Kingdom Dispatch

Ruminations on a life well-lived, with recollections of loves lost, battles fought, old grudges and scores settled, by a burned out old bastard hiding in Thailand.

This site is a blog that features a short book, as well as recollections of a young NCO in the 2nd Ranger Battalion. The focus is Operation Urgent Fury and one Ranger's experiences before, during and after the operation. As a student of Ranger history, I found this site to be an excellent resource about combat operations on Grenada.

The author is anonymous, but he is a well-known entity in the Ranger community. Anyone who served in the 2d Ranger Battalion during the mid-1980's knows precisely who he is. After leaving the 2d Ranger Battalion, he went on to serve in Special Forces, and he then worked for the Federal government. He is now retired.

The author appeared on a television program on Operation Urgent Fury that aired last year on the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and the Military Channel.

He is currently rewriting his book, which is scheduled for publication next year by Six Gallery Press.

In addition to his credentials, the man can truly write!
An excerpt:

No Plan Survives First Contact



Charlie Company, 1st Ranger Battalion, goes for a walk in the sun beside the runway at Point Salines on D+1, October 26, 1983.

The rucks were heavy, the sun was hot, and we were bone tired, and short of water, after just 24 hours in what was first combat for most of us.

The Ranger approach to training in peacetime, where we always did Whatever Sucked The Most, and learned to always, always expect the Mind Fuck, paid off.

Folks kid us about Grenada, about how the Ranger operations there only lasted a few days, before we were redeployed back stateside. It was enough to give us a taste, and make us appreciate what veterans of other wars had experienced.

Our war, the only one that we had, was a little war, true.

But you can die in a little war, just like you can in a big war, and some of us did.

The performance of the Ranger Battalions under fire during Operation *Urgent Fury* underscored the need for more Rangers, and for a more robust special operations capability.

It was not much later that another Battalion, the 3d Ranger Battalion, was activated, and the modern-day Ranger Regiment, formed.

The next time that America went to war, in Panama, during Operation *Just Cause*, in 1989, the Ranger Regiment was ready.

The Ranger Regiment spearheaded the invasion, with combat jumps onto the airfields at Rio Hato and Tocumen.

Someone else will have to write about those wars.



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Looking Back

He was young, too young and he had that God awful stare.
I had it myself when I served over there.
It's been nearly 36 years since I made it home.
The time I feel most at ease is when I'm all alone.

I asked to go, I can't really tell you why.
I wasn't a hero and I sure as hell didn't want to die.
My buddies, closer than blood, they were the best.
People back home angry, marching in protest.

Those that made it home have an emptiness inside,
recalling the horrors of war and the close friends that died.
Sometimes I wake up at night, my thoughts filled with fears.
It's still difficult to talk about, after these many years.

Some turn to drugs or juice, looking for that healing crutch,
I'm pretty damn lucky, I have my wife's loving touch.
MacArthur had it right, "Old Soldiers Never Die".
Truth is, old soldiers remember, remember and cry.

Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret
3, March, 2008

Special Operations Memorial Update

August 2007 – February 2008

Added to our last report in August, four more soldiers were lost that month: **SFC Charles Kitowski III** from the 345th PSYOP Battalion; **SSG Robert R. Pirelli**, 3rd Battalion, Special Forces Group (Airborne) S; and **SFC Adrian Elizalde** and **SFC Michael J. Tully** both from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Since August we have lost nineteen special operators including our first two Marine Special Operations Command personnel: CPL Travis M. Woods, 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, and Corpsman Charles L. Milam, 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion.

We regret two 3rd Ranger Battalion soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice, CPL Benjamin C. Dillon of Company B; and SGT Steven F. Kutschbach assigned to Company A.

The Navy SEAL community mourns the loss of six SEALs: **SO3 Shapoor A. Ghane**, SEAL Team 5; **SOC Nathan A. Hardy**, **SOC Michael E. Koch**, and **SOC Mark T. Carter** from SEAL Team 6; and **EOD1 Luis A. Souffront** and **SOC Thomas J. Valentine** (killed in training), both from Naval Special Warfare Command.

The largest toll comes from the Special Forces Community: **SFC Justin S. Monschke**, 2nd Battalion, and **SSG Robert James Miller** and **SSG Justin R. Whiting**, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne); **CPT Benjamin D. Tiffner** and **SSG Ryan D. Maseth** from the 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne); **SSG Joseph F. Curreri**, 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne); **SFC Carlo J. Meth**, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne); **SSG Patrick F. Kutschbach**, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne); and **MAJ Jeffrey A. Calero**, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Army National Guard.

An engraving was added for **MSG Roy Boatman** following his passing. He was added to the 173rd LRRP and Company N (Ranger) section on the Special Operations Memorial.

Navy SEAL **LT Michael P. Murphy** was posthumously added to the Medal of Honor Wall.

Addition engravings were purchased for **Admiral Eric T. Olson**, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command; **Lieutenant General Mike Wooley**, Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command; Special Forces **Sergeant Major Bill Edge**; and an engraving to commemorate the former **Joint Special Operations Support Element (JSOSE)**

All losses are hard losses, not just for families and loved ones, but are realize the truism that Special Operations personnel cannot be replaced over night. We add our sincere condolences to the families of our lost warriors.

We are pleased to announce that following his release from recall to active duty as U.S. Army Chief of Staff, **General Peter J. Schoomaker** has returned to our board of directors as Chairman Emeritus.

Geoff Barker
Vice President and
Director of Site Operations



Special Forces Association National Convention
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. June 9-15, 2008
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Membership Information

A MEMBERSHIP YEAR in the association runs from 1 July this year to 30 June next year and the mailing label on your “Patrolling” will always reflect your dues status. For example if above your name on the label it says “0628 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. **WE WILL BE MAILING STATEMENTS THIS YEAR. EVEN IF YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER, YOU WILL GET A STATEMENT.** Life Membership is \$250 and can be paid by check in up to five monthly installments or by credit card. Mail your dues to: **75th Ranger Regt. Assoc., P. O. Box 10970, Baltimore, MD 21234**. If you have a question on your membership status you may contact me at that address, or email: john.chester3@verizon.net or call (410) 426-1391. The following have joined, rejoined, or became Life Members in the association since the last issue of “Patrolling”.

LIFE MEMBERS

			JOYCE	GARY P	4TH INF DIV
			KOIVUSALO	TIMO K.	RGT
BARGEWELL	ELDON A.	RGT	MOSEBY	CHARLES A.	173RD ABN BDE
MOORE	ANDREW J.	RGT	PETERSEN	DENNIS J.	25TH INF DIV
PENCE	NICHOLAS A.	RGT	QUIGLEY	DAVE W.	101ST ABN DIV
CARLSON	THOMAS E.	RGT	RYAN	STEVEN W.	LRS
CROSS	H. C.	INDIANA NAT GUARD	SCHUETZE	RAYMOND A.	BDQ
GARRETT	JAMES O.	RGT	SIEGEL	KEN	1ST INF DIV
MATHENA III	DONAL N.	RGT	SMITH	STEPHEN J.	RGT
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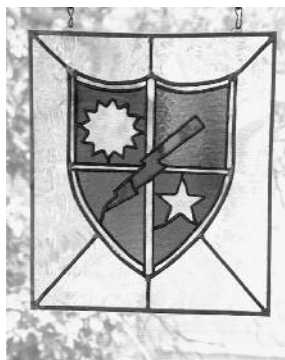
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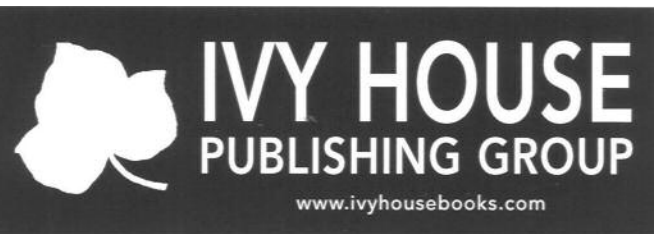
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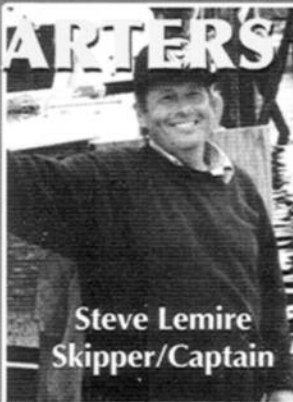
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