

# PATROLLING

SUMMER 2009 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 24 ISSUE I



*Best Ranger Competition, 2009*  
*New event this year, the beginning of the*  
*canoe race down the Chattahoochee River.*  
*Photo by J. Chester*

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



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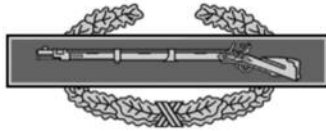
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**WHO WE ARE:** The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501 (c) corporation, registered in the State of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F/58, (LRP) and L/75 (Ranger). The first meeting was held on June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

**OUR MISSION:**

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible 75th Infantry Rangers, and members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Companies, Long Range Patrol Companies, Ranger Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan; members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the 75th Ranger Regiment.

2. To sustain the Association. *Unlike the WWII Battalions and Merrill's Marauders, the 75RRA accepts members and former members of the Active Ranger Battalions. By doing so we are perpetuating the association. It will not "die off" as these two organizations someday will.*

4. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Ranger Battalions, successor units, or additions to the Regiment.

**WHAT WE DO:**

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

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

**SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol**

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

**SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol**

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

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

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

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

We have funded trips for families to visit their wounded sons and husbands while they were in the hospital. We have purchased a learning program soft ware for the son of one young Ranger who had a brain tumor removed. The Army took care of the surgery, but no means existed to purchase the learning program. We fund the purchase of several awards for graduates of RIP and Ranger School. We have contributed to each of the three Battalion's Memorial Funds and Ranger Balls, and to the Airborne Memorial at Ft. Benning. We have bi-annual reunions and business meetings. Our Officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents, Secretary & Treasurer), are elected at this business meeting. This reunion coincides with the 75th Ranger Regiment's Ranger Rendezvous, and is at Columbus, GA. (Ft. Benning). We have off year reunions at various locations around the country.

**PAST PRESIDENTS:**

1986-1988	Bob Gilbert
1988-1990	Billy Nix
1990-1992	Bob Gilbert
1992-1994	Roy Nelson (resigned) Milton Lockett (resigned) Duke Dushane (appointed by Directors)
1994-1996	Roy Barley
1996-1998	Rick Erlher
1998-2000	Terry Roderick
2000-2002	Emmett Hiltibrand
2002-2004	Dana McGrath
2004-2005	Emmett Hiltibrand
2005-2007	Stephen Crabtree
2007-2009	William Bullen

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

**SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ**

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

**SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment**

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

**SECTION 7: Long Range Surveillance:**

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



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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.

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

**POSTMASTER**

Send address corrections to: *Patrolling*,  
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Baltimore, MD 21234

# WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

## MAGAZINE

There seems to be some confusion regarding the mailing label on the magazine each quarter. If you observe the label, you can discover the status of your membership. A typical mailing label will look something like this:

1234/2009

Roger Ranger  
6789 Oak Lane

Anywhere, MO 12345

The first number above your name, is your member number; the second number is the year that your membership expires. The Association's year runs from June 30 to July 1 of the next year. In the above case, Roger's membership will expire on June 30, 2009. If Roger were a life member, the line above his name would read as follows: 1234/LM. Even though the invoices go out in the Fall, the mailing label will still indicate your membership status. If the label reads 2008, you have received your last issue of *Patrolling*. You can always pay your dues by using the form on the last page of the magazine. You can also pay your dues at our web site using Pay Pal or Visa or Master Card.

I decided to run the above again this issue. There STILL seems to be some confusion about the mailing label. If you can't understand the concept, give me a call, my numbers are there on the left.

We are still soliciting individuals who would profit from a business card sized notice in the back of the magazine. This is a real deal at \$100.00 for 4 issues. If you even suspect someone who would be amenable to the suggestion, contact me and I'll make contact with them.

## WEB SITE

Just a quick note from the webmaster-

Thanks to all unit directors who have submitted photos, suggestions, and corrections for the website. What would really make this website shine would be In Country (and present day) photographs from our members. You don't have to be a unit director—anyone can submit. Look for a new video, changing of the guard ceremony, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Memorial Day Weekend, 2009) on the association website. Please use the online forms to register for this summer's Ranger Rendezvous (reunion). You can also, optionally, pay your reunion and banquet fees online, through the website. This will speed things along when you check in (and help give us a better idea of how many to expect). There are also "print & mail" forms for the folks that prefer doing it the old fashion way. Think "ride share" and/or room share . . . save money. See you August 2-8, 2009.  
RLTW!!!

Dave Regenthal

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen

If you have not done so, take a look at the “75thRRA” website, read the “History of the Association” as written by



**Bill Bullen**

Randy White, it is very good and brings me back to the time I joined in the association 1988. I was never able to attend a reunion until 1992, but I think it was the best time I've ever had at a 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association function. After speaking with Bob Gilbert, Willy Williams, Jim England, Billy Nix and Nick Gibone, I was

convinced joining this Association was the thing to do, and I am so happy this happened. Thanks fellows. The point of this exercise is to get all members to reach out there and bring someone into this fine Association; they will most likely be forever grateful.

We are at the point where most of our RVN ERA veterans have been made aware of the 75thRRA, now is the time to bring in the retired and separated Modern ERA Rangers, who are the future of this Association. This is the (75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association) and is pure to lineage. You must have served in the 75<sup>th</sup> or have direct lineage. This is not to be snobbish but to stay as the founders had set this Association up to exist. It is now the largest, most proactive, most financially stable Ranger Association out there. We need to remain good stewards of this fine organization.

Congratulations to Jason Baker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion Combat Veteran, and 75<sup>th</sup> RRA member has been selected as the 2009 Static Line Magazine Airborne Man of the Year. Jason joined the Army in 1989 and served his nation as an Airborne Ranger for a decade.

The award is given each year by the Distinguished Board Members of Static Line Magazine. The award is now named in honor of Donald D. Lassen. Don was a WWII Veteran of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and made two combat jumps with the Division. He was the editor of Static Line Magazine and long time organizer of the Airborne Awards held each year in April. The award is now called the Donald D. Lassen Trooper of the Year.

Jason and his wife Tricia were hosted by me and CSM Richard and Elizabeth Merritt of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. Jason and Rick served together in B Co. 3/75 during Operation Just Cause. Rick was Jason's Squad Leader for over two years and their friendship has spanned two decades. A great note is that 1LT Erik Kurilla was their Platoon Leader and Jason later served as his RTO. Now Colonel Kurilla, he is the incoming Regimental Commander.

Jason considers CSM Merritt as one of the greatest influences in his life. He has spoken of Rick's positive

leadership in numerous public speaking engagements as a professional sales trainer and corporate coach. He stated, “To receive this honor is amazing! To have Rick here with me, well, incredibly special.” Jason mentioned Rick's influence in his acceptance speech and how his words to Jason in his early Rangers days are a tenant he shares with disabled veterans today! “Your mind is strong, your body even stronger, if you believe in yourself, anything is possible!”

Jason was selected for his military service and continued focus on our nation's wounded warriors. He competed against 31 airborne unit nominees. He received a unanimous vote by the Distinguished Board. Past awardees include General David H. Petraeus, Ross Perot, and Lt. General David E. Grange, Jr. We've had many fine candidates in past years. We are honored to have Jason as the first, that I can recall, award recipient for the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association.

Jason's military achievement included graduation from: Basic Training, Airborne School, Ranger Indoctrination Program, Primary and Advanced Leadership Development Courses, Ranger School, Air Assault and Rappel Master, Long Range Reconnaissance Leaders Course, Sniper School, and the US Army Instructor Training Certification. In true Ranger tradition, Jason was selected as Honor Graduate of nearly every course he attended in his 10- year Ranger career.

Jason participated in Operation Just Cause with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Airborne) earning the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge and Presidential Unit Citation Award. SGT Baker was also selected as the Soldier of the Month twice; Soldier of the Quarter; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> BN, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment's Soldier of the Year runner-up.

In his next duty station at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Jason earned the rank of SSG and served as a Scout/ Sniper Squad Leader for over three years. He was selected as the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) NCO of the Month twice, NCO of the Quarter, and NCO of the Year. His additional responsibility as the Battalion Pre-Ranger instructor yielded a 93% graduation rate vs. the Army average of 14%.

Jason's final duty station on active duty was at Fort Lewis, Washington with the I Corp NCO Academy as a Leadership Development Instructor. As he was transitioning to the civilian sector in 1999 the Army selected him for advancement during the 1999 SFC Promotion Board.

However, Jason did not stop serving his nation as he took off the uniform. After the Global War on Terror began, he continued his dedication and selfless service within a program called Project Healing Waters (PHW) that reaches



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

out to our military wounded, injured, or disabled to aid their physical and emotional recovery by introducing or rebuilding the skills of fly fishing and fly tying and by using and enjoying these skills on fishing outings and as lifelong recreation. For more information on this great organization, you can log onto [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org).

Jason is also a competitive fly fisherman. He and his partner compete in the "open category" of each tournament they enter. Competing against teams including several teams from the US Fly Fishing Team, Jason and his partner, Joshua Williams, took second place in their last competition. Jason and Josh have a special team fact; between them are just three arms! Josh lost his arm serving in the GWOT. They have worked out a system designed to overcome their team challenge. It allows them to compete at the highest levels of competition. Never will I leave a fallen Ranger! They were sponsored by our organization for the tournament and competed under the name, Team Sua Sponte!

Jason's Veterans Advocacy in 2008 included: PHW National Advisory Board, Fundraising; Salisbury VA Hospital Program Manager; Asheville VA Hospital - Program Manager; Personal Fundraising Efforts - \$52,000 in FY08; Planned, funded, and coordinated three trips for 14 soldiers in 2008 while accumulating 500+ volunteer hours in manning information booths, planning activities, hosting rehabilitation sessions, hosting events, and guiding wounded veterans. Jason also made over 2,000 calls to military voters during 2008 election season informing them of their candidate(s) voting records in support of veterans. Today Jason and his family reside in Charlotte, NC. He is a VP- Business Development in the Technology sector. His family includes Tricia, Kira (6), and Alec (3). He and Tricia have been married for 15 years.

If you would like to read more on Jason's other civilian successes, you can find them at this link:

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/jbaker71>

The individuals running for the slate of Association officers for the next 2 years (with my support), are as follows;

John Chester – (E/58 LRP) - President

Joe Little – (F/75, Ranger) - First Vice President

Jason Baker – (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bat) - Second Vice President

Bill P – (K/75, Ranger) - Secretary

Wesley Jurena – (1<sup>st</sup> Bat and RTB) - Treasurer

In closing I would like to thank all the members of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association for the opportunity to serve the past 7 years in many capacities. It has been a most humbling and rewarding honor for me. Also, it is in my belief, the Association is on track and will continue to thrive as long as we continue to enlist younger Modern

ERA Rangers and take care and serve Past ERA Rangers and Ranger Families.

I thank you proudly,

Bill Bullen

Pres 75thRRA 2007-2009



**Jason Baker & his fishing partner,  
Joshua Williams**



**Jason, 'Miss USO',  
Rick & Bill Bullen**



**Elizabeth (Rick's wife), Rick, Bill  
Bullen, Jason & Jason's wife Tricia**



**The things our President does  
for the organization. Bill Bullen  
with Miss USO.**

## FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Postelnic

### 2009 RANGER HALL OF FAME

The 2009 Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place during the Association Reunion and Ranger Rendezvous in August at Ft. Benning. In alphabetical order, the following men will be admitted to the Ranger Hall of Fame:



**Bill Postelnic**

James J. Altieri  
William T. Anton  
Keith P. Antonia  
AJ "Bo" Baker  
Alfred M. Bukaty  
Edwin L. Dean  
Russell E. Dodge  
Robert P. Gary  
Steven J. Murphy  
James B. Peake  
Carlton G. Savory

There is no shortage of LRPs, LRRPs, BDQ Advisors and Rangers deserving to be in the Ranger Hall of Fame. Every year, each Major Army Command and recognized association is allowed to submit nominees. Ranger Hall of Fame Members can also submit nominations.

It takes time to gather the information needed to prepare a nomination packet. For those of you who know a deserving Ranger, and are willing to put in the work, the time to start thinking about doing something is now. Contact your Unit Director and get the ball rolling. I will also help in any way I can.

### 2009 ASSOCIATION REUNION AND RANGER RENDEZVOUS

Be there: August 2 through August 8... And yes, that is this year. Fort Benning and Columbus Georgia... Literally thousands of LRRPs, LRPs, BDQs, Rangers – with service from World War II to the present – and family members converging during the week and culminating with the Association Banquet at the Iron Works on Saturday night. Make it easy on yourself and the Association, and particularly for Secretary John Chester, by registering for the Reunion on-line at the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment website. Or mail in the form in this edition of Patrolling.

Planned Association activities include an Association Member Business Meeting, Unit Director's Meeting, Sport Parachute Jump, Hospitality Room, Individual Unit Events, Guest Speakers, and Special Seminars. There will also be the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Change of Command Ceremony,

National Ranger Memorial Service, 2009 Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Mass Tactical Parachute Jump, tours of the new Infantry Museum, Ranger Demonstrations, and hopefully, a chance to shoot some live ammo at a couple of Ft. Benning Ranges.

### REUNION BANQUET

On Saturday night, 8 August, the Association will have the banquet dinner, and the evening's events will be something you do not want to miss. From the Missing Man Table to the Once and Eagle Ceremony and Ranger Roll Call to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Color Guard it will be an emotional night. Cal Rollins has prepared a video that will be projected on a large screen. The video is scored to music and features footage and photographs of Rangers, LRPs, LRRPs and Advisors from World War II to the present day. Our planned guest speakers include Ranger Danny McKight, who was the 3rd Ranger Battalion Commander during operations in Somalia back in 1993. We will also hear from retired Chief Justice of the Military Court of Appeals Ranger Eugene Sullivan and from Janis Nark, a nurse who served in Vietnam.

We are planning on a number active duty members of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment to attend. And of course there will be the traditional raffle with great odds at taking home some excellent prizes and memorabilia. Vendors with LRRP and Ranger clothing and such will be present. And as a bonus, if you recall the cover photo of the Winter Edition of Patrolling Magazine with the young active duty Ranger with Scottish bagpipes, well, he will be a special guest and play those pipes for us.

### MOVING FORWARD

The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association is a unique organization that allows all of us to support the Ranger Community as whole and the active duty Rangers serving today. It is an organization that allows us to retain the bond of brotherhood with those we served and with those of our own kind who served in different places and different times. We are better off with each other. I know I feel that way. I can meet a Ranger, LRP or LRRP for the first time and feel closer to him than to people I have known in civilian life for decades.

As the association continues to grow, that growth comes from finding some old lost souls and even more so from men who have served after the Vietnam era. At the Association Business Meeting during this year's reunion, we will elect new officers for the next two years. Reflecting the future of the Association is the fact that men younger than me will be



## FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

running for office. I fully support this and all of you should, too. We FOGs are not the future and we need to get the younger guys, the Batt Boys, more involved so they can take

care of us as we continue to age gracefully.  
R. L. T. W.  
Bill

## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Reuben Siverling

“Still serving”! That motto was adopted by U.S. Army Retirees several years ago. That message sure rings true for every Officer, Unit Director and Individual Association Volunteer serving so sacrificially to continually strengthen the membership and effectiveness of our 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association. Maybe we all need to be reminded periodically that this far reaching association is operationally functional and financially supported by your dues,



Reuben Siverling

voluntary paid advertising and extremely generous contributions to the Family Fund. There are no paid positions within the entire organization. Not once during my four years as your Treasurer has there been even one request for reimbursement for travel and lodging as one or more of our members travels to support and comfort bereaved family members of our departed brothers. Dear ones, I consider it selfish to say how proud I am to be a part of this great family. Pride of self is not an admirable trait but pride in the knowledge that so very many continue in the spirit of a job well done is worthy of honorable mention.

By the time you read this (if it gets to John on time) you will be getting ready to converge upon Columbus Georgia to renew and rekindle thousands of fond memories. You will also be selecting a new slate of officers and having others volunteer for the many duties associated with each Unit Director position. I will be in the process of retuning from Alaska and unable to join in the celebration but want each of you to please invest in the time to personally thank each of the officers and volunteers that insist on making this the proud and honorable organization of serving others.

I will have a full report of all fund balances available for posting or reading at the business meeting. I certainly do not want to slight anyone but would be remiss if I again failed to single out John Chester. I support his decision to pass on the duties of Secretary to another elected officer. In our four years together, I remain amazed at his agility and the ability and willingness to do the many duties of Secretary yet edit and publish our Association Magazine which by any measurement is second to none. (John, you better not edit out this comments-sir!)

Best wishes to all, give me a shout whenever you are in the Kansas City area.

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

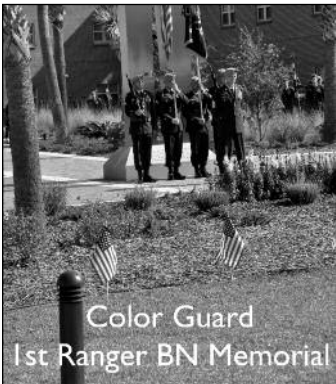
Once again it was spring, and as is our custom, we took off to the south. On March 19, 2009, there was a memorial dedication for SGT Anthony Davis at the first Ranger Battalion Memorial at Hunter Army Airfield and the next day, the first Ranger Battalion Ball at the Savannah Convention Center. Mary Anne and I attend both, and, as usual, the Ranger Ball was quite a glittering affair. Sid Smith came up



John Chester

from Florida for the affair, and we all had a good time. As always, we were impressed by all the good looking people that were present, (the young Rangers and their significant others, not us old folks). These Balls are the highlight of each Battalion's social year, and one of the few opportunities for the entire Battalion and their significant others to be together at the same time. Our Association supports each Battalion's Ball as part of our family support outreach.

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)



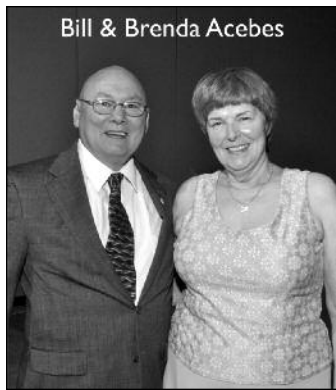
Color Guard  
1st Ranger BN Memorial



Howard & Carol Schetrompf



Sid Smith & Friend



Bill & Brenda Acebes



Jeff Ellis & Steve & Karen Murphy

After the Ball we traveled to Destin, FL to meet Brian Radcliffe (Jellyroll) at the Ft. Benning MWR facility located there. Jellyroll had dragged one of his many boats from Michigan so we

had a good time on the water. We attempted to catch some cobia, with a notable lack of success, but otherwise had a good time. If you live in the east and have never been to the Ft. Benning MWR facility at Destin, you owe yourself a visit. They have facilities to launch and to dock your own boat, or you can rent boats and party barges from them. They have cabins to rent with kitchens and all the other amenities, as well as rooms like a motel. I believe that all the rooms have a microwave and a refrigerator. If you are retired or 100% disabled or otherwise eligible for MWR, this is a good deal. The prices are very reasonable and there is no shortage of restaurants, shopping and many other diversions in the Destin area.

We spent a week there, and between Jellyroll's boat and the other diversions, we were not bored at all. There was one

incident that was fairly strange. We were coming back from a boat run up the river when we came upon a jet ski bobbing around in the middle of the bay. This is an area that is many miles long and at least a few miles wide. This thing was all by itself in the middle. Being the paranoid LRRPs that we are, Jellyroll and I started looking for bodies. When no bodies immediately presented themselves, Jellyroll tried to get the Coast Guard on the radio. It seems that the Coast Guard was having trouble with their radio. We tried for at least 20 minutes with little success. Mary Anne came up with quite a timely suggestion. "We all have cell phones", she said, "why not just call the Coast Guard on a cell phone?" Jellyroll and I were in Vietnam mode, and didn't even think of a cell phone, of course there were no cell phones in Vietnam.

We eventually got ahold of the Coast Guard, and found out that a man and his son had rented the jet ski and while crossing the wake of a boat, they both had fallen off. The driver of the jet ski had the key to the jet ski on a lanyard attached to his wrist. When he fell off, the lanyard pulled the key out of the jet ski, stopping it. Had the key not been removed, the jet ski would have circled until someone could get to it. This genius had managed to defeat the safety feature built into the watercraft. It was a windy day, and it did not take long before the jet ski was blown out of reach of the pair in the water.

Here they were, in the middle of the bay, hopelessly out of reach of the jet ski. Some good Samaritan eventually picked the father and son up and delivered them to the Coast Guard. To make a long story short, we got a line on the jet ski and towed it to the Destin Coast Guard station, where father, son and jet ski were reunited. I wonder if we had salvage rights to that jet ski? We may have let it slip through our fingers.



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

After our stay in Destin we headed back north towards Maryland. We made one stop in Fayetteville, NC to attend the dedication of the BDQ (Vietnamese Rangers) at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville. We met a lot of our old friends there and a good time was had by all. There was a color guard of Vietnamese Rangers and a few words from one of our members MG (Retired) Ed Scholes. By the time we got back home, we were ready to stop. Maybe it's because I'm getting older, but traveling seems to wear me out pretty quick.

Ranger HOF Members present, L to R  
Walt Sanders, Mike Martin, Harris Parker,  
Doug Perry, MG Scholes & Roy Lombardo



John,

Attached are the end-of-month Statements for the Family Fund and Operating Account. Also, I've attached today's balances on each of those accounts, \$14,420.17 and \$4,563.76 respectively.

The two Certificates of Deposit totaling \$81,599.37 will mature right around the Columbus Rendezvous dates so we will need to make a decision about them. Since you and I "gambled" late last year and put these funds into C.D.'s, they have earned \$2,098.82. That is not a huge amount but much better than sitting in a checking account.

Succinctly stated, we have a total of \$100,583.30 here at FCB as of today. The Operating Account will swell rapidly during the pre-registration in the next two months then, of course, it will be bill paying time.

The CBT account remains open with a balance of \$161.00 and no fees. You were wise in keeping that open for cash deposits during the reunion period.

Please advise if additional info is needed or desired. I appreciate your many diligent efforts on our behalf. Reuben

Reuben H. Siverling  
Senior Vice President  
Commercial Lending

Sec Note: The Association's Pay Pal account has a balance of \$6,900.00, so the actual totals will be as follows:

	<u>Operating account</u> <u>(general funds)</u>	<u>Family Fund</u> <u>(Christmas) account</u>
Checking accts.	\$ 4,563.76	\$ 14,420.17
Certificates of Dep.	56,599.37	25,000.00
Pay Pal Account	6,900.00	000
Columbus B&T	161.00	000
Credit Card Acct	<u>2,255.00</u>	<u>000</u>
Totals	70,479.13	39,420.17
Total all Accts		\$109,899.30

The end of year audit and preparation for the filing of the Association tax return will determine the amount of money transferred from the family fund to the operating account. The bulk of the family fund checks are written at the end of the year. Rather than move funds from the Family Fund CD and incur an interest penalty, we write the checks out of the operating account and reimburse the operating account at the end of the (accounting) year.

The above information (everything above Sec Note) was furnished by our Treasurer. Reuben and I have worked to make the Association finances as transparent as possible. There is no single person who has all the financial information exclusively. We share the responsibility and the information, and make the decisions jointly and in consultation with the other officers.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### DISCLAIMER

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

#### **VA HEALTH CARE FUNDING Update 20:**

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki's testimony on 13 MAY before a key congressional panel included a buzzkill for the top priority of veterans service groups — advanced funding for veterans health care programs. Advanced funding is a mechanism, endorsed by President Barack Obama, under which Congress would approve veterans health care budgets one year in advance to avoid any lapse in funding if an annual appropriations bill isn't approved on time, as often happens. All major veterans service organizations approve the idea, and have put it at the top of their combined legislative agenda for the year. Excitement has surrounded the issue recently because the chairmen of the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees also have backed the initiative, and the 2010 budget spending guideline approved by Congress includes the waivers of budgetary procedures that are necessary for it to be approved. But as Shinseki appeared before the House appropriations subcommittee responsible for veterans funding to discuss the 2010 budget, Rep. Zach Wamp of Tennessee, the panel's ranking Republican, rained on the advanced appropriations parade. Wamp said he does not support the idea because he believes it would reduce congressional oversight and make the powerful appropriators who dole out federal funding irrelevant. And in a little dig at Shinseki, Wamp said he was well aware the Obama administration also has had doubts. Shinseki himself told Congress that he preferred timely annual budgets over advance appropriations, a statement made in February before Obama held an 9 APR news conference to announce he was siding with veterans groups on the issue. Wamp's views that advanced funding reduces appropriations committee members' power — shared by other members — is one reason why the initiative still faces an uphill fight. It could only succeed if the House and Senate appropriations committees approve a two-year

budget, one for 2010 and another for 2011, and there is no indication they plan to do so. [Source: AirForceTimes Rick Maze article 13 May 09 ++]

#### **MILITARY STOLEN VALOR Update 11:**

A Cal Expo police officer was arrested by the FBI 8 MAY on charges of falsely claiming he earned a Silver Star for gallantry in combat 18 years ago during Operation Desert Storm and then lying to FBI agents when confronted about it. Eric Gene Piotrowski, who is charged under the Stolen Valor Act, made an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Dale A. Drozd, who ordered him released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond. Piotrowski, 41, bought the medal and certificate via the Internet in 2007, and created a citation on a personal computer, according to a sworn FBI affidavit in support of a criminal complaint. The Marine veteran told family and friends he received the medal and certificate in the mail after requesting a copy of his military records, FBI Special Agent Mark Burgeson wrote in the affidavit.

Without his knowledge, Piotrowski's family arranged for California Department of Veterans Affairs Undersecretary Roger Brautigan to come to his Elk Grove home on an evening in 2007 and formally present the medal to him, according to the affidavit and JP Tremblay, deputy secretary of the department. News of the presentation later appeared on the cover of the department's newsletter, and skeptical veterans urged the FBI to investigate. Created in 1932, the Silver Star is the nation's third highest military decoration. Only the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross are higher. "It's the first time we've had anything like this happen," said Tremblay, speaking for the Veterans Affairs Department. "It insults those who really did earn these citations, and it's disheartening to all veterans and those of us who work with them."

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The citation cites Piotrowski for “conspicuous gallantry” while leading his platoon, navigating for the battalion and controlling “supporting arms well forward of the lead elements throughout Operation Desert Storm.” It says “he exposed himself to direct enemy fire” while providing cover for a team maneuvering to destroy an Iraqi tank. “By his bold leadership, wise judgment, and complete dedication to duty, Cpl. Piotrowski reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service,” the citation concludes. Piotrowski forged the signature of Secretary of the Navy Henry L. Garrett III on it, according to the affidavit. The Veterans Affairs newsletter reported that Brautigan “joined an excited and proud family in their home to surprise Piotrowski.” “I was deeply moved while reading Eric’s citation ...,” the newsletter quoted Brautigan as saying. Tremblay said Piotrowski’s story was made more believable by the fact he was in the Marine Corps and did serve in the Middle East. But Piotrowski, after first insisting he was entitled to the Silver Star when he was interviewed by FBI agents on 17 MAR, confessed in a second interview that he was back in the United States when Desert Storm commenced and “did not encounter any hostile action,” according to Burgeson’s affidavit. [Source: Sacramento Bee Denny Walsh 9 May 09 ++]

### **SBP DIC OFFSET UPDATE 16:**

On 5 MAY 09 Representative Steve Buyer (R-IN-4th) introduced the Surviving Spouses Improvement Act of 2009 (H.R.2243). This legislation would increase the VA Dependency Indemnification Compensation (VA DIC) amount to 55% of the VA 100% disability compensation amount. This 55% level aligns VA DIC with DOD Survivors Benefits Payments and links DIC to VA compensation in an equivalent manner to Federal civilian disability pay. As a practical matter, that would be \$1,470 monthly, vs. the current rate of \$1,154. Further, HR 2243 would end the SBP/DIC “widows tax” offset where DIC offsets SBP \$1 for \$1 of DIC paid. Some 50,000 to 60,000 survivors are impacted by this offset, in some cases as high as \$1154 per month. In many instances this totally wipes out the SBP which was paid from the military spouse’s retirement pay. As a result, many SBP/DIC widows live in penury. If you would like to see this legislation passed you should contact your legislator and ask that he/she sign on as a sponsor or cosponsor to the bill. One easy way to do this is to go to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=13303636&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=13303636&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]) where you will find a preformatted message that you can use as is or edit the text

of to your personal style and forward automatically by entering your zip code and contact data. [Source: NAUS Legislative Alert 8 May 09 ++]

### **VA BUDGET 2010 Update 02:**

On 7 MAY, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced President Obama’s 2010 budget for VA. **The budget emphasizes a Veteran-centric commitment to expanded services with a 15.5% increase over 2009, the largest percentage increase for VA requested by a president in more than 30 years.** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said, “Our 2010 budget represents the President’s vision for how VA will transform into a 21st Century organization that is Veteran-centric, results-driven, and forward-looking. This transformation is demanded by new times, new technologies, new demographic realities, and new commitments to today’s Veterans. It requires a comprehensive review of the fundamentals in every line of operation the Department performs. We must be sure that valuable taxpayer dollars are invested in programs that work for our Veterans.” The centerpiece of the \$112.8 billion VA budget proposal is a dramatic increase in Veteran health care funding, with an 11% increase over the current year’s funding (excluding one-time Recovery Act funds).

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs W. Scott Gould said, “Organizational transformation requires changes in culture, systems, and training. This will require resources, but it will also demand commitment and teamwork. The entire Department is dedicated to serving the needs of Veterans, and every VA employee has a stake in transformation to meet those needs.”

That transformation is already underway. For instance, the enhanced use of automated tools, coupled with more efficient processes, recent staffing increases, and improved training is expected to reduce the compensation and pension claims processing time to 150 days in 2010, or 16% faster compared to 2008, while reducing the pending inventory and improving accuracy. VA anticipates an 8% increase in education claims in 2010 compared to this year due largely to the improved education benefits of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act. Nonetheless, VA’s goal is to complete all education claims without any increase in average processing days. “We are making the smart choices today to improve the services that our Veterans receive tomorrow,” Secretary Shinseki said. VA’s budget request contains four major categories of activities. These activities include: creating a reliable management infrastructure, delivering ongoing

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

services, making progress on Departmental priorities, and instituting new initiatives critical to meeting the needs of Veterans now and in the future.

Nearly two-thirds of the increase (\$9.6 billion) would go to mandatory programs (up 20%); the remaining third (\$5.6 billion) would be discretionary funding (up 11%). The total budget would be almost evenly split between mandatory funding (\$56.9 billion) and discretionary funding (\$55.9 billion). The budget request:

Provides for an estimated 122,000 more patients to be treated over the current year. Many of these patients will have multiple visits in the course of the year. VA expects to end fiscal year 2010 with nearly 6.1 million individual patients having received care, including 419,000 Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan war zones who separated from service. “VA has too often in the past been seen as difficult and bureaucratic as it relates to its charge of providing for our Nation’s Veterans,” Secretary Shinseki said. “Changing that perception will require a significant transformation. We will not nibble at the edges of this change. We must be bold and demand that we begin immediately showing measurable returns on investment in a responsible, accountable and transparent manner.”

Supports the administration’s goal to gradually expand health care eligibility to more than 500,000 new enrollees by 2013, while maintaining excellent care quality and timeliness. In 2010, the transformation of VA health care will support scheduling of 98% of primary care appointments within a month of the desired date.

Places a high priority on initiatives aimed at making servicemembers’ transition to civilian life and VA benefits seamless. This includes the President’s initiative for VA and the Department of Defense to collaboratively develop and implement a joint “Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record.”

Supports the administration’s initiative for a uniform registration of all servicemembers with VA.

Will improve delivery of benefits by assuring availability of medical and administrative data useful both in future medical care as well as in the determination of service-connection in disability ratings. “The Department’s number one priority is providing for our Veterans,” Deputy Secretary Gould said. “We have an obligation to make sure that every dollar goes to delivering timely, high-quality benefits and

services to our clients—the Veterans. A strong corporate model will enable decentralized provision of services at VA by professionals in the field while providing integrated policy and coordination through a central office.”

Fosters strong support for Veteran-focused information technology, providing more than \$3.3 billion to ensure reliable, accessible and secure computer systems. In addition to improvements in VA’s electronic health records, this investment will support the President’s goal of making claims decisions timely, fair, and consistent with the extension of a new paperless processing initiative expected to lead to an electronically based benefits system by 2012.

Will preserve VA-managed national cemeteries as shrines while maintaining the current high level of service. The National Cemetery Administration would receive \$242 million in operations and maintenance funding in the fiscal year 2010 request. The budget provides for activation of three new national cemeteries, Bakersfield National Cemetery in California, Alabama National Cemetery near Birmingham, and Washington Crossing National Cemetery in southeastern Pennsylvania. VA expects to perform 111,500 interments in 2010, a four-percent increase from the estimate for the current year.

Provides more than \$1.9 billion for construction projects and other capital programs in VA. This continues work on five major medical projects already in progress, begins seven new ones, and provides resources to support the cemetery system’s expansion needs, including resources for improvements at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois, and Houston National Cemetery. The seven new medical facility projects move VA towards new construction or renovations at VA medical facilities in Brockton, Massachusetts; Canandaigua, New York; Livermore, California; Long Beach, California; Perry Point, Maryland; San Diego, California; and St. Louis, Missouri. Capital funds also will support ongoing improvements at medical centers in Bay Pines, Florida; Denver, Colorado; Orlando, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and St. Louis, Missouri.

Contains \$600 million for minor construction projects, \$85 million in grants for construction of state extended care facilities, and \$42 million in grants for state Veterans cemeteries.

[Source: VA News Release 7 May 09 ++]



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

### **Assistant Secretary Duckworth Joins U.S. Postal Service for Purple Heart Stamp Ceremony**

WASHINGTON (May 18, 2009)- Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, L. Tammy Duckworth, spoke at a U.S. Postal Service ceremony announcing the reissue of the Purple Heart stamp. Hundreds of people attended the morning event at the Washington Convention Center.

“This stamp is a tribute to our nation’s wounded Veterans and a reminder of our society’s commitment to care for them when the war is over,” Assistant Secretary L. Tammy Duckworth said. “Many people who are severely wounded have their initial fears of a life destroyed replaced by the understanding that they can do just about anything.”

This is the fifth issue of the Purple Heart definitive postage stamp.

The Purple Heart stamp was first issued on May 20, 2003, at Mount Vernon, Va. The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the U.S. Military who have been wounded in combat or to the next of kin of those killed in action.

Assistant Secretary L. Tammy Duckworth is a recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds she sustained while serving in Iraq with the United States Army. In 2004, her aircraft was ambushed and a rocket-propelled grenade struck the Black Hawk helicopter she was co-piloting during a mission north of Bagdad.

### **Secretary Shinseki Announces \$215 Million in Projects for Rural Veterans**

WASHINGTON (May 21, 2009) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has provided \$215 million in competitive funding to improve services specifically designed for Veterans in rural and highly rural areas.

“This funding signals a substantial expansion of services addressing the health care needs of our rural Veterans,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki said. “These funds will allow VA to establish new outpatient clinics, expand collaborations with federal and community partners, accelerate the use of telemedicine deployment, explore innovative uses of technology, and fund pilot programs.”

The selection process was competitive and transparent. Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), VA’s regional health care networks, and Veterans Health Administration program offices were allowed to submit up to eight proposed projects each. These proposals were prioritized and then sent to the Office of Rural Health (ORH), where they were evaluated based on, methodology, feasibility and intended impact on rural Veterans.

After careful review, ORH selected 74 programs, many of which were either national in scope or affected multiple states. Program offices validated these proposals to ensure that projects and programs were consistent with the VA mission, strategic direction, program standards, and did not duplicate existing efforts.

The new funding is part of an ambitious VA program to improve access and quality of health care — both physical and mental — for Veterans in geographically rural areas, with an emphasis on the use of the latest technologies, recruitment and retention of a well-educated and trained health care workforce, and collaborations with non-VA rural health community partners.

To address the unique issues facing rural Veterans, the Department created an Office of Rural Health in February 2007. In the past two years, VA formed a 16-member national committee to advise on issues affecting rural veterans, opened three Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers to study rural Veteran issues, rolled out four new mobile health clinics to serve 24 predominately rural counties, announced 10 new rural outreach clinics to be opened in 2009.

## 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.*

**ALLERGY RELIEF**

Pollen grains from trees, grasses and weeds can float through the air in spring, summer or fall. But on their way to fertilize plants and tree flowers, pollen particles often end up in our noses, eyes, ears and mouths. The result can be sneezing spells, watery eyes, congestion and an itchy throat. The collection of symptoms that affect the nose when you breathe in something you are allergic to is called allergic rhinitis; when the symptoms affect the eyes, it's called allergic conjunctivitis. Allergic rhinitis caused by plant pollen is commonly called hay fever-although it's not a reaction to hay and it doesn't cause fever. Pollen allergy affects about 1 out of 10 Americans, according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). For some, symptoms can be controlled by using over-the-counter (OTC) medicine occasionally. Others have reactions that may more seriously disrupt the quality of their lives. Allergies can trigger or worsen asthma and lead to other health problems such as sinus infection (sinusitis) and ear infections in children. Badrul Chowdhury, M.D., Ph.D., an allergist and immunologist in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says, "You can distinguish allergy symptoms from a cold because a cold tends to be short-lived, results in thicker nasal secretions, and is usually associated with sore throat, hoarseness, malaise, and fever."

Many people with allergic rhinitis notice a seasonal pattern with their symptoms, but others may need a health care professional's help to find out for sure if pollen is the source of their misery. If symptoms crop up year-round, dust mites, pet dander or another indoor allergy trigger (allergen) could be the culprit. This year-round condition is known as perennial allergic rhinitis. Chowdhury suggests seeing a health care professional if you experience allergies for the first time, your symptoms interfere with your ability to function, you don't find relief from OTC drugs, or you experience allergy symptoms over a long period. You may need an allergy test, the most common of which is a skin test that shows how you react to different allergens, including specific pollen allergens like ragweed and grass pollen. Once you

know you have seasonal allergies, try to avoid pollen as much as possible, says Chowdhury. Pay attention to pollen counts and try to stay indoors when pollen levels are highest as indicated below. Pollen counts measure how much pollen is in the air (pollen level) and are expressed in grains of pollen per square meter of air collected during a 24-hour period.

In the late summer and early fall, during ragweed pollen season, pollen levels are highest in the morning.

In the spring and summer, during the grass pollen season, pollen levels are highest in the evening. Some molds, another allergy trigger, may also be seasonal. For example, leaf mold is more common in the fall.

Sunny, windy days can be especially troublesome for pollen allergy sufferers.

It may also help to keep windows closed in your house and car and run the air conditioner, avoid mowing grass and doing other yard work, if possible, and wear a face mask designed to filter pollen out of the air and keep it from reaching nasal passages, if you must work outdoors. FDA regulates medications that offer allergy relief. Here's a rundown of drug options that can help you survive the sneezing season:

**Nasal corticosteroids:** These are typically sprayed into the nose once or twice a day to treat inflammation. Drugs in this category include Nasonex (mometasone furoate) and Flonase (fluticasone propionate). Side effects may include stinging in the nose.

**Oral and nasal antihistamines:** These drugs, whether OTC or prescription, counteract the action of histamine, a substance released in the body during an allergic reaction.

Benadryl (diphenhydramine) and Chlor-Trimeton (chlorpheniramine) are examples of OTC antihistamines. Drowsiness is a common side effect, so don't take these types of drugs when you have to drive, operate machinery, or do

# HEALTH

other activities that require you to be alert.

Non-sedating OTC antihistamines include Claritin and Alavert (both loratadine) and Zyrtec (cetirizine). Zyrtec may cause mild drowsiness. Some non-sedating antihistamines, such as Clarinex (desloratadine) and Allegra (fexofenadine), are available by prescription. Many oral antihistamines are available OTC and in generic form.

The prescription drugs Astelin (azelastine) and Patanase (olopatadine) are antihistamine nasal sprays approved to treat allergy symptoms. They can be used several times a day. Side effects include drowsiness, a bitter taste in the mouth, headache, and stinging in the nose.

**Decongestants:** These drugs, available both by prescription and OTC, come in oral and nasal spray forms. They are sometimes recommended in combination with antihistamines, which used alone do not have an effect on nasal congestion. Allegra D is an example of a drug that contains both an antihistamine (fexofenadine) and a decongestant (pseudoephedrine). Drugs that contain pseudoephedrine are available without a prescription but are kept behind the pharmacy counter as a safeguard because of their use in making methamphetamine—a powerful, highly addictive stimulant often produced illegally in home laboratories. You will need to ask your pharmacist and show identification to purchase drugs that contain pseudoephedrine.

Using nose sprays and drops more than a few days may give you a “rebound” effect—your nasal congestion will get worse. These drugs are more useful for short-term use to relieve nasal congestion.

**Non-steroidal nasal sprays:** NasalCrom (cromolyn sodium), an OTC nasal spray, can help prevent symptoms of allergic rhinitis if used before symptoms start. This non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) needs to be used three to four times a day to be effective.

**Leukotriene receptor antagonist:** The prescription drug Singulair (montelukast sodium) is approved to treat asthma and to help relieve symptoms of allergic rhinitis. It works by blocking substances in the body called leukotrienes. Side effects may include headache, ear infection, sore throat, and upper respiratory infection.

If you have any other health conditions, check with your health care professional first to determine which OTC medicine to take. For example, people with uncontrolled high blood pressure or serious heart disease shouldn't take decongestants unless directed by a health care professional. And always read the label before buying an OTC product for you or your children, says Chowdhury. “Some products can be used in children as young as 2 years, but others are not appropriate for children of any age.” People who don't respond to either OTC or prescription medications, or who suffer from frequent complications of allergic rhinitis, may be candidates for immunotherapy, commonly known as allergy shots. According to NIAID, about 80% of people with hay fever will experience a significant reduction in their symptoms and their need for medication within a year of starting allergy shots. Chowdhury advises sufferers to discuss the option of immunotherapy with their doctor thoroughly because immunotherapy is not for everybody, and there is a significant time commitment involved. The process involves receiving injections of small amounts of allergens that are considered to be responsible for your symptoms. The doses are gradually increased so that the body builds up immunity to the allergens. The injections are given over at least three to five years. Discontinuation is based on having minimal symptoms over two consecutive seasons of exposure to allergens. [Source: FDA's Consumer Health Information Web page May 09 ++]

## VA HEARING AIDS/EYEGLASSES Update 02

The Department of Veterans Affairs must provide audiology and eye care services and hearing aids and glasses to military veterans with any compensable service-connected disability. Public Law 104-262, the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, changed eligibility laws to allow VHA to furnish prosthetic appliances to veterans. However, that law further provided that VHA could not furnish sensori-neural aids (hearing aids and eyeglasses) except in accordance with guidelines that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prescribes. Subsequently, the Department published regulations (Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §17.149) in the Federal Register establishing such guidelines. In 2002, VHA issued Directive 2002-039 to establish uniform policy for the provision of hearing aids and eyeglasses. It is now VHA policy that all enrolled veterans and those veterans exempt from enrollment are eligible for medical services that include diagnostic audiology and diagnostic and preventive eye care services, and that the prescription and provision of hearing aids and eyeglasses must be furnished to all eligible veterans in accordance with the parameters and criteria



# HEALTH

defined in VHA DIRECTIVE 2008-070 dtd 28 OCT 08. Full details of the directive can be viewed at [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1789](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1789). It identifies eligible's to include:

Those with any compensable service-connected disability.

Those who are former Prisoners of War (POWs).

Those who were awarded a Purple Heart.

Those in receipt of benefits under Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1151.

Those in receipt of an increased pension based on being permanently housebound and in need of regular aid and attendance.

Those with vision or hearing impairment resulting from diseases or the existence of another medical condition for which the veteran is receiving care or services from VHA, or which resulted from treatment of that medical condition, e.g., stroke, polytrauma, traumatic brain injury, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, vascular disease, geriatric chronic illnesses, toxicity from drugs, ocular photosensitivity from drugs, cataract surgery, and/or other surgeries performed on the eye, ear, or brain resulting in vision or hearing impairment.

Those with significant functional or cognitive impairment evidenced by deficiencies in the ability to perform activities of daily living.

Those who have vision and/or hearing impairment severe enough that it interferes with their ability to participate actively in their own medical treatment and to reduce the impact of dual sensory impairment (combined hearing and vision loss). NOTE: The term "severe" is to be interpreted as a vision and/or hearing loss that interferes with or restricts access to, involvement in, or active participation in health care services (e.g., communication or reading medication labels). The term is not to be interpreted to mean that a severe hearing or vision loss must exist to be eligible for hearing aids or eyeglasses.

Those veterans who have service-connected vision disabilities rated zero percent or service-connected

hearing disabilities rated zero percent if there is organic conductive, mixed, or sensory hearing impairment, and loss of pure tone hearing sensitivity in the low, mid, or high-frequency range or a combination of frequency ranges which contribute to a loss of communication ability; however, hearing aids are to be provided only as needed for the service-connected hearing disability.

Following are the Directive's Criteria for replacing hearing aids and eyeglasses in accordance with VHA Handbooks 1173.7 and 1173.12:

Hearing aids or eyeglasses are to be replaced when the device proves to be ineffective, irreparable, or the veteran's medical condition has changed and a different device is needed.

Hearing aids or eyeglasses are to be replaced if the device was destroyed or lost due to circumstances beyond the control of the veteran.

Hearing aids or eyeglasses are not to be replaced because of availability of newer technology, unless there is evidence that the replacement will significantly benefit the veteran.

For hearing aids, replacement may be based on age of the device, whether they are beyond economical repair, technical performance is reduced, parts or accessories are unavailable, or the device is no longer sufficient for the veteran's communication needs.

Replacement hearing aids can be prescribed at any time that change of amplification characteristics are required to maintain or improve communication function. Hearing aids have an expected life span of 3 to 4 years depending on the model of the instrument, daily hours of use, wear and tear, frequency of repair and maintenance, ear conditions, and user lifestyle.

For eyeglasses, replacement of corrective eyeglasses necessitated by fair wear and tear, loss, or breakage due to circumstances beyond the control of the veteran, or due to required change of prescription, may be made at any time.

Hearing aids or eyeglasses are not to be replaced solely for cosmetic purposes.

[Source: VA Directive 2008-070 Oct 08 ++]

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### Vietnam; A return trip after 40 years

BY: C. Larry Rhodes

Why would anyone want to visit a country in which the very word, Vietnam brings up negative memories of fear, injury, and death; of smells and visions (aka nightmares for some); of intense heat and shivering wet nights spent on the jungle floor? For three of us Veterans, we had a specific mission that proved to be overriding of the negative, for we wanted to see places and objects of our past; and a specific person. For these reasons, we three, C Larry Rhodes, Bill Waters, and Jim Bohanan, members who served together in 1969 with Company D (Ranger) 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry, spent ten days in Vietnam this past April 2009.

As we spent the long hours on the flight from Chicago via Tokyo to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), we revealed to each other the fears our past and of being on someone's list of people of interest to the Vietnamese, or worse yet, were we being lured into an ambush. Strange how the subconscious still tries to protect us, after all these years. When we landed at Ton Son Nhut Airport, the first sights we saw were of the concrete revetments that housed the fast movers and helicopters that were there in 1969 on the day that I departed Vietnam. Strange setting, especially since as we passed by these concrete memorials, some still housed aircraft from our war days. But the next view was a very new and modern terminal opened in 2007, in which we were welcomed with friendly smiles and very clean surroundings. Our 30 day Visas were in order and we could enter this communist country, now called the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, represented by the red flag with the gold star, of what we remember was the flag of North Vietnam.

Perhaps to understand why veterans desire to visit places where they once fought, one only has to look at the battlegrounds that have been memorialized here in the United States. If you have ever visited the battlegrounds of the Civil War, especially Gettysburg PA, it only takes a few steps to realize the importance of sacred ground. As in the years following the Civil War, countless Veterans returned to those bloodied grounds, to pay respect to those who fought there and died there, by erecting elaborate monuments on the very sites that their unit defended or charged. The same can be said for many places in Europe where our fathers fought in two World Wars. We also had grounds that we wanted to visit.

As we departed the terminal, the heat was stifling; none of us could remember Vietnam ever being so hot, the air was alive with smells of everything imaginable, and the streets

were jam packed, not with bicycles as in the past, but with motorbikes. No military vehicles to be found, very few cars, some small trucks, but what seemed like millions of motorbikes. The population of Saigon has more than quadrupled in the last 40 years and everywhere you look, you see thousands of people at any one time. The population of Vietnam is approximately 87 million with the average age being 27.4 years, so a very large majority was not even alive in 1969 when the population was only about 40 million. There are very few traffic signals and even fewer stop signs. Traffic flows like constantly moving ants, always in very close proximity to the people all around you. Motorbikes park on the sidewalks forcing pedestrians onto the street edge, always only inches from passing traffic. Crossing the street is an experience like none other; you just start walking across looking at the eyes of the motorbike riders to make sure they see you, and surprisingly no one ever gets hit.

As I stated earlier, we had a specific person that we wanted to reunite with, Dang Van Thao, a Chou Hoi that served as a scout in Ranger Team 1-4, with Billy Waters during 1969. This trip never would have come together without a New Zealander named Ken Horsfall, who was visiting his Vietnamese wife's family over Christmas 2008. In conversation, Thao asked that Ken try to locate Sgt Waters of Company D (Ranger) 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry. Ken did so on his return to New Zealand by contacting D151 web master, Darrel Holder, who in turn contacted Billy Waters by email. The reunion of Thao and Billy was a happy and tearful event. For more on this reunion, please read the report elsewhere in this issue of Patrolling under Company D 151<sup>st</sup>. It didn't take us long to discover that it was really people of Vietnam that we were to enjoy the most, not the places.

We visited many places in and around (within 50 miles) of Saigon, all by boat, taxi, motorbike, or small bus. I want to share with you two of the places in Saigon that were most memorable to us. One was what was known as the Presidential Palace from which its construction in 1962 is where the President of South Vietnam lived and worked. This is the same Palace that made the headlines on April 30, 1975 when a Russian built NVA tank crashed thru the metal front gates. That tank still sits in the front yard of the Palace. It is now known as the Reunification Palace or the Independence Palace. We signed up for the guided tour to see the inside of the well preserved building. It still looks today as if the folks working there, just up and left; which they did the day before the NVA came rolling into Saigon. Everything was left in place on the last day it was used as

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

a Palace; desk, beds, war maps, military radios, full kitchen, even a Huey parked on the roof. The guide we had was a young lad whose family grew up in Hanoi and we gave him a bit of a hard time in the questions we were asking. We knew more about the war then he did, but he was not to be outdone. He fired back from every angle he could about the puppet government of South Vietnam and how the imperialist (Americans) support them. In the end, he thought he won the argument, and who could fault him for thinking that way, after all the North and South of Vietnam are all one country. But we Americans still have our own view of what happened, and when we were there, we tried our best to do what we were ordered to do.

The other place in Saigon that we visited is now called the War Remnants Museum. To give you an idea of just how gruesome the displays can be, the original name was 'Museum of American War Crimes'. There are series of rooms in several buildings, displaying primarily North Vietnam propaganda, and in some cases what seemed outright miss-information. Several military aircraft and tanks are displayed in the courtyards. Other rooms display graphic photographs of the war, most of them showing mistreatment of captured prisoners and non combatants and the effect Agent Orange, Napalm, and White Phosphorus had on the country. Much emphasis was placed on the fact the USA and its allies dropped more bombs on Vietnam then used in all of WWII. One could not depart this museum without mixed feelings of anger, sadness, and some shame.

The future of Vietnam will be nothing like its past history. This is a country that may have a Socialistic government, but Capitalism abounds everywhere. Construction of high rise buildings, highways, bridges, improved shipping lanes, business openings from just about every country in the world are descending on Vietnam. Already, Vietnam is the second largest exporter of goods in the world. A new International airport is planned to open in 2011 at Long Thanh, which is northeast of Saigon about 30 miles and will be connected to Ho Chi Minh City, Bien Hoa, and Vung Tau by a 10 lane highway. A Lee Trevino designed golf course is already opened at Long Thanh.

Still, even with this huge population explosion and massive building, the country remains very poor when compared to other countries living standards. And we still found remote areas that reminded us of the jungle we once roamed. It was the people that most impressed us, with the friendly attitude and happy life style. I certainly did not want to go to Vietnam in 1969, but I can't wait to return now that the country is at peace.

Here is a great site on the web to learn more about modern day Vietnam from the Vietnamese perspective:

[http://www.vietnamembassy-usa.org/learn\\_about\\_vietnam/politics/constitution/](http://www.vietnamembassy-usa.org/learn_about_vietnam/politics/constitution/)  
Another great site from the USA perspective is:  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vm.html>

Ed Note: Larry Rhodes has served the Association well over the years. He was Treasurer from 1994 through 1998, and is the individual that ensures that the Association is insured and relatively risk free. J. Chester



**Young girl selling souvenirs in front of War Monuments Museum.**



**Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), typical side street.**



**North Vietnamese guide at palace.**

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



Sampan tour of Mekong River.



Cranes on Saigon River.



Jim, Thao, Bill & Larry at Cu Chi.



Bill on point to Lieu's Aunt's home.



Who needs a truck?



War Museum photos.



Photo display at the War Museum.



UH1-D (Huey) on roof of Independence Palace.



Vietnamese cows on the way to work.



Russian tank inside the gates of the Independence (formerly Presidential) palace. This is the same (sic) tank that broke through the gates April 30, 1975.



Front gate, Independence Palace, Saigon.

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

## 2009 REUNION 2 THRU 8 AUGUST, 2009 REGISTRATION FORM

**Yes, I will attend the reunion at Ft Benning, Ga, 2 - 8 August, 2009.**

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I will be accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ guests;\*

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

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

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON @ \$40.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET TICKETS # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mail to: 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 10970  
Baltimore, MD 21234

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



# **RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION 2009**

**AUGUST 2 - 8, 2009**

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

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.,  
WILL HOLD ITS' BI-ANNUAL REUNION  
AND BUSINESS MEETING ON THE ABOVE DATES.  
OUR REUNION HEAD QUARTERS WILL BE  
THE AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN NORTH, ON MANCHESTER ROAD.  
WE HAVE A GUARANTEED RATE OF \$79.00 PER NIGHT.  
THIS REUNION WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT RENDEZVOUS  
AND CHANGE OF COMMAND.  
AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE OF  
REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES, OTHER THAN THAT  
THEY WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME FRAME.  
THE MARCH, 2009, (SPRING) ISSUE OF *PATROLLING*  
WILL CONTAIN SCHEDULES.**

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, INC. BANQUET WILL BE HELD THE EVENING OF  
SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST, 2009.**

**SPEAKERS WILL BE RETIRED FEDERAL JUDGE EUGENE SULLIVAN  
Janis Nark, Lt. Col (Ret.) served as a registered nurse in the Army, including a tour in Vietnam.  
Serving in the Army Reserve she was recalled to active duty for nine months during Desert Storm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **RANGER RENDEZVOUS/REUNION 2009 PARACHUTE JUMP**

For all you young at heart Jumpers who feel the need to throw yourselves out of a perfectly good airplane, we have great news for you.....

**On Friday August 07<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 0900 there will be a Parachute Jump!**

**Place: Opelika, Alabama  
DZ: Tuskegee, Alabama  
Jump Master: SMG Buddy Blue**

**Book Early..... 50 person max for Friday**  
(if we exceed 50, an additional jump day will be scheduled)  
**Dedicated to Henry (Zeke) Zyrkowski**

Please email the following contact persons below with your full name and jump type requested for the Master List which will be provided to the Jump Center.

## **STATIC JUMP**

4 hr class  
Inc. all equipment  
\$175.00 1st Jump  
\$45.00 2nd Jump

## **HALO JUMP**

student is current and  
will provide all gear  
\$20.00

## **TANDOM JUMP**

\$ 175.00

## **POC's**

Bill Hill: WHHILL@COMCAST.NET

To view the schools web page, please go to **WWW. SKYDIVEOPELIKA.NET**

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

BY: Bill Acebes

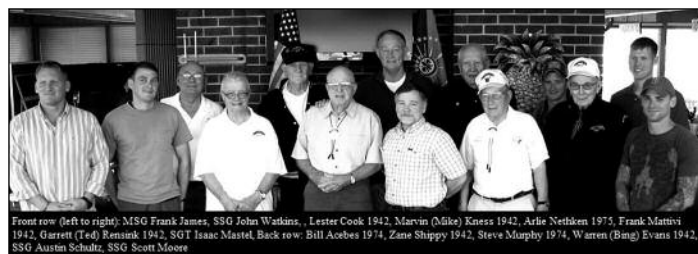
Ranger Week, celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the activation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion, started out in the Mountains of North Georgia, with Ranger Doc Donovan and Ranger Winget hosting festivities at their homes. About twenty people showed up and a great time was reported by all — Ranger Winget states there are probably lots of good memories made, unfortunately most aren't remembered.

Some members of the group then journeyed on to Savannah to help celebrate St Patrick's Day, where the "boys" marched in the parade for the first time in several years. All the Rangers, especially LTC Mennes, look great wearing lipstick. A ceremony celebrating the life of SSG Anthony Davis was held at the Ranger Memorial with his family in attendance, several of them speaking. Some of his Ranger buddies shared some happy moments that brought forth laughter and tears. Had a great time at the Ranger Ball; over 2000 in attendance, hottest ticket in town. Guest speaker was LTG (Retired) J.R. Vines.

Attending were numerous 1974 Rangers, including CSM Jeff Mellinger, the last draftee on active duty, and an original member of 2/75. One of the honored guests was SGM (retired) Lester Cook, an original Darby's Ranger. Great job Shelia!

In May, Brenda and I were invited by Sherry Klein to attend the Original Darby's Rangers reunion in Spirit Lake, Iowa. There were nine of the 1942 models in attendance, three 1974 models, and LTC Mennes sent six 2009 models to the reunion. There was much camaraderie, story telling and a briefing to the 1942 models by MSG Frank James. It is a true toss up to determine who enjoyed who the most.

While in Iowa, the Ranger Hall of Fame list was released and our congratulations go out to all inductees; especially my good friend, Steven J. Murphy. Steve has a colorful background but most notable was his participation in Operation Eagle Claw (Desert One); the 1980 daring rescue mission to free the hostages held at the US Embassy in Iran. Steve went on to become a helicopter pilot after that mission in the desert. One notable event, was the keg ride down the hill from the picnic area - pictures and names will not be released to protect the innocent. Until next time, keep your head down, your hatchet sharp and your powder dry.



Front row (left to right): MSG Frank James, SSG John Watkins, Lester Cook 1942, Marvin (Mike) Kness 1942, Arlie Neftken 1975, Frank Mattivi 1942, Garrett (Ted) Remick 1942, SGT Isaac Mastel. Back row: Bill Acebes 1974, Zane Shippy 1942, Steve Murphy 1974, Warren (Bang) Evans 1942, SSG Austin Schuler, SSG Scott Moore

### BEST RANGER COMPETITION 2009

BY: John Chester

The 2009 Best Ranger Competition saw 48 teams begin the competition at 0600 Friday, 8 May, 2009. At approximately 1700 hours on Sunday, 10 May, 2009 the last of 24 teams remaining in the competition crossed the finish line in the final event, the buddy run.

Team 21 finished in first place with 2,483 points, SCF Blake Simms & SFC Chad Stackpole, 4<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion, Ft. Benning, GA. The rest of the top five are as follows:

**2nd Place** Team 22 2,396 points, MSG Walter Zajkowski & MSG Daniel Jenkins, US Army Special Operations Command, Ft. Bragg, NC.

**3rd Place** Team 7 2,165 points, SGT Michael Malchow & SGT Jesse Collins, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, Ft. Benning, GA.

**4th Place** Team 8 2,151 points, SSG Brandon Farmer & SSG Luke McDowell, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, Ft. Benning, GA.

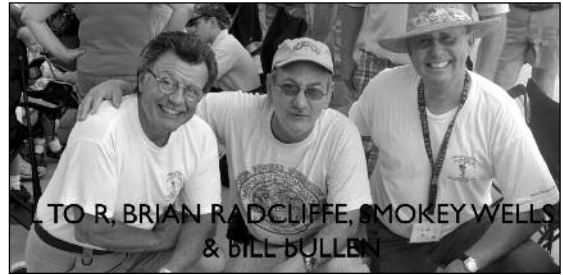
**5th Place** Team 31 2,138 points, SSG Michael Mutchie & SSG Miguel Antia, 4<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion, Bt. Benning, GA.

There were a couple of interesting points in this year's competition, the winning team won by almost 100 points. There were good reasons for this, Sims & Stackpole, (team 21), during the course of their efforts, won the CPT Russell B. Rippetoe Trophy for their first place finish in the Friday night road march AND won the Richard A. Leandri trophy for finishing first in the night orienteering event on Saturday Night. These competitors obviously had it together from start to finish, worked superbly together as a team, and performed flawlessly when the chips were down. Another interesting point, take a look at the third place team, team 7. Two Buck SGTS. Talk about two tadpoles in a pond full of alligators. Considering their age & relative inexperience, they did very well indeed. I can almost guarantee that we will hear from these two young men again in future competitions.

The actual events are never the same from year to year, and, true to form this year they added a canoe race, (one team

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

per canoe), down the Chattahoochee, from Columbus to Ft. Benning. After the canoe race, the final event, the buddy run, ended the competition at Freedom Hall at Lawson Army Airfield. The competition took place about three weeks later than previous Best Ranger Competitions. Consequently it was a little hotter than usual, and as a result the Buddy Run was shortened, but the overall competition was as grueling as usual.



TO R, BRIAN RADCLIFFE, SMOKEY WELLS & BILL BULLEN



TRI TOWER CHALLENGE



DARBY QUEEN, PHOTO BY T. TILSON



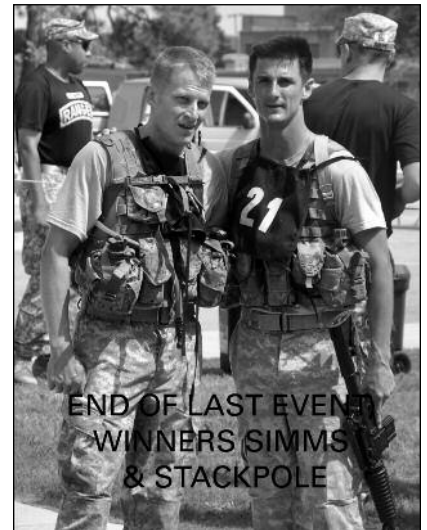
BRC 2009 WINNERS  
SIMMS & STACKPOLE



OUR PRESIDENT BILL BULLEN



JULIE EDWARDS, A ROSE BY ANY  
OTHER NAME



END OF LAST EVENT  
WINNERS SIMMS  
& STACKPOLE



MACHINE GUN RANGE, BEST RANGER, 2009



LAST OBSTACLE, DARBY QUEEN

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### ***“Pair of Dimes” by Stephen Johnson-Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry***

OK, so you think that I look a little bit weird with my glasses, but you may be surprised to realize that each one



of us has our own unique way of looking at everyday experiences. Let me explain using some *Choice Theory* ideas by Dr. William Glasser, M.D., world renowned psychiatrist. He says we see the same event, but how we perceive every situation

is by filtering that event with our own pair of dimes (paradigms) and from what we (know) about that situation!

I first met Dr. Glasser in 1992 when he spoke to our teaching staff in Bemidji, Minnesota. Sixteen years later in Colorado Springs, I became RTC (Reality Therapy Certified). What does this have to do with veterans? For this vet and others like me who have experienced trauma through combat, his ideas might explain why some of us behave the way we do.

More importantly, how to make things better for ourselves or continue connecting habits by choice!

My *quality world* (those people, principles, and materialistic things that I have and want to have) pictures were a lot different before I went to Vietnam than what soon evolved upon my return to the world (the USA and my *quality world*). Pair of dimes...hell, I felt *short changed!!!!*

Besides our survival need, let's compare our other basic needs to a car engine. Glasser explains that we have four psychological needs: love and belonging, fun, freedom, and power. We all need an engine to get anywhere. Can you remember going out to your car and trying to start it only it sputters or worse...? When we get up some mornings, our engine is telling us something...suggests we should consider heeding more attention to *our* mind in the morning when we are getting up. It's been my observation that we take better of our real car's engine or even out toenails, often at the expense or neglecting our own psychological needs!

My *quality world* pictures and engine were smoothly operating before Nam. But I was looking through a completely different pair of glasses then (what I knew and my values). When I got back, the way I was acting and thinking through my new lenses put me onto my back wheels, literally, out of control. My emotions and physiology out of anger and confusion soon had my picture

of myself removed from other former friends and acquaintances, throwing me out of their *quality world* pictures. One former friend said it best at a social gathering, “My God, I think we have created a monster!”

And, as Glasser suggests, once you remove something or someone and toss it out of your *quality world*, it is very difficult, at best, to get back into the picture!

At the Rendezvous, I would like to share with veterans, spouses, and friends, some thoughts of total behavior and “lessons learned”. For example, one of Glasser's premises is that one should not even consider brain medication unless there is pathology involved. I learned the hard way: lessons learned!

In Columbus at the Rendezvous, I will explain the importance of total behavior in relation to our quality world (those people, ideas or principles, and toys that are important to us); how it's the thinking and doing that creates physiology and emotions; and that we have a choice between choosing connecting habits or deadly social habits.

In an address a few months ago to the Third Division, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, brigade commander Colonel Jones said, “We spend so much time preparing you to survive in combat, today we're going to help you survive in life.”

I will share with you some proactive thoughts using Choice Theory at this year's Rendezvous at Fort Benning. Please, don't forget your own glasses!

Regards,  
Stephen “Tower” Johnson G 75th

#### **The Ten Axioms of Choice Theory**

The only person whose behavior we can control is our own.

All we can give another person is information.

All long-lasting psychological problems are relationship problems.

The problem relationship is always part of our present life.

What happened in the past has everything to do with what we are today, but we can only satisfy our basic needs right now and plan to continue satisfying them in the future.

We can only satisfy our needs by satisfying the pictures in our Quality World.

All we do is behave.

All behavior is Total Behavior and is made up of four components: acting, thinking, feeling and physiology.

All Total Behavior is chosen, but we only have direct control over the acting and thinking components. We can only control our feeling and physiology indirectly through how we choose to act and think.

All Total Behavior is designated by verbs and named by the part that is the most recognizable.



# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Michael T. Etheridge

*No Submission*



## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Nate Smith

Greetings from Southwest Asia again. I'm way behind on the email list and a number of other items. I haven't been CONUS for more than a few days since Christmas, so for everyone that I haven't got back to, I'm sorry. If anyone wants to help take care of association business, I could use your help. Drop me a line at [rangersmith275@comcast.net](mailto:rangersmith275@comcast.net) Ranger Mac is putting together a 20 year reunion trip for Panama in October. Contact him at [mac@rangermac.com](mailto:mac@rangermac.com) for more info. The following article was written by Ranger Rich Hecht.

### All My Ranger Buddies Have Grown Up!

By Ranger Rich Hecht

It started in 1996 when I read in the Tacoma News Tribune, that there was going to be a Ranger Reunion held at Ft. Lewis. I had served with 2/75 Ranger Battalion at Lewis from 1988-1991 and still lived in the area, but most of the guys I had served with had either ETS'd also or stayed in and gone elsewhere. I had had the opportunity to visit the Bn on a few occasions over the previous few years to see friends, but the visits had gotten fewer and longer in between as more guys that I knew moved on.

Early on during the reunion, I hooked up with Ranger Mac. Mac had been injured during the jump into Panama and was confined to a wheelchair. Mac served in another company than I had and was also junior to me, so I never knew him beforehand. I introduced myself and made a new friend. Mac later volunteered to serve as the 2/75 UD for the 75th RRA. He is currently organizing a reunion trip to Panama to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Operation Just Cause. The only other guy to show up from my company that I had known was Ranger Kenoski, who had been senior to me to by a couple of years. He was a Tabbed Spec 4 when I arrived at Bn and didn't like newbie privates, other than to smoke them for violations of standards! I didn't like him very much at the time and thought he was an immature ass. I came into the Army at 22 after a couple of years of college and also



having worked a real job for a bit. I turned 23 a month after arriving at 2/75, was older and had more "life" experiences than most of the guys who were in charge of me. This ruffled some feathers but the adjustments were mine to make, which I did, but not before doing an untold number of push-ups.

I hadn't seen or even thought about Kenoski in years and he was just as surprised to see me as I was of him.

Being that there wasn't anyone else there that he knew either, we ended up hanging out together by default. It turned out that he was in a similar line of work as me and had also stayed in the area after he ETS'd. We palled around for the three days of the reunion and have kept in touch since. What I learned from that meeting was that during our time "in," we really only get to see a small slice of what someone is all about. We all get to grow up, move on with our lives and build upon the successful lessons learned while in Bn.

There was a kid in my squad named Ranger Stan Keonig. Stan was from a small town near St. Louis, had graduated early from high school and enlisted when he was still 17. He was the "goofy" one, the one that every one of us has in his squad. A nice enough guy, but someone who just wouldn't listen to anyone else's advice, someone who earned a crappy nickname for being a immature doofus. We tried to take him out with us, tried get him "hooked up" and tried to be a big brother to him. He wanted to do his own things, so long as he pulled his weight, we let him.

In 2004 there was another reunion at Ft. Lewis. This time, one of my buddies, Ranger Kevin Johnson, came out from Chicago to attend with me. For this reunion, word had gotten out what a good time was had in 1996 and the turnout was huge. With the War On Terror in full swing and the Rangers fully involved, everyone wanted to be a part of something grand. Kevin asked me if I knew where Ranger

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

Keonig lived, if he was still in the area. We managed to find an address for him, but nobody answered the door.

Now, while I keep in regular contact with Kevin, who became a police officer after he left the Army, I hadn't thought of Keonig since 2004. In April 2009 I was driving around when I passed the neighborhood where he had lived. I've been by there a couple of hundred times and never once thought of him until that day. I have no idea what made me stop, but I did. I looked up his name on the gate buzzer and pushed his number. When he answered, I was stunned for a minute and then said, "Hey Stan, its Rich Hecht from the Ranger Bn!" He (thankfully) buzzed me in and I got to see that the "goofy" kid had grown up. He had recently retired from the Army after his 20 years and had spent nearly the entire last year in Iraq as a platoon sergeant. He had been married and divorced, remarried and now had three kids. His post-retirement life was going to be filled with a civilian inspectors job on post. His voice was the same, but had gotten raspy from his time serving as a Drill Sergeant. I learned that he had become an avid mountain biker, which is something I do too. I left his house after an hour, with fresh contact info and a promise to get together soon.

Even though you eat, live, sleep, shit and horse around together with someone for years, you never truly know how successful he may become.

Ranger Steve Filing is another buddy who stayed in, finding that the Army life was for him. He went from serving in 2/75 to being selected for the Ranger Reconnaissance Detachment. After serving there for a few years and successfully completing HALO and Scuba schools, Steve made it through the selection for the most-special of Army Special Forces units, where has served since. Steve has been on real-world operations around the globe and has been promoted to Sergeant Major. Just this past week, I got to spend just a few hours with him for dinner and drinks, when he was in the area to conduct some training that he could have told me about, but would then have had to kill me. While I consider myself to be in pretty good shape, he was extremely fit looking and at ease with himself. He had the kind of air about him that only comes with the hard won life of a life-long soldier.

He has been to places and done things that are only shown in adventure movies and yet the thing he spoke about the most, was his desire to be at home with his wife. Steve serves in the unit that all of us who served together as privates, wish we could have served in, yet know fully that even if given the chance, the odds were against us making it. Steve made it and continues to serve both successfully and honorably.

The lesson learned for me is that for all of us who survive the trials of life in the Army, the Rangers and sometimes in combat, we all get to come home and grow up. We all get to learn from our experiences and share them with others. We all get to learn from our mistakes and pass them to the next generation so they can learn from our errors. And even though we all become adults, it is just as important that we remember how to enjoy the simple things in life, the way we did in our youth.

The names in this article have been changed.

Rich Hecht served as the 2/75 UD from 2000 to 2007, served in Bco 2/75 from 1988-1991, graduated from RS Class 13-89 and participated in Operation Just Cause.

### **Operation Just Cause Anniversary Trip – October 14th – 20th**

To all Operation Just Cause Rangers, this year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Ranger lead invasion. This October 14th – 20th return and visit the beautiful and modern day Panama as well as some of the battle fields we fought upon 20 years ago.

Below is a tentative trip itinerary, the dates are set, but any reference to cost or prices right now are not. Airfares to Panama are reasonable right now, and accommodations in country are inexpensive. Travel insurance is recommended.

#### **Just Cause Reunion Itinerary includes:**

Visiting Noriega's old mansion, Rio Hato, Punta Patilla (now a shopping mall)  
El Valle de Anton, the crater of an extinct volcano  
Boquete, the most beautiful place in Panama  
And of course visit the Panama canal itself, (the locks and museum)  
Optional side trips include:  
Casco Viejo, the site of "old Panama" after Henry Morgan sacked the city in 1671.  
The canal zone  
La Comandancia and Modelo prison sites  
Amador causeway - beautiful vistas of Panama city, good restaurants, shopping and nightlife.



Seal Bernie, Gurkha Pete, Nate & Gurkha guards



## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

By SEAN GARNER  
Special to The Oakland Press

As a child with severe verbal and physical ticks and an almost absolute inability to comprehend anything in print, Frank Campanaro still remembers a few distinct words of advice from his father. He told me, "You'll have to do something, but you can forget about joining the military," Campanaro recalled, which devastated the younger man who wanted nothing more than to serve his country.

The Clarkston native, now 43, and a son of a building entrepreneur and decorated military veteran, has struggled his whole life from noticeable cases of dyslexia, obsessive compulsive disorder and Tourette's Syndrome. But he didn't let his disabilities stop him. The U.S. Small Business Administration recently named Campanaro the Veteran Small Businessperson of the Year at both the state and Midwest levels. Campanaro said the distinctions were flattering but, mostly, meaningless. In spite of the official individual recognition, Campanaro insisted the honor was essentially recognition of the work by his staff.

"Honestly, I could care less about that crap," Campanaro said. "However, anything that helps our business, which means we get to do more work, which means we get to hire more veterans, I'm all for that. They gave the award to me, but the award should go to the team." Before Campanaro came to be an entrepreneur, he took on a series of jobs, eventually serving as a personal chef for former President Gerald Ford. It was serving Ford that Campanaro said he found the courage to bring his dream to fruition. "President Ford was someone who could really appreciate who I was as a human, and understood what I wanted to do and what I was capable of," Campanaro said. "The president actually helped me get into the military, and that just changed everything."

Now, Campanaro is the founder and CEO of the \$50 million Bingham Farms-based defense contracting company Trillacorpe Construction. He is in Palo Alto, Calif. closing a contract which could reach upwards of \$30 million. Campanaro hires veterans every chance he gets, preferring to hire vets over lifelong civilians when the qualifications are similar, and actively seeks veterans in need of employment. "In an attempt to make a few bucks,



we are doing a lot of good work for a lot of good people," said Robert Pulte, senior vice president of the housing division at Trillacorpe. "Our emphasis is doing everything we can to find employment for (the veterans) because a lot of times, these soldiers are forgotten. If we're building something that they're

going to be living in, sleeping in, then we do our best to make sure we deliver the best product for them."

Campanaro's lifelong admiration for those in uniform was strongly reinforced by his own service. Campanaro served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment (Army Rangers), considered one of the most demanding and capable combat forces in the U.S. military. In the Rangers, Campanaro served in several foreign engagements, including Operation Just Cause in 1989, where his squad apprehended Panamanian military dictator Manuel Noriega. Cathy Gase, of the Michigan branch of the Small Business Administration, said Campanaro epitomizes what it means to be an American entrepreneur. She said that he distinguished himself from other veteran small business owners with his energy and integrity. "He's putting his money where his mouth is," Gase said. "He not only served his country in the military but now he is honoring veterans, and he is continuing to serve our country by providing jobs and economic opportunities for veterans that may not have many other options, especially in this economy."

Campanaro does not take his reputation as a champion for veterans lightly. Aside from his duties at Trillacorpe, he also is on the board of directors for the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers' Fund, and has a history of assisting veterans in need that predates his involvement in either organization. Campanaro was a landlord for several years after leaving the Army and was always looking to help out veterans, sometimes allowing them to stay at on his property free of charge until they were able to make a life for themselves, Pulte said. "He's one heck of an advocate for the military and the veterans' association," Pulte said. "He's a bulldog."

Serving those who serve the nation is Campanaro's primary goal, in part, because many don't understand the devastating psychological effects of active combat, he said, adding that he had to overcome severe alcoholism after leaving the service and empathizes with veterans who have

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)**

a painful transition from military to civilian life. “Humans are prolific. They’re habit-forming and they get used to a routine,” Campanaro said. “The military has quite a pleasant routine and when you rotate back into the civilian world, you’re in complete chaos and disarray. Nobody has the level of respect for each other that they’re supposed to. The teamwork really isn’t there. When you start mixing that with frustration from the battlefield, you start thinking, O Wow, I don’t fit in. They start thinking, I’m a potential menace to society.”

Campanaro said he caters to fellow veterans by demanding the same strict standards of performance and appearance that soldiers must follow while in active service. “You don’t have to play all the games to climb the corporate ladder in a military themed operation because we’re past all that crap,” Campanaro said. “In the military, you don’t get excited when you do something personally; you’re satisfied when the mission is completed. Everybody is supposed to perform personally. So when you realize that you can thrive in that same paradigm that you are used to, you have a lot more comfort.”



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

**Unit Director - Bill Bohte**

John Harvey Wilson



bad chow, Wayne C. Smith, payday parades, and monthly 20-mile marches.

John was a HS grad and might have had a few college hours. Thus he was considered an “intellectual” in our group of bandits and drop-outs. He had “smarts” along with his education...his GT score was bout 158. (GT of 136 is the Mensa standard.)

John and I stayed in “A” company for the next 4 years which included of gyrotation to Germany and to provide a bit of culture. At the end of our enlistments, John was discharged while I

**From the Funeral Program Provided by Jack Moore**

**Remembering John Wilson**

Last October 19th, LTC (Ret) John Wilson passed on peacefully at his home, and it gave us pause to remember our brother of old. John had been a young Lt. in the 3779<sup>th</sup> LRRP in the early 60s and had gone on, as many of those old LRRPs had, to greater accomplishments. Aside from a brisk salute and an “AIRBORN SIR” I had little contact with John or any officer for that matter. Being a new slick sleeve in the company it was my personal responsibility to lie low and try and survive. I soon came to see there was a depth to this company of soldiers that amazes me to this day as I learn more from this band of bandits. Now a Lieutenant, John had been in the Army for 12 years by this time and was a perfect element of this unique cadre of professionals.

Lee Farley says: I first met John in mid 1954 in Company A, 511<sup>th</sup> Abn. Inf. Regt., 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. Those were days of long hours, short pay,

headed for Fort Bragg.

Bert Wiggins recalls: John, Lee and I were in the same rifle company in the 11th Airborne Div at Fort Campbell in 1955.

Bob C. Murphy says John and I were contemporaries, skydiving buddies, college buddies, fellow platoon leaders in the LRRP company, got married at the same time, were Vietnam company commanders together (he in the 173rd, me in the 101st), at Benning and Carlisle at the same time etc. We met while skydiving in 1959 at the opening day of Jacques Istel’s Orange Parachuting center. We made about twenty jumps together then and we both went back to school, he to Cornell, and I to Syracuse. We jumped together from then on every weekend at Syracuse until we went in the army in 1960.

John again showed up in 1960 as a new 2<sup>nd</sup> LT in the 505<sup>th</sup> ABG in Mainz-Gonsenheim, Germany and Lee and Bert (on his second tour of duty) were in the 504<sup>th</sup> ABG, Long

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

range Patrol. John and Lee spent lots of evenings in Wiesbaden pursuing a couple of “Air Force brats.” He was soon the main man at his wedding reception at the Wiesbaden Air Force Officer’s club. Lee moved on to Wildflecken, Germany to join the V Corps LRRP and later to Fort Benning for OCS.

When I finished OCS, Lee recalls: I managed an assignment to the 24<sup>th</sup> Inf Div in Augsburg, Germany. I landed in Frankfurt and made a call to the LRRP Company. I spoke to LT Bob Murphy and learned that John Wilson was now a V Corps LRRP.

Bob and John somehow got my orders changed and I returned to the LRRPs for bout 2 more years. I got to know John somewhat better. He was still an “intellectual”, finding time for night courses....He was also a hard-charging, gung-ho, boon dock-loving LRRP soldier. ....And he found time to act as best man at my marriage in late 1963.

From Bob Murphy: Then there was the time he, Bert, I and others were almost court-martialed by Gen John K Singlaub for skydiving, but as they say that’s another story.



**Photo from Edward Miller’s collection**  
John on a skydiving trip in Germany circa 1964

Well as Bert tells it: There was one incident in Frankfurt in ‘63. They had just opened a small civilian airport and the Germans had asked a few of us to do some sky diving at their opening celebration. We had three Super Cubs for aircraft and there was a bit of drinking and partying. Al Becker and I were there with John Wilson and Bob Murphy. We also had a West Point Cadet with us for summer training who was at the party. The cadet reported us for sky diving while drunk, opening low (I heard one person comment that he had opened at 400 feet and there was one person below him), and generally just having a hell of a good time. This led to an Article 32 investigation by 7th Army Hq. Nothing ever came of it but all of our records were flagged, “No Favorable Personnel Action” for a few months.



**Photo from Edward Miller’s collection**  
John in free fall. One of his many skydiving jumps.

Eddie Miller was in the LRRPs from Aug. 1962 to Jun. 1965 and also one of the many skydivers in the company. He was the driver for Lt Murphy during the time that John was in the Company. Ed remembers him as being a great guy as was Murphy. I do remember on one occasion when we had been out checking on the patrols and we met up with John and his driver John Ikard, as we were traveling together he and Murphy starting shooting at each other with their 45s while we were driving down a Germany highway. They were using blanks of course, but what a scene. Later when I arrived in Vietnam (1966) I was placed at the front of the bus to ride shotgun from Saigon to Ben Hoa as we pulled into the 173<sup>rd</sup> area here comes this officer running down the bus and made the driver stop and I saw it was John he got me off the bus and we talked for awhile and once I got processed in I went to my unit and that was the last time I saw him.

Lee remembers in early 1965 John and Bob headed for the Infantry Career Course; I headed for RVN and we lost touch for a few years.

Sometime in the late 70s John, his wife Lonny and daughter Lorelei visited my retirement neighborhood near Columbus, GA. The main reason for the visit was for them to participate in a competitive horse show. After observing them at ‘Cross-Country’, ‘Stadium Jumping’ and ‘Dressage’ I decided that Ranger training and parachuting were much safer/saner activities. After “a day of horsing around” we filled up on steaks and beer at my place.....and lost contact for bout 20 more years.

In about 2003 I managed to locate John as part of an effort to locate all possible members of the V Corps LRRP Co. John was then a manager for the Pennsylvania Parole System and was residing in Berlin, PA. I visited John and his new wife, Chris, in February 2004 and we maintained contact until his death in Oct 2008.

*Some well-known writer stated words to the effect that: “The death of any man lessens all men.” This idea seems valid if the person we lose is like John Wilson.....and so many, many others I have known. Lee Farley*



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

John was inurned in Arlington National Cemetery this April 20, 2009 and we were represented at the ceremony by Jack Moore. Jack and Ron Dahl gathered together a Red Beret and a set of Master Parachute wings complete with background to present to John's wife Chris. The beret was authorized by Corp, Lt. Bob Murphy went to England to purchase them and they were the uniform for a short while until General Creighton Abrams ordered them gone.

**Jack's report of the trip follows.**

I just returned to day from DC and Arlington. Good Trip, got disoriented (not lost) a few times. Driving from Balt/Wash International was an adventure. I saw a lot of Maryland and Virginia.

The funeral was awesome. There were about 75-80 people attending many of the men were from John's Company in VN and were from 2nd Batt 173rd. I do have copies of the funeral program and will sent one to Bill B for his use if needed.

The day of the funeral it rained a lot. The Old Guard was there in force with a platoon of riflemen, the Old Guard Band, the Caisson with horses and riders, the flag detail, the gun salute detail of 7, a detail of Roman Catholic soldiers that prepared the altar, 2 Roman Catholic's that presented the US Flag and John's Cremains at the Chapel.

The entire guard were wet from the rain but never missed a beat. They walked about a mile (+/-) in the rain to the grave site, did the ceremony and were flawless. When they left the only route was through the mud and again it never effected their movement.

One of John's 173rd friends was the bag piper and did a breathtaking series of songs.

John's daughter is a full colonel and evidently is on the upgrade because she is at Carlisle Barracks but also spends a lot of time in DC on assignments.

John's wife, Chris was a very nice lady and was escorted by an Army Major that has been assigned to her since John's death. We told him that although he was a leg that he was OK.

After the funeral, we had a presentation program and a luncheon. The 173rd presented a stained glass window to her. I explained the significance of the red beret and the story (as I knew it) of how it was adopted by the troops but not especially accepted by the higher ups. She accepted it, cried and said to thank each and every one of you. All in all it was a good trip and I am sure that Chris

appreciated our input. I would do it again but I'll not look forward to having to do it again.

Thank You Jack for representing us there and for your report. Well done.

**The Obituary**

Lt. Col. John Harvey Wilson was born in Auburn, NY, a son of the late Ervin Otto and Laura Harvey Wilson. He attended Catholic elementary and high schools before graduating from Cornell University in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations. Later studies at Ohio University earned a master's degree in foreign affairs. In addition to various courses in military leadership, tactics and management, John completed the Army's Command and General staff College in 1974 and the War College in 1982.

John enjoyed two careers until retirement in February 2006. He served as a parole-hearing officer with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, which capped a 20-year employment in the criminal justice system, and he also was retired from the Army. During a career spanning 32 years, he rose from the rank of private at enlistment in 1952 to lieutenant colonel at retirement in 1984.

John's military career included peacetime assignments in Germany, Morocco and throughout the United States. His tours of duty in Southeast Asia included command of a rifle company of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep.) on combat operations in 1966-67. His last overseas assignment, in 1980-81, was with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Lebanon, where he simultaneously commanded all American military observers in the Middle East as senior U.S. military observer and an international group of 84 officers from 16 nations as chief, Observer Group, Lebanon. Locally, he was assigned as professor of military science, for ROTC at Bucknell University, from 1977-80.

John's military awards included the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with "V" device for Valor and two Oak Leaf Clusters, The Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the United Nations Observer Medal. He was most proud of the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

**From the Funeral Program Provided by Jack Moore****Run For the Wall**

With May already here and Memorial Day not too far off there is an event that is kicking off on the 13<sup>th</sup> that will be the 21<sup>st</sup> Run for the Wall. More than an event this is a mission carried out by hundreds of motorcyclists from all over the country. Run for the wall is a tribute to Prisoners Of War and the Missing In Action, from all the wars that this country has engaged in. The mission is a motorcycle ride from coast to coast, crossing via two routes, through the heartland of this country ending in Washington DC and the Vietnam Wall. The trip involves two routes, starting in Rancho Cucamonga, CA, one a central route goes up I-15 to I-40 and the other a southerly direction goes out I-10. Hundreds of motorcycle riders will be organized into platoons and will ride in tight formations at highway speeds for 300 to 350 miles per day for 10 days. Friends who have made the trip say "that is the most stressful part of the trip" being in a column of bikes with only 10 feet between you for hours at highway speed can be intense. The trip is organized very well with controlled gas stops designed to

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

top off a large number of tanks in a short time and with full consideration for food and lodging. Order of travel: SR Leadership / Missing man Formation; Plts.#1&2, bikes side by side; Plts. # 3,4,5 & 6 bikes staggered; Platoon # 7, tikes, bikes with sidecar or trailers; Chaplain Corp/Medical Crew; RFTW Chase Trucks and Rear Road Guards.



**Photo by Bill Bohte**

Welcoming the RFTW riders on their way through the Coachella Valley

I was on the overpass on I-10 as the group entered the Coachella valley. There were many of us with 50 full sizes flags and a single POW/MIA flag to wave as the riders came by. We waited on the overpass for over an hour with some time to think about what it all meant and as the truckers passed under, many leaned on their air horn as did some cars and RVs. Then about 0915 they came. Approximately 200 of these devoted riders headed eastbound over Whitewater grade and down I-10. They came riding at us in Platoons of 40 or so with one platoon after another. They could see all of us far off in the morning sun, standing tall with our red, white and blue American flags lofting in the wind. The riders passed below with their snappy and emotional salutes given in honor of Old Glory and those that never returned. Then within the span of a few minutes they had passed buy continuing eastward for 10 days, 2900 miles, many Parades and countless acts of honor and respect.



**Photo by Tuck Broich**



**Photo by Bill Bohte**

View from the front. Close to what the riders saw.

On Saturday May 23 they would enter Arlington National cemetery in full view of the pentagon and lay their wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In Washington DC, on Memorial Day, the group will unite with other riders from all over the country to form Rolling Thunder XXII, a Welcome Home and We Have Not Forgotten Parade from the Pentagon to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial -THE WALL. Their mission is then complete.

**2009 RANGER RENDEZVOUS**

Have you made your reservations for the reunion in August? Time is flying by and now is a good time to get it taken care of it. The easiest way to register is to do it on line. You can even make your payments online if you're so inclined. Just go the web site at [www.75thrra.com](http://www.75thrra.com) and get it done. That reminds me, I haven't done that yet. Well as soon as this is sent off I will take care of it. Lee Farley will be reserving a block of room at HOJOs so get registered early. For you A Co Rangers be sure to look me up if you make the trip, I want to get you included in our pictures and I done want to find out later that I missed meeting one of you. I know some of you will be meeting in November on the hill but most of you are in a close enough proximity that you could make the trip. I am looking forward to seeing you there. I know that times are tough and finances are scarce but as we have seen, some of us may not make it to the next one. This is a better stimulus package than you will get any where else. I will be there August 2<sup>nd</sup> and stay to the 8<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see all of you there.

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

**Taps**

Keith Mearns

Keith Mearns arrived in the company in very early '64, and was assigned to Commo. He was a really good guy, originally from NY or NJ. He was a carpenter, became a house builder, and did such a good job for some big-timers there who wanted to build vacation homes in Idaho he was asked to go build them. He fell in love with the place and was so successful, he moved his family out there to Northern Idaho, on Lake Coeur d'Alene, and built the business with his son.

We saw him at the reunion in Colorado, but have not heard much from him as he was getting sick over the past few years. Keith passed away in early March. He went young, of ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, an unexplainable and incurable disease. The Lord has mysterious ways.



**November or December 1965 at LRRP ski training in Berchtesgaden, Germany. Mearns is 2nd man down the hill, above Toby Ivey. As a**

**skilled skier, he served as a group instructor.**

**Andy Milasko**

Andrew Milasko was born in New York City on March, 25, 1941 to Andrew and Josephine (Badger) Milasko. He served in the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions from 1959 before joining VII Corps LRRPs in 1961 as one of the original LRRPs. Andy was renowned for his wit and sense of humor and was one of those guys who never complained.

He was assigned to Sergeant Altieri's patrol, and the combination of Altieri and Milasko was always good for laughs.

Andy spent most of his post LRRP life as a union official with Local 135 Carpenter's Union in New York City. He was an avid boater on the Hudson River with the Seaweed



Stony Point Yacht Club. He was also an active member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association's Walter E. Hughes Chapter located in Port Jervis, New York. As a testimony to Andy's popularity, the chapter Chairman, Walt Hughes, although well into his eighties, drove at night to be present at the wake. This was particularly significant because Walt was one of those giants who crossed the WAAL River in Holland as depicted in "A Bridge Too Far," and his action photograph is included in General Gavin's memoirs. So naturally, he is our own hero.

Andy is survived by his mother, Josephine, his daughter Holly and her husband Rich Martucci, his son Andrew and his wife Loren, in addition to his sisters, brothers in law, grandchildren and relatives. He is pre-deceased by his father Andrew and sister Mary Bell.

Tom Forde represented us at the funeral. He writes, "I attended Andy's wake and funeral last night and to-day (March 31 and April 1 respectively). The wake was attended by an Honor Guard of the 82nd Airborne Association which stood by the casket and read a eulogy. The funeral Mass was said the following day at Saint Gregory Barbarigo Roman Catholic Church in Stony Point, New York. The interment was at the Veteran's Cemetery in Pomona, New York. An Honor Guard from West Point was present and conducted a flawless ceremony. The most touching moment was when a bugler played taps on a hillside about one hundred yards from the graveside. Not a dry eye among the attendees. Old Glory was presented to his mother who, although in her nineties, took it like a trooper.

All the Way !!!!!

Tom

**A Long Journey, but Well Worth It.**

I had been assigned to **Combat Support Company**, Recon platoon of the 505th, stationed at Lee Barracks. I got there in April of 1961 and it was, to me, a prison more than a Military unit. Gangs controlled different areas of the unit, gave the NCOs a hard time, and it appears that they controlled the KP and guard duty roster also, for I found myself on duty just about every other weekend. I was the only Chicano in the platoon, and even though I felt like

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

telling the NCOs to get their head out of the sand, I kept my mouth shut and did what I was told without any arguments, so I found myself on many a detail.

In December of 1961, we were notified that there would be a detail of NCOs at the theater at a certain date looking for volunteers for a special unit that the Army was coming up with. Any one that was interest would be allowed to go to the theater and check things out, orders from the Commanding General **8th infantry division**. GUESS WHAT? I happened to be on KP. **Battle group size** mess hall! I got all my work done, pots and pan man, so I strolled over to the Mess Sergeant, a big hillbilly from West Virginia, and asked for permission to go to the theater. He was an ugly Godzilla about 6 feet 5, looked down at me and pulling his cigar out of his freckled lips, said, "Son the only place you are going is to hell if you don't get yourself busy and mop this mess hall." As much as I felt like dumping a combination on his duff, I wasn't so sure whether I could whip him or not, so I chose not to. I think it was a good decision. So I just said, "Yes Sergeant," and went and got the mops and pan and headed to the rear of the Mess Hall. I left the mops and pan by the rear door, and headed straight to the theater. A sharp looking NCO met me at the door, explained everything to me and put my name on the list.

An hour later I returned to the mess hall and all hell broke loose, but I didn't care, I was already on the list. Talk about the verbal abuse that I took that afternoon - I was everything but a human being! I didn't let it get to me, I just said to myself, "you just better hope that I don't cross paths with you somewhere because if I we do, I may not whip you but you won't walk away laughing." Anyway, I was charged with leaving my place of duty and would be getting an article 15, date to be determined. Two days later, we had cleared the unit and we were on a train on our way to Nellingen. We were leaving hell behind. At our new unit, we were briefed about the mission of our unit and how important it was to the success of 7th Corps in a hostile engagement. I was assigned to SFC Egelston's patrol. Gjini and Foster were the scouts, and I was the radio operator. That was the first time I had heard about Morse code, and I said to myself, I will learn it before I go back to that nightmare of a unit. Pappy Egelston was a gift to us. He knew what we had to do and we never failed him. He treated us like his own children. Here, I met Searcy, Hansen, Brewer, Altirie, Lake, Pappy Thomas, **Jim Brown**, Charles Allen, Jurich, Nuanez, Pappy Egelston, House, Gonzales, Morales, Beecher and later as time went by, other great Soldiers came into the unit. Afterwards, I served in many different units, in various positions. But this is the only unit that brought tears to my eyes when it

was time to leave. Silent tears still flow in my heart. Oh, about the article 15, Major Maltese called me in and told me to go to one of the latrines and flush that paper work down the commode. God Bless him.

Ezequiel B. Evaro (zeke)  
LRRP Forever

**Sightings**

In April I visited Rowe Attaway and his wife Barbara at their waterside abode along the St. John River below Jacksonville, FL. He still shows the effects of two strokes and a heart attack, but nevertheless was able to toast the LRRPs with a cold beer.

Rick and Melissa Hathaway did a little recon to PA in late April and we all went to the Gettysburg battlefield for the day. You can't imagine the slaughter that occurred there, with primitive weapons and no armor protection, and poor ammo. It's a sobering place, and you should all try to get there to witness first-hand the notion that Freedom isn't free.

Now a crass commercial comment - Big news out of Grass Lake, MI where John and Cheryl Visel have opened Curley's Irish Pub - in the middle of a huge state camping and recreation area. So, bring your shelter halves, entrenching tools, mess kits and thirst for a unique outdoor/indoor adventure.



That is all. If you think Hathaway has been receiving too much ink lately, then feel free to send in something else. Contributions graciously accepted!

Kirk out.

**HEARD FROM:**

Well, well, well...

Got an email from Dirty Eddie that he is receiving his Masters Degree in History from the University of Colorado this month. And I didn't even know he could spell!!!! Any

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

congratulations you wish to extend to The Dirt can go to: [dirtyeddie1@msn.com](mailto:dirtyeddie1@msn.com) Dirty Eddie reports that: "I heard from Tony Richardson too, he's in Afghanistan doing some kind of medical IT support as a contractor." More info on that as I'm updated.

Didn't get any further contact from Bob Woostrom since the last issue, and since he had said he was looking to go back to the Mideast area, I assume that he made it back there for more EOD work. If anyone else hears from Bob, please let me know so I can update things.

John Henry Voyles says that he is doing well, as well as Rangers Vern Lund, Doc Jeans, Bill Walter, Christopherson, Harris, and the entire rest of the Washington state crew.

Richard Stutsman says that Kansas is still there, despite the recent attempts of Mother Nature to drown it.

**UNIT HISTORY / VII CORPS CD**

Sam Rodriguez sent me a new copy of the introduction to the VII Corps LRRP Association CD. The CD intro document is in PDF format, is 46 pages long, and is only about 9Megabytes. There is a lot of historical info in the document and the CD, including the "entire company" photograph of B Company Rangers taken at Fort Carson in 1972. The VII Corps LRRP CD, along with all the historical information we are collecting on C/58 and B/75 from Wild Bill Ramsdell, John Henry Voyles, Doc Wentzel and others could be compiled into one CD (or set of CD's) containing the entire history of the unit from its founding in Nelligen to the disbandment as B/75 was absorbed into the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis. Copies of this document and archived information on file at:

Flint Hall Library, Combat Studies Institute, Ft Leavenworth, Kansas.

The contents are referenced by Major Gebhardt in his book for the Combat Studies Institute: "Global War on Terror #10", as well as Stars and Stripes Historical Archives, plus other Military organizations. If you want to see a copy of the PDF Introduction, or purchase a copy of the entire VII Corps LRRP CD, contact Sam Rodriguez at:

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

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

As this issue is ready to go to press, we are approaching Memorial Day. I hope that Rudy Teodosio and all the rest of the old scrolls for the beginnings of the Battalions were able to make it to DC for the Memorial Day weekend and Rolling Thunder, and will report on that here as soon as I

get the opportunity (in the next issue, which won't be published until after the reunion)..

A couple of years ago Bill Bullen and I attended a funeral for Sergeant William Fernandez of Reading, Pennsylvania, who was killed serving in Iraq. Sgt Fernandez served in the LRS unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Sgt. Fernandez was only one of the most recent in a long line of funerals we have all attended during our lifetimes for fellow soldiers either killed in a combat zone or who died performing their duties.

We all remember the list of those in the first category, but on Memorial Day, I also remember guys like Gary Lauderdale and Bugs Moran, just to name two. Gary died after leaving B Company Rangers in an accident with an APC in Germany. Bugs was on duty with SF in Bosnia, and after his morning run, lit up a Kool and had a fatal heart attack. And we all remember Clarence Faught.

I don't know about the rest of you guys, but it kind of irks me that most people see it as a long 3-day weekend and a chance to get away or tune up the house for spring/summer, and don't really consider the original intent of the holiday or its significance. I'm not trying to dwell on it, but we can all recall that at the beginning of the Afghan and Iraqi conflicts the public (and the media) were very "gung ho" in recognizing service members and the sacrifices that they and their families make. As time passes, so wanes their attention and interest to the significance of the holiday.

If you happen to pass by some of the major websites where news is reported, you will see tens or hundreds of comments on the articles relating to politics, celebrities, or social issues. It is an unfortunate reality that articles pertaining to military and veteran's issues generate much less interest than "partisan" articles. I recently (long prior to Memorial Day) checked the number of responses to various types of articles at some of the major news and commentary websites.

As an example, there was:

A story concerning some politician's ridiculous statement (seriously) that wasn't worth spending the time reading it.

A story concerning a celebrity couple and the state of their relationship.

A story covering the Army Relief Fund and its hoarding funds meant for soldiers (which meant that soldiers did not receive the funds).

A story concerning the suicide rate among veterans and the work of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association in Washington lobbying on behalf of veterans.

All these stories were published at approximately the same time on the same date.



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

At the time that I checked the stories and the number of readers and comments each:  
The number of comments on the story covering the politician's statement was 4116.  
The number of comments on the story covering the celebrities' relationship was 9280.  
The number of comments on the story covering the IAVA lobbying was 22.  
The number of comments on the story covering the Army Relief Fund was 19.

It is no wonder many veterans groups and veterans feel they are the only group really lobbying for systemic reform, with "lip service" from the public at large, when the public manages to notice. This situation has existed since the Civil War, to one degree or another, and this is just the latest example of the issue. Unfortunately the current system for providing assistance to veterans doesn't work in any fashion that one could describe as adequate, or in a timely manner. I'm not denigrating the understaffed people at the VA who work hard on behalf of veterans every day, but addressing the overall neglect of the political system (including both parties) for attention to veteran's issues, veteran's assistance, and adequate funding for the programs and staffing needed to adequately address these needs. For those veterans, or the families of veterans, who are in dire need of assistance, quite often, the need becomes moot after the death of the veteran, incarceration, addiction, or economic ruin have rendered the assistance too little and too late. Had the system itself become appreciably better over the years, the hard work of the national veterans organizations and the IAVA attempting to continue to reform the system wouldn't be necessary. When was the last time you heard a major media outlet refer to the Walter Reed situation, and the success or failure of the steps taken to correct that situation and associated issues throughout the entire system? No wonder many veterans feel they are the only group really lobbying for systemic reform, with "lip service" from the public at large, when the public manages to notice. This weekend I will perform my duties for the Boy Scouts, conduct my necessary business activities, do the things needed around the house for my wife, and visit the local cemetery to place flags on the graves (including a trip to Reading for Sgt. Fernandez). I, like all of you, will be thinking of those who cannot do those things, and hoping that the efforts of these organizations bear fruit for all those who need it.

**COMPANY PICTURE 1972**

I have enclosed a copy of the photo of the entire company taken at Fort Carson in 1972 (that is the entire company with the exception of anyone on TDY or in the hospital or school somewhere). I see that Ranger Reynolds from the third platoon is wearing a neck brace in this photo, although I can't for the life of me remember what happened to require it.



That reminds me of the old morning formation report supposedly rendered by a First Sergeant after standing to and receiving the reports from the Platoon Sergeants:  
"Sir: All Present except 2 men in the hospital, 2 men in the latrine, and 2 of these sons-of-bitches I ain't never seen!"

**2009 75TH RRA REUNION**

The information about next year's reunion at Fort Benning August 2-9 will appear elsewhere in this issue under its separate section. Please refer to that section for information about the reunion. I will do my best to make sure that I am able to attend, and hope to see some of you there. By the time this issue of Patrolling arrives the reunion will be right around the corner

**OLD SCROLLS, 1ST Battalion Plankholders, and ALL Rangers:**

The original contact list started for the plankholders of the First Battalion has developed into a contact list for all Rangers from the various units.

Sherry Klein has undertaken the massive project of compiling and maintaining the unit roster/ distribution list for all the ranger units, and sends out email alerts every time the list is updated. You can contact her at: [sherrymcklein@aol.com](mailto:sherrymcklein@aol.com). If you want to see the current iteration of the contact list on the web, go to:

**<http://www.rangerfamily.org/Contact List Ranger/Ranger Contact List A J.htm>**

(Please note that the spaces between characters are necessary for the web address to work properly).

**PAT FUSCALDO AND COMPANY T-SHIRTS (REPEATED):**

Please DON'T contact Pat about the T-shirts I referred to in earlier articles. That was a misunderstanding on my part, and he doesn't need the email clogging up his inbox. Again, Pat, sorry about that! I'm repeating this in order to make sure Pat doesn't get any more emails than he already has.

**CONTACT INFO:**

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



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

*No Submission*



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

Hello everyone this is my last article before the reunion at Ft. Benning and I am looking forward to seeing those of you who are going to attend. Most of the people I have talked to told me they are all doing well and that they are looking forward to going to the reunion.

When I talked with Mike Warren he is really enjoying his retirement. He and Sharon went down to Houston Texas to visit his two sisters. They took three of their Grandchildren with them and also did the tourist thing with them. That way they could see the Space Center.

Carl and Rosie are also enjoying themselves out there in Arizona and they are looking forward to coming to the reunion again. Bruce Demboski and his wife who also live in Arizona are well. When I talked with him the last time he was out on his back deck enjoying the weather there.

Moe and Cindy Lamphere are doing great out there in South Dakota where Moe stays busy with his fencing business as well as with the Fire Department. He went to Texas since the last article to participate in some firefighting training down there. On the day I talked with him last week he was working in a snow storm. That is hard for me to comprehend since we are going through a serious drought here in Central Florida and have been experiencing temperatures in the mid 90's.

When I talked with Richard Badmilk yesterday he told me the snow had finally melted in the part of South Dakota where he lives. When he went to the VA hospital in Hot Springs for his 6 month check-up and they were happy with his health. He and his wife have decided to drive to the reunion so they can do some sight seeing along the way.

I have talked with Bill Fitzgerald several times since our last article, and I do have to make a correction of something I reported in the last article. I had misunderstood what he told me about his daughter that is in the military. I reported she was in Iraq when in fact she has orders to go but not until this November. I am sorry about the mix up. He and his wife will



not be able to attend the reunion this year because they will be out west for one of his other daughter's weddings. She is a game warden and biologist in Arizona and will be married on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Bear is still above ground and breathing. His son Willie was back at Ft. Hood as he came home on leave from Iraq. Bear and his wife went over to see him and his wife before he had to return. Willie made it back to Iraq alright and now will finish his third tour in the combat zone. Bear is now looking forward to coming to the

reunion, he was concerned that maybe he would not be able to make it if Willie came home on leave around that time.

George "Psycho" Christenson and his wife Julie are having fun getting their new house set up the way they want it. They are going to keep their house on Long Island as their primary home but the new home is a place to get away, and Psycho says he can hunt in his back yard there. At the time I talked with Psycho, Julie was out in Las Vegas visiting some of her friends and he was planning a surprise birthday party for her. Although they were planning to attend the reunion they had to change those plans because he is too busy at that time. I am going to miss them as we had a great time together at the South Dakota get together last year.

I talked with Ed "Maddog" Krause yesterday evening just as he was getting home. He said the weather up there in Wisconsin was mild right now and that they had a good syrup season this year. He and Janice collect maple syrup for the trees up there and boil it down. He said they got a couple hundred gallons this year. He did tell me that he and Janice would not be able to attend the reunion this year due to other more pressing plans. We will miss them also.

Tom and Janice Delaney are also doing well. Tom told me he had been able to get out and do some fishing, one of his favorite pastimes. They have been getting a lot of rain and it has prevented him from doing some of the exterior work he has wanted to do on their home. If you can, please send some of that rain down to us here in Florida.

**D/75 (CONTINUED)**

I did go to Jacksonville in April to see Ken and Linda Dern. They only live about two hours away from me. Linda had her sister come over so she could hear the humorous stories we tell about our time in Nam. She is a history buff and studies the civil war and visits different civil war battlefields around the southeast. We had a nice evening at their home and a barbeque.

One of my favorite stories is when Ken and I were new to Delta Company and out on an early mission. We got into an Area where there were several holes that looked like shallow foxholes. Sgt Kravaka who was our team leader at that time had us set up a defensive fighting position from which we could run some recons. He left me in that position with my M-60 and a ring of claymores while the rest of the team went out in two man teams to recon the area. After a little while, I heard a loud commotion coming through the jungle and Ken yelled out, look out gator coming. All of a sudden I saw a huge lizard break through the area, which kept on running. We realized after this the shallow holes were probably dug by the lizard looking for food. The rest of the mission was uneventful and we had a great time telling the story when we returned to our compound after the mission. Both Ken and I were from Florida and had seen many gators down here before we went to Vietnam, and this lizard was as big as any gator we had seen when we were home.

As I mentioned earlier in this article we have been having a huge drought here in Central Florida. During the month of April we only had one afternoon of rain and a couple afternoons in May so far. The temperature has been in the Mid 90's instead of 80's as we should be. I am submitting this article on May 15<sup>th</sup> and as of the writing of the article we have 12 active brush fires burning in and around Orlando area some as large as 1000 acres.

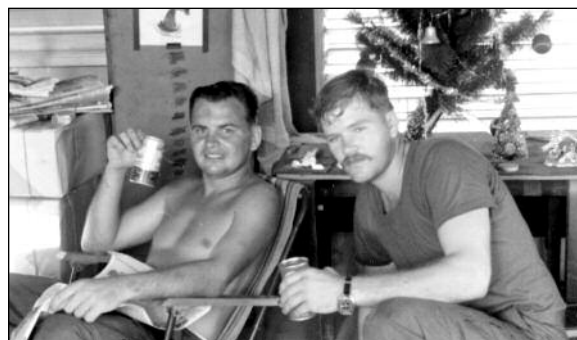
On a positive note my health is improving. I have lost about 60 lbs. as of the writing of this article, and my heart is working a 50% rather than the 25% when I was released from the hospital in 2005. I am still having trouble with my back but I'll survive until I can get it repaired. I am still able to get out of the house and work on small woodworking projects on my front porch. I just wish lumber was less expensive.

Since this is my last article before the reunion I would like to say I have really enjoyed being the unit director for the last two years. I enjoy calling everyone to have information to enter in these articles; I also like the fact that some of our ranger family members have contacted me to inform us where they are and what has happened to them since Vietnam and the time we spent together in Delta

Company. There will be another election at the reunion to elect the next unit director so if any of you would be willing to take this position I will be happy to help you. I am also not opposed to keeping the job for another two years. I only say that because some of the people I have talked with have asked me if I would be willing to serve another term.

The photos I decided to submit for this article were all in-country shots. One is of Moe Lamphere prepared to go to the field. Another is of Ken Dern and Johnny White in the Hooch. The third is a shot of the nose art we loved to see coming over the tree tops to pick us up and take us home. The last is a picture of me standing behind the hooch in one of my pairs of tiger fatigues.

Richard "Herd" Nelson Out  
RLTW



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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

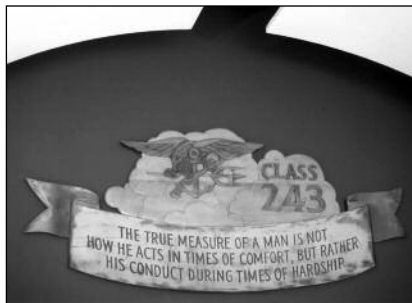
BY: Rick Stetson

Thanks to excellent planning by Bob Hernandez, Marshall Larson and Ron "Tess" Tessensohn, the 2009 E Company San Diego reunion was an outstanding success.



The city was in full bloom with flowers everywhere as if to welcome the visiting Rangers. A full slate of activities had been lined up for the week with the Mission Valley Resort and its well-stocked hospitality room serving as reunion headquarters. On Monday, the early arrivals toured the world-famous San Diego Zoo with over 4000 animals to include gorillas in an African rain forest.

Rangers are known for never leaving one of their own behind and this was evident in San Diego when we learned that Bob Maushardt was in the Medical Center San Diego (now called the Bob Wilson Naval Hospital) awaiting knee surgery. Only three visitors at a time were allowed to see the former E Company first sergeant so while a delegation headed to the hospital, others toured the Veterans Museum and Memorial at nearby Balboa Park. Navy enlisted personnel in dark trousers and short-sleeve khaki shirts (no more all-white summer uniforms for sailors) were helpful in providing directions as we went through the Navy's most advanced medical facility. Opened in 1988, the hospital treats some 4000 patients daily while looked after by a staff of 6,700.



Maushardt, who holds a CIB with two stars as a result of fighting in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, was delighted when some of his Vietnam Rangers dropped by to see him. He said that operation or no operation, he would join us for both our memorial service and then for the banquet the following night. It turned out to be "no

operation" because when doctors told him there was significant risk for a person his age to undergo surgery, he decided to skip the operation and attend the reunion instead.



After touring the Veterans Museum and saying good bye to

Top, we posed for a group photo in front of the former Navy hospital chapel next to a purple heart monument that read, "You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who fought for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know." Photos were also taken in front of the B-24 Memorial located in the Air Garden near the medical center. A bronze B-24 model with an 18-foot wingspan served as an impressive reminder that 6,700 B-24's were built in San Diego during WWII.

From the Memorial Garden, we caught a trolley and toured part of the 1200 acre Balboa Park, stopping for lunch at the Prado Restaurant and visiting a few of the 15 museums located in the park. On the way back to the motel, Hernandez told of meeting some Iraq veterans in the hospital who had noticed our E



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



Company t-shirts. The young vets expressed thanks to those who had served in Nam saying they knew it was not easy when we returned home, in many cases to a hostile reception. They went on to say it is not that

way today as our nation seems to have learned a lesson as to how veterans should be treated. A Ranger salute goes to all who continue to serve our country in dangerous places with appreciation to the young veterans in the Navy hospital who made it a point to thank those who had served in Vietnam.



Wednesday morning we set out to tour the USS Midway, the nation's longest serving aircraft carrier that saw duty from 1945 to 1992. Visitors can take a self-guided audio tour of the ship and in many of the various compartments, Navy veterans told what they did while serving as a member of the 4,500 crew on board the Midway. They were deservedly proud of the countless hours of volunteer work put in to make the carrier "ship shape" so it could be dedicated as a museum in 2004.



A number of Navy planes were parked on the Midway's four-acre flight deck but the weapons system we picked to stand in front of for a group photo was a Huey gunship, an aircraft that was a real friend to any E Company patrol that had been in contact with the enemy.

After touring the Midway, we had lunch at nearby Seaport Village and then drove up to the Cabrillo National Monument at Point Loma. Juan Cabrillo was the first



European to set foot on the West Coast and there is a museum at the visitors center with exhibits about the Spanish explorers. Point Loma, a peninsula rising 422 feet above the harbor, offered great views of

San Diego, the Navy base and surrounding ocean. Some of the gun emplacements built to defend the city during WWI and WWII are still visible as well as the Old Point Loma Lighthouse which was built in 1855.



Following our visit to Point Loma, we traveled to Old Town for dinner in a Mexican restaurant's outdoor courtyard.

The food was excellent however, a single waitress assigned to cover one long table was overwhelmed trying to keep up with all the separate orders and she is probably still trying to figure out who got what that night.

Thursday morning we were treated to a visit by Bob Maushardt who met us at the motel. "Top" had been discharged from the hospital the previous day and he wasted no time in linking up with his old Ranger buddies. Thanks to an electric scooter, he could maneuver



into position for numerous group photos while wearing his Tess designed official 2009 reunion t-shirt and hat. After his caretaker drove Maushardt back home, a group departed for Sea World to watch the antics of Shamu the Killer Whale and other marine acts.

That evening we ate at a seafood restaurant that was excellent and even though we dined outdoors, everyone was comfortable as there were heat lamps overhead.



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

Many E Company Rangers had worked with Navy SEALs while in the Delta so we looked forward to our visit Friday morning to the Navy Amphibious Base at Coronado. We

received an excellent briefing from a retired Navy captain and he fielded our questions about the SEAL sniper's excellent marksmanship off the coast of Somalia. We had a chance to handle some of the weapons used by SEALs and then boarded several of their assault boats. Everyone was impressed by the professionalism of the boat drivers who are highly trained to insert and pick up SEAL teams.

Before leaving the amphibious base we stopped at the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument dedicated to the sailors and Coast Guard personnel who died in support of naval operations in



Vietnam from 1960 to 1975. The memorial features a patrol boat river (PBR), a patrol boat fast and a command control boat which represents the Mobile Riverine Force Association of which the 9th Infantry Division played a major part. The command boat had a plaque attached with the 9th Division insignia on it inscribed: "On difficult terrain they carried the fight to the enemy on the rivers, canals, swamps and rice paddies of the Delta. Their courage, dedication and valor have left a legacy of honor."

A second plaque was dedicated to those who had served in the Riverine Force and it read: "Though far from home in a strange and distant land they served with integrity to the



ideals of our country, loyalty to each other and courage in battle. With devotion to duty their efforts were not in vain. Their service to our country is their legacy of honor. 2624 KIA, 18,831 WIA, 10 MOH."

We returned to the motel for pizza and then it was time to prepare for the memorial service which was conducted

under a large tent that had plenty of seating for family members and guests. Clancy Matsuda delivered the invocation and a moving version of Taps played while 28 candles representing



our fallen brothers flickered in the twilight. A business meeting followed during which Rick Stetson was re-elected unit director and Hilan Jones as our secretary-treasurer and keeper of the web page. Roy Barley volunteered to host the 2011 reunion in Buffalo, New York and the motion passed unanimously.

Saturday morning, Maushardt stopped by once more and issued an "op order" saying that we were to form up in a convoy and follow him out to the Barona Resort and Casino. After traveling through some foothills to a reservation, we entered the spacious casino and headed directly to an all-you-can eat buffet that had serving



stations to suit every taste. Then it was time to hit the slots and some (but not all) of the players actually returned to the motel with more money than they had brought into the casino.

The reunion's concluding event was a well-planned banquet that featured an excellent luau buffet. Bob Copeland presented signed and numbered art prints to the reunion's three organizers and Tess read a moving tribute to Bob Maushardt and then gave him one of his beautiful hand-carved plaques. Marshall Larson thanked Shirley Parrish, her daughters Cecilia Pledcher and Karen McChord and son Kenneth for conducting the raffle and presented the ladies with flowers for a job well done. Joe Florio worked with John Berg's computer so that we could enjoy the "West Coast premier" of Erik Spink's "Token of War," a video about E Company that had been selected to be shown at the GI Film Festival in Washington DC.





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

A variety of memorable items had been contributed to the raffle and it seemed as if the majority of the winning tickets were held by Kenny Mellick. We were delighted Mellick could attend the reunion as he had recently been involved in a serious motorcycle accident. Ken, however, is one tough Ranger and he convinced his doctors that despite having to wear a back brace, he could make the long trip to San Diego. The doctors must have known that when a

Ranger is determined to attend a reunion, there is no way to confine him to quarters.

Everyone who attended the reunion in San Diego agreed that it was one of the best ever. A tip of the hat to those who organized a great fun-filled week. We look forward to doing it again in 2011 in Buffalo on the shores of Lake Erie. Until then, remember that  
Rangers Lead the Way.



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

Unit Director - David Regenthal

Decoration for Valor-

"A twenty year old soldier returns home with a spinal cord injury. Expecting a world that is sympathetic to his experience, he instead discovers one that criticizes and condemns. Assigned to Walter Reed Hospital for rehabilitation, he soon finds himself drawn into self-doubt and dread while having to face the challenge of his physical limitations. As he attempts to work through the psychological demons that plague him, he meets other soldiers that are going through their own kind of hell—disfigurement, isolation, and despair."

I recently received, and read with interest, our own Joe Cassilly's new book, "Decoration for Valor." A story worth telling. No, a story that needed to be told. Appropriate to our service and that of many returning soldiers of today's wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and everywhere else Americans in uniform may serve.

See the main page at [www.LRRP.com](http://www.LRRP.com) for information on how to order your copy. Hard Cover - 6x9 - 304 pages - \$28.50 ISBN: 978-1-60693-701-3 ISBN / SKU: 1-60693-701-4. Highly recommended.

Holy Smoke! It's Memorial Day again and my Patrolling submission is past due (writing this on one of those new little "netbook" computers with a small keyboard), well here goes . . .

As has been my practice over the past 24 and a half years, I'm in D.C. for the weekend, paying respects along with brother Mrkvicka, Gentile, and Dan Nate (for whom the game, "Where in the world is Carmen Santiago" was conceived). Jeff Sandell has some time off today that he is



scheduled to spend with Bill and Joe at an undisclosed location.

Friday evening we went down to the Wall (hours of darkness have always been a favorite of mine—seems a bit more personal somehow). I assumed, as always, that we'd own it—have the place to ourselves. To my surprise, and this was probably close to 2200 hours, it was packed! There was some sort of candlelight vigil taking place that made it impossible to get down to the Wall. People were two deep all the around the walkways back up to the Women's Memorial where we were camped out on a park bench. It eventually cleared out and the

atmosphere returned to normal.

I then got lucky and found our favorite nurse, Janis Nark, LTC., Ret. (who will be one of the featured speakers this summer at the Ranger Rendezvous banquet. Janis has let it be known that she intends to become airborne qualified this summer if the fellows are running that one day jump program that Jo Ponzillo, Heidi Little, Georgia Ellison and others took advantage of last time we were at Fort Benning. I promised Janis that I would find someone to catch her landing on landing at the DZ to insure she didn't end up with any bumps or bruises (volunteers anyone?). Bill, Joe and I took advantage of the opportunity for dinner and drinks last night at the "Old Ebbitt Grill" near the White House with Janice and friend Kathy. It was miles of smiles – thanks to Jeff and Linda Sandell for introducing us to that place last Veterans Day.

I recently got a phone call from Elijah Jones (you might remember him being Captain Dawson's driver). First time in 40 years I'd seen or heard from him. Elijah is making

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

plans to see us at Fort Benning this summer, August 2-8 for the reunion. I also heard another “voice from the past” when answering the phone—it was Lieutenant Terry Shaunessy. Terry will be out of the country and unable to attend the reunion but appreciated the postcards that Marshall had made up and Bill sent out alerting everyone of the reunion.

Tom Fevurly, and recently married (to) Rose came down to visit for a week during “spring break.” Tom and Rose married on the same date of Corky and my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary last December. They’re looking at possibly relocating to Florida for at least part of the year in the not too distant future.

Jo Ponzillo (aka “Airborne Jo”, “Mrs. LRRP 1”) experienced at bad fall last month which required corrective surgery to her hip). Mark tells me that she is progressing well and is expected to recover fully. It’s tough to hear news like that—we have nothing but good thoughts for Jo, Mark, and family. A big thanks to Marshall Huckaby for getting the word out/keeping us posted during this time. See the photos of Jo at the end of this article.

I got to speak with Joe Little yesterday (while stuck in traffic, trying to get out of Arlington National Cemetery). Joe sends his best and is looking ahead to this year’s reunion as well. Joe reports that Ray Armstrong recently experienced a TIA but has been released from the hospital and has been joined by Nancy. We hope we’ll see both of them this year in Georgia.

Big Dan Nate and Rich Martin (our state coordinators for New Jersey) will not be at the reunion this time as extremely hot environments work against their health pictures. Both continue to be involved with Veterans issues in a meaningful way—maintaining a watchful eye, gathering and spreading the word, keeping us informed. Thanks for that fellas, your service to others is appreciated. If you are available to be of service, please contact our association State Coordinator, Gene Tucker, and find out where you fit in and how you can help. A little time can go a long way!

The crowds and traffic here in D.C. this weekend have been extraordinary—the 22<sup>nd</sup> “Ride to the Wall/Rolling Thunder” are a big part of the reason why. It took nearly a half hour, once I turned onto the street leading into Arlington, to actually get into the parking area (and this was at 0815). I managed to get a pretty good angle to shoot the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I’ll be posting some of that video to the Association website shortly after my return to Fort Myers Beach on Tuesday. If you’ve

never had the opportunity to witness this ceremony I feel certain you will enjoy it on the web.

#### Between the Lines-

You may have noticed the accent on health and caring issues . . . why is that important? Simple (I think), because we’re getting older and have to begun to wear out. Hey, time has a way of doing that!

Speaking for myself and others who fall into the category, “Still crazy after all these years” I will tell you that it’s a joy to get a phone call (or make one) from one of our guys whether they’re out there alone treading water or otherwise. One of the greatest things about this fellowship has been that when all else fails, we have each other. Want to help . . . make the call. Can’t help but need some? Make the call. We stood shoulder to shoulder so many years ago—willing to sacrifice for each other without a second thought. The thing that endures through time is the special bond formed when we were still very young men.

A lot of people think they have nothing to give . . . and couldn’t be more wrong! As long as you still draw breath your voice, the knowledge of your presence on this earth is a comfort to me. Just knowing that you are there goes a long way with me. I don’t do much. I maintain a couple of websites, try to take some pictures or video so the guys that can’t be with us can at least share the experience through the internet. If you’re having a difficult time, make the call—get me, Bill, Marshall, Dan, Mark (the list is almost without end, and on our website at [www.lrrp.com/roster.pdf](http://www.lrrp.com/roster.pdf)) on the phone. Hey, maybe we don’t have all the answers but, even still, are willing to help shoulder the load.

For those of you with health issue which might relate to your military service, the new (and in my estimation, improved) VA is there. Did you know that every one of us not previously seen by the VA are eligible for a one time only screening and treatment? Some of us have had either medical issues that have been slow in presenting, lacked our undivided attention (or where discouraged by the VA back in the old days when we first became aware (or suspect) of them. I would be willing to bet that more than one or two of you have a valid claim for services and/or compensation through the VA system. If you need help on this your first, and best bet, is an NSO (National Service Officer) with the VA, DAV, VFW, or others. You don’t even have to be a member to get that help—that is what they are there for and there is no charge for that assistance. Use the internet to your advantage to locate your nearest NSO or contact Dan Nate, Rich Martin, Gene Tucker, or myself for any additional guidance in getting started.

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

Smoking cessation, addiction counseling services, (and in some cases, job training), health care. They're all there when a valid link can be established. There are entitlements that many of you have earned—not a handout or “charity.” The funds are appropriated by congress each year for that purpose and if you are found to be “service connected” you owe it to yourself (and your family) to follow through on this.

Just a couple of quick thoughts on the upcoming reunion. . If you're driving and have an extra seat please let me know so I can post that information to [www.lrrp.com](http://www.lrrp.com) so that someone who would like to come but can't make the trip alone or would like to split expense can share that seat. If you're thinking of renting a car at Fort Benning and want to share the cost of it (or your room) let's get the word out through the same process. Speaking for myself, the expense of a rental car is hardly justified during the reunion, given the limited number of times you'd actually use it (Bill and I have gotten together on ours). Even if we don't get that organized we'll be able to share transportation to the banquet, trips out to Fort Benning to the Ranger Memorial, and proposed cookouts and other events on post. That's who we are—we'll make it happen.

I'm headed up to John Chester's annual Memorial Day picnic in Baltimore but will be looking forward to seeing many of you at Fort Benning/Columbus this summer.

Be well, Reg

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

Unit Director - Clifford M. Manning

**The Passing of Vic Valeriano**

**Vic served with the 196<sup>th</sup> LRRP's before my time of service with the unit. I met Vic at our Ranger reunion and by talking with Vic I got to know him. I knew he was a true Ranger, a good soldier and a helluva man. Vic will be missed by all who knew him.**

**Following below is information and words submitted about Vic by Tom Nash.**

**Vic Valeriano**

*“The truly brave are soft of heart and eyes, And feel for what their duty bids them do.” Lord Byron*

I will always remember my first meeting with Vic. I had just reported to the HQ of the LRRPs of the 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, and reported to Earl Toomey who was acting 1<sup>st</sup> SGT. He introduced me and the other new volunteers to Vic and the other original 4

members of the group. Vic just sat there, looking ominous, sharpening his Fairbairn, and nodded, saying not one word. At the time, I didn't recognize his basic shyness. As I got to know him, I was allowed inside that veneer and became, forever, a friend. When I left the service, I did not look back. For many reasons, not the least of which was the inhospitable era for soldiers during the Vietnam War. I think it was more than mere serendipity that a chance business encounter with his brother many years later led to my reuniting with Vic in Washington, DC where he took me (for the first time) to the Wall, where he showed me the names of Solomon Kalua and Danny McLaughlin, who had lost their lives on Vic's last LRRP patrol. He had tears in his eyes. We attended the 196th LIB Association Reunion that weekend, and that reunited our friendship in ways that words cannot communicate. We saw each other regularly at reunions, and he drew me into his

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

life, and into his battle with the VA. He stayed regularly at my home and traveled with me and Dianne to Maine for quiet weekends with friends and family. He was a quiet man; one who understood and harnessed that of which man is capable in times of war, yet forever in search of peace and calm.

He was my brother. And he was blood as certain as if we had had the same mother. His loss pains me, and forever diminishes me.

*“Cowards die many times before their deaths; The valiant never taste of death but once. Of all the wonders that I yet have heard, It seems to me most strange that men should fear; Seeing that death, a necessary end, Will come when it will come.”*

William Shakespeare, “Julius Caesar”, Act 2 scene 2)

**Arrangements for Vic Valeriano**

**02/28/42 - 02/19/09**

Arrangements for Vic Valeriano’s inurnment have been finalized. His remains will be inurned at the Columbarium

at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC on Thursday, May 21 at 11:00 AM, where he will be afforded the honors due him.

If you plan to attend, please note that family, friends and comrades are asked to gather at the Cemetery’s Administration Building between 10:15 and 10:30. Services will begin promptly at 11:00.

Vic’s family has arranged to reserve a block of rooms at the Marriott near the Cemetery for the evenings of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. If you think you might attend and avail yourself of one of these rooms, let me know, so we can have an idea of how many we will need. If you cannot attend, but wish to send a note of remembrance to Vic’s family, it can be sent to me.

Tom Nash

[lrrp196@hotmail.com](mailto:lrrp196@hotmail.com)

3 Prospect Place

Kearny, NJ 07032



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

Unit Director - William Anton

**‘INVISIBLE TROOPS’  
CATCH NVA LOAFING**

22 Nov 1967 article from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav’s newspaper “Cavalair” written by Sp4 Herb Denton submitted by Larry Pappert

**BONG SON**

If it had been possible to eavesdrop on their conversation you probably would have heard the North Vietnamese soldiers say something like “What the Heck, Over” or whatever NVA say when – out of a clear blue sky – artillery, rockets and sir strikes come booming down on their position and wipe out 72 men.

The Communist soldiers, part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NVA Division, had been infiltrating all morning though the southern Crow’s Foot area of the An Lao Valley when they stopped for a little smoke break. They sat down, lit up, unloosened their packs and began chattering to one another when a barrage of 105mm rounds came flying in on them.

The NVA ran for nearby bunkers only to be hit again by aerial rocket artillery. After the rockets came air strikes



which forced them out of the bunkers. Then gunships, more rockets, more tube artillery.

Sitting on a ridgeline above the NVA and calling in all of the firepower were six fearless 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalrymen who make up team “Two Bravo” of the Cavalry’s long range reconnaissance patrol.

“We had ringside seats,” mused Specialist Four Donald W. Glover, the assistant team leader.

A sweep through the area the next day by elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry turned up 72 bodies and 58 weapons including AK-47’s, SKS’s, rocket launchers

and machine guns.

The recondos left the area without a scratch and without having fired a single shot themselves.

There are 11 LRRP teams in the Cavalry. The teams were organized last February and are made up only of volunteers. Each includes one Montagnard scout.

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

They are out in the field every day and are frequently responsible for intelligence on enemy activity. Though Team Two Bravo had never run across 72 enemy before, said Staff Sergeant Robert L. Carr, the team leader.

“First we saw seven and then we just kept counting and counting,” Carr said.

The recondos are all trained as infantrymen. They tromp around in rakish “Tiger” fatigues and most of them wear a triangular green patch with ‘recondo’ embroidered at the top and a big “V” at the bottom.

The patch is proof that they have run for over a mile and a half with a 25 pound sand bag on their backs, become highly proficient in map reading, first aid and the other specialized subjects and physical requirements crammed

into a special three week course conducted by the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces in Nha Trang.

According to Private First Class Stephen L. Fox, Two Bravo rear scout, they sometimes get a strong urge to fire on the enemy. But unless cornered this is not their job. They are sent out as observers and not to engage the enemy. Through well-armed with M-16’s and M-79’s, even the rough-tough recondos will admit that the six man team may be outmatched by what could be a company or larger-sized enemy element.

*Editorial addition from Bob Carr: When we came in from that mission, the press was already there at BDE H.Q. and they gave us the go head to talk. If I remember right, that was the highest kill the Cav had since the Ia Drang in '65. The story did not hurt the company because Div was on our ass all the time about our jobs.*



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

Unit Director - Julian Rincon



Well, my two years as Director of our Lrrp/Airborne Ranger Company is coming to its end. I have enjoyed every minute of it. At the beginning I didn't know in which direction my writings would take me, but as time went on I wrote about current events and past events. The past were events that occurred in our company told to me by other Lrrp/Rangers or events that I had personally experienced or that I had first hand knowledge of. The current events were those newsmakers that crossed my path or current information that would be useful to my fellow veterans.

As you read this article our company reunion in San Antonio, Texas has already taken place. If you attended the reunion hopefully you left excited about the camaraderie and new friendships long forgotten and now rekindled once again. Seeing some of your old combat friends you have not seen in over 40 years plus, is a feeling only a select group like us Vietnam Veterans can really appreciate. Our company reunions are always small, but you have to remember we were a small elite group that worked in five man teams in large AO's. So as you know when you go to a party after six people in the room we get uncomfortable. My cousin Ray Rincon who served with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne in Vietnam has told me when he goes to his reunions there are literally thousands that usually they rent a convention

center to accommodate everyone. He has said that half the time he can never find the guys from his company so he stopped going. S-o-o-o aren't we blessed! We are so fortunate as Lrrps we always find our man.

In Vietnam my little world centered around my team, “Wildcat 7”. Ninety percent of my tour was spent in the field as were my team members. Basically three of us were the anchor of team 7, Danny Wiggins from North Carolina, Bill Crawley from California and myself also from California. We had our rotating members like Blankinship, Glen Ellis Washington State, Robert (Buzz) Busby Wisconsin, James Marion North Carolina and Danny Carter Wyoming. From my first

reunion until now I have remained close to my team members and friends Danny Wiggins and Robert Busby. They have come out to visit my wife Diana and I on several occasions. I look forward to seeing them whenever it is possible, since they live on the east coast and we live on the west coast. But all this would never have occurred if my wife had not convinced me to go to the reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana eight years ago. I am trying to save some money to go to Ft. Benning, Georgia to the Ranger reunion in August of this year this will be the first time for me. I would like to leave you with a Poem from Greg Bennett titled,



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

**REFLECTIONS OF RANGER REUNION '94**

I met some young Rangers the other day  
Who were proud to display what they could do.  
From repelling to zip line and insertion too,  
Hand to hand and things that they blew.  
These proud Rangers will fight for you.

As I gaze out at the crowd  
They are looking intent and proud,  
Maybe remembering the days gone by.  
It jogged our memories of thing we did do  
Fighting for country and red, white and blue.

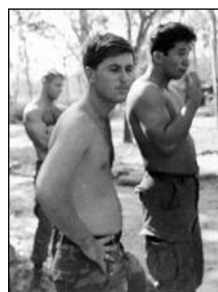
When it was over we shook their hands  
And said what a fine job they had done.  
Then one called us "heroes", was glad we had come  
He said he had learned from all we had done.

So remember old LRRP's and Rangers too  
Those young Rangers can learn from you.  
Help them stand tall and give them a hand,  
Remember them when they fight in a far off land.  
Help them to deal with pain they may have.  
Remember them for all that they have done too.  
They are reflections of me and you.

Hooah



**Team 7, (Wildcat 7).**



**Bill Crawley**



**Glen Ellis**



**Blankinship**



**Rincon, Wiggins & Busby**



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

**Unit Director - Rodger Crunk**

Greetings Brothers,  
Not much news to report this issue, just a couple of things. This is the last warning for those who plan to attend the Reunion in August, If you haven't made your arrangements its almost too late so get it done so the rest of us will have the pleasure of your company.

I made a trip out to California in March to visit with Tom Sove. The purpose of the trip was actually help out their economy. I decided to buy new tires for my pick-up after an unpleasant trek over Donner Pass in a snowstorm. Then I bought some floor tile that my Wife said we had to have for a remodeling project. That in truth was the real purpose of the trip. Tom and Cass entertained me for a couple of days then Tom and I drove down to L.A. and had dinner



with Gary Heald and Dave Gunderman. The next day we picked up the aforementioned tile and had dinner with John Krone who was a 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade LRRP. Thanks guys for taking the time to visit.

It was back to Tom's house then an overnight trip to Monterey Bay and nice rooms at the old Monterey Lodge. Then it was on to Watsonville for lunch and a good visit with Rick and Carol Noble. Tom got sick with the flu so I had to take him home and tuck him in bed. Actually Cass did that. Fortunately

I made it back to Colorado without coming down with it. Thanks Tom and Cass for your hospitality.

John Krone sent me an e-mail with the info that we were



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

missing a person on our KIA list. Filepe Obed Santiago was KIA on July 3, 1969. This was further confirmed to me by Archie Strickland who was on the mission with Filepe. He will be added to our KIA list and a brick purchased for the Ranger Memorial. Thanks to John and Archie for bringing this to my attention.

Below are a couple of photos that I had not seen before courtesy of Rick Noble. The first is Romeo-7 in late 69 or early 70. L-R Rick Noble, Wadley, Roger Crunk, James T. Quick. Does anyone remember Wadley's first name? The next is preparing the company barbecue after the POW Raid. L-R is Roger Crunk, Bob Fraser, Joey Beard, Robert Mott.



Hope to see everyone in August.



1st Brigade, 4th ID LRRP Reunion

12 August '09-15 August '09

Hotel: Radisson Downtown Market Square Hotel

502 Durango

San Antonio, Texas 78207

Room Rate: \$99 p/night (great deal for this tourist town)

Rate applies from 10 Aug.-17 Aug.

Reservations: Call 210-224-7155, Radisson, San Antonio  
or 1-800-333-333 Radisson Worldwide

Tell Reservations you are with "K Co 75th Ranger/LRRP"  
and request the group rate. The group rate expires 12 July '09

Contact Bill Philippini for assistance or further info.

E-Mail: [flipsue@stic.net](mailto:flipsue@stic.net)

Home: 210-545-4370

Cell: 210-884-9027

Everyone is welcome.... We all Served!



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

Unit Director - Jerry Gomes



**VETERANS HONOR**  
**ADOLPH'S OWNER**

East Moline (Illinois) — John Perez is proud of the troops, proud of the country, proud to be a veteran. In turn, the Vietnam Veterans of America Quad Cities Chapter 299 and the Mexican-American Veterans Association Chapter 4 Hero Street are proud of him. On Friday (4/3/09), the groups honored Mr. Perez with a certificate of appreciation at his business, Adolph's Mexican Food in East Moline. "He supports the troops, remembers the veterans and serves his family and community in a caring and compassionate manner. In the Chapter's eyes, that makes him a true patriot. He's a role model," said Ray Hamilton, president of Chapter 299. He said Mr. Perez is a true community supporter, doing everything from



starting the Junior Panthers and the Firecracker Run. He supports veterans, too, and does such things as fly a POW-MIA flag outside his businesses. Mr. Perez served in Vietnam in 1970-71.

Mr. Perez was surprised by the crowd of Chapter 299 and Chapter 4 members who showed up during the lunch hour, called a stop to all conversation by patrons, and presented him with the certificate and a roaring round of applause. Mr. Perez says he does what he does because that is the way he was brought up. "I love this country," he said.

Written by Dawn Neuses and printed with permission of the Quad Cities Dispatch.

**RANGERS HEAD NORTH TO ALASKA**

As they have done in years past, a number of former

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

members of “L” Company Rangers are gathering together this coming July for some serious fishing in Resurrection Bay in Seward, Alaska. David “Muldoon” Rothwell, Neb Schmitt, Jim Sheppard, Dale “Pugsly” Hardy and Billy Nix are the hale and hardy fishermen who are making the trek up to the great northwest for this expedition. Actually, Neb Schmitt will not have to go that far himself since he and his wife Linda live in Chugiak, just north of Anchorage. That’s about 150 miles from Seward, but it’s the most scenic drive one could ever make to a fishing area. According to Muldoon, they will be fishing for halibut and silver salmon and whatever else they can catch. First, however, these intrepid pioneers will all get their supplies and licenses and then head over to the local American Legion for the Friday night prime rib dinner. At the American Legion, a variety of topics will be discussed and some tall tales (fish stories mostly) will be shared by all.

This group of former Rangers have kept in touch over the years and have remained good friends throughout the changing times. The fishing trip itself is now a bit of a tradition and one that they hope to continue for many moons to come.

Charles Reilly  
former member of  
“L” Company (1970-71)

**BY: Jerry Gomes**

The summer 2008 Reunion was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Beautiful location and the Satellite Hotel was the rendezvous point. Sightseeing trips were taken around the area including Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods. The Broadmore Hotel is beautiful and the Olympic Training


Center was a highlight of the trip. Guest of Honor was Dave Dolby, B Co. 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Division who earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam.

John Giduck, author of *“Terror at Beslan”* and co-author with SF Sgt Major John A. Anderson *“The Green Beret in You”* was our dinner speaker and spoke of the current war. He told us “Your mission in life is not over. Our duty is to protect and save the innocent. Who can the most innocent around us turn to - If not me, then who?” John has served as a consultant on various international and terrorism subjects and law enforcement. He is a former member of the Executive Advisory Board of the American College of Homeland Security and currently devotes his professional time to Archangel Group which provides anti-terrorism consulting and training to US law enforcement groups, government and military.

The Memorial Lighting of the Candles and Reading of our Fallen Warriors was a very moving part of our evening banquet.

I wish I had a list of everyone who attended. As always, Riley and Linda Cox did a great job in organizing the reunion.





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

Unit Director - Steve Houghton

*No Submission*



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

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



Have a few items from N Rangers, 74th LRRP and 173rd LRRP. There is no notebook filled with unit and team operations. These stories exist only in the minds and reminiscences of the guys who were there. If they are not sent in, they will be lost. Tome wishes to develop a unit history but he will need cooperation and assistance. Have been doing this job for a number of years and if someone else wants to take it over, decide at the reunion.

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



Unit coin designed by Walker  
Jake Dymond sent in a number  
of photos.



**SGT Tischman somewhere  
in the Highlands**

Dave Walker saw this photo and sent a photo taken in Sonora, CA of him and Phil Tischman in 1983. Tischman was then a biker with the Gypsy Jokers. Tischman had served with another company team prior to taking Hotel when TL Kent Farrand DEROSd. He and Walker were inseparable buddies stateside until they lost contact in '95.



**Tischman and Walker  
in 1983**

Carl Millinder at unit party. I recognize the beer can and the Ranger attached to it (Carl Millinder). I believe Carl is still attached to the same beer can and hasn't removed it to this day. – Rudy



**Doc Jack Arnold  
A former C-75 Ranger**



**Drew Barry**



Allen Lohman wrote that he has visited Drew Barry at the Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina. He may be moved to a Veteran's Administration Hospital Joe Marquez wrote: Just returned from the Greenville Memorial Hospital. Daniel, my son the Marine, just back from four years on Okinawa, from which he twice

deployed to Iraq, and I went to see Drew Barry. He served twelve years in the Army with two tours in Vietnam. 3/319th Arty 173rd Abn, '66-'67 and N Co Rangers, '70-'71, Foxtrot Team leader. Life member of both the Herd, SC Chapter 30 and the 75th RRA. He has had a rough time of it for the last week. He had a heart attack at the Greenville Outpatient Clinic. But has pulled through thus far and is in good spirits. He will probably be in the hospital for another week. We will keep up with him from here. Later, Joe Marquez, Chaplain, South Carolina Chapter 30, Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and Chapter 845 MOPH. Serving those who served.



**Akuna and Kitty.**

Got word that this Jeep or at least the extra ones were from other units and repainted with our unit numbers! Jeez, N Rangers had Jeeps! – Rudy

**Jim Fatheree. Jim Fatheree is getting some fatherly advice.**

He transferred to Echo Recon- Rudy



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



**Rudy on hill 606**

**Steve Corey probably heading for Hill 606**

Jeff Horne was able to visit with Wilkie and SGM Moore at SGM Moore's home in NW Florida and sent the following photo.



**Olde Soldiers Home. Jeff Horne, SGM Moore and Wilkie**

**Tony Schoonover just before the ambush that nearly took out LTG Tranh in Iron Triangle**



**Tony these days**



**Larry Cole and Kai at Recondo Class 00, September 1966**



**Cundiff, Phillips and Sid Smith in 2009**



**SSgt Lewis and Sgt Bolen ready for jump**

From Dave Walker No Vietnam combat tour is complete without one's having bragging rights to having lived through a typhoon. My opportunity came during mid-Apr. with a mission in the Tiger Mountains. We were engaged in another company strength mission, and Team Hotel had been designated for dual roles as radio relay and security for a mortar platoon on a remote fire support base named "Maude." The mission started out on a pleasant note. The mortar platoon guys were keeping us well fed and providing OJT on their 81mm and 4.2 in. toys. Our teams in the field had produced positive results with no friendlies being hurt, and we almost felt as if being on a wilderness vacation.

On what we believed to be our last day out, the mortar platoon expended their remaining ordnance with a series of "mad minutes." Naturally, Team Hotel was allowed to partake in the festivities, and in no time flat we were yelling "hang it!" with the best of them. An incident on an adjacent ridgeline provided brief entertainment for all of us. A UH-1 Huey had attempted a landing on the ridge top. The guy had made it almost to touchdown when a main rotor blade struck a tree and snapped in half. We hilariously watched

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the rocking fuselage and gyrating main rotor mast until all came to a halt. Then as if nothing had happened, the entire crew nonchalantly exited the aircraft as if it were a taxi. The mortar platoon leader had been monitoring the chopper's FM frequency, and the exchange between the AC and his C.O. was hilarious. "Well, uh, sir, I like to had a blade strike on a big tree."

The mortar guys soon packed up their stuff and were extracted back home to English. Meanwhile, we'd been instructed to just sit tight and await word on a pull time. We'd all noted darkening skies to the W., and from my limited aviation meteorology training I observed what appeared to be an approaching typhoon front. We got on the horn and advised TOC of the deteriorating weather, and what we got in reply was Brigade's instruction that we remain on Maude for a stay-behind ambush. After all, the gooks just loved scavenging freshly departed American defensive positions.

So here we were out in the middle of nowhere with imminent truly f \_ \_ ked up weather about to hammer us, and not a Chinaman's chance for escape were we to be hit. And the least of our problems was that the mortar guys had torn down all shelter, so we'd soon be sitting in uncovered foxholes with probable 100+ mph winds and lightning seeking the path of least resistance...we human rods and our long whip radio antenna, and no protection other than our poncho liners. Just as feared, Typhoon Wanda, as the National Weather Service (NWS) had named her, hit with a vengeance, with lightning immediately taking out our Claymores and the gale force winds threatening to literally blow us all off the hilltop. Naturally, nobody other than Team Hotel could be nuts enough to be out in this shit. As darkness fell, we quickly exhausted the small supply of "hand popper" parachute illumination flares the mortar guys had left us, and the radio was useless with the intense electrical activity. Nobody slept, and we spent the night cursing whoever in Brigade had come up with this deal (Well, this is what we're paying you for!).

Upon returning to English we were confronted with massive company area destruction from the typhoon. An exception was Hotel Hooch, which although having lost its roof, had come through totally unscathed. None of our personal possessions had been damaged, to include Chuck's expensive Pioneer stereo system, and even our Mateus bottles had remained unbroken in the ceiling rafters. Most of the other teams didn't fare as well, but with typical Ranger resourcefulness the place was rebuilt within days. Well once again, Vietnam was a weird place. Walker

I remember that storm well. I do not recall what team I was on at the time, but I remember we were in the field, near the coast, I think. We were sitting on the side of a mountain, it was raining like hell, and someone caught a small crab right there near the top of the mountain. The eating kind of crab, not the social kind. It was only about 1.5 inches in diameter. Not sure if the wind blew it up there, or if it that the beach was going to be that high very soon. Anyway, someone caught it, cooked it (C4 Boils water just as well in the rain and wind), and we all (5 or 6 of us) had a very tiny piece of crab meat. Does anyone recall this, and what team had the sea food dinner? Jake Dymond

John Bryant wrote I have some great articles with pictures from the Fire Base 173rd news paper. I can not get them to you in time for this publication, but will be happy to sent them to you. Included are photos of the aftermath of Typhoon Wanda. However, he later wrote I'll go to Kinko's tomorrow morning and see if I can get some of this copied (40 year old paper) and then fax or see if they can put it on a disk, and then email it. I'm still Vietnam techno. I'll call you after I go to Kinkos

Heard from Ranger Brown Best Ranger starts this Friday and culminates on Sunday. I was invited to fly on the Helicast Chopper Sunday morning. Linda and I will be attending their Banquet Saturday Night. He asked MG Leuer why they didn't have an over 60 year old classification. MG Leuer said beware of what you ask for! From Earl Wemple in Afghanistan That should have been FOB (Forward Operating Base) not FOG - although fog describe very well how we operate in Afghanistan - and that fog is not an atmospheric condition.. On the second item - SSG Larry Fletcher pulled me off Lime Team and stuck me in the TOC against my wishes. I was fired after about 30 days for locking the commander, CPT Tanaka out of the TOC when we had 2 teams in contact and all hell was breaking loose. He was a disturbance and keeping us from working the contacts. Not too smart of me, but it got me back in the field. Earl

From Pau Beckwith of 173rd LRRP and 74th LRP: Okay, whilst waiting for new rubber to be put on my car I started to think about a story I could submit to you. The brain decided that I should make it a short one about my first mission as a member of E/17 LRRP. Not sure if I will be able to remember names but I think 2 of the guys that come to mind are Resor and Mendes. Were they around when you were there? Do not expect Heminway-esk prose.

By the way, I did put a lot of what I learned from the failures of team members over my 1.5+ years with the unit to good use when I had to reform the SWAT team of the

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local Police department that I was a member of. I was put in that position by a former high school classmate that had listened to too many of my stories and rantings about the inefficiencies of the then current SWAT Commander. Open mouth, insert foot. I got to RVN in April 67 while the Brigade was still in Bien Hoa. Was there about a month and never saw it again. I heard about LRRP from one of the truck drivers that went into the unit. I decided that I probably stood a better chance with that unit then volunteering for a line batt. Went to Recondo School in Jan 68 ended up being Distinguished Graduate. Don't ask how that happened, it caught me by surprise also. Still have the knife in safekeeping and the Certificate on my office wall. I loved the time with the LRRP's and felt I didn't do enough for the unit. I still second guess myself in not reupping and staying. Read Welke's article and it sounded more like me, just an average LRRP.

I have some pictures from my time there but need to dig them out. We moved 2 years ago and still haven't unpacked everything. What would be the best way to get them to you? About the only thing I can do is scan them, unless I send them to you. Sent a couple to Roy Boatman and those worked. I remember Doc Clark and Brooks (wild man). Had a nice email chat with Schoonie about a month ago, nice to make contact again. Was Rabel's ATL a couple of times in An Khe. We were on one mission where one of our claymores were detonated "accidentally" while he was in the kill zone. How he survived that with just one pellet under his skin totally amazed me. I luckily caught a pellet in the upper butt stock of my M-16 and in my compass. Had they not hit those I would have been pulling pellets out of my neck and hip. I was not happy with the way he died but he did what brothers do and protected his own. My minds a little fuzzy and not exactly dead on but I'll try to put something together. Hell, I read Shaugnessey's book and don't quite remember a couple of the missions he said I was on. Talk to you soon.

From Don Giannattasio 74th INF Det(LRP) in March  
Powerful Memories of Great Soldiers supporting a 20 year inexperienced Lieutenant in combat.

Lazlo Rabel was my 1st patrol leader after joining in 1968. It didn't matter that I was a 1st Lieutenant and Lazlo was a Sergeant. I knew after recently completing Ranger School prior to my deployment to Viet Nam that Lazlo was better qualified to lead me on my 1st patrol. Being a cool 20 years old, I felt terribly lucky to be assigned to a company with a bunch of hard core pros like Lazlo and Tad to help guide me.

I'll never forget my fun times with Lazlo and Tad and the rest of the guys. Our first mission was deep into the An

Lao. It was so thick that it sounded like a battalion of monkeys were coming at us our 1st day out. We didn't find the enemy but, I was able to bond with my new company members. Lazlo spent four days showing me how to lead a team safely. I became close to Lazlo and he told me about his early days with the 173d and with the lrrps and about some of the great guys the lrrps had lost. That mission ended uneventfully but, we couldn't extract by helicopter because there was no adequate place for a slick to land so we were extracted by rope. What a thrill hanging below a helicopter at 1500 feet. Later, I was able to go on a no-good mission to Sin City as it was called in Time magazine with two of my best; Lazlo Rabel and Tad Tadina. I can't write about the trick those two pulled on me but, for those who have been to Sin City, no explanation is required. Later, one morning, I was visited by the CID as I was the ranking member at an ARVN club where we had one hell of a time the night before. Ultimately, I was required to visit the Commanding General of the 173d to receive a One Star ass chewing. Luckily, our 1st Sergeant had connections with The Command Sgt Major who smoothed things with the general. This was my 2d visit with the Commanding General as he stole my jeep my 1st week at LZ English. My last problem with the Commanding General involved a fist fight I had with a huge Engineer Lieutenant at the firing range outside LZ English. He and one of his men had one of my training patrols pinned down. I stopped it, but the big Lieutenant hit me with an unexpected right hook solid to mouth. I remember hitting the ground extremely hard enough that I was hospitalized for a week. I also remember a Spec 4 medic doing a lot of sewing on my lip.

Those were great times and fantastic memories. Lazlo was a great soldier and a hell of a great guy. After coming home I visited his grave, and had my last say. I wasn't with him when he was wounded but, I did meet the chopper and tried to console him as he was being moved for medical attention. All I remember is Lazlo trying to bring his hand to his face and the tremendous pain he was obviously in. That day, like too many others that I recall, I lost a fellow soldier but, more importantly a great guy and my friend. There were lots more missions. Tad was my point man on a couple. What a professional Tad was. I was so lucky to have experienced pros like Tad and Lazlo.

From Larry Cole, an original LRRP Platoon member: Some of the Team Leaders were more "aggressive" than others. For some reason, Team 4 always had a Team Leader the "aggressive" ones called NUTS. Of the first four Team Leaders of Team 4, three are members of the Ranger Hall of Fame. We always seemed to get our share of the action. And for some reason, we saw even more when we took out



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an FNG. This was the one and only time we were seen before we wanted to be.

It was Operation Canary Duck (I didn't pick the names!). The 9th ID had just arrived in RVN and was convoying from the port at Vung Tao to their new base camp at Bear Cat. Someone very high up decided that snipers were going to be a problem, so they sent all of our teams out along each side of the highway, along likely infiltration routes. All of the 173rd LRRPs got a big laugh out of this because we all knew no self-respecting VC or NVA trooper would waste any time on a bunch of Leg cherries. We set up on our trail with my partner and I on the left about 2 meters off the trail, and the ATL (Bill Ricca) and the point man (Manuel Moya) on the right, about 20 meters from us. The TL (Jake) and although RTO (Roger Bumgardner was an original member of LRRP but he was an FNG for this team) were about 10 meters off the trail in the middle. This was our normal ambush setup but none of us was being particularly careful. Jake was messing with the SOI, making up the morning sitrep and didn't see Ricca signal, but I did. I nudged my buddy and whispered "company" as I slid the selector switch from safe to semi. A lone VC came "Diddy Bopping" down the trail with an M2 carbine at the ready, and sees Jake making out our sitrep. Jake was carrying a silenced greasegun and it jammed as Jake brought it to bear. As the VC was turning to take Jake, I put three rounds in his chest as Ricca put three rounds in his back. He went down like a whore on pay day, and as I looked behind him on the trail, I could see a column of twos in NVA uniforms moving off the trail. All hell broke loose with rounds flying everywhere, I remember seeing Bum, hiding behind a small tree (about 4 inches in diameter) and chunks of the tree flying off next to his head. Then a lull in the fight when everybody changed magazines and that was our time to execute our break from contact drill. Jake yells "LET'S GO" so we all heaved a frag, blew our claymores, and Ricca and Moya came flying past us like the wind. Jake and Bumgardner fired a few rounds to cover them and then took flight past us as we covered them. Now was my and my buddy's turn, it's weird how fast you can move with a 70 lb ruck on your back, given the proper motivation. As we were running straight through the jungle, we could hear them behind us and off to the left, cutting off our path to the extraction LZ. Jake changed our path to the right to put more room between us and the flankers. I yelled to Jake that they were right behind us (we had to crash through the jungle, they could run in the trail we left), so Jake made a sharp 90 degree right turn, ran twenty meters and stopped. This is a drill we had practiced many times and had used well before. The first five NVA that came around the

corner in our back trail disappeared in a hail of bullets and frags. So much for Charles trying to overtake us from behind, but we were still cut off from the closest LZ and now we could hear the ones who were behind us, moving to our right.

Well, they couldn't move through the jungle any better than we could, so now it became a foot race to another LZ. After a dead sprint through the jungle (carrying 70 lb rucks, in 110 degree heat and 98% humidity) of about 2000 meters, my buddy goes down like he's shot, but I don't see any blood. I yelled to Jake and turned him over, but still no blood. My pal looks at me and wheezes "I can't do it, leave me". About that time Jake snatches him up by the collar with one hand, strips off his ruck and LBE and tells him in the most menacing whisper I've ever heard, "What Charlie could do to you ain't shit compared to what I'm going to do to you if you don't start running right NOW". Jake could be extremely motivating. I took his LBE and Bumgardner got his ruck, and off we ran again. Another 1000 meters and we came across a clearing big enough to get a slick into and out of, so we spread out in the wood line while Jake talked to the slick pilot (Bum had called in our code word "TIMBER" which meant "We're AFU, come get us quick", while we were running). Jake had Moya and I both take out the same color smoke and told the pilot that we were going to throw smoke and run, to have the gunships suppress the smoke. We saw the slick coming in, Jake gave the signal, and we popped smoke and ran out onto the LZ as fast as we could. Just as the slick came in, the gunships opened up on the wood line behind us. Moya was always the first man on and his job was to count noses to make sure no one got left behind; Ricca was behind him, then my buddy, me, Bumgardner and last was Jake. Moya yells "SIX" at Jake who gives the pilot the "thumbs up" and away we go. As we were lifting off, the wood line looks like an ants nest with NVA everywhere, then the gunships make another run and they start to disappear in the rocket explosions. I looked at my buddy and screamed "What the fuck was that back there about you couldn't go on. You could've got us all killed, you sorry motherfucker." Up until that moment, He and I had been close friends.....those were the last words I ever spoke to him. He was moved to another team and did fine, but I never spoke to him again. It may seem odd, but I mourned like he was dead.

Not all of the things that happened to us were quite so dramatic. In fact, there were times that were downright funny! A few weeks after that mission, Reed Cundiff was the FNG with Team 4 and we got surrounded by a VC reinforced Weapons Platoon setting up for the evening. They didn't know we were there so (unfortunately) we had

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time to observe them while Jake figured out how to get us the hell out of there. A young, good looking woman wondered over near where Reed and I were hiding, and began to set up her camp site. Soon she was joined by a young man who started to chat her up for a “romantic interlude”. I kind of felt sorry for the guy because she wasn’t having any part of it and told him so quite directly. I mentioned this at our debriefing, just to point out they thought they were unobserved. The Captain from MI that was doing the debriefing fixed me with a sarcastic look and that condescending manner only all-knowing MI officers seem to be able to do, and said, “I suppose you understand colloquial Vietnamese and could tell what they were saying.” I just told him the truth...”No sir, but I was in High School a year ago, and I know all there is to know about getting shot down by a girl and she shot him down BAD!” Ed Note: She was a real cutie and carried a pistol on her belt.

It is to be noted that Larry and a few others were interviewed by a Frenchwoman journalist shortly after this. They blew her some smoke. After her story was published a month or so later in some magazine, a message came down from the Pentagon advising that these young troopers be given proper guidance, in other words they were well reamed by Captain Phillips and Major Sutton. Larry still claims that his statements were published out of context.

I asked Larry if he minded if he I put in this last bit. NO OBJECTIONS, THAT’S PRETTY MUCH WHAT HAPPENED. MY BIG MOUTH WAS ALWAYS GETTING ME REAMED FOR ONE THING OR ANOTHER. I know all about shooting off my big mouth. Last year I mentioned to our younger son that it would be great to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a really good rock climbing 1st ascent I did in 1959. “Great Dad, we’ll do it! It’ll take me six weeks to train you enough to get it done!” Uh, I’ll be 69 by then.

Enclosed is a photo of Cole and Harold Kaiama (our Platoon Sergeant) at Recondo Class 00. Larry like Paul Beckwith came from Company C Transport

I managed to get with Tony Schoonover in March 2009 at his home in The Villages near Ocala, FL. He and his wife are into Appalachian Clog Dancing. He says it keeps them in great shape at age 69 although he says that he has a tendency to overdo things. He was an original LRRP’er from June 1966 and served with the unit for two years. He was a hell of an ATL and TL. Doc Clark remembers him as one of the sparkplugs of the unit. We later visited with Sid Smith and Velmon David Phillips near Melbourne, FL in May 2009. They were also original LRRP’ers and were there 5 months before I got there. Sid was in Team 3’s big

fight written up in last Patrolling. Velmon had not been in contact with anyone from the unit since he left it 42 years ago. Velmon was one of the better warriors of the early days and is remembered for pulling the critically wounded Collins out of fire in the Iron Triangle in 1967. Carl Vencil (our original operations officer) wrote “...I remember Phillips as being a fine person and a good soldier. He was quiet, never a problem, and someone you could count on. I did not know that he was the one that got Collins out under fire. I will always remember going to the hospital in Saigon to check on him. He was partially sitting in a cranked up hospital bed with a patch over his wound. He looked like he was sleeping. I asked the doctor his prognosis and he said, “He might die today or next week but he is going to die”. If he said anything after that I didn’t hear him. I was kind of shocked because Collins looked like he was sleeping. I do not remember how long he lived after my visit...”. Velmon was the choice of Captain Alan Phillips and Major Sutton’s for the Time magazine article and cover on The Black Badge of Courage; however, Time felt that an educated intellectual was not the profile they wanted. He and Tony were probably the last two originals LRRP’ers when he left unit in December 1967. Enclosed is a photo of Phillips and Dale Taylor just after berets were issued. Dale was point man for Mike Howard’s Team 1. He had his hat shot off by a Thompson at flash burn range. He requested permission from Mike to keep his weapon on full auto after this. Dale and Country Boy Davis had both been lumberjacks in the Northwest at the time their friends and neighbors called on them to serve

One of the more significant (and utterly forgettable by all who participated) operations that the 173rd LRRP performed was to insert two teams onto the drop zone at Katum near the Angel’s Wings. The purpose was to recon the DZ to make sure that it had not been turned into a fire sack by the VC. Teams 3 (Sgt Guill with three combat drops and the third award of CIB) and 6 (SSgt Lewis, Ranger School cadre) were inserted two days before the drop and were told to just do point recon. The powers that be didn’t want their presence to be known. What I have gotten from Liebersbach and Sid Smith of Team 3 and Jim Harden of Team 5 is that they didn’t see a damned thing, no movement, nobody. They say there is really nothing to remember. If there had been significant movement, the only combat drop of the war would have probably been called off. The teams were told to turn their hats inside out (orange panel observable) when the drop began and to hook up with the Air Force pathfinders so they wouldn’t be taken out by worked up 2/503rd paratroopers. There were jokes about brewing up CIDG ration coffee (the fine connoisseur blend we wish we could get in coffee boutiques even today)





## D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Leon Moore

### To all the Brothers of the 151<sup>st</sup> and LRSs Welcome to the summer issue of 2009

I would like to start off with some news. I know it's hard to believe, but it has been 40 years since we were in V.N. We had 3 Brothers who returned to V.N. on a Recon Mission to locate Camp Atterbury East and to reunite Billy Waters with his Chu Hoi, Thao. I want to give a special thanks to Larry Rhodes for providing the article and photos of their trip.

### Return to V.N. - By Larry Rhodes

A RETURN TO VIETNAM;  
40 YEARS LATER, 1969-2009

Every event seems to have its own time. In December 2008, a mate from New Zealand, Ken Horsfall, was visiting Vietnam with his Vietnamese wife Lieu. Thru friends and family, they met up with Dang Van "Thao". Thao was a scout (Chu Hoi) in Billy Waters Ranger Team 1-4. Thao asked Ken to see if he could find Billy. Thanks to the D151 Web site, Billy was located, and thus began the trip for a reunion of a lifetime, 40 years later.

Billy Waters, Jim Bohanan, and C Larry Rhodes arrived in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) at Tan Son Nhut International Airport, on ironically, an Air France flight. Two of us had departed Vietnam from this very air base in 1969. The taxi to the terminal was a bit eerie as we rode past concrete revetments that protected fighter jets and helicopters during the war days. There were even two Huey's parked under them. Beyond the revetments was a large and modern terminal built by the Japanese in 2007.

The reunion with Thao and some of his family took place the next morning. Billy and Thao instantly recognized each other and tears of joy flowed freely from all present. Thao spent the entire week with us, and much to our surprise located Hue, who was Jim Bohanan's scout, and we enjoyed another tearful reunion. The three of us had some anxiety about the unknowns of the trip, but those fears were dismissed within the first few minutes of meeting Thao and his family. It was amazing how many words of the Vietnamese language Billy remembered.

Traffic in Saigon is unreal. Bicycles have been replaced by motorbikes (125 CC max limit) and military vehicles have been replaced by small trucks, busses, and cars. Very few traffic signals or stop signs exist. The movement of



pedestrians and motorized vehicles seem like a continual symphony with each one at the right place at the right time never colliding. We were all shocked by the amount of people and new construction taking place. Vietnam is now the second largest country in the world for export goods, just behind China and may well overtake the Chinese sometime in the near future.

The American Embassy that was attacked in Tet of 1968 is no longer in existence, but the South Vietnamese Presidential Palace, now called the Independence

Palace, is open to the public for tours. It appears that someone just up and left one day with everything in place, maps, radios, furniture, etc; in fact they did just that on April 30, 1975. The Russian tank that drove thru the front gate is still located on the lawn of the Palace.

We traveled to the Resort City of Vung Tao (in country R&R for some) on a Russian built Hydro Plane boat with great views of the Saigon River and the Delta along the way. Vung Tao has grown to a premier vacation destination not only for those who live in Vietnam, but also for other Southeast tourist.

We toured Cu Chi and the famous tunnel complex that was located under the village and the base camp of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry. 250 miles of tunnels, factories, hospitals, living and fighting positions, most of which were too small for Americans to crawl thru. B-52 craters are preserved now with bamboo trees growing in them. A firing range still exists there, and one can shoot M-16's, AK-47's and M-60's. Larry reacquainted himself with the M-60, his weapon of choice in 1969.

The most desired place that we went to visit was our old base camp off Highway One at Long Binh. Thao knew exactly where it was and by van we drove down Highway One northeast of Saigon until we came to what use to be the main gate of the Long Binh. We had an aerial photo of the base camp with us, showing the cemetery outside the wire as well as Ho Nai village. We knew that the buildings at the base camp were long gone, but we wanted to pay tribute to the 8 men who died in the Huey crash in the cemetery. How disappointed to find that Ho Nai has grown and overtaken the cemetery and has been built on top of it. No

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way to find the crash site. We did locate the spot where the Orderly Room once stood. It has been replaced with a new 3 story apartment complex. Only the white sanding colored dirt looked the same.

Later in the week, we took a trip to the War Remnants Museum. There are a lot of US military equipment was on display, but this place is not for the faint hearted. They tell the story of how the entire country of Vietnam won the 'American War' as they refer to it. One cannot leave with the same attitude that they entered with as the entire museum is biased from the North Vietnam perspective. Jim Bohanan said, "Uncle Ho, the War birds in the Pentagon, and the Military Industrial Complex are responsible today just as they were then. They got exactly what they wanted although, what it was they got, I may never know, as for me, it no longer matters. We tried our best to do what we were ordered (forced) to do. Most of all, we wanted to survive and we did. There is no guilt for surviving; only sorrow and anguish for participating in something which was against our childhood nurturing".

As the trip grew closer to the end, we all drew closer to the people of Vietnam. You see, we thought we were going there to see places, but in the end, it was the people that we enjoyed the most. Eating and sleeping at Thao and Hue's homes were unique and gave us a better perspective of just how poor, but how content they are with their lives. One topic of interest that we asked more than once was what was Vietnam like in April 1975? The answer was, those in the South and the North, were just glad the fighting was over, peace at last after more than 35 years of war, first with the Japanese, then the French, and then the Americans. Larry stated that he can now frame the word 'Vietnam' from a word meaning War, to a word meaning 'Peaceful Country'. Peace the Vietnamese now have, and so do the three of us.

**Continuation of 40 years past****June 1969**

At this we are still going out on missions making contacts and gathering information for the II Field Force. During this time beginning in the first part of June through August guys started going on R & R for 7 days. This caused manpower with in the teams to change by inserting another person into the team to fill the open slot. This made the missions a little more dangerous especially the insertion to the tree line from the LZ due to a new member of the team. Once we were set up things seem to go ok. Each team basically operates the same, but each team had it's own way of doing things that worked for them.

**July 1969**

Teams still going and coming on missions, with 1 to 2 days down between missions. This was the norm with exception of early contacts during the mission. Then we were resupplied and sent back out the same day or the next day.

During July the Company had a 30 hour stand down. They had a major cookout with steaks and burgers and the clubhouse provided the cokes and beer. Over half the company was dumped in an ice tank, including all the officers.

I was unable to attend due to being on R & R in Australia with my lovely wife who was 8 months pregnant with our son. Those seven days in Australia with the most gorgeous woman in the world were the best days of my life up to that point. After V.N. my life with my wife was hard for the first few years until I could get back to being somewhat normal. She hung in there with me, thank God for that! Then life just got better and better each day with her in my life. I only wish all the guys who came back had the support and understanding that my wife and family had for me. I know a lot of our guys did, but unfortunately a lot of them didn't.

**August 1969**

Daily life went on as usual. Mission after mission, reading and writing letters, taking cold showers, going to the clubhouse, *Chuck Wallace and Mike Slabaugh on shit burning detail*, going to the chopper pad, sending teams off and welcoming them back.

During the later part of August, the guys started going home (early out) for college and hardship related reasons (farming, seasonal work). This started the infusion of army personal to replace the guys leaving early.

Until next issue be well, live long!

Sgt. Leon Moore



**Highway 1 in front of the old entrance to Long Binh.**

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



**Site of Base Camp at Long Binh.**



**Front Gate to Independence Place, Saigon.**



**The beach at Vung Tao.**



**Jim Bohanon, Thao, Bill Waters  
& Larry Rhodes.**



**Overgrown B-52 crater at Cu Chi.**



**F/51 LRP**

**Unit Director - Russell Dillon**

**OPERATION TOAN  
THANG PART 9**

This continuation covers from May 13, 1968 until May 18, 1968. From April 25<sup>th</sup> until April 29<sup>th</sup> F/51 LRP was under operational control of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was operating out of Cu Chi and worked in the area South of Duc Hoa in the Pineapple and Orange operational areas. From April 30<sup>th</sup> through May F/51 LRP were under operational control of 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and operated once again in the "Catchers Mitt" area in the operational areas of Upshur II, Los Banos, and Los Banos East. The general missions consisted of trail, canal, and rocket watch and to detect enemy movements.

**Team 16** was a 6 man light team that was to be inserted into their area of operation on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1745HRS (5:45



PM). The insertion helicopter developed engine problems and the mission was aborted. On May 14<sup>th</sup> at 0922HRS (9:22 AM) Team 16 was finally inserted into their area of operation. At 1450HRS (2:50 PM) Team 16 reported having slight movement for about 1.5 hours 50 to 75 meters South of the team location. At 1706HRS (5:06 PM) Team 16 reported finding an old bicycle along side a trail. At 1818HRS (6:18 PM) Team 16 reported hearing voices 50 to 75 meters West of the team location. At 1838HRS (6:38 PM) Team 16 reported

the voices were 30 to 40 meters from the team location. At 1844HRS (6:44 PM) team 16 reported hearing a burst of automatic weapons fire 150 meters West of the team location. At 1924HRS (7:24 PM) Team 16 reported that all movement had ceased. At 2303HRS (11:03 PM) team 16 reported rockets being fired 500 to 800 meters Southwest



**F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)**

of the team location. At 2312HRS (11:12 PM) Team 16 reported hearing 1 person coughing 35 meters South of the team location. On May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1439HRS (2:49 PM) team 16 reported seeing 2 Vietcong 35 to 40 meters South of the team location that seemed to be circling and tracking the team. At 1435HRS (2:35 PM) team 16 reported hearing voices to the teams South and closing on the team location. At 1525HRS (3:25 PM) Team 16 reported more movement 50 meters Southeast of the team location. At 1537Hrs (3:37 PM) Team 16 reported seeing 2 Vietcong in black PJ's with one having an AK-47 heading East and were 40 meters South of the team location. At 1618Hrs (4:18 pm) reported seeing 4 more Vietcong with 1 AK-47 50 meters from the team location. The Vietcong began moving towards a wood line as Team 16 initiated contact at 1628HRS (4:28 PM). At 1635HRS (4:35 PM) team 16 reported they were receiving fire 75 meters Southwest of the team location. At 1640HRS (4:40 PM) team 16 reported hearing screams from the initiated contact. Team 16 was extracted with negative US casualties and 4 possible Vietcong KIA. At the debriefing Team 16 reported that the 4 Vietcong were wearing black PJ's and were heading South to North. The team found 1 booby-trap near an East to West trail. The bicycle that was found on the 14<sup>th</sup> was green and had a trade mark "Ford Lux". The rocket fire of the 14<sup>th</sup> was fired under cover of the automatic weapons fire.

**TEAM 34** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 0909Hrs (9:09 am). AT 1840hrs (6:40 pm) Team 34 reported seeing possible marking stakes in a clearing. At 2120Hrs (9:20 pm) Team 34 reported seeing flashlights on 2 sides of the team at an unknown distance. On May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1203HRS (12:03 PM) team 34 reported more marking stakes with the top stake pointing approximately Southeast. The team believed that there may be a base camp in the area. At 1510HRS (3:10 PM) Team 34 reported hearing voices 75 meters Southwest of the team location. On May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Team 34 reported negative activity in their area. On May 18 at 0914HRS (9:14 AM) team 34 was extracted.

**Team 35** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 0942HRS (9:42 AM). Team 35 reported negative activity from May 14<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup>. On May 17<sup>th</sup> at 0243HRS (2:43 AM) Team 35 reported movement 150 meters South of the team location. On May 18<sup>th</sup> at 0923Hrs (9:23 am) Team 35 was extracted at the end of their mission.

**TEAM 36** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1801HRS (6:01

PM). From May 14<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup> Team 36 reported negative activity in their area. On May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1103Hrs (11:03 AM) Team 36 reported hearing a .50 caliber machine gun at an unknown distance West Southwest of the team location. On May 18<sup>th</sup> at 0951HRS (9:51 AM) Team 36 was extracted after completion of their mission.

**TEAM 43** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1812Hrs (6:12 PM). At 1832HRS (6:32 PM) Team 43 reported finding 4 spider holes and 1 bunker with overhead cover. At 1847HRS (6:47 PM) Team 43 reported hearing chickens in the same area as the spider holes and bunker location. Between the hours of 1934HRS (7:34 PM) through 2052HRS (8:52 PM) Team 43 reported the constant hammering 60 to 100 meters to the East and Southeast of the team location. At 2132HRS (9:32 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 100 meters South and moving West of the team location and another Vietcong standing still 75 to 100 meters West of the team location. At 2142HRS (9:42 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 75 to 100 meters West of the team location. All 3 Vietcong seemed to be standing guard. On May 15<sup>th</sup> at 0004HRS (12:04 AM) Team 43 reported hearing 2 Vietcong talking 50 meters Southwest of the team location. At 0315HRS (3:15 AM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 100 meters West of the team location. At 0735HRS (7:35 AM) Team 43 reported seeing a dog 100 meters East of the team location. At 1105HRS (11:05 AM) Team 43 reported finding a spider hole and a dog 30 meters Southeast of the teams overnight location. At the same time Team 43 also reported movement 35 meters Northwest of the team location. At 1125HRS (11:25 am) the team checked out the spider hole and said that it was either a air vent or a tunnel entrance. At 1228HRS (12:28 PM) Team 43 reported hearing a motor vehicle at an unknown distance North Northeast of the team location. At 1449HRS (2:49 PM) Team 43 reported hearing metal to metal pounding 50 meters East Northeast of the team location. At 1535HRS (3:35 PM) TEAM 43 reported movement 35 meters Northeast of the team location. At 1705HRS (5:05 PM) Team 43 reported hearing metal to metal pounding 20 meters Northeast and Southwest of the team location. At 2006HRS (8:06 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong with a covered flashlight moving South to West Southwest of the team location. At 2029HRS (8:29 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong with a covered flashlight 50 meters Northwest of the team location. On May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1255HRS (12:55 PM) Team 43 reported hearing metallic pounding 125 meters East of the team and the sounds of a firefight 200 meters West Southwest of the team. Team 43 was told that there was a friendly unit reconning by fire 600 meters Southwest of the team. At

**F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)**

1704HRS (7:04 PM) Team 43 reported hearing movement of 2 or 3 personnel 25 meters East of the team location. At 1715HRS (5:15 PM) Team 43 reported hearing 1 shot 600 meters Southwest of the team. At 1810HRS (6:10 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong standing by a tree 35 meters East of the team location. At 1812HRS (6:12 PM) Team 43 reported hearing more movement 30 meters West Northwest of the team. At 1816HRS (6:16 PM) Team 43 reported seeing 1 Vietcong in black PJ's with a carbine West of the team and moving North. At 1833HRS (6:33 PM) Team 43 reported seeing another Vietcong 30 meters West of the team. The team also thought they had been spotted by the Vietcong. At 1847HRS (6:47 PM) Team 43 reported 2 Vietcong come from the Northeast and halted in the brush 25 meters from the location of the team. There were also 3 Vietcong that had climbed a tree 25 meters East of the team. At 1910HRS (7:10 PM) Team 43 initiated contact against Vietcong to the East and Northeast of the team location and at 1916HRS (7:16 pm) Team 43 reported 1 team member being wounded. At 1923HRS (7:23 PM) Team 43 was extracted. On extraction the helicopters reported receiving ground fire from automatic weapons from 4 different locations Southeast and Southwest of the extraction LZ. At the team debriefing it was reported that 1 Vietcong was wearing black PJ's with a floppy hat and the other Vietcong had on brown pants and black tops.

**TEAM 25** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1450HRS (2:50 PM). At 1459HRS (2:59 PM) Team 25 reported hearing voices and movement coming from the Northeast and surrounding the team. At 1514HRS (3:14 PM) Team 25 reported seeing 1 Vietcong with a AK-47 run across the LZ to the South of the team. At 1517HRS (3:17 PM) Team 25 initiated contact against approximately 12 Vietcong variously dressed in black PJ's, khakis, brown pants, and black shirts and civilian clothes. At least 2 Vietcong had web gear and 2 others had ammo pouches. During the contact the Vietcong fired 2 RPG's into Team 25's position. Team 25 returned to the LZ and found 3 KIA Vietcong. At 1526HRS (3:26 PM) Team 25 was extracted. Results of the contact produced 3 Vietcong KIA, 1 Vietcong POW (later died from wounds), with negative US casualties. At the debriefing Team 25 reported that as soon as the team was

inserted they heard 3 knocks on wood West of the team and another 3 wood knocks East of the team. Shortly after the knocking the Vietcong started to close in on Team 25. Bunkers were spotted 500 meters Northeast of Team 25 LZ. Artillery and the gun-ships fired up the area. A reaction force was inserted and swept the area, but did not reach the area before darkness and were extracted before darkness.

**Team 11** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1733HRS (5:33 PM). At 2312HRS (11:12 PM) Team 11 reported seeing a flashlight moving South 40 meters South of the team location. On May 18<sup>th</sup> at 0010HRS (12:10 AM) Team 11 reported having movement to the team's North, East, and West and North of a large LZ. There were about 30 Vietcong with flashlights trying to flush Team 11 from the woods into the open. At 0535HRS (5:35 AM) team 11 reported that the Vietcong had left their area and had headed West. At 0956HRS (9:56 AM) Team 11 reported seeing 1 Vietcong wearing a blue shirt and black pants, walking along the woodline 30 meters Southwest of the team. At 1241HRS (12:41 PM) Team 11 reported seeing and being seen by 1 Vietcong. At 1244HRS (12:44 PM) another Vietcong joined the first. At 1310HRS (1:10 PM) Team 11 initiated contact on 3 Vietcong and began to sweep the area to the team's East. At 1333HRS (1:33 PM) a rifle platoon from the A 3/17 Air CAV reinforced the team. At 1351HRS (1:51 PM) the linkup was complete and a sweep to the East continued. At a base camp area the combined force came under heavy contact. A platoon from C 1/187 CAV reinforced the combined force already in contact. C 1/187 CAV broke into the base camp and the fire fight lasted until almost dark when the Vietcong broke contact. Team 11 reported that the base camp contained a number of markers and at least 20 fresh bunkers 4 x 4 feet with half of the bunkers having overhead cover. There were also log tables and chairs and a 30 foot well. The Vietcong were dressed in khakis, black PJ's, and had AK-47's. Team 11 was extracted at 1900HRS (7:00 PM) with 2 wounded team members. At the debriefing Team 11 reported that Vietcong they had first seen were guards for the base camp, because when contact was initiated the Vietcong broke contact and headed down a 1.5 foot trail to the base camp.

**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID****Unit Director - Michael McClintock***No Submission*



## ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



### Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

I want to thank everyone who attended our monument dedication on March 28, 2009 in Fayetteville, NC. I thought the monument came out extremely well and all of us should be proud. We had sixteen Co Vans in attendance which is good as this was an in between year for our reunion. In addition Lt. Gen. John Mulholland the Commanding General of Special Operations Command attended our ceremony along with his wife. I was very impressed with the museum and although our exhibit is somewhat small I really enjoyed seeing it. If you don't already know, we are one of only three actual units to have an exhibit. I urge all of you who could not attend the dedication ceremony to take the time to visit the Airborne & Special Operations Museum the next time you are in Fayetteville. Once again thank you all for your support in this endeavor. I now need to start preparing for our reunion in 2010.



Walt Sanders, Mike Martin,  
Harris Parker, Doug Perry,  
Ed Scholes, Roy Lombardo



Lt. Gen. John Mulholland Jr.,  
CG U.S. Army Special  
Operations Command and  
Bill Miller



BDQ Monument



Atlanta BDQ



Walt Gunn, Willard  
Langdon, Doug Perry,  
Earle Singletary



Willard Langdon giving  
the invocation

### Sick Call

The following individuals are experiencing health problems and I am sure would appreciate hearing from any BDQ's.

Bill Pere  
8711 109<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Lakewood, WA 98498-3776

Don Valentine  
2840 Gateway Ct.  
Cumming, GA 30040-0514

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

Recently Retired General Eric K. Shinseki and now Secretary of Veterans Affairs paid a visit to the VA Hospital and rehabilitation center in Atlanta and stopped by for a visit with Macdonald Valentine.

**THE BEST ORDER I EVER RECEIVED**

Sometime in February 1965, the 44<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion was on a search and destroy operation in an area southwest of Bac Lieu in the Delta. The Co-Vans with the 44<sup>th</sup> Rangers were 1LT David W. Bowman, SSG Wallake, and SGT Roy E. Allen. The Co-Van team was short the senior advisor because of the rotation of CPT. Robert M. Herrick and CPT. William K. Schrage.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> day of the operation, CPT Gerard M. Devlin joined the 44<sup>th</sup> Ranger via helicopter. The Co-Vans were wearing patrolling field soft hats and CPT. Devlin was wearing his steel pot. CPT. Devlin called the Co-Van team together to introduce himself. The first thing I noticed about CPT. Devlin was the look on his face, and I could tell that he wasn't happy about something. I thought to myself, "Oh, God, here it comes and as I was the junior member of the team, most of what was going to be said would come down on me." After he introduced himself (and I will never forget his words), he told the three of us, "I will only tell you all once, you will wear a helmet while on operations." Somewhat relieved, I answered "Yes Sir" and that was the end of that. Other things I noticed about CPT. Devlin were his combat patch, (187<sup>th</sup> Airborne, Korean Era) had the CIB from Korea and senior jump wings. Being a fair judge of character, I again thought to myself that we had a winner here. CPT. Devlin turned out to be all of that and much more. I would have followed him anywhere. He showed his grit and leadership on many occasions, but none more than on April 6, 1965, when the 44<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion was awarded the American Presidential Unit Citation. The 44<sup>th</sup> Rangers won a great victory over a dug-in Viet Cong force on the edge of the U-Minh Forest in Chuong-Thien Province. CPT. Devlin exposed himself to enemy fire on several occasions that I witnessed directing helicopter gunship strikes on the Viet Cong. We were so close to the VC that day that when they would move, you could see their faces, weapons and floppy hats.

Time passed and the 44<sup>th</sup> went on many operations, mostly eagle flights, and this leads up to August 12, 1965, my tenth month with the 44<sup>th</sup> Rangers.

A Viet Cong Force was detected in a tree line very close to Phuong Hiep, which is located to the south of Soc Trang. The VC force was thought to be, at most, a company-sized unit. Turned out to be many more than that. A battalion of V.C. was dug in along houses and canals in the tree line. 1LT Robert H. Fuellhart and I went in on the first lift of choppers and CPT Devlin and SSG Benjamin Barnes went in with the second lift of Rangers. The two groups got on line and advanced toward the wood line. 1LT Fuellhart and I went with the left company of rangers and CPT. Devlin and SSG Barnes with the company on the right. After a short advance, the right side company started receiving automatic fire from the wood line and was stopped. The left company continued to advance receiving very little fire until only about 100 meters from the wood line. The V.C. opened fire with automatic weapons and the rice paddies became alive with bullets. A Vietnamese Ranger SGT told me that there was gunfire coming from the tops of trees in the wood line. Together we eliminated that threat. 1LT Fuellhart had moved to another position and I was supposed to keep close to him as I may have to take the radio if LT. Fuellhart was hit. I got up and was running bent over to stay as low as possible to LT. Fuellhart's position. I felt what felt like a bee sting in my right hand and wrist. I looked at my wrist and saw blood and bone. After a few seconds to gather myself, I ran to LT. Fuellhart's position. I told him that I was wounded and a Vietnamese Ranger Medic bandaged the wound. LT Fuellhart then told me to go to the rear, and I told him no, I could finish the fight and then be taken care of. I told him several times, forget about me and let's finish this fight, but I could tell that he was getting angry. I and LT. Cap, a Vietnamese Ranger, started to the rear and now the V.C. started dropping mortar fire on us. I was wounded a second time in the head and LT. Cap was wounded in the legs. I fell facedown into the paddy water and everything went black. The water revived me after a few moments and LT. Cap and I continued to the rear. CPT. Devlin came to me as a medic was removing my helmet and I asked him "How bad is it?" He said, "It just looks like someone hit you in the head with a beer bottle" and marked off a small section of his finger. He then called in a dust off which took me and several wounded rangers to Can Tho. That was the fastest chopper ride I was ever on. The huey can really move fast when they have to. I carried my helmet with me and still have it today.

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

The order CPT. Devlin gave us, “You will wear your helmet” has gone through my mind many times over the years, and I know that I have said it before, but I’m saying it again: Thank you Major Devlin for the best order you ever gave to me.

Roy (Buck) Allen  
44<sup>th</sup> BN



**Buck’s helmet**



**Buck with helmet**

**SITREP:**

Once again I want to thank all those who have contributed to the BDQ Monument Fund. It really is awesome.

Bill Schrage  
Vietnamese Ranger Alumni Fund  
Walt Gunn Jr.  
Bob Murphy

BIET DONG QUAN SAT

**Above the Mekong, 1966**

She thought I’d been a casual friend.  
She never knew until I stopped by that I’d  
Been with him those last brutal minutes:  
The ones that fiction never really tells.  
What he’s said; how he’s died by accident;  
A burst from his own door gunner,  
In his back and spine,  
After the 12.5 groundfire and a hard, evasive jink  
To avoid the thick green tracers.  
How he’s rasped above the urgent engine’s whine  
About the kids and her, while there on the  
Running, corrugated floor of the slick  
As it redlined, fatally into Ton Son Nhut.  
I didn’t say anything of this to her,  
Except that he’s said he loved her, and that he  
Always would. That these were his last words.  
That he’d had a painless passing.  
I’d like to think that sometime when I’m hit  
Most likely now by age, traffic, disease, or  
Improbably, some jealous soul,  
Someone would care to tell those of mine that remain,

The good and important lies they ought to hear.

Mike McNamara  
32<sup>nd</sup> Bn

**Observation:**

After comments and suggestions received at the Monument Dedication (about how well we were dressed in our Maroon Sports Coats) I am declaring that we adopt the Maroon Sports Coat as our Signature formal Dress. Other military organizations have adopted similar dress, such as the Triple Nickel (Navy Blue), The Marine Corp League (Red). I believe our Maroon is really sharp and matches our Berets. Thanks for your support.

**Quote:**

“If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn’t plan your mission properly”

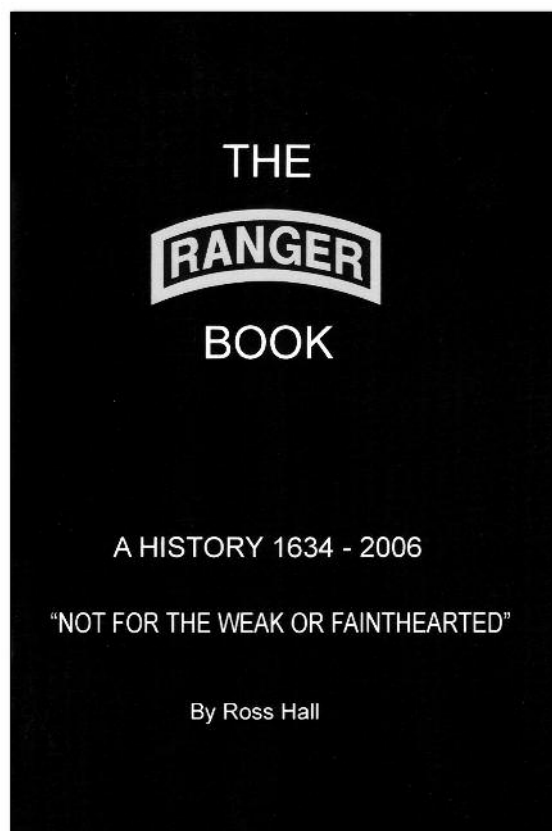
David Hackworth

Mu Nau Bill Miller, Unit Director

# BOOK REVIEW

## The Ranger Book A History 1634 – 2006

BY: Ross Hall



If a one word description of any book is appropriate, the one word for this one would be “massive”. It is, at 666 pages, a massive book, and it clearly took a massive effort and a massive amount of research to write it. Undaunted by the task of a chronicle of 375 years of Ranger history, Mr. Hall rolled up his sleeves and settled down to his task. A word about Mr. Hall is in order here. While a reporter for a weekly newspaper in Dahlonega, GA, home of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion, (Mountain Rangers), he formed an acquaintances and eventually earned the trust of those individuals called Army Rangers. He was most impressed by the breed.

*The Ranger Book* presents a great deal of detail about Ranger TO&E's, Ranger training, methods of deployment for Ranger units, and the capabilities of various Ranger units throughout their history. The history, at least for the modern eras, is narrated by the interview method by people who were present at the various actions. The perspective ranges from that of General Officers, through Company Grade Officers and Senior NCO's, to the enlisted men in

the ranks. Obviously the early days, (the first 325 years) are not the subject to interviews, but you will be fascinated by the experiences related here from the people who lived them over the last 60 years. This book is factual without being boring, a collection of historical facts presented by Ross and the people who actually made the history.

Ross has done well in capturing what I believe is the very essence of Ranger tactics, namely their ability to operate deeply in enemy territory, to recon or by violent and swift action, to ambush or raid strategic targets, and to withdraw quickly. Operating independently, their security comes from their swiftness and their ability to infiltrate and exfiltrate clandestinely by land, sea or air, unlike other Special Operations Forces who depend on indigenous forces for their food and other support.

*The Ranger Book* pays particular attention to the Vietnam era LRRP, LRP and Ranger Companies. I don't believe that I've seen any account of those units and those years that comes close to the coverage that Ross Hall gives in these pages. If you are an member of this fraternity, you will want the book for this part alone. It does a particularly good job of explaining the process by which the Vietnam Ranger Companies evolved into the modern day Ranger Battalions and the Ranger Regiment. There is also a CD available with *The Ranger Book* that contains all the edited parts as well as illustrations, and photographs dating from WW II forward to the present time

Ross has also just completed an oral history of the US Army Mountain Ranger Camp, *Mountain Ranger*, from 1952 through 2008. I will be reviewing this book in the next issue of the magazine.

You can get either of the books on Amazon.com/books by typing in the name. They get \$40 and \$19 plus shipping, or you can buy them from Ross for \$30 and \$18 including shipping. The CD for *The Ranger Book* is \$8 only from Ross. Send a check or MO to:

Ross Hall  
2557 Jay Bridge Road  
Dahlonega, Ga 30533

Ross's website has info on both books.  
[www.therangerwriter.com](http://www.therangerwriter.com)



# Special Operations Memorial Update

## 12 May 2009

Although our special operations losses continue, the numbers have considerably decreased since my November report. Shortly after submitting my last report Staff Sergeant Timothy P. Davis of the Air Force 23<sup>rd</sup> Special tactics Squadron lost his life on 20 November.

The first casualty of the New Year was Staff Sergeant Anthony Dee Davis of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion, who lost his life on 8 January 2009. Regretfully Corporal Ryan Casey McGhee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion was the last casualty for this period, and was lost on 13 May.

Army Special Forces reported two soldiers that had died during training, and had missed being added to the Special Operations Memorial: Master Sergeant Christopher J. Keith of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) and PFC Norman Marburg who died while negotiating the Special Forces Qualifications Course. The 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) lost Staff Sergeant Joshua R. Townsend on 16 January in Afghanistan, and Staff Sergeant Mark M. Maierson while taking the Combat Diver Qualification Course on 13 March at Key West, Florida.

Losses from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), all from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, included Staff Sergeant Mark J. Small during operations in Afghanistan, and Staff Sergeant Jeremy E. Bessa and Master Sergeant David L. Hurt, both lost on 20 February in Afghanistan.

Specialist Omar M. Albrak a reservist attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, (Airborne), attached to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, was lost on 11 May.

Special Forces Colonel James 'Bo' Merchant of the U.S. Special Operations Command lost his life on 21 January from a parachute accident at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Naval Special Warfare Command losses were PO2 Tyler J. Trahan, EOD, who died in Iraq on 30 April; and SOC Eric F. Shellenberger with SEAL Delivery Vehicle -1, died during a training dive in Washington State.

Several legacy names were added to the SOF Memorial not as a result of hostile action.

Master Sergeant Thomas Kemmer was added who received a Distinguished Service Cross during the Son Tay Rescue attempt in North Vietnam.

Lieutenant Ken Ferguson was added, who also received a Distinguished Service Cross while in Vietnam.

Lieutenant Colonel William L. 'Wild Bill' Taylor who succumbed following a prolonged eight-year battle in a Tampa, Florida nursing home, attributed to a head wound while in Vietnam.

Sergeant First Class Charles Timothy Alicoate served as a Pathfinder with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Vietnam and later with the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), lost his life in a driving accident.

Staff Sergeant Robert C. Reed served a Special Forces medic in Vietnam.

CW4 Ronald W. Lauck served with Special Forces Command and Control North, Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACVSOG), Vietnam.

Stevell V. Hailey served with the 195<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company supporting MACVSOG.

Added to the Friends of SOF section of the Memorial were Denis and Suzan Pruiett who donated \$500 in honor of those who served; and Ms. Judy Delbarto following her 20-year service at USSOCOM as Chief, Civilian Personnel Division; and Sergeant First Class Joe M. Jalal who retired from USSOCOM J-1, and was the primary point of contact to provide the names of personnel lost in action and during training, to be added to the Memorial. Fortunately he will remain in the same position as a civilian, to provide outstanding continuity.

As we go to press, we are preparing for a Memorial Day ceremony to be held on 22 May in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Special Operations Memorial at MacDill Air Force Base.

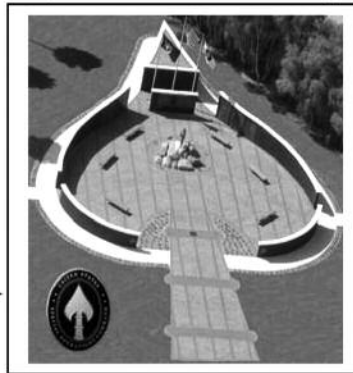
Geoff Barker

President and Director of Memorial Site Operations.



# Special Operations Memorial

MacDill AFB, Florida  
 USSOCOM Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc.,  
 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association,  
 Air Commando Association  
 Special Forces Association,  
 Special Operations Association,  
 UDT/SEAL Association.



The side walls flanking the central generic SOF warrior hold the names of SOF Warrior lost since Operation Engravings Eagle Claw in Iran. Legacy personnel are located on the lower left and right walls. Engravings may be purchased, and designed to reflect either the buyer's name and/or organization, or may memorialize another (past or present) special operator. To maximize the available space, the same individual will not be memorialized more than once. The memorial is located adjacent to the entrance to the US Special Operations Command Headquarters complex, MacDill AFB. Engravings are limited to eighteen (18) letters per line (including spaces); the number of lines may be purchased as follows:

**2 lines (4" x 12") - \$100.00; 3 lines (8" x 12") - \$250.00; 4 lines (12" x 12") - \$500.00**

**Special Operations Memorial Foundation, PO Box 6696, MacDill AFB, Florida 33608-0696**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

2 Lines - \$100 ☐

3 Lines - \$250 ☐

4 Lines - \$500 ☐

Did the Honoree serve with SOF? (Y or N) \_\_\_\_ If YES, which unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mbr: 75 Rgr Regt Assn: \_\_\_\_ SFA: \_\_\_\_ SOA: \_\_\_\_ UDT/SEAL Assn: \_\_\_\_ ACA \_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

To the  
75th Ranger Regiment Association  
With Regards and Best Wishes



Special Operations  
Memorial Foundation



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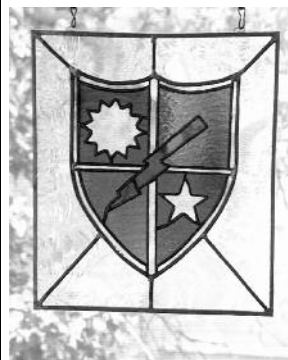
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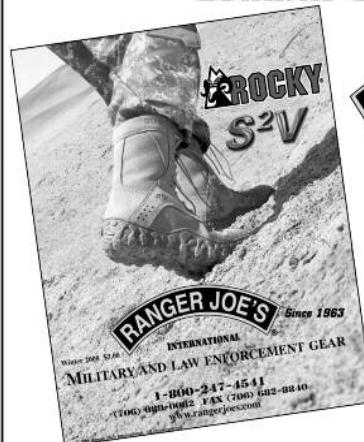


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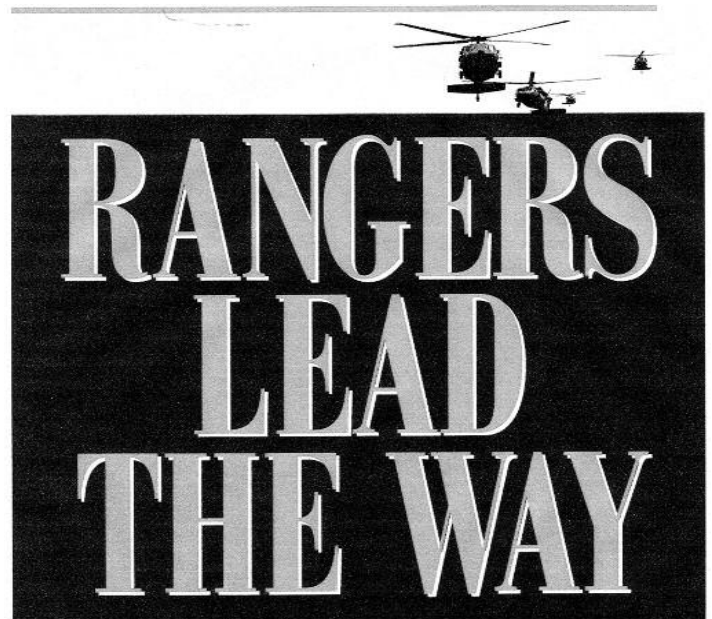
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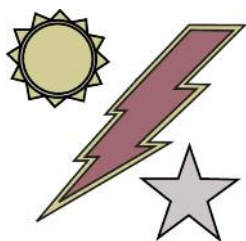
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