

# PATROLLING

FALL 2010 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 25 ISSUE II



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*Some of the boys made good. Atop an ARVN out post in southern I Corps, just north of Bong Son. Seated at left is Jim Billie, who became Chief of the Seminole Nation. Standing to his right is John Harris, who became Director of global procurement for Revlon in New York. Standing at right is Mike Reiley.*

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

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

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**POSTMASTER**

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# WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

## MAGAZINE

Dues invoices went out last month. The Association's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30 of the next year. You can still pay your dues at any time by sending a check for \$30.00 to the address at the top of the edit box to the left of this column. If you send more than \$30.00, PLEASE enclose instructions as to how you want that money applied, if it is for the member's fund, family fund, future dues, or whatever. Maybe if we make the Secretary's job a little easier, he'll be inclined to stick around.

Unit Directors: Please send a photo of yourself to me for inclusion in the magazine. I will forward it to Dave Regenthal for the web site. I agree with Dave, I think that it's good for the members of a given unit to see what their representative looks like. Who knows, you might jog someone's memory that you served with of their time as a LRRP, LRP or Ranger.

John Chester

## SEE BELOW FOR REUNION 2011 INFO

## WEB SITE

Rangers, Hello from Cyberspace!

The important news is that our website is up and running for your early sign ups for the RANGER RENDEZVOUS 2011. That's right, all the news that is news regarding next summer's reunion will be accessible to you from the main page of [www.75thrra.com](http://www.75thrra.com)

We already have the signup form and shopping cart (for on-line payments) in place. As we move along and things begin to fall into place, commitments are made, etc., we'll post that information ASAP so that you can remain in the loop.

By the time you read this we will have all the host, and overflow motel information up there so you can begin to make your plans and reservations.

We have learned that, in previous years, some of our brothers were not able to come to the Rendezvous due to extreme financial hardship. Maybe we can't do everything for everyone but this is no longer a reason to stay home. If bunking up with a fellow Ranger or partial sponsorship will make the difference then please contact your Unit Director for assistance.

Let's leave no one behind! Rangers helping Rangers . . . it's what we do.

Dave Regenthal 68-69'

## President's Message

By John Chester

Initially, I need to apologize for the lateness of this issue of the magazine. This has been a rather hectic Fall Season. I have had computer problems, which eventually got solved, but I was unable to find a bunch of stuff, including some of the submissions for the issue. Dave Regenthal was kind enough to ask everyone to resubmit, which I assume, everyone did. There are still some units missing, & if that is my fault, I apologize in advance. We had some family crises, as well as two deaths in Mary Anne's family within a period of a couple weeks. We got through that, but the magazine suffered.



**John Chester**

Which brings me to a point that is becoming more & more relevant. I need help with the Editor's job, I just turned 67 and at that age one is subject to all sorts of slings & arrows. This issue just about kicked my butt. If someone could start to help, hopefully with the December issue, it would be greatly appreciated. I will be out of office next summer, and someone has to be ready to go by then. I am looking forward to the 4th retirement of my life. It disturbs me that, if something incapacitating happened to me, the next issue of the magazine would not be published. It would be irresponsible of me, as President, as well as an indicator of poor stewardship, if we, as an Association, allowed this situation to continue. Here are the requirements of the position:

The individual should be more or less computer literate, and have a working knowledge of *Word*, *Adobe*, *Excel*, and other common word processing programs. He should be able to scan documents, photos, and to use PDF files. The ability to use e-mail and sufficient bandwidth to send & receive large text & photo files are also necessary.

He should be a member of our Association, and be acquainted with the workings and goals of the organization. As far as possible, the individual should be without a personal agenda, and (here's the kicker), be able to put his ego on hold while doing the job.

These are not set in stone, and I certainly knew very little about computers when I started 10 years ago, so at least the individual should be able/willing to learn. If any of this fits in with any of you, give me a call, my numbers are in the front of the magazine.

### ALASKA

In addition to Mary Anne's yoga travels, going to Ranger Balls, Best Ranger, etc., we decided to go fishing in Alaska in July, (2009). We went with Steve & Jan Lemire who operate a guide service out of Craig, a small town on the west

coast of Prince of Wales Island, at the southern end of the state. Steve is a former K/75 Ranger and has lived in Alaska, guiding fishing & hunting parties, for a long time, so he knows what he is doing. We had a lot of fun, caught a lot of fish, and saw some great scenery. Alaska is truly one of the most beautiful places on earth, and we fell in love with the people, everyone we met were easy going, unpretentious and down to earth. I guess that comes from living close to nature.



**Mary Anne, Steve Lemire and a dinner guest.**



**Fish On! Mary Anne is landing another one.**



**A fog bank rolling in from the coast. These banks would appear & disappear several times a day. Steve's boat had radar, a necessity in these waters.**



## President's Message (COnt in Ued)



L – R Steve Lemire, Mary Anne & Lonnie Walters. Lonnie fished with us most days. He is a retired Navy CPO, he served with the Seabees.



Steve Lemire & his wife Jan.



That's me trying to land a fish. Steve is standing by with a net, just in case I'm successful.

We were amazed at the abundance of food that is seemingly free for the taking. One day after fishing, Steve drove his boat to the location of his crab pots and pulled in several dozen Dungeness crabs, from there we went to his shrimp pots, and pulled in several pounds of shrimp. Coupled with the fact that we were catching salmon, halibut, bass, ling cod and rock fish every day, there certainly appeared to be a cornucopia of food. The hunting season lasts from September to the end of December, and each resident can take as many as five deer, as well as moose, elk & bear. Just about everyone we talked to had at least two freezers, most had three. As someone said, "If you starve in Alaska, it's because you're lazy." We are going to try to go back next year & catch some more fish, and maybe do some bear hunting.

### REUNION/RENDEZVOUS 2011

We have dates for next year's rendezvous, it will be July 25, 2011, which means our Reunion will be from July 30, 2011. For a number of reasons, we selected the Holiday Inn North,

in Columbus, as our Reunion headquarters. We have a history with them, they know us and are willing to work with us, and they have proven themselves able to manage and minimize any incidents. It is also easier to administer the beer garden back by the swimming pool, and to control entry on the nights the young Rangers come to visit. We were able to negotiate the same room rate as in 2009, and the entire facility has undergone a multi-million dollar face lift. We were there in May for Best Ranger, and it looked real good.

I want to make one thing clear, *if anyone is aware of any member who would like to attend the reunion, but, due to financial circumstances is unable, please bring this to the attention of your Unit Director.* We have maintained a members fund, (consisting of contributions from members), for just this eventuality. If the Unit Directors bring the situation to the attention of the elected officers, we will take appropriated action. See the feature articles section for more Reunion 2011 information & sign-up forms.

### MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

I had the distinct honor of being asked to speak at the first annual Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants reunion and banquet, in Bloomington, MN. Even though the Merrill's Marauder Association has closed up, the proud descendants will continue to meet in order to perpetuate the memory of the Marauders. As always, Mary Anne & I were made to feel welcome, and we greatly enjoyed meeting the Marauders and their families, and the many conversations and a few war stories as well.

### Excerpts from my comments at the Proud Descendants of Merrill's Marauders banquet, Friday night, September 3, 2010:

Our Association was founded by a group of veterans of F/58, (LRP) and L/75 (RANGER), units that were attached to the 101st ABN DIV in Vietnam. Originally, each division or independent brigade had a LRRP Co. or unit. In 12/67 they were re-designated as LRP Cos., (ABN). The deleted "R" stood for reconnaissance, and it has been suggested that it was deleted because none of the clerks could spell it. At the end of January, 1968, the designation of the units was changed to Ranger. They were the same people, doing the same jobs at the same time, in the same places, but now they were "Rangers". At the time of the formation of the letter companies (A through I & K through P) of the 75th Infantry, they were given the lineage of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), and the 475th Infantry. You guys became our heritage, and we are your legacy.

## President's Message (COnt in Ued)

I have been active in our Association for more than 10 years. Mary Anne & I have attended many Balls, affairs, reunions, etc. and I have noticed a common thread among Rangers, Marauders, LRRPS and LRPS. There is a brotherhood, a sense of camaraderie and spirit that I have not witnessed in other units. The stories are remarkably similar, different bad guys, but from WW II to present, the stories remain the same.

At our last reunion at Ft. Benning in 2009, the Association leadership was at a meeting of the Ranger Battalions and other Associations at Ft. Benning. During the course of the meeting Phil Piazza mentioned that the Merrill's Marauders Association was standing down. Bill Bullen, the President at the time, offered to take your colors and to extend to each Marauder complimentary Life Membership in the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. Phil accepted the offer, and some of you signed up right away.

What do you get for this? You get a quarterly magazine, *Patrolling*; you get an engraved silver coin; you get a certificate and a life member pin. You also get our thanks for your service, and for the example you set for us and for all the other Rangers from then to now.

What do we do? Our Association maintains a family fund. This fund makes gifts each Christmas to each of the Ranger Battalions and to the Regimental Headquarters so that the junior Enlisted Men (E-5 & below) can buy presents for their children and turkeys for the Holidays; we fund trips so that wives, parents & children can visit their wounded husbands, sons and fathers that are in hospitals. We also contribute to the annual Best Ranger Competition and to the constructions of Memorials for the Battalions and Regiment. We also maintain a network of State Coordinators to attend funerals of Rangers around the country and at Arlington National Cemetery.

We also have a bi-annual reunion at Ft. Benning, GA in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Regiment's bi-annual Rendezvous, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all former Marauders and their families to that event. I know that our members would really enjoy meeting all of you and I know that the young Rangers would be honored to welcome you to their Rendezvous. I will make additional information available through both *Patrolling* magazine & our web site, 75thrra.org. It can be difficult to get from Atlanta to Columbus, but during the next year, we will come up with some solutions, & we will keep you posted on the results. There will be no charge for Marauders or their spouses to attend the reunion or the banquet.

In closing, let me once again thank you for your service & for the shining example you have set for the generations of Rangers that have followed you. Gentlemen, I salute you.



**That's Marauder Vince Melillo & his daughter Jonnie on the right.**



**Saturday night guest speaker LTG (Ret) Samuel Wilson.**

As stated, I was the Friday night speaker, and on Saturday night the speaker was LTG (Ret) Samuel Wilson. LTG Wilson was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for heroism, extraordinary achievement, and continued service to his country and the Special Operations community. LTG Wilson began his special operations service with the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) {Merrill's Marauders}, in the China-Burma-India Theatre during World War II. As a highly decorated combat veteran, LTG Wilson returned to the US, where he entered the Army's Foreign Area Specialist Training Program. Upon completion of the program, he was assigned to various posts involving Iron Curtain Countries and the Soviet Union. His expertise was quickly recognized, and he was assigned to a number of high level positions within the Departments of State and Defense. As a General Officer, his assignments included Assistant Division Commander (Operations), 82nd Abn Div, United States Defense Attache to the Soviet Union, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, and Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. LTG Wilson's expertise in the area of special operations is recognized and he remains a consultant to the Secretary of Defense and Congress on matters concerning special operations and intelligence.

## 1st viCe Pr esident's Message

By Joe Little



Joe Little

*We sometimes think we have problems until confronted with someone with a smile and a history that would make one wonder why the smile?*

I met a man in my, let's just say in one of my journeys through his mind. He is a very friendly and humble man with an obvious accent from the former USSR.

I spoke with him for some time and listened intently, not only due to his accent, but because I could not believe what I was hearing. He served in Vietnam and had some horrible experiences as an operating engineer. However; I hear these things daily. What I rarely hear, if ever, is a life story of a tenacious man following his father's footsteps. A teenager made a decision to run away from home. Well not just away from home, he escaped Communism on foot from Bulgaria to Italy. Then afterwards he made his way after to the United States after clearing the camp in Italy. He was on a ship and saw the Statue of Liberty for the first time, and even today, still cries when he describes seeing her and knowing that he now has a new life. He was taken in by a church and given guidance by a priest in Detroit. The priest discovered one day that Mr. G. was at the local recruiter's office. The priest felt it was his duty to inform Mr. G. that it is not the best time to join the military and did his best to convey his distain towards what was taking place in a country Mr. G. had never never heard of. However; Mr. G. had a strong desire to repay his country the only way he could for the freedoms he had gained by living in a democracy.

He had a difficult time in training, still not mastering the English language. Yet he persevered and thought this child's play in comparison to working the fields down to

dusk everyday with his father, (in between captures and from concentration camps.) His father was one of those revolting against Communism and was caught in the act several times and the family would also be punished. I expressed (being rather naïve), disbelief that they were rationed food and were not allowed to eat from their own harvest. There were also cuts in the rations when his father would revolt again and again. Mr. G. was proud of Papa as he was instructed to take care of the family as his father was hauled away again. He spoke of hidden food and the searches that took place, but Papa taught him well as he resisted and was beaten by the soldiers working the area. Well, Mr. G. completed training and now his eyes lit when he saw his first piece of heavy equipment. "Papa would be proud if he could see me driving this jungle clearing machine". He paused and a tear was evident. I asked what was going on? He replied "Papa only seen photo of him on the big machine" Papa died in a concentration camp and Mr. G. believed it was because when stationed in Germany some KGB spoke to him and he reported to his Company commander despite the warnings from KGB about harm to his family. He had a letter from his mother through the mission in Detroit; his Papa died and that was all he knew along with how proud Papa was of him, for escaping to the free world. Thoughts of how and why plagued his mind as he performed his duties. His platoon sergeant and best friend one day received a dear john letter and took his life in front of Mr. G. adding to the tragedies already experienced both current and past.

This story continues; however, not all that great of an ending, but just the same he continues to smile, because he is living in the greatest country and "God has blessed me" as Mr. G. would say.

## t reasUr er's Message

By Wesley Jurena



Wesley Jurena

### Link Ups

Well it's been a busy quarter and I've been blessed with the opportunity to attend three Ranger link ups since the last issue of this magazine. They all have some great moments, so I will share them here.

### Memorial Day 2010

Annually, CSM(R) Andy Bell, who was in 1/75 when it was still at Ft. Stewart, has a great gathering at his ranch in Rock Island, Texas which is just outside Columbus, Texas. I've been to a few of these and I've watched the attendance grow from roughly 10 to over 50 Rangers this year, not to include wives, girlfriends and kids. Arrival usually begins as early as Thursday. Rangers bring cots, tents,

## t r easUr er 's Message (COn t in Ued)

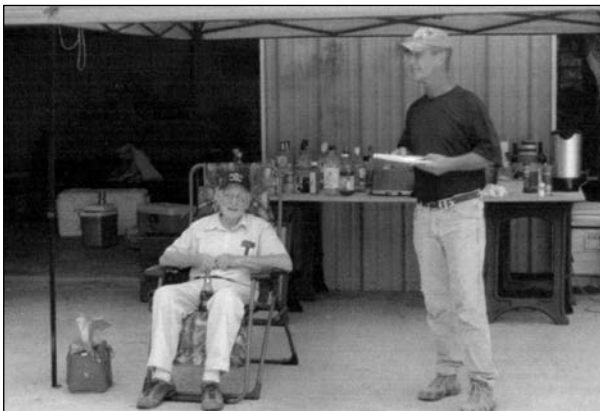
RV's and some just bring their poncho liner and curl up on the ground. Attendance this year included Graduates of the Ranger course, Special Forces Veterans Viet Nam Era Rangers, Pre-Regiment Rangers, and of course the modern day Regiment is well represented. The event is catered with local Texas Barbeque and there is more than enough alcohol to go around.

Andy has built a range on his land so there are typically enough fire arms and ammo to over throw, well, most countries. This years arsenal included a Barrett .50 caliber rifle as well as black powder muzzle loader that fired like a 2 inch ball, it was basically as shoulder fired cannon! Saturday and Sunday always includes a pistol shooting competition which turns out to be great fun.



**Sign from Ranch**

This year, we were blessed to have TSGT FM Greeson in attendance. TSGT Greeson was part of the D-Day invasion and landed near Point Du Hoc in support of the 2nd Ranger Battalion. He was part of the 2nd Engineer Battalion.



**TSGT Greeson in chair**

He also saw action at Rhineland, Battle of the Bulge, Ramagan Bridge, Hill 192, St. Lo, Deviers Beligum and the Cerst Forest. He was awarded 5 Bronze stars for his gallant and unselfish service. He had some great stories and also brought some of the items he absconded from the Nazis. To include a "Mothers Cross – First Class" – this was awarded to German mothers who had bore at least 8 children for the "fatherland".



**Mothers cross**

He also had a Nazi flag in great shape.



**TSGT Greeson with flag**

This was a real treat for all of us and we presented TSGT Greeson with a plaque from us welcoming him to the Ranger Brotherhood, an award we felt was deserved based on his service in support of the 2nd Ranger Battallion.

Sadly, a few months after this get together we would be notified that one of the attendees, a recent 1/75 GWOT veteran would be killed in a motorcycle incident. Life is unfair at times. He was a great warrior with a great future ahead of him. RIP SGT Aaron Barr.



## **t r e a s U r e r ' s M e s s a g e ( C O n t i n U e d )**

### **NCOPD Stone Mountain**

This summer I also had the opportunity to speak at an NCOPD for the RSTB NCO's at the Stone Mountain resort. This "new" Bn. Is an integral part of the Regiment and is very unique in its mission set. Any time I have the opportunity to be around the warriors of today's Regiment it is both an honor and a humbling experience. As much as we have in common, it's obvious this is not the Regiment I grew up in and these NCO's are inspiring in their dedication and focus.

We continue to look for a unit rep who would like to help us create a section for the RSTB here in Patrolling Magazine. If there is anyone who would like to step up, please let us know.

For those that are not familiar with the mission of this unique unit, I have copied the information from the from the Ft. Benning web site below.

The 75th Regimental Special Troops Battalion (RSTB) was provisionally activated on 17 July, 2006 and officially activated on 16 October, 2007 as a response to the demands of the war on terror and the changing nature of Ranger operations. The activation of the RSTB provides the Ranger Regiment and Special Operations Command with increased operational capabilities to sustained combat operations. The RSTB conducts Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance functions in support of the 75th Ranger Regiment and other Special Operation Task Forces in order to enable the execution of Joint Special Operations anywhere in the world. Additionally, the RSTB provides qualified, trained and ready Rangers in order to sustain the Ranger Force. The Regimental Special Troops Battalion is comprised of four distinct companies. The Ranger Reconnaissance Company (RRC) provides worldwide reconnaissance and operation preparation of the environment in support of the 75th Ranger Regiment and other special operations units.

The Ranger Communications Company (RCC) provides the Regiment world class command and control and communications in support of combat operations while meeting the additional communication requirements of other special operations task forces. The Military Intelligence Company (MICO) provides the 75th Ranger Regiment and the special operations command the ability to conduct HUMINT, SIGINT, IMINT, and all source analysis operations in support of combat operations.

The Ranger Operations Company (ROC) is the "gateway into the Regiment." The programs of instructions (POI) within the ROC include the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program (RASP 1 and 2), Small Unit Ranger Tactics (SURT), and Pre-Special Operations Combat Medical Course (PSOCM). RASP 1 assesses, trains, and identifies soldiers of the rank of E-5 and below for service in the Regiment. RASP 2 conducts the assessment and selection for soldiers E-6 and above. SURT prepares members of the Regiment for successful completion of the United States Army Ranger School. PSOCM is the preparatory training for all Medics (68W) in the Special Operations Combat Medic Course.

Since the beginning of OEF and OIF, the RSTB has maintained elements continuously deployed to combat. Both in training and in combat, the RSTB provides continuous support to the three other Ranger Battalions and the Regimental Headquarters.

### **Special Combat recognitions**

#### **(Combat Jump Operations)**

\* Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment Tm 3 conducts combat military freefall parachute drop onto Wrath Drop Zone in southeast Afghanistan on 10 November, 2001. In order to establish a Flight Landing Strip for follow on combat operations.

\* Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment Tm 3 conducts combat static line parachute drop onto Shiloh Drop Zone in southeast Afghanistan on 21 November, 2001. In order to establish a flight Landing Strip for follow on combat operations.

\* Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment Tm 3 conducts combat military freefall parachute drop onto Tillman Drop Zone in southeast Afghanistan in July, 2004 in order to emplace tactical equipment.

\*Regimental Reconnaissance Company Tm 1 conducts combat military freefall parachute drop with tandem passenger in Afghanistan on 11 July, 2009 in order to emplace tactical equipment.

### **Change of Responsibility**

In September I had the opportunity to attend the change of responsibility for both the RSTB and 3/75. CSM Eddie Noland was moving from RSTB to assume responsibility for 3/75 and CSM Bradley Meyers was moving from 3/75 to assume responsibility of the RSTB.

## t r easUr er 's Message (COnt in Ued)

Both men are seasoned Rangers and leaders with multiple deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq. Both units will be good hands under the leadership of these two outstanding NCO's.



**Change of responsibility**

This was a great event to attend and held special meaning for me as CSM Noland and I served for many years together both in 1/75 and XVIII Airborne Corps LRS.

### **Divine Intervention**

While at the change of responsibility I got to hear a very

motivational prayer by an outstanding Ranger Chaplin it is below.

Our god and our creator,  
In the universe of battle, perhaps there is nothing more to be feared than a Ranger non commissioned officer. They are the backbone, the heart, the blood and the muscle of this incredible organization and they are the ones who lead and motivate us all to move further, faster and fight harder. And as we gather to observe this change of responsibility, we ask that you continue to bless the NCO's of this battalion, so that the wicked enemies of our country would cower in corners like the hunted animals that they are. Yes, may Rangers forever crush the wicked and all who oppose life, liberty and the United States of America.  
Amen

Keep the "Boys" in your prayers as they are running continuous operations and taking the fight to the bad guys daily.

If anyone needs anything from me or if I can be of any assistance feel free to contact me.

Rangers Lead the Way!

## g OLd st ar



**Sandee Rouse**

Hello to all,

Well fall is fast approaching, the breezes will cool down and the leaves will change as we say good bye to another long hot and deadly summer for our Ranger families. The number of families God has allowed me to touch and to touch me since the last time we

met here saddens me beyond words.

Rangers KIA

Spc Joseph Dimock 1/75 KIA Afghanistan

Sgt Justin Allen 1/75 KIA Afghanistan

Sgt Anibal Santiago 3/75 Afghanistan

Sgt Andrew Nicol 3/75 Afghanistan

Pfc Bradley Rappuhn 3/75 Afghanistan

MSg Jared Van Aalst former 3/75 Afghanistan  
Sgt Sean Cook former 1/75 motorcycle accident

To try and tell you that this has been a bit over whelming is putting mildly. These follow on the heels of the 5 other rangers we honored in our last issue. Everytime I call or write a new Gold Star family I am reminded that who and what we are as a country is paid for by these brave young men that continually volunteer to walk into the fog of war over and over again.

I was blessed to be in Ohio and meet with the Bonnie and Roger Allen the parents of Sgt Justin Allen 1/75 and their family. What a wonderful family they are. My sister and I drove the 2 ½ hours drive from Cincinnati to Coal Grove Ohio a small town that sits right on the Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia border. The hour and a half we spent with the

## gOLd star (COnt in Ued)

family were well worth the trip. The sorrow and broken hearts for all of them were very apparent and yet they stand squarely on their faith. The sparkle in their eyes when they spoke about Justin and knowing they will be together again lit up the room. Justin was their baby. He came along at the same they were having grandchildren enter their family and Bonnie smiled from ear to ear as she told us the story of her little surprise.

Each of our families have their wonderful stories and their memories. I never get tired of them sharing their stories as we help them walk into their new normal.

I received my Gold Star newsletter from the National Gold Star Moms and there were 65 new member of that organization. As I looked at the pictures and read the articles. I am always in awe of the families as they go on and find their calling. Inspired by our children we must go on as we try to fill an unfullfillable void with things worthy of honoring our irreplaceable child/warrior. The organizations, scholarships, banners, license plates, counseling groups and on and on that these brave warriors set in motion is absolutely mind-boggling. When you look past the families smiles there lies and undeniable determination to live our lives in honor of theirs everyday in every way.

Until we meet again,  
It remains my great honor and privilege to serve you  
Blessings,  
RLTW  
Sandee

I have approached John and the board about the need to expand the Gold Star program and am looking forward to working with them to get that under way. I will have more on that later.

### Gold Star Legislation

**HR4505** was passed unanimously by the House in June. This bill would expand the eligibility of Gold Star parents to



seek care at State Veterans Homes in the 137 State Veterans Homes throughout the country. Currently, a Gold Star Parent must lose all of their children, this bill has changed it to “any” of their children.

A similar bill, S1450 is currently languishing in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. The provisions contained within the bill were included in another bill, S1237 also being considered by the Committee, but with

a \$3.5-billion price tag, it’s passage is at best uncertain.

S. 3650 would extend a 10-point federal veterans hiring preference to the fathers of children who have died in combat or are permanently disabled as a result of combat. This 10-point federal veterans hiring preference is currently available to mothers of children who have died in combat or are permanently disabled as a result of combat. This veterans preference was passed in 1948 as an amendment to the 1944 Veterans Preference Act and has not been updated since that time. This legislation has been passed by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. In addition to Senator Wyden, who introduced this legislation, this legislation has been cosponsored by Senators Lieberman, Collins, Akaka, Voinovich and Landrieu.

If you would like to write a letter of support on behalf of this legislation:

Chairman Joseph Lieberman  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20310

Ranking Member Susan Collins  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
350 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20310

## LegisLat ive UPdat e

### 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, John Chester, President

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Washington, DC 20310

### VA MUST SHARE

### MEDICAL INFORMATION

(Submitted by Dan Nate, Advocate, 75th Ranger Regt)

Veterans who have had their claims denied because the Board of Veteran Appeals (BVA) used one-sided medical references to support its decisions may now have grounds to re-open their cases.

The Court of Veterans Appeals (CVA) has ruled that BVA can no longer determine the fate of a veteran’s claim “without sharing all the information it has on the case with the veteran before it makes a final decision.”

BVA practice in the past, according to Ron Abrams of the National Veterans Legal Services Project, has been to cite only those medical references that would assure denial of the claim, even though other references would support the veteran’s case. Now, because of the ruling, if one (1) medical reference says an injury cannot be caused by a fall, but another says it can, the BVA cannot hide the information favoring the veteran.

Abrams told the American Legion Service Officers attending Service Officers School in Indianapolis that this was not an issue of VA regulations, but a violation of Constitutional Law in the matter of due process.

## LegisLat ive UPdat e Message (COn t in Ued)

The recent VBA decision in “THURBER vs BROWN has generated much concern within VA. Members of VA’s General Counsel staff urged Secretary Brown to “appeal” the decision, and Brown called a meeting of veterans’ service organizations to ask them to support VA if it appealed “THURBER.”

During that meeting, John Hansen, then-Director of the Legion’s Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, told the VA representative, “if VA is asking the American Legion to endorse a policy that hides information from a

veteran, then you have wasted my time and there is nothing further to discuss. The American Legion will never tolerate an action that is detrimental to veterans.”

The next morning, Secretary Jesse Brown announced VA would not appeal the ruling.

Veterans who believe the BVA may have withheld information concerning their claim(s) should contact their nearest American Legion Department Service Officer.

### Vet Insurance ~ Life Update 07

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs failed to inform 6 million soldiers and their families of an agreement enabling Prudential Financial Inc. to withhold lump-sum payments of life insurance benefits for survivors of fallen service members, according to records made public through a Freedom of Information request. The amendment to Prudential’s contract is the first document to show how VA officials sanctioned a payment practice that has spurred investigations by lawmakers and regulators. Since 1999, Prudential has used so-called retained-asset accounts, which allow the company to withhold lump sum payments due to survivors and earn investment income on the money for itself. The 1 SEP 09, amendment to Prudential’s contract with the VA ratified another that had been struck between the insurer and the government 10 years earlier — one that was never put into writing, Bloomberg Markets magazine reports in its November issue. This verbal agreement in 1999 provoked concern among top insurance officials of the agency, the documents released in the FOIA request show.

For a decade, until the contract was formally changed, Prudential wasn’t fulfilling its obligations to survivors of fallen service members, says Brendan Bridgeland, an insurance lawyer who runs the non-profit Center for Insurance Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. —“It’s very clear they violated the original terms of the contract,” says Bridgeland, who is retained by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to represent consumers. —“Every veteran I’ve spoken with is appalled at the brazen war profiteering by Prudential,” says Paul Sullivan, who served in the 1991 Gulf War as an Army cavalry scout and is now executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington. —“Now vets are upset at the VA’s inability to stop Prudential’s bad behavior.” That the VA allowed

Prudential to issue retained-asset accounts for 10 years while the contract required lump-sum payouts is —more evidence that the VA was asleep at the wheel for a decade,” says Sullivan, who was a project manager and analyst at the VA from 2000 to 2006. —“When grieving families check the 3 box that they want a lump sum, they should get it. We remain disappointed and irate at the VA’s failure to provide advocacy for veterans,” he says.

The language of both the 1965 contract and the 2009 amendment make clear that Newark, New Jersey-based Prudential was required to adhere to the original terms until 2009, regardless of any handshake agreements in 1999, insurance lawyer Bridgeland says. The 1965 contract says any alterations must be made in writing. —“No change in the Group Policy shall be valid unless evidenced by an amendment thereto, it says. —“No Agent is authorized to alter or amend the Group Policy.” The VA and Prudential signed a revised contract in 2007, saying it was —amended in its entirety.” That contract, with the exact same words as the 1965 agreement, required that Prudential pay survivors with lump sums. The 2007 revision included the same procedures in the 1965 agreement requiring any changes be made in writing. It contained no mention of the retained-asset system, or of the verbal agreement struck in 1999.

It wasn’t until 24 SEP 09, that the changes agreed to by VA official Lastowka and Prudential in 1999 were put into writing. The 2009 amendment allowing Prudential to hold onto death benefit payouts was made retroactive to 1 SEP 09, not back to 1999. By putting in writing a change that was verbally adopted 10 years earlier, the VA is effectively trying to backdate the amendment, says Jeffrey Stempel, an insurance law professor at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who wrote *‘Stempel on Insurance Contracts’* (Aspen Publishers, 2009). —“They’re trying to reinvent history,” Stempel says.



## LegisLat ive UPdat e Message (COn t in Ued)

—You really can't do that. This is a blatant giveaway by the VA with nothing for the agency or the people in uniform." Nine of every 10 survivors ask Prudential for lump-sum payments, the VA says. Prudential sends those families —checkbooks" instead of checks. Documents released in the FOIA request show some signs of concern within the VA after Prudential proposed the retained- asset accounts in 1998. Lastowka, the official who allowed Prudential to introduce the Alliance Accounts, said that the insurer's —checkbook" system wasn't protected by the FDIC. [Source: Bloomberg David Evans article 14 Sep 2010 ++]

### **Veterans' Court Update 06**

On 13 SEP, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge will start hearing criminal cases against military veterans charged with nonviolent felonies. The pilot program is meant to give a second chance to veterans who may have gotten into trouble in part due to conditions related to their service, such as post-traumatic stress syndrome, brain injuries and other mental conditions. Orange County has a similar program, which mirrors other veteran courts that have sprung up across the nation. "This is long overdue," Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Tynan (who will preside over the court) said. "Everybody's concentrating on soldiers right now returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, but I'm not sure that these guys are getting the kind of care they ought to get." The veterans' court will start with a maximum of 50 cases at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in downtown Los Angeles. All military personnel will be eligible. Many of the cases are expected to be drug and alcohol-related. Research suggests that veterans often self-medicate to numb the pain of war experiences. Tynan now oversees the county's drug court, also a specialty unit intended for those whose crimes are primarily a result of addiction. The idea is get the defendant into treatment, as opposed to a jail cell.

Some defendants may be referred to Veterans Affairs, which runs outpatient and clinical care facilities in Long Beach, Lancaster and West Los Angeles. Veterans will be supervised for a set period. If they violate conditions of the court, the severity of penalties will increase. The first court of the kind was started in Buffalo, N.Y., in 2008, and so far none of the veterans who completed the program committed new crimes, officials said. Federal lawmakers are looking to pass legislation that would provide funding for treatment and court costs. The VA estimates that

131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, a situation caused largely by mental illness and substance abuse. Torrance-based Deputy District Attorney John Loneragan, a colonel in the Army reserves, helped set up the local pilot program for veterans. He said, "These men and women are pulled away from their families for a year or more. They are under constant stress, under the microscope, and they come back and face broken marriages and other 4 difficulties. ... People are finally recognizing the need to treat these individuals. We don't want to relive these issues from Vietnam." [Source: myFoxla.com article 13 Sep 2010]

### **VA Presumptive VN Vet Diseases Update 12**

Sweeping new presumptions about what medical conditions in Vietnam veterans are the result of exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange could lead to benefits for up to 250,000 more veterans. But the \$42.2 billion expansion of disability compensation and medical treatment is raising questions about just how generous the federal government should be. About 90,000 veterans or survivors could receive retroactive benefits by the end of October, covering an average of almost 12 years of back pay, under the new policy announced 31 AUG in a Federal Register notice implementing a decision made last fall by Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki. Another 150,000 veterans are expected to apply for benefits that, if approved, would take effect the day of their application. The new rules add Parkinson's disease, hairy cell and chronic B cell leukemia, and ischemic heart disease to the list of illnesses presumed to be service-connected in Vietnam veterans.

VA officials expect the average disability ratings to be 100% for Vietnam veterans with Parkinson's disease or the two forms of leukemia, and 60% for those with ischemic heart disease. Disability benefits will not be paid for 60 days — not before 30 OCT— because the new presumptions represent a major change in policy that requires giving Congress time to react. The national commander of AmVets, a major veterans service organization, said he hopes Congress goes along. —AmVets now urges Congress to approve VA's guidelines so that veterans can start to receive the care and benefits they deserve," Jerry Hotop said. While VA officials consider it unlikely Congress would block the change, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a hearing 23 SEP to discuss the expanded benefits, with two particular concerns being raised: the overall costs of the policy

## LegisLat ive UPdat e Message (COn t in Ued)

change and the inclusion of ischemic heart disease — a condition faced by many older Americans who never served in Vietnam. VA officials acknowledge the heart ailment is common among older Americans as a result of high cholesterol, smoking and other factors, raising the possibility that some Vietnam veterans may have this ailment because of post-service factors that have nothing to do with Agent Orange. But VA defended including the benefit, noting that five separate studies have shown a link between exposure to the herbicide and the heart disease. Because it is impossible to determine the origin of the disease, VA policy errs on the side of veterans, said Bradley Mayes, director of VA's Boston Regional Office and the former compensation and pension service director who worked on the new Agent Orange rules.

The end result, Mayes said, is that veterans must show only that they have qualifying service and that they have a medical condition associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Rick Weidman of Vietnam Veterans of America, a group that has been pushing for expanded Agent Orange benefits, says the cost of providing disability compensation and health care for veterans exposed to the herbicide should be considered a cost of war. Cost is an issue for some people, especially after former Wyoming Republican Sen. Alan Simpson, cochair of the Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform that is studying ways to reduce federal spending and the national debt, focused on an 10 Associated Press report that shows diabetes is the chief disability claimed by Vietnam veterans, accounting for about \$850 million a year in compensation. Simpson, an Army veteran and former chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, called it an —irony that —veterans who saved this country are now, in a way, not helping us to save the country in this fiscal mess." Those remarks sparked angry reactions from some Vietnam veterans. There is no indication that Simpson is urging the so-called Debt Commission to include any Agent Orange-related recommendations in its report, expected in December, but the panel has been looking at the overall cost of military and veterans' benefits. [NavyTimes Rick Maze article 13 Sep 2010 ++]

### **PTSD Update 55**

Recently a judge extended the deadline for a class action lawsuit that hopes to get monetary compensation for veterans who suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from their service in the wars in the Middle East. The extension would allow more veterans to sign on to the pending litigation. The lawsuit was brought on behalf of

Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans by the National Veterans Legal Services Program and pro-bono counsel. Military veterans who were discharged between 17 DEC 02 and 14 OCT 08, may be eligible to join the class-action lawsuit Sabo, et. al. vs. U.S. The deadline to sign-up is 10 12 NOV 2010. For more information on how to sign-up, refer to the ptsdlawsuit.com website. [Source: NAUS Weekly Update 10 Sep 2010 ++]

### **Military Stolen Valor Update 23**

The American Combat Veterans of War (ACVOW) protested a decision by the Veterans Affairs hospital in La Jolla California to allow a former Marine sergeant to act as a volunteer as part of his community service after pleading guilty to wearing a general's uniform and medals that he did not earn. ACVOW co-founders William Rider and Michael Sloan said the presence of David Weber at the hospital as a volunteer was disrespectful to veterans. "Veterans, particularly combat veterans, have very strong feelings about how ribbons and rank are worn and consider his actions extremely disrespectful," the two wrote in a letter delivered this week to Lorelei Winn, director of volunteer services at La Jolla VA Medical Center. "We are very proud of those in our ranks who have earned their stripes." Weber, 69, pleaded guilty in January in San Diego federal court to a misdemeanor violation under the Stolen Valor Act, which makes it a crime to wear unearned military ribbons or rank. He served in the Marine Corps from 1958 to 1967 and left as a staff sergeant. In recent years, however, he had embellished his service record by bragging about being on clandestine intelligence missions and being promoted to general. His unmasking came when he attended — wearing the rank of a two-star general — an event last fall in Ramona celebrating the anniversary of the Marine Corps' founding. Weber was sentenced to three years' probation and 240 hours of community service. He told the North County Times that he was a greeter at the hospital and had not told any tall tales about his military service. "I haven't been telling anyone anything," he told the newspaper. "The only thing I did is to say good morning or good afternoon." Weber may prove to be one of the last people charged under the Stolen Valor Act. Two courts, in separate cases, have ruled it an unconstitutional infringement on free speech. On 10 SEP as a result of the concerns of the ACVOW, it was reported that the Veterans Administration in La Jolla terminated the services of David Weber. [Source: San Diego North County Times Tony Perry article 8 Sep 2010 ++]

## LegisLat ive UPdat e Message (COnT in Ued)

### Military History

During World War I and World War II, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States armed forces and used words from their traditional tribal languages as weapons. Some Code Talkers enlisted, others were drafted. Many of the Code Talkers who served were under age and had to lie about their age to join. Some were just 15 years old. Ultimately, there were Code Talkers from at least 16 tribes who served in the army, the marines, and the navy. The military asked them to develop secret battle communications based on their languages—and America's enemies never deciphered the coded messages they sent. —Code Talkers, as they came to be known after World War II, are twentieth-century American Indian warriors and heroes who significantly aided the victories of the United States and its allies. American Indian Code Talkers were communications specialists. Their job was to send coded messages about troop movements, enemy positions, and other critical information on the battlefield. Some Code Talkers translated messages into their Native languages and relayed them to another tribal member. Others developed a special code within their languages that they used in combat to send important messages.

In World War I, Choctaw and other American Indians transmitted battle messages in their tribal languages by telephone. Although not used extensively, the World War I telephone squads played a key role in helping the United States Army win several battles in France that brought about the end of the war. Beginning in 1940, the army recruited Comanches, Choctaws, Hopis, Cherokees, and others to transmit messages. The army had special American Indian recruiters working to find Comanches in Oklahoma who would enlist. The Marine Corps recruited Navajo Code Talkers in 1941 and 1942. Philip Johnston, a World War I veteran who had heard about the successes of the Choctaw telephone squad, was instrumental in advancing the use of Code Talkers. Although not Indian, he had grown up on the Navajo reservation and was familiar with their language and capabilities. In 1942, he suggested to the Marine Corps that Navajos and other tribes could be very helpful in maintaining communications secrecy. After viewing a demonstration of messages sent in the Navajo language, the Marine Corps was so impressed that they recruited 29 Navajos in two weeks to develop a code within their language. After the Navajo code was developed, the Marine Corps established a Code Talking school. As the war progressed, more than 400 Navajos were

eventually recruited as Code Talkers. The training was intense. Following their basic training, the Code Talkers completed extensive training in communications and memorizing the code.

Many Code Talkers earned medals during and after the war, but this was recognition that many servicemen and women received, depending on where they were and what they did in the war. Special recognition for Code Talking did not come for more than 40 years. One reason that Code Talkers were not recognized until much later is because the program was secret and classified by the military. The Navajos were ordered to keep their wartime jobs secret. It wasn't until 1968 that the Navajo Code Talkers program was declassified by the military. The military did not order the Comanche Code Talkers to keep silent about their jobs in the war. However, mostly due to security concerns, the program was not discussed outside the Comanche community. After the programs were declassified, people started to realize the importance of the Code Talkers' achievements, and recognition finally began to arrive.

In 1989, the French government awarded the Comanche Code Talkers the Chevalier of the National Order of Merit, a very high honor.

In 2000, the United States Congress passed legislation to honor the Navajo Code Talkers and provided them with special gold and silver Congressional Medals. The gold medals were for the original 29 Navajos that developed the code and the silver medals for those that served later in the program. A statement in the Navajo language on the back of the medals translates to: —With the Navajo language they defeated the enemy.

In 2007, a Congressional bill was introduced to officially recognize all American Indians who served as Code Talkers during the twentieth century.

Beyond Washington, D.C., tribal governments, some state and local governments, and a variety of organizations have acknowledged the importance of the Code Talkers.

[Source: [www.nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/htm](http://www.nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/htm)  
Aug 2010 ++]

# HEALTH

## DISCLAIMER

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

This information is from the Agent Orange Review, which I just got this afternoon in the mail. I include only the headlines, the links and phone number given on the review. Please check out the links to get the full article, as some are real long to include (type) into this email.

With all of us coming down with some form of ailment in our 60+ years, it's relevant to all of us in the company and you're welcome to share this information with anyone else you so desire, especially other Nam veterans.

Speedy

VA extends Agent Orange Benefits to more Veterans  
[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange)  
800-749-8387

"Blue Water" update – Supreme Court decision and New IOM Review  
[www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets](http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets)  
800-827-1000

Learn more of the A.O. Registry exam  
[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/registry.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/registry.asp)  
800-749-8387

VA simplifies access to health care and benefits for veterans with PTSD  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)  
800-827-1000

VA establishes ALS as a Presumptive Service-Connected Illness; cites association between Military Service and Development of ALS  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)  
800-827-1000

VA seeks to Fast Track new Agent Orange Claims  
[www.vba.va.gov/bin/21/compensation/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/bin/21/compensation/index.htm)

VA helps Vets address Mortgage Problems, has a "solid record of success"  
[www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov)  
877-827-3702

VA to bring service closer to veterans: Rural veterans

benefit from new programs  
Rural Mobile health care clinics  
Veterans' rural health resource centers (VRHRCs)  
Mobile counseling Centers across America  
Thirteen Names to Veterans' rural health advisory Committee  
(Check with your nearest VA office if you live in a rural area)

Comprehensive health care for women veterans; you served, you deserve the best care anywhere  
[www.publichealth.va.gov/womenhealth](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenhealth)  
877-222-8387

Self-Management: you can live a better life!  
[www.WarRelatedillness.va.gov](http://www.WarRelatedillness.va.gov)  
202-461-1013

Health Conditions\* Recognized for Presumptive Service-Connection  
[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange)  
Health Conditions\* Recognized for Presumptive Service-Connection for In-Country Vietnam Veterans

Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy  
AL Amyloidosis  
Chloracne (or similar Acneform Disease)

\*All Chronic B-Cell Leukemias (previously the category included only Lymphocytic Leukemias. It is now expanded to include other chronic Leukemias affecting B-Cells such as hairy cell Leukemias)  
Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)

Hodgkins Disease  
\*Ischemic Heart Disease

Multiple Myeloma  
Non- Hodgkins's Lymphoma  
\*Parkinson's Disease

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda  
Prostate Cancer

Respiratory Cancers  
Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's Sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

Conditions Recognized in Children of Vietnam Veterans  
Spina Bifida

## HeaLt H issUes (COnt in Ued)

Disabilities other than Spina Bifida in the children of  
Women Vietnam Veterans  
A total of 18 defects – please call 800-827-1000

Disability Compensation from VA  
<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>  
Other benefits  
[www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets](http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets)

Agent Orange Registry Statistics: as of March 2010  
[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/eh\\_coordinators.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/eh_coordinators.asp)

Questions about Agent Orange: Key contacts  
VA's special issues Helpline 800-749-8387

Nearest VA Medical Center and concerns about Agent  
Orange as well as needing Treatment  
[www.va.gov/directory](http://www.va.gov/directory)  
800-827-1000

General questions about Agent Orange  
[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange)  
800-749-8387

Vietnam Veterans with children with Spina Bifida  
888-820-1756  
800-621-3141  
Email: [sbaa@sbaa.org](mailto:sbaa@sbaa.org) Website is [www.sbaa.org](http://www.sbaa.org)

For Disability information  
800-827-1000

To start a disability claim on line go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or  
call 800-749-8387

For additional benefits (check for updates)  
[www.va.gov/opa/Is1](http://www.va.gov/opa/Is1)  
Or you could buy it from the US Gov. Printing Office  
<http://bookstore.gpo.gov>

TO: MICHAEL, PETER, DANIEL  
FROM: BILL LEWIS *Bill*  
SUBJECT: WOMEN'S STUDY, BASE CAMP LAYING

CC: LYNN  
TERRY  
CHARLIE KRAUS  
PAUL SCIPIONE  
PAUL SUTTON

We are working with the Army Environmental Support Group to evaluate a methodology for determining those bases in Vietnam subject to the heaviest defoliation. As I stated in my memo of 8/5/88, we have developed a method of "ranking" bases by their proximity to known spray missions. We have ranked the 15 largest bases in Vietnam, and the results follow:

BASECAMP	AGENT ORANGE MISSIONS (KILOMETERS)				Total	EXPOSURE DAYS (Four year)
	1967	1968	1969	1970		
1. CU CHI	0	1	33	5	39	
2. DAU TIENG	7	0	12	1	20	373
3. BIEN HOA	2	0	4	3	9	344
4. PHU BAI	0	6	2	0	8	333
5. QUI NHON	0	0	13	0	13	282
6. CHU LAI	1	0	4	0	5	272
7. AN KHE	3	3	3	0	9	242
8. LONG BINH	0	0	8	0	8	203
9. TAY NINH	0	0	4	0	4	189
10. PLIEKU	0	0	4	0	4	144
11. QUANG TRI	2	0	1	0	3	102
12. NHA TRANG	0	1	1	0	2	89
13. DANANG	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. TAM KY	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. CAM RANH	0	0	0	0	0	0

AUGUST 31, 1988  
UWL



## Feat U r e a r t i c L e s



### OUTWARD BOUND

#### OUTWARD BOUND OFFERING FREE WILDERNESS EXPEDITIONS FOR OEF/OIF VETERANS



*Seeking veterans nationwide for all expenses paid expeditions*

Outward Bound, a 45-year old non-profit outdoor, adventure-education organization, is looking for **OEF and OIF Veterans**, interested in participating in **fully-funded reintroduction wilderness expeditions**. Adventures are physically, mentally and emotionally stimulating and work to build the self-confidence, trust, and communication skills necessary to successfully return to their families and communities following war time service.

Goals of the program are to provide a positive outdoor experience for military veterans that will enable them to experience the healing benefits of the natural world and benefit from quality environmental education.

- Who: Available to all OEF or OIF Veterans who were deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan, pending medical screening
- What: A 5-7 day Wilderness Expedition: may include backpacking, rock climbing, canoeing, dogsledding, sailing, sea kayaking and white water rafting
- When: Dates available year-round
- Where: Wilderness locations include: California, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Alabama, and Florida
- How: What sets Outward Bound apart is that the goal is personal growth. The wilderness and the skills learned to deal with it are simply a vehicle for growth.
- Cost: All expenses paid! Veterans will not be responsible for cost of expedition including round-trip stateside transportation to course site. Funding provided by the *Military Family Outdoor Initiative Project*, a joint project of the Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation.
- To Enroll: Please call 1-866-669-2362 ext 8387 (VETS)
- Website: <http://www.outwardbound.org/index.cfm/do/cp.veterans>

## Feat U r e a r t i c L e s (C O n t i n U e d)

### Day 1 – Panama

BY: Mark Smith, 2/75

No Cold War 2nd Battalion Ranger forgets his first deployment to Panama. Newbies are given a gleeful and graphic run down by battalion veterans with Banana Boat Patches of all the things that can kill you, disfigure you, or worse, make prized body parts fall off. Because there actually are many real and horrible things in each category, it lends credibility and stature to the longer mythical list. Howler Monkeys, Chagres River Sharks, Jungle Rot, Colombian Syph, Black Palm, Leeches... all these things are fresh in my E-2/RIP + 6 month mind as our C-141 wings its way across the Caribbean on my first trip to JOTC.

As we receive the 20 min warning – we wait for the opening of the doors to flood the back of the plane with fresh air, welcome relief from the communal claustrophobia of in-flight rigging. Handles turn, rubber seals crack, the vacuum breaks, rays of bright light pierce the gloom of the plane as the flotsam and jetsam of discarded bits of 80lbs test and C-Rat crackers fly their erratic pathways out the open doors.

Waiting for that instant rush of fresh air that would disburse the stale smells of puke and sweat... waiting for that initial blast to hit my face and... WHOOSH!!! Yes... WTF!?! This is hot, wet, oppressively sticky air, drowning us in humidity – instantly saturated with a couple extra pounds of jump weight. “Stand up!” I had been nervous as I was the first jumper on the first stick of my aircraft. Now I was thanking my lucky stars that I was going to be able to get out of this runaway sauna and get on the ground where no doubt, cool ocean breezes awaited. Standing in the door brought some relief. The thought “This sure seems a lot lower than 1000 feet” crosses my mind when the pneumatic hand of the JM launches me out the aircraft yelling “GO!”. It was the end of September 1980. The elephant grass (Was that on the list? What had leaves like razor blades?) was about 10 feet tall (later, after I was stationed at Fort Gulick with 3/7th SFGA, I confirmed this).

Rustle-Crunch! (grass) – Splash!!! (water). Oh yeah. My squad leader had passed that down the stick “Water on the DZ, Rangers”. I guess I forgot. At least my parachute never got wet, settled on the grass. Imagine lugging a wet MC1-1B to the turn in point (that, for those of you who possess more than my GED, is a literary device called “foreshadowing”).

One instruction I did follow was to use my compass to shoot an azimuth to the assembly area during descent. Now I knew why. Surrounded by the Tarzan/Heart of Darkness version of a tall, evil cornfield, I couldn’t see shit. I looked down to find my compass hanging from its lanyard about 6” below the waterline. Remember how silly dummy cords seemed in RIP? Waterlogged uniform, surface wet rucksack (Remember how silly waterproof bags in your ruck seemed in RIP?) but dry parachute. On the suckmeter, that was pretty good. Get azimuth, start walking. About a foot of water on Gatun DZ, slow going, not bad, jeez though it is hot and humid – as opposite Fort Lewis as you could get.

Apocalypse Now had just hit theaters and I know all you who were there would be embarrassed to tell your kids how many times we played “The End” in the barracks and performed scenes like “Never get outta the boat!” – which is what I was feeling about now. Slogging through the elephant grass I was not sure whether I would meet COL Kurtz or the Tiger first, but I knew neither was going to be good. They were straphangers to the already lengthy list of things that dragged away sleeping Rangers in the jungle. The humid air sucked the life force out of my Pacific Northwest body.

After what seemed like an eternity, I emerged from the impenetrable wall into daylight and the road. I had expected to get my ass chewed for taking so long, but I was surprised to see that not many had made it to the turn in point yet. So now I was thinking I was already a Jungle Expert – having conquered the elephant grass. I dropped off my chute and was taking a well-deserved break, standing on the road, watching the last sticks as they hit the ground. Airborne operation complete.

I was about to receive an important Ranger lesson. Stay low - move fast applied to more than combat. My respite had allowed the red laser dot of “I need a body” to acquire a target. The dot had settled right on my back and the guy looking through the scope was the Bn XO.

“Ranger Smith!!!” Every young Ranger knows the sound and the subsequent bolt of adrenaline and fear when you realize someone above the rank of SSG has singled you out vocally. Shit. How did he even know who I was?

“Ranger Smith, you see that Huey?” a UH-1H had taken up a hover over the DZ. Hard to miss, even an E-2 like me

## Feat U r e a r t i C L e s (C O n t i n U e d)

could identify it. “Yes sir!” I replied. The XO briefed me “I estimate that Huey to be about 300m away. Under it, is our bundle drop. Two G-13 cargo parachutes, ammo boxes, etc. I need you to get to that spot and hand all that stuff up to the aircrew so we can recover the bundles. The aircraft will hover right there until you reach it so you don’t get lost. Leave all your gear right here. I’ll make sure no one messes with it. Hooah?” “Hooah, sir!” “Can you do that, Ranger?” “Yes, sir!”

Back into the elephant grass, slogging through the water. I was no longer sure where the water on the DZ stopped and the water in the air started. Hot, solid air – lots of little black flying things in my ears, nose, mouth. At least the sound of the Huey would scare off the tigers.

For most of the time, I could not see the helicopter, only move to the sound. Finally I could see it and at first the rotor wash felt like the blast of air I dreamed of in the C-141. Exhilarating. The big G-13’s and the dunnage smashed the grass into a clearing of sorts. Shit was everywhere and if I was happy with myself for keeping my MC1-1B dry, I was soon engulfed in hundreds of pounds of soaking wet cotton cargo chutes and a continuous vortex of a rotor wash hurricane. The needle on the suckmeter had moved dramatically to the right.

“I’m sorry Mrs. Smith, your son was wrestled to the ground and drowned by a cargo chute in a swamp in Panama. Tragic.” No. Not on my watch. Finally, finally – the chutes were on board and I handed up the last of the ammo crates to the crew chief. I backed up a couple feet, to overcome muscle failure and get to a better spot to climb on the skid, when the pilot suddenly increased power, the tail lifted and rotated slightly, and the f\*%\$ers flew off and left me! Disbelief. Maybe they were coming back... maybe I would have made it too heavy for one trip. Denial. It got really quiet.

After moving through several stages of the grief process, I knew I was on my own. I also realized my compass was with my LBE which was with the XO. As was my water. “This is gonna suck.” I thought as the needle inched further to the right. By the time I actually made it out of the elephant grass maze at the far end of the DZ, the whole battalion had assembled and left. I felt like I had just made it back from Cambodia - surviving the Do Long Bridge, the tiger, COL Kurtz, Dennis Hopper. I needed some water bad but there was no one in sight. “There’s no f\$%#’ing CO

here!” echoed through my mind as I realized I was facing the last stanza of the Ranger Creed. The lone survivor, barely surviving. The suckmeter redlined.

But wait! Shouting! At the other end of the DZ, true to his word, the XO had left a jeep with a couple guys and my buddy, Ranger Murphy, next to my undisturbed gear, tasked with making sure the battalion did not leave a fallen comrade on Gatun Drop Zone on our first day in Panama. They gave me water and loaded my stuff for me. When Rangers feel sorry enough for you to load your ruck, you know you must look bad.

As the jeep left the DZ and headed for Fort Sherman, I finally got that rush of cool air I had longed for – freshened by the ocean breeze as we neared Fort Sherman. As I rehydrated, the suckmeter backed off and in that wonderful Ranger fashion, my past mental trauma was quickly fading and replaced by the excitement of Panama and adventures ahead.

As we came onto Fort Sherman proper, we were stunned by the sight of all our comrades running in shorts and green t-shirts! “What is this, Sergeant?” we asked one of the runners. Apparently, everyone had assembled off of the DZ somewhere, changed, and were now dying in a battalion “acclimatization” run of 7 miles back to Fort Sherman. Fresh off the Iron Bird from Fort Lewis, dehydrated with no sleep – it looked like Napoleon’s retreat from Russia and the Bataan Death March combined. As we went to visit buddies in the infirmary an hour later it looked like the liberation of Auschwitz.

We looked at each other in astonishment and with the joy only soldiers can share when they realize they have just averted a catastrophic fate. They have gotten over because they were following orders to conduct some shitty mission, but then realized that by completing the lesser evil, they escaped the real suck.

I contemplated this and other mysteries of Ranger life as I stared out of the 3rd floor of the Fort Sherman barracks, looking out over Limon Bay. Showered and now cooled by those wonderful ocean breezes through the big open screens, the palms rustling. Postcard. Did the XO actually do me a favor? I would never know. Night fell on Day 1 in Panama.

**Feature articles (Continued)**

**75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2011 REUNION  
25 – 30 JULY, 2011  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**Yes, I will attend the reunion at Ft Benning, Ga, 25 – 30 July, 2011.**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make checks payable to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association (75thRRA).

Mail to: 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 577800

Modesto, CA 95357-7800

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.

**Feat U r e a r t i c L e s (C O n t i n U e d)**

**RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION 2011  
JULY 25 – 30, 2011  
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 DECEMBER, 2010 (WINTER), & MARCH 2011 (SPRING),  
ISSUE OF *PATROLLING* WILL CONTAIN SCHEDULES.**

***IT IS THE ASSOCIATION'S POSITION THAT LACK OF FUNDS  
BY A MEMBER IS NOT SUFFICIENT REASON TO MISS A REUNION.  
IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS,  
CONTACT YOUR UNIT DIRECTOR. THERE ARE FUNDS AVAILABLE,  
ALONG WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS. ALL INQUIRIES  
WILL BE MOST CONFIDENTIAL. THE ELECTED OFFICERS AND  
THE UNIT DIRECTOR WILL MAKE ALL DECISIONS.***

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, INC. BANQUET  
WILL BE HELD THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, 30 JULY 2011.  
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.**



## Feat U r e a r t i c L e s (C O n t i n U e d)

### **75th Ranger Regiment**

#### **streamlines selection process**

Sep 3, 2010

By: Vince Little, *The Bayonet*

FORT BENNING, Ga. — The 75th Ranger Regiment has refined its assessment and selection process to expand the training and evaluation windows for potential candidates.

The unit is sending some Soldiers straight to Ranger School from the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and Small Unit Ranger Tactics course, instead of to a battalion and deployment. The first two to take that route - SGT Joshua Fish and SPC Brendan Smith - graduated Aug. 27.

“What makes these guys unique is they’re the first to graduate from RASP 1 and go on to Ranger School,” said SFC Tyson Crosby, NCOIC of RASP 1. “Normally how it works, a guy will graduate from RASP 1, he’ll go to his battalion, he’ll train up and he might do one or two deployments ... Then, when his leadership determines he’s ready to go to Ranger School, they’ll send him to SURT first. The difference here is these guys have never been to a battalion.”

RASP 1 replaced the regiment’s Ranger Indoctrination Program in January, Crosby said. The instruction period for RASP 1 is eight weeks long, compared to four under the old RIP system. RASP 1 is for pay grades E-1 to E-5, while Soldiers E-6 and above - including officers - go through RASP 2.

He said the adjustments were made to give the regiment more time to scrutinize prospective unit members. Under the RIP, the top 5 percent of graduates were sent to Ranger School, as selected by cadre.

“We want the best guys in the (75th) Ranger Regiment,” he said. “The longer we have to assess and select them and make sure they’re performing, the better ... That’s the reason we changed it, so we continue to select the best guys for service in the Ranger regiment.

“When it comes down to it, one really good guy or great guy is better than three average ones.”

Smith’s journey went from one station unit training and Airborne School to RASP 1 and SURT, a three-week regimental program that mirrors the Warrior Training Center’s Pre-Ranger Course. Then came 61 days in Ranger School.

Fish, who was already in the Army, started at RASP 1 and SURT but had to go to Ranger School before joining the

regiment. All Infantry sergeants seeking an assignment at the 75th must be Ranger School graduates. Soldiers in lower ranks can attend at a later date, even if they failed on first attempts.

“These guys are the first to complete the new pipeline,” said SFC Eric Bohannon, the regiment’s SURT NCOIC. “We’re definitely looking for quality over quantity.”

The regiment must send 550 to 600 Soldiers through RASP 1 each year to generate enough Skill Level I Rangers to meet operational demands - based on historical loss-and-retention trends, according to data provided by the unit.

The first RASP 1 class graduated in March. The eighth completed the course Sept. 2. The most recent group began with 165 Soldiers, but only about 40 graduated Thursday. The regiment’s objective is nine RASP 1 classes a year.

The last SURT class, which set out with 84 Soldiers, sent only 48 to Ranger School, Bohannon said.

Crosby said there are greater advantages within this setup than what was done before under RIP.

“It’s more time that my cadre have with the candidates,” he said. “It’s more time they get to see them in different situations to make sure they’re picking the right guys, because what you don’t want are guys who score 300 on their PT test, they road march really fast, they’re really strong, but they just don’t have what it takes. Mentally, their learning curve is too steep to be in this type of unit. We need smart guys, too.”

### **VOLUNTEER FOR DUTY**

To meet minimum requirements for the RASP and assignment in the 75th Ranger Regiment, all Soldiers must be:

- \* An active-duty Army male
- \* A U.S. citizen
- \* 107 or higher in General Technical score on ASVAB test
- \* 240 or above (80 in each event) in Army Physical Fitness Test score
- \* Airborne-qualified or agree to attend Airborne training prior to assignment
- \* Eligible to obtain a secret clearance
- \* Soldiers interested in joining the unit should call 706-545-5124 or send an e-mail to [75recruit@soc.mil](mailto:75recruit@soc.mil).

For more information, visit

<https://www.infantry.army.mil/75thranger>.

## Feat U r e a r t i c L e s (C O n t i n U e d)

### **Soldiers take different paths to 75th Ranger Regiment**

Sept. 3, 2010

By: Vince Little, *The Bayonet*

SGT Joshua Fish said tales from a former platoon sergeant he served with in Germany lured him into the 75th Ranger Regiment. SPC Brendan Smith was a college graduate looking to escape his desk job.

They now have the distinction of being the first Soldiers to vault directly out of the unit's Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and graduate from Ranger School without first joining a battalion.

"I was in the 'Big Army' before, and figured if you're going to go to war with someone, I'll go to war with the best," said Fish, 22, of Curwensville, Pa. "It was pretty challenging from start to finish, mainly the length of it. But I definitely got good training out of it. You're around the cadre all the time, so you see what right looks like (and) strive to look like them."

Smith said he attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst and became a recruiter for an engineering firm. But the 24-year-old native of Springfield, Vt., sought a

tougher challenge outside his comfort zone.

"In the back of my mind, I always wanted to be a Ranger. I wasn't getting any younger, so now's the time to do it," he said. "I wanted to be a cut above, I wanted to be part of a more elite group."

Smith said he had some "very challenging days" along the way. There were 318 to be exact, from the moment he reported at the 30th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) until Ranger School graduation Aug. 27.

"The rewards outweigh the hard days, by far," he said.

Fish said he believes changes this year in the regiment's assessment procedures will pay long-term dividends.

"The selection process is very good, really in-depth," he said. "They put you in challenging situations to see how you react, and basically base it off that. You're constantly in a leadership position there ... so you're constantly being evaluated on your leadership skills, and just your personal motivation also, whether you want to be there or not."

Smith is headed to the regiment's 1st Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., while Fish joins 3rd Battalion here at Fort Benning.

### **World War II Ranger**

BY: David (Doc) Sisk

Recently I was visiting the HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas. By chance I was introduced to Mister George J. Richardson, a veteran of the second world war. Folks around Huntsville, Texas just call him Jay. Not so unusual when you think about it. Until this gentleman began to tell me his story. He told me he was a Ranger assigned to the First Rangers under Colonel William O. Darby. Being a Ranger myself, I listened intensely. He told me he had five brothers all of whom had served their country. He tried to join the Navy and Air Force, but was rejected because he was color blind. Eventually he was drafted in 1943 and sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for basic combat training and infantry school. He was eighteen years old at the time. After basic and AIT he was sent to CasaBlanca, North Africa as a replacement. When he arrived he was approached by Rangers interviewing replacements for voluntary in their outfit. He said it sounded like something he would like to do and was eventually accepted. His training consisted of running up and down the mountains of North Africa. He said he didn't know if that was Ranger training but it sure felt like it. I had to laugh thinking of the stuff we still do today, preparing for selection.

Whenever he completed his training he was assigned to

Company C, First Ranger Battalion. They were soon shipped to Sicily and then moved North to Naples in the Venafroe Valley. Fighting was fierce. He commented that the first, Third, And fourth Ranger battalions were employed as regular infantry battalions. He was perplexed as he thought the Rangers were behind the lines units. After more than a month of fighting the First Rangers were relieved by a British unit. They were moved to the rear for rest and refit. Soon orders came to move out and they were shipped to Anzio. The First and Third Battalions were ordered to move up the Mussolini Canal to capture the town of Cistemia. The Fourth Battalion was held in reserve. Little did they know that the Herman Goering Division was waiting on their approach. Soon it was obvious that had been compromised due the intense shelling. The Fourth Battalion was alerted and attempted to re-enforce the beleaguered battalions. Their attempt was futile. The First and Third Battalions were cut to pieces. The commander told them that it was every man for himself. Some men tried to escape in small groups while others struck out on their own. Jay decided he would be better off on his own. He moved for several hours undetected but was eventually spotted. They didn't just shoot at him, they actually called in artillery fire that was accurate. He was stunned by a close shell and sustained serious injury to his ears. When he awoke, he was surrounded by several Germans.

## Feat U r e a r t i c L e s (C O n t i n U e d)

All but seven men were killed or captured that day. Those lucky enough to not be killed were loaded on train cars and shipped to Stalag II-B in Nonhem Germany. Somewhere near the Baltic sea. After a few months in the Stalag, he was assigned to a work detail on a farm. The overseer was a no non sense guy that could be cruel if he considered a man to be slacking. He would beat them with a large walking stick across the back. The guards never interfered with his methods. Jay worked on that farm for twelve months. The officers and Air Force pilots were exempt from work details and remained in camp. The POWs entertained themselves by making large meals in their minds and sharing them with others. Jay stated that it seemed to help them hang on to sanity.

It was fourteen months later, 1945 and the Russians were closing in. Russian artillery was close by now and the Germans were frightened. They moved all the POWs out of the Stalag and struck out across country. They slept in fields and barns along the way. They were only fed potatoes and some watery broth during the long journey. every man became ill with dysentery. Some fell by the way and were never heard from again. Jay said he only weighed 113 pounds and was becoming weaker everyday. One night while being held in a bam, he and another man decided to dig under the wall of the bam and escape. Once on the other side, and undetected they moved across country where they encountered a field worker. He told them that their people were just over the hill. They continued in the direction the field worker pointed and encountered a half track with a large white star on the side. Instead of being greeted in a friendly manner the group of Americans in the truck started shooting at them. The two men hit the dirt and started shouting that they too were Americans. The shooters stopped and rescued the two men. They were taken to the rear and fed a big breakfast. Jay said they were only able to eat a few bites because they were sick and their stomachs had shrunk. Jay and his partner were moved further to the rear. Jay said he saw some K-Rations along the way and took them just in case food got scarce. The load master of their transport aircraft convinced him that they would be well fed and he wouldn't need the Ks.

It was 1945 when he was released from the Anny. He faced many difficulties after release. Adjusting to civilian life was difficult to say the least. His big problem was with, you guessed it, the Department of Veterans Affairs. He still suffers to this day. I am including his story written in his words. He was forced to write his story before the V.A. would pay him. Ain't America great! Jay left the Army with rank of corporal.

Among his awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, and the POW Medal.

George J. Richardson now resides at 895 Elkins Lake, Huntsville, Texas 77340

Rangers Lead the Way,  
David E. (Doc) Sisk



January 1944 - Anzio, Italy

I was with the 1st Ranger Battalion just after our amphibious landing where we were assigned to penetrate the German frontline at night to capture and hold a vital crossroads until we were relieved by a larger force in the following days. We ended up in a trap when the relief troops could not break through to help us, and we were told it would be every man for himself and to escape any way we could. Some chose to try and fight their way out in small groups, but I decided to try and make it out by myself. . .

While I was working my way along through a chest-high natural ditch, the Germans must have spotted me and fired a shell that collapsed the ground on top of me. That explosion knocked me out. When I became conscious, they were pulling me out and my left ear and nose were bleeding. After my capture, they gathered a small group of prisoners and marched us along a country road. They suddenly stopped and cut a wire fence alongside the road and directed us into an open field. We thought they

## Feat U r e a r t i c L e s (C O n t i n U e d)

intended to shoot us because they had found out about our instructions before landing on the beach. We were told, “We can’t spend time taking prisoners because we need to keep moving inland quickly.” It turned out they were just avoiding walking through a place in the road that our artillery had zeroed in on.

A short time later, we were taken by train to Rome and, on the way, we had to jump out of the box cars several times when our planes strafed the train and several prisoners were killed at that time. After reaching Rome, they combined us with another group of POWS (British) and started marching this group from in front of the famous Coliseum down a main thoroughfare. During that march, the Italians gathered alongside and spit on us, threw things at us and, once in a while, would break through and hit us. They were making movies of us as we moved along, but several times they dragged me out of the group and a photographer would ask me how old I was. I looked younger than my age at that time (19) and I knew they were trying to show me as proof that the Americans were using underage soldiers. However, I just kept telling them I was 26.

We were then put on “40 and 8” railroad freight cars (40 men or 8 horses maximum) and transported to Germany via the European Alps. On that trip, I was on the outer part of the car where I had a nice view of the Alps, but my feet and hands were exposed to extremely cold temperatures. While I could protect my hands by putting them under my armpits, because we were packed in so tight I couldn’t move my feet too much and they were frostbitten during the trip. For a long period of time, I had extreme pain and itching, especially if my feet were overly exposed to heat. I still have circulation problems in my feet.

After going through some temporary prison camps (called Stalags), with my ear very swollen and infected, I ended up in Stalag IIB at Hammerstein, located in Northeastern Germany, fairly close to the Baltic Sea. During these times in various Stalags, we were all infested with body lice, making it very, very difficult at first to sleep - as soon as your body warmed, they became very active, running around.

They must have treated my ear problem at that time, because I was then sent to a Farm Work Komando with about 15 other POWs. It was located near the town of Polnow, Pomerania, and they had constructed a barbed wire enclosed area at the end of a row type building that also included German farm families. When they locked us up the first night in this makeshift jail, they took our clothes away and put them in an outside shed that was to be used as a latrine.

Some three or four guys decided to escape and were able to get out of the upper part of the building, retrieve their clothes and set out for the Baltic and, eventually, to Sweden. However, a short time later, German Civilian Home Guards caught them. Our guards gathered all of us in the kitchen area and proceeded to beat all the escapees with their fists, feet and rifle butts until they were unconscious. It was a demonstration of what would happen to anyone trying that again. The beaten guys were sent back to the Stalag IIB Hospital and we never saw them again.

I was very ill during this episode and, a short time later, a German civilian doctor diagnosed that I had yellow jaundice, and I was sent back to the hospital as well. Eventually, I returned to the same Komando where I spent most of the 14 months I was imprisoned. During that time, I learned enough German to act as a spokesman for our POW group. Besides having to make sure our own group followed the German rules, I also had to deal with two to three guards and a big German civilian overseer who was responsible for getting the work done on this hamlet farm community. He was a tough, no-nonsense guy who wouldn’t hesitate to start beating anyone he thought was not working hard or fast enough.

One of the most serious things we had to cope with involved one of our guys by the name of Altschuler - he was Jewish. He was a German Jew who taught me a lot of the language I used in my contacts with the guards and overseer. Certain guards were always trying to get Altschuler separated and off by himself, but we never allowed it to happen because he was convinced they would shoot him, claiming he tried to escape.

One incident occurred on one of our days off when we were all outside in our barbed wire compound. A guard came running toward us with his pistol drawn, screaming Altschuler’s name. As the guard unlocked the gate, we all huddled around Altschuler so that guard couldn’t get to him. Finally, we just buried him on the ground under us to prevent any possibility of his getting a shot at him. The other guards came a few minutes later and dragged him off. We never saw him again. We found out later that his family had died in an American air raid on Berlin and he blamed the Jews.

During the winter months, we worked in the snow, cutting down trees and stacking the wood from them. I had more trouble with my feet then because we had wet, cold feet all the time. I also developed serious breathing problems from working in cow sties that had accumulated urine-saturated hay that was a foot or more deep. The ammonia smell was so

## Feat U r e a r t i c L e s (C O n t i n U e d)

overwhelming that I had, to come out for fresh air every ten or fifteen minutes. After the sty cleaning project was over, we worked on an enormous manure pile in the middle of the barnyard. That job had its own unique smell, but at least it was a warm place to work during those real cold days.

When Russian planes started bombing the nearby town of Polnow, the Germans decided to start marching us away from them, heading us west. There were about 150 POWs in this column and we slept in open fields or barns during this six-week period, crossing most of Germany. This was a very stressful time because we all had diarrhea and were very weak from a lack of food and lost weight. (I weighed 113 pounds when I was liberated.) We tried to curtail the diarrhea by burning potatoes in a fire and then eating the charcoal from the burned skins. We also started seeing American fighter planes come over our column, waving their wings as they flew by. That must have convinced our guards we were too close to the American's line, so they turned us around and started marching us back toward the east again.

A friend and I decided we weren't going back, so the next barn they put us in, we dug a trench under the barn wall and started off hiking during the night toward the west. We slept in the woods or open fields during daylight. After several days, a Dutch forced laborer came upon us as he was working this field. He told us in broken English that he had seen some of our forces just over a hill which he pointed out. We took off and as we topped the hill we saw a half-track vehicle with a big white star on it across the field. We started running, yelling and waving toward them, but they suddenly opened fire. We hit the ground, then called to them so they knew we were Americans. They took us back to their headquarters and proceeded to have a big breakfast plate' made up for us with all the trimmings. I guess that even though we were dying to eat everything, we could only get down a few bites due to our excitement and shrunken stomachs. That night they put us in civilian homes with feather beds, but I ended up on the floor because I couldn't sleep in anything that soft.

We were transported by truck to an airfield near the town of Celle. On our way there, we stopped at a supply depot and I noticed a pile of boxes that contained K Rations. I got out and liberated one so that we wouldn't be without food during our flight to a hospital in England. When I started boarding the plane, one of the crew members convinced me to leave it behind, assuring me that we'd be well fed from then on. I received treatment for my diarrhea and malnutrition, as well as a blood transfusion, during that hospital stay.

After being in England for VE Day, I was sent by hospital ship back to the States. They continued treatments, including injections in my legs to help relieve the pain and reduce the swollen varicose veins. However, I continued having circulation problems during my hospitalization near Boston. .

I was finally given a 60-day recuperation leave to go home. I was especially happy about that since I had never been granted a leave since I left, home for the service. However, I had to spend a short time in a hospital on the south side of Chicago during that period.

When I was discharged, they gave me a twenty percent (20%) disability for my broken ear drum and nervous stomach. I started college under the GI Bill and, while attending school, I was hospitalized with a stomach ulcer. A few years later, after I had started working, I began having trouble with my voice quavering during normal conversations. Then, sometimes, I could not get any words out when I became upset by some emotional or contentious situation. The same thing happens today when similar circumstances occur, or if I become overly exhausted physically.

I tried chiropractic and psychiatric treatments at that time, but it didn't help, I even tried resting my voice by not speaking for three weeks, but that made my supervisory job almost impossible to do. At about that same time (1966), the VA in Tulsa took away my ear disability because they said that even though my ear drum was broken, they could not continue my compensation unless it was draining from an infection (for which I had been treated several times by them). While I made a strong protest, they refused to reinstate that disability, but they did let me retain my ten percent (10%) disability for continuing nervous stomach problems.

Since that time, I have also developed an asthma condition which has lasted for the past 20 years. However, in recent years, I've gotten this somewhat under control with preventative medicine and apple cider vinegar consumption. Over my working years, I have never been able to get beyond supervisory jobs and I was told the main reason was my inability to speak before groups of people and my need to have others repeat themselves because of my hearing problem. I was okay with a few people in a close meeting group, but when I had to project my voice to a larger audience, my throat just closed up and I couldn't get the words out. That condition persists to this day and I believe it somehow goes back to the times when I was trying to keep things from getting out of hand on that Work Komando.

G. J. Richardson

# Unit r ePOr t s



## 1st bn, 75th H r a n g e r r e g t

Unit Director - Todd M. Currie

*No Submission*



## 2nd bn, 75th H r a n g e r r e g t

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham

### 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment conducts change of command

by Tracy A. Bailey, 75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs

Under cloudy skies and in front of a hundred family and friends, the men of 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment said good-bye to one battalion commander and welcome to another. Col. Mark Odom handed over the battalion colors to Lt. Col. David Hodne at the change of command ceremony June 11 at Watkins Parade Field, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Gen. Robert E. Lee once said, “Men will do extraordinary things and go anywhere as long as they are properly led.” “But therein lies the difficulty,” said Col. Michael E. Kurilla, Commander, 75th Ranger Regiment. “Where can these leaders be obtained?” Leaders like Col. Mark Odom who conducted two combat rotations to Iraq and Afghanistan and served as a task force commander in Southern Afghanistan.

“Colonel Mark Odom has brilliantly led this magnificent 2nd Ranger Battalion over the last two years,” said Kurilla. “Their success in both Iraq and Afghanistan is unprecedented and one day that story will be told.” Kurilla turned over 2nd Ranger Battalion to Odom July 2008 and will turn over the reins of the 75th Ranger Regiment to him July 2011. During his remarks, Odom thanked our nation’s greatest treasure—the individual Ranger. “They do our Nation’s bidding. Their fearlessness on the battlefield and commitment to accomplishing the mission often defies logic,” said Odom. “Yet without hesitation, they carry the hopes of our Nation in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, where we look to them to produce victory.”



Odom will be attending the National War College at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., before he assumes command of the 75th Ranger Regiment next year. Hodne is honored to have the opportunity to command 2nd Ranger Battalion. “It is impossible not to be in awe of these Rangers to your front,” said Hodne in his remarks. “Their service, sacrifice and actions in recent combat are historic. It is very clear that these men want to serve in

the type of environment where their reputation, and not their paycheck, is at the center of their livelihood and self-worth. To them, the Ranger Creed is more than mere words.” Hodne previously served with 2nd Bn., as a Battalion Liaison Officer, Operations Officer and Executive Officer. He also served at the Regimental Headquarters at Fort Benning, Ga., as the Assistant Operations Officer and the Regimental Executive Officer. “Dave is no stranger to the Rangers and brings with him a wealth of combat experience,” said Kurilla. “I have no doubt Dave will take 2nd Ranger Battalion to new heights.”

### This Quarter in 2d Battalion History

**October 1, 1974.** 2d Bn (Ranger), 75th Infantry is activated at Ft Lewis, WA. Along with 1st Bn, assuming the heritage of the 5307th Composite Group (Provisional), aka “Merrill’s Marauders”. The lineage and honors of the original WW2 2d Rangers are not conferred until 1984.

**October 25-28 1983.** 1st and 2d Ranger Battalions (-) capture Point Salinas airport on Grenada in the first ranger combat parachute assault since 1951. October 26 heliborne assault into True Blue medical school campus to rescue American students. The next day, A Co does a heliborne insertion onto a Cuban position at Calivigny. Three UH-60s collide and crash on the LZ, three rangers are killed: Phil Grenier, Kevin Lannon and Stephan Slater. A Co. medic, SGT Trujillo, is awarded the military’s first Silver Star

**2nd bn, 75th Ranger Regt (CONTINUED)**

medal since Vietnam. The Battalion receives the Valorous Unit Award.

**November 21, 2007.** D Co. is reactivated at Ft Lewis. The company colors are presented to the company commander by WW2 D Co Ranger 'Zeke' Zycowski.

**November 23, 1943.** 2d Battalion departs New York City for the European Theater of Operations on the RMS Queen Elizabeth. Arrives in Greenock, Scotland on December 1. 2d Ranger Infantry is assigned to U.S. V Corps for Operation Overlord. Sub-unit training begins.

**December 7, 1944.** Colonel Rudder is reassigned to the 28th Division, where he assumes command of the 109th Infantry Regiment. Col. Rudder promotes Cpt. George Williams to major and gives him command of 2d Rangers.

**December 7-8, 1944.** The newly appointed commander leads the battalion in the capture and defense of Castle Hill / Hill 400 during the Huertgen Forest campaign. This is likely the most severe battle in battalion history. The outnumbered rangers held the hill against counterattacks by German paratroops for 56 hours until relieved. The rangers, under strength to begin with, suffer 23 KIA, 86 WIA, 4 MIA and twenty injured.

**December 1969 – April 22, 1970.** H Co/75th participates in Operation Dong Tien, working closely with Vietnamese airborne elements.

### **Ranger Scholarship Fund: taking care of Ranger Families**

by Tracy A. Bailey  
75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, July 16, 2010) - At a July 9th presentation ceremony held at the 75th Ranger Regiment Headquarters at Fort Benning, Ga., \$36,500 in scholarship money was presented by the Ranger Scholarship Fund to 25 family members of current and veteran Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment. During the presentation, the first of its kind held at the Regiment, Ranger Family members were presented with scholarship awards ranging from \$250 to \$3,000. "The RSF is an all volunteer organization, with the support of our donors, supporters and our RSF Board we have tripled the number of scholarships awarded this year, while quadrupling the total dollar value of the scholarship awards," said Sam Spears, board member of the Ranger Scholarship Fund. "We are all very honored and humbled to serve the Rangers, Veteran Rangers, and Ranger Families of the 75th Ranger Regiment and to support the

postsecondary educational dreams of our Ranger Family Members."

Merit based Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships are awarded to eligible Ranger Family Members of current and veteran Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment who serve, or have served in one of the four battalions since the reactivation of 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions in 1974.

"We award all our scholarships in the memory of individual Fallen Rangers as a Memorial to their service and their ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our Nation," said Spears. "We value our experiences while assigned to the Ranger Regiment and appreciate the dedication and sacrifice made by the Rangers and their families and in keeping with the Ranger Creed of "shouldering more than our share of the task whatever it maybe, 100% and then some." This is in some small way is our way of giving back to those Great Americans."

Alex Laughlin-Tuley is a 2010 RSF Scholarship Recipient. Her father, Lt. Col. Colin Tuley served in a variety of staff positions at the Regiment; his most recent was as the Regimental Executive Officer. "Growing up, I was always proud of my dad for being a Ranger; anyone who could say that they were a Ranger immediately commanded my respect and awe," said Laughlin-Tuley. "It's amazing to know that the Rangers in turn are proud of me. I'm very grateful to be considered worthy of the Ranger Scholarship." Alex is attending the University of Georgia in the fall with plans to study Journalism and Anthropology and will put the scholarship money to good use. "This scholarship will go toward paying for my freshman year expenses," said Laughlin-Tuley. "College will undoubtedly have its challenges but with the help of my family and friends, I am confident that I can achieve the goals that I make for myself."

Scholarships are awarded annually and are open to 75th Ranger Regimental Family Members that are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs that result in a degree or vocational certification from an accredited college, university or vocational /technical institution. "Although I am not and never will be an actual Ranger, I do consider myself a member of the extended Ranger Family," said Miss Laughlin-Tuley. "A group of extraordinary individuals who collectively have achieved amazing feats. With this family's unwavering support behind me, how can failure exist on the horizon?"

For more information about the Rangers Scholarship Fund or to inquire about supporting or donating to the fund, please visit <http://www.rangersscholarshipfund.org/>



**2nd bn, 75th Ranger Regt (CONTINUED)**

2nd BN Revisit

Rich Hecht, B Co 2/75 1988-91, RS 13-89, Panama.

27 August 2010.

I've just returned from a visit to the battalion AO. Lots and lots of changes going on with 2/75. I had the privilege to make my visit with two "Old Scroll" Rangers. Ron Crane served in C Co from 9/74-9/78 and Dave Maitlen served in C Co from 1/76-6/81. Although Ron grew up in the area and still lives and works here, he had not been back to battalion since he ETS'd. Dave lives in Florida and also had not been back.

In April 1988 when I arrived, Regiment was just a couple of years old and SOCOM had more recently been formed. Everything we did was run by SOP, but it was the standards set by the Rangers who came before us, specifically the guys who were here literally at the start of 2/75, that we had to live up to. No Gore-Tex, no poly pro, Levels 1-5 gear, no red dot sights or cool guy boots. They had field jackets and poncho liners, steel pots to wear jumping, Gen 1 NVG's and Colt A1's. They did of course wear slant pocket, Vietnam era, ERDL cammie jungle fatigues, which makes them cool by anybody's standards.

It wasn't the gear or the uniforms that made them good though, it was the Ranger spirit that they channeled from the Vietnam guys, who took it from the Korean guys, who got it from the WWII guys, who got it from Rogers and Church and Mosby. Our younger Ranger brothers of today, have put that spirit to use in the War On Terror and absolutely kicked A#\*. That's not to say that they haven't been the recipients of lots of really great kit, because they have. A really great side effect of the current war and Op Tempo has been a huge increase in the gear that has been developed and put to use. Did you know that Bn has an approved list of civilian hiking boots, heavy and light, that individual Rangers are allowed to buy and use while deployed? I was briefly happy when I was allowed to buy my own Danners, before they were disallowed!

So, let's talk about the battalion AO. A Co as a building no longer exists. In its place is going to be the company "work" area. New barracks are being built (and are close to being completed) where the motor pool used to be which is in line with Army wide thinking of having separate living and working areas. 1st SF Group has their compound like this, but as SF tends to be more senior Sgt's, I don't know how I am with Bn set up the same way. C Co is next for the wrecking ball and another work building will be built. The current S5 NCO, SSG Ayers, said that funding had been approved to take down HHC and B Co as well and thought

that that entire side would be a large parking lot, but that they might put up buildings if needed.

At the end of the quad between B Co and the area formerly known as A Co, is another new building. All the trees at that end are gone as is the PT pit/Thunder dome. That building will be the new HHC. SSG Ayers said that the plan includes a new area for the Ranger Memorial to our fallen brothers.

Just before you reach the B Co gate going across the road outside, is a new gate that will surround the entire, new complex. The field across from B Co, where there were some helo mock-ups, is their temporary motor pool and will also be fenced in. The new barracks themselves are three stories with long, interior hallways. Each Ranger will have his own room and will share a bathroom and kitchenette area with another guy. The new chow hall is right outside the barracks and includes a meeting room. On one side of the barracks area, is a 100-ish yard long, PT/mini-obstacle course. It looked pretty good and I thought about giving it a go, until I remembered that I'm 45, hadn't had lunch yet and things hurt more than they used to.

I think that Ron and Dave were impressed. While battalion has physically changed so much, it is still very much the battalion AO they remember. While we were standing in the quad talking with SSG Ayers, a Ranger in PT gear goes running across carrying a large weightlifting plate. He very clearly had the look of a young Ranger paying the price for some sort of screw up. SSG Ayers called him over and asked what he was doing with the weight. He said, "getting smoked, Sergeant." I couldn't help but feel some empathy for the young Hooah, while at the same time laughing at his expense. While you may never have seen a young Ranger try to stand at parade rest while holding a weightlifting plate to talk to an NCO, you should know that the Ranger standards are still being upheld as the young Hooah was sent away with the weight and corrective training was allowed to continue.



**The new style barracks.**

**2nd bn, 75t H r anger r egt (CONTINUED)**



**The mini-obstacle course.**



**The new work building in the old A Co area.**



**Ron Crane, C CO, 1974-78  
& Dave Maitlen, C CO 1976-81.**



**'Before' photo of Danny Reavis and Dave Maitlen,  
the Rangers who made the visit to 2d Batt.**



**3r d bn, 75t H r anger r egt**

**Unit Director - Raleigh Cash**

*No Submission*



**a/75 - d/17 Lr P - v COr Ps Lr r P**

**Unit Director - Bill Bohte**

**Summer of 2010**

This has been an interesting summer and it's not just the weather which has been the coolest we've seen in the desert here in many years. Part of the fun was tracking Bob Murphy around the country. Yep, Aussie Bob flew in on the first weekend in June on a mission to gather information on the history of European LRRP Companies. His 8 1/2 week journey took him all over the country including a stop at the SOS mini at Ron Dahl's in Fayetteville, North Carolina. There is quite a number of stories of Bob's travels and I am going to leave all that to

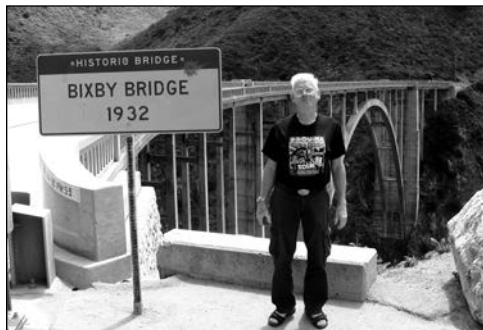


Bob who will do a much better job of telling it than I. Instead I will tell of the short portion that I was involved with.

I flew to San Francisco on the morning of July 27th to meet Bob and ride down the coast on the final leg of his mission. He drove up in his rental car on his second cycle around the airport as I had just missed him on his first. It turned out to be a great trip. We headed for the coast and after a little low level moisture around Frisco the morning cleared up. This area being Bob's old stomping grounds he had a lot to relive as we made our way down highway 1. It was a

**a/75 - d/17 Lr P - v COr Ps Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

leisurely trip as we stopped to look at the old coastal battery sites, now left for erosion and decay by the apathetic sheep that inhabit that portion of our once great State. Driving we marveled at the concrete bridges built on this scenic old highway in 1932.



**Bob at the Bixby Bridge on coast highway 1**

We pass the remains of Fort Ord, our old basic training post shut down many years ago and sectioned off for hiking trails ( I thought that was what we used it for), commercial use and a State park. I wondered at the sand dunes that have portions of them protected from human travel due to levels of lead from the old ranges along the beach. Apparently 96% of the lead was never cleaned up.

At Big Sur we stopped at Nepenthe, a restaurant on a hill overlooking the Ocean. They had a killer sandwich that they call Ambrosia Burger and it was. That, beer a carafe of wine and I thought we were done. Bob lets this young gal serving us talk him into a Triple Berry Pie alamode for desert. Well when this dessert came I saw it as a bullet heading for Bob's heart. What else could a fellow LRRP do but jump in front of it. Yep I got a spoon and ate half of it.

Our next stop was Morro Bay to meet up with Glenn Rucker who we had served with in Germany. He and his lovely (acerbic, sarcastic, amusing and good company-Murphy) wife Doris were camping there for a few days. After a few logistical short comings we made contact with Glenn and he joined us for a sea food dinner on the wharf. (Great spot, food, wine & company-Murphy interjects again).



**Dinner on the wharf with Bob and Glenn and that's me in the middle.**

The next morning Glen and Doris joined us for breakfast in a small place in the harbor. This was noteworthy in that Bob had grits. That's right, he could not believe there was a place on this coast that served grits so he ordered them and sure enough, his eggs were on a glop of wallpaper paste ah... well I mean grits. We had a nice morning meal and pleasant conversation and then afterwards Bob and Glenn sat outside while Bob interviewed Glenn regarding his time in the company. Then our journey continued.



**Bob, Doris and Glenn at Breakfast on the wharf**

Our next destination was the Reagan Library in Simi Valley and we arrived there about 15:30 hours and found we had to hurry through to make a later connection in West Covina. If you ever get a chance to visit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, do it. This campus is a fitting tribute to the man and to his Terms in Office. His speeches from that time are entirely appropriate at this time. A person could spend a day there easy however we saw most every thing in a hurried hour and a half and were on the road again by 17:00.

Our destination was adjusted enroute and we met Peter Parker and his friend Stacy Conley at Pinnacle Peak for a steak Dinner. Peter Parker was a 2nd Bat Ranger that organized and ran [airborneranger.com](http://airborneranger.com) in the 1990s which is where many of us crossed paths again for the first time in 30 years. I had met Peter at a past Ranger Rendezvous and Bob had seen him a few weeks before at a "Lost Patrol" get together in Columbus GA after yakking with him on the net for 15 years.



**Bob Murphy, Pete Parker and Bill Bohte in front of Pete's place.**

**a/75 - d/17 Lr P - v COr Ps Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

Peter saved us looking for a motel by letting us spend the night at his house and he is a most hospitable host. Staying overnight there provided a great opportunity to visit with Peter.

Our next stop was in Pasadena for an interview with John Pipia who was in the V Corps Provisional LRRP Company in Europe for the big Wintershield II FTX which proved the LRRP concept and led to the formation of the DA approved V and VII Corps LRRP Companies. John was a very interesting, intelligent, focused individual and close friend of Col Ed Jentz who was CO at 3rd Inf Div LRRP Detachment before he and John headed off to 10th SF at Bad Tolz. John remembered many things about those very early LRRP operations in Germany and we explored many old memories.

The last scheduled point was to jump on the freeways to Wilmington. There we went to the Bielma family home to visit Louis' brothers and talk about him and to see if they still had any of the old photos he took. Louis, Bob and I used to work on our pics in the darkroom above the library at Gibbs Kaserne in Frankfurt together. Louie had developed an interest in photography while in the company and had taken many pictures with his excellent Pentax SLR camera. He died 29 years ago after way too much partying.

**Fayetteville Mini-Reunion**

From Bob Murphy

CSM (ret) Ron Dahle was a singularly gracious (bet RKD hasn't been called that many times in his rather spectacular life) host at his new digs in Fayetteville for a company reunion/party in July.

The four day event starred a cast that would have raised eyebrows if not outright alarm anywhere in Obamaland but was right at home in the real America around Fort Bragg. All kidding aside it was great to catch up some outstanding guys there including Ron, the Field Marshal (AKA Cleve Kendall), Paul Edwards, Lee Farley, Stumpy Turner, John Simmons, Eddie Miller, Henry Lightfoot, George Allen, Russ Grazier, Chuck Joyce and Paul Tabolinsky,

In particular the Field Marshal was in outstanding form at 81 years old and you'd never guess it. Cleve had a huge beneficial effect on a lot of wild kids in the company and did yeoman service keeping legg fire and brimstone off the backs of the guys worth saving.

He was commo platoon sergeant when he wasn't acting 1st Sgt and one of the most impressive NCOs I ever met. When there was big trouble between me and a lot of the "southern

crackers" that I set off like bombs (I'm from San Francisco and it was the mid 60s, if y'all remember) he asked me if I got along with "the brothers". I didn't know any but was open to suggestion and Cleve put me in a room with Ralph S Cade, Garlon M Rogers and William F Curtis. End of problem, and the beginnings of a massive attitude adjustment.



**Ex 1st Sgt Cleve Kendall AKA The Field Marshal  
still 8' tall after all these years.**

He protected his outstanding base station operators including Ron Dahle and Paul Edwards and said they were well worth it. They were great at what they did on the job, Cleve said. It was off duty where the problems arose.

I'm working on a history of early LRRP operations in Europe and managed to get an interview with Cleve who had Ron Dahle sounding off on one side and Paul Edwards on the other on commo matters. I learned more in that half-hour about commo than I did in the whole time I was in the company. It helped that I had interviewed company commo geek par excellence Bert Wiggins in San Antonio a week prior.

The conversations over the course of the three-day (or so) party were amazing. We as a group were always colorful and smart but there was a lot of very knowledgeable conversation going on with the benefit of 40 years of experience since our time in the company.

I never had much to do with Henry Lightfoot in the company but had some good yarns with him at Fayetteville and he's one smart, well spoken guy with a very interesting and positive background in what must be one of the most benign orphanage type places in the US.

Russ Grazier is another very well spoken guy who has made a solid career and business as a chiropractor. I found his views subtle, knowledgeable and intriguing and he should let me know if he sets up a branch office anywhere near Melbourne, Australia. He's got my custom.

Ron's party was a heartwarmer. The level of rapport (including piling sh\*t on each other) after all these years, the high level of acceptance of each other is a great thing to experience. Leggs and civilians just wouldn't get it.

**a/75 - d/17 Lr P - v COr Ps Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

Most everyone there but Ron had southern accents and none broader than that of unabashed Mississippian John Simmons who is one the best storytellers I've ever had the pleasure to hear.

At one stage half a dozen guys were sitting around the table talking with the Field Marshal and everyone had REAL southern accents. I asked him if that collection would have made him a bit nervous 45 years ago, being the only black man in the house.

As well as great grub for the most part supplied by Ron's buddy CSM (ret) Glenn Forsythe (1st, 5th, 6th, 7th & 10th SF Groups) and great yarn swapping, we went to the new special ops museum which is well worth seeing.

It would have been worth the trip to the US for that party alone to catch up the guys. And there was much more both before and after.

I put 15,000 miles on a rental car in 9 weeks and interviewed a lot of the key players in early LRRP operations in Europe to get their stories on the record. I'll be putting those stories together over the next couple of months and will be putting them into Patrolling Magazine and out to the guys to do with as they please. They're our stories, not mine.

The guys also provided old photos and documents from their time in the company including pictures from German Ranger School by Bob Clark, jump and other pics by Louis Bielma and lots more. Some of that will be ready by the next issue of Patrolling.

I have only just got back to Oz and am up to my armpits in alligators at the moment catching up on maintenance out here in the bush, back taxes, potential work assignments and that sort of thing. Lots more coming for the next issue to give Bill a bit of a break. My thanks to him for doing such a good job on our articles in Patrolling in recent years and serving as Unit Director.

My thoughts wander back to what makes an outstanding first sergeant and I interviewed Cleve Kendall, Dave Clark (VII Corps 1st Shirt) and Bob Searcy on this trip. Each one of them is very modest about what made them so outstanding in their roles. The things they had in common was that they were methodical, operated with integrity, took care of their troops, used street sense and were utterly dedicated to making things work. It was an honor to see these guys again. And I don't want to put him on a pedestal

because he's a great guy that I like being around, talking with and kidding, but the Field Marshal is still 8' tall.

BTW I keep making cracks about Southerners. The friction disappeared years ago. I love the South. I feel like Brer Rabbit in the briar patch there or around most southerners. There's a natural cultural affinity there for a person with traditional American views. If I ever returned to live in the US it would be in the Carolinas, or Georgia, or Texas. The South was like a breath of fresh air after escaping from my native California where I touched down on this trip. And Texas seems to capture the best of both the South and the West. You've got a great spot there Maxx and Bert!

**Mo' Grits**

I doesn't not understand what the big phobia about grits is. I'm a Yankee and I like them, and they're a hell of a lot better for you being corn based than hash brown potatoes which have a high glycemic index rating. I was in Mississippi and pulled in to a roadside diner for breakfast. I ordered eggs and bacon with hash browns and then noticed grits on the menu so told the waitress "forget the hash browns, make it grits".

Breakfast came and it had hash browns. I called the waitress over and said, "I ordered grits and got hash browns." She looked at me and started laughing and said, "I thought you were jiving, with your accent." (Yep, she was black.J). So she brought me a bowl of grits and didn't charge me for them. I ate the lot.

I also found a couple of stickers that say I LOVE GRITS and put one on Ron Dahle's pick-up at the mini. He hates the stuff and lives surrounded by it in the South. Have you scraped the sticker off yet, Ron? I keep getting asked "What's grits?" down here in Oz when the locals see the sticker. "I'm not gonna tell you because then I'd have to kill you." They don't get that either.



**Ron Dahle might live in the South but he HATES grits and did not look pleased about the I Love Grits sign I put on his pick-up truck.**



## **b/75 - C/58 Lr P - vii COr Ps Lr r P**

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

### **2011 RANGER RENDEZVOUS DATES ANNOUNCED**

I received the following information via my new Facebook page (see more info below):

FORT BENNING, Ga.

(USASOC News Service, Aug. 19, 2010)

The 75th Ranger Regiment has scheduled the 2011 Ranger Rendezvous for July 25-28, 2011, at Fort Benning.

As far as I know, there has been no official announcement from the Association about when our 2011 Reunion will be held, but it almost always coincides with the Rendezvous, so it would probably be a safe bet to think about scheduling those dates into your calendar for next year.

### **RANGERS VOYLES AND O'NEAL AND THE RANGER HALL OF FAME:**

I wasn't able to attend the RHOF induction for Rangers O'Neal and Voyles at Fort Benning, so Gary was kind enough to send us some photos from the event.

Congrats, again, Rangers!



**Rangers O'Neal (fourth from left), Voyles (right)**



**Gary O'Neal at RHOF**



**Gary O'Neal at RHOF**

### **MIKE MOSER**

Had a long telephone conversation with Mike. He currently lives in Missouri...

Here is some info from his emails to me:

Hi Mark, My name is Mike Moser I served with B Co. after I returned from Viet Nam in the early 1972. I had the Honor of serving in CSM Haugh's platoon when CSM Schmidt was 1SG and Captain Wentzel was CO. I helped move the Company to Fort Lewis and stayed with them until I was almost killed in a motorcycle accident in late fall of 1973. Because of my injuries I was forced to join a leg outfit at Fort Hood. I spent another three years there. I was an instructor with Jim Broyles at PNOC in Fort Hood. I could not stand being in a leg outfit and left the Army to return home here in Missouri to farm.

Bonnie and I own and operate a 400 acre hunting preserve in Franklin Mo. On occasion we have some of the Rangers hunt here. It was from one of these Rangers that I heard about the 75th RRA. The only contact that we have had with members of B Co is a Christmas card from Judy Faught (Clarence Faught's Wife). I would like very much to have the addresses and phone numbers of the guys so I can contact them.

I would like to say it was a Privilege and an Honor to have served with those Rangers in B Co. There has not been a day when I have not thought about those times. I was proud to have played a small part in carrying the torch to help keep the Ranger tradition alive. The Rangers of B Co kept the tradition alive at a time when it was not popular to do so.

I look forward to going to the reunion and seeing the guys. Mike Moser, Rangers Lead The Way.

His contact info is:

Email: [moserspheasantcreek@howardelectricwb.com](mailto:moserspheasantcreek@howardelectricwb.com)

**b/75 - C/58 Lr P - vii COr Ps Lr r P (CONTINUED)****LIDIO KERCADO**

Received the following info and photos in emails from Lidio Kercado:

Hello Marc,

Here are some pictures for the old scrap book. Here is part of B Company in Ft. Carson. On the far right is the company commander (I don't remember his name), and in the middle is First Sergeant Gooden. The other is me back when.

I am an instructor at Palm Beach State College in Astronomy, Earth Science and Physics. No plans to retire yet like Richard.

My contact information is

Lidio Kercado

Cell: 561-718-4793

Email:lkercado@bellsouth.net

(and... from another email):

Hi Marc!!

For the time I was with B Company in FT Carson and since that time there have been Rangers that stand out in your mind and you will always remember. These are the ones I remember.

First Sergeant Gooden: Every one remembers 1st Sgt Gooden, but I remember him for an aspect of him that I guess I never saw unless you really got to know him. The only time I saw him was when we were in morning formation and he was giving out the orders of the day. I had taken a picture of 1st Sgt Gooden pointing and barking out orders I don't remember what or to whom or even when I had taken that picture.

I found a blank oaktag poster and drew this sickly skeletal figure and drew, like in the comics, three little circles coming from the figure's head and a big circle and in it I placed the photo of Sgt. Gooden. Then like in the comics I drew another cloud point to the figure's mouth and wrote "I used to be a normal human being, until I met my First Sergeant".

I took that poster and went over the headquarters office with the poster and luckily there was one there except for an admin clerk. I told the clerk that I am supposed to leave this in 1st Sgt Gooden's office, he said ok and I placed it on his chair so when he would walk in he would see it and took off.

About chow time I am sitting in the Mess Hall and I hear "Kercado!!" Sure enough, it was 1SG Gooden. I looked up and there he was looking at me grinning from ear to ear saying "I know it was you, who left that poster in my chair". Of course I denied everything, unfortunately I was grinning too, so that sort of gave me away. Then he said "I know it

was you" and kept on walking to chow, but still grinning. It was a side of him that I would never forget that for all the orders he gave out, he was privately a real person.

SSgt (Bugs) Moran: I remember him for the type of character that he was. I remember he and SSgt Purdy got into a shouting match. I don't remember what it was about, but if there would have been a Best Ranger competition for shouting, Bugs Moran would have won hands down.

He would tell me that I reminded him of the Racing Jockey Eddie R Carroll. So one day in formation, he took his beret and reverses it with the flap side behind his head and he goes into a riding stance and start moving his hands as if he was riding a horse. I not wanting to be left out I do the same thing. Here we are looking at each other with our berets like jockey caps racing like we were at Churchill Downs. All of a sudden he stops and I thought he was tired, until I turned around and if you have not guessed it by now, there was PSG Daddy Haugh staring down at me. I fixed my beret and snapped to attention, but he didn't say a thing. I took a sneak peak at Bugs he was facing forward grinning.

SSgt Purdy: What I remember about SSgt Purdy was how he looked. He was very light skinned and had a red mustache, so with the beret and fatigues he looked like one of those sergeants in the British Army. I tell him one day that he is the wrong army and that he looks more British than American. He snaps to attention the way the British do it and gives me a British salute. If I had my camera it would have been a great shot.

SFC Haugh: What I remember about SFC Haugh is that he was all business when it came to duties. So I was in trouble with him a couple of times, like being late formation, talking in formation, riding the Kentucky Derby in formation and I guess the last thing, which I believe is when he got tired of figuring me out, was when I asked him if I had finished with this task and he told me yes, and I took off singing "we off to see the wizard, the wonderful wizard of OZ".

The other side of SFC Haugh I got to know was one Sunday I need to speak with him about the involuntary early outs that were being given. He had quarters inside the base, and went to see him. He invited me in and handed me a beer and we sat down to watch a football game. That's when I found out he was from Connecticut, that he had 7 years before retirement and possibly head back there after retirement. I told him I was wondering about the early out and I was thinking of going to Engineering school or should I re-enlist. He did not give me a Re-up speech, he said "The Army is not for everyone, but it's been good to me. It is a choice you have to make." It was plain, simple, and to the point.



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Needless to say I did take the early out. SFC Haugh wished me luck and that was the last time I saw him.

But as I said in the beginning, they stand out in my mind not because they were great soldiers, but because they were great human beings.

I would definitely want to stay in the loop on any events that may be going on or if anyone wants to drop me a line.

Take Care Marc,  
Lidio  
RLTW!!



**B75 Rangers at Carson – date UNK.**



**Ranger Lidio Kercado**

**Robert Lee Smith**

Ran into Robert on armyranger, socnet, and Facebook. He's in great spirits and currently training for a possible redeployment back to the Sandbox as a contractor. He'd like to get in touch with Bob Woolstrom and anybody else from the days at Ft. Lewis. Send me an email for further contact info.

Cell: 706.464.7153

Email: [rls1866@gmail.com](mailto:rls1866@gmail.com) or [rls1866@yahoo.com](mailto:rls1866@yahoo.com)

**HEARD FROM (ALPHABETICALLY):**

Donald Aguilar  
Larry Coleman  
Dave Cummings  
Stan Harrell  
Lidio Kercado

Mike Moser  
Gary O'Neal  
James Parker  
Wild Bill Ramsdell  
Jeff Rice

Robert Lee Smith  
Leo Starkey  
Richard Stutsman  
John Henry Voyles

Dave Walker  
Sealon "Doc" Wentzel  
Dirty Eddie White

**FLICKER PHOTOS**

I started a webpage on Flickr ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)) so I could post photos I took at the Reunions. Now, please bear in mind that I am not a professional photographer, don't own a very fancy camera, and often take interior shots with no flash so that I don't blind or disturb people, but what photos I have are posted there.

The address of the particular Flickr page you need to access to look at my sloppy, unprofessional photos is:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/b75ranger/>

I will try to continue posting all the photos I receive from all of you on that page. I also posted the contents of the CD that Todd Currie of the 1st Ranger Battalion had made for the reunion of the original members of the Battalion. All the photos are arranged in sets for ease of location.

**FACEBOOK**

Gary O'Neal, Steve Hawk (one of the guys in my squad in 1st Batt.), and some others kept mentioning Facebook to me as a way to keep in contact with other Rangers we had served with. I finally broke down and tried it out, so if you have a Facebook page, look me up (am listed under my same full name there) and add me as a friend, and anyone else in my "friends" list who you recognize from the old B75 days.

**ARMYRANGER.COM**

Again, if you haven't had a chance to check out their website/forum yet, give it a look. A lot of people you may know are registered and post there, and it's good to have a place we can all go to maintain our contact with other Rangers in a private forum. ([www.armyranger.com](http://www.armyranger.com)).

**SOCNET.COM**

Socnet is another publically accessible forum with a lot of Rangers and SF folks on it. If you visit there, create a user name, post an introduction, and send me a private message so I can get you vetted onto the board. My username there is RangerTee (the same username as on armyranger (above)).

**PLEASE NOTE THE UNIT DIRECTOR'S  
NEW EMAIL ADDRESS, BELOW:**

Some of the members of the unit should edit their address books to correct my email address. My old email address no longer works. So please check your email address

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books. I don't want to miss anything coming in from all you guys.

Until next time:

High Speed, Low Drag, & Keep Your Head Down.

(Especially all you guys still working in the Sandbox or the Rockpile).

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

Email: [mthomp@ptd.net](mailto:mthomp@ptd.net)

**PLEASE NOTE THE UNIT DIRECTOR'S NEW EMAIL ADDRESS, ABOVE:**



**C/75 - e/20 Lr P**  
Unit Director - Del Ayers



**Going Away Party**

By: Milt Hendrickson

Because of the rotation system in Viet Nam there were not many times that we had a chance to say good by to our friends, but on

one occasion the 4th Platoon had a chance to say good-by to our out going platoon commander and get to know our new platoon commander.

It must have been a fluke incident that when Lt. Stein was due to DROS that the 4th just happen to be in base camp for a stand down. To the best of my recollection like the other Platoons of E co. we were a tight knit group, during this period of the Platoon we had received no replacements and all were the original members.

When we realized that Lt. Stein was leaving and being in base camp we decided to throw a going away party for him. Like all good LRP's we pooled our money for booze and what we couldn't get from our Mess SGT. Moses K. Pitts we barrowed with no intension of returning it. We figured it was a way of showing our appreciation to Lt. Stein he was a good Platoon leader who had pulled us out of some serious situations and was always there for us. At the same time it gave us a chance to evaluate our new Platoon commander Lt. Jack Daniels.

The party started off party mellow drinking beer and food as was usual music from some ones tape deck generally just shooting the bull and talking to Lt. Stein and Lt. Daniels, saying goodbyes and hellos.

As the party progressed more booze was consumed and the rowdier we became, Sgt. Sam had repositioned himself in the rafters above the door and as you walked in he would pour a double shot of booze he had at the time.



As the party progressed into the night and more booze was spilled on the concrete anybody who knows the central highlands red dirt and the fine powder it produces can understand that the wetter it became the slicker it became, causing people to fall.

I can't really remember when I hit the ground but do remember a lot of people on top of me, during the night at some point Lt. Stein fell and as some of us learned the next day Hung-over that he had broke his leg and was going home on crutches.

What an auspicious ending to a tour for a guy that had been an Aero-Rifle Platoon Commander in the First Cav. And a Platoon Leader of a Long Range Patrol

unit never getting a scratch and breaking a leg 3 days prior to departing to the world.

**Pli Me 1967**

By: Milt Hendrickson

After RECONDO School the 4th Platoon returned to Peliku for a short stand down. It was during this period at the beginning of November that we honed our skills practicing repelling and patrolling techniques and such. By Mid November the 4th was slated to conduct missions in support of the 173rd ABN BDE, fighting on hill 875. The platoon convoyed to the old Special Forces camp at Pli Me and set up our MSS (Mission Support Site). Setting up our tents inside the old perimeter. Pli Me 2 years earlier had been the scene of a major battle when the NVA 66th Regt. had tried to overrun the Camp. When we arrived there were still scars of the battle, fighting position in deterioration and shell craters all over.

It was at this time that the teams were assigned 2 montagnards for each team, I can only guess that they were assigned because of their knowledge of the area and to pass on some of their skills to us. What I do remember is it was

**C/75 - e/20 Lr P (CONTINUED)**

a unique learning experience, as we gained their trust we learned and made friends with them and their families. One would think communications would have been a problem but as it turned out body language and hand and arm signals and pidkin English worked out just fine. We were amazed at their ability to tell if there was danger around us, (or not), we noticed that if they seemed relaxed that it was a fairly good chance that there was no enemy around, but if the smile left their face and they tensed you could bet that something had them on alert.

The mission of the 4th at that time if I remember correctly was to monitor the Cambodian border for enemy activity coming across or exiting into Cambodia.

Some of the more unique things about our missions was a night parachute drop into a PZ ( that's another story ), and when not on a mission we were able to practice rappelling and rope extractions, the chopper crew even wanted to get into the act, 2 of them learned to rapell while we covered their guns.

Some teams made contact while others made sightings, team 4-4 surprised some NVA and took them out, no casualties on our side.

Another event that was memorable was when someone, I don't remember who, got a wild pig but we had a party with the montagnards, they cooked it in an open pit while we chipped in and bought the beer, nice feast, beat the C-rations we were living on. The other thing I remember is we were at Pli Me for Thanksgiving and my Thanksgiving meal consisted of a can of Turkey loaf and peaches' and C rat coffee.

When we returned to Camp Enarie some of us got to see some buddies that we had served with before in the 173rd. After that 2 teams including myself were sent to the 1st Recon Battalion 1st Marines at Da Nang TDY for a two and a half week TDY.

### **WE REMEMBER**

Dave Dolby joined our fallen brothers 8-6-2010. An ever humble recipient of the Medal of Honor, Dave never failed to honor the Medal and lived his life to honor all of the brave warriors of Vietnam.

Arlington's hallowed grounds will be MOH Dolby's mortal remains resting place. Many will pass and not know his name. We who knew the man will always have Dave's spirit in our hearts.

There is no doubt that the diligence to duty and courage in Vietnam Dave acted on will now be guiding those of us

who will leave our families as age over takes the Vietnam survivors. Dave's welcoming hand will also be extended to the young men and women who fall in today's and tomorrow's conflicts.

Dave joins his loving wife to make life's journey complete. We who mourn his passing know our tears will dry with his soothing breath as the fair winds of warriors rise, East to West, West to East, North to South, and South to North all across the U.S. America's defenders march to create the growing breeze. Boots on the ground are the drumbeats to honor Dave's bravery. We will only miss you until we join you.

Dave, Thank you for your service! Welcome home, March on Life's journey complete. Enjoy the rest you have earned. Peace is now yours to share.

Del

### **SMG Raymond Bohrer**

Being drafted ends the need to make a choice. Sun, sand and ocean breezes, a young man's oasis. Responsibility to task leads to Army green, training and enlisting for choice. Ray knew where he was going but not what he would do. Vietnam the next step and E-20 was his choice. 364 and a wake up to get out of here. 4th Platoon Professionals is Ray's home. Long Range Patrols the task. 67 to 68

I'm working a mindless labor job, drinking my way through each day when Ray shows up at my door, driving a toy car. I'm not sure if it was halfway through the second or third case of barley pops when Ray announced il re-upti. Ray had to go and that toy car drove away with a wave and a promise. We parted agreeing to meet again. The next handshake would be 40 years later at Branson Mo.

The state side army did not agree with Ray and he returns to Vietnam. Assigned to 173rd Ray again volunteers and is assigned to C-75 for another year of Long Range Patrol duties as a 2nd Plt Team Leader with the same E-20 4th Plt M-16 and in a firefight on a React Team that first day. 364 and a wake-up once again. Back in the world Ray leaves the army for civilian life with his new bride. This short sabbatical from the army is enough to convince Ray that he is a professional soldier. Diligence, perseverance, dedication, drive, skill and duty earn Ray the rank of Sgt Major. Draftee to top soldier and a citizen I'm proud to know.

Schools: Jump school, S.F. school, MACV S.F. Recondo School. Drill instructor school. 4th Inf Germany, Chief Inf instructor I Corps NCO Academy, 9th Inf 1st Sgt, ROTC Instructor Middle TN State U, and Deputy Commandant 7 Army NCO Academy.

**C/75 - e/20 Lr P (CONTINUED)**

Assignments: E-CO Lrp 20 Inf ABN V.N. 67-68, C-CO 75 Ranger V.N. 68-70, Drill instructor for 3 years, Teacher, and Instructor for 14 years JROTC in TN 16 years mentoring the best of Tennessee.

Awards: Jump wings, CIB, VN OC, VN Service Cross G.C.M, AM, MSM and 4 + rows more of proud service are on Ray's uniform.

Ray's last volunteer duty assignment was insuring the Graders got to school safely for class as the professional school crossing guard in Murfreesboro TN. 2007-2008

If you are fortunate enough to have Ray's phone number today and try to call him you will reach this recording. You have reached retired Ray, previously known as the Sgt Major. I'm either camping or fishing. Leave me a message. Ray met his beautiful bride on a blind date before his second tour in Vietnam. He married Sharon when he returned. Sharon has soldiered with Ray for 40 Yrs. Today they spend quality time with children and grandchildren whenever possible. Thank you Sharon for your service and sacrifice!

Ray you are an example of the majority of Vietnam Veterans living life for our lost comrades to honor their sacrifice. Thank you Ray for your service! You have honored the sacrifice and so much more.

Ray am I ahead or behind?

Del

Below are some photos of Ray from various stages of his career.

**d/75**

**Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson**

As I promised in the summer Article I am going to inform everyone about our get-together in South Dakota in June. A Great time was had by all. Roger Barbe drove in from Wichita, Kansas a few days before the rest of us and he went panning for gold. He found about three tiny pieces which he kept in an Altoids box.

Roger came to the airport with Moe and Cindy to pick up me, Psycho and Julie on Thursday the Tenth of June. Since Psycho and Julies flight was delayed we didn't get back to the hotel until around dark. After we got checked in we went out to Moe and Cindy's house for a Buffalo Bar-B-Que. Most everyone who attended this get-together was at Moe and Cindy's when we arrived. Since it had been raining most of the day Moe and Roger



had hung up a big yellow tarp over the side deck where the grill was located and we had plenty of room for everyone to get in out of the rain to eat and reminisce. We had Grilled Buffalo Burgers with all of the fixings and to cap off the meal, home made rhubarb ice cream was churned, and we also celebrated Julie's Birthday.

Billy Faulks drove in from Georgia and he had stopped in Kentucky and picked up Steve Meade and his son Jed. They all decided to camp in Moe and Cindy's back yard along with Roger Barbe.

Ed Mercer and his wife Onecia drove in from Kansas and they were staying in the same hotel that me, Psycho & Julie were staying in. Mike and Vicki Jaussaud had also driven

**d/75** (CONTINUED)

in from Indiana and they were staying in a hotel just down the road from us and nearer to the mammoth site there in Hot Springs.

We had received a call from Vic Viccaro and his wife Mary Jane to let us know that they were stopping to get some rest and would arrive from New York until the next morning. They were also driving in and also planned to camp in Moe and Cindy's back yard.

On Friday we all went out to Moe and Cindy's for breakfast and also to wait for Vic and Mary Jane to arrive. After that we all loaded up in the vehicles and headed to Ft. Robinson in Nebraska (about an hour from Cascade where Moe and Cindy live). This was where Crazy Horse was killed. We ate lunch in the restaurant there and waited for the next hay ride tour of the Fort. This was an interesting tour as the Fort has a rich history from the Indian Wars through WWII. We got to see where Crazy Horse was stabbed and all of the training sites and where the barracks were located during the history of this place. Most of the officer Quarters have been remodeled now and are places that tourists can stay while on vacation in this area of the country. This fort was also the major Scout Dog Training site during WWII. After the tour we went into a museum on the post which housed many fossils including one huge one of two mammoths that were locked in combat in which both died.

After Ft. Robinson we headed for a restaurant called the Cook Shack which Cindy had contacted and informed that we would be coming out for supper. Because it was a small restaurant we had to give them our order the day before to make sure they had what we wanted to eat when we arrived. This restaurant was a long way down some dirt or clay roads and it had started to rain again. The ride in was uneventful but the ride out was like a new ride at the fair. The roads were so muddy that we were sliding all over. Since we were such a large group for this little restaurant that they set up the saloon as a place for us to eat, and we took up the whole place. Did I forget to tell you that at the cook shack they had a small trading post set up on the property? Complete with a sheriffs office and jail, a black smiths shop, saloon, mercantile store (Gift Shop) and corral. From there we went back to Moe and Cindy's for another bull session and to relax.

On Saturday we headed out to Mount Rushmore where we did some site seeing and had the opportunity to take several group pictures. From there we headed to the Crazy Horse Mountain Carving and Museum. We stopped along the way at the Alpine Inn for lunch; which is one of my favorite restaurants in the world just because of their bread pudding. Richard Badmilk met with us there before we ate, but had

to leave before we were seated. He and his wife Deb had arranged for a baby-sitter to take care of their grandchildren while we were out there but that fell through and he was only able to spend a little bit of time with us. At Crazy Horse we took a lengthy walk through the museum and gift shop. While there I had the opportunity to meet and talk with an author of a book about the history of the Sioux people and more specifically about Chief Crazy Horse and Chief Red Cloud. His name was ED McGaa (Eagle Man). He also gave me an Indian name that day. My Indian name is Wichastah Nahghi which means Warrior Spirit. He also autographed my copy of the book. I am interested in hearing about the history of the American Indians from their prospective since I didn't while I was growing up. We then went back to Hot Spring and a steak house for dinner. The only disappointment for me on this day was that while at Crazy Horse it was raining too hard to be able to take any group photos with the mountain carving in the background.

On Sunday we all met in Hot Springs for breakfast, and then headed for one of the VA nursing home there for a surprise Moe had set up. At this nursing home there is a conference room where they have posters on the wall about National Guard units who served in Combat, and one of these posters was of some of the members of D Company 151 Rangers in the field in Nam. It is the same poster that many of us have signed at the other reunions for Bill Faulks, since he was in it. After that Billy Steve, Jed and Roger had to leave. Billy had to get back home by Wednesday to be the Pallbearer at his cousin's funeral. Billy's cousin had past away while he was driving out to the get-together. The rest of us headed to Deadwood with a stop at the Rock shop along the way.

At Deadwood we visited Saloon Number 10 which is where Wild Bill Hickock was murdered. Every two hours they have a reenactment of that shooting. While we were waiting for the show, the actor who plays Wild bill came up and asked four of us in our group to be in the show. Moe, Vic, Mike and I all agreed. He had found out that we all had served together in Vietnam. I got to play the bartender and the rest played Cards with Wild Bill. After the show was over he introduced us to the crowd and informed them of our relationship together and brought the others up also at which time the crowd gave us a standing ovation which felt really good.

Now for some sad news, one of our own passed away from cardiac arrest at age 63.. His name is Donald Medd and he passed back in January. I found out about it after I had submitted the spring article and I contacted his widow to ask her for whatever information the family would like me to add in the patrolling magazine. She sent me a copy of his

**d/75 (CONTINUED)**

obituary after I submitted the summer issue so I'm including information from that in this issue. He served with us from September of 1969 until we deactivated in 1970. While with us he was awarded a CIB, Air medal, Army Commendation Medal, and earned the rank of Sgt. After we deactivated he was transferred to Uan Loc where he served as a radio operator for support of teams in the field. After his return home he began working in human services. He spent an illustrious career fighting for rights for senior citizens, for many years in Massachusetts and later in Ohio where he passed. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Some other news I have for you many already know, but Jim Owen had a bad fall off an eight foot ladder while he was trying to finish up some wood working project the day before he was supposed to leave for the D 151 get-together. He broke a couple of ribs and punctured a lung with one of them. He also broke one of his elbows and had to have surgery to repair it, and he also ruptured his spleen. I talked with him the day after he got home from the hospital and he was in good spirits, and glad to be at home. I tried to call him today to see how he was doing, but he was napping so I talked with Donna. She said he was getting better and would know more about the arm next week when he returned to the Doctor. I asked her about the lung and spleen and she told me that they seem to be alright.

I have talked with everyone else that I usually call, and everyone is doing just fine. Carl "Warlord 1-6" Norris has completed his chemo therapy and is now slowly regaining his strength.

In the last article I told you that Fitz and Kathy's daughter was stationed in Afghanistan and running convoys into Iraq. When I talked with him he corrected me as she is in

Kuwait running the convoys, so I wanted to correct that. At that time I think he told me she was the acting company commander.

I have included photos of our get-together and I hope all of them can make it into the magazine. A couple of them are a little dark so I'm not sure. One is of the people at Moe's house on Friday night churning Ice Cream. Another is of the whole group after the reenactment at Saloon #10 when we were being recognized by the audience. This is one of the dark photos I don't know if it will work in Black and white. I also included a photo of the Saloon at the Cook Shack where we ate dinner on Friday. There is one that is of us at Mount Rushmore and the last is of Moe, Vic, Mike and me receiving instruction on our parts in the reenactment (Also kind of dark). In any event I hope you enjoy this article as much as we did in the Black Hills.

RLTW  
Herd Out



**e/75 - e/50 Lr P - 9t H div Lr r P**  
**Unit Director - Rick Stetson**

When E Company held a reunion in New Mexico last May, one of the locations the unit visited was the Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The visitors were inspired by the history of the park and the story of how it was established by Dr. and Mrs. Victor Westphall.

In an effort to raise funds to maintain the park, it was decided to sell bricks where veterans could be honored by having their names placed on the grounds of the memorial. E Company learned of the fund raising effort and wanted to help in the worthwhile cause and at the same time, honor our fallen brothers. Bill Cheek put out the word asking for donations so that each of E Company's 27 KIA's could be

represented. E Company Rangers promptly answered the call and close to \$3,000 was contributed guarantying that not a single unit KIA would be left behind.

Fred Jenkins, his wife, Sherry, and Bob Hernandez were present at the ceremony in September as the bricks were laid. Hernandez reports that about 150 members from Run for the Wall did an excellent job of hosting the event. As the name of each veteran was called, the brick was saluted and escorted to its place by an honor guard. Hernandez and Jenkins were filled with pride when it was announced that E Company was the only unit to have a special section to honor fallen warriors. When the ceremony concluded, they

**e/75 - e/50 Lr P - 9th H div Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

received hugs from many of the onlookers along with greetings of “Welcome home.”

I can't thank enough those members of E Company who responded to the call so that our KIA's could have a brick. I have asked Duane “Poncho” Alire, an E Company Ranger who lives in New Mexico and who has a background with the Park Service, to write about Angel Fire so that other units interested in honoring thier KIA's, might have a point of contact. Poncho's article follows:

### **THREE PROMISES MADE AND THREE PROMISES KEPT**

By Duane (Poncho) Alire

The Viet Nam Memorial State Park at Angel Fire, New Mexico is the first and only state park in the United States dedicated exclusively to Viet Nam veterans. Today, the park is also about three promises made; And three promises kept. None of the promises were easy to keep and involved many supporters including the Victor Westphall family, the David Westphall Veterans Foundation, the people of New Mexico and the men of E/75 – E50 LRP – 9th Div LRRP.

The first promise was made by Victor Westphall, PhD (Doc) and his wife, Jeannie. The memorial park was begun by the Westphalls in 1968 to honor their son, Marine First Lieutenant David Westphall. Lt. Westphall was among sixteen men in his unit killed in an ambush in 1968 near Con Thien, South Vietnam. “Doc” worked with Santa Fe architect Ted Luna to help him complete the design of the original chapel. The memorial was originally known as the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel. The Chapel was dedicated on May 22, 1971, the anniversary of David Westphall's death. In 1985 with the support of the Disabled American Veterans organization construction began on the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center was dedicated in 1986. At the time of its construction, the memorial received national media attention and helped inspire the establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. In 1987, the United States Congress recognized Angel Fire as a memorial of national significance. The Westphall's kept their promise to honor their son and Vietnam veterans.

The second promise was made by New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. In the 11th hour of the 11th day of November, 2005, New Mexico gained a new state park – the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park. The park is New Mexico's 33rd state park. Its establishment fulfills a promise made by Governor Bill Richardson on Memorial



Day 2004. On that day, he said the State of New Mexico would provide permanent protection for the memorial. In his dedication speech on November 11, 2005, Governor Richardson said, “A grateful nation can never do enough for America's veterans. I have kept my promise that a state park will be here perpetually as a place to honor veteran's sacrifices and to heal the pain of war.”

Mr. Dave Simon, Director of New Mexico State Parks added, “New Mexico is proud to establish the first Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park in the nation. New Mexico State Parks will keep the spirit of the Memorial's founders alive and fulfill the awesome responsibility of caring for

this cherished place.”

The state park includes a world class visitor welcome and research center, the Westphall inspired Chapel, a Veterans Walkway lined with commemorative bricks and “Viking Surprise”, a Bell Iroquois UH-1 (Huey) helicopter. The helicopter saw service in the Vietnam War in 1967. The governor kept his promise. A state park was established to protect in perpetuity the spirit of the Memorial's founders and to honor all veterans, especially those of the Vietnam War.

The third promise was made by the men of E/75 – E50 LRP – 9th Div LRRP. The men promised, some more than 40 years ago as casualties occurred in Vietnam, and more recently, as a unit last August to honor the memory of their KIAs.

In August with inspiration from Doug “Mac” MacCullum and financial organization by Bill Cheek, the men of E Company purchased 27 commemorative bricks on the Veterans Walkway at the park. Freddy Jenkins and his wife, Sherry, and Bob Hernandez represented E Company at the brick placement ceremony in September. E Company kept its promise. The men who fell in battle are now honored in perpetuity at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park.

Commemorative bricks can be purchased through the Memorial Gift Shop, by mail or telephone for any veteran KIA, deceased, retired, or still actively serving. The gift shop is operated by the park's support group, the David Westphall Veterans Foundation.

The Vietnam Memorial State Park is located near Angel Fire, New Mexico, 30 miles east from Taos on US 64. It can be reached at P. O. Box 608, Angel Fire, New Mexico 87710 or by telephone (575) 377-2293 or FAX (575) 377-5943.





## F/75 - F/50 Lr P - 25th H div Lr r P

Unit Director - Tim Walsh



**Tim Walsh**

Greetings!

I thought I'd start by giving everyone an update (at least of this writing) on Bobby Ethridge. As many of you know Bobby was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis in

Dec., '09. His prognosis was fairly grim at first but was lucky enough to have received a lung transplant earlier this year. It has been a tough go but he is improving every day. He has been in the Transplant Unit at Emory Hospital in Decatur, GA (off Clifton road), room B582. He has improved enough that he might be in "Mason House" for recovery.

Dan Nate asked me to provide the following information to all our LRRP/Ranger brothers. It is particularly pertinent to those of us who served in and around Cu Chi, since it appears that the Cu Chi area was one of the heaviest areas sprayed with Agent Orange. Since the original document is old and wouldn't copy well in the newsletter, I am attempting to have it made available on our website. If you need a copy and don't have computer access, please get in touch with me. Here's Dan's email: [dannate1@comcast.com](mailto:dannate1@comcast.com).

Tim: I am attempting to scan the old 1988 information about the spray/dioxin over the CU CHI area. Somehow we MUST get the F. company teams to pay attention and to USE this for their AO claims. There is absolutely NO doubt that our area received 519 exposures days of dioxin spraying which was THE HIGHEST amount sprayed throughout the war.

This is a copy of the actual letter that Sutton, Scipione, Kraus and Bill Lewis sent to each other. It's all here, documented, and you F. company "irregulars" had better start using the info in your battle against our VA boards.

With this page, you cannot be turned down as long as you can show orders assigning you to RVN, and the 25th Inf. Div at or out-of Cu Chi. Do not wait any longer. Since it's been years since I last gave out this info, I am sure there are some that did not pay attention and now, with \$\$\$ getting tight, just might. Copy and send with your claim or appeal, along with orders of who/where you served and when,



especially if it was 1969, and 1968 is so included.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Unit Director for a year now (has it been a year? Wow). I get emails and calls from y'all as well as other interested parties. Most of the calls and emails are just guys checking in, some are looking for information about other F/75 guys. Back in July I got an email from Jim Sheppard, 50th Infantry Association Historian that reminded me that the legacy of "F/75" is much older and prouder than most of us imagine. Jim was looking for information regarding the status of two guys who are listed as KIA while serving

with "F"/ 50th Infantry in 1968. They are Gregory Kelly and Charles Pekny. Jim also asked Bill Mrckvicka and Bill was able to give him After Action Reports with the information he was looking for. Greg and Charles were actually assigned to 3/4 Cav at the time. Jim provided a link to the 50th Assoc website. You really should take a look at this site, it's packed with stuff about the 50th Inf. The link is <http://www.ichiban1.org>. There's info on their Unit History, photos and an upcoming "mini-reunion". A particularly well done section on the page is their "In Memoriam" tab. It lists their KIAs, with in-country maps of where the contact took place for many of them. Well worth a look.

A couple of "Quartermaster" issues need to be discussed. Marshall Huckaby is retiring from his unofficial duties as the F/75 Quartermaster. He has a few F/75 coins, stickers and patches left, but not for long. Marshall's email is below.

### LAST CALL

I am retiring from my government job and many other things to include the Quartermaster business. I have Unit Decals \$1.50 each and Unit Pins \$2.00 each. I am placing my final order for 100 Unit Coins. The coins will be \$8.00 each (because I am ordering quantity) plus \$5.00 per order for shipping. When these are gone, they're gone". Marshall Huckaby 699 Willow Dell Drive, Senoia, Ga 30276 or [rvnlrrp@aol.com](mailto:rvnlrrp@aol.com).

I have several coins, stickers and pins and I can tell you that they are top quality (many of you have seen them at the reunions). I'll work with Marshall to see if the coins, stickers and pins can be re-ordered if there's a demand. I

**F/75 - F/50 Lr P - 25t H div Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

know I speak for all of us when I thank Marshall for all he's done for the unit. Great job!

The other "quartermaster" related issue comes from Joe Cassilly. Joe is offering to order "polo/golf" shirts in two styles, plus sweatshirts (hooded and non-hooded) or long-sleeved t-shirts. I have a white polo and a black sweatshirt from Joe that are the best quality I've seen. The F/75 logo is embroidered, not a patch.

If anyone is thinking of a shirt this a good time to order. Patriotic shirts are \$44. Plain are \$25. Black sweatshirts are \$25 and I have a long sleeve collared shirt, but no prices. This has always been a break even project for me if you don't count the time involved. Let me know soon.

I have always invited anyone to submit stories from 'Nam (other "F/75" related stories as well), and below is the latest contribution. This story is from Clinton Lounsbury. I need to add one little thing about the stories I get from y'all. I always "proof read" the stories - I'd be doing you a disservice if I didn't. I have always said I'd print anything as long as it isn't pornographic, overtly political, critical of one of our guys or not verifiable. And I usually tidy up the stories for spelling, etc. without altering the content.

From Clinton Lounsbury:

Here is a story for the Patrolling Magazine for you On March 15, 1967 @7:45 PM our camp at Chu Chi, Viet Nam was attacked by mortar and recoil-less rifle rounds. The attack lasted for 35 minutes, a total of 75 rounds hit the base. The first one hit our hut. I was on my cot trying to relax when I heard that round coming out of the tube. We all know that sound, so I jumped up and ran for the bunker outside. When the first round hit the roof of the hut I was diving into the bunker on the right side just as three men from the 3/4 Air Cav were diving to get in the other bunker. As they were in the air the second round hit inside their bunker and exploded. They were still in the air when it went off and all three men were seriously injured. I could hear them groaning. I got up to see if I could help them. Two men had almost the same wounds. Left arm almost blown off, left leg almost blown off and their heads were bleeding very badly. The other man had a belly wound and also a head wound, but not as bad. I called out for help three or four times when I saw a guy come to help me. I called for him to get some towels. He also went back inside and got two litters. We put them on the litter, trying to keep their arms from falling off. We took them to a jeep, put the other man in the passenger seat and the drove to the hospital. All the time the mortar and recoil-less rounds were still falling on the compound. After getting to the hospital the medics came out to help us and the other man

stayed with them. I drove back to the unit to see if anyone else needed help. When I arrived back to the unit our commander asked where I had been. He had reported me as MIA to the Division Headquarters and that he would let them know I was back. Not until 2010 did I find out who the "other man" was. It turned out to be the man we were looking for, one of our own, Patrick A. Lacy. In all this mess I did not know I had also been hit. A piece of the round had hit me in the lower calf of my left leg. I pulled it out when we went to lift the first man onto the litter. Patrick saw me do that and wrote a Notary Public letter for a commendation but that was turned down by the Department of the Army. I'm putting Patrick A. Lacy in for the Silver Star for going above and beyond the call of duty. I hope it will go through for him. You keep the faith brothers. By the way, do you know who our unit medic was in 1967 & 1968 and are we in touch with him in any way?  
Clinton L Lounsbury

I asked Bill Mrckvicka who the unit medic was at that time, but Bill didn't remember if the Company even had a designated medic. Anyone else remember if we had a Company medic back then? Well that's it for now. Hope everyone had a great summer.

Mahalo and aloha

Tim Walsh

BY: Dave Regenthal

Just wanted to say "THANK YOU" to those who had In-Country photos and were kind enough to send them along for the video project. Looks like we're not going to have near enough pictures to support the project so there's really nothing left to do but schedule an F Company get together in Cu Chi . . . and take new ones.

Yes, really! I know absolutely nothing about travel beyond the lower 48 (probably couldn't even find Vietnam with a 1:50,000 map and a lensatic compass), but we've got experts in our midst . . .

Billy Thornton has been back a couple of times. In a recent e-mail he told me that next time he's thinking about renting or buying a motorcycle and taking a road trip from down south to the DMZ or points beyond. I might be up for that . . . depends on how my ass is holding up by then (distance from Saigon to Hanoi is just over 700 miles, dats a lotta miles on a tiny seat).

I'm under no illusions that it would be like it was when we left—perhaps that's a good thing? I just think, speaking for myself, it would do me a world of good to see the place all green and at peace. It might be fun to check it out without getting shot at, no?

**F/75 - F/50 Lr P - 25t H div Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

Hey, call me crazy (you'd be right), but given that we have time to look into it, think about it, and discuss it at the reunion next summer I thought I'd float the idea. Might be that more than a couple of you would give it active consideration. If something like this is do-able, I'm in.

Oh yeah, back to the pictures . . . If you've got 'em, send 'em. If you don't want to send them then do what I do: find a 12 megapixel camera, lock it down on a tripod and shoot them (in focus) with some diffused light. You can e-mail that or mail them to me on a disc.

Don't have any pics? Hey, no problem . . . write something down. It can be serious, funny, something that took place back in the day or that came to you since in looking back. What we are wanting to do is to tell our story so that we don't have to rely on someone else (without a clue) to do it for us. We can use your ideas and recollections for our project, and they might also be quite useful in John Chester's "Writers Project" for the Association.

I've missed a couple reunions, not many, but a few. This Veterans Day I'm planning on going to D.C. Joe Little will be there with his Operation Freedom Bird crowd. Joe Gentile, Bill Mrkvicka, and Hippie Beck have already made reservations. Dennis Peterson is making noise about coming, and Sandy (Jeff Sandell) is usually always around as is Joe Cassilly.

I don't know what it is . . . perhaps it's the respect I have for you (maybe it's the love)? But I've never come away less than fulfilled. Who better to go to the Wall with, or to Fort Benning? Exactly . . . the folks from the unit that I did the job with, those who lead the way before I got there or kept it going after I left. I don't know what you think but it was important (what we did), it was special, and it damn sure wasn't easy. I am proud of each and every one of you—part of why I go is the opportunity to see you again and the off chance that one of you that has been out there for so long will show up, just this once. I quit walking past mirrors with my clothes off some time ago. Now I find that, even dressed, I have this uncontrollable urge to break all the mirrors in my path . . . Jeez I'm getting old "all of a sudden." The sad reality of having lost some of our folks since the last reunion coupled with the knowledge of those that have undergone major surgery reminds me that we're a lot closer to the end than the beginning. My advice/thoughts, pick up the phone—make that call. Come to the reunion if you are able, if not, find someone that hasn't and send them in your stead.

Dave Regenthal 68-69'

**g/75 - e/51 Lr P - 196t H Lr r P**

Unit Director - Clifford M. Manning



*No Submission*

**H/75 - e/52 Lr P - 1st Cav Lr r P**

Unit Director - William T. Anton

*No Submission*

**i/75 - F/52 Lr P - 1st div Lr r P**

Unit Director - Bob McGath



**Bob McGath**

"Americans, indeed all free men, remember that in the final choice a soldier's pack is not so heavy a burden as a prisoner's chains"

**Dwight David Eisenhower:**

Greetings from Illinois the Land of Lincoln. Boy, what a summer this has been. Two words Hot, Wet. I had some time on my hands this summer, so I decided to visit the 1st Infantry

museum in Wheaton Illinois. I heard about the museum a couple of years ago from some of the guy's in the unit that had been there.

So, With Judi gone to a convention and me home alone (it's not a good thing to leave Bob home alone) I loaded up my gear, got a hotel reservation and headed out. It was not really that far from home just 190 miles from central

**i/75 - F/52 Lr P - 1st div Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

Illinois to the Chicago area. I really had no idea what I was going to find when I got there. One thing to keep in mind is that they are not open on Mondays. If anyone is in the area and plans on going please keep that in mind. With that said I do highly recommend the museum. I really was impressed with every thing and I mean everything. The museum is located in Cantigny Park. Address is First division Museum at Cantigny 1s151 Winfield Road Wheaton Illinois 60189. Web site [www.FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://www.FirstDivisionMuseum.org)

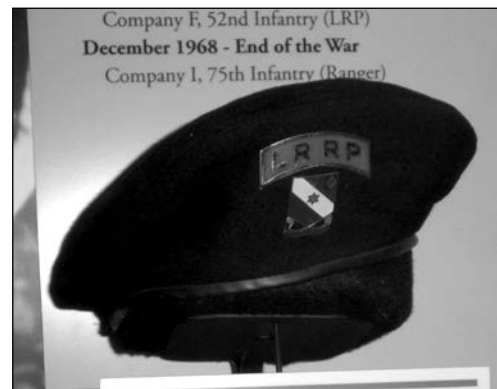


**Bob McGath, Steven Hawkins**  
(Director of Information Management),  
1st Inf Div Museum.

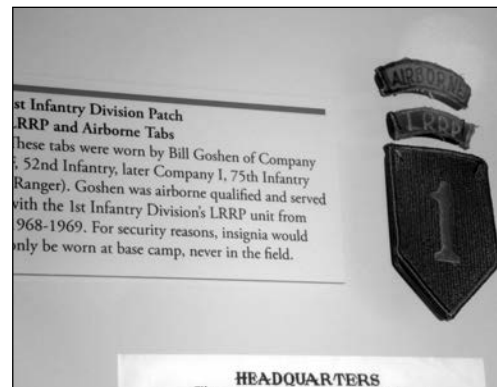
The Grounds were immaculate. On approaching the museum there are a good number of tanks to be seen positioned around the building in a wooded area with a little stream running through.

In reading some of the literature, if you would like to know something about the First Inf. Div, this is the place to go. Restaurants are on the grounds as well as a coffee shop. As you enter the building you enter a large area with display material and a visitor booth. I would like to think both gentlemen that where there that day for all the help in understanding the layout. The museum covers the time frame from the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm era. I can not say enough about the displays, they go from the Trenches of WW1, Landing on Omaha Beach, Vietnam, to present day.

The reason that I went to the museum was to see the display on Vietnam. A large part of the Vietnam era was devoted our unit F Co 52nd, I Co 75th some of the guys in the unit that donated items for the display were Robert "Buzz" Busby, David Flores, and Bill Goshen.



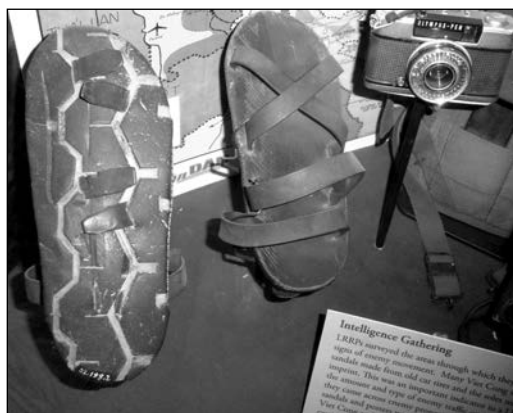
**LRRP Beret (BLACK)**



**LRRP Patch**



**LRRP in the Jungle**



**Sandals**

**i/75 - F/52 Lr P - 1st div Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

On the way out I discovered that I had almost missed a very important part of the museum. The Colonel Robert R. McCormick Research Center. The Library alone contains over 10,000 books on military history. If anyone is interested in 1st Div History this is also the place to go. I also understand that they take inquiries by phone, letter, or email. The telephone # is (630) 260-8211. Email: [AWoods@firstdivisionmuseum.org](mailto:AWoods@firstdivisionmuseum.org).

I really can not say enough about the Museum. I was **IMPRESSED**.

Ok, Moving on to other Matters. The unit is trying to make contact with all Vietnam era Company personnel. If anyone knows of a Lrrp or Ranger that was with the unit in Vietnam **PLEASE** contact me (bnjmcgath@gmail.com) or

some of the members. This also includes family of deceased members. We are trying to update our company lists. Over the years names have been dropped and addresses have been lost. I would also like to invite anyone that has not ever been to a reunion or has not been in a long time please come to the next one. It is to be held in the Flint Michigan Area June 8 – 11 2011, information can be found on our web site at [www.f52i75.org](http://www.f52i75.org) Think of it this way, you may not want to see anyone but there are a lot of guys that would love to see you. So, get off your butts and plan on coming to the reunion. It will be a great time as always.

“The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his.”

**General George S. Patton:**

**K/75 - e/58 Lr P - 4t H div Lr r P**

**Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk**

Greetings to All,

I hope all are well, or at least as well as we can be considering our age bracket. I'm not convinced I'm there yet but the body tells me a different story. Many of us are struggling with old war wounds and various other ailments so keep your Brothers and their families in mind as you go through your day. Our own problems are not so bad when we think about what others are going through.

The reunion in New Orleans must have been a rousing success as I have had nothing but compliments. I take no credit for any of it. All the kudos has to go to Willie and Sue Williams who did an outstanding job of putting it together. Please let them know how much their efforts are appreciated. To be honest I just did not expect such a big turnout. When the reservations started coming in we were pleasantly surprised. The total was 58 registrants and with guests we were at 110 people. Thanks everyone for your participation.

The Drury Inn was a great venue as was the Le Pavilion Hotel just across the street was a beautiful old hotel and a great venue for our Friday night dinner. Our service at both hotels was the best. Again it was because Willie and Sue took the time and effort to search for the right location. We had planned to honor Top Keller at our dinner for his untiring efforts on our behalf but he had a problem at home and had to return early. We made a 500.00 dollar donation to the Wounded Warrior Foundation in his name and



purchased a print of items carried in Vietnam by K-Co Rangers. The print was done by Britt Collins of Berkeley Lake, GA to honor the Lrrps and Rangers of 4th Div. There are several versions of the print available. I'm not sure if there will be an ad in this issue for them but if not I can relay any request for them to the right person.

Wayne Mitsch reports that we have 3329.00 dollars in our account thanks in large part to the generous donations by the membership. I personally extend my

thanks to each of you for supporting your Unit. We were able to cover all our reunion expenses with money in the bank and that's always a good thing. Another big thanks to Willie for covering everything on his credit card and waiting to get reimbursed after we had all our funds in place. Please know that Willie made sure that Wayne and I sat down with him to do the final accounting to insure that your funds were taken care of. The only thing I see coming up would be our annual donation to the Assoc. family fund so I have asked Wayne to make a 500.00 dollar contribution on our behalf.

On another note: I am currently in contact with Ron Wilkinson of Washington. Apparently Ron had made a posting on the website looking for anyone who knew about the contact in mid-August of 1970 when he was severely wounded. I missed it but thanks to Doug Childers for picking it up and putting us together. I was on my last mission at the same time and remember listening to the

**K/75 - e/58 Lr P - 4t H div Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

radio traffic during the contact. I was wounded a couple of days later and ended up at the 249th general hospital in Japan some days later. The corpsman who was taking care of me said there was another Ranger down on the other end of the ward. He went to find out who it was and what his unit was and it turns out to be Ron. We were only able to yell hello to each other but the corpsman said he would move our beds together when he got the time. Later in the day I had to go back to surgery. When I was somewhat with it the next day the corpsman told me that Ron had already shipped out to the states. That was our last contact for forty years. I have searched for him off and on over the years but with no luck. It has been very gratifying to visit with Ron about that time in our lives even though some of it is hard we both realize that we made it out and get to wear the t-shirt. If my memory serves me correctly his team was Romeo-12 so if any of you remember the contact or were with Ron on that mission, please get in touch with him. (rjwilkinson@wavecable.com) Welcome home Ron!



**Drew & Jackie Fatten**



**Merle Freed & Jerry Mele**



**Top Keller & Wayne Mitsch**



**Willie & Sue/still smiling**



**Nose art: Original nose art from Blackjack 496.  
L-R Brad Stutz (Door gunner). Roger Crunk  
(Romeo7 Team leader) Donnie Lail (Crewchief)  
{these guys saved my life August 19 1970}**



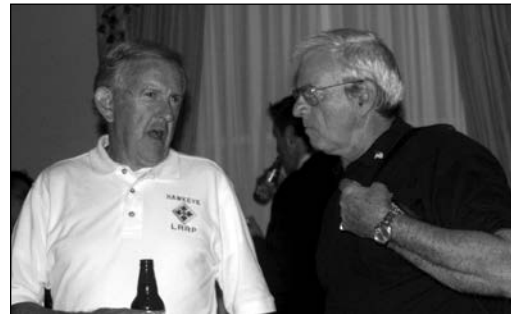
**Grenade story: Once upon a time 40 years ago Drew sat down on a booby-trapped grenade. L-R Willie Williams, Drew Fatten, Harry Phair, Roger Crunk: Harry and I had a good time with it when it happened and the retelling at our banquet, not sure Drew did.**



**Reliving the moment L-R  
Brad, Roger, Donnie**



**Serious discussion**



**John Burke & Willie Williams: They will have to tell you what going on in this one.**



**L/75 - F/58 Lr P - 1/101st Lr r P**

Unit Director - Jerry Gomes

*No Submission***M/75 - 71st Lr P - 199t H Lr r P**

Unit Director - Don Tillisch

I never realized how fast time went by until I retired from being an commercial real estate broker after 35 years and until I started to coordinate our 71st/M Co magazine articles for the Patrolling Magazine. No matter how well intentioned I am about getting the articles in on time, it seems like I use all of the Time allotted, and then some.

This time next Summer, we will be getting ready to attend the 75th Ranger Regiment rendezvous at Columbus, Georgia and Fort Benning. In the past we have talked about reviewing the names to be added to the Ranger Memorial, and this would be a good time to start thinking about what names of our deceased members need to be added. I know some of you have already purchased a brick and many of us are planning to buy a brick and some are more current on the procedures and the costs than I am. I would appreciate a call to inform me on the best way to coordinate the task.



magazine is the 15th of November so this is also a good time to start thinking about what we would like to include in the 71st/M CO article. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to help with the next article.

We have always talked about contacting members of our unit who haven't been to the rendezvous in the past in an effort to grow our attendance. Insofar as we keep getting older every year this might be a good time to organize that effort. Over the last two years, I have talked with several who have expressed an interest in coming to one of the reunions. I am sure we have all talked with those we have served with in the 71st/M Co over the last few years. If anyone would like to coordinate this effort we can work together to get a few more to attend the reunion next summer. I believe the deadline for our next Patrolling

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Unit Director - Robert Henriksen



Since last issue, there has been a lot happening, some will be included in this issue.

I'm in my final year of a 2 year tour as your Unit Director. Our members count is now just above 200 out of the known 594 on our company document, who served in the Platoon then Company. Work for the unit has been busy/time consuming/earning process and with some emotional situations beyond my control.

But, getting to know all Members by responding to them one-on-one either by email or phone, has been a really positive feeling in my life as there are those who



support my efforts to make our unit gather all the history of what we did for our country. Again, I thank you all for allowing me to be your Director and for me to continue on the work/dreams that Roy Boatman had for this Unit.

**David Dolby**

David Dolby, Medal of Honor Winner and member of the unit passed away on 6 August. Bob Stouch was a neighbor of David's and knew him well. Bob wrote the following:

*Dave was born in Norristown, on May 14, 1946. Sometime after that they moved to a town called Royersford, PA. Dave attended High School at Spring City High and*



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graduated in 1964 He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965. By 1966 he found himself in Vietnam with Company B.1st Battalion (Airborne), 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Div. (Airmobile). On May 26th, 1966 his platoon came under heavy fire which killed 6 fellow soldiers and wounded many more, including his platoon leader. Throughout the ensuing 4 hour battle, Dave "Mad Dog" Dolby led his platoon in its defense. He organized the extraction of the wounded and directed artillery fire despite close range attacks from enemy sniper and machine gun fire. Dave single-handedly attacked the hostile positions and silenced three machine guns, which allowed friendly forces to execute a flank attack. For his brave action he was promoted to sergeant and awarded the Medal of Honor.

Dave did five tours in Vietnam. After his tour with the 1st Cav. he served a tour with the 101st Airborne Div. He then moved on to serve a tour with the C and N Rangers in 1968 and 1969. In 1970 he served with the Vietnamese Rangers as an adviser, and finally he served a tour with the Green Berets advising the Cambodian Army in 1971.

While serving with the Ranger companies he got to know some of our LRRPs who remember him as a good soldier. He got married to a Vietnamese woman in 1972 and her name was XUAN, pronounced, Sung. Dave seemed to be happy and enjoying life at home when tragedy struck in 1987. His beloved wife was killed in a violent car crash. Dave wasn't the same after that and became a recluse for many years. About a year ago some of Dave's friends got him to come out and get involved with Veteran Projects. It appeared Dave was happy again attending many functions and proudly wearing his Medal of Honor. It was during one of these functions in Spirit Lake, Idaho on Friday August, 6 2010 that Dave passed away.

### **Jim Robinson**

Jim Robinson who served with the unit passed away on August 3 in Breezy Point, MN. We should like to have more information on him for an in memoriam for next time; Paul Beckwith wrote that James D. Robinson from the 173rd listed as a Recondo Graduate #1091 Class 17-68

Tom Eckman managed to attend the wake:

*I stopped at the wake for Jim Robinson last eve, we have a group from the 173rd chapter attending today at the cemetery, and I don't really have any more info. His wife and family greatly appreciated that we came. It was a small group, Bruce Mohn from H Company and I, but we represented all of us.*

Reed Welke wrote:

*I attended the burial at Fort Snelling in St. Paul Minnesota,*

*and am in contact with Jim's family and will provide more information for the next issue of Patrolling." I am good friends with two of the guys who graduated Recondo school with Jim and I emailed them right away. Jim's wife is going to send me a photo and some papers she found. Jim's brother is a priest and officiated at the burial and I will get him to provide some info as well.*

Tome Roubideaux and Lee Roy Pipkin remember him.

Alan Valkie, an original 173rd LRRP has been heard from. He retired as a commercial several years ago and he and his wife bought a 40' long catamaran and are sailing about the Caribbean. As Larry Cole has written:

*I guess Alan is getting by with being homeless.....he sent me these pics of the place he's got to stay in and how he's been scrounging for food.*

*Later, Larry*



Don "Rat" Sexton has gone back on active duty as a CW-4. Jeff Horne retired on 31 July and we now have another going back in.

*Rangers, SF'ers, Paratroopers..*

*I have officially been placed back on active duty. Heading to SOCCENT, Tampa, FL. This is without doubt the last shot at the "Holy Grail". I'm honored to be able to continue. My thanks goes to all of the men I served with., and a special thanks to Patrick Tadina, aka "Tad"...and Dick Davis..It is easy for me to see the way ahead, when I have stood on the shoulders of giants.*

*V/r - Don Sexton*



As noted, Jeff Horne had his CSM retirement ceremony in Ohio on 31 July. His two sons, who are currently with 3rd Bn/Ranger Regiment, were able to attend.

Something quite interesting came down the pike a month ago from Bill Spies through John Chester, President of 75th RRA and Editor of **Patrolling**.

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*The purpose of this email is start the effort in seeking one or more Rangers/LRPs/Grunts who were actually inserted and/or extracted by a helicopter, # 64-13736 - known as "Soul", flown by the 335 Attack Heli Co, the "Cowboys," in III Corps area.*

*WAR has accepted the project of painting that ship for display at the Infantry Museum. The plan is to have one or more of the following: Pilots, co-pilots, maintenance/crew members/door gunners, and LRPs or Rangers who actually flew in this ship in VN on the VIP platform when she is dedicated to the museum. We have already located pilots and crew members, but have not yet looked for LRPs or Rangers. Her name was "Soul" when in the 335 AHC, known as the "Cowboys", of the 1st Aviation Bde while serving in III Corps. We know from a pilot that this helicopter was involved in one of the very first emergency night extractions of a LRP Tm of the 17th Cav while under fire on 02 Jun 66.*

*My guess is; it could very well have been the 173rd LRPs. possibly, some other LRP Tm also. Please help us find one or more LRPs or Rangers who were extracted by this particular helicopter when she was flown as part of the Cowboys/335th AHC. If we are able to do that, they will be invited to be part of the dedication ceremony.*

*Drive On!*

*Bill Spies*

*334 855 0348*

Reed, you are correct that the 173rd LRRP is the only one that was attached to E/17 Cav. I was there. We were supported by The Cowboys Aviation Co. I remember two Pilots in particular. Capt West (the best) Capt Petersen (Capt Pete the Elite). The pilot that flew off and left me with the body of Raymond Hudson in war zone D was a fresh warrant officer and when we were under heavy fire. He was scared to death. I had no ammo left and Hudson's weapon and ammo used up. All I had was a Ruger .22 pistol with silencer. That is all I had to return fire with. The C&C ship made the pilot (after what seemed like an eternity) come back and get me. I had jumped off the A/C to get Hudson's attention. A/C left before I could grab my weapon. I will write the complete story later.

- Ron (Ropes) Rice RLTW

June, 1966

Mark Carter has written the following which has to be included in any anthology of LRRP/Ranger actions.

### **Out of Hollandia and into Yorktown**

Interim Team:

Sergeant Williams TL

Sergeant Erickson ATL

R. C. Bolen

Alan Ward

Dave Liebersbach

Mark Carter

Team Crater: Sgt. Smith TL

We had two Smiths. I don't know which Smith was Team Crater's TL, or who was on this team.

The LRRP platoon had been busy during Operation Hollandia. At this time, our policy was to be prepared to set up ambushes on the last day of surveillance, but to stay in the snoop mode unless we were cleared to fire. In addition to recon patrols, we were experimenting with stay-behinds, plus pulling counter-ambush duty with Troop E, 17th Cavalry. Some of us were loaned out for overnights to Eagle Flights, to support Troop E's infantry platoon, or guard one of 319th's howitzers that had been lifted to some obscure clearing as part of an artillery fan. Running a clearing patrol around an Eagle flight in the middle of nowhere has its share of thrills.

The LRRP platoon came off Hollandia on the 18th. After spending six days in Bien Hoa, we redeployed to Xuan Loc. This six-day break was not typical, but we had to rearrange some of the teams due to miscellaneous boo-boos or enemy action. Wolf Lotze was bitten by a scorpion, and had a lesion the size of tea bag on his hand. Sergeant Sipes took an emergency leave. Terry Rourdke and Moose (I never knew his actual name) were too short to go out, and were clearing the unit. They pissed and moaned, but were not allowed to go with us. Jerry Linsner had an ear infection. He'd popped an eardrum during the firefight when Fields got killed, and was trying to control some fungi that had set up a colony in his ear canal. Kimball and van Boven had been wounded and sent back to the states.

Our Vietnamese had all gone AWOL again. I never found out what their issues actually were. A couple of them had washed out during training because they didn't want to rappel. I don't know how the others worked out with the other teams, but the two I'd worked with on patrols (Ut and Vinh) were good in the jungle.

When patrol orders started coming down for Yorktown, teams that were already formed went to the operation area at Xuan Loc. We orphans filled in slots on other teams, and followed the next day. Dave Liebersbach and I were a couple of the orphans. We went to Sergeant Williams' team, joining Ward, Bolen and Sergeant Erickson. I was point man. I believe Dave was RTO. On the morning of 25 June, we convoyed out QL1 some 30 or 40 miles east from Bien Hoa to Xuan Loc, where we stashed our bivouac gear in the 17th Cav's AO for safekeeping. We put our patrol

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equipment together while Sergeant Williams made his over-flight. Our mission was to insert somewhere north of Xuan Loc, then find a certain trail and set up surveillance on it.

That same night we inserted into a small clearing in a triple-canopy forest. Our pilot came in low, literally brushing the tree tops. He rocked the chopper on its skids to give us time to unload; while a sister ship flew over us to mask our insertion. We hit the brush at the tree line, and then took a knee to let our ears clear from the noisy ride.

After a few seconds all I could hear was the blood thumping in my ears. The light was fading fast. No noise from the jungle, so we moved out to look for a place to deploy for the night. At one point we stopped to listen a bit more, and while we were at it, we watered our rice bags, to prepare them for supper later on. By now it was pretty dark. I found a pig trail in the thick brush. I could crawl along it, but couldn't walk standing. I know it was a pig trail, because of what I had to scrape off my hand.

Just as total darkness came upon us, Sergeant Williams selected a dense thicket of thorns. He deployed us in it, foot to foot, in a tight circle. We ate supper then slept in shifts. In this set up, one man sits on watch at all times. He can't lie down or sleep. His main job is to listen. His other job is to shake the foot of anyone who decides to groan in his sleep. I heard about teams using string for this sort of thing, but I never did.

It drizzled off and on all night. At first light we moved out of the NDP, and then paused to call Eagle. Sitrep normal. We watered our rice bags then moved out. Sergeant Williams walked slack. Dave was behind him. Sergeant Erickson was rear security.

Around 0800 we stopped for chow. Our usual meal (*Indigenous Rations*) was built around a bag of freeze-dried, dehydrated rice, supplemented with dried peppers and any of several meat-like products: dried mutton, tiny whole fish, dried beef, or sausage. Salt and pepper for condiments. Packets of sugar and powdered milk went with the useless tea bags and powdered instant coffee. Dried orange slices were dessert. Each meal included a stick of gum and a vitamin pill. We called a spot report at the breakfast stop because we'd discovered that the terrain on the ground didn't seem to look like the terrain on our maps. This had happened before. Eagle agreed that the chopper had set us down in the wrong place. An hour or so later a chopper ran a pattern for us to use as a sound vector. No longer lost, we struck another azimuth, and moved toward the trail we were supposed to watch. We arrived in the early afternoon.

The trail turned out to be a humdinger, wide, hard-packed ground, maintained with cobbles and rock culverts. In some places over clearings, tree branches had been lassoed with ropes, then pulled together to make it harder to spot the track from the air. We pulled back a bit to call in a spot report, and were told to proceed with surveillance. Sergeant Williams sent me across the trail. We were looking for a good place to deploy. The trail here snaked through patches of knee-high grass, with irregular clumps of thick brush on both sides. All this was under a towering triple-canopy forest that allowed only scattered fingers of light to filter down through the canopy. My line of travel put me through the stem of the S turn. The team hovered at the edge of the brush to watch me.

I almost had reached the trail when I heard voices coming toward me from the front left and around the bend. I barely had time to sink to the ground behind a scraggly patch of knee-high grass and pretend I was a *lump* before they came into view. They were noisy. They were either PAVN or Main Force VC, on a stroll in their own back yard. They smoked and joked, carrying their weapons in various unmilitary ways—across the shoulders like a coolie pole, or on one shoulder like a fishing pole. One or two of them actually carried them at sling arms: Ak-47's, Type 50 carbines. One of the guys in the first group carried an American M-2 carbine with a folding stock. About half of them had no visible weapons, but carried heavily-loaded canvass rucksacks with wooden frames. One carried a wooden telephone box, and another carried rolls of commo wire. They wore mixed green uniforms or black PJs. Some had scarves and floppy hats.

I wasn't scared because I knew the team was watching me. Okay, I was a little scared, getting caught out in the open like that, not fifteen feet from the trail. All *right, pretty scared*. Shitless, actually, but I knew the team would kill them all to protect me.

Several groups went by. I barely could see them out of the corner of one eye, but I didn't dare move my head for a better view. I tried to focus on my lump impression, plus notice details for my SALUTE report. Okay, I didn't give a shit about the SALUTE report; I just wanted to be a convincing lump. I believe I actually could hear my eyeball squeak when I looked around.

After a while they stopped coming. Sergeant Williams motioned me to continue the march. I finished crossing the trail and did my recon up and down, then signaled the team. We deployed across the trail where we could set up workable L ambush if we had to bust tape, but we did not set out claymores. We sent a spot report in shackle code to Eagle about the troops. No other troops came by that day.

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That night we pulled off the trail and set up in the bush. The plan was to set up on the trail again the next day. It rained again. I had no poncho or ground cover. I still had a couple more pairs of socks, which I kept inside condoms to keep them dry. A couple of T-shirts, too. Sometimes a dry T-shirt and socks were better than sex. On chilly wet mornings, dry socks made me feel like I'd had a first-class night, even when I'd slept in a puddle. I'd usually strip the T-shirt off at one of the morning breaks.

At commo next morning, we were told to abandon trail surveillance and move with careful haste to a map coordinate two or three clicks to the north, and link up with LRRP team Crater, led by Sergeant Smith. We were to set up an LZ for a company-sized assault. Three kilometers is not very far for an afternoon stroll, but it's a long and dangerous hump for a small team that's trying be invisible.

We were somewhere south of the La Nga River Valley. The jungle in this whole TAOR was a triple-canopy forest, trees over 200 feet tall, brush ranging from patchy to impenetrable, over low, rolling hills, an occasional rock pile, and several small streams that weren't on our map. The under-story varied from thick to sparse. In places the ground was clear, like a park. We relied on brush and grass for concealment, so I tried to stay in the brush as much as I could. At our noon break we were serenaded by a few hundred small apes (probably gibbons). They were a living blanket in the upper story of the canopy. They stopped right over us and cooed to one another in musical tones for a while, then, with much yelling and screaming, the whole troop crashed off through into the jungle. Were they actually saying anything? Do PAVNs speak ape? No paranoid images were beyond me.

We arrived at a small LZ around dusk, and did our set-up drill for the night. We heard noises all night from various places around the base of the low hog-back right across the clearing from us, including some VC yahoo sending out what sounded like 60mm, or maybe 82mm, mortar rounds at random intervals. The good news was that we were too close to his position for him to actually drop one on us if we were discovered. With that, plus the drizzle, it was a tense, tedious night with little sleep.

At first light we moved to where we could observe the LZ. Team Crater arrived shortly after that. I was impressed that both teams had hit the clearing dead on and that we both had slept pretty much in the same bushes without shooting at each other. We compared notes about the noises around the hog-back. Our mission was to move around the hog-back and reconnoiter the large LZ to be used for the assault. We couldn't move around much, because we didn't want to

alert any enemy sentries and give away the impending assault. After as much recon as we could manage, we found the large LZ on the other side of the hog-back, about 350 meters from our primary. The VC positions on the hog-back were obviously focused on the larger LZ. We called this into Eagle, and went back to the primary to lay dog for the rest of the day. More cold drizzle that night.

Next morning, we set up a perimeter to cover the small LZ, and then waited for the Herd to arrive. I lay in shallow water, thinking of the dry socks I didn't get to put on that morning. After only a few minutes we got word that the birds were in the air and a chopper would be there to pick us up in about 15 minutes. We turned our hats inside out, readied the smoke grenades, and waited. After an hour of waiting, we got commo telling us that the assault had been put back 24 hours. We were to pull back and hide for another night.

It drizzled the rest of the day. We set up a short distance from the LZ, and then spent a miserable day either standing motionless or lying in the mud. We picked up a little more information about the lay of the enemy positions on the hog-back. For one thing, there were a lot of them, a company at least. We were able to determine that more than a couple of 12.5mm machine-gun emplacements overlooked the large LZ on the other side of the hog-back. The VC mortar crew sent out a few more rounds. I think the gunner was establishing registration points around the LZ. By this time, our commo responses were limited to squelch codes, because we didn't want even to whisper into the mike.

We spent another soggy night there. The assault scheme, as we understood it, was for boonie rats from 2/503 to assault the large LZ in front of those machine guns. Sergeant Williams used squelch code to call for artillery on the hog-back, but his request was refused. Maybe we were too close to the impact area. We asked for permission join the assault, but were refused. We somehow got the idea that they would try to put the lifts into our LZ. It was small, but it was better than the alternative. Our missions often called for us to brief the assault unit's HQ element on the LZ, then, either get on a chopper or join them in the assault. We had no instructions like that this time, so we went to plan A, which is to get on whatever lands near us and come back for a debriefing.

Anyhow, during commo the next morning we were told that the assault was on, and a company (or two) from 2/503 was already in the air. Shortly after that we got the signal to throw smoke. I don't know who threw the first smoke, but the grenade landed in a puddle under a bush, and the smoke sort of dribbled around the ground uselessly. So Sergeant Erickson actually walked out into the open and carefully wedge a smoke grenade in the branches of a low bush,

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popped the grenade, then trotted back to cover. Smoke billowed gloriously. There was now no doubt about our position being compromised. We turned hats inside out and prepared to get busy.

Right about then the choppers appeared. But instead of confirming our smoke, they over-flew us and landed in the large LZ on the other side of the hog back. We heard the shooting begin, and then a chopper dropped into the clearing and lifted us out. We were ready to fight, but I was just as happy to not be on this side of the hog-back when the boonie rats overran it.

At the debriefing in Xuan Loc, we were informed through the always reliable scuttlebutt that somebody from brigade had decided that we had vectored to the wrong LZ, and had given wrong map coordinates in our spot reports. We disagreed in bitter Anglo-Saxon expletives. The insult to our map-reading skills wasn't the issue; it was the outrage we felt about the boonie rats having landed in front of those guns. "Charlie Company, 2/503d made contact with a PAVN company," I wrote in my journal, and suffered "... 2 killed, 17 wounded. ..." and "... a major and a captain were reassigned. ..."

EOM

Mark Carter

173'd LRRP 65-66

Mark added to this:

*It's stunning how little cross-communication we had, considering how tight the platoon was. I hadn't heard about Ron Rice being left on the LZ when Hudson got killed (until I read his email). I can only imagine the conversation between his team and the pilot when the bird lifted, leaving him there. I'm surprised the pilot wasn't injured during the discussion.*

*I do remember vectoring with Jake's team, but on a different mission. We were going to be a 12-man blocking force, and kill a whopping bunch of VC when the boonie rats chased them into us. It was a great plan, and it would have worked, except they didn't chase them in our direction. We lollygagged for a couple of days and enjoyed the scenery. Off in the distant jungle we could hear sounds of the battle echoing around in the hills. Creepy. We should have been there, was the general feeling.*

*Our teams also worked together on a stay-behind. We got into a fight with a PAVN platoon that attacked the D/16th Armor and E/17th Cav perimeter before they had a chance to leave. I guess a PAVN company stumbled into the perimeter, and left the platoon as a delaying force.*

*Bill Palmer might know about the 2/503 MOH, and/or dust*

*up over this assault, since that sort of stuff happened up in his pay grade. I know that our platoon members were decorated now and then, but I don't remember any ceremonies, or even noticing it very much. I think we may have wanted to believe we were above it, but I now realize most soldiers have a split mind about that sort of thing. I guess it was the ticket punchers that gave us a detached attitude. That, plus some of the guys in the platoon were actual daily heroes, and a ribbon doesn't seem to fit into the equation, unless it's they who are receiving them.*

*When I was in the platoon, I had a sense that we were a special unit, doing extraordinary things. But as far as I was aware, we knew that the boonie rats in the batts were the heart of the brigade, and they did the hardest jobs a soldier can perform. Compared to their average day, we were on a walk in the park. This is heady stuff. Maybe this is what you get for being lucky enough to be with the best of the best. It stands up over the years.*

Take care,

Mark

### **Letter from a Cowboy Pilot**

Thanks for the invite, "twin," but I'm tied up that week. I did have my share of excitement flying LRRPs in and out of danger in our SE Asian paradise. As I recall, all you guys volunteered for that snoopin and poopin in VC country LRRP stuff. We Cowboy pilots weren't volunteers - we were just assigned the mission.

I remember one time, I was going on an R&R to Japan. We had inserted a team earlier in the day and were on standby to extract them if/when they got into trouble. I heard my relief pilot coming in to change places with me so I could go on R&R and he could finish up the job of picking up the team at the designated site and time or pick them up if they got in trouble. While my relief chopper was about a half mile out we got the call to scramble and pick up the team who had been compromised. No time to wait for anything. We cranked up our bird and flew to where the team was to pick them up w/o anyone getting hurt - thank God.

We had a Major ride with us to the pickup point. He had an M-79 launcher and was ready to shoot it out the open cargo doors, but due to our having to do some pretty radical banking to get in and out of the area, I told the crew chief to sit that guy down and make sure he was not to shoot his weapon out the door under any circumstances while we were flying at the risk of shooting into our rotor blades. Damn. I forgot the helicopter pilot war story telling code. I was supposed to start that story off with, "this is no shit!" Consider it said...

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Hope you guys and family members have a good time this year. I have to take a pass. I've met the other fellow you emailed - Don Bliss. He is a super nice guy.

Cheers,

Tony Geishauser

[tonyg@austin.rr.com](mailto:tonyg@austin.rr.com)

Elaine and I were able to visit twice with Nancy and Tome Roubideaux in Denver and at our son's place in Fort Collins, CO and hope to spend a few days with them this fall. I had to show the road rash on my arm from dumping a recumbent tricycle (I know it will be remembered as a scene from Rowan & Martin's *Laugh In* but I was doing about 30 mph) and he then told me about being out horseback riding when Nancy gave him a call on his cell phone. Our stalwart 5 tour Lakota warrior of the plains wasn't paying attention and got swept off his horse by a low branch. He should have been sentenced to six weeks of remedial horseback riding by the Forest Rangers. He then told about being near Yellowstone National Park in his brand new pickup truck and being stopped by a herd of Moose. The last in line was a Bull who stopped, looked at Tome's car and kicked in the radiator grill. He immediately got a satellite call from Onstar "what happened, are you OK?" "Uh, my radiator just got kicked in by a moose!" Tome says the discussion went downhill from there. There should be a book on what Onstar operators hear. I then managed to dive into a drainage ditch in the middle of a 1.5 mile railroad tunnel on the Hiawatha Trail in Idaho in late July. Sure is dark in the middle of a 1.6 mile ex-railroad tunnel when you smash your headlamp. Elaine was right there to help me out. I got a lot of support from friends and family.

*Thankfully no bones were broken but unfortunately I didn't get a picture of him with blood dripping from his mouth."*  
Elaine (wife)

*"Gee did Dad get Facecrack account" Charlie (son)*

*"TELL DAD TO BE CAREFUL! I don't want to hear any of this nonsense ever again. You make me worry."* Elisa (daughter, then stranded by floods and civil unrest in Giglit, Pakistan)

*You sure look colorful... (Jeff Horne)*

*Bike wreck my butt! I am a trained professional. I can recognize evidence of a first class ass whuppin' when I see it. I am however curious as to what kind of tools Elaine used on ya?*

*I can see the tire tread marks on your rib cage but am at a loss to determine if that is a tire iron or a nine iron mark on your upper lip. Maybe we should just start calling you*

*"Tigger Too". (Tom Zaruba and former Lieutenant of Alaska State Troopers)*

*Do not have time (right now) to respond to your butt whupping from Elaine. (Tony Schoonover)*

*I don't understand how Reed lived to be 70, wait he won't be 70 for another week, maybe he won't make it (Paul, a cousin)*

*Ouch (Carl Vencill)*

Elaine and I were also able to visit Hubie and Tonie Imhof at their place in Pullman, WA. Had a great time. Hubie showed his photos as well as those of Brian Danker. Brian has some excellent photos. The one below is of the unit in 1970 or thereabouts. It would be a good idea if the folks in it could be identified. The only other unit photo known is one Taken of the 173rd LRRP in October 1966 and almost everyone has been identified in that photo.



I got things started by commenting that I had been wearing an N Ranger cap at a campground in Yellowstone and a guy let me know he was a graduate of both West Point and Ranger School in 1970 and then asked me when I went to Ranger School. I demurred and said that I had never done such. "Hmmp, so you just like wearing the Cap" was his reply, intimating, I am sure, that I was a poseur. I said that I had gone to MACV Recondo School and had been a LRRP with the 173rd Airborne. "Hmmp, yeah all you guys ever did was recon!" OK, what do you say to someone like this? Well a lot of guys from LRRP/LRP/N Rangers wrote that what I should have said would have required him to perform a most personal and impossible act looked upon unfavorably in most polite societies. Bob Stowell (West Point, Ranger School and DSC) asked "did you offer him a towel to wipe behind his ears?" As usual, Jake had the best story.

### **Jake's tale**

Whatever The Troops want they earned it!! God Bless Them. Now not trying to outdo. You about Patches. After The (Son Tay) Raid the Red River Rats Association asked us to join their Association. To qualify you had to fly 100 missions in Red River Area in North Vietnam. Most were

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jet pilots. They said we may of flown over North Vietnam, but you guys actually walked their on the ground. I was a member for a few years and had a leather flight jacket and had Son Tay Raid Patch and Red River Rat Patch sewn on. Mostly I wore the jacket to reunions.

Time I had it on at Pope AFB commissary doing some last minute shopping. While we were in line at the cash register, a good looking Lady said, "I see You belong to The Red River Rat Association my husband is also a member, What Fighter Wing Did You Fly with in Vietnam?" I said "I didn't I was on the ground mostly in Vietnam, I'm Army." She asked why would I wear an unauthorized Patch, also I think she called me a wannabe and a phony and pointed me out to others in line, I was glad It was my time to pay for my stuff and left, I guess she never seen The Son Tay Raider Patch before. Have a great Vacation!!

Jake

**The Next Ranger Rendezvous will be 25-29 July at Fort Benning. David Cummings wrote that the Holiday Inn has had a \$2M renovation and is under new management.**

### **2010 Vegas Gathering**

A mini-reunion occurred in May of this year in Las Vegas, NV Reunion Coordinator - Ron Thomas planned the event and did a great job.

Folks attending had served in 173rd LRP (original platoon of E/1/17th Cav) 173rd LRRP (attached to E/1/17th Cav/ 74th LRP Det./N/75 Rangers plus the guys that kept us alive by pulling us out when we got in trouble: Casper Platoon and 61st Assault Chopper Co. Of course they are the ones that also put us into Harm's Way. None of our teams would have made it through a tour alive without them.

The total number of people in attendance was 43 and event took place at the Golden Nugget Hotel, downtown. There was plenty of activities scheduled and the \$49 a night for room was within every ones budget. Everyone enjoyed themselves as the messages received mentioned. There was live entertainment on Freemont St. and hourly two-block long video show overhead. Many items were raffled off and every-one receive a prize, also the time spent on Wed. at the 2 Hotel Cabanas was great time. Some of us stay up late and sat playing quarter machines and walked away with positive cash, losing was not on our mind while playing the machines.



Banquet guest speaker was Phil Johnson - Casper Platoon President. He quote about the reunion "Honored to be invited and the reunion was more personal then the larger events".

### **Reunion Attendance:**

Ron Thomas, Robt & Laura Henriksen, Mike & Jeanette Swisley, Carl & Linda Vencill, Mark Carter, Fletch Ruckman, Tony Schoonover, Jim Parks, Errol & Susan (friend) Hansen, Frank & Patricia Vans Evers, Hubie & Toni Imhof, George & Mitch (nephew Irag WIA) Bocik, David Lange, Herbert Baugh, John & John Jr. Jersey, Frank & Adela Aragon, Don & Virgie Bizadi, Lee Roy & Jeannie & Garret (son) Pipkin and sons Joseph Tasta - Gregory Tasta - John David Tasta, Frank Becijos - 101st Air Mobil, Thomas Quinn - Casper Pilot, John Wilkofsky - Casper, Ed Ramon - 61st Assault Pilot, Phil Johnson - Casper Pilot, Jim Crossbuck - 101st (Carter's friend), and Kalan Colon (Desert Storm - Quinn Friend) also winner of the Knife in the Case Raffle.





**n/75 - 74t H Lr P - 173r d Lr r P (CONTINUED)**

Due to the growing number of members we now have (about 200) I have hired a student to assist me with the Platoon / Company paper work (documents and others items). Getting this generation kids involved in our life and learning our History.

Her name is Megan (16 years old) and a neighbor in Ferndale Washington. She has done high school projects on Vietnam Veterans. Attached photo of her so you will know who is assisting us with our current activities and working on restoring our Unit History.

**O/75 - 78t H Lr P****Unit Director - Michael Dolsen****Mike Dolsen****Arctic Ranger  
Reunion 2010,  
Louisville, KY**

Before I get into addressing the reunion, please bear with me, as this is my first solo submission as Unit Director for O/75th

(Arctic Ranger), O/75th (Vietnam) and 78th LRP, since taking over for Mike Feller a few months back. As he noted in the last issue, he wished to take a break, and he asked me to take over for him, while he did so, so I agreed to act as the Unit Director for a time. For how long depends mostly on you all. We can only see as time goes on, and as I indicated in that last issue, I promise to do my best for all Rangers related to these units.

Yes, we Arctic Rangers finally had our "First" reunion since deactivation on 29 September 1972. And by chance, it occurred almost to the day of our 40th Anniversary of our units' activation on 4 August 1970. Our reunion was on 7 August 2010, in Louisville, KY at the Fern Valley Hotel, with a pre-reunion dinner gathering, for those who arrived the night before, and for those who were still around on Sunday morning after the reunion, we met for a departing brunch. The dinner the night before and the Sunday departing brunch were great. Thanks to all who attended. It was fun.

I would like to say this, and it is something I feel long overdue, and I don't mean any disrespect to anyone or any group, but addressing the Arctic Rangers has long been neglected and so too correct this I will be covering our unit more and more over the next few issues. It is still a shock to me and many others to find that many in the public, some



within our own Ranger units, and military even today, don't believe we even existed, nor do they believe some of the "history" we created actually happened. Well, I'm here to tell those who don't believe, or are skeptical, that you're about to learn a thing or two. And hopefully become more proud to you have a unique and proud unit to call your brothers. So, standby in future Patrolling magazines for the history as you've not heard it before, and the facts, from the men who made it. Even the history as currently shown on the 75th RRA's site (if not corrected before this publication is issued) soon will be corrected due to

errors in spelling, content errors, and sequence of events which occurred. The truth will be told, and on behalf of my fellow Arctic Rangers, we wish to set the record straight.

Now back to the reunion. As you can see from the title, we "Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf., Alaska, aka; Arctic Rangers, had a reunion. In fact it was our "first" true reunion since our units' official date of deactivation on 29 September 1972. I wish to note, four of us had a "mini" reunion in April 2009, in Round Rock, TX prior to this reunion was even ever thought of, and so I'll address that on in the next issue in more detail. Yes, this was our first real official reunion in 38 years from when we deactivated. Last December 2009, I got an email from Larry Lee. He had been searching the net for Arctic Rangers and came across my web site, and after several attempts to make contact, we finally got emails to cross and then spoke on the phone for a long while, we clicked and became a team. We right then started to help each other on finding Arctic Rangers and also discussed a reunion was in order before this year was out. It wasn't long before we got others interested in the idea, so after some thoughts of dates and places were tossed around, and given Larry offered to head

**O/75 - 78t H Lr P (CONTINUED)**

up this mission, he's suggestion of the first weekend of August in Louisville, KY was great, as he knew the area well, as he lives only about 30 minutes from there in Indiana. He knew of the available facilities which might offer good rates and places to hold this reunion. So he, in great Arctic Ranger fashion, with the attitude it can be done, set out to do so, and he did it.

I drafted a Reunion Notice, Registration sheet, and updated our web site to make notice of this planned reunion, while Larry and I both also sent out numerous E-mails, letters, and made a bunch of calls to get the word out and get our men to commit to the planned date and place. Some members joined on right away, while others were a little slower to get enthused, but they too soon, after seeing how this was going, changed their minds and got right into it. So, after months of many reminders, and finding more and more Arctic Rangers and telling them of the reunion planned, some found only a few weeks before the event even, we got a great bunch of men heading to the first Arctic Ranger reunion ever.

Our greatest accomplishment was getting both of the only two men to have served as our Company Commanders during its 25 months of operations. I had located both George A. Ferguson, Jr., Ltc (Ret) in North Carolina and Edward O. Yaugo, Ltc (Ret) in Virginia, some time ago, and with Larry's help, we were able to spark an interest in them both to attend. This was going to be a great reunion we both knew, as having both of our Company Commanders attend, would give everyone attending a chance to visit with and hear from, maybe a commander that wasn't there when they were.

Then Major Ferguson, was hand-picked by then MG; James F. Hollingsworth to organize and be our first Company Commander (CO) of his new Arctic Ranger unit, and the then Major Yaugo who succeeded Ferguson in late 1971 as our second Company Commander, commanded the unit through its second Polar Ice Cap mass parachute jump, and carry it through to its deactivation with honor and the respect we so deserved. Larry and I are very happy, proud and honored to have them both attend. We thank them deeply for their attendance and support.



**Majors; Edward O. Yaugo and George A. Ferguson, Jr., holding reunion signs, signed by all attending Arctic Rangers, at the Arctic Ranger Reunion 2010.**

So, 28 Arctic Rangers attended the reunion. Far more than Larry and I had at first hoped would be able to attend. And, with guests; wives, etc..., the total who attended this event was over 45 people. At first we thought if we got 6 to 12 attend we would be happy, but to get nearly three dozen Arctic Rangers there, we were very happy and grateful they could make it. At the reunion, by the time we thought to take a group photo, we realized one had left early. Lt. John Wohner had to leave early and so he regretfully is not shown in this group photo, but you can see his photo here after the group shot. We apologize to John for not taking the photo much earlier. Next time, photos will be taken much sooner.



**27 of the 28 Arctic Rangers who attended the reunion (photo taken by Rob Ferguson for me. He is youngest son of George Ferguson)**

In the next issue, I'll provide a better photo taken by another attendee which shows everyone's head. This photo has a few head slightly covered. The next photo will have identification numbers/names for each man, so you can see who is who.

Here below is John H. Wohner, 2Lt/1Lt., the 28th Arctic Ranger who missed the group photo. Sorry John we didn't take it sooner before you left. We all took our turns at giving a short introduction about ourselves to the reunion members. This was done, as some Arctic Rangers were in the unit when others were not, and to give everyone a better understanding who they are, were then, and when they were in the unit and did what.

**Lt. John Wohner, giving his introduction.**



**O/75 - 78t H Lr P (CONTINUED)**

We also were very lucky to have in attendance, with our two CO's, a good number of the other officers who served with us over those 25 months of operations.



**Our officers from left to right are (ranks then noted): Joseph Logan, Capt., Paul J. Landowski, Lt., Edward O. Yaugo, Maj., William "Bill" Anton, Lt., (Ranger Hall of Fame member), George A. Ferguson, Jr., Maj., Charles "Chuck" Coaker, Lt..**

So, I'll leave this report here and continue it in the next issue, as there is much more to report. I'll cover the three days of events, with most about the main event on that Saturday, August 7th. I will show more photos, some taken by me, and some by others maybe, of the men, the reunion event, and

our visit to pay our respects to a fallen Arctic Ranger; CSM (ret), Jerry L. Rock, who was a Staff SGT (SSG) in the Arctic Rangers for most of its operations, and was there when we deactivated. Well, I hope you find this report interesting, and I deeply hope my fellow Arctic Rangers find it treats them with the respect and honor they so well deserve. I wish to deeply thank all the Arctic Rangers who were able to attend, and say to all Arctic Rangers who couldn't, do plan on making the next one, as it appears it will be in two years and near the time of our 40th Anniversary of our deactivation. Send in your ideas for places and date(s) and we will get with the planning of it to happen.

Before I forget, I'd like to thank Larry C. Lee with the support of his wonderful wife; Vicky, for all he did to make this reunion happen, and be a great one at that. Without his hard work, and desire to get the mission done, this reunion would most likely not have occurred. I also wish to deeply thank his wife Vicky for supporting him to bring this together.

In closing, we all say RLTW - "Rangers Lead The Way", but, I have coined it slightly different for us Arctic Rangers, and many have found it acceptable, so with no disrespect to any of our fellow Rangers, we Arctic Rangers say ARLTWBC - "Arctic Rangers Lead The Way, But Cooler". Until next issue, regards and best wishes to all.



**P/75 - 79t H Lr P**  
**Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick**

The Papa Company Rangers had just finished up a wonderful Reunion in Cherokee, N.C. when we were hit with the tragic news of the death of one of our member's son in Afghanistan a mere week later. This followed up the terrible news we had gotten a few days earlier about the loss of Joyce Boatman's friend, Doug Coleman, after what was to be a routine surgery for a gall bladder issue. That was why Joyce missed our reunion and no one could have predicted complications from what was supposed to be a routine procedure. Our hearts and thoughts and prayers go out to all of them at this difficult time.

LCpl. Kevin Michael Cornelius, was the youngest son of Jerry and Marlene Cornelius from Jerry's earlier marriage. Their eldest son, Eric, is a Lt. in the U.S. Army, and currently going through helicopter pilot training at Fort Rucker, AL and had just recently been told he was selected to go through



the Kiowa Warrior training as his aircraft of choice. Kevin was serving in the Marine Corps in Afghanistan and was coming home very soon. In fact, Jerry and Marlene had just spoken to him on the day he was killed. It was Jerry's birthday, August 7th, Marlene told me. As of this writing, Kevin is being returned home and will be interred at Arlington at some later date. Right now, his hometown and the local friends and family are having services for him and there will be some upcoming ways

they will honor his sacrifice in the future. It's just a terrible loss for us all as many of knew Kevin since he was a young kid and watched him grow over the years into a young man. Jerry and Marlene would like to thank those of you have been so supportive and offered condolences at this time. I will have more on this subject in the future.

We were honored and pleased to have two of our KIA

**P/75 - 79th H LRP (CONTINUED)**

families with us this year in Cherokee. Chris Sides, wife of our KIA Harold Sides, who we lost in September 1970, and her friend from Dallas, Wanda Burton attended. This was the 2nd time we have had Chris with us and she is such a wonderful addition to our family. Knowing how hard it is for her, we sure do appreciate her honoring us with her presence. Johnny Lawrence, and Johnny's "lady friend", Karen Padgett, his daughter, Dana Law, and his sisters, Kelly and Jaci Lawrence attended also, and they are the children of our Johnny Lawrence, KIA in 1971. Guests, or I should say other members of our Papa Company family, Redskin 16, Steve Smith and his lovely wife, Pat, who came to get him away from us right before we left, Jim and Sandy Testerman of K/75th and the 4th ID LRP's (with his beautiful restored Henry J), and RHOF member, N/75th Ranger and legend, Patrick Tadina, joined us before embarking on another mission that I cannot tell you about or he may have to kill me !! Guy Anhorn, who recently did a documentary film on P/75th called "Painted Warriors, Rangers on the DMZ" was there, along with his brother Tom and Tom's wife, Nettie. Steve Loggin's friend, Berry Rash, accompanied Steve, and I think he enjoyed his time with us too. In addition, my sister, Nancy, and my niece, Stacy, both attended along with my oldest daughter, Cindy. It was a pleasure to have them all with us this year.

Papa Company attendees this year included Ted and Cheri Tilson, and their daughter Jessica and son, Mark Tilson. Ted put it all together for us again this year and we are indebted to him for a great job. Cherokee, or any of the western N.C. area, is a great place to plan a company reunion. Other attendees in no order were Duke and Marion DuShane, Roger Cassidy, Sam "Brother G" and Peggy Burnette, Steve and Barbara Nash, Jim "Stepchild" Gates, Gregg "Spud" Gain, Larry "The Reb" Smith, Jim "The Fam" Femiano, Garry Norton, Jerry and Marlene Cornelius, Jay and Marsha Lutz, Eddie and Terri Olgesby, Steve Loggins, Donnie Rose, Rick Foringer and Margie Reif, Eddie Hoppe and Barbara Dawson, Thomas and Gaynelle Wilson, Eddie and Kitten Johnston and their youngest son, Mason, and his wife and baby girl. I was there also. We had hoped that Mary Rossi, Grace Mayer, Clyde and Susan Tanner, Terry Bishop, Rick King, Fred and Trish Tompkins, and Carney and "Shotgun Mary" Walters would join us this year, but the word was they had a reunion in Sturgis, SD without us. Ha! Ha! We had a nice time riding inner tubes down the river that ran beside our motel one day, and white water rafting in 47 degree water the next day. There were many things of interest in the area and no one got bored. The Cherokee Indian tribe has a large casino there too that drew some interest from the luckier members of our group.

Our Memorial Service this year took a bit of a turn from the norm, or at least what I usually see at most gatherings. Rather than merely reading the names and dates of our KIA's and lighting candles or something similar to honor each one this year, we took the extra time to have different members speak about each individual (23 in all) a bit and we all got an opportunity to get to know each of these men a little bit better using this technique. Since our companies were active for different periods of time, many times we find that we didn't know the individual whose name we are hearing being read, and I felt this would be a good opportunity to add something more to the names for everyone and it worked out even better than I had hoped. I got more positive feedback from those in attendance after the meal and ceremony than I have ever gotten in the past. There wasn't a dry eye in the room on more than one occasion and people got up and spoke that you would never in your wildest dreams expect to get in front of a microphone in front of a lot of people. It was very healing and therapeutic for many of us. We stayed busy the entire weekend and as usual, we were all sad to part and go our different ways until 2012, when we hope to combine with O/75th RGR and F/51st LRP for a major BLOWOUT in NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. This might be news to them, but we hope to rectify that in the next couple of years.

I'd like to give a BIG SHOUTOUT to first timer's .....Donnie Rose, Eddie Olgesby, and Roger Cassidy, who all joined us for their first time this year and we hope they will be coming back every year now. We all know how hard it is to take that first step sometimes, but most find it one they wish they had taken earlier in most cases. Roger was quite a popular guy in the company when I was there and it was great to see him with so many of the guys there that he served with and the new stories that he provided that we have not heard before. Ha! Ha!

In May, Jay Lutz and I did a "road trip" to north Georgia and met up and stayed with Teddy Bear Tilson in Gainesville, Georgia for a few days. While we were there, we attended the annual Critter Cookout that the Mountain Ranger Camp and their Association puts on every year. I had never been before and Ted had been trying to get me up there for years. We met up with Roger "Hawk" Honeyager (Wisconsin) and Don "Johnny Quest" Hughes (Iowa) from the late 1970 and 1971 Papa Company era. I had only seen their names pretty much over the years and was looking forward to meeting them both for the first time. I can tell you that I was not disappointed and for those of you who were there with me, "we coulda had some real fun with these two guys if we had them!!" We had a great time. Cookie was off leash and slept outside on a cot with me in an old Army tent for 3-4 days. Teddy Bear and I never showered for 4 days..... just like

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in Vietnam, and no one said a thing!! Jay was trying out some new camping and hiking gear he plans to use to walk the Appalachian Trail next year from Key West to Maine. Roger, Ted, and Don were honored with Planning Sheds being named after them for the next year and they do this for deserving RI's that have served there over the years. I thought it was an honor until I saw Emmett Hiltibrand's name on one of them..... JUST KIDDING, Emmett !! Emmett is actually held in very high regard there and it is a wonderful group of guys who attend and put this on every year. I would urge you to give it a shot one time. I'll definitely be going back. I probably enjoyed it as much or more than most Ranger gatherings I go to for some odd reason. Maybe it's the informality of it all or the rugged men who attend. They also hold a Fallen Ranger Ceremony each year to honor Rangers from all parts of the Ranger Community who have died for different reasons. Some were killed in action and some just passed away naturally. It was a wonderful ceremony and there were several family members of each person honored and many of them spoke of their lost loved one. Dan Pope spoke about Pete Neves, our former QM and Webmaster, and I had no idea of how well they knew each other. Several members of the E/75th Rangers attended and they had two of their own being honored this year. They were Emory Parrish and Joseph Castagna. It's another example of Rangers making sure other Rangers are never forgotten and reminds us that their spirit lives on with us all.

On our way home, Jay asked me if I could find the names of the two "support personnel" we had with two of our teams on June 6, 1970, when a premature explosion killed both of these brave men and injured several of our P/75th Rangers while they were setting charges and crystallized CS into a large bunker complex in the DMZ to blow it up and make it uninhabitable. Jay was the one who was wounded most seriously that survived the explosion that day. I'm sure I could write an article about that day on its own, but to make a long story short right now, I decided to see if I could find their names. I was able to find two men from the 5th Mech who died on that day and it was pretty obvious that they were with our teams that day, even though the information was vague concerning their deaths. One man, SSG Melvin Ernest Davis (SFC posthumously), came from the 86th Chemical Detachment, and the other, SP/4 James Ronald Stutes, came from A Co., 7th Engineering Bn. I had never heard of either unit in the 5th, but I'm sure they aren't the only ones there I never heard of either. Coincidentally, both men hailed from Louisiana. Melvin from Saline, and James from Lafayette.

I went to the Virtual Vietnam Memorial Wall on the Internet and found a message left in 2005 from Chuck

Davis, the son of Melvin Davis, and I sent a message to the e-mail address he left there. Shortly after that, I got a message back from Chuck and found out he lives about 45 minutes from me here in Florida. I let Jay know and the three of us decided to have lunch together in Orlando shortly thereafter. Jay and I were pleasantly surprised to find a welcoming and wonderful looking young man who greeted us at the Longhorn restaurant we had chosen to meet at for lunch. Dr. Chuck, who has a PhD in Chemical Engineering, currently is a Professor at a local college, and has his son living in the area attending college majoring in engineering also. Chuck instantly made Jay and I comfortable and we found out that for all these years, all he knew about his Father's death was that he died from an explosive device of some sort. He had assumed that it was probably a land mine and had never actually been told how his Father died in Vietnam. Jay, who there on the ground that day, and the closest person to his Father at the time of the explosion, related the events of the day that led up to his Father's eventual demise. We let him know that his Father had volunteered that day to go out with two Ranger teams, and we did not have a good record of being a safe place to be, and that he died doing Ranger work and he definitely held up his end of the bargain with our teams. To this day we still do not know what detonated the charges that day and we related that to him too. After lunch, he invited us to his home nearby and we got an opportunity to see some of the documentation and other memorabilia that he had from that time in his life. He had a letter from his Father's Commanding Officer that mentioned our CO, Luke Ferguson, as being a friend of his Father's, and some personal letters his Father had written to his wife and young son at that time. It was very sobering and Chuck made Jay and I about as comfortable as we could be with him. We consider these two men as part of our Papa Company family and we let Chuck know that too. We're hoping he will be able to join us one year in the near future at some Ranger events. Unfortunately, at this time, I have not been able to contact the Stutes family, but will continue to pursue that in the near future. Jay let me know that these events were very helpful to him personally and that makes it all worthwhile in so many ways.

In closing, I have to mention the Papa Company Fishing Tournament we had during our Reunion in Cherokee. It made my heart feel good to know that we could not even run a fishing tournament on the "up and up" and the results were tilted as I expected. After all the huffing and puffing about their "fishing prowess", most of the supposed entrants slept in except for a hardy few. Teddy Bear, Brother G, and Jim Femiano all got up and got their socks wet the morning of the tournament. When I got there to officiate, about 0800 hrs., Brother G was fishing up the

**P/75 - 79t H Lr P (CONTINUED)**

river a bit, Teddy Bear had a nice little dry rocky spot with two medium sized trout on his line, and Jim Femiano was up to his drawers in cold water with two “bait fish” (also called minnows in Florida or trout in NC) trying to get away so they could grow up to big trout. Brother G came ambling down the river with a large trout and his gear and looking for more fish. The winner was going to be the person with the most fish, not the largest or most poundage. Ted and Brother G were observing Jim fishing and Ted showed him the handmade knife he had provided for the eventual Winner of the tournament. At this point, Brother G, seeing the knife of his dreams, and I, and Ted, decided to concoct a scheme to get Brother G the knife he lusted for so much. We could have had Brother G’s fish swallow those small ones Teddy Bear had caught, but the idea was the number of fish, so Ted gave Brother G his two fish and now Brother G had 3 fish to two for Jim Femiano’s two minnows/trout. The time limit was reached and a few of us went over to see Jim to let him know he finished 2nd and Brother G won. Ted generously decided to give Jim a knife also and we thought it was over..... UNTIL..... I made an offhand comment to Jim that I was appalled that we (P/75th) couldn’t even run a legitimate, honest fishing tournament without some shenanigans being involved. Of course, this piqued his interest (as I intended) and he queried me as to what I was talking about ?? I told him the truth would come out eventually and left him with that thought. Brother G, also being ” a man of the cloth”, and having a congregation in Galax, Va., was approached by Jim, and Jim did the ultimate..... he played the what I call the “Jesus card” on Brother G. Of course when he did that, Brother G had to come clean and admit the truth much to his chagrin. It was dirty dealing for Jim to play the “Jesus card”, but Brother G did what any other Christian preacher would do and bared his soul and admitted his participation in the ruse. He offered to swap knives or return it but Jim was gracious and by then he liked the knife he won better anyway. Plus, he won a \$5.00 bet he had with Steve Nash who could not roll out of the tournament. And they lived happily ever after.....



**Wanda Burton, Jay Lutz  
& Chris Sides.**



**Dana Law & the  
Lawrence kids, Jacki,  
Johnny & Kelly.**



**Mary, Melvin & Chuck  
Davis in 1968.**



**Roger Honeyager, Ted  
Tilson & Don Hughes.**



**Papa Co. Rangers,  
Cherokee, NC, 2010.**



**Women of Papa Co.,  
Cherokee, NC, 2010**



**Melvin Ernest Davis.**



**LCpl Kevin Cornelius.**



**d/151 Lr P/r anger  
Unit Director - Leon Moore**

It is hard to believe that summer is over already, but at our age if we are lucky enough to wake up then it’s a great day.

**42ND REUNION**

We had a great turn out this August. A lot of the guys had their families come this year and we all enjoyed meeting them. I invited my 2 kids and grandkids, but at the wrong time and was unable to spend hardly any time with them due to being Vice President and being pulled away a lot.

Well, I will be President during the next Reunion, and I will let the new VP do the running around. This reunion as most, had its normal hiccups. The first was the absence of our beloved Mr. William. (PAPPY) Hays due to having health problems. He is recuperating and should recover soon. We didn’t want to leave Pappy out of the reunion so we put a picture album together along with notebooks so the guys could write to Pappy. After the reunion some of the guys went over to Pappy’s. They had the honor of

**d/151 Lr P/r anger (CONTINUED)**

presenting to him a special plaque from the 75th Rangers. It was to be given to Pappy at the reunion by Gene Hendricks. This was the first reunion that I was not hit by Pappy's cane several times, but Sgt. Eads was able to fill in for Pappy by hitting me in the shoulder several times.

The next hiccup was the banquet speaker who was giving a presentation on what the National Guard was now doing for the troops and their families while they were deployed, and coming home with PTSD. Well at the end of his presentation, he screwed up and asks if anyone had any questions. I looked at my lovely wife, she was the one with the blonde curly hair, and said **OH SHIT HERE WE GO.** Well, as we all know the speaker hit a **sore spot** because most of us had not received **shit** while deployed for our families or after returning home. In doing so brought out some negativity within the group. Poor Sargent Z who is our National Guard historian, and jumps through hoops for us all year long and is currently in the guards. She was able to get a speaker at the last minute, and felt caught in the middle of it. As we suspected, one of our own stood up and presented his viewpoint that most of us agreed with. There was one slight, very slight problem as to how it was presented to the speaker. Mrs. Pamela Porter had a workshop on helping Vets. navigate through the V.A. System. Pamela was able to sign up 4 Vets; great job Pamela. Next year she would like to have a session on **HOW TO DEAL WITH SPOUSES PTSD AND WHY THEY ARE WHAT THEY ARE.**

In general, I think everyone had a good time. I did forget to get (Ranger Hero) **Sir Billy Falks** autograph, I didn't need it after all, due to Ted Dunn now having the biggest picture at the Infantry museum. Ted's picture is 3 ft. x 8ft. showing Ted holding his son during his returning home ceremony.

On a brighter note, or darker, depending on how you look at it, I normally don't talk about different religions, but at the reunion we found out that one of my old team members of 1-5 has converted to the Mennonite (Men-a-night) Religion. We keep asking how many (Men-A-Night) did he have? He keeps giving us different answers finally settled on anywhere between 3-7 man a night. I told Allen (brownie) Brown that he might want to just keep that a secret and not come out of the closet just yet. I told him Blevins, Mason, and the other guys and myself standing there that we would keep his secret. It's a good thing we are



able to keep secrets or it could be embarrassing for Brownie.

Thank you all for making it an unforgettable reunion. Due to the reunion so close to having to turn in this article, I was not able to get pictures of the reunion. They will be in the next issue.

### **Feature Article**

In this Issue I have ask a very special Sister to help spouses who are going through a terminal illness with their spouse. This Angel, whom Laura and I are so proud of, is one of the strongest, in complete control when needed, strong willed, caring, and is a very

loving person. Did I mention she is Irish?

Here is Patty's story:

### **SURVIVING A LOVED ONE**

Hearing a loved one being told he has terminal cancer, watching him die, burying him and finally surviving his death has had to be the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. As I look back at Tom's last year, I see many things that I did right and things that I did wrong. So I pass these comments on to you in hopes they help someone else going through what I went through.

Above all as you go through this horrific time, show love and compassion for each other and communicate with each other all your feelings, questions and concerns. Take every moment you can to show your loved one how much they are loved. Touch them, hold them and verbalize your love to them. Even if they push you away, because they are scared of their disease and mortality, continue to share your love. Renew it if it has gotten lost along the way. Most Viet Nam Vets want to appear strong on the outside but are truly still suffering on the inside.

Go to every medical appointment or procedure you can with your loved one. They need you as second eyes, ears, mind and emotions. Ask questions if you don't understand what is being asked, research what you have been told so you can be informed during the next doctor's appointment. Keep a documented journal or a log of each meeting. Don't rely on memory to get you through this. You may need those notes later when different treatments are being considered or you are pursuing a VA claim.

Every month get a copy of their current medical record. This way they won't have time to alter any entries and you



**d/151 Lr P/r anger (CONTINUED)**

will be informed on all that has happened and being done. The more informed and knowledgeable you both are the more involved you can be in the treatment.

During any medical appointment or procedure ask questions if you don't understand what and why it is being done. Many procedures are not needed only because the doctor was too busy to take a second look. Once, Tom was scheduled to get a feeding tube inserted. This was going to be done because they thought he was going to receive radiation while he was receiving his chemo. The radiologist determined he was too sick to have radiation and advised Tom's chemo doctor of that. If I hadn't questioned the doctor 15 minutes before the surgery Tom would have received that feeding tube which could have had a major impact on his eating needlessly at that time never mind the discomfort.

One other time they thought his lung had collapsed and they were going to put a tube in his lung to re-inflate it. He had no other signs of a pneumothorax than a doctor's quick review of a chest x-ray. When two other doctors's reviewed the x-ray they saw that the lung had not collapsed and that there was not a need to put Tom through the procedure. There were other times too, but I think you get my point. Sometimes the patient doesn't have enough energy or awareness to speak for himself and you have to speak for him.

While they are alive, discuss how and where they want to be laid to rest and make provisions for that. I assumed Tom wanted to be cremated since he was a religious man but not a church going man. To my surprise he wanted to be buried locally in a National Cemetery and not in his hometown. This discussion saved a lot of problems with family members after his death. Unfortunately we did not plan for this financially and I assumed the cost from limited savings.

Get signed power of attorney of financial matters and health decisions. Forms are on line or can be purchased in a Staples or Office Depot store. You can do them yourself without an attorney. They will be so helpful when your loved one is not capable of making decisions.

Before the loved one dies, research the probate laws of your state. Every state is different. This way if you have to take care of certain matters while they are still alive you can. Assuming you are going to be okay financially and property wise after their death because you are their spouse or significant other is a mistake.

As hard as it is to think about when your loved one dies, ask for an autopsy. I don't care where they are being treated and where they die, but especially if they are being treated by the VA and die in a VA hospital. The autopsy report reveals so much that maybe your doctors missed or that can help

you in the status of a VA claim after your loved one has passed. It also reassures you that they were not hurting or suffering from other diseases while they were alive. It is hard to read but so very important.

As you make final arrangements for the funeral do not be afraid to speak up. Know what you can afford, know what your loved one would want and what they are entitled to. Tom wanted to be buried in a National Cemetery. I was told by the funeral home that the National Cemetery told me I had to have the service at 8:30am and not 10:00 am. because they schedule the services first request first time slot available. Only after I ranted and raved that I would call my congressmen and the local newspapers did they concede to a later time. Also I was advised that I could only have 30 minutes for the gravesite service. That really isn't a lot of time to say a proper final goodbye and thankfully no one had a service scheduled after Tom's, so we took a little longer. I have now found out that is not acceptable and that the cemetery could have planned for a slightly longer service if need be due to our request and plans. Again don't be afraid to speak up for what you want and what your Veteran deserves.

Seek legal advice and advice from the courts if need be to handle any matter after their death before you advise family the status of financial matters. What we assume we know to be true may not be. Remember my earlier advice, research probate law in your state before the loved one dies.

Fight for every benefit you or your loved one is entitled to, especially when it comes to VA claims. It may take three or four medical reviews and an appeal to get you approved but it is worth it. Don't do it alone. Go to a service agency like the VFW or DAV to help you get through the claim process. As a surviving spouse you may be entitled to benefits you did not know that could have an impact on you for years to come. The VA hopes they will wear you down by denying your claim but don't give up. Keep fighting for what you believe you are entitled to.

As you and your loved one go through this and after their death, be kind to yourself. Give yourself sometime to think about all that is happening around you and how you are going to deal with it. Take care of your physical health and emotional well being. Spend some time with friends and family for emotional support. After their death, don't make any major decision, i.e. moving, giving their items away and/or retiring for at least a year. You will be in a better mental state after a year then right after their death.

The hardest thing now is getting through each day. I miss him so much. I wear his wedding band around my neck as a constant reminder of our love and commitment to each other. I try to remain close to his children and his family,

**d/151 Lr P/r anger (CONTINUED)**

because they are suffering too. I thank my family for their constant support and love; they each call me every week. And one of the nicest things is that I was lucky enough to have Tom introduce me to his Ranger brothers and their wives while he was alive and I can now count on them for support and friendship, which means so much to me during this very hard time.

It is so important that we each stop, slow down and look at the person we are sharing our life with, make them the number #1 priority in your life, enjoy your time together because you never know when God is going to call them home and you won't have the good, the bad or the love of them any longer.

I hope Patty's information was helpful. For further information go to your local county Veterans Services office and ask for the Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents & Survivors booklet. This booklet is a guide through the V.A. system to help you with your death benefits and survivors benefits, etc. Also, you can go to **VA.gov** and click on **veterans services** next click on **benefits and services**, then click on **survivor benefits**.

Thank you Patty for sharing your experience. I know it was not an easy thing for you to do. We love you and will always be here for you.

I would also like to thank our government for allowing our spouses to go through what Patty has went through. Having to fight every inch of the way, and sometimes hitting a blank wall for Tom's unselfish service for our country. This is the thanks our government gives us in return. Maybe one day our government will realize what the men and women in the military have sacrificed for our freedom and give us and our families the due respect and support we deserve when needed. (We will see it when hell freezes over with the current government.)

Signing off  
Sgt. Leon Moore

**F/51 Lr P**

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

The following is from declassified documents that have been put into book form. This report was made on 29 December 1950 to show what may happen in the coming year in Indochina.

**Current Situation and Probable Developments in Indochina**  
**NIE (National Intelligence Estimate) – 5 from the CIA, 29 December 1950.**

**Departments involved in the analysis included the Army, Air Force, and Navy. All the departments agreed with the report.**

The French position in Vietnam was being endangered by the Viet Minh Communist movement that was pushing for their own version of native independence. The Chinese government was already supplying needed material,



training, and technology. There were also reports that Chinese troops were in the Tonkin area. If the Chinese aid was to continue and the French were not strengthened significantly, it was thought that the Viet Minh would be able to force the French out of the Tonkin area of North Vietnam within 6 to 9 months. If this were to happen, it would weaken the French ability to hold on to the Southern part of Vietnam as well as Cambodia and Laos.

It was felt at the time with the above circumstances that the French would not be able to get a independent government or an effective army to combat the Viet Minh. It was felt that the French were having second thoughts of staying in Indochina.

**F/51 Lr P** (CONTINUED)

If Chinese troops were used to support and strengthen the Viet Minh the French would not be able to hold the Tonkin area or the rest of Vietnam. It was estimated that there were 185,000 Chinese troops near the Tonkin boarder and that at least half of that number could be committed to Indochina operations. The above force would be enough to drive the French out of the Tonkin area in a short amount of time.

Chinese intervention could have been possible if the Viet Minh were unable to force the French out of Indochina or if the Bao Dai government were to gain more influence than the Viet Minh among the population. The only thing that could hamper Chinese intervention is the anti-Communist activities happening inside of China. If the French were forced out of Vietnam it would eventually turn Indochina into a Communist controlled countries. It was thought that without US assistance, if France was forced out of the Tonkin area and Vietnam the the rest of Indochina and the rest of Southeast Asia would fall under Communist control.

Items that were under discussion at this time were a number of problems the French had to overcome if they were to retain Vietnam: (1) The French promise of granting sovereignty to the Bao Dai government was going to slow. This made getting the populous sentiment almost non-existent. (2) In late 1950 the French government assured the Bao Dai government that they would have an independent Vietnamese army with the Bao Dai government in command of the army and answerable only to the French High Command. French officers and NCOs would be employed by the Vietnamese army and would wear Vietnamese uniforms. The problem with this was that it was going to take one year for training and equipping the troops. (3) The Viet Minh had been having success in wresting control of French areas. The Viet Minh have had success in capturing French outpost along the China boarder with the French suffering heavy losses. The French hold on the Tonkin area consist of the Red River Delta and a narrow strip along the coast where 55,000 French troops are being opposed by 62,00 Viet Minh troops. (4) Along with having trained and equipped Viet Minh troops, it was believed that there were also Chinese advisers wearing Viet Minh uniforms and reports of Chinese troops already in the Tonkin area. At the time it was believed that the Chinese were able to provide the Viet Minh with enough small arms and artillery to give the Viet Minh a decided advantage over French forces. At the present rate of reinforcements between the French and the Viet Minh, the Viet Minh

appear to have the advantage. If the present situation does not change it would appear that the Viet Minh forcing the French out of the Tonkin area just a matter of time. (5) The French also face the fact that the Viet Minh were able to get supplies and troops faster than the French. IF the Bao Dai government were seen as gaining more popular support than the Viet Minh then the Chinese would be able to call up a volunteer army that would be used to support Viet Minh troops. It was also thought that if the US or any other Western country were to directly support the French the Communist Chinese would intervene on the side of the Viet Minh. (6) The Chinese appeared not to be concerned of possible US or NATO intervention or a general war in Indochina. The Soviets were hoping for a full scale war with China over the Vietnam issue in a effort to weaken US ability to support other world commitments. The Soviet Union also felt that if the above were to happen the US could lose some allies as well as potential allies thus opening the way for Russia to possibly gain some more countries. (7) The Chinese have a large contingent of troops in the Tonkin area, of which only a small amount of Chinese troops would be needed to drive the French out of the Tonkin area. With or without Chinese troops if the French were forced out of the Tonkin area it would place the rest of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in jeopardy of being lost to the Communist. (8) The French had reports of Communist troop movements on the Tonkin boarder area along with reports of armor movements in the South of China, the closing of the French consulates in China, Chinese claims of aggression from bases in Indochina, Korea, Japan, and Formosa. (9) Ho Chi Minh was a trained revolutionary by the Soviets. The Viet Minh are openly Communist and have been recognized by other Soviet block countries and Communist China. (10) Without Western assistants it seemed very likely that the French would lose Indochina to the Communist. If this were to happen then Thailand and Burma would come under pressure to except Communist rule. This could also cause British Malaya in jeopardy of being lost. With each country lost the neighboring countries would face the possibility of coming under Communist control.

There were also reasons to believe the Chinese would not intervene that included; (a) It would be possible that intervention would lose support from other Asian nations. (b) Ho Chi Minh would lose support of the Vietnam population and his own party. (c) It is also believed that there would be no intervention of Chinese troops as the Viet Minh are able to defeat the French.

**F/51 Lr P (CONTINUED)**

**2011 F Co. 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol Airborne - Reunion Schedule**  
**Pick Up and Return Location – Comfort Inn - 20 Hatfield Lane, Goshen NY 10924**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Cost Per Person (approx)</b>	<b>Web Site</b>
Pick up at Hotel by Bus	9/13/11	Tues	7:15am		www.comfortinn.com/ hotel-goshen-new_york-NY056
Circle Line Cruise Around Manhattan	9/13/11	Tues	10am – 1pm	\$30	www.circleline42.com
Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum	9/13/11	Tues	2pm – 4pm	\$17*	www.intrepidmuseum.org
Top of the Rock	9/13/11	Tues	5pm - 6:30pm	\$21	www.topoftherocknyc.com
Return to Hotel	9/13/11		6:30pm - 8:30pm		
Pick up at Hotel by Bus	9/14/11	Wed	7:15pm		www.comfortinn.com/ hotel-goshen-new_york-NY056
American Museum of Natural History	9/14/11	Wed	10am – 12pm	\$16.50	www.amnh.org/
<i>On your own**</i>	9/14/11	Wed	12pm – 5pm		
Return to Hotel	9/14/11	Wed	5pm – 7pm		
Pick up at Hotel by Bus	9/15/11	Thurs	7:15am		www.comfortinn.com/ hotel-goshen-new_york-NY056
Ground Zero*****	9/15/11	Thurs	10am – 12pm	?	http://en.wikipedia.org/ wiki/world_Trade_Center_site
Liberty & Ellis Island	9/15/11	Thurs	1pm – 4pm		www.statuecruises.com/ ferry-service/welcome.aspx
Return to Hotel***	9/15/11	Thurs	4pm – 7pm		
Pick up at Hotel by Bus	9/16/11	Fri	8:15 AM		www.comfortinn.com/ hotel-goshen-new_york-NY056
US Military Academy at West Point	9/16/11	Fri	9:15am – 11:15am	\$5	www.westpointtours.com/ tours_descrptn.htm
National Purple Heart Hall of Honor	9/16/11	Fri	11:45 – 1:45	\$13	www.thepurpleheart.com
Woodstock Museum in Bethel NY	9/16/11	Fri	2:30pm – 4:30pm	\$13	www.bethelwoodscenter.org/ museum.aspx
Return to Hotel***	9/16/11	Fri	4:30pm – 5:30pm		www.comfortinn.com/ hotel-goshen-new_york-NY056
Hang out ****	9/17/11	Sat			
Depart*****	9/18/10				

\* Veterans price

\*\* Wednesday afternoon was left open for people to wander around Manhattan and Wednesday is also the **ONLY** day a Broadway show can be seen in the afternoon (1:30 or 2pm). I did this simply because I am assuming (one should never assume) that some of you will have an interest in seeing a Broadway Show. For those that choose to just “hang” out and not see a show I will provide things to do in the Manhattan Midtown area for that afternoon.

\*\*\* Thoughts are to have the driver take the long way home by going through some pre designated areas of the city (I’ll figure them out)

\*\*\*\* Saturday is designated as Hang Out day. We can conduct Company Business in the morning and then use the remainder of the day to visit local attractions. Within 10 minutes of the Hotel is one of the largest Premium

**F/51 Lr P (CONTINUED)**

outlet shopping centers in the world and also within 10 minutes of the Hotel is Monticello Raceway (horses) that also houses an electronic gaming facility.

Woodbury Commons Premium Outlet Mall - <http://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlets/outlet.asp?id=7>

Monticello Casino/Raceway – <http://monticellogamingandraceway.com/>

\*\*\*\*\* Sunday will be scheduled for departure. If you choose to hang around longer to make more of a vacation out of it stay longer. Air fare is probably cheaper if you depart on a Monday or a Tuesday. (Make sure you let the Hotel Manager – Boni Besselman knows your plans 845-291-1282 Ext 405

\*\*\*\*\* Ground Zero is not yet built. It is scheduled for completion on 9/11/2011. There is no available information and I can't even say for sure that we will have the ability to visit it and because of this there is/cannot be any price associated with it. This particular agenda item will be updated as information becomes available.

This is a living document and may change for reasons that are unknown to me at this time. Some of the prices are approximated because I cannot reach all the proper people for Group Tours. I still need to confirm the bus company that will be used and I need to figure out an eating schedule once back at the hotel. It might be easier to have dinner catered simply because of time (it would probably be cheaper than if we went out and ate (and drank). We will wind up grabbing lunch at whatever location offers lunch at the time we are there.

Room costs are based on standard rooms (they are quite nice) and range from the \$70 for the standard room and have a nice size Business Suite available for \$90. These prices will either increase in August of 2011 or we may lose rooms in our block if reservations are not made by that time. To make your reservations please call:

**Travel:**

Stewart International Airport is 14 miles from the Hotel.

Airlines flying into Stewart International are:

US Airways, Delta, United, Jet Blue, Continental

The 3 Largest Airports in NY are approx 50 – 60 miles from the Hotel:

JFK, LaGuardia, Newark

Other Smaller Local Airport possibilities are:

Orange County Airport 8 miles

Dutchess County Airport 28 miles

Westchester County Airport 39 miles

Sullivan County International Airport 32 miles

There are some other small airports that I don't believe are worthy of mentioning. It might be a good idea if everyone keeps an open line to communicate with each other and look to arrive on similar dates and times so a car pool could be organized and keep rental car costs down.

This information is courtesy of GEORGE GENTRY – Thanks George

Base camp:

Comfort Inn and Suites • 20 Hatfield Lane • Goshen, NY 10924

Phone: (845) 291-1282 • Fax: (845) 291-1283 • Boni Besselman – Sales Manager • (845) 291-1282 Ext# 405

**\*\*\*\*\*BE SURE TO STATE YOU ARE WITH F CO. AND ENSURE YOUR ROOM IS IN THE F CO. BLOCK OF ROOMS. RIGHT NOW THERE ARE 35 ROOMS SET ASIDE FOR F CO AND I'M HOPING WE NEED TO INCREASE IT.\*\*\*\*\***



**Lr r P det aCHMent -3r d id**

**Unit Director - Michael McClintock**

*No Submission*



## ar vn ranger adv, (bdQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



### Fellow Rangers and Co Vans

BDQ Mike Martin Receives a statue of (then) Major Norman Schwarzkopf (Advisor to the Vietnamese Airborne Division) helping a wounded trooper after a Viet Cong attack; Martin was presented the statue for his assistance to the Vietnamese in doing their new book on the Vietnamese Airborne Division... also, for his work in recording the history of the Vietnamese elite units. Mike has written four books on Vietnamese units and their American Advisors. Dr. Tinh Van Tran (middle), making the presentation at the American Red Hats and Vietnamese Red Berets reunion in Dallas, Texas on 28 May, 2010. BDQ Rod Wijas (right) assisting in the ceremony.



California and a Dinner reception held that evening at the Mon Cheri Restaurant, Anaheim, California. Advisors in attendance were Tex Wandke, Joe Guerra, Keith Nightingale, Roy Allen, Roy Russell, Dave Williams and I am sure others.

**Statues at  
Freedom Park**



Unfortunately I was unable to attend, therefore I contacted Ranger Richard "Tex" Wandke and he graciously accepted my invitation to stand in for me. Below is the speech he gave on our behalf.

"Distinguished Guest, Members of the Vietnamese Community, Fellow Rangers and Friends. I bring you greetings from the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. The Unit Director Ranger Bill Miller was not able to attend and, on his behalf I am honored to be able to speak to you today on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnamese Ranger Association. It is an honor to be at this hallowed place and see the statues representing the brotherhood we forged in Vietnam.

All of us who have participated in war or have had loved ones participate in war carry the scars of war. Our past glories are locked up in dusty footlockers or in photo albums surrounded by tarnished medals and old ribbons and decorations. Some of us are no longer warriors and our old uniforms do not fit as well as they once did. The injuries and the pain have replaced the once tough bodies. The shoes no longer have the shine that they once did to show the pride we felt to serve our country. Our hair has turned grey. Some of our friends have gone to the last retreat and the echo of the 21 gun salute and the bugle playing taps is just a memory in the flag that is displayed on the mantle or on a flag pole in the yard. Yes it is true, General McArthur said "Old soldiers never die they just fade away." But as long as we continue to remember that it is because of their deeds and sacrifices that we are able to enjoy life and the pursuit of happiness then their memory will not fade.

### SIT REP

Fellow Rangers it is again my pleasure to inform you that Earl Singletary has been inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held July 9, 2010 in Columbus, Georgia. Congratulations on a job well done.



### Sick Call

For those of you who haven't heard. Ranger Doug Perry is recuperating from quadruple bypass surgery. Doug appears to be doing well, so give him a shout when you have a chance.

### Feature

As many of you already know the Vietnamese Rangers "Biet Dong Quan" celebrated the 50th anniversary of their inception on July 11, 2010 in Los Angeles, California. There was a special ceremony held at 08:00 hrs at the Vietnam War Memorial (Freedom Park, Westminster,

**ar vn r anger adv, (bdQ) (CONTINUED)**

Who are these men and women whom we Honor today? They are our fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles. They are our relatives and friends. They are young people like SFC Dale Rawlins. He left his family to serve in Vietnam. He was my first Sergeant in Company A 1st Battalion 35th Infantry 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He was killed in Vietnam in November 1968. He left behind his wife and three small children. Through the beauty of the Internet I have established contact with his daughters and one of them wrote a poem I would like to share with you.

**Daddy's Girls**

We were not born of royalty  
Nor donned a crown or scepter  
Nor did we have the stately robes  
Or drink of godly nectar.  
We were not born in bloodlines  
Of famous dukes or earls  
But we were each a princess  
We were our daddy's girls.  
We had a humble household  
And Dad you were our King.  
We did not lack for food or clothes  
Nor any worldly thing  
We all wore semblance of you  
But with long hair and curls  
Little ones with big round eyes  
We were our Daddy's girls.  
We had to grow without you  
Because you gave your all  
That we might enjoy blest freedom  
You answered freedom's call-  
So we grew and now grown up  
And though dressed in heels and pearls  
Be not fooled by our appearance  
Were still our Daddy's Girls  
The blood that flowed within his veins  
Lives and flows within us.  
We believe in Liberty  
And the motto "In God we Trust"  
And when we see Old Glory  
With a breeze her shape unfurls  
We're reminded of his sacrifice  
And stand tall  
We're 'Daddy's Girls'  
Zettalee D. (Rollins) Dennis 7/02  
Daughter of SFC Dale Rollins killed in Vietnam 11/68

Yes the headlines remind us that when countries are in conflict, is our men and women in Uniform who serve our country and play an important part in giving us the freedom that we all enjoy. Together lets keep America strong so that

we can say to the families of those who have paid the ultimate price for freedom "You did not die in vain."  
I salute you.



**Buck Allen &  
Lam Bui discussing  
Bucks Helmet**



**Dave Williams & Mr.  
Chanh President of  
Vietnamese Ranger Assoc**



**Richard "Tex" Wandke  
and wife Ichiko**



**Roy "Buck" Allen and  
Major Huy**



**Vietnamese BDQ and Wives**

**SITREP****Heads up!**

The next reunion will be held in Columbus, GA (Ft Benning) during the April/May timeframe in 2012. So be prepared to have a great time. The new Infantry Museum is now open and is very nice.

**Quote**

Look into an Infantryman's eyes and you can tell how much war he has seen. - Bill Mauldin, "Up Front", 1944

Mu Nau  
Bill Miller, Unit Director



# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

# **MEMORIAL UPDATE**

**15 August 2010**

Since that last edition of *Patrolling* I regret to report that several gallant Rangers provided the major toll for special operations losses during this period.

The 1st Ranger Battalion lost **Specialists Jonathan A. Penney** and **Joseph W. Dimock II**, followed by **Sergeant Justin B. Allen**. The next losses were from the 3rd Ranger Battalion and included **Sergeants Anibal Santiago** and **Andrew C. Nicol**, and **Specialist Bradley D. Rappuhn**.

The 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) suffered three losses – **Sergeant First Class Andrew J. Creighton** and then **Captain Jason E. Holbrook** and **Sergeant Kyle D. Warren**.

**Staff Sergeant Christopher J. Antonik** was lost from the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, and **Master Sergeant Jared R. Van Aalst** from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne).

Retired Air Force **Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Tilghman** died while supporting an overseas mobile training team from the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base.

Our Vice President of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation, **Mr. Wilfred J. A. Charette** passed away quietly while watch a golf game on television. He had served with the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and as a Staff Sergeant with U.S. Army Special Forces Training Group was instrumental in developing and

teaching the first High Altitude, Low Opening (HALO) techniques; and became a charter member of the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross as a member of the team holding the (still current) record for the highest altitude jump from a manned aircraft at 34,500 feet. Leaving the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), he joined the Central Intelligence Agency, rising through the ranks to a Senior Intelligence Service rating, serving as Chief of Station in both Swaziland and Uganda. Other assignments included Laos, Thailand, Ethiopia and Ghana, and later became the Chief, Counter Terrorist Center for the CIA before his final assignment as the representative for the Director of Central Intelligence at Headquarters, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. Following his retirement from the CIA in 1996 he joined the board of directors of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation.

An engraving was purchased to be placed in our Legacy Section for retired **Command Sergeant Major Tom Tomlin** who served as an original member of the U.S. Army Special Forces from 1952 through 1975.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our warriors who are in harm's way and to those families whom have lost their loved ones

Geoff Barker  
President  
Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc.

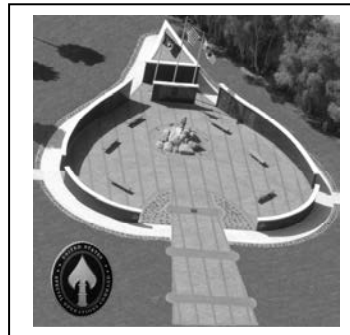


# Special Operations Memorial

## MacDill AFB, Florida



**USSOCOM Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc.**  
**75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association**  
**Air Commando Association**  
**Office of Strategic Services Society**  
**Special Forces Association**  
**Special Operations Association**



The walls flanking the central generic SOF warrior will hold individual engravings in addition to special operations organizational histories. 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**

The Foundation will center the verbiage, and reserves the right to modify engravings to retain uniformity.

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

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<http://www.specialoperationsmemorial.net>

## We Have redesigned the 75th Ranger Regiment association, in Challenge Coin.



There were potential issues concerning the ownership and copy right of the figure on the reverse of the coin, the figure that we referred to as "Ruck Man". The new layout will allow much more space for engraving. The other side of the coin will remain the same, (see below).

We will also be able to furnish the coin in bronze as well as silver. Bronze coins are \$20.00, plus shipping and engraving as specified below.

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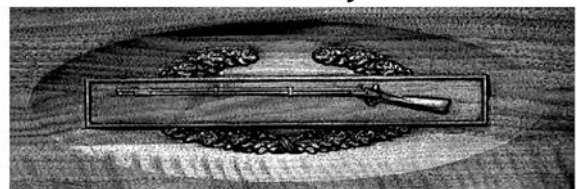
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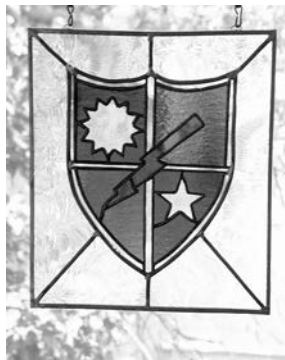
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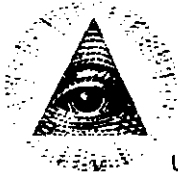
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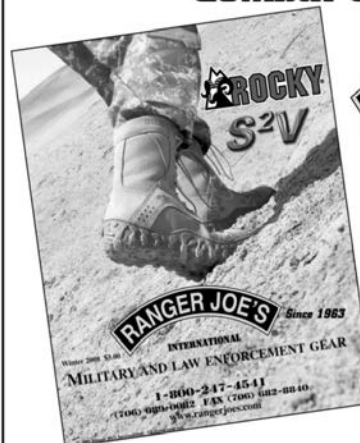


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Invoices for dues will be late this year. To prevent any lapses in your membership, you can mail your dues to the following address:

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This Christmas season we have made donations to each of the three Ranger Battalions and to the Special Troops Battalion for the benefit of the young Rangers and their families. If you wish to contribute to the Family Fund, it is not too late. Please mail your contribution to the address above. If you send one check for a contribution and your dues, please specify how much goes to each. Thank you.



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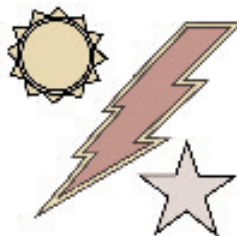
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