

# PATROLLING

SPRING 2010 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 24 ISSUE IV

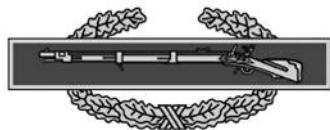


*Best Ranger Competition, 2009.  
Photo by J. Chester*

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





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

#### **OUR MISSION:**

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

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

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

#### **WHAT WE DO:**

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

#### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

##### **SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol**

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

##### **SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol**

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

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

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

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

We have funded trips for families to visit their wounded sons and husbands while they were in the hospital. We have purchased a learning program software for the son of one young Ranger who had a brain tumor removed. The Army took care of the surgery, but no means existed to purchase the learning program. We fund the purchase of several awards for graduates of RIP and Ranger School. We have contributed to each of the three Battalion's Memorial Funds and Ranger Balls, and to the Airborne Memorial at Ft. Benning.

We have bi-annual reunions and business meetings. Our Officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents, Secretary & Treasurer), are elected at this business meeting. This reunion coincides with the 75th Ranger Regiment's Ranger Rendezvous, and is at Columbus, GA. (Ft. Benning). We have off year reunions at various locations around the country.

#### **PRESIDENTS:**

1986-1988	Bob Gilbert
1988-1990	Billy Nix
1990-1992	Bob Gilbert
1992-1994	Roy Nelson (resigned)
	Milton Lockett (resigned)
	Duke Dushane (appointed by Directors)
1994-1996	Roy Barley
1996-1998	Rick Erlher
1998-2000	Terry Roderick
2000-2002	Emmett Hiltibrand
2002-2004	Dana McGrath
2004-2005	Emmett Hiltibrand
2005-2007	Stephen Crabtree
2007-2009	William Bullen
2009-2011	John Chester

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

##### **SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ**

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

##### **SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment**

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

##### **SECTION 7: Long Range Surveillance:**

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





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

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

**B/75 – C/58 LRP – VII CORPS LRRP**

Marc L. Thompson  
80 Rock Ridge Road  
Morgantown, PA 19543  
H-610-913-8183  
C-610-763-2756  
F-610-873-8665  
Email: [mthomp@ptd.net](mailto:mthomp@ptd.net)

**C/75 – E/20 LRP**

Del Ayers  
2711 E. Pinchot Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
H (602)840-9676  
C (602)576-9676  
Email: [bouncin4dollars@yahoo.com](mailto:bouncin4dollars@yahoo.com)

**D/75**

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

**E/75 – E/50 LRP – 9th DIV LRRP**

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

**E/75 – E/50 – 25th DIV LRRP**

Tim Walsh  
5550 Carleton-Rockwood Rd.  
South Rockwood, MI 48179  
H-313-590-6673  
[twalshx2@comcast.net](mailto:twalshx2@comcast.net)

**G/75 – E/51 LRP – 196th LRRP**

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

**H/75 – E/52 LRP – 1st CAV LRRP**

William T. Anton  
H -702-648-9836  
Email: [polarbear\\_ranger\\_h75\\_75rra\\_lm0044@runbox.com](mailto:polarbear_ranger_h75_75rra_lm0044@runbox.com)

**I/75 – E/52 LRP – 1st DIV LRRP**

Bob McGath  
647 Water Tower Rd.  
Murrayville, IL 62668  
H-217-370-9008  
Email: [bnjmcgath@gmail.com](mailto:bnjmcgath@gmail.com)

**K/75 – E/58 LRP – 4th DIV LRRP**

Roger T. Crunk  
1159 19 Road  
Fruita, CO 81521  
H-970-858-4579  
Email: [rogercrunk@msn.com](mailto:rogercrunk@msn.com)

**L/75 – F/58 LRP – 1/101st LRRP**

Jerry Gomes  
PO Box 1570  
Sandy, OR 97055  
503-668-6127  
Email: [azores46@verizon.net](mailto:azores46@verizon.net)

## UNIT DIRECTORS

**M/75 – 71st LRP – 199th LRRP**

Don Tillisch  
2513 Ninth St. South  
Fargo, ND 58103  
H-701-280-0648  
C-701-367-6130  
Email: [dtillisch@aol.com](mailto:dtillisch@aol.com)

**N/75 – 74th LRP – 173rd LRRP**

Robert ‘Twin’ Henriksen  
2218 Augustine Dr.  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
H-360-393-7790  
Email: [novrgrco@gmail.com](mailto:novrgrco@gmail.com)

**O/75 – 78th LRP**

Michael L. Feller  
16676 6th St.  
Wellston MI 49689  
231-848-4948  
Email: [michigami@kaltelnet.net](mailto:michigami@kaltelnet.net)

**P/75 – 79th LRP**

Terry B. Roderick  
25 Carleton Dr.  
Cocoa, FL 32922-7003  
H-321-631-3213  
Email: [rgrrrock@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rgrrrock@cfl.rr.com)

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

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

**E/51 LRP**

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

**HQ, 75th RANGER REGT**

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

**1st BN, 75th RANGER RGT**

Todd M. Currie  
Day-719-721-0748  
Home-719-576-5084  
Email: [ranger.currie@qcom](mailto:ranger.currie@qcom)

**2nd BN, 75th RANGER RGT**

Kevin Ingraham  
PO Box 1911  
Binghamton, NY 13902-1911  
607-771-0399  
Email: [oldscroll275@gmail.com](mailto:oldscroll275@gmail.com)

**3rd BN, 75th RANGER RGT**

Raleigh Cash  
C-334-498-0499  
Email: [rmccash375@gmail.com](mailto:rmccash375@gmail.com)

**LRRP DETACHMENT- 3rd ID**

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

**ARVN RANGER ADV. (BDQ)**

Bill Miller  
1090 Brightwood Dr.  
Aiken, SC 29803  
H-803-641-9504  
Email: [bietdongquan@yahoo.com](mailto:bietdongquan@yahoo.com)

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

**Association VA Advocate**

Dan Nate  
408 Elm Street  
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097  
H-856-848-9174  
[Dannate1@comcast.net](mailto:Dannate1@comcast.net)

**Web Master**

Dave Regenthal  
[dregenthal@comcast.net](mailto:dregenthal@comcast.net)  
H-239-207-1145

**USSOCOM Representative**

Smokey Wells  
[rgwells@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rgwells@tampabay.rr.com)

**Gold Star Mother Advocate**

Sandee Rouse  
[GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com](mailto:GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com)

**Gold Star Wife Advocate**

Sandy Harris  
[SANDY5790@aol.com](mailto:SANDY5790@aol.com)

**Association Legal Counsel**

John Chester  
[john.chester3@verizon.net](mailto:john.chester3@verizon.net)  
James Savage

**Association Photographer**

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

**Graphic Artist**

Dave Walker  
[lrp67aviator@prodigy.net](mailto:lrp67aviator@prodigy.net)

**State Coordinator**

Gene Tucker  
[egt12@comcast.net](mailto:egt12@comcast.net)

**Reunion Coordinator**

David Cummings  
[Davidf4f4@aol.com](mailto:Davidf4f4@aol.com)



75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association  
PO Box 577800  
Modesto, CA 95357-7800  
[www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org)

**President/Patrolling Editor**

John W. Chester  
3208 Rueckert Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21214  
H-410-426-1391  
C-410-382-9344

[john.chester3@verizon.net](mailto:john.chester3@verizon.net)

**First Vice President**

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

[jlittle@hughes.net](mailto:jlittle@hughes.net)

**Second Vice President**

Jason D. Baker  
610 Kingston Way  
Ft. Mill, SC 29715  
H-803-396-8064  
C-206-850-8045

[jasonbaker@compurium.net](mailto:jasonbaker@compurium.net)

**Secretary**

Tom Sove  
PO Box 577800  
Modesto, CA 95357-7800  
C-209-404-6394  
H-209-575-2758

[tsove@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tsove@sbcglobal.net)

**Treasurer**

Wesley Jurena  
2950 E. Dublin St.  
Gilbert, AZ 85295  
214-557-7737

[jurena175@gmail.com](mailto:jurena175@gmail.com)

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The opinions expressed by the Officers, Unit Directors, Editor and other writers are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression or position of the Association. Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association.

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

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

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

**POSTMASTER**

Send address corrections to: *Patrolling*,  
PO Box 577800  
Modesto, CA 95357-7800

# 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.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

At the general membership meeting in August, 2009, the membership voted to increase the annual dues and the cost of a Life Membership. Annual dues are now \$30.00 and a Life Membership is now a one-time charge of \$300.00, or can be paid in 5 (or less) installments in a 12 month period. On the mailing label of this magazine a series of numbers appears above your name, for example 1234/2009. The first four is your member number in the Association, the last four is the year in which your membership expires. In the above example, this individual's member ship lapsed June 30, 2009.

If the last four numbers above your name is 2009 or earlier,  
this is your last issue of the magazine.

The invoices will be mailed later this year. You can pay your dues by mailing a check to the address at the top of the box to the left, or call me with a credit card, my numbers are also in the box to the left.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

### New Secretary

In November of last year I received a phone call from Bill Postelnic. He was quite upset because he needed to inform me



**John Chester**

that he was unable to continue in the position of Secretary of the Association. There were a number of lay offs at his place of employment, with the result that he was working much longer hours, as was more or less on call after hours and on week ends. Having a family to support, and with a couple of kids in college, there was no question where his priorities lay.

I talked the situation over with the other officers & past presidents and carefully checked the by-laws in order to determine in which direction to proceed. Bill Bullen suggested that I approach Tom Sove to determine if he would be interested in the position. To my immense relief, Tom was willing to take on the responsibility of the position. The good news is that Tom had been the Secretary from 1996 – 1998, so there is a basic familiarity with the mechanics of the job.

The by-laws are not specific concerning the method of replacing an elected officer should he be unable to complete his term of office, Article XIII, Section 3 gives the Board of Directors, (The elected officers and Unit Directors) the authority to “Conduct the administrative and financial affairs of the Association.” Article XIII, Section 5 calls for the Board to “Vote on all matters requiring a decision of the full Board of Directors.”

If this is not such a matter, I can't think of what else would be, accordingly, I asked the full Board of Directors for confirmation of Tom Sove as Secretary of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. There are 22 active Unit Directors and 3 elected officers, (1st & 2nd Vice Presidents and Treasurer), with the President abstaining. As is usually the case when there is something amiss, despite the differences between the various eras, units and outlooks, the Board came together in true LRRP, LRP and Ranger solidarity and approved Tom Sove as the New Secretary of the 75th Ranger regiment Association, Inc.

Tom has been active in the leadership of this Association for some time (he was National Secretary 1996-1998), and has been active in the leadership of the 4th Div LRRP, E/58 (LRP), K/75 Association as well. I have complete confidence that Tom has the knowledge, integrity, and time

to accomplish the mission of Secretary. There is no question that the Secretary is the pivotal position among the elected officers, and I didn't want the position to be vacant longer than necessary.

There has been a period of some missed signals regarding applications that were not acted on in a timely manner and a few other administrative slip-ups, and for that I apologize, but we should be well on our way out of the woods by the time that you read this. We are attempting to identify any applications and other items that may have slipped through the cracks during the hand off. We will do what we need to do to maintain the honor and integrity of this Association, regardless the cost. This Association has never been about money, it is about people and we will do what ever is necessary to maintain that ideal.

I don't want to become too lyrical about this situation, but it was quite gratifying to see how everyone sort of circled the wagons and were willing to pitch in to do what was necessary to resolve the situation. I want to thank everybody for their efforts, I'm not going to mention names, I might leave somebody out, but you know who you are.

Please remember, do not send anything to the PO Box in Michigan. The new 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. address is as follows:

75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 577800  
Modesto, CA 95357-7800

Tom Sove's information is contained in the Edit Box on page 2. You can also check the web site for up to date information.

### Writer's project

We have been somewhat underwhelmed with responses to the project. I actually have more volunteers to edit than I have people to submit stories. I'm hoping that this will improve. If you have any questions or are unsure of what, when or how, give me a call & we can talk about it. I know that there are a lot of good stories out there, and I'd like to help get them told. After the last of us are gone, the stories will be gone too, just like they never happened.

### Ranger Yoga

As a number of you are aware, Mary Anne (my wife) has been active in exploring the use of Yoga as a treatment moderm for stress relief in general and for PTSD in



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

particular. Toward the end of last year, she began to offer classes at a local Vet Center in the western part of the city. The people in the class have been quite enthusiastic and report a marked improvement in their PTSD symptoms. She has been contacted by the Director of another Vet Center about 30 miles south of the city, who is interested in her offering classes in that location. Yoga is a very non-threatening, and non-stressful way of dealing with symptoms associated with PTSD. Mary Anne has been trained in integrative Yoga therapy and in advanced training in trauma sensitive Yoga at The Trauma Center at Justice Resources Institute in Boston, MA.

If any one feels that there is some potential for their own treatment, Give Mary Anne a call, you have nothing to loose,

and maybe a whole lot to be gained. Her contact information is the same as mine in the edit box on page 2. Here is a photo of one of her yoga classes at the last 75th RRA reunion.



## FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Little



Joe Little

### Ed Note:

I got a call from Joe Little a little bit before the magazine deadline. Seems he has had some more medical problems that made some treatment necessary that had an effect on his vision. Since he could not see to type, I gave him (reluctantly) a pass on this issue's article.

J. Chester

## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Wesley Jurena

### Memory Lane

As I mentioned in the last issue of patrolling, the 20th anniversary of Operation Just Cause was rapidly approaching. That time has obviously come and gone since then as has a flood of memories and emotions. I've got some great stories about that operation but will save them for a later issue as I want to talk about an event that was more recent and a wonderful experience. I will add a picture from the original operation.



Wesley Jurena



**Myself 20 years ago before heading out on patrol.**

While at Ranger Rendezvous 2009, I was approached by our Gold Star Mother Sandee Rouse about what, if any, plans were in the works for the 20th Anniversary of OJC. At that moment I had no idea and was just glad to be at Rendezvous and drinking beer with



## TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Rangers. As the night moved along it became apparent that there were no plans that I nor any of the other Rangers from that era were aware of. I was standing with some of my Hard Rock Charlie Brothers from that era and decided, well let's do it! I promised Sandee I would see her in Savannah and we would get something organized. The new job had me traveling almost every month after August and I certainly had no time to devote to this project. I initially reached out to Sheila Dudley the 1/75 Secretary who has been there as long as I can remember. As fate would have it, she had received a similar inquiry from Jeremy "Snuffy" Mcallister who was in B.Co at the time and worked with me at the Florida Ranger Camp. Jeremy is now a Major and apparently a bit more organized than I. Not only was he willing to take point on the majority of this project he had an extensive data base of B.Co Rangers from that time period.

We traded a few phone calls and emails and had a tentative plan to meet, drink beer, tell lies and re connect with our old Ranger Buddies from that time period. I stayed in the loop as much as possible but it was Jeremy who really spear headed the event. Did I mention Sandee did a good job of cracking the whip on both of us to make sure the event was a go? Anytime momentum seemed to drop, she would contact us to make sure we stayed focused.

As it got closer to the event, the email list of attendees was growing and we received emails from Rangers in dangerous places, still serving, letting us know they wish they could attend and would certainly be with us in spirit. Just prior to all attending it was announced that 1/75 would be participating in this with a capabilities brief, weapons display and tour of the facilities! This had turned into a first class event.

I arrived in Savannah on Friday the 18th and as I got off the plane there were multiple emails and texts from Rangers who were already roaming River Street just waiting for that night's festivities at Kevin Barry's a legendary bar that we are all familiar with and a true supporter of Rangers. It's like planning a party and not knowing if anyone is going to show until you get there, well I must say when we walked in at 1900 the OJC version of 1/75 was well represented! Names and faces not heard from our seen in almost 20 years all were instantly recognizable. The liquor flowed as did the stories. The Rangers from that era have proven to be successful in all aspects of life. Many were still active duty and have moved onto greatness in every unit you can imagine all with much heavier collars than even they ever dreamed. Many are successful in the civilian sector and many are still answering

the call overseas as contractors. It was a great evening, which turned into a late night and an early morning. I won't say who was at last call with me but one of them had the initials Col. Mennes. It was about 4:00 in the morning when I left the lobby of the Hilton for some rack time as I was very excited about the next days activities.

### **OJC Rangers from all walks of life preparing to raise a toast at Kevin Barry's.**



I would like to start this portion with a huge thanks to Col. Mennes and CSM Beilich for rolling out the red carpet for us Rangers. Their BN. Had only been back from parts unknown for a few days and they had been knee deep in it the entire time they were gone with multiple casualties. For them to open up the doors like they did was truly amazing. I can't say enough about this. It's at a time like this that you realize you are part of something much bigger than you realize. I was honored to present both of them with RRA Silver coins for their efforts.

Saturday began with a capabilities brief by Col Mennes at the new barracks. For anyone who has not been back to see where the "boys" work and live as well as the Memorial, you need to as soon as possible. It is a beautiful environment and fitting for warriors such as these. The brief itself is amazing, the mission, the kit, nothing is like it was 20 years ago, nor should it be. What we were assured through the senior leadership and through some interaction with some young Rangers, who had to be pissed to have their Saturday taken to do a weapons display, is that the Rangers who are doing the job are not really that much different that we were. Much more physically fit it appears and I would probably think a bit more intelligent as well but all the interaction I had, all the stories I was told leads

me to believe that we are in great hands with these warriors leading the way.



### **OJC Vets in the capabilities brief.**



## TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Once the capabilities brief was complete we headed out to the Memorial where Col Mennes and Jeremy Mcallister both said a few words and a wreath was placed in memory of PFC Markwell along with a moment of silence. Just standing in that Memorial area is enough to take your breath away and I encourage all to see it if you have not, but when you add a historical perspective that you were a part of, it can be overwhelming. I also presented Jeremy with an RRA coin for his efforts.



**Col. Mennes  
speaks at the  
Memorial Site.**

After the Memorial ceremony we were allowed to roam around the Bn. Area

and meet some of the young Hooah's and see where they work and live. As I mentioned earlier, I cannot say enough about what this meant to all of us. To have the red carpet rolled out like that was indeed a special moment. Again, the work areas and equipment these Rangers have is second to none and is truly impressive. That being said, gear is gear and barracks are barracks without these special warriors who are taking the fight to the enemy every night it would have little meaning. Their attitude towards us was nothing short of professional. Lunch was served in the Bn. Conference room where also on display was Ranger Markwell's class A's and black beret which were donated by Sandee and her husband.

**Ranger Markwell's  
class A's and Beret  
donated to 1st Bn.  
By Sandee Rouse  
and her husband.**



The second night would be spent like the first with more beer and more stories shared at Kevin Barry's. On this night jump commands were given as the clock approached TOT and a toast raised at H hour. It was again about 0400 when I headed to bed. I won't say who was in the lobby still drinking with us but his initials are CSM Beilich. I can honestly say that it was an awesome experience to see everyone and talk about our little mission down south. I don't think I realized the importance of this mission or the

men I participated in it with. It's easy to get lost in civilian life. I'm honored to have served with men far greater than I. I could ramble on but when I got back home, there was an email from a B.Co warrior, it was sent to the list of attendees. I think he sums it up best.

"Perhaps an understatement but Panama was such a significant event in our lives implanting memories that will stay with us forever, as the memories of this 20 year reunion...

As one goes through life, hundreds if not thousands of acquaintances are made throughout one's lifetime with only a handful of true friends coming out on the other side, friends like these men, who stepped out into the blackness of the night sky and into the belly of the beast, with only their sword at their hand. All Rangers, past, present, and future. Men who were and are willing to put their lives on the line so that others may live, in somewhat relative peace and freedom.

Men like these who served their Country and asked nothing in return, true friends of mine...."

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

In an effort to remain as transparent to the organization as possible here is our current financial update. All in all we are doing well. If anyone knows of any that might be interested in being a corporate sponsor please let me know. Also, feel free to think outside the box if you have ideas on how to support your Bn. Ranger Chuck Fountain of 1/75 and a current Savannah resident has worked to have a local charity divert money from their fund raiser to the RRA. We will in turn use that money to offset the cost of the upcoming 1/75 Ball. Great job Chuck!

#### 75th RRA Inc/Exp as 6/30/09

##### Income/Revenue fiscal 2008-2009

Advertising	<b>\$1,950</b>
Dues	<b>\$38,550</b>
Subscriptions	
Contributions	<b>\$18,625</b>
Registrations/Meals	
Merchandise Sales coins	<b>\$7,956</b>
Family Fund	<b>\$42,585</b>
Interest Income	<b>\$2,158</b>
Other Income	<b>\$650</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$112,474</b>
<b>Direct Costs</b>	



## TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Cost of Sales, coins                      \$5,984  
 Family Fund                                \$24,250  
 Other Expenses (specify each)

**Total Cost of Sales                      \$30,234**  
**Gross Profit                                \$82,240**

### Operating Expenses

Advertising

Bank & Credit Card

Insurance                                    \$665

Printing & Mailing                        \$40,132

Reunion Expenses                        \$2,893

Tax Preparation                            \$1,500

Utilites

Website                                      \$3,554

Miscellaneous                            \$562

Other Expenses (specify each)

**Total Expenses                            \$49,306**

### Fund Balances 30 June 2009

<b>CB &amp; T</b>	<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$18,137</b>
<b>First Community</b>	<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$3,674</b>
<b>First Community</b>	<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$14,420</b>
<b>First Community</b>	<b>Cert of Dep</b>	<b>\$25,375</b>
<b>First Community</b>	<b>Cert of Dep</b>	<b><u>\$51,024</u></b>

**Total Assets                                \$112,630**

**Section A of Form 990: Officers and hours per wk  
 same as 2008**

As always, if I can be of any help to anyone let me know.

RLTW!

Wes

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By Tom Sove



**Tom Sove**

Well, here we go again. It's my pleasure to serve the association again after twelve years. As of this writing (Feb) we haven't completed the transition from Bill to me but we should be fully operational by the first of March. My last term as Secretary ended in '98 and it was actually very gratifying to note that I wasn't missed. It's easy to say the Ranger Creed keeps this organization going and the secretaries following me, Roy Boatman (second tour), Ron Edwards, John Chester and Bill Postelnic not only moved on but moved up. From what I see so far the tools the secretary now has to get the job done are wonderful, thanks to them. I just wish I had grand kids to teach me all about these computers and things. I'm going to miss my old Selectric.



## GOLD STAR

Hello all:

Happy Easter and Happy Spring to all of you. I hope your Holidays were blessed and the New year is being really good to each of you.



**Sandee Rouse**

On December 18-20 Bill and I were privileged to be included at the 20th Reunion of Operation Just Cause Panama

that took place at HAAF. It was so good to sit back and watch these Rangers interact with each other and to listen to their stories. I really felt Jim's essence in the presence of all these American heroes.

We started the weekend at Kevin Barry's where the only quiet moment that night was when Jeremy McAllister read from Jim's final letter and they did as he asked and had a beer with him and for him. From then on it was serious get reacquainted and party time. Col. Mennes and CSM. Bielich stayed with the guys right to end, just to make sure the mission of the night was completed.

The next morning the Col. Mennes briefed us on the state of the Battalion. That was followed by a Memorial service at the memorial that included a wreath being placed in memory of Jim and the other Rangers who died during the invasion. After that we returned to the conference room for a luncheon. Bill and I were not able to attend the gather that took place at Kevin Barry's that night but we were told that the Jump Master did the count down and at 1 AM the Jump was commemorated and they again toasted Jim.

To all of you that attended and to Jeremy and his assistants THANK YOU so much for allowing us to be a small part of your reunion.



**Just Cause Rangers at Kevin Barry's.**



**Maj Jeremy McAllister addressing Just Cause Rangers at Memorial.**



**Bill & Sandee Rouse at 1/75 Just Cause Memorial.**

I returned to HAAF on January 14 for the Memorial for SSG Jason Dahlke, SGT Roberto Sanchez and PFC Eric Hario. I was honored to have my 2 good friends Dana McGrath past present 75th RRA and Ruth Stonesifer mother of Kris Stonesifer KIA 10/01 OEF and National President of the Gold Star Moms.

We were invited to a Gold Star lunch where Dana addressed the purpose of the 75th RRA and told some stories that made even the Colonels mouth drop open. The young Rangers were in awe as he spoke and were so appreciative. He did the 75th RRA proud and I am so Blessed that he agreed to join me for this.

After that it was my honor to present the families with their engraved coins, show them a sample of the certificates they will receive and give them issues of Patrolling. These families are true heroes for their sacrifices we will be forever grateful and we will never forget. The 1/75 did a wonderful job of memorializing these heroes and assuring the families they will be remembered.



**75th RRA member Sgt (retired) Frank Gorski and other Just Cause Rangers.**



**Col Mennes address Just Cause Rangers and families Memorial.**



## **GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)**



**Dana Addressing Families  
and Rangers.**



**Rangers placing the wreaths  
for fallen comrades.**



**Sandee presenting coin to  
Windy & Will Holland,  
parents of Sgt Sanchez.**



**Ruth Stonesifer, Sandee  
Rouse, Wendy Holland,  
Becky Hario.**

As always, I thank you for allowing me to  
serve you, it is an Honor and Privilege,  
Take care and blessings, RLTW

Sandee

## **ON THE EDGE OF DANGER**

By Wayne Lund

A young battle weary soldier kneels there in the hot jungle land,  
His uniform is ragged and torn, he's waiting with his rifle in hand.

He waits for the rest of his team as he draws a slow but ragged breath,  
Knowing that he has never in his life been this close to his death.

The L.R.R.P team was patrolling slowly down a vine covered draw,  
Stopping suddenly to count at least a hundred VC that they saw.

Laying low, hoping that they were out of the enemy's sight,  
Because a L.R.R.P team is just too small to engage in a firefight.

These are young men who thrive living on the edge of danger,  
An elite group of young volunteers known as Airborne Ranger.

11 July 2004



**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE****DISCLAIMER**

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

**SBA VET ISSUES UPDATE 09:**

VA awarded 35% of its fiscal 2008 contract dollars to small companies, including 15% to veteran-owned small firms and 12% to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. In contrast, the government as a whole awarded 3% of contract dollars to veteran-owned firms and just 1.5% to small companies owned by service-disabled veterans. The government wide goal in both categories is 3%. In OCT 09, the GAO released a report showing the government wide service-disabled, veteran-owned small business contracting program was vulnerable to fraud and abuse. By conducting 10 case studies, the watchdog agency found \$100 million in contracts had been collected through fraud or abuse of the program. As a result the Veterans Affairs Department has set strict guidelines for bidding on contracts set-aside for veteran-owned small businesses. Entrepreneurs now will be allowed only one company at a time in the contracting program and must work full time in the business, according to a final rule published 8 FEB in the Federal Register. A MAY 08 interim rule only required participants to “show sustained and significant time invested in the business.” But comments on the proposal convinced agency officials to limit consideration to veteran-owned small businesses in which the owner has a day-to-day management role. Though the rule is final, VA is accepting comments on the owner-involvement change through 10 MAR. “VA has determined that this revision will ensure the integrity of the program,” the rule stated. The regulation implements portions of the 2006 Veterans Benefits, Health Care and Information Technology Act and governs entry to a VA set-aside contracting program for veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, established in DEC 09. The program

would allow the department to let sole-source contracts to these firms, for awards of up to \$5 million. To participate in the program, companies must register with the [www.VetBiz.gov](http://www.VetBiz.gov) Vendor Information Pages database to verify they meet all eligibility requirements. Any company that misrepresents itself in the database could face debarment for up to five years. The department’s Center for Veterans Enterprise will make the final decision on application denials. “Any firm registered in the VA VetBiz VIP database that is found to be ineligible due to an SBA protest decision or other negative finding will be immediately removed from the VetBiz VIP database,” the final rule stated.

Previously, vendors could self-certify the accuracy of the information provided. But now, officials with the Center for Veterans Enterprise must verify the data as part of the VetBiz application process. There are nearly 16,000 veteran-owned small businesses in the VetBiz database, including about 9,000 service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. But, VA said it does not have the resources to conduct site visits to all firms applying to participate in the program. “VA finds that mandatory site visits could be an unnecessary burden to vendors when VA can adequately verify firms through other means, such as document review,” the rule stated. “The department will monitor awards to companies in the verification program and make decisions on which companies to inspect using a combination of factors, including staffing and funding.” Veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses also must recertify their status annually to remain in the program. [Source: GovExec.com Today 10 Feb 2010 ++]



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

### **VETERANS CONSORTIUM PRO BONO PROGRAM:**

In 1991, the US Court of Veterans Appeals, later to be renamed US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, responded to the problem of its large pro se caseload by asking Congress to reallocate part of the Court's own budget into efforts to secure representation for needy claimants. As a result of the ensuing and subsequent legislation, a consortium of four organizations received a grant to operate a pro bono program. The program recruits attorneys willing to volunteer to represent needy individuals at the Court. The program screens appeals so that pro bono representation can be provided in meritorious cases, and offers comprehensive training and support to participating attorneys. The organizations comprising the consortium are The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the National Veterans Legal Services Program, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Upon request veterans and their qualifying family members who have an appeal pending at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court) will be provided attorneys at no charge to review their BVA decision and their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims file. Applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- You are a veteran (or qualifying family members of a veteran)
- You have received an adverse decision from the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA);
- You have appealed that BVA decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court);
- You do not have an attorney to help you; and
- You ask them for their assistance and you meet their program's financial eligibility guidelines; and
- At least one meritorious issue to be argued before the Court can be identified.

#### **The program will not:**

- Provide general legal advice or information about the VA or the Court;
- Provide legal advice or representation concerning a claim pending at the BVA or at the VA regional office;
- Provide general legal advice or representation

concerning a Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) claim;

- Provide general legal advice or representation concerning correction of military records or upgrading a military discharge.

To request assistance go to [www.vetsprobono.org/newsite/forms.htm](http://www.vetsprobono.org/newsite/forms.htm) and download, complete, sign the Retainer Agreement and Power Of Attorney Form plus the Financial Disclosure Form and mail to: The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 131, Washington, DC 20004. To contact the Case Evaluation and Placement Component send mail to the same address or call (202) 628-8164; (888) 838-7727; or Fax: (202) 628-8169. Appellants who wish to contact the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program via electronic mail at [mail@vetsprobono.org](mailto:mail@vetsprobono.org) should use the phrase "Veteran's Request for Assistance" in the message subject line to avoid blocking by the Program's security software. If a docket number has already been assigned by the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, that number may be included. [Source: [www.vetsprobono.org](http://www.vetsprobono.org) Jan 2010 ++]

### **VA CLAIMS BACKLOG UPDATE 34:**

The 2011 Veterans Affairs Department budget unveiled 1 JAN by the White House includes what VA officials called an "unprecedented" 27% funding increase for the Veterans Benefits Administration, some of which will be used to hire 4,000 permanent employees to process benefits claims. The increase does not mean disability, pension and survivors claims will be processed faster, however. In an admission that comes as no surprise to few who have been watching VA struggle with a backlog of benefits claims, Michael Walcoff, VA's acting undersecretary for benefits, said veterans should be prepared for the average claims processing time to be longer in fiscal 2011 than it is today. The reason? Even though more workers are being hired, VA officials expect a big jump in the number of Vietnam-era veterans filing Agent Orange-related claims due to newly expanded eligibility.

It takes an average of 158 days to process a benefit claim today, Walcoff said. He expects that will rise to 190 days in 2011, at least for the first few months of the year, as new employees are hired and trained and a flood of



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

complicated claims requesting retroactive benefits are received from Vietnam veterans. “Dealing with the claims backlog is complicated,” Walcoff said. “There is more involved than just the number of people we have handling claims.” VA officials expect to receive 1.3 million claims in 2011, part of a two-year, 30% jump that is greatly hampering VA’s efforts to achieve its goal of bringing the average claims processing time down to 125 days. In a statement, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said there are long-term plans to harness technology to speed claims, such as establishing a paperless processing system and changing procedures to reduce steps as part of promised transformation. But in the short term, there is no quick solution.

In addition to the 27% increase in benefits funding, the proposed 2011 VA budget includes an 8.5% increase in medical funding. At a Monday press conference, VA Deputy Secretary W. Scott Gould called the 2011 budget a “watershed moment” for veterans, citing the big funding increases and the fact that the budget includes, for the first time, advance funding for health care for the following fiscal year. The budget calls for 5,715 additional permanent employees, a 2% increase over the current workforce. This includes the 4,000 claims processors, about 1,300 medical care workers and a smattering of additional workers in other departments. The 4,000 claims processors are not necessarily new employees; about 1,800 are currently temporary employees whose positions would be made permanent, said W. Todd Grams, acting VA assistant secretary for management. VA expects big increases in patient loads in 2011 and 2012 as the number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans seeking treatment rises. About 382,500 recent combat veterans use VA today. A 15% increase is projected for 2011 and an additional 13% increase is expected in 2012, Grams said. [Source: ArmyTimes Rick Maze article 2 Feb 2010 ++]

### **FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY:**

On the night of February 3, 1943, USAT Dorchester (a coastal liner that had been converted to a troop transport for World War II) travelling in convoy, was torpedoed by the German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The torpedo knocked out the Dorchester’s electrical system, leaving the ship dark. Panic set in among the men on board, many of them

trapped below decks. Aboard were the Methodist Reverend George L. Fox, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, the Roman Catholic Priest John P. Washington and the Reformed Church in America Reverend Clark V. Poling. The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety. As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship. Grady Clark, a survivor recounted, “As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets.”

In all, 230 of the 904 men aboard the ship were rescued. Life jackets offered little protection from hypothermia which killed most men in the water. Water temperature was 34 °F (1 °C) and air temperature was 36 °F (2 °C). By the time additional rescue ships arrived “...hundreds of dead bodies were seen floating on the water, kept up by their life jackets.” On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains who all held the rank of lieutenant, were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. The Four Chaplains’ Medal was established by act of Congress on July 14, 1960, and was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961. The chaplains were also honored with a stamp, issued in 1948 and by an act of Congress designating February 3 as “Four Chaplains Day.” [Source: Online Wikipedia Encyclopedia Feb 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.*

### **Tricare User Fee Update 45:**

Tricare recipients will see no increase in their premiums next year, if Congress approves that provision of the fiscal 2011 defense budget request, as expected.

However, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates told reporters 1 FEB he wants to work with Congress to find ways to help control escalating military health-care costs that are consuming an ever-increasing chunk of the budget. Noting the skyrocketing costs of the military health-care system...from \$19 billion in 2001 to \$50.7 billion in the fiscal 2011 budget request...Gates questioned during the Pentagon briefing how sustainable the program can remain without cost controls or higher premiums. "It's only going to go up," he said, with Military Health System officials estimating 5 to 7 percent annual cost increases through fiscal 2015. "And it is absorbing an increasing percentage of our budget."

Officials predict that the program will grow from 6% of the defense budget to more than 10% by fiscal 2015. "We absolutely want to take care of our men and women in uniform and our retirees," Gates said, "But at some point, there has to be some reasonable tradeoff between reasonable cost increases or premium increases or co-pays or something and the cost of the program."

There's been no Tricare premium increase since the program was founded in 1995, Gates said, noting that Congress has rejected recent Pentagon proposals for "very modest" increases.

Expecting the same action this year, the Defense Department recommended no increase this year, he said. "I ask anybody to point me to a health insurance program that has not had a premium increase in 15 years," Gates said. Tricare benefits, he said, are "generous, as they should be for our men and women in uniform."

But Gates compared the \$1,200 average out-of-pocket costs for a family of three under Tricare to about \$3,300 for the same family under a health maintenance organization plan in the Federal Employees Health Care Program. "We see a lot of people coming back into Tricare because the benefits are so good and the costs are so low," he said.

The Military Health System has 9.5 million eligible beneficiaries, including active-duty military members and their families, military retirees and

their families, dependent survivors and certain eligible reserve-component members and their families. Military Health System officials expect more eligible beneficiaries to continue returning to the Tricare system as costs of programs offered through their employers or spouses continue to increase. The General Accountability Office recently found that more than 85% of retirees ages 45 to 49 and half of retirees between ages 60 and 64 had access to other group health insurance, but chose Tricare instead. As Tricare usage increases, so does the number of health-care visits that beneficiaries make, officials noted. Between fiscal 2005 and fiscal 2008, the average number of outpatient visits per enrollee increased from 8.7 to 9.97. Pharmacy use increased 5.5 percent over the timeframe. [Source: AFPS Donna Miles article 2 Feb 2010 ++]

### **Vets With Combat PTSD May Get More Benefits**

By Emily Grube on January 29, 2010 9:04 AM

Eligible veterans across the country could have the opportunity to become a part of a class-action lawsuit that speaks on behalf of those that are suffering from combat PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). CNN reports that there is a list that consists of 4,300 veterans who may have been denied their benefits when they should have received them. Those veterans are being mailed the information, so they can decide whether or not they would like to join the lawsuit (if they meet the specifications).

The New York Times explains that previously, in order to receive benefits, a service member had to "receive disability ratings of at least 50 percent." In December of last year, a federal court changed the qualification so service members who received a rating of 30 percent or higher could have benefits. Now, those who were denied benefits before, can have their case reviewed to see if they meet the new requirements. Those who respond to the letter will have an "expedited review of their disability rating and, if applicable, a correction of their military records" (CNN). Bart Stitchman, of the National Veterans Legal Services, said that this lawsuit over combat PTSD benefits is "likely to result in millions of dollars in monetary and health care benefits" (CNN).



## FEATURE ARTICLES

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 1st BATTALION,  
75TH RANGER REGIMENT  
248 STEPHEN DOUGLAS STREET  
HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD, GEORGIA 31409**

**REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF  
Office of the Commander**

**January 8, 2010**

**Ranger John Chester  
3208 Rueckert Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21214**

**Dear Ranger Chester:**

On behalf of the Rangers of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, I would like to thank you for your generosity and initiative demonstrated in providing gift cards and food for the 1/75 Ranger Kid's Christmas Party.

We are appreciative of you and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association's continued support. Your organization's desire to make a difference in Ranger's lives, provides our young Rangers the inspiration to commit to the same. We invite you to attend the Ranger Ball on 13 March where we can thank you in person. Please know that you were instrumental in making a lot of families have a much happier Christmas Holiday.

Thank you for your consideration and friendship through the years.

**"RANGERS LEAD THE WAY"**

**Brian J. Mennes  
Colonel, U. S. Army  
Commanding**

**Ed Note:** I received this note and the attached photos just after the first of the year. I think that we can all be proud of the fact that we are doing quite a bit to make the lives of the young men in the Ranger Regiment and the Ranger Battalions, fighting for their country just a little bit easier, and are aiding their families in coping while their husbands

and fathers are deployed. For those of us who had the honor of serving in the Republic of South Vietnam, the pleasure is all the more poignant, considering the treatment we received from our fellow citizens while we were overseas and after we returned home. I know that I have heard many of my Vietnam brothers say, "Never again, I'll be damned if I'll let these guys be treated the way we were." The best testament to the popularity of the program are the smiles of the faces of these kids. That you can't fake.

J. Chester





## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### Unbillable hours: The Soldier's Tale

By Caryn Tamber

Posted: 7:20 pm Sun, January 31, 2010

Daily Record Legal Affairs Writer

'Decoration for Valor,' Harford County State's Attorney Joseph Cassilly's semi-autobiographical novel, is about an injured veteran's return from Vietnam.

Jake Scott, a 19-year-old soldier who returns from Vietnam partially paralyzed and psychologically scarred, is technically the main character of Joe Cassilly's semi-autobiographical novel. But Scott's wheelchair is the real star of "Decoration for Valor."

Harford County State's Attorney Cassilly, himself paralyzed in 1970 during a tour in Vietnam, wrote the book in large part to show people what it was like, especially in those early days, to rely on a wheelchair.

"But if I just came out and said I'm going to write a book about what it's like living in a wheelchair, everyone would avoid it like the plague," said Cassilly, whose book was published by a small company in 2008. "It's not exactly the kind of cheery thing you want to go read."

Instead, Cassilly's narrative focuses on Scott in the months after his injury, as he is being treated in Walter Reed Army Medical Center and a Veterans Affairs hospital.

Scott deals with limitations, both actual and those imposed by his doctors; he is neglected by his family, belittled by society and, once, molested by a male hospital staffer. He rebels in small ways, such as throwing a drunken bachelor party for another patient and buying himself a stylish car outfitted with hand controls.

He tries to discover what sort of love life a man in a wheelchair can have, navigating romantic entanglements with two nurses and a former high school classmate. He battles psychological demons, suffering a series of Vietnam flashbacks.

At the end of the book, years later, Scott has a doctorate in psychology, a job working with other veterans, and a second marriage, to one of the nurses from his post-Vietnam days. The title, "Decoration for Valor," refers to the wheelchair itself, Cassilly says.

Cassilly's book was decades in the making. He began to consider writing it when his son was born in 1981, so the boy would know something about Vietnam and life in a wheelchair. A few years later, Cassilly began writing at night, when he couldn't sleep.

### Third-person to first

In the 1990s, he finished it — or so he thought — and showed it to a couple of friends. They suggested it would be much more powerful if it were written in the first person instead of the third. "I started all over again," he said. "Parts of it had to be completely rewritten."

It took him another 10 years. He found writing in the "I" form, even if the "I" was Jake Scott, to be much harder. In fact, he often found himself crying as he wrote, recalling his injury and the months afterward.

Cassilly, an Army Ranger, was wounded in a helicopter accident in Vietnam. "I was going up a rope ladder to a hovering helicopter and I was trying to carry too much stuff — a machine gun and a bunch of ammo — and ended up getting caught in the downdraft from the helicopter and the ladder was sort of whipping back and forth and just kind of whipped me right off," he said.

Cassilly recalled being treated at a windowless, perpetually brightly lit field hospital in Vietnam, then at a hospital at Camp Drake in Japan. At Camp Drake, in a giant room of beds that reminded Cassilly of an assembly line, he learned the extent of his injuries.

"I had the doctor come up to me and ask me what I knew about what had happened to me, if anyone had talked to me specifically about what had happened to me, and I said, 'Not really. I mean, I know I have a spinal cord fracture, spinal column fracture,' and he said, 'Well, listen, it's probably a permanent injury; you'll never walk again,'" Cassilly said. "And I just remember looking at him and thinking he would — I just remember in that instant, I just really wanted to cry and I didn't want to cry at the same time, and he kept watching me to see what was going to happen, and I kept thinking, 'Why





## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

doesn't he go away and leave me alone now that he's ruined my day?" and finally, I just started crying and then he left, so it was kind of a bad time."

Stateside, there was certainly abuse at the hands of hospital staff - though Cassilly won't say if it happened to him as it happened to Scott - but more than that, there was indifference and mediocrity. Sometimes, it felt as though even the doctors didn't know any more about rehabilitating wheelchair patients than the patients themselves did, Cassilly said.

Cassilly hopes the book, in addition to giving readers a picture of life in a wheelchair, will show that someone with severe limitations can make something of himself.

"The story made the point that this guy could find success and happiness and a degree of recovery, not just from his physical injuries but from the psychological injuries and the other stuff that went with it," he said.

### **75th Ranger Regiment named USASOC Medic of the Year**

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

Braving a hail of automatic gunfire during an intense fire fight, Sgt. Bryan C. Rippee, less than ten feet away from the tip of the enemy's weapon,



assessed the situation, took charge, and rapidly began treatment of the wounded. The intense close-quarters gunfire exchange between militants and Rangers while clearing the compound had left one Ranger wounded and unresponsive in the center of the room. With gun fire and grenades continuing to

cross the room, Ranger medic Sgt. Rippee exposed himself to enemy fire in order to suppress the enemy. Gaining fire superiority he noticed another Ranger also wounded. "Someone once said the best medicine on the battlefield is fire superiority," says Rippee, underplaying the role he played. "As a medic, I am in a position to benefit the force and strive to be able to help in combat both as a medic and a Soldier." Rippee began treating the chest wounds while a Ranger assault element moved forward to neutralize the enemy threat with small arms and hand grenades. Rippee used his body to shield the casualty from the explosions and continued treatment. As an emergency medical technician moved into the room Rippee directed him to assess and treat the severely damaged left arm of a second casualty. Rippee continued to direct care and treatment until additional medical personnel arrived.

Cpt. Andrew D. Fisher, 1st Ranger Battalion Physician Assistant, and a man who knows Sgt. Rippee well, had this to say of the Ranger medic that day: "Recognizing the severity of the wounds, Sgt. Rippee rapidly began his initial

assessment and treatment. At the risk of being engaged by the enemy, Sgt. Rippee took the necessary steps to secure and treat the casualty. I have deployed with Sgt. Rippee on all of his deployments and have witnessed many of his heroic and valorous actions..." For that day in Iraq, Sgt. Bryan C. Rippee was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device.

It was for this type of repeated selfless service and courage that, Sgt. Bryan C. Rippee, a combat medic assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, was named the 2009 U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medic of the Year. The nomination consisted of a two page recommendation from the combat medic's supervisors and endorsement from the medic's chain of command. Eighteen nominee packets were submitted and reviewed by the Command Sergeant Major of U.S. Army Special Operations Command. While all the candidate's packets were strong, Sgt. Rippee's consistent bravery and efforts as a combat medic in multiple actions seemed to set him apart.

Sgt. Bryan C. Rippee has been with the battalion since August 2007. Throughout his time in the 75th Ranger Regiment, Rippee has proven over and over his mettle as a combat medic both on and off the battlefield. In the fall of 2009, serving with 1st Ranger Battalion in Afghanistan, while conducting a night time operation, a team of Rangers were critically wounded when they encountered an improvised explosive device. Rippee, who witnessed the event from about 40 meters away, ran into the unsecure blast area without regard for his own safety, and began treating and conducting triage.

"My first reaction was to run like hell towards the explosion and the Rangers; I knew there would be a lot of casualties," said Rippee. "I bolted down the road through the smoke and dust and came upon a wounded Ranger and began assessing and treating him. We are trained to treat



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

wounded Rangers by the severity of the wounds, not how bad the wounds look,” said Rippee. After the Casualty Collection Point was established, Rippee assisted in the movement of the wounded and continued treating the Rangers until medical evacuation arrived. In that encounter, Rippee, a native of Riverside, Calif., was credited with saving the lives of two of the six wounded. Sgt. Rippee’s finest hour may have come during that same rotation when a mid-air collision of two helicopters in route to a target compound instantly turn the assault mission into a combat search and rescue as the remainder of the force quickly landed at the crash. Rapidly exiting the helicopter he was on, Sgt. Rippee immediately ran to the burning wreckage. With ammunition and fuel cooking off around him, and the screams of the injured trapped in the flaming aircraft piercing the night, Sgt. Rippee and a Ranger squad leader pulled one of the survivors from the burning airframe, carrying him 40 meters then conducting the medical efforts that would save that soldier’s life.

For Rippee, who doesn’t consider himself a hero, courage seems to be an ingrained trait, apparent to his fellow Rangers and supervisors. “Sgt. Rippee is a devoted and extraordinary medic. His performance both in training and in combat are the epitome what a United States Army Special Operations Non-commissioned Officer should Be, Know and Do,” said Fisher. “He is an immeasurable asset to our organization. His sense of ethics and discipline is beyond reproach.” Rippee’s training includes Basic Combat Training, Advanced Individual Training—Combat

Medic Course, Basic Airborne Course, Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and Ranger School. The Combat Medic Course is taught at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and provided Rippee with his EMT-B Certification and qualified him as a combat medic.

Following these courses, Rippee attended the Special Operations Combat Medic Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The intensive six month course teaches extensive training in anatomy and physiology, kinetics of trauma, advanced trauma skills and procedures, Trauma Combat Casualty Care and combat trauma management. Rippee also completed a one month emergency room/EMT rotation at Tampa General Hospital and Tampa Fire and Rescue in Tampa, Fla. Upon graduation, he received a certification in Advanced Tactical Practitioner.

Rippee has deployed three times in support of the war on terror; twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. Rippee’s awards include the Ranger Tab and Parachutists Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal for Valor, Army Achievement Medal Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

Rippee is the son of Antoinette Rippee of Richmond, Va., and Jeffrey Rippee of San Bernardino, Ca. In his spare time, Rippee is an active CrossFitter and guitar player.

### **Papa Company Ranger morphs into Navy Anti-Submarine Warfare Technician**

By Terry B. Roderick

In late 1975, almost five years to the date after my return to the United States from my tour in Vietnam with the Papa Company Rangers, I made a hard decision to return to the military, but this time I wanted to learn a trade I could use in civilian life in case I wanted leave the service again after my next enlistment. My life seemed to be a disaster to me and I was getting nowhere fast!! I just could not funnel myself into a trade or education as my ability to concentrate and apply myself seemed to be lost now that the pressure was off and I was home safe from the environment I left behind in Quang Tri, South Vietnam. I didn’t do well sitting in the classroom in a college atmosphere after my return from Vietnam and I was too wild and full of un-channeled vigor to sit in a classroom over and over every day and do something that might enhance and/or make my life more

comfortable in the future. I was smoking “tree” every day and luckily I never liked alcohol that much and I didn’t ever fall into that pit. I’ve seen it before and was scared of it enough to stay away, but I was no Angel for sure. I knew I had to get out of Dodge if I was going to do anything with my life and I needed someone to make me get up every day and do the things I needed to do and I knew the military was the place to do if since it seemed I could not do it myself. I chose the U.S. Navy in 1975 for a variety of reasons. One, I didn’t want to sleep on the ground anymore and two, I wanted a bed and hot meals every day and the Navy looked like a good option since I felt it would be pretty easy duty, if I could stay off a large ship. And it was!! So much so that one of my pet peeves with the Navy was their lack of discipline and the disrespect I saw at times that I knew would be met with physical violence in the Army. And I did not like it one bit!! It would have been handled differently when I was in the Army, but it was now five years later and the enlisted man was beginning to get



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

“rights” that we never had or expected in the Army. Punishments for what I felt were major personal violations might get a guy having to walk the flight line for two hours one evening after working hours or something silly like that. The Navy was a completely different world.

Another advantage I felt was that the Navy technical schools had a strong reputation in preparing people for civilian jobs when they left the service and promotions seemed to be attainable without the long periods between making rank seemed to be prevalent, at least in reputation, in the Air Force. The Marine Corps was out from the get go because of the obvious reasons. I don’t mean to demean them in any way, but many of us have met or know Rangers who served in the Marine Corps either before or after their service with us and we know they ain’t right!! Ha! Ha! I went to the local enlistment office and was signed up for four years and guaranteed a school for the Anti-Submarine Warfare Technician rate (AX.....one of the Aviation Electrical/Electronic technician rates), but not a start date for the school. This meant I would be sent out into the “fleet” until my school opened up where I would become a “support personnel” for whatever squadron I was sent to. This means you do all the dirty work needed to be done and fill all the jobs no one else wants within a squadron in my case. The time can vary, but I’ve seen some wait over a year for their slot to open up for schools. This is in addition to the six months of support duty every seaman (Ranger John Burns, B/3/75 of the Somalia era liked to call me Semen Roderick when he found out I had also served in the Navy..... I love that guy !!), sailor/airman/fireman who is assigned to a new squadron/ship out of school is expected to serve before he ever gets to work in his new rate. That may be different now, but that was how it was when I got there. I did get credit for support time served in one squadron before I went to school, from the squadron I went to after my school.

I left sunny, warm, Cocoa, Florida in late November 1975 for the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, north of Chicago, on the Great Lakes. I’m saying it was COLD!! There was snow on the ground, it was cold as heck, and the wind was howling almost the whole time I was there. Being I had prior service, the Navy had a program at the time for “other service veterans” (OSVETS), and this required that we not attend a regular “boot camp” like new recruits, but they had a three week program for us. I joined about 12 other men from different services, mostly Army, and we began a series of classes that showed us the differences between a wall and a bulkhead, and a set of stairs is a

ladder, a latrine is a head, and a Full Colonel in the Army is a Captain in the Navy, etc. One thing I remember most from the movies they showed us there, which included VD and other disease prevention documentaries, was the redundant vision of coffee pots and the idea that the Navy “ran on cups of Joe!!” In several of the documentaries, they were quick to point out the coffee pots and cups of coffee and how important it was to the U.S. Navy to keep it up and running smoothly. In retrospect, I’m glad they had the cajones to admit it!! Ha! Ha! I can’t complain, I had a good tour in the Navy as I’ll try and reflect upon as I go along here.

My first assignment after my three week OSVET School at Great Lakes was to NAS Jacksonville, Orange Park, Florida, to a training squadron, Patrol Squadron Thirty, or VP-30, as they are referred to in the Navy. A Patrol Squadron at that time was usually assigned nine aircraft and these were the Lockheed P-3 Orion. These are 4 engine, turboprop aircraft, that are too large to land on an aircraft carrier, so they are land based, which is important if you do not want to live on a large ship in the middle of the ocean for months at a time. And I didn’t..... and had been told by a former Navy friend to try and ask for a Patrol Squadron when I filled out my “dream sheet” during my technical school, but before graduation. This would give me a chance to stay off a carrier where those who had my rate usually ended up for the most part. A “dream sheet” as you might expect was where you could list your preferences for where you might be stationed after you complete your training and also what type of squadron you’d like to serve in. In my rate, it was either with helicopters or P-3’s for the most part and the lucky ones get VP squadrons in my opinion. ASW helicopters are on a variety of different sized naval vessels and I just wanted to stay away from them completely. I’m told those who had higher scores in classes got preference, but I could not verify that. Anyway, now I’m stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, two hours from my hometown, working in the NAS Jacksonville ID and Badging office, making badges all day, and just having a great time hanging around with no responsibility and if you know me, keeping the new naval office personnel “in training on what’s really important in life!!” Ha! Ha! I was not what they were used to and I picked the pace up there and got people on their toes and more efficient in every way. Some cleaned up their acts and appearance and the Chief of the office told me I had a good influence on his people with my positive, but different, attitude towards work and life in general. I loved it and it was so easy and I could not believe my good fortune. I’m



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

not one to hold my tongue, but I try to be respectful when I'm supposed to, and being low man on the totem pole there kept me in check and I was unable to put the hammer down like they needed. Ha! Ha! At the time, I had not attained my final rank in the military, which is now a self-proclaimed CSPM,.... Command Specialist Major, ..... since I spent so much time as a SP/4 in the Army and still don't know why??? I'll expound on that later in this missive..... Luckily, the Navy saw my leadership abilities and technical expertise and I was promoted on the first increment every time in the Navy..... where you are tested against every other naval person in your rate, Navy-wide, and the top scorers are promoted in increments according to their test scores. A fair way to do it for technical jobs. It would be hard to really score warriors in a firefight, or performance by one person in our day as the teamwork was so imperative. By being average in many ways in the Navy, I found out I could excel in many ways within my peer group and that inspired me to move my own game up a notch or two, and I felt this held true during my entire Navy service. When word would get out, and it would not be from me, that I was an Airborne Ranger and had served in Vietnam, etc., it was a distinct advantage in most cases. I have a story on that and will relate it later in this article. It's a good one.

Anyway, I spent a month there and got to be home during the Christmas holidays with my family, but I had to report to NAS Brunswick, MAINE by January 3rd, 1976. I loaded up my Ford van with my Kawasaki Z-1, my tools, all my personal belongings, and my Navy issued gear and headed up I-95 to NAS Brunswick, Maine. I had heard about Maine before but it was probably like Quang Tri was to many of you who did not serve that far up north in I Corps. We were in a remote area and as we found out many years later, many of the Rangers who served with the 75th in Vietnam never heard of P/75th or even knew there was a company above L/75th and the 101st. L/75th Ranger was operating teams in Khe Sanh before we started going back in there in the Fall of 1970, prior to Lam Son 719. I digress.

I pull into NAS Brunswick at about 11:30 PM at night, just making the Midnight deadline I had to report to my new assignment, Patrol Squadron 10, or VP-10 as it was called. There is two feet of ice on the ground everywhere around me. I didn't mention it snowed on me most of the way north of Boston and the ice was everywhere and made travel treacherous for someone who had been out of it so long. I'm not counting the Great Lakes experience, since I was not driving up there. I got out of my van wearing the hard

soled Navy issue shoes and first thing was my feet flew up and my butt went to the ground violently and with much speed. So fast I did not have time to think and now my pride is bruised. I look around to see if anyone saw me or was enjoying my misfortune, but the coast was clear and I felt somewhat better. I brushed myself off and I walked in to the squadron office there and reported into the Duty Officer. I gave them my orders and they asked why I did not get there sooner? I told them I didn't know and they asked me if I was ready to deploy in four hours?? I asked what they meant and they told me my new squadron was packed up and headed to Rota, Spain for six months in a few hours. Here I am with a POV, all my belongings, and no place to live or store them. The Duty Driver told me I could park my van at his trailer, off the base, which was just one of many out in the middle of a wide open field, in Maine, in the middle of Winter. I left my motorcycle, my tools, and everything I owned, except my Navy stuff and a couple of civilian items there in the middle of all that ice and snow, and got back into the truck they sent to retrieve me. I sat on some pallets in a hangar for about two hours until some of the squadron personnel began to trickle in. I never felt so alone in a long time. I knew no one and I was unimportant to any of them. I was told which bus to get on to get to the commercial aircraft I would make the flight to Rota in with many others. I remember getting to Rota and being assigned to the "barracks cleaning crew" the next day by the Senior Chief of the squadron, under the guidance of a PO1 (E-6) who was a pretty good guy with a bad job too. They never asked me one question about myself or where I was from, or prior experience, etc.? My first assignment was to clean up the enlisted barracks "heads" on the 2nd floor. There were maybe 6 of us "lowlifes" assigned to clean two buildings with 3 floors each in the common areas. When we had arrived the night before, it was early enough that many of my new squadron-mates had time to go to the Enlisted Club and get sloshed and obnoxiously drunk, etc. before bedtime. Problem was..... they left much of it on the walls and floors and every other spot in the "head" I was assigned to clean up. I walked into that "head", took one look around, got a whiff of the disgusting aroma, and I dropped the mop and bucket and cleaning supplies I had brought with me and I headed down to the PO1's office. I actually came up there to the "head" to do work that I did not deserve to have to do, but I understood the Navy customs and wanted to go along with the program and not cause waves. That was my intention, but I'm 27 years old now and a Vietnam veteran with combat experience, and that was the last straw in my mind. I was ready to sacrifice my new Navy career rather than subject



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

myself to cleaning up after drunk high school graduates. I told the PO1 he had better call the Senior Chief or show me where his office was?? I told him I was done and if they could not find me a suitable job for a better man than he was, then they could drum my ass out of the Navy any way they chose to do so. I was getting HOT!! I went to the Senior Chief's office and he and I had a nice discussion and he had pulled my records by then and looked at them as they were still very handy. He apologized to me and told me he would have a new job for me the next day. That became a wonderful experience driving an old Dodge van with the top cut off all over the place picking up parts and running errands and friends anywhere they wanted on base or needed to go during the daytime hours. I was assigned to a Ground Support Equipment shop as a support person from my squadron that provided the "yellow gear" to the aircraft on the flight line. APU's, power wagons, and all kinds of tractors and loading equipment. Each rotating squadron was required to provide personnel to different permanent shops on the base to supplement their personnel due to the increased workload each squadron put on the existing shops when we were there. I didn't know I had ended up in the best spot possible by accident. I was able to get out into the "economy" as they called it and two of the guys who were stationed permanently there had married local Spanish girls and had families there now and pretty much permanent assignment as long as they wanted it. I was invited to their homes for meals, and just to enjoy life away from the base. I got the opportunity to go to the local bullfights, had dinner and some bullfighting at a training center for the young bulls, and actually attended a real bullfight in a large arena and that was an experience in itself. I got a reputation as a pretty wild guy there from my normal behavior and accidentally knocked out my Maintenance Officer, a woman who was very visible and not that well liked, out, during a shop volleyball game in a parking lot while using "jungle rules". I did not do it on purpose as she moved in front of me while I had my back to the net and you can guess the rest. It broke her glasses and even then, she still seemed to like me when I left. Of course, I apologized to her when she woke up and I felt badly, but I caught a lot of flack over that episode. In retrospect, I should have and it was not intentional, but something I did and added to my reputation unexpectedly. Before I left there after nearly 6 months, I was due for a performance evaluation that the Navy does, but since I did not have a rate yet, they could not rate my performance. The Lt. (Captain in the Army O-3) who I knocked out on the volleyball court, Lt. Winters, presented me with a

"tongue in cheek" evaluation report that was quite funny but way too close to the truth in many ways. I was sorry for that deployment to end and with it my return to NAS Brunswick, Maine, where I knew I'd become a "lowlife" again.

When we got back, many of us took leave and I went home to Florida and got married to my ex-wife on July 31st, 1976. We moved her stuff with a U-Haul and her car and drove back up to Brunswick, with a couple of stops to visit my family in North Carolina and to catch a game at Yankee Stadium, a dream of mine. I saw Reggie Jackson hit a home run off Jim "Catfish" Hunter, during Reggie's only year with the Orioles and I was not disappointed. We were lucky to find an older couple who lived in the countryside with a large farmhouse outside Brunswick that rented us part of that old farmhouse and allowed us to have our dog, Wally, who was also with us now. Suffice it to say that everyone should have a dog like Wally. He was that good and I'll leave it at that so as not to offend anyone!! I worked in the "Tweet Shop" in my squadron now. That's where all the AX's and AT's worked out of and I was close to the jobs I would learn to perform now. Problem was these aircraft have monthly preventive maintenance and diagnostics that have to be performed and signed off and most could only be done at night when they were not flying. Can you guess who gets this sort of job and the hours that go along with it?? I spent nearly 3-4 months doing this and working at a Sears Automotive shop by day to earn extra money for myself and my new wife. She got a job typing the Bath, Maine newspaper that came out 3 times a week and they loved her. She could type over 100 wpm, answer the phone, and fix you a cup of coffee at the same time. At least it seemed that way to me.

Things were good and then my orders for my school came down and we packed up and headed to Millington, Tennessee to the Naval Aviation Training Center there. This is right outside Memphis, Tennessee and a large school complex that trained enlisted men in rates that are prevalent in the naval aviation ( aka "brown shoe Navy") world. Air Traffic Controllers, Aviation Electronic Technicians, Fire Control Technicians, ASW Technicians, ASW Operators and such as that. I was there for nearly 9 months or so and was assigned to VP-19, Moffett Field, California upon graduation. At the time, the Navy required students to wear Class "A"'s to class, so we had to wear black pants, the white shirt with all the decorations and badges, etc. on it, and the bus driver's hat, with those shiny black shoes you never have to polish. That's something the Navy knows



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

nothing about. Sort of a nicer version of those “Glo-Coated” boots the “legs” used to try and pass off as polished. Anyway, the first day I enter the building where my classes will be for the next 9 months or so, I get stopped in the hallway by a young PO2 Instructor. He sees my awards and decorations on my left chest area and he asks me if I have orders for all that stuff?? I know he’s thinking he has a “live one” here and he’s going to bust me up real good and have some fun. I told him I did not carry orders for them, but gave him my whole name and told him my records were in personnel if he wanted to pursue it. I didn’t have all that much to be honest, but I did wear my CIB, jump wings, and my ribbons proudly and I did notice that no one else around had any of them but me. It made me a bit of a celebrity in the school the next day when I was met at the door by the young NCO who had wanted to break me up the day before. He escorted me into the Instructor’s Lounge (where ONLY Instructors were allowed to tread) and I was greeted warmly by all the Instructors and told to let them know if I ever needed anything. I never abused that opportunity but it made a better learning environment for me and probably for my classmates too. They weren’t sure whether to fear me or humor me due to the reputation you “other Rangers” had established out there by then!! That held true for me too at my next assignment in VP-19, where I operated in that “aura” again and I never did tell them that I was a “teddy bear” at heart!! Of course, everything did not always go perfectly and I maybe gave them some cause to wonder about me a couple of times that I have conveniently forgotten about now, but I still insist, it was the rest of you who gave us this deserved reputation!!

My wife and I arrived in Sunnyvale, California in 1977 and immediately found a rundown apartment that was the norm for young enlisted couples back then. She was pregnant now with our first daughter, Cindy, on the way. The apartment was affordable and I began my time in Patron 19 and my wife began to look for a job. She was soon employed by Intel Magnetics, a tech company in Silicon Valley, “the maker of the first million bit bubble memory!!” I deployed to Okinawa, Japan for six months (3 days after my daughter was born in November 1977), had deployments to Adak, Alaska in the Aleutian chain of islands, and traveled all over the world and oceans while in the Navy. I really got to see the world in many cases, but as you all know, if you are in the military, going to a foreign country is not like going on vacation. Usually, you could be in Timbuktu or Kansas City, and you’d never know it. I stayed there for a bit over two and a half years and enjoyed my stay there, except for the crowds that you incur

everywhere, all the time on the west coast. Night or day. So many people and the cost of living for a young family was not conducive to me staying there after my enlistment was up. I eventually got a job in Silicon Valley myself when I was “recruited” by a fellow shop mate who had a side job working for Frequency Sources West, a microwave oscillator and frequency multiplier manufacturer in Santa Clara. Since most of the Navy senior techs did not want to work the evening shifts, it was a great opportunity for me to work during the daytime, get off at my civilian job and then come straight to the hangar to work on the aircraft that were due to fly the next day. This was accepted in my squadron, but the Navy came first, of course, and my employer knew that. There were three of us on the night shift who were pretty skilled and liked to work, so we got a lot done at night. When the aircraft were ready to fly, one of us would stay in the shop to fix problems incurred during pre-flights and the other two would go home to bed and be on call in case things went bad during pre-flights and we were needed. It worked out great usually. I made my promotions at first opportunity all during my time in the Navy, but it was not for me in the end. I was good at my job and was recognized many times for different reasons. I was offered a promotion to PO1 (E-6) if I had re-enlisted after 4 years, but I chose to leave in November 1979 and come back home to Florida and begin my life with my wife and young daughter. Frequency Sources West offered me a management job that would have doubled my pay there, but the whole California scene, the crowds, the traffic, the cost of living and housing, just made me want to go back to Florida, so we did. It was not hard at all, but we left a good situation out there, but the unknown made us both uneasy about our future. We were both operating without a degree of any sort and knew we could end up victims down the line. Jobs were everywhere back then and many companies were offering “bounties” of up to \$2000 if you could bring a new technician in and he lasted 6 months and I made some extra money over two years doing that too. Navy electronic techs are some of the best non-degree technicians you’ll find. The schools are good and the OJT is outstanding in my experience. I cannot complain much about the Navy, but my time in the Navy does not compare in any way with my time in the Army. Maybe if the Army had seen my leadership qualities long ago and recognized them by promoting me fairly, (along with many other SP/4’s like myself who served in the different LRRP/LRP and Ranger companies in a combat role, and had to watch the finance clerks, cooks (pardon here to BH), drivers, REMF’s, etc. around you get promoted before or instead of you, even while you continued to do your job over and



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

over..... maybe, just maybe I'd have had a career in the Army. When I saw how they could ignore a warrior's service and promote others in a lesser role so easily, I knew the Army would not be a good choice for me. They would tell us we had too many E-5's in our company, and they could not promote us because we were NCO heavy. We did have a lot of Buck Sergeants, as P/75th was the only place in the 5th Mech an airborne soldier could land and still get jump pay regardless of whether he was jumping or not, and a desirable landing spot for a young "shake and bake" Sgt.'s who came in country as NCO's with no experience after attending the Infantry NCO Academy. Some would later go on to Ranger School and Jump School and those high performers could make the rank of Staff Sergeant, E-6, in a relatively short time. In Papa Company, we were fortunate to have a high level of NCO's in this category and we also had some others who had spent multiple tours or been in the Army for a long time and made rank the old school way. It was a great opportunity for many guys, but it impacted many who came and left as SP/4's after serving honorably and ably and were sent home to fend for themselves stateside as lower ranked enlisted men. To me, I felt it would look like I was a BUM, after everything else I had accomplished (doing my job... nothing spectacular) before and during my service in Vietnam, so I chose to leave the Army I'm sure there are many others who were in the same boat due to allocations and other words that I did not care to hear about in 1970. I was told I would be promoted as soon as I got back to the states, but I did not believe them and I got out a couple months early to go to college and I told you how that went.

In retrospect, the Navy was a good experience for me. It prepared me to make a living in life for many years and for

that, I'll always be thankful. But even with all that, that time does not compare in way, shape, or form to the experiences and friendships forged and bonded forever in Vietnam with the Papa Company Rangers. Every day, I am thankful for the high caliber of men I have been fortunate enough to have served with and many others who I never got the opportunity to serve with. I can tell you that there is nothing else out there in the military community like an Airborne Ranger/LRRP/LRP!! Go ARMY!! Beat Navy's ASS!!



VP-10 Pocket Patch

AX2 Anti-Sub warfare  
Tech 2nd class



### **Colonel (Retired) Robert Lewis Howard (MOH)** (July 11, 1939 – December 23, 2009)

On February 22, 2010, Colonel (Retired) Robert Lewis Howard (MOH) will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Colonel Howard, a 2005 inductee to the Ranger Hall of Fame, retired from government service in 2006, after 52 years of continual service to our country.

Colonel Howard grew up in Opelika, Alabama and enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Private at Montgomery, Alabama in 1956 at age seventeen. He retired as a Colonel and the most decorated soldier in all of U.S. history. While many of the public know of Audie Murphy as the most decorated American soldier of World War II. It is probably safe to say

that many fewer know of Colonel Howard, who was more highly decorated than Audie Murphy. Only 3,448 Americans have been awarded Medals of Honor. Today only 90 of them survive.

Colonel Howard is recognized as a recipient of the Medal of Honor, but fewer people know, that as a Staff Sergeant and Sergeant First Class in the Military Assistance Command – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG), he was recommended for the Medal of Honor on three separate occasions for three individual actions during thirteen months spanning 1967–1968. The first two nominations were downgraded due to the covert nature of the operations in which he participated. The first nomination was downgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross. The second nomination was downgraded to the



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Silver Star. The third nomination was downgraded to a 2nd Distinguished Service Cross but later upgraded to the Medal of Honor. As a Sergeant First Class in MACV-SOG, he risked his life during a rescue mission in Cambodia on December 30, 1968, while second in command of a platoon-sized Hornet force that was searching for missing American soldier Robert Scherdin, and was finally awarded the Medal of Honor.

Colonel Howard received a direct appointment from Master Sergeant to First Lieutenant in 1969, and was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard M. Nixon at the White House in 1971. His other awards for valor include the Distinguished Service Cross - our nation's second highest award, the Silver Star - the third highest award, and numerous lesser decorations including eight Purple Hearts. He received his decorations for valor for actions while serving as a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO).

MACV-SOG conducted classified cross-border operations into Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam. The members of this unit carried out some of the most daring and dangerous missions ever conducted by the U.S. military. The understrength sixty-man reconnaissance company at Kontum in which he served was the Vietnam War's most highly decorated unit of its size with five Medals of Honor.

Colonel Howard's story is told in John Plaster's excellent book, SOG The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam.

*Excerpt from John Plaster's recent book SECRET COMMANDOS Behind Enemy Lines with the Elite Warriors of SOG - pg. 303:*

*"The day that President Nixon draped the Medal of Honor's pale blue ribbon around Howard's neck, I sat before the TV in my parents' living room watching the evening news. Coming on top of his previous decorations - the Distinguished Service Cross and multiple Silver and Bronze Stars, plus eight Purple Hearts - Howard's combat awards exceeded those of Audie Murphy, America's legendary World War II hero, until then our most highly decorated serviceman. At last, Howard would get his due. I flipped station to station, but not one of the networks - not CBS or NBC or ABC - could find ten seconds to mention Captain Robert Howard or his indomitable courage. I found nothing about him in the newspapers. Twisted by the antiwar politics of that era, many in the media believed that to recognize a heroic act was to glorify war. They simply chose not to cover*

*the ceremony. It might as well not have happened."*

NOTE ON DOUBLE AWARDS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR:

DOUBLE AWARDS: The act of July 9, 1918 was further clarified in September, then again in February 1919, to stipulate that no person could receive more than ONE Medal of Honor. Previously there had been 19 DOUBLE AWARDS of the Medal, but hereafter, while there were provisions for second and consecutive awards of lesser medals to be made and noted with appropriate ribbon devices, no more than ONE Medal of Honor could be awarded. Source: CMOHS Website.

Colonel Howard was wounded 14 times during one 54-month period during the Vietnam Conflict. He received two Masters degrees during his government career which spanned almost 50 years. He retired as a full Colonel in 2006. His Army career spanned 1956 to 1992.

His residence was in Texas and he spent much of his free time working with veterans at the time of his death. He also took periodic trips to Iraq to visit active duty troops. Colonel Howard died of pancreatic cancer at a hospice in Waco, Texas on December 23, 2009. He was survived by three children and four grandchildren. Col. Howard was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions as a First Lieutenant assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, in the Republic of Vietnam on 30 December, 1968. The citation for his actions on that day reads:

Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

FIRST LIEUTENANT

ROBERT L. HOWARD

UNITED STATES ARMY

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

### **Citation:**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. 1st Lt. Howard (then SFC.), distinguished himself while serving as platoon sergeant of an American-Vietnamese platoon which was on a mission to rescue a missing American soldier in enemy controlled territory in the Republic of Vietnam. The platoon had left its helicopter landing zone and was moving out on its mission when it was attacked by



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

an estimated 2-company force. During the initial engagement, 1st Lt. Howard was wounded and his weapon destroyed by a grenade explosion. 1st Lt. Howard saw his platoon leader had been wounded seriously and was exposed to fire. Although unable to walk, and weaponless, 1st Lt. Howard unhesitatingly crawled through a hail of fire to retrieve his wounded leader. As 1st Lt. Howard was administering first aid and removing the officer's equipment, an enemy bullet struck 1 of the ammunition pouches on the lieutenant's belt, detonating several magazines of ammunition. 1st Lt. Howard momentarily sought cover and then realizing that he must rejoin the platoon, which had been disorganized by the enemy attack, he again began dragging the seriously wounded officer toward the platoon area. Through his outstanding example of indomitable courage and bravery, 1st Lt. Howard was able to rally the platoon into an organized defense force. With complete disregard for his safety, 1st Lt. Howard crawled from position to position, administering first aid to the wounded, giving encouragement to the defenders and directing their fire on the encircling enemy. For 3 1/2 hours 1st Lt. Howard's small force and supporting aircraft successfully repulsed enemy attacks and finally were in sufficient control to permit the landing of rescue helicopters. 1st Lt. Howard personally supervised the loading of his men and did not leave the bullet-swept landing zone until all were aboard safely. 1st Lt. Howard's gallantry in action, his complete devotion to the welfare of his men at the risk of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

### **The Humble Knight: Colonel Robert L. Howard 1939 – 2009**

By: Maj. John L. Plaster, USA, (Retired)  
(reprinted with permission of the author)

In 1968 Colonel Robert L. Howard was a 30-year-old sergeant first class and the most physically fit man on our compound. Broad-chested, solid as a lumberjack and mentally tough, he cut an imposing presence. I was among the lucky few Army Special Forces soldiers to have served with Bob Howard in our 60-man Recon Company at Command and Control Central, a top secret Green Beret unit that ran covert missions behind enemy lines. As an element of the secretive Studies and Observations Group – SOG – we did our best to recon, raid, attack and disrupt the enemy's Ho Chi Minh Trail network in Laos and Cambodia.

Howard was magnificent. Take all John Wayne's films – throw in Clint Eastwood's, too — and these fictions could not measure up to the real Bob Howard. Officially he was awarded eight Purple Hearts but he actually was wounded 14 times. Six of the wounds, he decided, weren't bad enough to be worthy of the award. Keep in mind that for each time he was wounded, there probably were ten times that he was nearly wounded and you get some idea of his combat service. He was right up there with America's greatest heroes – Davy Crockett, Audie Murphy, Alvin York – the inspiring example we other Green Berets tried to live up to. "What would Bob Howard do?" many of us asked ourselves when surrounded and outnumbered, just a handful of men to fight off hordes of North Vietnamese.

To call him a legend is no exaggeration. Take the time he was in a chow line at an American base and a Vietnamese terrorist on a motorbike tossed a hand grenade at them. While others leaped for cover, Howard snatched an M-16 from a petrified security guard, dropped to one knee and expertly shot the driver, and then chased the passenger a half-mile and killed him, too.

One night his recon team laid beside an enemy highway in Laos as a convoy rolled past. Running alongside an enemy truck in pitch blackness, he spun an armed claymore mine over his head like a lasso, then threw it among enemy soldiers crammed in the back, detonated it, and ran away to fight another day.

Another time, he was riding a Huey with Larry White and Robert Clough into Laos, when their pilot unknowingly landed beside two heavily camouflaged enemy helicopters. Fire erupted instantly, riddling their Huey and hitting White three times, knocking him to the ground. Firing back, Howard and Clough jumped out, grabbed White and their Huey somehow limped back to South Vietnam.

"Just knowing Bob Howard was ready to come and get you meant a lot to us," said recon team leader Lloyd O'Daniels. Consider the rescue of Joe Walker. His recon team and a SOG platoon had been overrun near a major Laotian highway and, seriously wounded, Walker was hiding with a Montagnard soldier, unable to move. Howard inserted a good distance away with a dozen men and, because there were so many enemy present, waited for darkness to sneak into the area. Howard felt among bodies for heartbeats, and checked one figure's lanky legs, then felt for Joe's signature horn-rimmed glasses. "You sweet motherfucker," Walker whispered, and Howard took him to safety.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

What's all the more remarkable is that not one of these incidents resulted in any award – Howard was just doing what had to be done, he thought.

### **Above and Beyond the Call of Duty**

Unique in American military history, this Opelika, Alabama native was submitted for the Medal of Honor three times in 13 months for separate combat actions, witnessed by fellow Green Berets. The first came in November 1967. While a larger SOG element destroyed an enemy cache, Howard screened forward and confronted a large enemy force, killing four enemy soldiers, then he took out an NVA sniper. Then, "pinned down...with a blazing machine gun only six inches above his head," he shot and killed an entire NVA gun crew at point-blank range, and then destroyed another machine gun position with a grenade. He so demoralized the enemy force that they withdrew. This Medal of Honor recommendation was downgraded to a Silver Star.

The next incident came a year later. Again accompanying a larger SOG force, he performed magnificently, single-handedly knocking out a PT-76 tank, a day later wiping out an anti-aircraft gun crew, and afterward rescuing the crew of a downed Huey. Repeatedly wounded, he bled from his arms, legs, back and face, but he refused to be evacuated. Again submitted for the Medal of Honor, his recommendation was downgraded, this time to the Distinguished Service Cross.

Just six weeks later, Howard volunteered to accompany a platoon going into Laos in search of a missing recon man, Robert Scherdin. Ambushed by a large enemy force, Howard was badly wounded, his M-16 blown to bits – yet he crawled to the aid of a wounded lieutenant, fought off NVA soldiers with a grenade, then a .45 pistol, and managed to drag the officer away. Burned and slashed by shrapnel, we thought we'd never see him again – but he went AWOL from the hospital and came back in pajamas to learn he'd been again submitted for the Medal of Honor. This time it went forward to Washington, with assurances that it would be approved.

Howard did not know the word, "hopeless." Many years later he explained his mindset during the Medal of Honor operation: "I had one choice: to lay and wait, or keep fighting for my men. If I waited, I gambled that things would get better while I did nothing. If I kept fighting, no matter how painful, I could stack the odds that recovery for my men and a safe exodus was achievable."

Although eventually sent home, he came back yet again, to spend with us the final months before his Medal of Honor ceremony. By then he had served more than 5 years in Vietnam. Why so much time in Vietnam? "I guess it's because I want to help in any way I can," Howard explained. "I may as well be here where I can use my training; and besides, I have to do it – it's the way I feel about my job."

### **Humility**

The warrior ethic came naturally to Bob Howard. His father and four uncles had all been paratroopers in World War Two. Of them, two had died in combat, and the other three succumbed to wounds after the war. To support his mother and maternal grandparents, he and his sister picked cotton. He also learned old-fashioned Southern civility, removing his hat for any lady and answering, "Yes, ma'am."

He also possessed a deep sense of honor and justice, and lived by his unspoken warrior's code, with the priorities mission, men, and his own interests coming last. He absolutely fit the bill as a leader you'd follow through hell's gates – IF you could keep up with him. A hard-charging physical fitness advocate, he even had our Montagnard tribesmen running and doing calisthenics.

After draping the Medal of Honor around Howard's neck, President Nixon asked him what he wanted to do the rest of that memorable day – lunch with the president, a tour of the White House, almost anything. Howard asked simply to be taken to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to share his thoughts with others who had gone before him. Tragically, the U.S. media, reflecting the anti-war sentiments of that period, said not one word about Howard or his valiant deeds, although by the time he received the Medal of Honor he was America's most highly decorated serviceman.

### **After the War**

Despite the lack of recognition, Howard went on serving to the best of his ability. He was the training officer at the Army's Airborne School, then he was a company commander in the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Ft. Lewis, Washington. He continued to excel at everything he did, making Distinguished Honor Graduate in his Officer Advance Course class.

As the officer-in-charge of Special Forces training at Camp Mackall, near Ft. Bragg, N.C., and later, commanding the Mountain Ranger Training Camp at Dahlonga, Georgia, he did his utmost to inspire young students. Howard's frame of reference was SOG — hard combat, the toughest



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

kind against terrible odds with impossible missions. He knew good men would die or fail in combat without martial skills, tactical knowledge and physical conditioning. He was famous for leading runs and long-distance rucksack marches – usually he outran entire classes of students, stronger than men half his age. A whole generation of Army Special Forces and Rangers earned their qualifications under his shining example, with some graduates among the senior leaders of today's Special Forces and Ranger units. His highest assignment was commander of Special Forces Detachment, Korea. He might have gone higher but he dared to publicly suggest that American POWs had been left in enemy hands, and was willing to testify to that before Congress in 1986. After he retired as a full colonel, he went through multiple surgeries to try to correct the many injuries he'd suffered over the years.

But he could not stop helping GIs. He spent another 20 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs, helping disabled vets. He had a reputation for rankling his superiors as an unapologetic advocate of veterans.

His spirit never waned. In 2004 I sat with Green Berets of the 1st Special Forces Group at Ft. Lewis, Wash., who laughed and cheered when he joked about still being tough enough to take on any two men in the audience – not one raised his hand. After retiring from the VA, Col. Howard often visited with American servicemen to speak about his combat experiences, making five trips to Iraq and Afghanistan. In the fall of 2009, he visited troops in Germany, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Despite increasing pain and sickness, on Veterans Day 2009 he kept his word to attend a memorial ceremony, but finally he had to seek help. He was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer and given a few weeks to live.

In those final days old Special Forces and Ranger friends slipped past "No Visitors" signs to see him. When SOG vets Ben Lyons and Martin Bennett and a civilian friend, Chuck Hendricks, visited him, Howard climbed from his bed to model the uniform jacket he would be buried in, festooned with the Medal of Honor and rows upon rows of ribbons. A proud Master parachutist and military skydiver, he showed them the polished jump boots he'd been working on, and asked Bennett to touch up the spit shine. Though his feet might not be visible in his coffin, he wanted that shine just right.

As they left, Col. Howard thanked Bennett, and then

saluted him and held his hand crisply to his eyebrow until Bennett returned it. Bob Howard passed away two days before Christmas.

This great hero, a humble knight that was a paragon for all, belongs to history now. He is survived by his daughters Denicia, Melissa and Rosslyn; an Airborne-Ranger son, Robert Jr., and four grandchildren.

The End

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<http://www.rlhtribute.com>, by ISG Joseph J Welsh USA (Ret)

### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

[source: *Web site dedicated to COL Howard (MOH)*  
<http://www.rlhtribute.com>, by ISG Joseph J Welsh USA (Ret)]

(NOTE: The following information was obtained directly from COL Howard in 2002)

Colonel Bob Howard is a native of Alabama, with his home record San Antonio, Texas.

He entered military service on July 20, 1956 and was medically retired on September 30, 1992. He received a direct appointment from Master Sergeant to First Lieutenant in December 1969. His thirty six years of



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

military service included over 33 years on airborne status. He participated in two movies concerning airborne and special operations missions, both featuring John Wayne. He made a parachute jump on the filming of The Longest Day and as an Airborne Instructor in The Green Berets.

Military assignments include duty with the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions; 2d Ranger Battalion; 3d, 5th, and 6th, Special Forces Group; 5th Infantry Division; 7th Corps, XVIII Airborne Corps. He served in the Eighth United States Army and Combined Forces Command. Service in Vietnam included serving with 1/327th Airborne Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, 5th Special Forces Group, and MACV SOG. Colonel Howard commanded a Reconnaissance Company, MACV SOG in Vietnam, a separate Ranger Company at Fort Benning, Georgia, two Ranger Companies while assigned to the 2d Ranger Battalion. He was the Post Commander of Kelly Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany, Executive Officer of the 2d Ranger Battalion, and the Mountain Ranger Camp.

Military Instructor duties include Airborne, Ranger, and Pathfinder at the Infantry School, Tactics at the Command and General Staff College, Special Operations and Special Forces at the Special Warfare Center. Staff assignments have included duty with AC of S, G3, XVIII, Airborne Corps, C3, J3, G3, Combined Forces Command/Eighth United States Army, Korea. Military training includes the Basic and Advanced Infantry Courses at the Infantry School; Special Forces Enlisted and Officer Courses at the Special Warfare Center and School; Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, and the National War College in Washington, D.C.

Colonel Howard was a distinguished honor graduate of the Ranger Course, Pathfinder Course, and Parachute Rigger School. He received the Outstanding Infantryman's Trophy as Outstanding Infantry Officer of Class 1979-1980 at the Command and General Staff College. He graduated from the National War College, Class 1987-1988. His military service also contributed to exceptional civilian recognition for service to his nation.

### **AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Congressional Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Cross

Silver Star

Bronze Star for Valor, 3d Oak Leaf Cluster

Purple Heart, 8th Award, 7th Oak Leaf Cluster

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit, 3d Oak Leaf Cluster

Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement

Air Medal for Valor, 2d Oak Leaf Cluster

Army Commendation Medal for Valor, 3d Oak Leaf Cluster

Air Medal for Aerial Flights

Army Meritorious Service Medal, 2d Oak Leaf Cluster

Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Achievement, 2d Oak Leaf Cluster

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Army Achievement Medal

Good Conduct Medal 4th Award

National Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

PNCO Ribbon W/2 device

Army Overseas Ribbon

Army Service Ribbon

Expeditionary Medal, 2d Oak Leaf Cluster

Vietnam Service Medal

Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 device

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star

Vietnam Honor Medal 2d Award

Vietnamese Wound Medal

Vietnamese Civil Action Medal 2d Award

Army Presidential Unit Citation, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Navy Valorous Unit Citation

Army Meritorious Unit Citation

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster

Republic of Korea Samil Medal

Combat Infantryman's Badge

Aircraft Crewman's Badge



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Master Parachute Badge

Pathfinder Badge

Air Assault Badge

Expert Infantryman's Badge

Vietnamese Ranger Badge

Army Ranger Tab

Special Forces Qualification Tab

Thai Master Parachute Wings

Vietnamese Master Parachute Badge

French Parachutist Badge

Korean Master Parachute Badge

Thai Balloonist Badge

Col Howard was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2005. After retirement from military service in 1992, Colonel Bob Howard was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. He retired in January 2006 after 52 years of government service.



**Wounded 14 times in 54 months of combat duty in Vietnam, Robert Howard was awarded 8 Purple Hearts and was believed to be the most decorated living American.**



**MACV SOG FOB2 CCC - Awards & Decorations formation Dec-Feb 1967-68 - SFC Bob Howard (at left, partially out of photo) awarded the Silver Star and an Air Medal, SFC Bill Hanson (at right) awarded the Bronze Star for Valor.**



**Capt. Robert Howard is awarded the Medal of Honor by Pres. Richard Nixon at the White House, 2 March 1971 (Photo courtesy Wesley Alexander).**



**SFC Robert Howard (front left) in Vietnam with some of the guys - MACVSOG (CCC). SGT Chuck Erickson (RT Colorado) is standing behind at far left. Erickson was later on the Son Tay Raid "Blueboy Element" chopper with Dick Meadows. (Photo courtesy John Plaster)**



**MAJ Robert Howard (right) at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall dedication - 1982 (Photo courtesy John Plaster).**



# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Todd M. Currie

### Fallen Rangers honored at Hunter

Story and photos by Nancy Gould  
Hunter Public Affairs

The names of the three fallen heroes from the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment echoed clearly during roll call as the afternoon sun faded in the Rangers' memorial courtyard on Hunter Army Airfield Jan. 14.

"He's not here," responded the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. of each Ranger killed supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. "He is no longer with us."

Family, friends and comrades of Staff Sgt. Jason Dahlke, Sgt. Roberto Sanchez and Pfc. Eric Hario listened tearfully as the battle buddies of those killed took their turn at the chilly memorial podium to share warm memories in front of the large group who had gathered to mourn.

Sgt. Edward Ward, B Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, spoke emotionally about the 24-year-old Sgt. Roberto Sanchez when he stepped up. He said that Sanchez wanted a career in the Army to serve our nation and make a difference. "He believed if the right guys stayed in, they could prevent bad things from happening and that's what he did. He'll live forever in our hearts." Sanchez was killed during a combat operation that took out nine enemy combatants and destroyed a large weapons cache.

Staff Sgt. Dahlke, another fallen Ranger, was called a mentor, a friend and a man who lived life to the fullest by Sgt. Sean Michael Cleary, A Company, 1st Battalion, 75th



Ranger Regiment, a battle buddy who served with him in Afghanistan. "He used to say, it's not the number of years in your life that counts, it's the life in your years." Twenty-nine-year-old Dahlke was killed when a Ranger task force attacked an enemy position on Aug. 29.

Lastly, Pfc. William Hario, 19-years-old, was wounded by small arms fire but later died in a combat support hospital where he was evacuated.

"He knew the risk factor for this mission was high," said Spc. Donald Watson, A Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, about Hario's first mission. "But he had confidence and he learned quickly. When you think of Pfc. Hario, keep your head high."

"There is no greater honor than to be here to memorialize these three heroes," said Col. Brian Mennes, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment commander, who began the solemn ceremony by welcoming the Gold Star Families of Rangers being honored, along with dignitaries and others who attended.

"They are true life heroes, modern day knights and American Treasures. They are part of a small minority who sacrificed on behalf of the Nation to secure our freedom. They died defending the constitution of the United States and our collective values."

The deployment was the 1st Battalion's 13th since the Global War on Terror began in 2001.



## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham

Your latest unit director has arrived. Ranger Smith has had to bow out due to his real-world responsibilities, which involve long hours and much travel. Thank you, Nate, for your hard work and for being such an excellent go-between for battalion alumni and our alma-mater. He's earned a hand salute using ALL of your fingers please. Nate has left a pair of good sized vibram-soled stompers for me to fill.

In July 1975 I was the last snuffly to sign into 2d Battalion at North Fort, before we finished moving to the Quad. I served in S-3, HHC as the section RTO/driver until I got tabbed and promoted to sergeant, then over to A Co as the company commo NCO. I was very fortunate (something I did not appreciate at the time) to have been raised by the likes of future command sergeants major Walter Stock and



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

Jeff Mellinger. I toted PRC-74s and '77s for 'Doc' Wentzel, Robert L. Howard and future RCO 'Buck' Kernan, amongst other future luminaries. Yes, I am namedropping and am basking in the reflected glory of modern ranger legends. Somehow, all of their careers survived my influence.



As I once wrote in a *Patrolling* submission, I owe a considerable part of my life success to our battalion and its hard core NCOs, who set and enforced such high professional standards and ethics and inculcated them into our very being. Now it is time for me to pay it forward by serving our association and this generation of ranger warriors. I am constantly humbled by the 'awesomeness' of the members of our community and am proud beyond arrogance of having started life wearing the 2d Battalion scroll.

One of our young brothers needs your prayers and support. 19 year old "PFC Bryan" of D Company is in the cancer ward at Walter Reed. He survived the rigors of R.I.P. and the "SP4 mafia", and then made a name for himself in the tough school of a Ranger platoon at war. While on his second combat deployment he gets drop-kicked in the nuts by learning that he has Burkitt Lymphoma, a rare cancer. At the time of writing, he is undergoing chemotherapy and doing well, but when you read this, he may be at a V.A. or civilian facility closer to his mid-western home. His parents have been by him all along and are said to be amazed by the camaraderie shown by visiting capitol region Rangers and the calls from Rangers from around the country. Bryan's attitude is excellent, he is fighting this like the Ranger warrior that he is. His family has set up a page for those who wish to follow his progress at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/bryandaniel>. He can be contacted through that webpage.

For several years now, I've maintained an email list for 2d Battalion alumni. When something comes up of interest to our slice of the community, I'll send a BTB to all with the news. It might be a photo of the new batt barracks, news of a KIA or events like the standing up of the new D Company in late 2007. I seldom transmit and then, only with actual news and I never spam. Further, I use the 'BCC' function to protect member's privacy from the rest of you dirtbags. If you want to be on this list, please email me at [oldscroll275@gmail.com](mailto:oldscroll275@gmail.com). If you were on Ranger Smith's list, be advised that he lost it in a computer event and so

you might want to get on this one. If you don't want to hand copy my address from these pages, click the link on the unit director's page in the association website.

The battalion S-5 is establishing a mailing list. They sell a lot of hooyah goodies like t-shirts, scroll stickers, cups and an assortment of clothing with assorted unit logos. They're flogging some pretty excellent stuff. They'd like

to build a batt vets list to sell some of this stuff to. Those of you who've seen the tables the family support and foundation crowds set up at Ranger Rendezvous know what I mean. A lot of their material is short run, one time only stuff, like those church-key style bottle openers I scored at the '09 reunion. If you are interested, email me & I'll pass it along to the Five shop. All monies go to benefit the troops and to keep the shop stocked. Go there first, before dropping your dollars on Victory Drive or Bragg Blvd.

Colonel Robert L. Howard, Medal of Honor, died last month of cancer and was buried at Arlington. Check this website at <http://rlhtribute.com/> for his biography. In the 1975-77 era, the then Captain Howard was the first commander of A Co and then HHC. If anyone has memories or stories of him from his battalion or Ranger School days, please get them down and sent to me so I can get an article genned up about this ranger who inspired so many of us youngsters back in the day. A lot is in print already concerning his life and his wartime record, so I'd like to keep this proposed article devoted to his ranger service.

We need contributions. We can't all match the drama of combat, but we all have had experiences that only other soldiers, or rangers, can appreciate or laugh at. My stories have no sturm und drang, just the flavor of army life. Let's hear from some of you who met Sasquatch in Ranier Training Area, or who fought the Tacoma duel with the crack dealers. The 'treehugger' battalion has had some pretty unique adventures in its time. Share some of yours. Here, I'll go first with a little "growing up stuff":

The Ford – Carter years were devoid of the "fun, travel and adventure" of the recruiting slogan. No wars, not even rumors of war. The ranger battalions were stood up to be fast and light, deployable in no more than eighteen hours from the call to wheels-up. I graduated Ranger School hoping to finally get to a line company and really start 'living the dream'. Instead, as I was promoted out of my



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

slot, they had to make one for me until a commo NCO slot opened. Right, a 580 man airborne ranger infantry battalion with all of two jeeps and trailers. Ranger lifestyle? Yeah, instead, I got the jeeps. “provisional battalion motor sergeant”. The most elite light infantry in the world, and I got responsibility for the jeeps. I didn’t know the first thing about mechanics and had only learned how to drive a manual clutch on the commander’s vehicle months before. I cursed and hated almost every minute of it. Battalion would deploy and jump in. I’d airland with the jeeps. Battalion would jump back into Lewis. I’d airland with the jeeps. But even here, in this most REMF of activity, the Ranger ethos applied. MSG Stock gave me the goal; I had to figure out how to get there. Develop vehicle SOPs, learn the rules and regs. Train others how to drive and maintain the beasts. Learn how to drive and maintain the damn things myself. The pounds of manuals of rules and regs; how to maintain, how to requisition parts, how many spare parts can be kept on hand – one doesn’t go to the “army AutoZone” when things break. No, there’s a system. Do it by the book and seven months later, your nut and bolt arrives so you can reattach the framus to the widget and make the jeep go again. Except that in the meantime, the commander might want his jeep. So, my real education began. Naive and lacking any street-smarts, I discovered the great army underground economy. Little wonder the system doesn’t work. Every motor sergeant on base had a stash of frequently used but hard to requisition parts. “You need one of these, boy? You got a framus?” Find a framus, get taken, learn the hard way. Figure out where to hide my stash where the S-4 or PBO won’t know it exists. Unaware that MSG Stock and the S-4 CWO were tracking my every move and dropping the odd hint when I strayed too far off the path. When that specter of doom to supply and motor sergeants everywhere, the I.G., sent notification of his impending arrival, the race began. Get all the unauthorized overstock we couldn’t function without down to the 2-39th infantry motor pool. Trade for a hiding space for my lockers of spares. Swipe a couple of framuses when I pick up my lockers, hoping they hadn’t taken my last widget. Trade for another widget. Partake in complex three or four party diplomacy so everyone can keep their respective jeeps running. This experience proved to be some of my most valuable education, both military and real world. These skills served me well as an NCO for the rest of my career, knowing how the system worked – logistical accountability, liability, the underground – it was all good. I missed a lot of jumps though. And later, when I was running a fire department with a tight budget and some silly politicians to answer to, I had the skill set to succeed, the basis for which I acquired in 2d Ranger Battalion. If the

as\*\*\* who stole the antenna mount off of H-3 in Alaska is reading this, I still want to knock you out. Bad enough I had to airland. A statement of charges for half of your take-home hurts.

About those national guardsmen who parked their jeep with the antenna mount outside of Denny’s one Saturday night, I don’t know anything about it. I wasn’t there, I didn’t take it, no one saw me, you can’t prove anything.

### **Significant Dates in 2d Bn History: Winter & Spring.**

**January 1, 1969.** The 75th Infantry is activated as a parent unit under the Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS). All approved long range patrol units were to share ranger heritage and be redesignated as ‘Ranger’ under the CARS 75th Infantry.

**December 1969 – April 22, 1970.** H-75th participates in Operation Dong Tien, working closely with the ARVN Airborne elements.

**February 1, 1969.** Company H (Ranger) 75th Infantry activated at Phouc Vihn, Republic of Vietnam. Concurrently, E Company, 52d Infantry was deactivated. All personnel and assets remained. In the 1980s, 2d Battalion was assigned the lineage and honors of H-75th.

**February 2, 1967.** 1st Cavalry Division LRRP component activated. Provisional detachments organized and attached to the division’s 1st and 2d Brigades.

**February – April 1944.** D-Day mission rehearsals conducted on Isle of Wight by 2d and 5th Ranger Infantry battalions.

**February 14- March 26, 1975.** 2d Bn (Ranger) 75 Infantry unit cadre training at Ft. Benning, GA. 2d Battalion conducts its first battalion sized mass tactical parachute drop when it redeployed to home station at Ft Lewis.

**April 1, 1943.** The 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion is stood up. The first battalion formation is held at Camp Forrest, TN.

**April 1967.** 1st Cav Div LRRP components consolidated at division G-2 and redesignated 1st Cav Div LRP Detachment.

**April 2002.** B Company, 2d Bn, deploys to Operation Enduring Freedom, followed shortly by the remainder of the battalion. This was 2d’s first known deployment in the Global War on Terror. 2d Battalion was the first to deploy as a full battalion in the GWOT.

**April 27, 1944.** Final ranger D-Day mission rehearsal, Operation Fabius I, conducted on the Isle of Wight. Afterward, 2d Battalion is moved to the invasion staging area in Dorset.

**May 1, 1970.** Teams from H-75th lead the 1st Cavalry



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

Div. and the Vietnamese airborne into the invasion of Cambodia. Hotel Ranger teams ran over fifty patrols into Cambodia by the end of June, 1970.

**May 9, 1944.** Provisional Ranger Group HQ is activated to provide command and control of the 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions in Operation Overlord, the Normandy invasion. LTC James E. Rudder, C.O. 2d Bn, commanding.

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT**

Unit Director - Raleigh Cash

*No Submission*

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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

About last issue: Yes I'm here this time. The no submission of last issue was due to a combination of events. I have not been sitting idle, the end of the year can get busy around here in the desert. I made the "Run for the Warriors". That is a ride sponsored by a number of motorcycle groups to collect money for the local USO, which does a lot of the Marines at the 29 Palms Marine Base.

I rode with the Patriot Guard to Honor Sgt. Robert Stinson on his journey home. Sgt. Stinson was a 23 year old crew member of a B-24 that was shot down over the South Pacific in 1944. About three years ago divers found the submerged wreckage with the remains of three bodies still inside. It took years of tests to identify one as Sgt. Stinson.



**Sgt. Stinson is taken from the plane at Ontario International Airport.**

He was flown to Ontario International Airport where the patriot guard with his family met his plane with a 40 man flag line. He was loaded into a caisson for the 20 mile trip to the chapel and the Patriot Guard with local law enforcement supplied the escort on freeways that were merely dirt roads when he was shot down. Many of these veterans discussed how important it was to never leave our own behind even if it took 65 years.



**Patriot Guard Riders preparing to escort Sgt. Stinson to the Chapel.**

Well then I made the Ride for the Fallen where a couple hundred of us rode to set up the Healing Fields in Cathedral City. There was over 5200 flags this year which included the victims of the Fort Hood terrorist attack. That



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

was followed by a ride to Lake Havasu to honor the Wounded Warriors as they rode through town. That was another inspiring time, talking to those young Warriors and seeing their attitude toward life.

Many people display signs and stickers on their vehicles and else ware that say “Support our Troops”, I like hanging with people who do it frequently.

For Thanksgiving I drove with my wife and two dogs to Northern California to spend the holidays with our daughter and son in-law. On returning home from this venture we found our computer would not start. That turned out to be an project of its own. Ours turned out to be a power supply gone south but there must have been a solar flare or something over this area because 4 of our friend also had computer crashes for one reason or another over the changing of the year. Anyway I spaced on the article stuff, that’s my story and I am sticking to it.

**Still on the Job**

Garland Williams served with A Co. 75th in the early seventies and is still serving his country in the military. With 39 years of service he is stationed in Kuwait and flying in to Iraq frequently. The following is a recent post from him.

Meanwhile, in the US 2008 national elections, where everybody wanted “CHANGE”, only 56.8% of the eligible voters decided it was worth their time to vote. That means that almost half of the adults in the country want to rant and rave, condemn and complain, bitch and moan and generally act like spoiled children, but they won’t get off their dead asses to be a part of the election process. And on top of that, less than 5% of the eligible adults have EVER been a part of the military, contributing to the defense of the whiners. Its much easier to sit on their couches and second guess those who are putting their lives on the line every day protecting the “rights” of those without the courage to defend themselves. The “American Bill of Rights” should have had an equal document, “The American Bill of Responsibilities”. Even for those people who have taken the time to put up a banner in their work or home that says “Support The Troops”, my question is “What exactly have YOU done to support the troops?” Just putting up a sign doesn’t contribute to the war effort, doesn’t ease the burden on troops or their families, or doesn’t help defeat our enemies. All it does is make the sign maker feel better. Its self gratification. What we need are people who will CONTRIBUTE. This is not a football or baseball game that can be conveniently watched from the comfort of a couch, and when the viewer gets bored, changes the channel to a

comedy. This is our very survival, and most people haven’t accepted that our very way or life is being assaulted. Every day, we who are over here in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Horn of Africa and the Philippines face an enemy with ONE GOAL: To defeat and humiliate AMERICA. They struck on 9/11 and they WILL strike again if given the chance. And then once again, everybody will say how terrible it is, how bad the attackers are, how brave the defenders were, and how SOMETHING must be done. But most people don’t have the stomach to do what should be done. And the American leadership will continue doing all they can to get reelected, once again putting America at risk. Meanwhile, we in the military, we defenders, we warriors will continue doing our job defending those who are unwilling, unable, and incapable of understanding what tasks are asked of us. THIS IS DEDICATED TO ALL MY BROTHERS WHO HAVE GIVEN ALL THEY HAD IN DEFENSE OF THE NATION.

CW4 Garland D. Williams

Kuwait/Iraq

Operation Iraqi Freedom 09/10 & 04/05



**CW4 Williams in Kuwait. Keep that cover on Garland, the sun shines there sometimes.**

**Rhetoric from the Past**

Ron Dahle

Bob, one of my endearing qualities. :) But what I said was true. By mid 66 I made the decision to stay the course and stay in Nam till it was over. I was med evaced in late 67, and was unable to get back to Nam till Jan 70. I shortly realized it was a lost cause with many of the US units maintaining an aggressive defensive posture at best. The hand writing was on the wall for Group pulling the plug, and my fire was gone. I served with the state department for 6 months setting up and installing clandestine intel nets and trained them in the use of the AN/PRC-74 to relay intell. I got totally sickened during that period. I was living in “Palm Springs West” a posh compound which was like a gated community. I took my marching orders from J. P. Vann, you may have heard of him, he was a big shot. The compound served dinner on the Veranda right beside the 65’ kidney shaped pool. Although located in Can Tho it was the diplomatic showpiece in RVN. (largely due to JP’s presence. I had been hounding JP to be transferred back to



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

SF, as this wasn't my idea of combat duty. And he always replied that when I finished the project I was working on he would entertain that request.

As we know, Dahle will be Dahle! At a state department level dinner there which included members from the ambassadors staff and a bunch of high level State Department pukes I came sauntering out of my villa sans clothes, walked over to the pool and pissed in it, faced my waiting audience and sang 3 choruses of Mary Ann Barnes took a bow and went back to my villa. The next day in his finest diplomatic manner JP suggested that we were far enough along on the project that he could release me and handed me orders assigning me to CCN (which at that time was a death sentence). As soon as I hit Nha trang they had changed my orders and assigned me to B-33 in An-Loc. I finished out my tour and decided there was no good reason to stay, as SF was rapidly pulling the plug.. And the rest as they say was history. RKD



**Ron Dahle**

**Don Marah**

My 1st tour of duty was 66-67 starting in Tay Ninh 3 Corp area with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade under control of the 25th Infantry Division and under the command of General Dessier who we called (Death For Sure) and during one of our operations against the NVA he

relieved our Brigade Commander Colonel Huges. Shortly after that old Death For Sure got his own ass relieved of command and a General Knowles took over the Brigade. After we had been there for 6 months we as a Brigade were transferred to I Corp at Quang Nigh to relieve the Marines in place who were sent on another mission. My second tour of duty was 69-70 in Vinh Long Province assigned to a four man Mat team living in the Villages and Hamlets being transferred to a different location every two months around the Mekong Delta. The day I got into country was when I bumped into Bert Wiggins and were only able to say a couple of words to each other because he was on his way out for a mission somewhere.



**Don Marah at the Reunion**

During my tour with The Mule, I was reading the SOP as the good SGM had ordered and noticed the vet was to show up once a month or so (CRS) to check the health and welfare of the mule. That day was the weekly bath for the mule, and of course, who is going to do it but yours truly, it was okay, I had a new fiberglass cast on that was weather impervious like a stainless steel shotgun. After all, the plaster cast only lasted one run through the mare's pasture so the good orthopods at Ft Stewart, whom have a lot of practice on muscular rangers to ply and hone their trade, figured they better put something on my ankle that superman could not break or all their cutting, bone drilling slicing and retying would be in vain. Send a good Ranger to SFOD, the CAG or whatever they call it now and they break his ass, hell, he don't even belong to them, it is like breaking somebody else's favorite weapon, a travesty. I think I told you that story.

So I put on Ranger 1's halter and lead and try to squirt him with a hose. HE IS NOT GOING TO PLAY. He lays his ears back and looks at me, I already know what this means because the first time I saw him do it he put the vet through the stall door and it was locked, despite my pleas for the vet not to straddle his rear hoof. Ranger 1 charges me and I side step him, now I got a picture of me with this boy and he ain't no donkey and is bigger than most horses. I jumps over the stall and gets wood between me, him and his enmity. I am pondering the situation whilst waiting for the ears to return to a more congenial position. I am thinking, do I want to be stomped by this mule for trying to give him his weekly bath, or face the good SGM for failure to comply with the SOP, because he would remind me that it was my job as an NCO to support the policies implemented by the officers over me, and he would surely smell the mule to see if he was clean.

I chose giving the mule a bath, this would be a much more comfortable death than failing in my duties and facing the good SGM, it was an easy and obvious choice. So while the ears are coming up I am formulating my operations order to give the mule his bath, complete with medevac, svc and support, escape routes and the rest of the contingency plans it requires to execute a perfect operation. My weapon of choice, first, direct fire with a riding crop to the nose of the enemy when he charged me, it was his soft place, his Achilles heel. Second choice and backup to complete the mission, indirect fire, the water hose and the bottle of apricot shampoo. I channeled the enemy into my lanes of fire with the sweet feed bag, I shot him in the bung hole with a cold blast of water, when he turned, I shot him all over, trajectory was paramount, as he charged, I arced the apricot shampoo into the air and it came down on him, I



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shot it with the water hose, it sudsed, I popped him on the nose with the crop, not hard mind you, I am not a cruel man and love animals. He turned and ran back to the feed bag. The next gun run started. It only took about three hours. Where there is a will there is a way. Or use head and shoulders so you don't make him mad for smelling like a girl. He was a manly mule.

Bath time is done, he is ready to go back to the mare's pasture and prance around dragging his clean tool in the mud but alas, the new vet shows up, hehehe. He is young and dumb and full of something my mom would slap me for talking about. He comes into the stall with the new door.

He grabs the boy's hoof, and hoists a leg over it while he is pulling up to clean and inspect it. I says, I would not do that if I was you. He looks at me like I am crazy, I says NO DONT STOP, like Willie Wonka in the movie, he looks down at the hoof and bang, there goes the new stall door, it was locked, I locked it. When the voice of experience speaks, heed it, listen to it, apply it, a wise man is talking to you. All new louies should get this story.

CANTRELL - A75



**Mike Cantrell at the Reunion.**

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

**RANGER VOYLES AND THE RANGER HALL OF FAME:**

Some of you may know that John Henry Voyles was nominated for the Ranger Hall of Fame (RHOF) at one point in the past, but was not inducted.

This year, Bravo Company submitted a nomination packet to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association selection committee for Ranger Voyles' inclusion as one of the three Rangers that the Association presents to the RHOF as nominees for induction into the Hall.

Ranger Voyles' nomination packet was indeed selected by the Association's selection committee as one of the three nominations that 75th RRA will make to the RHOF. As of this writing, the RHOF selection committee itself has not met, so we do not know the results of the voting on John Henry's nomination for induction into the RHOF itself, but we're glad that his remarkable career itself (as he puts it: "30 years in Ranger Land") will have the opportunity to be recognized.

We hope that by the time we submit the article for the next issue of Patrolling, we are able to report that Ranger James E. Voyles' thirty-year career in Ranger Land has been honored with a successful vote by the RHOF board to include John Henry in the next round of inductions to the Hall of Fame.

A nomination packet for the RHOF is approximately 17-18 pages, so we obviously cannot republish the entire contents here. What follows is the proposed citation we submitted to



the board (if he is selected, this would be his citation on the plaque itself):

**Proposed Citation**

CSM (Retired) James E. Voyles

CSM (Retired) James E. Voyles is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for 30 years of gallantry, heroism, and service in Ranger Units in war and peace. Ranger Voyles was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart while serving in the Republic of Vietnam in 1967 as acting Platoon Leader 2/503rd Inf., 173rd Airborne Brigade in an engagement with a superior enemy force. Despite being wounded

three times by small arms fire, he organized a defense and evacuated the wounded before evacuating himself. Ranger Voyles also served in combat in Vietnam with Co. C (Ranger) 75th Inf. (Airborne) (1970-1971), and as CSM for 2nd Ranger Battalion during Operation Urgent Fury (1983). Ranger Voyles has served in every Army NCO leadership position from fire team leader to CSM, was one of the original cadre for the 1st Ranger Battalion (1974) which helped set the standards for the new post-Vietnam U.S. Army, has mentored hundreds of students as an instructor and tactical NCO, and served as Commandant of I (US) Corps NCO Academy (1987). He is one of the most admired, respected, and emulated Rangers of his generation, leading by example throughout his entire life and military career, inspiring an entire generation of Rangers to achieve and exceed the expectations set by the Ranger Creed, Ranger history and the Ranger community. Ranger Voyles continued



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his devoted service to Rangers and Veterans with the Veteran's Administration and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association following his retirement from active duty in 1992. Ranger Voyles is a 100% Disabled Veteran, Life Member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and has worked tirelessly for the Veteran's Administration to assist his fellow veterans. Ranger Voyles holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington. Ranger Voyles truly exemplifies Leading the Way and integrally emulates 'Sua Sponte' in all that he does!

Feel free to call John Henry at his home number: 253-588-1179. Several other Company members, Richard Stutsman included, have called John Henry since the last issue of Patrolling appeared.

**JEFF RICE:**

Received the following email from Jeff:

Hi Marc;

My name is Jeff Rice. I was with Co B 75th 1st Plt. from 1972 till it disbanded in 1974. I got your name from the 75th Ranger Regiment Assoc web site.

I would like to find an old buddy Sam Snyder. Just wondering if you have had info on him so that I may contact him. I am attaching a picture of Sam Snyder (left), myself (center), and Robert Morales (right) from the old Fort Carson days. Thank You.

Sincerely

Jeff Rice

I did put Jeff in contact with Sam Snyder (Sam currently lives in the Fayetteville, N.C. area). He (Jeff) actually had professionally scanned copies of the both the Company and 1st Platoon photos from Ft. Carson, so I was able to forward those to Pat Fuscaldo, who has been looking for them.

Jeff also joined us over at ArmyRanger.com (his user ID is ezmtnbiker). Jeff's email: [JRice812@MSN.com](mailto:JRice812@MSN.com)



**Sam Snyder, Jeff Rice, Robert Morales,  
Ft. Carson, 1972-3**

**LEO STARKEY:**

Received the following email from Leo Starkey – he would like to hear from other members of the Company.:

Hooah, Hello Ranger Thompson,

I was going through the Regiment site and noticed your e-mail address. My name is Leo Starkey and I was with you at Ft Lewis both in the barracks we shared with the 1/9th Aviation and over at North Fort next to the 9th Sig. I was in the Commo Plt but what made me the most memorable was when I had to wear the barf bag around my neck for a week after vomiting in the aircraft just as I was exiting the plane on a jump. As age is catching up with me I can not remember if you were the 1SG or the SSG Thompson in Commo Plt with me. [U.D. note: it was commo, after I had recently moved there from 3rd Platoon)

Well I guess that I have bored you enough so I will sign off for now. It would be great to hear from you and other members of the Co.

RTLW

Leo

[rgr3969@hotmail.com](mailto:rgr3969@hotmail.com)

**BILL SCANLAN:**

Bill received several email responses due to his last email being published in the magazine. I'm sure he would like to hear from any other unit members who have the time to email him.

[billandmarylee@bellsouth.net](mailto:billandmarylee@bellsouth.net)

**ED WHITE:**

The Dirt is doing well, traveling for his job doing assessments to wonderful garden spots like Iowa during winter storms for a few weeks. He has passed on news or info from other unit members as noted elsewhere in the article.

[drtveddiel@msn.com](mailto:drtveddiel@msn.com)

**WILD BILL RAMSDELL:**

Got a Christmas card from Wild Bill, still in Wyoming, and still going strong:

You can contact him at: [wfr@bresnan.net](mailto:wfr@bresnan.net)

**“DOC” JEANS:**

Doc says that he finally couldn't handle the weather in Washington State anymore, that the humidity was getting to be too much for older bones. So He and his wife picked up and moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico.

His new contact information is:

Terenz “Doc” Jeans

4791 Calle De Nubes

Las Cruces, NM 88012

Home: 575-312-831

Email: [terryandnorma@yahoo.com](mailto:terryandnorma@yahoo.com)



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

Received from Larry:

Greetings,

For the first time in my life I am a home owner (me and the bank). All parties finalized the paperwork today (15 December 2009) and so there is a empty house in Cody, Wyoming waiting for me to move in.

The movers (Allied) are coming tomorrow (Wednesday) to pack everything and then the truck will be here the next day (Thursday) to load up everything and carry it to Cody. We will be leaving on Thursday after 1500 (3:00p.m.). Drive probably to the Amana Colonies, spend the night there and try to be in Cody Saturday night or Sunday. If the weather holds, there is no reason to not think this is workable.

Address is:

1231 33rd Street  
Cody, WY 82414

Tentative delivery date is 22 December 2009

Tentative phone/DSL hookup date is 23 December 2009

Christmas this year in Wyoming. Should be beautiful.

Merry Christmas

Larry

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

**HEARD FROM:****Stan Harrell**

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

No "new news" since the last address and status update.

**Richard Stutsman**

(via Dirty Eddie)

Richard is reaching retirement as a Deputy Sheriff in Cloud County, Kansas. He had mentioned to Dirty Eddie or someone else that he was looking at buying a small ranch in Colorado, something like The Dirt has himself, with a few acres and enough room to run some livestock. Dirt was saying that he was planning to get a few goats to trim the grass this spring. More info on Richard's plans as I get updated.

**Doc Schenks**

(via Dirty Eddie)

Doc is living in Maine right now, but is fairly nomadic since his wife passed away a few years ago. Left him a phone message as Doc Jeans would like to talk to him to catch up.

**John Toney:**

Dirty Eddie actually ran into John Toney when out and about and conducting his normal daily business in Colorado Springs. John had recently relocated there with his wife, and the they will get together after The Dirt returns from his most recent out-of-town business excursion. More info as available.

**ARMYRANGER.COM**

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)).

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

Until next time:

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

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

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

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

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

By now, the melting snows of winter are finally surrendering to the fresh growth and renewal that spring brings. We hope this Spring edition of Patrolling finds you and your family in good health and spirits.

On that note, we offer our deepest sympathies to our historian, Sam Rodriguez, and his family, on the passing of his beloved wife of 38 years, Dolly. Sam, with the invaluable help of his family, has given so much of his time and energy to recording and preserving our memories and history. On behalf of all Paratroopers of the VII Corps LRRP's, we offer our condolences. Thank you, Sam (and family) for your time, labor, and sacrifices on our behalf. Let us keep Sam and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

On another sad note, Tom Forde has reported that Bob Beierly passed away last year. He wrote: "It is with deep sadness that we discovered the loss of our brother, Bob Beierly. Bob served with distinction with the 82nd Airborne Division and the VII Corps Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Company from 1957 to 1964. Bob had the distinction of being the only "Eskimo" in the LRRP's. In fact, he was not an Eskimo, but part Tlinglit Alaskan Native-American. In typical army fashion, we referred to Beierly as an Eskimo because it was easier to remember. He finally gave up correcting us and accepted the Eskimo label."

Tom also writes, "I recall an incident, while on temporary assignment as gate Desk Sergeant, that Beierly came in well after bed check (12:00 AM). He was turned over to me by one of the gate guards. Not wanting him to receive a



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

Delinquency Report (they referred to all of us as delinquents), I pumped him full of coffee before transporting him to the Company. As soon as we entered the orderly room and I realized that Zeke Evaro was CQ that night. We knew the game was up. Zeke was known as a tight-assed, by-the-book, disciplined soldier. As I left the jeep, I observed through the window, Zeke shouting at Bob, as Bob tried (unsuccessfully) to stand at attention. The next day Bob informed me that it would have been easier receiving the DR. He truly was a great guy who never complained, and retained his great sense of humor. In communicating with his family, I came to realize that he was an integral part of a loving family, who mourned his passing deeply. Bob Beierly was heavily involved in the Tlinglit-Haida Native-American community, especially the youth programs. He worked as a backhoe operator on the entire Alaskan pipeline. Rest in Peace, Brother Beierly, RA 29243942, United States Army Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (Airborne)."

Some of us knew Beierly (we didn't have first names back then) well at the time, but like many others, we lost contact with "The Eskimo", as he was affectionately known. He and I arrived at LRRP HQ in Germany and were promoted to Pfc at the same time. Fellas, remember, every time one of us dies forgotten or ignored, a piece of us dies with him, and that's a shame on us; otherwise "brother" has a hollow ring. That's what we are and that's the way we are. Help find our lost brothers and bring them home to the company. There was a time when we were the lone airborne LRRP Company attached to and in the midst of hostile "legs", but we relied on each other then. We owe no less to ourselves 50 years later. Today is no different. If you know of a sick, injured, or fallen LRRP/Ranger, let Zeke (and us) know, so that he/we can do what he feels is appropriate within his role as Chaplain.

Sick Call: Zeke continues to rehab his shoulder, while "Bluto" Black is trying to recuperate from some scum bag thieves (a blanket party is in order) and a careless Tampa driver that nearly took him out. Shoulda stayed in NY, Brother! Gene Attaway is still strong in spirit, even if weakened a tad by a stroke and his fall from his bed (not at the VA). Sergeant Major, ever hear of a PLF? Zeke is checking up on Sam Storey and his stroke, so we may have more on him later.

Listen up, you guys. You're too young to be kicking buckets and taking up needed space in nursing homes meant for "legs". Start eating right, exercising daily and seeing your doctor for an annual checkup. The Army took really great care (?) of you then; you take care of yourself now. There are no guarantees in life, but you owe it to yourself, your family and to us to stop being selfish by neglecting yourself.

A final note and correction on our off-year reunion: We will meet in Branson, MO, from Aug 2-6. We got a really good group offer on the four nights at a great hotel, the Barrington Hotel and Suites. I won't bother you with the details since you'll hear more about it through our USPS/e-mail systems. The cost is better than the \$360 for the four nights we gave you earlier. Make your own reservations, through Branson Tourism Center at 1-800-268-4014. Ask for the LRRP/Ranger group offer (we need 20 paid guests) from Veronica Nichols. Cancellation is easy, if necessary. See you in Branson!

Pvt. Foster, USA LRRP Co (Abn)  
VII Corps

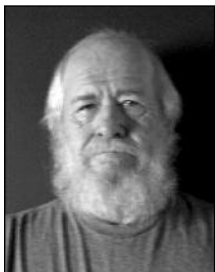


### **C/75 - E/20 LRP**

**Unit Director - Del Ayers**

#### **A little known fact about E Co.**

After the initial missions in November over Thanksgiving 1967, the 4th Platoon returned to camp Arni. It was at this time that Maj. Malone decided to send some members of the 4th Platoon up north to work with the 1st Recon Battalion 1st Marine Div. out of Da Nang.



Although my memory has slipped some of the members that went to participate were SSG Nobles, Tom Workman, Ray Bohrer, John Higgins and myself. Don't get me wrong I respect the men and

women who serve in the U.S. Marines, at that time their operating mode and training totally differed from ours.

Myself and John Higgins were assigned to a 12 man patrol 1st difference in operational agendas, secondly our reaction to the insertion was one of complete astonishment we were to be trucked to a drop off point and from there walk into our PZ, no choppers, next was what to do if contact was made as E Company members we could expect extraction by chopper, they (Marines) expected the team to fight our way to high ground and fight until a Infantry Company could come to us, although we could expect the excellent (common knowledge) Marines close air support the fact that a 12 man team was expected to hold off an unknown number of enemy troops, this type of procedure as we



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

found out can be costly, the mission prior to us arriving there was called Texas Pete, the patrol made contact with an NVA company, before being relieved they sustained 90% casualties. Finding this out we did not feel to confident in our survival chances.

Briefings were the same as E Companies, with the exception that they already knew that the PZ was crawling with NVA, I was placed third in command and walked third from the point, best feeling was Higgins was behind me a known quainty. As I stated our insertion was by truck along Highway One everybody and their brother saw us go in so much for stealth. Surprising enough we made a few sightings and called in some artillery and Naval gun fire ( that was pretty cool) then the next surprise came our extraction mode, plan change number 100, make our way to the blue line and wait for an Am track to pick us up and take us to a highway to be picked up by a truck for transportation back to base. For those who are not familiar with a AM Track it was like an iron coffin in water, choices were ride inside if hit by an RPG it would sink and you would in all likelihood drown or on top in which case you had no cover but could fight back, to say none the less we all chose to ride on top and take our chances. The return trip proved to be uneventful. Debriefing basically the same as E Company.

Ray Bohrer remembers his mission was a Platoon Operation setting up a OP, the same insertion MO as mine trucked in and trucked out, we all agreed thank the lord for helicopters.

Next surprise, after all of the E Company men were back the Recon Battalion XO set up a parachute jump just for us. The jump was nothing special, except we tail gated a Caribou, ( interesting note the Battalion Ox's name was Walker who happened to be an heir to the Hiram Walker whisky distillery's and a little weird to say the none the less). On our return to E Company we all had learned to appreciate the support we got during our operations. We did make a lot of Marine friends during our stay, and I still have a lot of respect for the Marines, just glad I was with E Company.

Milt Hendrickson is an original E-20 4th Platoon member. Milt left the Army after 4 ½ years to serve with the U.S. Navy. His assignments with the Navy were two years Special Ops and 17 years with the Sea Bees as a heavy equipment operator.



After retiring from the Navy Milt worked for 20 years as a Captain with the Storey County Fire Department fighting wild fires in the western states including the Rodeo Chedisky fire in Arizona. Milt was also a martial arts instructor in Reno Nevada. Forty-three years of dedicated service exemplify the E-20 spirit, pride and commitment.

Milt and his bride Judy, of forty-three years, now live in Florida close to children and grandchildren.

Milt has documented the dedication, flexibility and determination the young soldiers of E-20 were engaged in to defeat

a determined NVA attack strategy leading up to the failed TET offensive.

Forty-three years ago Milt Hendrickson stepped up to be a member of E-20 then continued to serve and retired from the Navy. He continued serving others with the fire service. Although Milt is very busy with family, diving, fishing and golfing he still finds time to dedicate to E-20/C-75 association business.

Milt "Welcome Home", and thank you for your service. You have done E-20 proud.

### **E 20/C 75 GATHERING 10-10-10**

I am very excited at the response to our west coast Ranger Association gathering. I am also looking forward to the 2011 reunion at Ft. Benning.

I am excited to tell you about the "off year" social event at AVI Resort on the Colorado River. A number of E 20/C 75 Rangers who have been unable to travel to Ft. Benning will be able to make it to Laughlin Nevada on the west coast 10-10-10 to 10-13-10. It will be the first reunion for some.

Avi Resort and Casino 1-800-248-2946. Use G E 20/C 75 for group reservations. Room rates range from \$27.00 to \$43.00. Avi is a 1 1/2 hr drive from Las Vegas McCarin Airport and a 2 ½ hr drive from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport.

You can check out the Avi website. Avi has a golf course, RV Park, private beach on the river, boat rentals and a large pool complex. The Grand Canyon Skywalk is 3 hours north, the London Bridge Village is 1 hour south and Oatman mining town (complete with wild west gunfights)



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

is 30 minutes east. Good news ladies there is an outlet mall 20 minutes away.

Questions, concerns or comments call me at 602-840-9676. There are no registration fees, no dinner deposits, T shirt purchases or pre-pays.

This rendezvous is not exclusive to E 20/C 75 rangers, as several young rangers I know have asked to be included. We welcome each of them and our families along with all 75th Rangers.

The Avi Veterans coordinator has committed to making this reunion a memorable event. If I have an idea of how many Rangers are planning to attend by July, I will be able to put together a plan for a group dinner or picnic

E/20 - C/75 President  
Del Ayers

**Ranger Brother John C. Swain**

By Chuck Vaughn

I recently received a letter from Mrs. Marsha Swain, who told me a little about her husband & soul-mate John. John

suffered a stroke, which left him completely disabled in 1999. He cannot write or speak much, but he totally understands and remembers everything. Marsha says he would love be an active part of reunions and other events if he could speak.

John served in C Company, and O Company Rangers, mostly in the Central Highlands 1969-1970. He remembers being there with fellow Rangers: Doug Pye, Ricky Hogg, Mike Feller, George Martinez, Tom Monahand, Don Harris, and Robert Slade.

Marsha included in her letter these photos of a “BOULDER” John ordered custom made from a fellow veteran at the Vietnam Veteran’s reunion they attended in Kokomo, Indiana this past September. John (looking like one of the “crusty old dudes”) is seen standing at his home by the marker in front of his flag pole.

Anyone wishing to contact John can do so at: <marshaswainoo@aol.com> or call at (517) 655-3716. We love you Brother John & Sister Marsha, and we wish you the very best.

	<p><b>D/75</b> <b>Unit Director - Richard “Herd” Nelson</b></p>
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As I write this article I am going to start out informing you all that we have set the dates of our get together in South Dakota as June 10th through the 14th. We will again be visiting several of the great sites in the Black Hills. We had such a wonderful time out there in 2008; I am looking forward to being there again. There are several people who have already expressed an interest in attending. Some of the sites that are on the tentative list to visit are Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse Mountain Carving and Museum, Jewel Cave, possibly the Dinosaur museum in Hill City, The mammoth site in Hot Springs where most of us will be staying, and possibly a trip up to Deadwood where Wild Bill Hickock was shot in a poker game. If any of you who haven’t received the information about this get-together by snail mail from Moe and Cindy please contact me and we will get that information out to you. My contact information is available in this magazine and also on the 75th Ranger Regiment Association Web Site. Moe has set a tentative



schedule of events which is still open to change based on input he will receive from people who plan to attend.

I guess the second order of business is to inform you all that one of our own has passed away since my last article. He was Gerald “JB” Brantley. JB joined D 151 at Ft Benning Ga. for training before they all went to Vietnam as a Unit. He was the first in the unit to get wounded after they got in-country. When D151 went home he was one of the guys that stayed behind and helped train us before they derosed in

December of 1969. At the last reunion at Ft Benning we found out that we only lived about 10 miles from each other and had just started communicating with each other, and he had just started attending a couple of meetings with me of the Vietnam Brotherhood, a social gathering we have here in Florida. He was living with and taking care of his 91 year old mother and disabled Brother. There is no cause of death determined at this point and his family was told that it



**D/75 (CONTINUED)**

might take up to six months to complete the autopsy. When he got home on December 17th he told his mother that he was really tired and was going to take a nap until it was time for supper. He then laid down on the couch and when his mother checked on him about 25 minutes later he was deceased. Please keep his family in your prayers.

As I have been talking with other members of D Company it would seem that many of us are having an unusually cold winter this year. Bill Fitzgerald who lives in upstate New York says they are having less snow this year but much colder weather. He and his wife Kathy are doing well though. Their daughter Eileen is still serving in the Middle East, so of course there is always concern for her safety, all is well now.

Frank Park is enjoying his retirement and has been spending some time with his son Frank Jr. Frank Jr. is currently serving with the 10th Mountain Division. He is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in Mid-March. At the time of the writing of this article Frank Sr. said they had to dig themselves out of the snow, they had gotten about 12 inches. He said that he may look for some part time work in the spring but was keeping himself busy working around the house and his property.

When I talked with Richard "Bear" Papp today he told me his son Willie will be discharged from the Army in 13 days. He hopes to become a police officer near Ft. Hood Texas where he is currently stationed. He has passed the physicals for this job and has also passed the written exams. He has also been offered a job in Iraq with a private security company; this job would be providing security on the military installations in Iraq. He is considering this job if he doesn't land the job as a police officer. He and his wife are expecting their first child this fall. Bear said that they received a good deal of snow this week at least for Texas, 4-5 inches. He says they don't usually get much snow, so this is a lot for them.

Ken and Linda Dern are still alive and well in Jacksonville, Fla. It has been really cold up there and as Ken has a painting Company it has affected his ability to work. They are alright though and just trying to stay warm. Since social security has forced him to go on Medicare he is starting to apply for the VA benefits he is entitled to. He had his first physical there this week and he likes the Doctor that the VA assigned him to. They can provide his heart medication for the small co-pay and want him to take the new Agent Orange test the VA has come up with, if the test comes back positive he will be able to file a claim on his heart and possibly have it rated as service connected.

Tom Delaney has started a few new businesses since he retired. A lawn service, auto detailing service, and a couple

of handyman services, of course he is his only customer, and the pay is nonexistent. That's what he told me when I asked him how he was enjoying his retirement. He does plan on going fishing next week even if it is still cold. He said that they had received about five inches of snow there at Fayetteville; most of us who have been stationed there know that is a lot for them. The County and City have been salting the main roads, but people have to fend for themselves in their neighborhoods. There aren't snow plows in this part of the country.

When I talked with Billy Faulks this week he told me he and his family are doing well. He says he is going to have a busy year as he and his wife are going to D.C. for a vacation, then out to the Back Hills as well as the D 151 get-together. As with several others I've been talking to they received 4-5 inches of snow there in Macon Ga.

When I talked with Steve Meade on Valentines Day he was in Great Spirits, They were expecting a snow storm that night, but he is going to be OK because he plans to hunker down bunker style and wait for spring. He is still planning to attend our get-together in The Black Hills this June. At the present time he plans to stop along the way and pick up other Rangers like Larry Pickle and Roger Barb.

Mike Warren is enjoying his retirement and can spend more time with his grandchildren. His house is in a little holler between a couple of small mountains and when they have been getting snow the kids want to get out and ride their sleds down the hill. Mike has been having some trouble with his back lately so I have picked on him telling him if he had remembered how to do a good PLF when he fell off the scaffold a couple of years ago he probable wouldn't be hurting now.

Several of you know that Carl "Warlord 1-6" has been diagnosed with Lymphoma. For the rest of you here are a few lines out of medical updates that he has been sending to those of us who have computers. He started having trouble with a cough around the time we were at the FT Benning Reunion last August. After a battery of tests they are about ready to start the treatment. There were no cancer cell in the bone marrow; meaning that it has not spread and should be easier to treat. The one thing to keep in mind is this is not a death sentence. Lymphoma is very treatable and with the aggressive chemo for the six months, over seventy percent of the patients are in complete remission and it never returns. It is just going to be a rough year. I don't need any assistance or anything of that nature. The only thing I need is just to remain in everyone's thoughts and prayers. However, thanks for being there should I need help. All my medical expenses are 100% covered by VA, Medicare Part A & B and Tricare-For-Life. I am grateful



**D/75 (CONTINUED)**

for all of that. I don't even have to fill out any paperwork. When I talked with Ed "Maddog" Krause he and his wife were doing OK. He has gone back to work since the VA has denied his unemployability claim. He has three of his Doctors that are writing letters explaining why he shouldn't be working. When he receives them they will appeal the VA's Decision. He said that they were not getting any more snow than usual for this time of year for them.

When I talked with Wally Hawkins they were experiencing a snow storm at the time, but they were OK. Matthew, their grandson was going to be playing in a Basketball tournament that night. Carolyn his wife told him to tell me that if it kept snowing up there in Tenn. they might move down here to Central Florida. I told him to tell her that we were having record breaking cold temperatures here for us this winter.

Moe and Cindy are well up there in the Black hills and working on the planning of our get-together out there in June. Moe is also busy with his fencing company but this time of year they do have to take some days off due to the cold. Both are still involved with the fire department as Moe is still training fire fighters and I don't know the exact title of what Cindy does but I got the impression that she is a volunteer secretary with their fire district. One day when we were in one of our record breaking days here I mentioned it to Cindy and she sent me a link to their local weather station and it was 17 below that morning.

I have talked with Richard Badmilk several times since our last magazine and he and his wife Deb are doing just fine. The last time he and the family were just entering a mall up there to do some shopping and it was 5 degrees. They are also looking forward to the get-together up there in their neck of the woods.

Last week I also had a good talk with Don "Vic" Vicarro from New York and he was doing well. He was looking for someplace other than where our records are supposed to be kept to help a friend of his that was told his records must have been burned in the fire they had way back when. What I have been told is that it was the Korean veteran's records that burned not Vietnam vets. I don't know that for sure though. If any of you have any ideas on this matter please contact me so I can forward that information on to Vic.

Gary and Alice Olson are doing well but like most of us here down south, they have to deal with very cold temperatures for us. He said they also got 4 or 5 inches of snow last week. That is a lot for southern Alabama. He will not be able to join us in the Black Hills as it will be election time and he will be out campaigning for his son who is the Sheriff.

As for me I have been just trying to stay warm, and I haven't been able to get outside and work on any of my wood working project. The temperatures here have been running about 20 degrees below normal for us this time of year. Where our daytime temperatures should be in the high 60's or low 70's we have been in the 40's or 50's and the night time temps are in the 30's, now before you e-mail me and tell me you would trade those temps with yours, remember you are supposed to have the bad winters and nice summers, while we have the nice winters and scalding hot summers and hurricanes. Our stores don't stock clothing that is for those low temps; even if they did we would only have use of them right now and then go back to our normal temps. The only other thing I have going on here is that I am making all of my plans to head out to the Black Hills this June.

For those of you that are planning to stay in one of the hotels I would suggest you book early as it will be tourist season in June.

The photos I am submitting are from our last reunion at Ft. Benning, two are photos with JB in them, and he is next to Daniel Hughes in both of them. One is of Tom Delaney (sitting) and Vic, Shane and Lou (Standing) in front of the hotel and the other one is of Billy Faulks. I am adding the first two so that people who didn't remember him know which one of our brothers had passed on. The other two are just to let the people who haven't been able to attend our reunions get to see what we are looking like now a days. Shane and Lou are the son and widow of Rusty Hawk.

RLTW  
Herd Out





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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

I'm proud to report that E Company has once again lived up to the Ranger standard for never leaving one of our own behind. Earlier this year we received an email from Vietnam stating that Bao, one of the PRU's who so faithfully assisted us when we were In Country, was in serious condition in a Vietnamese hospital. Furthermore, we learned that Bao did not have medical insurance to cover the costs of an operation and that unless he came up with the necessary funds, he could lose his house.

Bill Cheek immediately agreed to head up a collection effort and close to \$3,000 was donated by members of E Company and sent to Vietnam. I'm happy to report that the surgery was successful and that Bao was released from the hospital on Feb 1st (and he still has his house.) His good friend, Nhan, wrote and said that Bao's recovery has gone well because he knew his old Ranger buddies had his back when he needed help. Thanks to all who contributed to Bao's operation and showing that Rangers lead the way.

Doug MacCallum has been leading the way in scouting out accommodations for two E Company reunions in May. Mac, along with Duane "Pancho" Alire, are putting together a great time May 2-9 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The fact that E Company will be "out West" will enable folks to attend a reunion who are unable to make it to Georgia later in the month. I understand that Bill Davis and Don Naughton both are planning to be in Santa Fe for their first-ever E Company reunion. Welcome home.

The Georgia reunion will take place in Dahlonge May 26-30 in connection with the Fallen Ranger ceremony during



which two E Company Rangers, Joe Castanga and Emory Parrish, will be among those honored. Mac has lined up the Days Inn in Dahlonge (706-864-2338) as our reunion headquarters. The rooms are going fast so don't delay if you have not already made your reservations. It will be a special event to meet with members of the Castanga and Parrish families who plan to attend the ceremony. Joe and Emory were outstanding Rangers who are missed by all who knew them.

I hope our unit members who live in the DC area have dug out from the snowstorms that hit them in February. Bob Wallace is one of them and he is also one of the unit's published authors. His latest

book is "Spycraft," a look at the secret history of the CIA's spytechs. The book can be ordered from Bob, signed and shipped; hardback, \$30.00; paperback \$18.00: Bob Wallace, 2640 Wild Cherry Place, Reston, VA 20191.

When the blizzards shut down Washington for several days, sentinels from the Army's Old Guard were still walking their beat 24/7 in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington. Now that's dedication. Those guys would make good Rangers.

I have asked past-director Bob Copeland if he would bring his camera to Santa Fe and Dahlonge to take reunion photos for the next issue of "Patrolling" and he agreed to do so. But even better than looking at pictures, we hope that you can attend in person so you can see for yourself why we always say that...

Rangers Lead The Way

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

Unit Director - Tim Walsh

Greetings once again.

I want to encourage everyone to send me "stuff" for this magazine. Patrolling is our way of keeping in touch, as well as letting you know about all other things "Ranger". This issue contains two submittals from our guys: a very humorous recollection courtesy of Gene Tucker, about the way we used to, ah, acquire the equipment and gear we needed in-country, and a heartfelt request from Marshall Huckaby. Any story, either in-country or out-country (is

that a word?) can be sent to me. Now, I won't say that everything I get will find its way to the magazine, but please send me your thoughts, stories, pictures (especially stories with pictures) and any other material that's even remotely associated with our shared experiences. I'll do my best to get that stuff in the magazine. Thanks.

Speaking of pictures... Dick Ewald sent me a couple of great pix recently. It seems that he was talked into taking



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

the plunge. No, not THAT plunge, a Polar Bear Plunge. As I understand it, his son-in-law, Gordon convinced him to dive into the 42 degree water. Dick was one of approximately 300 other, ah, enthusiasts who voluntarily took the plunge. One question: I wonder if his voice is back to normal yet? That's him in the flowered shirt with Gordon.

Hopefully everybody already knows... but the plans for the off-year F/75 reunion in Hawaii have been finalized! We're arriving on Oahu on April 20, staying at the Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel (2570 Kalakaua Ave., 877-997-6667, about \$109.00/day) until April 26 then going to the Big Island - Hawaii and staying at the Kona Seaside Hotel for the remainder. On Hawaii my wife & I are staying on Kona until May 3, but you can stay as long, or short, as you'd like. Theresa & I are probably flying from Detroit, thru Dallas on to Oahu on American Airlines. On April 26th, we'll be flying from Oahu to Kona on Hawaiian Airlines (Flight # 168). We made some of our arrangements through AAA, but you can also book the Kona Seaside online at: <http://seasidehotelshawaii.com>. Rates start at \$79.00/day! We called their toll-free number (800-560-5558), told them we're AAA members and got an additional discount. Please call me if you have any questions (313-590-6673) and **definitely** email me at: [twalshx2@comcast.net](mailto:twalshx2@comcast.net) to let me know if you'll be joining us because Mona and Pineapple (Gurrobat) have lined up some great things to do on both Oahu and on "their" island, Hawaii (so we need an accurate head count). Hope to see you there.

This is from Gene Tucker:

**Between June and August 1966 (surely thereafter also)**

### **THE FANS**

The enterprising young soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division (LRRP) began to requisition and acquire equipment.

Let us begin with the 10 position (Switch) fans in our GP Medium tents. Once while on a trip to Saigon, Jerry Spicer, Hugh Howerton and I (Gene Tucker) visited the US Air force base at Ton Son Nhut just outside of Saigon.

While there we discovered that all airmen received ration pay each month and that they used it to support their lady friends in Saigon and other nearby villages. Using these funds for this purpose they missed many meals. Now being



good LRRPs we decided to use this opportunity to our advantage. We happened upon this freak happenstance when one of the Air Force NCOs mentioned that they could use some "C" rations.

LRRPs being resourceful we decided to see just what we could get in trade for the "C" rations. The NCO said we could have just about anything that we wanted. He mentioned that he knew our GP medium tents we extremely hot and that he could get some fans for us to keep ourselves cool with. They were 10 position (Speed) fan. That sounded good for a start but then

we mentioned that we did not have the electrical knowledge to install them He provided an electrician to install them for us. We went back to Cu Chi and began to get our "C" rations. Not many folks knew it but each "G" section at the Division Headquarters had a "Ration" card to be used at the ration control point and the ration control point also had a Class 6 (Liquor) outlet. I knew a Specialist 4 at the G2 office and was able to obtain the ration card. We purchased a few bottles of good Scotch and whiskey. Having these prized bottles we were able to trade them for about twenty cases of "C" rations. We traded the "C" rations for the fans and the ability to have them installed. They sure did feel good.

### **THE GENERATOR**

After a couple of weeks we were approached by the First Sergeant of "D" Troop ¾ cav. It was the unit we were sort of attached to for rations and quarters. Now the First Sergeant said that we were draining or using too much power on their generator and that we were going to have to disconnect the fans. We of course did as requested.

So, down we go to the Air Force sergeant with a few more cases of "C" rations and ask for a generator. Well, he immediately said we did not have enough "C" rations for a generator. I feel sure that you now know the routine. Get the card from G2 and so on. Having forty or so cases of "C" rations off we go to the Air Force.

We had a jeep but were immediately told that we needed a 2 ½ ton truck to move the generator. We were used to a small gasoline generator being grunts. The NCO informed us this one we needed was considerably larger. When we went to check it out we then understood. It was a really large one on a trailer with all kinds of wiring. So we got the truck (that's another story).



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

Once we acquired the truck the NCO took us back to the flight line. Once we arrived he just had us hook the trailer up to the generator. It was still running at the time. Away we drove pulling the wires loose from the junction box that it was connected to, I thought we were going to get a junction box also but alas we did not.

Now came the tricky part we had to go out the security gate at the air base. First we stopped the truck and stopped the generator from running. *This is contrary to another version of the story that has the generator still running with the wires sparking as we drove up the MSR to Cu Chi.* We did not think the Air Police (APs) would let us out the gate with the generator still running. They would have caught up with us in that 2 ½ ton truck in all the traffic of Saigon if we had run through the gate and then the caper would be up.

The Air Force Sergeant was riding shotgun and when we did stop at the gate the APs ask us where we were taking the generator. Well the sergeant told them it was not functioning and that it was need on the flight line quickly to keep the aircraft flying. He also said it was completely out of order and needed to be taken to “Long Ben” supply depot to be exchanged. Out the gate we went and off to the rally point for convoy to Cu Chi. We gave the sergeant a few piaster’s for a cyclo back to his base and off we were for Cu Chi.

Once hooked up the first Sergeant and Commander were happy. Soon after that the commander asked if he could use the generator as backup in case his went out. I cannot confirm it but I also heard that the Division TOC asked for an connection in case they had a power shortage.

**JEEPS**

Our team was walking past the docks in Saigon one day and we observed many brand new jeeps being off loaded from ships. They sure did look good to us and we thought the LRRP unit at Cu Chi should have a jeep or two. After carefully observing them being off loaded we discovered that we may be able to get two for our LRRP unit.

It was Hugh Howerton who came up with the idea. Some privates were going to a Master Sergeant and he would give them some directions. They then would go inside the ship and soon drive out with a jeep. The Master Sergeant would then tell them something else and away they would drive with a jeep. We figured we could have a couple of our guys do that easy enough. We then removed our rank from our uniforms and approached the Master Sergeant. He told us which Hold and how to get there for a jeep. We were to see him when we returned dockside. So me and Nathaniel Perry went inside and got two jeeps. The remainder of the team waited outside, close by incase something went

wrong and we needed to get out of there in a hurry.

It couldn’t be as easy as this. When we got outside the Master Sergeant told me to go by this route to a parking area with my jeep. He told Perry to go to a different area. Well we stopped a few blocks down the street and conferred. We went straight to the rally area for Cu Chi and drove the jeeps with the other three team members to Cu Chi in the next convoy. We kept them hidden in the 1 – 27th Infantry area with a friend of mine until we could get the bumper markings on them, We never kept them in a motor pool area for fear of them being discovered but we did keep them parked close by our tents so we did not have to walk too far for transportation.

Sorry I was not involved in the tank or typewriter acquisitions or any other procurement for that matter. Well maybe a few others. But, I suffer from CRS when it comes to some things.

Gene Tucker  
LRRP 1966  
25th ID

This is from Marshall Huckaby:

**Honoring our Friends and our Service.**

For over forty years I had pondered over just where SP4 Ervin Laird, the first LRRP KIA was buried. I finally got off my “can” and started looking and with some assistance from some local folks in North Canton, OH, I found his final resting place. Now my task is to make a visit. Our friends should not be forgotten or their service left unknown. I am getting a paver with his information placed at the Ohio Vietnam Memorial.

One of the 1966 D Troop, 3/4 Pilots contacted me about putting a paver at the NJ Memorial for the 1966 LRRPs who worked with them, so I contact a few people and we came up with \$250 to do that.

I contacted Dan Nate, Bill Mrkvicka, Tim Walsh and others about getting a paver for F Company also placed at the memorial. They are on board so I will be taking donations to get \$250 for that paver. What I propose is that we (you and I) get pavers for all of the State Vietnam Memorials, to read something like this:

**For the LRRPs/LRPs/Rangers of F Company, 25th ID, Vietnam 1966-1971.**

If you want to do this, I’ll volunteer to collect the donations or I will send my donations to someone else, it doesn’t matter to me. If I collect them, I’ll give the Unit Director a monthly tally of what we have.



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

What you can do is get the information for your state (even Hawaii, "Pineapple") and find out the cost and how we get the money to them.

Fellows, our time is running out. I'll go ahead and pledge \$10 for each state paver. See, we don't have that far to go.

Marshall Huckaby  
25th ID LRRPs 66-67.

Until next time - live long and prosper  
Tim Walsh  
313-590-6673  
[twalshx2@comcast.net](mailto:twalshx2@comcast.net)

This is my first time ever submitting anything to Patrolling, but I'm going to try and tell you about a mission in the Bo Loi Woods that could have ended up a major disaster, but apparently someone above was watching over team 14 on this day.

Sometime in 1969, team 14 (mini heavy – 9 or 10) was sent out in the BoLoi Woods to monitor enemy activity, and of course get a body count. This was a track insertion (we hopped off, and the mechanized unit kept going).

On day one, while trying to get a little elevation, as I was standing on a stump or branches to see if I could see anything, and AK-47 opened up with a burst and I hit the deck as fast as I could, not realizing at the time, that they were not really firing at me. A protruding stick on the ground came really close to hitting my privates, but I ended up with nothing more than a scratch on my inner thigh (not sure I ever told my team mates about this). Later this day we moved further back in the jungle, to try and make sure if we had been observed or heard, they would not be able to locate us that evening.

On day two, we pretty much stayed where we were



(concealed), and I really can't recall much of anything happening.

On day three we moved up to a fairly well traveled trail, and set out our claymores in preparation to spring an ambush in the event Charley came by. Well he came by all right. Lambert, Mr. M60, and on our left flank (before becoming Top's jeep driver, and maybe his last mission), passed the word down to me that we had approaching enemy. The lead was an NVA walking at the ready, and headed right towards us. And here's where the lord above was our saving grace. The NVA at the ready did not come into our kill zone, but actually followed a fork in the trail, that took them on the outskirts of the trees. As it turns out we counted nearly 80 in all (some were porters), but most were NVA well equipped. Had they come into our kill zone for sure I would have blown our bush, and because of the overwhelming numbers, I'm afraid we could have ended up chopped beef. While no body count, that we know of, as I did call in artillery on the trail they were following. Later that night a mechanized night logger unit was attacked, just south of our position, and almost for sure the same bad guys that we had seen heading that way.

On day four, the remnants of what was once a very sharp looking NVA company, a rag tag bunch of what appeared to be mostly porters, running, limping, and headed north. It happened to fast to react, but still today, I really wish we had gone after them.

Regardless, and the point of this short story, is just to share with you, that if that lead NVA, had chose to come inside the trees, and into our kill zone, I might not be telling you this story.

Team 14 Members, that I can remember: Kauffman, Scherrel, Lambert, Cain, Workman, Dunbar, Slim.





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

Unit Director - Clifford M. Manning

**ATTITUDE**

During my lifetime I have seen and been around people with bad and good attitudes, people in the military and civilian life. Bad attitudes hurt the individual and all people and loved ones that the individual comes in contact with. There are some people you just cannot please. That's attitude.

Attitude can be changed or controlled.

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, education, money, circumstances, failures, successes and what other people think or say and do.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past or change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable, the only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it, and so it is with you. We are in charge of our attitudes.

Rangers Lead the Way

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

Unit Director - William T. Anton

Keith N. Phillips  
Kemp, TX

Shoot low Rangers, they're ridden Shetlands!

Don't ask me what movie that came from but I have always liked the saying. The Holidays have come and gone just as fast as the last Reunion. My thoughts quite often were with our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and remembering the Christmas I spent in Nam. As we all say, only those who have been there understand.

The mission I was on just prior to the "cease fire(?)" for Christmas in 1971 is one that stands out in my mind because of a brief moment and phrase that makes me chuckle to this day. The Team was composed of Woody (Ronald Wood) Team Leader, "Smitty" (Thomas E. Smith, KIA 02/20/72) Assistant Team Leader, "Stubby" bottom right of Team picture in my pics on the web site, "Jackson" (David W. Jackson), and "Unknown" top right of Team pic". I have always thought his name was Cooper. He carried a Swedish 9mm submachine gun.



Anyway, I was walking Rear Scout and was sure we were being followed. Smitty and Woody peeled off as the rest of the Team continued to parallel a hard packed trail. We had barely gone 10 meters before all hell broke loose. Smitty and Woody ambushed three Viet Cong who had been following us. As I was lying on my back, reloading, utilizing my ruck sack for cover ( the ruck contained 3 claymores, 4 pounds of C4, det cord, 300 rounds of ammunition, 2 Willie Pete grenades, extra smoke grenades, extra frags, 15 second fuses, and of course 10 gallons of water and a few LRRP meals), I kept hearing someone yelling Phillips. As I looked to my left I saw Jackson with this grin on his face and he yelled, "You can smoke now, I think they know where we

are!" His statement was due to the fact I always kept an unlit cigarette in my mouth. We all made it out OK and sometime during the mayhem I broke the cigarette. Anyway, so much for war stories.

On July 29th I received a call from Capt Carl W. Childress asking if I could attend the funeral of a WWII Ranger, Col



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

Leilyn M. Young in Longview, Texas. I explained I would be honored to do so and as it turned out there would be two other Co H Rangers attending the funeral with me. Benny Gentry had come down to Texas for the Ron Hall Motorcycle Poker Run and “DOC” Gilchrest came up from China Springs, Texas to attend the funeral. Col. Young during his 32-year career in the U. S. Army, served overseas during WWII with the 34th Infantry in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Great Britain. He volunteered for ranger training under Gen. Wm Darby in the 1st Ranger Battalion in Tunisia and Sicily. After the war, he was based at NATO Headquarters in Naples, Italy. He was a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and also the Army War College. Col. Young served as executive officer for the Seventh Infantry Division in Korea and later became Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Training Center at Ft. Polk, LA. During the Vietnam War, he was chief of psychological warfare in the Pacific under Admiral John McCain and then received orders to report to the Pentagon, where he was Deputy Director of special operations for the Army. He was awarded the Legion of Merit three times, the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

We were humbled and honored to be present at his services and his wife asked that we sit with the family during the service. Other Rangers in attendance were Dale Hansen Co

A Rangers and Sam Pullara Co E and Co C Rangers.

Benny Gentry has been in touch with Wyman Smith’s wife since his death in February of 04. Wyman died in a motorcycle accident. His wife wishes to know more about his life as a LRRP and Benny has asked her to attend the next reunion or the reunion in Louisville. The address and phone number on the rooster are correct. I encourage both those who knew Wyman in Nam (67-68) and those who only know him as one of our brothers to call and encourage her attendance.

Rumor has it that “Doc’s” barn has been under water and he had a heck of a time getting his THREE motorcycles out of the barn before the water got to high. I wish I had been there to help and of course to photo document the event.

Rumor further has it that “Russell” as in John D. has had a hard time keeping his Kawasaki out of the shop. That’s what happens when you don’t buy American products.

Last but not least Benny has a new Granddaughter, Adalyn Brooke Gentry, three months old. All are doing well including Benny.

Keep Your Powder Dry

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

Unit Director - Bob McGath



I have asked in the past and I am asking again for you guys to get off your duffs and submit your stories to be published. This is your area to tell the rest of the world what the unit was like and the missions that you went out on, when each of you belonged with F Company 52nd Inf and



I Company 75th Rangers 1st Inf Div. Seriously gentlemen this section is your use and I am only the go between. With that said, two guys from the unit have responded this issue with a Story and a poem.

First, I consider it a great tribute to a person when they take the time and think enough of an individual to write a tribute like Danny Wiggins has done about Julian Rincon.



I can say from personal experience that Julian deserves everything that Danny has said about him. I knew Julian when he was in the unit in Nam and considered him a friend then and now.



**Julian Rincon in the bush.**



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

by Danny Wiggins

*There was something different about Team Wildcat 7 of F Co. 52nd Inf. LRRPs / I Co. 75 Inf. Rangers. I was assistant team leader on this team for approximately eight months of my tour in Vietnam and this is my story about the exceptional Mexican / American soldier from Pico Rivera, California, who was its Team Leader. He was the primary factor in the success of this special team and for bringing the team members back safely after each mission.*

*I don't know what prepared Sgt. Rincon to be such a special team leader. Was it his ancestry, his environment as a young boy, the hardships he encountered, or the special training in the military, including NCOIC (Non Commissioned Officer Infantry Course) School at Ft. Benning, Georgia and Special Forces Recondo School? Whatever the single or combination of events, he must have been destined to lead one of the best LRRP / Ranger teams ever assembled in Vietnam. Not only was he respected and admired by the fortunate soldiers who had the honor of performing missions with him; but, also by Team Leaders, several whom he helped train upon their arrival and others who trusted and leaned on his experience and his knowledge of jungle warfare.*

*Shortly after I met this young soldier, we became team members and this turned into a great friendship only after several missions. I remember Rincon being a mild mannered individual who was easy to talk to and was proud of his humble upbringing as a Hispanic in the Los Angeles area. I found out that he had attended NCO school but I wasn't too impressed. I had known a few instant NCOs in AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) and my experience with them was far from being enjoyable. Being a country boy from North Carolina, I had been raised fishing and hunting game in the woods and swamps all of my young life. I owned my own gun at age twelve and could sneak up on animals without them knowing I was even in the woods. I was bigger, stronger, and I thought, a better soldier than Sgt. Rincon. How could a city boy from California show this country boy anything, for I was at home in the woods and after all that's all the jungle is? Right? It was scary enough being a LRRP (Lurp) and going out in the jungle with five other men; it sure would be great to have someone lead the team that had at least been in the woods before. He would probably keep the team lost and most likely get all of us killed.*

*No one could have been farther off base with a first impression that I was about Sgt. Julian Rincon. From the start, he never exhibited any weakness. He was smaller, in*

*statue than many but he never showed fear and this guy knew how to rumble. I once saw him hit a guy and kick him before he could complete the fall. This had to be a result of street experience back in the streets of LA. The LRRPs were the "badest of the bad" in Vietnam and Rincon definitely fit this mold. He knew how to be bad when he needed to; but, he always appeared low key and very humble. He didn't have to prove anything to anyone. Rincon really gained my respect during our first field missions and especially our first firefight with the enemy. He could read his map, always knew our position, walked through the jungle like he had been there for years, made good instinctive decisions, and through his calmness kept everyone calm and in complete control during any situation. During my time serving with him, I can honestly say that I have never seen him do anything that would degrade the unit or the army. He exemplified the meaning of LRRPs, Rangers, and Air bourn*

*I know I was a good soldier and I owe much of it to my brother, Rincon. My experience with him is what prepared me to be a team leader and an instructor. I hear many of our guys tell stories of their missions and vivid details of their encounters and combat. I listen in amazement to their stories and their bravery; but, sometimes I feel that Team 7 was in a league of its own. Through the leadership of Sgt. Rincon we always focused on our mission and altered our assignment only when it was necessary or conditions warranted otherwise. I remember many of the guidelines our team operated by and these guidelines are still an influence in my life today. Our team had two objectives, perform our mission well and stay alive. I often refer to Rincon's Team 7 as the Elvis Presley team" / "Taking Care of Business". Sgt. Rincon was very professional and easy to get along with but he had a couple of requirements of his team members that were non-negotiable. If a member of the team ever went to sleep during his time on guard duty, he never went back to the field with Team 7. Also, if a person showed fear during a firefight, he was not the type of individual that needed to be a LRRP/Ranger. He recommended that soldier be transferred to a line unit (regular infantry unit) immediately.*

*As a result of Sgt. Rincon's leadership and the professional team he assembled, Team 7 was given many special assignments, including attachment to outpost units to perform missions from that location, training companies in the tactics of ambush and training incoming replacement personnel. Team 7 conducted training for a couple of 1st Division companies who had friendly casualties with no confirmed enemy body count prior to working with our team. During our time with their unit, they had confirmed enemy body count and continued to do so after our*



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

departure. It is very ironic that Captain Reese M. Patrick, who later became our LRRP unit's Company Commander, was a platoon leader in Delta Company at an outpost named Fort Apache and was one of those trainees. I remember how he admired our unit and when the opportunity came, transferred to the LRRPs. On another special assignment the team worked with a captain of a Special Forces unit. The Captain, later retired Lieutenant Colonel Robert K. Brown founder of in 1975 of "Soldier Of Fortune" magazine, after going out on a mission with our team liked the team so much that he tried to recruit several of its members.

The soldiers who see the most combat are normally the ones who also receive the most metals. I believe the best LRRP/Ranger teams are those who perform their mission well and avoid contact, unless the mission or situation warrants otherwise. I say this with no disrespect to any soldier who ever received a metal or were aggressive in their missions; but only to make a point. Rincon was deserving of quite a few metals but the LRRPs/Rangers were not about getting metals, they felt what they did was their duty in service to their country. He got his purple heart only after returning home and after leaving the army. Looking back, numerous metals of valor could and should have been awarded to all the individuals who served with these units. I'm not sure of the requirements; but, if those in authority could have only followed in his footsteps during that tour in Vietnam, Sgt. Julian Rincon would definitely have his deserving place in the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Dennis McLaughlin sent me an e-mail that I have included as some explanation of the poem and how it came about.

Bob,

It was an emotional Veterans Day for me today. I participated in the usual ceremony at my small VFW post in San Juan Bautista. It was special to have my 5 and 8 year-old granddaughters in attendance. With hands over their hearts, they recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang along to "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America, The Beautiful." My heart is full when our youth show that we are passing on to them the love we have for our great country.

When I returned home, I found an envelope on the doorstep addressed to me from a neighbor. The neighbor is a high school senior named Alex that had interviewed me for a paper he was writing on life after Vietnam a couple of years ago. I also shared with him the paper that Jerry Davis' cousin Brianna did for her MA degree at Montana State University. Brianna had attended our Ranger Reunion in Indianapolis and interviewed a lot of us from F52nd / I75th Co.

I'm attaching his poem and I hope you will see fit to share this letter in The Patrolling magazine. Not only is it special because a young man took the time to write it, but that he's very close to the age that many of us were when we joined the service or were drafted.

**HAPPY VETERANS DAY!**

by Alex Knight

You fought for good, you fought for what is right.  
You bled for our country, and fought the good fight.  
You're a hero of this country,  
although others may not see you in the proper light.  
You're an indomitable spirit, and it's quite a sight  
with all your might.  
You will always have a friend, named Alex Knight

As Alex graduates and moves on with his life, I know he'll continue to be a friend and support to Vietnam veterans.

RTLW,  
Dennis McLaughlin  
Oct. 68 - Oct. 69  
F 52nd / I75th



**Left to Right  
Unknown, Julian  
Rincon, Dave Flores  
party around  
Christmas 1968**

**Company sign around  
July 1968**



I would like to think Danny and Dennis and Alex for sharing their thoughts.

I would also like to hear from the wives, so ladies get busy.

Bob McGath  
Unit Director  
F Co 52nd Inf I Co 75th Inf Rangers 1st Inf Div.



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

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

Greetings to all my Brothers,

Have I mentioned before that I hate Winter? Well If I haven't then please know that I do!! The first snowfall of the season is always beautiful, but it is the middle of Feb. and its still here plus more on top of it. This part of Western Colorado is called the banana belt because the winters are normally mild but that hasn't been the case the past two years. Now I realize that there are many of you who live where they have (real) winter but you can do your own complaining. I've heard of people who actually enjoy winter. They should be happy this year. Maybe by the time you read this the flowers will be blooming.

I did go to Arizona last month to visit a friend who had been hurt in an accident and hopefully find some warm weather. I got to visit my friend but I didn't find any warm weather.

On the way I stopped off in Flagstaff to see my friend Dave Rulhman who as a 4th Aviation pilot flew many LRRP missions for us. Dave continued to fly after Vietnam as a pilot for the Arizona Dept. of Public Safety and retired recently after many years flying search & rescue, medical evacuations, law enforcement manhunts etc., etc. Thanks Dave for many years of service to your fellow man. Thanks for the lift you give me during our visits and especially thanks for the lift back during that other lifetime.

Being a LRRP is viewed by many military experts to be the most dangerous job in Vietnam. I'm not sure we realized at the time just how vulnerable we were. Flying LRRP teams in and out of some of the hell holes in which we found ourselves was probably just as dangerous. The sound of a Cobra Gunship firing his mini-gun around your position was a sweet sound. Even sweeter was the sound of that inbound Huey piloted by a "crazy chopper jock" coming to the rescue of a team of "crazy LRRPs. Dave, you and your fellow pilots and crews were our hero's

I stopped off in Phoenix to visit with Jerry Mele. He is recovering from a broken foot so we spent a couple of hours in the sunshine on his patio talking about old times. Thanks Jerry for having me in your home and a great visit. Hope to see you in New Orleans.



Then it was on to Tucson where I caught up with Tom Sove who was in town for a handball tournament, "Tom is vice-President of the American handball Assoc." After his tournament duties were over we made a trip to Benson where we caught up with Tom Farnsworth. It was great to see him after forty years. Tom was a K-Co team leader but some of you will remember him as your platoon Sgt. Tom is doing well with a carpet and tile business with his son plus farming 250 acres of hay. Thanks for sharing your memories

with us Tom. If any of you wish to contact Tom his e-mail is ([www.farnsworthtile.tripod.com](mailto:www.farnsworthtile.tripod.com)).



The next day Tom Sove and I visited the Pima Air&Space Museum in association with the "Graveyard" or the storage and salvage for military aircraft. If you get to Tucson it is well worth the time to see it. Next day saw us under cloudy skies at the Saguaro National Park and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. A great education on the deserts of the Southwest. That evening we returned to Phoenix for dinner with our Assoc. vice-president, Joe Little. Thanks Joe for taking time out of your busy day to visit with us. Dropped Tom off at the airport next day for his flight home then I hit the road again for home and the snow country.

The New Orleans reunion preparation is ongoing. Willie tells me that our initial block of 30 rooms are reserved but he made arrangements for another 10. That means you need to make your reservations ASAP. Looks like we will have a good turnout. We may have to assess a small registration fee to cover hospitality room expenses but shouldn't be much, \$15-\$20. We can take care of that at check-in. Willie



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

and Sue will return to New Orleans in March to make some final arrangements. Looking forward to seeing as many as possible in June! Remember if you have questions Willie and I are just a phone call away.

**REUNION 2010**

Our reunion hosts Willie and sue Williams have done a great job putting together our gathering in New Orleans. Thanks Willie and Sue, you make my job easy. Please take note of the info and make your arrangements. The info has only been out for a few days and I've already gotten several e-mails from some who have made their reservations. I think we will fill up but we have the option of more rooms if needed. As daily itinerary items are nailed down we will get that out to you.

New Orleans-2010

4th Div LRP/LRRP/Rangers

Here is the latest info from our reunion host/coordinator Les Williams. Please make your plans early. If you have any questions contact Les. Note: This is for all Div. and Brigade units. Roger Crunk K-Co Unit Director [rogercrunk@msn.com](mailto:rogercrunk@msn.com)

Hey gang!

Having spent four fun filled days in fantastic New Orleans, Louisiana with the one I love, after much leg work and research, we have selected a venue for the 2010 K-Co Reunion. One could spend years, or at least many more days and would still have a difficult time choosing one location over another as there are hundreds to choose from. The task is somewhat simplified with the Internet.

We have selected the "Drury Inn & Suites" located at 820 Poydras St. It is close enough to be convenient, but far enough off downtown to be a quiet location. We have reserved a block of 30 rooms for **June 16, 2010 Wed) thru June 19, 2010 (Sat.)** (We will need to book 80% of these rooms to hold the prices as contracted. They have the usual room arrangements.

**King Size and Double Rooms: \$79.00+Tax**

**Suites: \$99.00+ Tax**

**Parking Fee:\$5.00 per day**

**Full use conference room at no charge**

The hotel offers great amenities:

**Free Hot Quickstart Breakfast** – Enjoy scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & Gravy, Belgian waffles and more!

**Free Evening Beverages & Snacks-** served daily from 5:30-7:00pm!

**Free High Speed Internet Access** - in every room!

**Free Long Distance-** One Hour, every room, every night!

Reservations can be made at: [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com)

**(Go to Book It Fast, enter Group # 2074312)**

**Or Call 1-800-325-0720**

**(Specify Drury Inn & Suites New Orleans & Reference K Company)**

**\*\* Please make your reservations by Wednesday, May 19, 2010 to receive our group rate. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing rate and availability.**

Now that we have a venue pinned down we will be returning to New Orleans after the first of the year to plan what we want to do as a group. These are some of the things we are looking into:

River Boat Dinner Cruise

Limo Plantation Tour (for the Ladies)

Aquarium of the Americas

Audubon Zoo

National D-Day Museum

I will be using [Kco75th2010@aol.com](mailto:Kco75th2010@aol.com) for reunion Q/A.

I will forward more as it becomes available.

Les "Willie" Williams

Leslie T. Williams

(318) 371-9265

[Kco75th2010@aol.com](mailto:Kco75th2010@aol.com)

318 Leonard Morgan Road

Minden, LA 71055-6272

**Secretary's position**

Before I forget, congratulations (I think) are in order for Tom Sove who was elected by the Board of Directors to fill the Secretary position. As you may know Bill Postelnic was elected to that job last year but in the meantime his employer had to cut back so Bill had to take on a lot more duties He felt that he could not devote the amount of time and effort it takes to do the job that the Association deserves. Thanks Bill and hang in there. Thanks to Tom for taking on a big job.





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

Unit Director - Jerry Gomes



The United States Army Special Operations Command, located at Ft. Bragg, NC, conducted a Bronze Melting Ceremony at Bend Bronze Fine Art castings, Eagle Creek, Oregon on Friday, Feb. 12, 2010.

A new Memorial Wall at Ft Bragg has been commissioned. The memorial committee chose to use the bronze nameplates from the existing memorial to be cast into the bronze centerpiece of the new Memorial Wall.

SGM Elwood S. Johnson, US Army Special Operations Command accompanied the bronze name plates from Ft. Bragg to Oregon. Special Operations soldiers from Ft. Lewis also attended.

The name plates were ceremoniously melted together and recast into the bronze centerpiece of the new memorial. The names of the fallen will be inscribed into the face of the new Memorial Wall in granite tablets. VFW Post #4273 of Sandy, Oregon and VFW Post #3973 of Molalla, Oregon provided the Honor Guard, Bugler and Chaplain for the ceremony. Our local VFW Post informed the members and we attended this ceremony.

It was a very somber day watching the names of all the fallen be cast into the flames. We live nearby and will visit the foundry to see the finished product before it is shipped to Ft Bragg.

United States Army Special Operations Command Memorial Plaza at Ft Bragg features a Memorial Wall, field of Memorial Stones and the Special Forces Statue Bronze Bruce. The original plaza, first dedicated in November 1969 was built as a tribute to the more than 550 Special Forces Soldiers who had died up to that time in the Vietnam War. **It was the first Vietnam War Memorial erected in the United States.**

The wall originally listed Soldiers killed in action during combat in Vietnam and was updated in the 1980s to include Soldiers who were missing in action or declared dead. The wall was later expanded to include all Army special operations Soldiers killed in action from 1983 to the present.

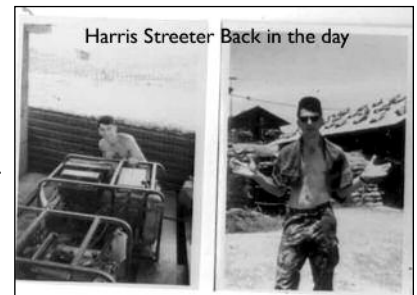
Each year during the week of Memorial Day, the US Army Special Operations Command welcomes the family members and friends of the Special Operations Forces



Soldiers who have been killed in action over the past year to honor their memory and the ultimate sacrifice they made. The ceremony serves as a day of remembrance for those SOF Soldiers who have died performing some of the most dangerous and important missions in the U.S. Military.

Harris S. Streeter contacted Gomes. Streeter served in both F-58th and L 75th. He can't remember his time in Vietnam except that he was in 1st Platoon and was the RTO man. He also fixed generators for the company area. He's trying very hard to find some who was in his team. He's attended two 75th Ranger Reunions and have met guys from the

Co. but has met no one that was in his team. If you can recall him, please contact him at: Harris S. Streeter, 49 Hyland Blvd. #1C, Staten Island NY 10305 718-720-4374, [hstreeter11@aol.com](mailto:hstreeter11@aol.com)



Thanks everyone for all the phone calls and donations for Riley Cox. POC are Leslie Burks and Gary Linderer.

Updated 101st LRRP Ranger Assn. Roster:

Please e-mail Jerry Gomes at [azores46@verizon.net](mailto:azores46@verizon.net) with your name, address, phone #, Unit.

Send in stories & pictures you'd like to see in next issue.

Jerry Gomes, PO Box 1570, Sandy, OR 97055  
503-668-6127





**L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP (CONTINUED)**
**M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP**  
 Unit Director - Don Tillisch

How time flies. It seems like only yesterday we were getting our 71st LRP/M Co article for the Patrolling magazine for the winter 2010 ready to go. I appreciate all of the help I have been getting from all of you for ideas to include in our in the Spring Issue which will be out March 15, 2009. You know the old saying. "Cooperate and graduate".

We have some good news! Ron Piper informed me that he got the report back from the doctor regarding his colon surgery just before Christmas and they got all of the cancer so he is back to normal. What a great Christmas! We were all concerned until we heard the positive report. I spoke with Lyle Webster this week and he informed me that after two surgeries, a few pins and some therapy, his fractured leg was healing nicely and he was told by the doctor that he will be back to 100% soon. That's also very good news.

I talked with James Hell this week and he said that everything is going well in Seattle. I also have spoken a couple times with Tom Zastrow who is living in Fairbanks Alaska and doing well. He indicated he is very interested in attending our next reunion.

Those of us, who were at the reunion last summer, met John Deacy, who commanded long range patrol personnel attached to Special Forces with B-36 in Long Hai where he met Ron Piper and became friends. Ron has requested that John become an honorary member of the 71st LRP/M Co. John is a Ranger School graduate and a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and will be attending reunions



with us in the future. You remember him as the "middle-aged" man who went sky diving with Lyle Webster.

Some of you may remember the day Maynard G. Grebs/Doby Gilles who was in Gilligan's Island paid the 71st LRP a visit. I was at the brigade TOC getting an operating order at that time so missed his visit. Below, I'm enclosing a copy of that picture. That was taken sometime late spring of 1968. Thanks to Roger Blanchard.



The other day I came across an obituary of Harry J. McGinness who passed away on April 2003. He was a first Lieutenant and a Ranger School graduate who was with the 71 LRRP a Cat Lai. He was completing his combat arms tour with our unit. Shortly after our unit moved back to the brigade main base, Harry left to finish his tour and went to flight school. He made a career of the army and at one point, flew a Chinook with the 160th SOAR, "The Night Stalkers." Harry retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Rest in peace, Harry.

In the Patrolling Magazine for winter 2009 those of us who were at the last three reunions were mentioned and our contact information was listed. I have also talked with several members of the 71st who have not yet been to a reunion but may have an interest in attending future rendezvous/reunions. Following is their name and contact



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



information: Sill Bunch who lives in Sulphur Springs, Texas, Tom Burke who's e-mail address is [suptom@webtv.net](mailto:suptom@webtv.net), and Frank Mascitelli, [mngfrank@aol.com](mailto:mngfrank@aol.com). I have telephone numbers on some of our members and e-mail address on others. Over the next few months we should try to complete our contact list as much as possible. Some of our past rangers haven't received a copy of the application form for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association so let me know of anyone who needs a copy.

Gary Olson sent a copy of a picture that was taken at Cat Lai in the fall on 1967 with names indicated on the margin. That was probably taken in September or October of 1967.





Roger Blanchard submitted several pictures. One of which was the tents at Cat Lai and the other of his team.

Thanks to Gary, Tim and Roger for their contributions. RLW.

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

**Unit Director - Robert Henriksen**

173th LRRP + 74th LRP Det. + 75th  
N/CO RGR + 74th LRS Det.  
Casper Platoon  
61st Assault Helicopter Company: Lucky  
Star / Star Blazer / Cowboys

**MEMBERS PLANNING  
TO ATTEND**

May 23th arrival - 28th checkout

Ron Thomas (66-67)  
Johnny Vaught (71)  
Fletcher "Fletch" Ruckman (67-68)  
Robt "Twin" & Laura Henriksen (70-71)  
Reed "Joe" Welke (68)  
Rick Frame (68-69)  
Micheal "Rick" Potter (68-69)  
Leroy "Pip" & Jeannie Pipkin (66-67)



Karen Tadina - maybe  
John Jersey (67-68)  
David "Varmint" Walker (70-71)  
Gordon Baker (70-71)  
Richard Baker (69-70)  
Herbert Baugh (71)  
Don "The Biz" & Vergie Bizadi (69-71)  
Mark "Budda" Carter (65-66)  
Larry "Red" Cole (66-67)  
Eva (Laszlo) Rabel  
Mary (Mike) Hines  
Mike & Jeneatte Swisley  
Reed "Joe" Welke

So contact: me or Ron Thomas, John Jersey, Johnny Vaught if you plan to attend and for those that will need assistance in coming, contact ME. I'll



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

update everyone on who is going and WE need to have your name on the list soon as possible so Ron Thomas can negotiate hotel prices.

PS: stated in Patrolling that Steve Vogt lived in Vegas but his location is Greentown, PA (Herbert Baugh the needed correction to my attention). Hopefully this mistake will encourage Steve Vogt come to Vegas. My goal is to exceed the attendance we had in 2009 and the invitation of chopper members, will go over 100 easy. As chopper members inform me that they are coming, I'll add them to the list above. This time period (May 23 -28) is slow period for Vegas so flights / hotels cost will be down. More information to come as Ron Thomas gets back to me on this mini-reunion.

NOTE: Let me know if I left a chopper company out, like Cobra gunship company. Take care and stay-in-touch with each other!!

From Rudy

**BRICKS STATUS**

VANCE A. WEBB: N-75th Rgr (PAID)

MICHAEL T. SWISLEY: N-75th Rgr (PAID)

VELMON D. PHILLIPS: 173rd LRRP/74th LRP (PAID)

ROBERT A. BLANKENSHIP: N-75TH Rgr (PLEDGE/DECREASE)

REYNALDO CRIADO: N-75th Rgr (DECEASE/PLEDGE)

INFORMATION ON FAMILY?

JOHN A. THOMSON: 74th LRP (PAID)

JOSEPH REED WELKE: 74TH LRP (PAID)

TERRY HUFFSTICKLER: N-75th Rgr

JOHN SCALF: N-75th Rgr (DECREASE/PLEDGE)

JOHN A. JERSEY: 74th LRP

TOME L. ROUBIDEAUX: 74th LRP

RLTW,

Rudy Teodosio

Charlie Team

**EARLY HISTORY**

We heard rumors in the early 173rd LRRP (Provisional) days about special recon detachments that had been formed out of the battalions for multi-day long range recon missions. This were supposedly led by lieutenants and senior NCO's. I found out that no such thing ever happened as far as the Brigade S-2 shop and the 172nd MI detachment of those days is aware. And such patrols would not have been sent out without intel's request and/or involvement. Homer Vanzandt retired as an MI LTC about 20 years ago. He joined the Army as an MI officer in 1958 and had just finished the MI career course in 1965 when he

was assigned to the newly formed (or re-formed) 172nd MI Detachment. I have known him for over 30 years since we were introduced at a meeting at the Foreign Intelligence Center in Virginia. The below is from discussions I had with him in Las Cruces, NM in December of last year.

The following is from Homer:

The 173rd did not have an MI Detachment but did of course have a G-2 section. The 172nd MI was formed from personnel from the 101st and 82nd Airborne with POW interrogators from 3rd Corps (Ft. Hood). The unit was formed at Fort Campbell and deployed in June to marry up with the rest of the Brigade at Bien Hoa. Most of the 173rd had deployed from Bien Hoa. Homer found that he was senior to the Detachment Commander but they came to a gentleman's agreement that the other captain would be 172nd CO for a few months (for experience and resume purposes) while Homer became Deputy G-2 and Deputy G-2 for Air. Since the unit now had Aussie and NZ members, it was called C-2 (Combined Forces Intell). Homer then took over as 172nd MI CO after the other guy had six months in command.

The G-2 (C-2) assigned Homer to develop a training program for LRRP since the 173rd (as far as Homer knows) had not worked on long range recon while on Okinawa. The primary purpose of the 173rd had been the strike force for CINCPAC, to perform coup de main seizures of airheads and the like but not to maintain an extended active combat force. He said that the Brigade did very little in the way of combat operations for the first half year although they deployed to a number of hot spots.

In early August, the BDE deployed to the Kontum/Pleiku area for 4 to 5 weeks when the LRRP concept was in abience. They did do a number of training insertions and the Brigade did maintain the process of pay jumps (training jumps every three months until that was changed to no pay jump requirements while in a combat area). He said they had planned a Brigade level combat jump in someplace call "The Rice Bowl" somewhere to the east of Bien Hoa Province but he can't quite remember where (hey, its 44 years ago) but one of his officers found out that the jump had been compromised but being badgered by a tailor in Bien Hoa who was trying to sell cloth combat wings he had made up. He said the jump was called off at the last moment and that subsequent sweeps found numerous bamboo spike traps (7' tall in the grass) similar to the anti-airborne obstacles called "Rommels' asparagus" used in Europe.

He said that they did do training insertion jumps in late September upon return from Pleiku. Homer said that he did develop training schedules, lesson plans etc. and did



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

jump with the folks being formed up for LRRP and said that they are convinced that they got shot at on the drops in the BDE area.

The doctrine was a bit strange in that they did not want to send out a recon patrol unless they had a set target. In other words, they wanted to confirm what their intel told them was there. This seems a bit backward but Homer said there was no doctrine at all available since US forces have always ignored recon in all 20th C. Wars. The doctrine developed that patrols would be put out as a combined tasking of S-2 and S-3 (I cannot remember if it becomes G-2 and G-3 and the Division Level or at the BDE level).

Homer said that the battalions did send out short range recon patrols (several hours long in length) that were probably developed by the battalions' organic S-2/S-3 sections. He does not know of any ad hoc teams pulled out of the battalions for Brigade level recon. He did say that the LRRP platoon leader, once it had been formed in October 1965, was there for administration reasons only and that an E-7 was the de factor platoon leader. This fits in well with what Ron and the former CAV XO (and retired MG) seem to say. Much of what Ron and the XO say seems to be based on the fact that the CAV CO (career armored officer) hated being stuck with a pure recon detachment and hamstrung the LT Platoon Leader and removed him from command as soon as possible. However, Homer did say that he felt that the CAV officers seemed to feel that the unit was a bit more elite for having LRRP attached - even though the platoon was made up of detached personnel. Ron had been a member of the CAV when he joined the platoon.

Homer said that there were very few Ranger tabbed NCO's within the BDE as far as he could tell and almost no combat veterans in early 1965 (it had been 12 years since Korea and almost all NCO's with combat experience would be at least platoon sergeants by then).

Further from Homer

I did a little digging when I got home after our visit, yesterday. Here's a little supplemental information regarding the operation that I referred to as the "Rice Bowl."

The official name was Operation New Life and it ran from 21 Nov to 17 Dec, '65. The area known as the "Rice Bowl" is a valley on the La Nga river surrounded by mountains (or large hills) which was a significant rice producing area and had been under VC control for years. The VC had been hauling the rice production out for their own use. Our purpose was to go in just before the rice harvest, push the VC out and return control to the RVN gov't. After we secured the

valley, a sizable number of ARVN troops came in to hold things down. The 173d Bde forward HQ was at a place called Vo Dat. That operation was, I believe, the first time we really exercised the LRRPs and we ran several missions while there. LTC Homer Van Zandt (retired MI and former CO of 172nd MI and Deputy S-2 for 173rd Abn In 1965-66

From Mark "Buddha" Carter and Bruce Porter from very early days

I have some fairly good notes on a couple of missions with Larry Jones' Team, a mission with Williams' team, and with Van Boven's team. Also, a mission with the whole platoon (the only one like that while I was there), that scored three kills. If anyone wants them I can put them in a text file and send them. Please remember that I was just a kid and didn't write very well. I never knew Van Boven's first name. We just called him Van. He was wounded near Song Be. I don't know Sgt. William's first name. We called him Sgt. Will.

Sgt. Fields was a platoon Sergeant in the Cav. We were on a counter-ambush mission with them that day. We sometimes manned a 50 cal jeep for that sort of thing. Sgt. Smith was on the 50 cal and I rode shotgun with a WP on the end of my rifle, and a magazine loaded with tracers, all this to mark targets for the choppers or jets....sorry about the misunderstanding. Lark and Limpy were the team designations for Sweet Pea's team. Before that we were identified with a number. In my notes I associate Team Crater with Sergeant Smith (but I don't know which one. I remember only Sid Smith.) I don't have anything about the other team designations. Jerry Linsner was on Sgt. Rice's team. He was on the mission with Hudson when Hudson was killed. I don't have any photos of any of the teams I was on. I found a couple of old photos on the unofficial 173'd website, but I can't actually identify anyone. If any of the members have any photos of the teams, I would really appreciate getting them, either by email or snail mail. Thanks for all this.

- Mark

I was with C-2/503 from March 63 on Okinawa. Went to Viet Nam with them in May 65. Was point man. Extended and went to LRRP attached to 17th Cav in Jan 66 and left after my ETS in Sep 66. My team leader was Jakovenko "Jake the snake" (don't hold me to the spelling) one hell of a soldier. As always, I was the point man, a position I loved. We had a Lt at first, but upgraded to a Major Palmer, another good soldier. Had 2 Joneses as team leaders (not mine, I was blessed with Jake), one we called "Sweet Pea" and the other "Rakeface" actually, I'm thinking Rakeface (ed note, I think was "Rakemouth" Jones) was an asst team leader. Had 2 Williams as team leaders, one black the other



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

white, both big tall guys. Let's see, my team had Christenson, Ricci, Cpl Kiser, .....and I'm not sure. If you go to [www.173rdairborne.com](http://www.173rdairborne.com) you can see a couple of pictures.....yeah, all in Bien Hoa, I did like to entertain when we were back in. Didn't do pictures in the field. Actually, I have never done pictures as my wife will tell you. When I was interviewed for LRRP the question I was asked was "do you have a Purple Heart" to which I laughed and said "I'm a point man, of course I've been wounded." I thought it was a really dumb question. Hope this helps. God bless,

- Bruce Porter

**VLADIMIR JAKOVENKO**

The Good Lord blessed me with the HONOR of serving in The 173rd Airborne Brigade in C Co 2nd Bn 503rd Infantry and The Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP.) Our Recon Team was involved with another Team that located a possible Enemy Regiment. For whatever reason Brigade H.Q. decided to send in an Eagle Flight a Rifle Company A/2/503rd. We advised H.Q. not to we said maybe a Battalion or even Brigade from the 1st Cavalry. Long story short, they told us to locate a LZ and bring in the Eagle Flight we did as told. We did recon of the LZ made contact with the incoming Eagle Flight, they asked for smoke we put smoke out did the authentication and the Company Commander decided to go another click he thought we were wrong. And when he landed it was on top of the Enemy Regiment. It was a perfect Ambush, 3rd Platoon took the point, they had a Chaplin with them and he did a lot of praying that day, they walked right into the ambush. Within minutes they had almost half of the Platoon dead and many wounded. I won't go into about the two Teams mine and Snuffy Smith but you can imagine 6 Men Teams being compromised in the area of Enemy Regiment. We did get extracted, I still had camouflage on my face when our CO Captain Palmer came running in and said I need Volunteers to help extract the wounded from the Company in contact it was getting dark and I was pissed about the Company compromising us and leaving us to fan for ourselves, I sure as hell did not feel like a HERO to volunteer, I felt more like a survivor. I also was very vocal about CPT. Palmers request, I said F\*#k them !! They did not care about us. I knew it was rhetoric, I grabbed my LBE and some more ammo and boarded the rescue helicopter, it was our infiltration helicopters so they were still rigged and we had a stokes litter and the smoke jumper suit rigged for extraction of badly wounded and what we called the Palmer rig that was used to extract Teams when no LZ was available. I always wondered why it was called The Palmer Rig ? I guess rank has its privileges. We use to offer to

demonstrate our capabilities to the Line Companies of extracting wounded when no LZ was available, of how to use the Palmer Rig, smoke jumper suit and stokes litter. We had no takers ! We be Infantry !! I think some of us repelled to help rig the wounded and it was dark now. The first to come out was a young Sergeant Squad leader had maybe 30 holes in him, his Squad had the point when ambushed. He knocked out I think 3 enemy machine guns and did a number on a bunch more before he went down. And was awarded The Congressional Medal Of Honor. I met him later in 1970 at a big function at Main Officers Club at Ft Bragg he was now a Master Sergeant with the 82nd Airborne Division and I was a Sergeant First Class in Special Forces. I was humbled to be in the presence of maybe dozen Congressional Medal Of Honor Recipients at this special occasion. But what really brought tears to my eyes was the Master Sergeant who got the Congressional Medal Of Honor, he brought his wife over called her Honeybunch I think, said you don't remember me do you ? I wanted to tap dance, he knew me but I did not know him. He said I was the Young Sergeant you guys pulled out that night in 1966. What about the Company Commander of A/2/503rd ? I think his last name was Kelly, I put him in the same category as BG George Armstrong Custer and hope they both burn in hell.

- Jake Jakovenko

Have a fairly amusing photo of Chester McDonald and McLaughlin (ATL to Silsby). McLaughlin wanted to attach a Super 8 mm camera to his M-16 so that it would take photos when he pulled the trigger just. As they have gun cameras on fighter planes. I think the idea has resurfaced and is inherent in some of the Future Super soldier outfits that Natick and Pickatinney Labs have put together for the Future Soldier (this Super Soldier will be carrying about 150 pounds of gear).

**THE STEALTHY PATROL (from Tome Roubideaux and Reed Welke)**

In memory of John Thomson, a smart and gutsy LRP team leader and a friend. John, originally from Rhode Island and buried there, died a civilian in 1976, at age 30. We've been unable to locate any living relatives. As far as I know, his only memories are his grave, and a brick at the Ranger Walk

- Reed Welkie

Tome recalls himself, me, Joe Simons, John Thomson and Peter "Snuffy" Smithey. So, we'll go with that but I don't recall Joe Simons being on the mission as he was a TL in his own right at the time This story is a collaborative effort between "Joe" Reed Welke and Tome Roubideaux. Memories fade over the years, however, we found that we



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

recalled this mission in a very similar way. Besides John Thomson and an RVN, we don't recall who else might have been along. Note that the word "mission" is used loosely.

During my approximately 12 months as a LRP in Vietnam, every warning order or even the promise of one set off a process of focused preparation. It was pure business. From start to finish, virtually every mission was completed professionally where we brought to bear all of our training, discipline and instincts and reliance on one another. That's how we completed the missions and survived. Our team leader was John Thomson, a non smoking, non-drinking, clean cut, highly professional and gutsy team leader with a somewhat sarcastic sense of humor. Team members liked and trusted him. He always got us back alive. This is a mission I remember because there are the elements of irony and humor that only a LRP/Ranger could appreciate. It was one of those extremely rare missions that mixed farce with a potentially deadly serious encounter. In late spring 1968, on consecutive nights, the VC mortared LZ English, specifically the chopper pad adjacent to LRP hill, irritating the 173rd's CG and causing Bagpipes (SSG Hanbury), our local Scottish musician, to work overtime. He normally stood near or on top of the slit trench irreverently playing his instrument during mortar attacks.

At some point, probably in response to the CG's irritation, HQ decided to send out a patrol towards the base of the hills west of LZ English to find the VC mortar launching site and perhaps to catch the perpetrators in an ambush. Obviously this was a job for a squad or platoon from 3rd Bat, however, some HQ genius decided that it was a mission for the LRPs. John Thomson's team drew the short straw. John gave us the essence of the warning order with not just a little disgust in his voice. We were to exit the perimeter and hump west, via the garbage dump, to find the VC mortar crew, end their lives and collect their hardware. We were to start the mission in broad daylight. John was not shy about his rare feelings of discontent and his mannerisms rather than his words gave away his feelings that day. We drew ammo. Among the stored ordinance was a partial case of dynamite, not something normally carried by a LRP team and only God knew why it was there and how old it was but it apparently made little sense to let it just sit there to eventually become inert or, worse, decide to detonate itself (I knew little about the properties of dynamite). John directed that we take half dozen sticks with us. It was unclear to me at the time why John thought this necessary but he had been LRPing longer than I so I did not question his decision. I was used to John's method of directing activities, always business-like and highly professional. His attitude on this occasion was oddly

different. John sometimes pushed the edge of the envelope, always a planned effort, but that wasn't what I perceived. This time he seemed irritated, not because we were running a mission but, as he told me, it was not at all a proper use of a LRP team.

Our egress was via the garbage dump, Tome on point and I at the rear. We carried our standard load of ammo (plus dynamite) but otherwise were very light. Our generally westward movement took us through fairly open land, apparently owned by the locals, and ultimately to the river. The river was slow, meandering, and wide at that point, depth unknown. As we pondered the crossing, again, in broad daylight, we observed on the bank on our side of the river, to our left and to our right, five fishing boats that we quickly determined to be local fisherman/VC watercraft. John considered the scene for a few minutes and then determined that the best way to handle it would be to toss a stick of dynamite into each of VC watercraft. We discussed what might be the best approach to using dynamite to sink these enemy vessels. After some consultation, John decided to conduct this operation/ experiment in a controlled manner. One guy would hold the stick of dynamite, one guy would ignite and 4 guys would watch – a real team effort. Then all 6 would unass the area in haste – not really knowing the burn time nor the safe distance to be away from it at the time of detonation. We were LRPs, not engineers. With the first stick tossed into the first boat, our retreat was done quickly but in multiple directions, a bit uncoordinated. Given that most of us were tenured LRPs, there was a bit of loss of pride in our somewhat clumsy effort – actually some embarrassment but none of us took this mission seriously anyway. The first boat was rendered matchsticks, quite the overkill, and we learned the power of the blast and the safe standoff distance which was not nearly as far as we'd run the first time. We finished off the 5 boats, using two sticks for the last one as we didn't want to haul around a single, leftover stick of dynamite.

As we congratulated ourselves for our success in eliminating this enemy fleet, we turned our focus to best way to cross the river since stealth was no longer an advantage (dynamite is loud). It quickly came to us that, in our enthusiasm, we had just made kindling of our best mode of transportation. After some chuckling and head shaking, our point man, Tome, volunteered to cross on foot and, if successful, set up security on the far bank to enable the remainder of the team to cross unmolested by the VC Navy personnel who owned the boats. Tome didn't go completely under water during his crossing but at several points, I swear, all I could see was his rifle above his head



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

and his nose above the water. However, he made it and the rest of us followed at the appropriate interval for a wide river crossing. Being the ATL, I was last across. It was a dirty river and I could swear that a couple of times, chunks of water buffalo shit passed just under my chin. Looking at it from afar (like Brigade HQ), one could have argued that this LRP team was not taking the mission very seriously. From the LRP TOC, one could have argued that the team was intentionally doing everything the wrong way. John later said that he believed we had little chance to find the right place to catch the VC in an ambush so he believed the best plan was to bring the VC to us. Whether that statement was John's real plan or more his sense of humor is still up for debate. My personal opinion is that it was a mix of both. John could show his disgust at Army stupidity via sarcasm and humor and, at the same time, push the edges.

Shortly after crossing the blue line and moving through some palm trees, we emerged onto a path adjacent to an area of dried up rice paddies and ankle to knee high grass. Twenty to 30 meters to our right was a lot of thick, 10 to 15 foot undergrowth. To our front, perhaps 100 meters, the same. To our left was 300 meters of dried up rice paddy and to our rear, the tree line from which we'd just emerged. We were stretched out with a good 10 to 15 meters between patrol members in this open area and I was a bit farther back covering the rear but I could still see Tome way up front. We moved about two thirds of the way through this open area and had maybe 30 to 40 meters to go before the trail would enter the shrub undergrowth to our front. Suddenly, a shot cracked off from the undergrowth directly to my right and perhaps 40 meters away. It sounded like it went off next to my ear - then a couple more single shots obviously in my direction. It took me that millisecond after the first shot to recognize the situation and I yelled, "incoming!". All team members went prone, left, right, left, right - (you know the drill). At the same time we received an automatic weapon burst from the undergrowth to our front where the trail entered it. The automatic weapon was perfectly set up for enfilade fire and Tome was face to face with it. The sniper to my right rounded out the perfect, albeit small at this point, L shaped ambush. We reacted with the appropriate level of violence, dumping everything we had in all directions to suppress any other incoming fire. I emptied a magazine into the undergrowth to my right where the first shots had originated, crammed in a new magazine and tossed a grenade in that direction not expecting it to travel the full 40 meters but also not expecting it to make its first bounce at only about 4 meters from me. It rolled far enough so that not a single piece of shrapnel hit me but my anus was

tight for a few seconds. The guys up front continued to pour fire at our front and flanks.

At some point in the first few seconds, I had glanced toward the point and clearly saw, as we all did, a VC with an RPD stand up and run to his right (our left) and quickly disappear into the undergrowth. This VC had us in the open, fired, and he was situated for perfect enfilade fire. But, he just stood up and ran away. The incoming fire stopped long before our outgoing fire did and John had already been on the radio to the LRP TOC. It didn't take long for the gunships to show up. Since some of their choppers had been damaged in the mortar attacks, I believe they were looking for some revenge. They were on site in record time and immediately found targets at our 1 o'clock to 3 o'clock within a hundred meters and fired them up. John gave the order to do a 180 and exit the same way we had arrived. This time I was on point and Tome covered our new rear, so to speak. As we made our hasty exit, we continued to empty magazines in all directions but I think that all the fire was outgoing. Of course, we had to cross the river again, without watercraft, but we didn't discuss the fact that we'd sunk the enemy's fleet, our only tactical success on this mission. We got back to English near sunset, wet but without injury. We had found some VC within about 3 hours. Between our gaining fire superiority in the ambush and the gunship shooting up the area, the local VC got a taste of the CG's irritation and we didn't need to spend the night on an ambush. I don't recall a debriefing, if in fact there was one. What I do remember was John reiterating, with a grin, that this occasion, calling the VC in rather than chasing him was more efficient. Certainly it was the right story for a debriefing.

Lessons learned: You don't need a plan for dynamite just to take some along. You can always find a way to use it. If you blow up a local fisherman's boat, it might piss him off. If you look like you don't know what you're doing, the VC will come to you. The local VC apparently were not very good at ambushes and damned sure weren't marksmen. If you fired a few bursts at a local VC he would run away even if he had you dead to rights with an RPD. Conducting this sort of mission will absolutely stop the mortars. There was no more incoming in subsequent weeks. John Thomson was able to find a little fun in an otherwise often deadly serious job and he knew how to make a point to HQ. I was not aware of the LRPs being used in such a role the remainder of my tour.

The next is Tome's take on the same action.



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

As I recall both John and I found fresh spoor that indicate several were traveling light. I still believe that the sniper and the RPD crew were a scout/security element for the mortar crew. Both, John and I took hits, rather near misses. John had his canteen hit and had bullet fragments in his TA 50. I had a round through the magazine of the Swedish K I was carrying and had bullet fragments left lacerations in my right hand and fore arm... John and I considered those as "Cheap Hearts" and never claimed them... Occupational Hazard and we both loved our Jobs.

The two VC to our front opened up way to early about 150 to 200 meters from John and I. Theoretically. If this cherry RPD gunner had waited longer, he and his accompanying rifleman plus the sniper could have killed or wounded all of us. However, It wasn't their day. John and I poured aimed very accurate sustained semi and auto directly at those two folks. However, that was the first and last time I ever carried a Swedish K. That damned thing was like firing a water hose at anything over 100m. The 9mm round and Swedish K just didn't do it. It is my opinion that the Swedish K was a profiling Garrison Trooper's weapon and I would have done more damage with a sling shot.

Both VC were hit...but, I still believe it was John's accurate tracer fire saved me while I changed magazines. We both were looking up at the RPD and the rifle man's AK as we went down during the RPD's initial burst. The green tracers went right between us, and to our front...We both heard the thunk and as the rounds hit Johns canteen and the Swedish K mag. We thought we were both hit, but, we weren't.

As we returned fire John Jersey (RTO)...closed up to where J.Thomson and I lay so Thomson can call the co-ordinates in and get air support. John gives Capt Bazaki a sitrep and ends by saying "We got them where we want them and they'll die tired "as the gunship began they're run to our front. Then we both agreed that the VC were baiting us to either Command Det or IEDs or a ambush if we pursued.

The Pink Team Loach covered us from his station as we crossed the river again. We added a modified IA Drill ...360 degrees of high speed amphibious fire power....Heck! I don't even remember getting wet in our egress. We were all laughing like maniacs and demons...that was a fun mission. I think it was the first gunfight for the cherry!

- Tome

On my first real mission, Tony was team leader on a supposed 2 day mission, inserted West of Tuy Hoa on a bald hill top overlooking a valley. Won't bore you with the details except to say it was hot, there was no water source

and the mission was extended meaning we were out of water, extremely thirsty and out of cigarettes. We saw only a couple of VC in the valley the entire time (one of them over 6' tall and white). All of us out of water, Tony asked for a resupply. Frank Resor responded, packed the resupply in a Huey, overflowed the hill top and kicked it out. It was off target and crashed 100 meters downhill through the woods. A couple of guys retrieved it. Resor's resupply was beer and cigars. Every beer can exploded when the soft container hit the ground and the beer soaked the cigars. The bald hill top was covered in old Chieu Hoi pamphlets. The smokers spread the wet cigar tobacco out on a rock in the sun, let it dry and rolled it up in the pamphlets to smoke. I was a smoker. After a couple of drags, I remember wishing I wasn't.

- Reed Welke

From Roy Boatman's daughter

I really felt the need to express my gratitude to the Rangers and let you know what the Ranger reunions mean to me. I know the reunions were started in order to get all Rangers together. I don't know if any of you ever thought of the effect it would have on the family members. First of all, I have to say, not a day goes by that I don't think about my dad. Some days that missing part of me is so unbearable, I don't know how I will make it through the day. Being at the reunions with his friends and acquaintances, brings a piece of him back to me.

I never got tired of listening to his stories. Fact or Fiction. I will never know, but they were great. I thought I would never hear them again. At the reunion, I did. They were not in his words, but damn close. And I thank you for those. I thought I would never feel that fatherly hug. But I did. At the reunion, again and again, and again at the 28th Infantry Division Memorial in Pennsylvania, Thanks Fletch. Through the years, I have heard so many names. It is so good to put a face with the names. I also heard a lot about the "Ranger Family." I definitely know what that is now. Every Ranger made me feel welcomed, that I belonged, that I was family. Not just the Ranger family I had before I went to the reunions. Uncle Terry, Uncle Duke and Aunt Marion, and Aunt Mary. But my new family, Uncle Ted, Uncle Louie, Uncle Dave and Aunt Cathy. aka Aunt M.I.A. My point to all this is: THANK YOU!!! When you started the reunions, I don't think any of you knew the impact it would have on Ranger families. It is a great feeling to know I am not alone. That some of you miss my dad as much as I do or more. (Not possible.) It is a great a feeling to know that if help was needed, I could call on you. Thanks to all of you who put this together year after year, get the beer, do the planning, organize events, get the beer, and for just



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showing up to be part of the reunion. Did I mention the beer? : ) Thanks to all of you who helped me eat 350 jello shots. I look forward to seeing P Co. in Cherokee and seeing you all again at the next reunion in 2011.

PROUD TO BE A RANGER DAUGHTER!!!

Carol Boatman Jimenez

Anyone who has any "Boatman Stories" feel free to send them my way. Carolj69@att.net

"Brothering Love"

Late in 1968

By Lee Roy Pipkin

Bravo Team Leader

LRR & 74th LRP Det.

173rd Airborne Brigade

I was laying in a hospital bed inside of a Quonset hut at the EVAC Hospital in Nha Trang. The day before, I had been the team leader of a mission into the Tiger Mountains outside of Bong Song. I had stepped on a booby-trap near the perimeter of a known battalion-sized NVA base camp and subsequently lost the front half of my left foot. NAH! That's not true. My foot isn't lost, ..... I know exactly where it is. On with the story. I was pulled out by jungle penetrator; my team came out on ropes. When they got me back to B-Med they took a look at my wounds and put me on a med-evac chopper to Nha Trang field hospital. Now, prior to the mission my actual brother, David Pipkin, had come from his unit in 'Nam to visit with me and to say his goodbyes as he was being rotated back to the states in about 10 days or so. Another team leader, David Brueggeman ("Bruggie") and my brother, David, flew down on the chopper with me to Nha Trang. I had shrapnel in the back of my right thigh, in my groin, my face, and in the windpipe. As I awoke in that Quonset hut I raised my head and looked around. There were two gooks across and down always from me with tubes running into them. There was an MP in a chair at the end of the ward. I couldn't see anyone else and fall back into a drug induced sleep caused by the emergency surgery I had just been through.

I found out that the Vietnamese down from and across the way was the enemy, NVA or VC, who had been wounded on the battlefield and had been captured, treated, and was recovering after their own life saving surgeries. One guy had an open stomach wound. They both were in sad shape but now it was clear why there was that armed military policeman sitting at the end of the ward. Now, my brother was also a military policeman serving with the combat MP's of the 4th ID. He too wore the military police

brassard on his upper arm just like the MP in the ward. They shared their own special bond. You could see their mutual respect for one another. As best as I recall, "Bruggie" and my brother had already visited me on that ICU unit until I got too groggy to communicate. And, because of a shard of shrapnel in my windpipe they performed a tracheotomy on me so, speaking was a process. Breathe in thru the trach hole, cover it, and then speak while expelling the breath. Repeat the process each time you want to talk.

Here is where it gets totally ludicrous as can only be found in or around combat vets. (Especially Nam vets.) "Bruggie" and my brother had, of course, gone into Nha Trang whilst I slept on and on in that ICU unit within the Quonset hut. So it was that I awakened on this one particular time feeling a weight on my chest. AS I opened my eyes I saw "Bruggie" on one side of my bed and my brother, David, on the other/ ON my chest was a white box, much like a box that would hold a present like a shirt, or P.J.'s, or shorts. Going thru the "Process" I took a breath, covered the trach hole and asked, "What the \_\_\_\_ did you," (took a breath in, covered the hole, then spoke to finish,) "... bring me?" They told me to open the box and I did,... carefully,... very carefully. I know these two guys. Now, I don't expect you to believe what was in the box because I could hardly believe it when I opened it and saw what they had put in.

"Jaw breakers!" Yeah true story. Multi-colored 1 half inch to ¾ inch gumball. Jawbreakers! So,... I asked, "What the hell is this?" And without hesitation they looked at each other with shit eating grins on their faces, each smiling like a possum eatin' fresh bird crap and then they each picked up a jawbreaker, looked at me and said something to the effect that these damn'd gumball Jaw breakers were to keep me happy. In other words according to them,... improvise, adapt, attack, and conquer. They then said these Jawbreakers were miniature "Mortar Rounds" and, with that they both turned and tossed those "Rounds" in high arc trajectories and each falling on the enemy down the row of beds. Those "Rounds" fell nightly. With both love and tears both said their goodbyes and were gone. David "Bruggie" Brueggeman is still us living in Illinois and still selling insurance. I hope that's where he's at.

THE END

Vietnam claimed my brother David Alan Pipkin. After I was med evac'd out of 'Nam to Japan and then back to the U.S.A, I found out that he had returned to the 4th Infantry



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Division combat M.P's and extended to stay in-country again, and again, and again. Spending three sound years in heavy combat, David came home. After being diagnosed years later with "Peetsy-Deetsy" (PTSD) the V.A helped open his box of ornamental (Oriental) dreams and dragons from "Nam. He just didn't have it in him to fight them anymore. On January 22nd, 1989 David was slain by the mistress bitch dragon named Vietnam. I was a block away in the V.A hospital being treated for a relapse of "Peetsy- Deetsy" when they notified me.

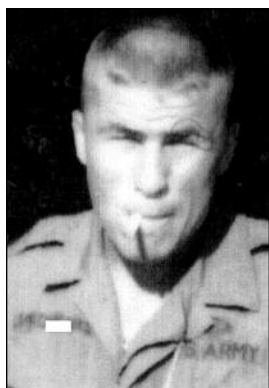
- "Pip"



**Beckwith, Welke, Simons at LZ English, September 1968**



**Ingram, Brooks and Pipkin (from Frank Vansevers)**



**A young Vladimir Jakovenko**



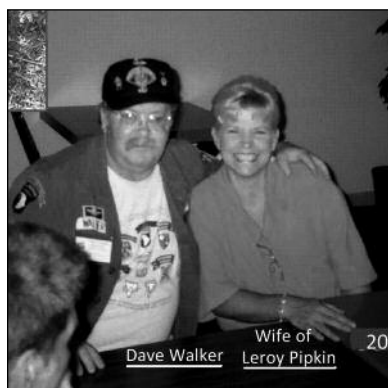
**Welkie and Nesbitt on May 6, 1968 before mission Don Waide and Mike Gerome were KIA the following day. from Reed Welke**



**John Thompson (died 1976) and Don Waide (KIA, May, 1968) from Reed Welke**



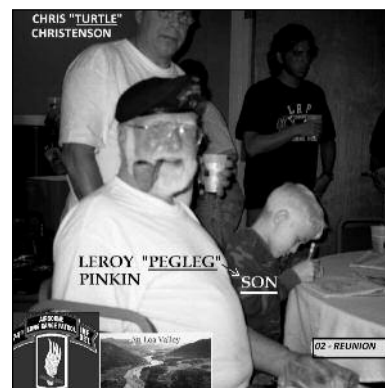
**McDonald and McLaughlin at Plantation Terre Rouge (March 1967)**



**Walker with Pipkin's wife.**



**Boatman's wife Joyce and daughter Carole at reunion**



**Pipkin at 02 reunion**





## O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael L. Feller

Well, winter is well underway, just got a message to get started on the next article so here goes. First insure you let every one hear your choice on where to hold the next F Co Reunion.

Realizing that 40 years ago Oscar Jungle had come to a close and Oscar Arctic was about to start, I would suggest that if you can say you were with O Co 75th Inf Ranger, you are legally an old fart and can officially tell war stories in the place of Fairy Tales.

I got a couple of leave outs to fix from last article first of all I forgot to mention Bob Slade's help at the reunion Bob's been there each and every time I've called on him and this last time was no change. I've included a photo of Slade, Pye and one of Rod Exo playing "Taps" for the memorial at the reunion dinner, seemed rather fitting to include it at this time.

Heard from Tom Monohan he is trying to put together a team reunion this 4th of July, looking Ssg Harris, Pye, Swain, Martiniz. If your out there give him a call 507 459 6959 or if you know where to find Harris or Martiniz let some one know.

Have a great summer and be careful out there on the roads (I just got a "Hog" and aint learnt to ride yet so no place is safe that damn thing'll climb trees (almost). Be afeered mightily afeered.



### In Memorial

"Nothing is dearer than life. Nothing is more precious than to live in Freedom." The following risk there own lives in hopes of securing the freedom of others. May God grant them the piece they deserve.

Beck, Jerry D	KIA
Kelly, Michael J	KIA
Koenig, Daren L	KIA
LaPolla, John A	KIA
Wright, Charles	KIA
Bonvillen, Henry R	
Chairez, Gilberto	
Clemons, Donald L	
Ervin, Lessle W	
Fenner, James C	
Frazier, Michael D	
Goodner, Gary E	
Harris, Shelby D	
Kane, John P	
Maggart, Thomas H	
Martinez, Arthur R	
Prestwood, Jonas S Jr	
Rinkevich, Bernard E	
Trinajstick, Stephen	
Wilkerson, Robert L	
Houser, William J	

God Bless All Ya All  
Later Feller





**P/75 - 79TH LRP**

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick

## Spring 2010 Patrolling Papa Company Rangers

Well it's coming up to that reunion time for us again and this year we're going back to the Smokey Mountains near Cherokee, N.C. Ted Tilson tried to get us some cabins on the water somewhere this time but it was not to be. We have reserved a 25 room block for the time being at a locally owned motel, next to the river, near Cherokee, N.C. The motel is called the Drama Inn and the phone number is: 828-497-3271. Point of contact is Laverne. The address is: 462 Tsali Blvd., US441 N., Cherokee, N.C. 28719. **dramainn.com** is their website if you want to know more. Let them know you are in the Papa Company Ranger group when you make your reservations. The dates are Wednesday, July 28th through Sunday, August 1st, 2010. If you are reading this, you are welcome to join us if you wish and we'd love to have you. There are numerous activities in the area and the weather is usually great. I understand there will be a "Fishing Contest" to find out who is the greatest fisherman/fisherperson in our group and will be open to anyone who wants to lose their money to Jim Femiano. It's simple, the largest unfrozen trout that is fresh wins it all!! Rooms are \$89.00 for the limited riverside rooms and \$79.00 for the others per night. Fishing permits are about \$7.00 per day since you will be on Federal property, but you can fish from the balconies I'm told. The Oconaluftee River flows right behind the motel, which is on the reservation. There is a 48 hour cancellation policy too, but why would you cancel. You've all had all your kids by now!! Any questions, call Teddy Bear Tilson at: 678-936-5448.

Retired CSM George "Dave" Gates continues to recover from a stroke he suffered a while back. I have not done a very good job keeping up with his progress lately and feel badly about that. I knew he was working hard to get back and I have no good excuse for not calling. I'll take care of that soon. Jay Lutz has another surgery coming up soon to repair the hip replacement he started. Duke is recovering nicely and many of you are dealing with different aches and pains that you have ignored for years. We're getting older guys and I want you all to take the time out of your busy lives to make sure you make one of our reunions and get a chance to meet and see again those who fought alongside you in Vietnam, in our company. I feel the same bond and



brotherhood with all those I've met from our company from those many years ago, and it is the same as I feel for those who came before me and after. It's uncanny in many ways and I embrace it and it is one of my treasures in life. And that's not to mention all the other wonderful and great men I've met and spent time with from all the other companies, eras, and the active duty Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment. When I think about it, I just thank my lucky stars that I was interested

enough to take the ball and run with it when it was thrown to me in 1994 initially. If you all knew the heroes I've met that are still living amongst us, you would be amazed like I am when I think about it. Someone said all the heroes were dead, but I assure you that is not accurate without debate. As our older WWII Rangers begin to come to the end of their historic lives, more and more of the Vietnam era warriors stories will become living history for a while, and you are part of it. I hope we all live long enough to see it happen. If I'm wrong, so what?? Ha! Ha!

I've met a wonderful lady recently through Jim "Stepchild" Gates, who is now computer literate and a perfect example that any one of you is capable of using one if you just want to. Right, Jim? Her name is Lynn Towne, and she is married to a wonderful and lucky man named Ray Towne, and they live in San Francisco, California. Somewhere along the line, Stepchild got an e-mail from someone who told about a WWII Ranger, Lonnie Johnson, who was living in a VA Veteran's Home in Huntsville, Alabama and he didn't have much going on. This was evidently Lynn Towne's idea. So it was suggested that we send some Christmas cards and encouraging notes to him and I'm not sure how many did it, but I know it was more than two. I sent it out to my e-mail list for P/75th and I sent him a nice card from us all with a P/75th coin and got a very nice letter back from his family thanking us. I later sent him two of our different t-shirts and he knows who we are now. I wanted to thank and recognize Jim Gates for his humanitarian act and his kindness towards another Ranger and let him know small acts like that do not go unrecognized, nor are they not appreciated by others. Not just the direct recipient. Well Done, Stepchild. Now back to Lynn Towne..... she is the daughter of a WWII Ranger and the Past or current President of the Sons and Daughters



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

of the RBA of WWII. She is very active with that group and does so many things I can't pin them all down. She has been fun to mess with and get messed with by for Jim and me for a while now and he is actually learning how to use his computer from answering all her messages. We're lucky to have made her acquaintance.

Here's a brief list of those who have said they plan to attend the reunion in July..... Jaci Glidden, her Navy pilot husband, her two siblings, her Mom, and kids from Memphis we hope. Her Dad was KIA in our company and his name was Johnny Lawrence. Steve Smith, a cobra pilot from the 158th AHB, 101st Ambl. Division, Garry Norton, Duke and Marion DuShane, Chris Sides (the wife of our KIA, Harold Sides, and a friend from the Dallas area), Grace Mayer and Mary Rossi (and Mary's daughter), Joyce Boatman (and any of her family/friends she can bring), Bill Davis, Jim Femiano, the Tilson clan, Larry Smith, Terry Bishop I suspect, Steve and Barbara Nash, Jerry and Marlene Cornelius, Eddie Johnston and his family, Jose Dominguez we hope, Sam "Brother G" Burnette and his wife, Peggy Sue, Jim Gates, Gregg "Spud/Chilly" Gain, Clyde Tanner and his family, Ed Hoppe, Rick and Margie Foringer, Jay and Marcia Lutz, Thomas and Gaynelle Wilson, Donnie Rose, and I even got an inquiry from John and Bonnie Beckwith, way out west in Seattle, Washington. Special note should be taken here to recognize John and Bonnie for the

many times they have traveled across the United States to be with us over the years. The time and expense, not to mention the hassle it is, to fly these days makes their sacrifices and efforts to join us "special" in my eyes and I hope you all realize that. Feel free to thank them next time you see them in our AO. I'm sure there are more that I have missed but be sure to come and join us if you can.

Not a lot of news lately, but Jim Femiano has joined us here in Paradise while many of you continue to dig out of the snowstorms that have deluged everyone from the Florida panhandle to the bitter north in places like Minnesota (right Grace??) and northern Michigan (right Sgt. Auten) and even better yet, for Carney and Mary Walters in North Dakota along with their neighbors to the south, the Thomas and Emily Holtey family who live in sunny South Dakota. Probably pretty chilly up there in Buffalo, Clyde, and for you too, Fred Tompkins. Forefinger, I know how tough you NY railroad guys are, so you're disqualified. Plus, I trained you at the relay site at Alpha 4 years ago to be tough and ruff. Femiano moved down here across the river from me to Merritt Island, Florida and got away from the arctic-like weather in Peoria, Illinois and is already getting acclimated as I heard him complaining the other day about the 50 degree temps we were having. I was too, but I've been here pretty much since 1963. You all be good and let me know if you need anything. RLTW!! Terry "Rock" Roderick





**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Unit Director - Leon Moore

Dear fellow Rangers and LRS's

Well it's the Spring Issue and this past winter was a very cold and a lot of snow here in Indiana. Most of us survived it, but on a sad note. We have had a few Brothers who have been chosen to go on the Advance Detail and do a Recon to prepare a place for us to gather when we are sent on our last mission. Added to the Roll Call are the following:

**Ranger Thomas L. Razor**

May 19, 1943 –January 13, 2010

**Ranger Gerald E. Brantley**



Gerald (JB)

Brantley joined us at Ft. Benning and soon became one of the Brothers of D Co. 151 and became part of the 1st Platoon in V.N. He was also the 1st solder to be wounded in combat in our Unit. Like most of us he was a combat soldier who gave 100% and was respected by his fellow Brothers. Like all of us he felt we




were there for a noble cause. We are sorry we didn't find out soon enough to pay our respects. He is now part of Advance Detail and will be missed dearly by his Ranger Brothers until we all meet again.

Thomas L. Razor is and always will be a brother, and great friend who has my love and deepest respect. Most of all for being one of my mentors who by his actions and deeds help make me part (the good part) of who I am. Tom had just gotten married this last winter to Patty, whom we met in Florida in 2008 and again at the 40th reunion. I am glad we were able to spend time with Tom

and Patty. I have always kept Tom close to my heart all these years. Patty as become one of our sisters and a great friend to our wives and us, and has been assigned as a Ranger Wife to carry on for Tom so his deeds will not be forgotten.



Tom began his journey as part of the Advanced Detail for the Indiana Rangers on January 13 of this year in Florida. We had the privileged of being there to pay our respects for a fellow Ranger and to support Patty, his two daughters and Tom's brothers and sisters. The Rangers who were able to make the journey were Chuck Eads, Bob McIntire, Doug Hagan, Billy Waters, Jim Bohanan, and myself. We took my motor home and I picked up Chuck and Doug at Chuck Wallace's shop. Chuck was unable to go, due to work related issues, which needed his attention. We then picked up Bob McIntire at the Franklin exit and Billy Waters in Louisville, KY. Next stop was in Gainesville Ga. There we spent the night with Bo and his lovely wife and daughter who welcomed us with great southern hospitality. By the way, we are all still are wondering how Bo was able to land



**GERALD E. BRANTLEY**

Gerald Brantley ( aka JB ) came to Co D 151 in Ft Benning. Gerald had the unique status of having been the first soldier in our unit to be wounded in the field. He held the respect of his fellow brothers of being a great soldier in the field, and a good card player from the first platoon, as Jim Stover recalled.

The picture with Brantley and I was taken one night in the 1st platoon, we were looking forward to being combat soldiers. We both had some of the same romantic notions about it, at that time anyway. I remember Gerald, he was a fun guy and a good soldier, and I think we both had the same attitude about being there.....

Jim Bohanan

May the Good Lord welcome Gerald into our growing group of Brothers in that Advance Detail Party.

*As long as one of us still stands  
You will not be Forgotten*

**Reunion 2010**

*August 5th, 6th, & 7th, 2010*

We are working on this years Reunion, and we need your help and input in order to make the event run smoothly. In order to make sure that the last guy in the food line has as much food on his plate as the first man in line, we need to have at least a good idea of how many meals we must prepare. We also could use some ideas for events that people would like to participate in. Last time the Poker Run, and the Golf Outings were well attended and fun for those who ride or play golf. Oscar (Doc) Bruno had an idea to have a Fishing Outing, and there is a place close by to have a Fishing Outing. Great idea for those that would like to spend quiet quality time together. The shopping trip to Little Nashville was fun for those that went, and if they have any money left they can do that again.

We could also use help in making all these events work. For those that can help "Lead the Way" please contact Bob McIntire. We also will be having two meetings that you can attend to help plan the events (see page 2).

Please fill out self-addressed stamped Post Card and send it back as soon as possible and lets get "IN CONTACT" once again, while we still can. As for myself, I would like to have more time to visit and be with all of you. Love You All, and I'm hoping to see all that were there last time, and those that could not make to the last reunion.....Doug Hagan

*Enjoy Life Now... It Has An Expiration Date!!*



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

this Lovely Lady (Pavon) who is a great cook and puts up with Bo's adventures. Thanks again Pavon, for putting us up for two nights and the banana bread was something to die for. I can still taste it.

The next morning we continued south. We arrived at St. Petersburg, FL. Saturday in the late afternoon. Our first stop was with Doug Hagan's friend Carl. Carl and Doug became friends/brothers back in 1969 when they were in the V A hospital together state side while recouping from their injuries in Viet Nam. Carl was kind enough to let us spend the night. After spending some time with Carl, I now know why Doug stays in touch with him. The next morning we had some time on our hands so we went sight seeing and to Sarasota. I have two aunts that were about 20 min. away so I called them to see if they could meet us at the mall. When my aunts and uncles show up at the motor home in the parking lot they came in and enjoyed meeting the guys. Of course Bob (Mac) started telling stories and stories and the other guys would get in a few words now and then. Chuck wanted to know if I was the only nut in the family, and all 4 of them said yes I pipe in and said you forgot my Grandmother (Creo) and they agreed.

Well the guys went in the mall to check it out because Chuck needed to get his ice cream fix. We talk for a while and decided to get something to eat. On the way to the mall my aunt Rosé ask if the guys are always like that? I said yes, we're all crazy, that's why we became Rangers no one in their right mind would have done the things we've done, and may still do if given the chance. As we went into the mall there was an ice cream place right inside the door, and as we walked by we overheard Billy saying: "I'm not paying \$6.00 for a scoop of ice cream" we just keep walking. Well sense I called my Aunts and Uncles to meet me, I thought I would buy their lunch. Of course they wanted to pay and I told them "no or I'd call the guys back and have them tell more stories". They gladly let me pay. The showing was at 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Once we arrived we met Jim and Donna Owens outside. Patty had no idea we were coming, so we walked in and as luck would it I was the first one she saw and I got the brunt of it. She was hugging and crying and would not let go until she saw Chuck and the rest of the guys. Patty was so surprised she still could not believe we were there.

After the service Patty invited us to their house for a bit to eat and drink. We enjoyed meeting Tom's brothers, sisters, two daughters and grandkids, and Patty's sisters and families. Afterwards Jim and Donna invited us to spend the

night at there home plus it was close to the New Veterans Cemetery were the service was going to be held the next morning. Then upon arrival at Jim's home, we meet Jim's mom whom we have met at several reunions. She is pretty sharp minded and keeps you in line while enjoying every minute of it. Donna, come to find out, is an artist in her own right and showed her paintings and designs she painted on the walls of their home. Donna is going to send me pictures of her work HINT, HINT. I always enjoy visiting with Jim and Donna and Jim's Mom. I am proud to call them family. The next, morning we went to the service at 10:00 a.m. to pay our final respects. Upon arriving at the cemetery John Mason and Walter Hasty joined us along with Jim and Donna Owens. At the end of the service we saluted our brother and bid our farewells to Patty and the family. Jim Owens invited us to the American Legion for lunch. The legion gave us a warm welcome to our surprise Charles Eickleberry was there. He was kind enough to buy pizzas and Jim Owens kept us supplied with drinks. We enjoyed exchanging stories and fellowship with Charlie, Jim and Donna, but all goods things must end. We said our good-byes and headed home.

**UPCOMING EVENTS****April 11, 2010**

- A memorial service was held for Robert Smith with fellowship and unit meeting at the American Legion in Morristown IN.
- The Kokomo All Vets. Mini reunion will be in June
- Our Ranger Co. D 151 Reunion will be August 4, 5 and 6, 2010.
- More information will be in the summer issue upon receiving final plans.

**PAST EVENTS****February 14, 2010**

Memorial service was held for Charlie Larkins with fellowship and unit meeting at the American Legion in Greenfield IN. We had a good turn out with about 30 brothers and sisters attending and had fellowship afterwards. We were also happy that John McEvoy and Max Anderson were able to attend.

**A Special Thanks**

I would like to thank Doug (Ernie) Hagan for putting out the Contact Newsletters. Doug is doing a great job along with Bob McIntire's letters from the President. Doug needs your input, pictures, and any news you would like to share with your fellow Rangers/LRS's. Oh, by the way, if you have nothing else to do, you could send your Unit Director,



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

(ME) something, (anything) or I will have to adlib to the little I hear, as I have had to do in the past. Like Doug said on the way down to Florida, “you have to watch what you say around Leon because he’ll put it the next issue”. On my behalf, I have to get what I can when I can

***On A Special Note***

I would like to take this time to let Carl Norris know that he watched over us and pulled us out of some pretty hot LZ’s from time to time. Now it’s our turn to help him with his illness though our prayers and our emails. Its not like

we ever hear from him (from him, from him). I still love you Carl, and keep those emails coming; you brighten my day when I get them. Our payers are with you and Rosy

Signing Off

Sgt. Leon Moore

Cell: 765-730-9140

Home: 765-874-1996

Email [leomoo@verizon.net](mailto:leomoo@verizon.net)

**F/51 LRP**

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

**OPERATION TOAN THANG PART 11**

This final continuation covers from May 19, 1968 until May 24, 1968. From April 25<sup>th</sup> until April 29<sup>th</sup> F/51 LRP was under operational control of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was operating out of Cu Chi and worked in the area South of Duc Hoa in the Pineapple and Orange operational areas. From April 30<sup>th</sup> through May, F/51 LRP were under operational control of 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and operated once again in the “Catchers Mitt” area in the operational areas of Upshur II, Los Banos, and Los Banos East. The general missions consisted of trail, canal, and rocket watch and to detect enemy movements.

**Team 17** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1750HRS (5:50 PM). At 1758HRS (5:58 PM) Team 17 reported seeing 3 Vietcong in black pj’s on the LZ 50 meters approximately Northwest of the team and more movement approximately West Southwest of the team. Team 17 was extracted at 1805Hrs (6:05 PM). During the extraction the helicopters reported receiving ground fire and the gun-ships used suppression fire to cover the extraction. Team 17 was then reinserted into their secondary LZ at 1810HRS (6:10 PM). At 1815HRS (6:15 PM) Team 17 reported hearing voices and movement towards the teams location from approximately the North-Northeast, the South and the North. At 1819HRS (6:19 PM) Team 17 reported they were in contact with Vietcong 50 meters North of the team. At 1820HRS (6:20 PM) the gun-ships reported that their suppression firing was driving the



Vietcong back to a possible base camp. Team 17 reported seeing one 8-foot square hooch and believed that the base camp was around most of the LZ with most of the camp being West of the LZ. Team 17 also reported seeing a long barricade at the edge of the LZ. Team 17 was extracted at 1832HRS (6:32 PM). During the extraction, the extraction helicopters and the gun-ships reported receiving ground fire. There were negative US casualties. During the debriefing Team 17 reported the Vietcong were wearing black pj’s and dark green uniforms and

carrying AK-47’s. At the second contact the Vietcong used a 3 knocks on wood signaling system. Team 17 also reported seeing a concrete bridge 20-foot long by 8 to 10 feet wide.

**Team 41** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 0907HRS (9:07 AM). At 0927HRS (9:27 AM) Team 41 reported light movement 50 meters West-Northwest of the team. At 1706HRS (5:06 PM) Team 41 reported finding an Anti-Personal mine on the East side of the trail the team was at. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> Team 41 reported the location of a possible base camp. On May 24<sup>th</sup> at 0931HRS (9:31 AM) Team 41 was extracted.

**Team 15** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their alternate LZ, the primary LZ had an LZ watcher that was spotted, on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1448HRS (2:48 PM). Team 15 reported hearing noises East of the LZ after the insertion. At 1508HRS (3:08 PM) Team 15 reported movement 125 meters North of the team. At 1523HRS (3:23 PM) Team 15 reported the hearing movement to the team’s North and



**F/151 LRP (CONTINUED)**

heading around them to the West. At 1615HRS (4:15 PM) Team 15 reported movement 50 meters to the teams West. The movement was on a line to his Southwest and voices were heard. At 1625HRS (4:25 PM) Team 15 reported seeing 2 Vietcong in black pj's to the teams Southwest. The movement began to surround the team and ALOFT reported movement the Team 15's Northeast. The Vietcong held up when the helicopters passed the area. At 1725HRS (5:25 PM) Team 15 reported they had initiated contact against 6 Vietcong. Team 15 was extracted at 1737HRS (5:37 PM) with negative US casualties. At the debriefing Team 15 reported that the Vietcong were wearing black pj's, 2 had no shirts and were wearing straw and floppy hats and were moving from the Southwest to the North. The team also reported the location of a bunker 3-foot by 2 foot with a log covering and 5 US claymore detonators and one M79 round.

**Team 21** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 20th at 1850HRS (6:50 PM). Gunships reported seeing 3 Vietcong 300 meters Northwest of TEAM 21's LZ. At 1905HRS (7:05 PM) Team 21 reported 1 Vietcong crossing the LZ and making whistling signals. At 1919HRS (7:19 PM) Team 21 reported hearing 2 wood knocks about every 30 seconds. At 1921HRS (7:21 PM) Team 21 reported seeing 3 Vietcong running across the LZ to the teams South. At 1928HRS (7:28 PM) Team 21 reported 2 more Vietcong came into the South side of the LZ. At 1931HRS (7:31 PM) Team 21 initiated contact against 5 Vietcong resulting in 2 enemy KIA. At 1931HRS (7:31 PM) Team 21 was extracted. During the extraction the extraction helicopters and the covering gun-ships reported receiving ground fire from the North side of the LZ. Artillery was called in on the contact area and the gun-ships expended their ammo on the area. At the debriefing Team 21 reported that there were a number of well used trails in the area.

**Team 16** was a 7 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 21st at 0924HRS (9:24 AM). At 1410HRS (2:10 PM) Team 16 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 20 meters from the team and that he was watching the team and the team also heard 2 or 3 more Vietcong in a swampy area nearby. At 1424HRS (2:24 PM) Team 16 reported hearing movement and rifle shots 75 to 150 meters Northeast of the team. At 1539HRS (3:59 PM) Team 16 reported seeing 2 Vietcong in black pj's both were armed. 20 meters West-Southwest of the team. At 1717HRS (5:15 PM) Team 16 initiated contact against 2 Vietcong, killing one by throwing a grenade. The body fell into a deep swamp and was inaccessible to the team when they swept the area. At 1748HRS Team 166 was extracted. At the debriefing the team reported seeing a 5 foot by 5 foot

platform 30 feet up in a tree and hard chickens in the area.

**Team 32** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 21st at 1900HRS (7:00 PM). Team 32 reported that just off a trail the team found was evidence of 2 freshly cut trail and many freshly cut sleeping positions and other signs of heavy Vietcong use in the area. On May 22nd at 1402HRS (2:02 PM) Team 32 reported hearing chopping 150 meters North of the team. On May 23rd at 1826HRS (6:26 PM) Team 32 reported hearing drums 500 meters to the teams Southwest. An artillery mission was called into the drum noise at 1850HRS (6:50 PM) and at the end of the fire mission at 1949HRS (7:49 PM) the drum noise had stopped. On May 25th at 0945HRS (9:45 AM) Team 32 was extracted. At the debriefing Team 32 reported finding 6 foxholes and one 3-man bunker in good shape, the team also recovered 1 Vietcong claymore firing device.

**Team 36** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 22nd at 1430HRS (2:30 PM). On May 23rd Team 36 reported hearing mortars firing 500 meters East of the team and firing to the South. On May 24th at 1648HRS (4:48 PM) Team 36 reported hearing 1 M79 round impact 500 meters North of the team. At 1659HRS (4:59 PM) Team 36 reported hearing an M60 firing to the North of the team that sound like a firefight happening. On May 26th at 1034HRS (10:34 AM) Team 36 was extracted.

**Team 25** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 22nd at 1437HRS (2:47 PM). On May 23rd at 1009HRS (10:09 AM) Team 25 reported hearing voices 40 meters Northeast of the team and moving to the North. The Vietcong were heard saying that there were Americans in the area and that they had better be moving on. At 1241HRS (12:41 PM) Team 25 reported hearing voices 50 meters East of the team. At 1429HRS (2:29 PM) Team 25 reported finding 2 trees with writing on them which said that the road was closed due to the Vietcong mining the road. At 1702HRS (5:02 PM) team 25 reported that a team member had been wounded by a .45 caliber misfire. At 1720HRS (5:20 PM) Team 25 was extracted and the wounded team member was evacuated to the 93rd Evac hospital.

**Team 34** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 23rd at 0935HRS (9:35 AM). On May 24th at 1650HRS (4:50 PM) Team 34 reported 2 M-79 rounds landing approximately North of the team at an unknown distance. On May 25th at 0937HRS (9:37 AM) Team 34 was extracted. At the debriefing Team 34 reported finding 15 small 2-man foxholes on both sides of a road the team had found.



**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

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

Unit Director - Bill Miller

**Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:**

As a follow up to the Charles Crafts award presentation I am reprinting the following along with a photo. It is my pleasure to inform you that Specialist Fourth Class Charles Crafts has been awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star (V), and the Bronze Star. The awards ceremony took place in Jay, Maine on Nov. 9, 2009. Specialist Crafts served with MACV Advisory Group Detachment 95 as a Radio Operator and Advisor to the 33rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.



**Charlie Crafts  
after the award  
ceremony**



separated Ranger companies, the 44th Ranger and the 32nd, 41st, 42nd, and 43rd Ranger battalions were placed under the command and control of the IV-Corps in the IV-Corps Tactical Zone. The 44th had participated in most major campaigns and operations in the Mekong delta (IV).

In the Tet offensive (Luna new year day, year of the Monkeys), the battalion was stationed in the perimeter of the Soc Trang airfield to protect the airfield. Suddenly, the entire battalion was heli-lifted to Long My district at 14:00 hours on the 9th of the end of the old year (Vietnamese calendar,

two days before the new year). The following morning, I gave order to four rifle companies to search the surrounding area, about 4, 5km in defense. From the news, the battalion must be on alert and ready for combat.

**Sick Call**

The following individual has passed away since the last issue. Please keep their families in your prayers.

**McDonald Valentine Jr.**

It is with great sadness that I report Don Valentine passed away this past June at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Atlanta, Ga, after a long battle with diabetes.

Don was a retired Lt. Col and served with the 52nd and 31st Arvn Ranger Battalions from 1969-71. Don was instrumental in forming the Vietnamese Ranger Society here in the United States. After his retirement Don became a baseball scout and was well known in the baseball community. Don was a avid collector of Military memorabilia. Don will be sorely missed by his Ranger buddies.

THE 44TH RANGER IN CAN THO 1968

Ho-Viet Luong

After the formation of the twenty Ranger battalions from

In the afternoon of the 30th, I received the order from brigadier general Nguyen Van Minh, commander of the 21st Infantry division that the 44th Ranger must be ready for deployment. But the current AO, there wasn't any sign of the enemy activities. The company commanders suggested that we should do some civil activity to celebrate the new-year with the villagers. We have soldiers who can perform lion dance with a big lion head, borrowed from a Buddhist temple in the area, and do fire-works if permitted. But! In the late night of the 30 (new year eve), Lt. C. Le Van Hung, commander of the 31 st regiment (21 st Infantry) called me from his headquarters in the province of Chuong Thien. He informed that the communists have attacked many cities in the I-Corps and II-Corps, and the Joint General Staffs put the entire arms forces in the alert state. But peace was still in this area, the villagers still celebrated the luna new year, with fire-works. I let soldiers in small groups, took turn to go to the village and enjoyed the new year with people beginning at 9:30 in the morning.

At 12:30, the battalion again was heli-lifted into the city of Can Tho to counter-attack the enemy who had penetrated into the city. About 1pm, the 44th ranger was landed in the 31 airfield (for observation airplane L-19), I contacted,



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

colonel Nguyen Ngoc Diep, the deputy commander at his headquarters (light HQs of the 21st Infantry division) inside a child-care building, next to the IV-Corps headquarters compound.

I was ordered to move the battalion to the center of the city, and from there to direct the battalion to “clean up” those positions where the enemy’s sapper units had penetrated: the area of Tham Tuong bridge, hamlet of Ca Dai, Rach Ngong canal, and area along the banks of Cay Khe canal I moved the Headquarters of the 44th battalion into the center of the city and camped overnight in the provincial installation. Inside the compound, there were many units of the infantry, cavalry ranger and provincial units which were busy in coordination with each others to counter attack.

Outside, the atmosphere was very much different. The streets were-all deserted, only sounds of the gun-fight broke out everywhere and the smell of smoke from house fires filled the air. I gave order to all four rifle companies moved out in quiet and silence radio transmission, except when clashing with the enemy. During this time, I met Lt. Col. Son Thuong, commander of the 4th Ranger group, but we did not talk much, everyone was busy with the fights in the city.

All companies of the battalion reported encountered light reaction with the enemy. On the second day of the new-year, the 44th Ranger was ordered to coordinate with cavalry and infantry units to counter attack to regain the control of the radio station. The Can Tho radio station was attacked and hold by the Tay Do battalion and one company of sapper unit. The enemy after controlling the radio station already dug in to defend against the counterattacking forces.

The battalion started from the Tham Tuong bridge, split into two spear-heads. The first (light or Bravo wing) with companies 2 and 4 under the command of the battalion’s XO, Captain Hoang Dinh Man attacked directly to the radio station and the Cao Dai temple. The second with companies 1 and 3 under the command of the battalion commander (I, Major Ho Viet Luong, the author of this story), this spear-head will attack from the east and the south. The 2/31 infantry will attack from the southwest. This battalion encountered heavy defense and through the radio PRC-25, I knew that this infantry battalion suffered some casualties.

The Ranger battalion encountered the same enemy’s reaction with AK-47s and B-40, B-41 RPG guns. We had to divide unit into small squads and pushed forward, to regain each single piece of land and small canals. When we got close to the enemy position, I called for artillery and air strikes then moved forward to attack ferociously. The VC

abandoned their fox holes and retreated to the other area along the banks of Rau Ram canal and Rach Ngong canal with the intention to retake the radio station. The Ranger counted 32 enemy dead bodies, captured 9 AK47s, 2 B-40 RPGs and one machine gun RPD. The Ranger lost 6 soldiers KIA and 11 wounded. By the night fall, the 44th battalion completely controlled the radio station.

On the 3rd and 4th of the new year, the headquarters of the battalion based in the Phan Thanh Gian high school (oldest and largest in the city of Can Tho) to direct companies to mop up remaining enemy positions in the city. The city of Can Tho was dead on the first three days in the luna calendar, in the afternoon of the 4th day, the enemy was pushed out and away from the center of the city to the outskirts, so some small businesses reopened. One unforgettable memory is that, wherever the Rangers went through, they were greeted by civilian people with special foods and drinks of the new-year.

The following days, the 44th Ranger was to protect the city, they encountered “hit and run” from those enemy who “got stuck” in the city. In one serious occasion, when the Ranger moved into the hamlet of Ca Dai (searching operation), suddenly the enemy used machine gun and opened fire on the leading element of the battalion. The Ranger took positions, I ordered a three men recon team to find the location of the machine gun. They came back and reported that the enemy positioned the machine gun on the second floor in the house that belonged to Lt. Col. Nguyen Van Khuong, chief of staff of the 21st Infantry division. Then the recon team led the 57mm recoilless gun team to a position closed to the enemy’s machine gun. They only needed one shot from the 57mm gun then the recon team rushed inside the house and killed two more VCs. The remaining battalion entered and search the entire hamlet, they found 5 more dead enemies and captured 5 more (some of the POWs were wounded). Searching to the end of the hamlet, the Ranger found two more VCs lied dead in the front yard of a house.

At noon on the 6th the battalion received order to be ready as a reaction force. The 31st regiment under Lt. Col. Le Van Hung was sweeping enemy positions on the outskirts of the city and the Joint General Staff also sent the B (Bravo) Marines brigade under the command of Lt. Col. Ton That Soan to reinforce the IV-Corps. I stopped by the headquarters of the Marines to visit the commander and gave a briefing on the situation of the city of Can Tho on the last several days.

Back to the battalion, I was reported that the 2/31 infantry was ambushed at the bank of the Rau Ram canal. This



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

battalion was already inflicted with casualty, and the battalion commander was among the KIAs. Then, I received the order from the light headquarters of the 21 st Infantry division to move the 44th ranger to the northwest. Received the order, I was very reluctant. It was getting dark, and the target area hold a strategic advantage with many trees. Also, there were canals on two sides along the road to the target and with many small canals. But the order was order and it must be accomplished.

With the disadvantages on both time and the terrain, I gave order to the men to form battle formation in upside down If-shape and to the artillery forward officer to plot predefined targets. The battalion moved in silence radio, only use when under enemy fires. Even with careful, when the leading element of the “Black Tiger” (nick name of the 44th ranger battalion) moved about 700, 800m, the enemy opened fire on the Rangers with all kind of weapons: AK-47, B-40, and machine gun. The 44th Rangers were pinned down, using the mud banks on the rice paddy for cover. The enemy in their trenches screamed “Attack! Attack!” to intimidate the rangers but none of them moved forward. At that moment, the battalion had only two soldiers wounded from the initial round of enemy gun fires.

The deputy commander of the 21st Infantry division was flying on a C&C saw the action on the ground and allowed the 44th battalion to have privilege using fire support. I requested artillery to fire on enemy positions, and they continued to scream “Attack! Attack!”. Then I called artillery to fire away from the rear of the enemy line. After the artillery bombardment, I gave order to the Rangers to go forward for the attack. The enemy abandoned their positions, ran for their lives when rangers screamed “Ranger Kill! Ranger Kill!”. The 44th Ranger battalion swam into enemy position killed 39 VCs, captured 1 machine gun with three-legs, 2 B-40 and 12 rifles. The Ranger suffered 6 KIAs, among those was First Lieutenant Doan Van Cho, class 20 Dalat (national military academy), commander of the 2nd company. Words from the captured VCs, if the Tay Do battalion did not meet the 44th Ranger, they will move on to attack the radio station again. On the 11th, the 44th ranger battalion was visited by Lt. General Nguyen Due Thang, new commander of the IV-Corps, and on the 12th, the battalion was sent back to Rach Gia.

**Note:****Commanders of the 44th ranger battalion:**

Captain Nguyen Van Dan (KIA in 1972)

Captain Nguyen Van Huy (latest rank Colonel)

Captain Ho Viet Luong (Tet Offensive, latest rank Lt. Colonel)

Captain Hoang Dinh Man (?)

Captain Nguyen Nhenh (KIA)

Not known from here ...

Orange county ... Missing friends.

Ho Viet Luong

From Hieu Vu: The latest rank of the author was Lt.

Colonel, commander of the 32nd regiment, 21 st Infantry division.



**Squad Leaders from the 44th Ranger Bn wearing their US Presidential Unit Citation**

**SITREP: UPDATE****Heads up!**

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Biet Dong Quan a reunion will be held May 10, 11, 12 at the Radisson Hotel (Airport) in Charleston, SC. The guaranteed room rate is \$89 and they have sleep number beds and rooms with two queen size beds and rooms with a King size bed with a pull out love seat. The Hotel will hold rooms until April 10, 2010 so please reserve a room ASAP. (Phone 843 744-2501) Be sure to state you are with the US Army Ranger Advisors BDQ. The Hotel is **pet** friendly, but please contact them for additional information. The rooms have refrigerators, microwaves, and coffee machines. There is a restaurant that serves Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner and also a Cocktail lounge. There is also an airport shuttle to the Hotel. More information will follow as we get closer to the date and formal invitations will be sent out. Please mark this on your calendars, and let's have a great turn out. There is plenty to do in Charleston if you so desire. Here is a sample.

Visit Fort Sumter

Tour the Aircraft Carrier USS Yorktown (which houses the Medal of Honor Museum)

A WWII Submarine

The Aquarium

Horse Drawn Carriage rides (there are several different routes)

The downtown Market



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

Rainbow Row & the Battery  
Southern Plantations within easy driving distance

**Follow up:**

In another follow up to the article on Khe Sanh and the 37th ARVN Ranger Bn see the photo below.



**Capt Hoang Pho Bn CO  
of the 37th Ranger BN  
Dec 1967**

**Tullahoma, Tennessee:**

In October 2009 several Ranger Advisors and wives met at the Wingo Inn on Arnold AFB in Tullahoma, Tn. The reason for the visit was for some R&R and to visit the monument to the WWII 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions who trained at Camp Forest (part of Arnold, AFB) in 1943. A great time was had by all although the weather could have been better. It was Oktoberfest at the club with German food and of course beer.



**L to R Walt Gunn, Mike Martin, Bill Miller, Doug Perry, Ed Scholes, Earl Singletary**



**L to R Phyllis Gunn, Walt Gunn, Susan Miller, Bill Miller, Hilda Martin, Mike Martin, Ed Scholes, Mechelle Singletary, Earl Singletary**

**Quote:**

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing”.  
Albert Einstein



# STATE COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES

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

### Mark Renninger, Ranger, Law Enforcement Officer

We are sad to have to say that Mark was killed in the line of duty. The following is a letter from **State Coordinator Kevin Leppa** stating his support for the 75th RRA. Kevin makes it sound as if he did very little but it was during difficult times and we appreciate good men like Kevin assisting our families.

When I first found out that Mark Renninger was a Ranger from 2nd battalion the first thing I did was start the communication channels running between the guy's on the Ranger list server and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to see if we could get a coordinated group together to pay our respects to him and his family. I also started commo between the Lakewood Police Dept. and myself where Mark served as a SWAT Office. This was an unbelievable tragedy because it was not only one officer killed but also four. The coordination for services was astonishingly huge especially by the law enforcement community from around the country and Canada as well. The Lakewood P.D. put me in touch with Brian Wurts with the Lakewood Police Independent Guild. He would channel my info through the family liaison officer directly to Mark's family. Because of the rapid pace things were moving here in WA it became increasingly clear that the engraved silver coin for his wife and children and the Gold Star certificate for his mother wouldn't be available in time for the memorial service here. The memorial service that was going to be held in the Tacoma Dome which could hold 29,000 was going to be taken up almost entirely by law enforcement so any type of a presentation there was impossible. I also began some coordination with the 2nd Ranger battalion and the provost on Ft. Lewis as well and I was able to give a solid point of contact for 2nd batt whom was already on top of things and had a special plaque made for his family so they could get it to them. The next thought was to mail the coin and certificate to Mark's wife so with a little work I came up with his wife's address, but I was also aware that Mark was going to be taken back to Bethlehem, PA to be laid to rest there in his home town. So I also began immediate commo with Kristy Koch the departmental secretary Bethlehem P.D.. Then moved on to the Deputy Police Commissioner Stuart Bedics. I then started phone commo with Captain David Kravatz from the Bethlehem P.D. This entire thing was moving at the speed of light and the officers at the Bethlehem P.D. were extremely accommodating and went far and above the call to make things happen and provide any and all assistance

we needed. The entire time every bit of commo was passed thru myself back to Gene Tucker, John Chester, Bill Bullen, Joseph Little and some others in order to get someone to represent the association and the Rangers and make the presentation happen for his family. So all in all I didn't really do anything but make a lot of phone calls and drove to Lakewood PD a few times. I can't say enough about the Lakewood P.D., 1st Sgt. Bethlehem P.D. 2nd Ranger Battalion, Ft. Lewis Provost, Brian Wurtz and the Lakewood Independent Guild and of course the 75th Ranger regiment Association. Chris Mulinax was my contact at 2nd batt for Mark Renninger's plaque info and other commo I was just more than happy to be of assistance to honor a brother Ranger and a Police officer of our community. Any omissions was purely because of my aged feeble mind and was not done on purpose so if I left anyone out I apologize.

- Kevin

Our own 75th RRA President, John Chester, with Bill Bullen (past President), and Marc Thompson, (B-75 Unit Director), attended the funeral in Marks Home state (Bethlehem, PA). The 75th RRA also presented the family with and engraved, colorized silver coin and a certificate.

### Lonnie Johnson, CO C 1st Rgr Bn (Cisterna Survivor)

We received a request from Ms. Lynn Towne asking if we could contact Lonnie as he was a Ranger and in a veteran's home. She felt that he would like to speak to a fellow ranger. Well our own **State Coordinator Bryant Middleton** came to our aid as he has many times. The following is Bryant's account of his assistance to Ranger Johnson.

After five tries, I finally reached Ranger Lonnie Johnson at the Floyd Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville, Ala. We spoke for about forty-five minutes and Lonnie indicated he was ninety-five and he appreciated someone taking the time to call. He asked if anyone could stop by for a visit as that "would be nice"? He sounded alert but tired and indicated he doesn't get around much and that his mind isn't as sharp as it once was. He asked my age and where I had served? When I informed him that I was 65 and a Vietnam Ranger and retired from the Army, he replied that I was soooooo young. We talked briefly about his unit (Co C, 1st Rgr Bn, during the invasion at Anzio) and he couldn't remember his Battalion Commanders name. I provided him the commanders name (Maj Dobson) and told him of some of the other American commanders and then the German commanders and units he fought against. I had researched



# STATE COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES

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

his unit on the Internet before calling. He was quick to remind me that he was one of only six Rangers to make it back to Allied lines after the battle of Cisterna.

I will phone him as often as possible, without becoming a pest. I'll also send him a letter now and again too. He sounded surprised that someone from the Rangers would take the time to call and spend time talking with him. He was even more surprised and thankful when I told him I'd call as often as he wanted. Hopefully, the Association can find someone near him so they can visit. Let me know what else I can do.

- Bryant

The following is a reply from Larry Johnson, Lonnie's son to Bryant.

Dear Capt. Middleton,

I just wanted to thank you for contacting my father. He told me about your conversation and was so touched that you would think of him to call. He most likely didn't answer his phone because sometimes he just doesn't hear it or doesn't have it with him. I have the same problem at time trying to reach him and I call at least daily.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

- Larry

We sent an engraved Bronze coin to Lonnie and wish him the best.

### PFC Adam Bates

We received the following request From John Miska. There is a 75th guy Adam Bates he never got his tab and is a PFC he is on ward 57 just past the nurses station...He needs some friends right now as Mom just went home and he is alone for Christmas.....He was to go to Ranger school to get the tab.... After this tour. I think it is \*\*\*\*\* up that he is good enough to deploy and get his legs blown off but they will not let him get the tab and be called a ranger unless he go play in the woods? I think that anyone serving with rangers who gets tagged out to automatically get the tab..Q School be damned...

Our own **State Coordinator Charley Laws** responded.

Seen him this morning spirits were hi, a real ranger he showed me his wounds says he would still love to go to ranger school He said the people who take care of him are the best. There is a feeling when i walked on the floors that that nothing comes before the wounded. keep in mind i live in DE and i am only 2 hrs from WRAH.

### Charley Laws

We are presenting **Charley (Rick) Laws** with an engraved silver coin for his support provided as a State Coordinator. He has now become a member of the State Coordinators that have assisted a person representing the 75th RRA, therefore earning the coin.

### Demos D Johnson

I was recently notified that Demos D Johnson CO F 75th Rangers passed away in November of 2008 by Tim Walsh (President of F CO) and Joe Little (1st Vice President of the 75th RRA). His family did not know who to call or somehow was unable to contact us. Please inform your loved ones so that we may assist them when they need us. We are sending his family an engraved silver coin and a certificate from the 75th RRA. I only wish we could have been there for his family earlier.

**I cannot say how proud we members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association are of the State coordinators and the great work that they do for all of us.**

## NOW THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT!

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

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

### FIELD COORDINATORS

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

**I (Gene Tucker) will be able to provide silver and/or bronze coins that you may present to the families of our departed brothers or hospitalized and wounded Rangers, LRRPs and LRP's. Please notify me as soon as you know what you want engraved on the coins and the address to have the coin sent to.**

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

**Gene Tucker**

**State Coordinator – Advocate**

**75th Ranger Regiment Association**

**egt12@comcast.net**



# Special Operations Memorial Update

My last report was in May of last year. Our losses since then included **MSG Christopher J. Keith**, 10th SFG(A) of that same month.

In April 2009 we lost two Navy SEALs, **PO2 Tyler J. Trahan** and **SOC Eric J. Shellenberger**.

Losses in May included **Specialist Omar M. Albrak** with the 5th SFG(A) Joint Special Operations Task Force; **Ranger Corporal Ryan Casey McGhee** with Company D, 3rd Ranger Battalion; and Navy SEAL **SK1 Ealy Coll Bell Jr.**

Navy SEAL **PO1 Andrew J. Lighter** was our sole loss in June.

During July we had four losses: **SSG Ryan P. Means**, 5th SFG(A), **SGT Michael P. Roy**, 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, **CPL Benjamin Kopp** with the 7th SFG(A), and **CW2 Douglas M. Vose**, 10th SFG(A).

August was a bad month. On 2 August the 20th SFG(A) USAR lost **SFC Alejandro Granado III**, **CPT Ronald G. Luce Jr.**, and **SFC Severin W. Summers III**. On 12 August the 7th SFG(A) lost **CPT John Tinsley**, and on 16 August our losses were **CPL Michael R. Roush**, 1st PSYOP Battalion and another 20th SFG(A), USAR loss – **SFC William B. Woods**. Four soldiers went down on 20 August with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment – **CW4 Terrence Greer**, **CCG Paul Jackson**, **CW4 Tobert Johnson**, and **CCG Chad Tucker**. Two days later on 22 August the 7th SFG(A) lost **SSG Andrew Lobosco**, and finally on 28 August **SSG Jason S. Dahlke** and **PFC Eric w. Hario** were lost while serving with the 1st Ranger Battalion. Thirteen losses in one month.

Seven losses in September included **CAPT Joshua S. Meadows**, 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, then **SFC Duane A. Thornsby** of the 10th SFG(A), followed by **SFC Bradley S. Bohle**, **SFC Shawn P. McCloskey**, and **SSG Joshua M. Mills** with the 7th SFG(A), and **SSG Jack M. Martin III** and **SFC Christopher D. Shaw** with the 1st SFG(A).

October was our second worst month starting with **SFC Roberto S. Sanchez** of the 1st Ranger Battalion, and **SGT James R. Stright**, **Keith R. Bishop**, **J.E. Hernandez-Chavez**, **CW3 Niall D. Lyons**, **SSG Shawn H. McNabb**, **SFC David E. Metzger**, **CW4 Michael P. Montgomery**, and **SGT Nikolas A. Mueller**, all with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

In November we lost **SGT Charles I. Cartwright** with the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, and **SSG Matthew A. Pucino**, the fifth loss on the 20th SFG(A), USAR.

There were no SOF losses in December and we'd almost got through January 2010 until the 28th when we

lost **SSG Rusty H. Christian** from the 1st SFG(A), and on January 29th we lost **SPC Marc P. Decoteau** of the 6th PSYOP Battalion, and **CPT David J. Thompson** of the 3rd SFG(A).

This month, on 3 February, we lost **SFC David J. Hartman**, 96th CA Battalion, **SFC Matthew S. Slushtiller** with the 95th CA Brigade, and **SSG Mark A. Stets** with the 8th PSYOP Battalion. Our prayers are with the families of our lost special operations warriors who have made the supreme sacrifice.

On the Legacy Section of the SOF Memorial, the following names have been added:

**Dennis 'Lee' Gorman** who was with B-36, 5th SFG(A) in the Republic of Vietnam.

**LTC Rudy C. Perkins** passed away, and was added, he served with the 5th SFG(A) and USSOCOM.

**Ranger Thomas Blue**, a RECONDO veteran, and **SP5 Randolph Rhea** who was lost while assigned to MACVSOG.

**Colonels John Spotts** formerly of the 2nd and 7th PSYOP Groups and currently with USSOCOM, and **Jim Schnell** with Special Operations Command Pacific.

**CPT Gary Loy Gerrard** passed away, he was formerly with A-214, 12th SFG(A); and **Corporal Beau Chattan McVane**, who was with the 3rd Ranger Battalion.

**John Chester** formerly with E-50th Inf LRP and Kilo Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry was added.

Two former members of Hotel Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry were added: **LTC William T. Anton** and **Colonel George Paccarelli**, who were both inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

The **OSS Society** made a donation of \$5,000 and have been added to our legacy section. The OSS were the first joint intelligence organization of the U.S. Army and paved the way for special operations.

Under Friends of SOF, we were pleased to add **Ms. Loretta C. Keeton** who served as the executive assistant to the every commander at USSOCOM from its formation until she retired last year.

We also added the name of **James R. Lorraine**, the founder director of the USSOCOM Care Coalition, formed when General Doug Brown was the SOCOM Commander, to spearhead care for all of our wounded special operations warriors.

Annual ceremonies were hosted by USSOCOM and Chapter 60, Special Forces Association at the SOF Memorial site on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.



## WE HAVE REDESIGNED THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. 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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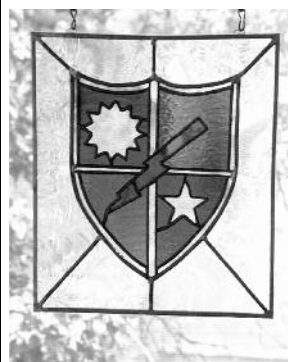
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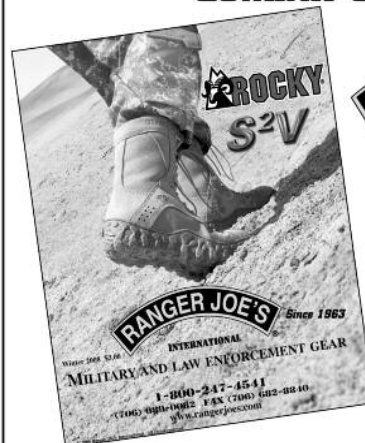


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12 July 2007

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Remember, if you pay your dues before Jan 1, 2010 it is \$25.00. If you pay after Jan 1, 2010, dues are \$30.00.

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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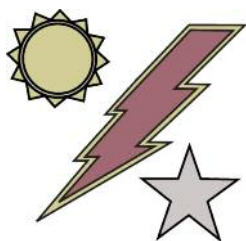
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*Addressing the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Secretary of the Army Howard H. Callaway welcomes the Battalion and speaks of the challenges that they face as a new unit.  
Photo furnished by Marc Thompson*