

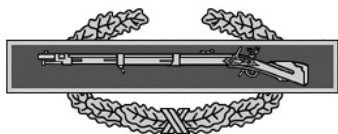
PATROLLING

SUMMER 2011 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 26 ISSUE I

*On July 12, 2011
the President will
award the Medal
of Honor to SFC
Leroy Petry for
his actions in
Afghanistan.*

Officers' Messages	1-8
General	9-21 & 62-68
Unit Reports.....	22-61

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 soft ware for the son of one young Ranger who had a brain tumor removed. The Army took care of the surgery, but no means existed to purchase the learning program. We fund the purchase of several awards for graduates of RIP and Ranger School. We have contributed to each of

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

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

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-610-648-9367
Email: 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

D/75

Richard "Herd" Nelson
407-601-2801
E-mail: rnelson134@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
E-mail: rickstetson@aol.com

F/75 - F/50 - 25th DIV LRRP

Tim Walsh
5550 Carleton-Rockwood Rd.
South Rockwood, MI 48179
H-313-590-6673
E-mail: twalshx2@comcast.net

G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196th LRRP

Stephen Crabtree
59 Crescent Creek Drive,
Okatie, South Carolina 29909
843 705 2014 (h)
843 338 2724 (c)
E-mail: Stephen.C.Crabtree@gulfstream.com

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

William T. Anton
H -702-648-9836
E-mail: polarbear_ranger_h75_75rra_1m0044@runbox.com

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

David Flores
E-mail: lurpteam3@hotmail.com

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

Roger T. Crunk
1159 19 Road
Fruita, CO 81521
H-970-858-4579
E-mail: rogertrcrunk@msn.com

L/75 - E/58 LRP - 1/101st LRRP

Jerry Gomes
PO Box 1570
Sandy, OR 97055
503-668-6127
E-mail: 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
E-mail: dctillisch@aol.com

N/75 - 74th LRP - 173rd LRRP

Robert "Twin" Henriksen
2218 Augustine Dr.
Ferndale, WA 98248
H-360-393-7790
E-mail: novgrco@gmail.com

O/75 - 78th LRP

Michael L. Dolsen
PO Box 190346
Anchorage, AK 99519-0346
H-907-243-5339
C-907-350-4456
E-mail: dolsen75rra@gmail.com

P/75 - 79th LRP

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

D/151 LRP/RANGER

Leon Moore
3433 W. Randolph Co. Line Rd.
Fountain City, IN 47371
H-765- 874-1996
E-mail: leomoo@parallax.ws

E/51 LRP

Russell Dillon
39 Pearl St.
Wakeman, OH 44889
H-440- 839-2607
E-mail: 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
E-mail: dabarelas@msn.com

1st BN, 75th RANGER RGT

Todd M. Currie
Day-719-721-0748
Home-719-576-5084
E-mail: ranger.currie@qcom

2nd BN, 75th RANGER RGT

Kevin Ingraham
PO Box 1911
Binghamton, NY 13902-1911
607-771-0399
E-mail: oldscroll275@gmail.com

3rd BN, 75th RANGER RGT

Scott Billingslea
E-mail: rqngerinvictus@gmail.com

LRRP DETACHMENT- 3rd ID

Michael McClintock
2323 Armada Way
San Mateo, CA 94403
H-650- 341-7331
E-mail: oldlrrp62@aol.com

ARVN RANGER ADV. (BDQ)

Bill Miller
1090 Brightwood Dr.
Aiken, SC 29803
H-803-641-9504
E-mail: 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
C-856-371-7401
Dannate1@verizon.net

Web Master

Dave Regenthal
dregenthal@comcast.net
H-239-207-1145

USSOCOM Representative

Smokey Wells
rgrrwells@tampabay.rr.com

Gold Star Mother Advocate

Sandee Rouse
GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com

Gold Star Wife Advocate

Sandy Harris
SANDY5790@aol.com

Association Legal Counsel

John Chester
john.chester3@verizon.net
James Savage

Association Photographer

S. J. "Peter" Parker
75thPhotographer@airborne-ranger.com
Link to site:
www.flickr.com/photos/rangerpete

Graphic Artist

Dave Walker
lrp67aviator@prodigy.net

State Coordinator

Vacant

Reunion Coordinator

David Cummings
Davidf4f4@aol.com

WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

First Vice President

Joe Little
3616 W. Bohl St.
Laveen, AZ 85339
H-602-237-0282
C-602-315-9227
rgr21@live.com

Second Vice President

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

jasonbaker@compodium.net

Secretary

Tom Sove
PO Box 577800
Modesto, CA 95357-7800
C-209-404-6394
H-209-575-2758
tsove@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Wesley Jurena
2323 Long Reach Drive, #7106 Sugar Land,
Texas 77478
281-650-1985
jurena175@gmail.com

Patrolling is published quarterly by the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., and is mailed third class postage, under postal permit #150, Altoona, PA

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 15th 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

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.

Our Association website is: www.75thrra.com and has been in existence since 2001 when Ranger Hiltibrand first established it. It's seen its share of changes and should, by the time you are reading this, be going through a complete facelift/modernization.

We have long since added forms so that you have the ability to join or renew your membership (to include Life Membership). Many of you have used the website to sign up for this summer's, and past, Ranger Rendezvous. You can also pre-pay for reunion and banquet tickets. Not everyone knows this but you do not need a PayPal account to pay by PayPal for any of these, and other soon to be added, items. You simply click on "pay with your debit of credit card as a PayPal guest."

The online pay has been used by hundreds of members since we first established it. Where the reunion(s) are concerned it certainly cuts down on your check-in/registration time. It also takes some of the load off the secretary and folks that volunteer at the registration table in Columbus. This allows them just a little more time to enjoy the reunion festivities along with the rest of us.

Our guestbook has consistently received attention. While it's more of a "hi, how you doing?" or "I'd love to hear from so-and-so" we are looking at alternate solutions to streamline the mechanics of how it works, thereby cutting down on some of the unavoidable delays in getting your greeting posted. We have gone out of our way to avoid duplicating what is frequently available elsewhere, re: social networking portals (like Face Book) or "forums" like on some of the other Special Ops websites. The rationale behind this is that we don't want to create confusion or compete in an arena where someone else is already doing a super job, doing what they do best. It might also be said that because we are not a political organization we tend to avoid putting ourselves in controversial situations unnecessarily as well.

Our sponsors have paid links on the website. We are looking at possibly expanding what we are able to do for the sponsors (whose support is greatly appreciated). If, by the way, you are a sponsor or would like to become one on the website, and/or Patrolling magazine, please let us know by e-mailing patrolling@75thrra.com and secretary@75thrra.com. If you don't already have a website and need assistance in getting one up and running you can contact me at webmaster@75thrra.com.

Some of you have either found, or make, various unique items of interest to other members. We're looking at adding additional features, like a Quartermaster page where you can offer some of these items for sale to the general membership. Stay tuned to Patrolling or the website for additional information on that.

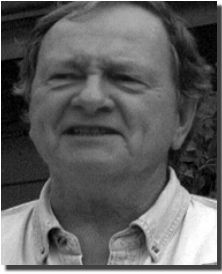
We're going to implement a section where members (and perhaps family members) can post short stories. The point to the exercise is to have a place where you can share an experience, make us laugh, or remember something/someone important. It also can serve as a collection point for Patrolling articles or something you want considered for the association "Writers Project."

Your comments, suggestions, and constructive criticism are always welcome. Your telling us what you want can only serve to make our website serve the membership better.

Thanks for your support - Hope to see all of you in Columbus this summer. RLTW!
Dave Regenthal '68-69
(239) 207-1145 cell/text any time

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Chester



John Chester

This time around there seems to be only bad news and worst news. I am grieved to report that, on June 2, 2011, my old friend and confidant, Mike Reiley passed away at the VA hospital in Boise, Idaho. He had been admitted with a bad cold that turned into pneumonia that became a massive infection. He went into a coma and died at 10:40 PM that day. Mike was with me in Vietnam for almost 9 months. I never asked Mike to do anything that he didn't do well. He might have bitched a little, but he did it.

After we resumed contact in 1998 or so, we spent many hours on the telephone solving the world's problems and discussing current affairs and the state of the nation. Since the true test of a man's intelligence is the extent to which he agrees with you, I am happy to attest to the fact that Mike was a genius. He attended several reunions and got to meet a lot of the guys we both served with, and that is always a good thing.

I find it a slightly smaller world now that you are not in it my friend, we will miss you and I will miss our talks and the understanding that you had for the sometimes banal problems that beset us all from time to time.

We are in the final frenzied preparations for the Reunion/Rendezvous, 2011. I believe that this will be one of the biggest ever and hopefully one of the best. There are a number of things we are going to try that are a little different from previous years, I am sure that we will hear if we go too far (or not far enough).

We had our annual Ranger, LRP, LRRP Memorial Day cookout the Sunday before Memorial Day. Rangers from all over the area attended and a good time was had by all. As an illustration of how important these gatherings can be to all of us, I offer the following anecdote:

Joe Cassilly was severely injured during the course of an extraction when he was with F-75 (Ranger). Brent Gulick was in a helicopter as an observer and they were pressed into service to lift an injured man out of the LZ. To make a long story short, both of them had wondered about the other for years, when, in my living room in May of 2011, they made the connection. Brent remembered how terribly injured the man they extracted was, and wondered what ever happened to him & Joe wondered about the guy who pulled him out of the jungle. What are the chances that these two would meet

at a Memorial Day cookout? Incidentally, Joe has won the Disabled Vet of the Year Award for 2011. I hope to have all the details of the mission and his award in the next issue of Patrolling.

Here are some cookout photos.



TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Wesley Jurena



Wesley Jurena

Rendezvous is upon us

The time has come again for Rangers past and present to RV at Ft. Benning. It is hard to believe that it has been 2 years since the last one. I hope all of you get the chance to attend as it is a great time to make new friends and catch up with old ones. Here is a list of the upcoming Regimental activities.

Ranger Rendezvous 2011

Schedule of Events

Monday, July 25

4 p.m. • Ranger Capabilities Demonstration and Mass Tactical Airborne Jump • Fryar Drop Zone

More than 1,500 Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment will conduct an airborne operation onto Fryar Drop Zone. Rangers will be in full combat gear. This is a unique opportunity to observe such a massive airborne operation and Ranger Capabilities Demonstration. The demonstration will include a military freefall insertion from a Ranger Reconnaissance Team, pre-assault fires demonstration using simulated ammunition followed by the airborne mass tactical insertion and a platoon size raid on an objective.

Tuesday, July 26

6:30 a.m. • Regimental Physical Training • Designated route on post

About 1,200 Rangers will participate in a three-mile run on Fort Benning for Regimental physical training.

1 p.m. • State of the Regiment Briefing • Freedom Hall

2:30 p.m. • Distinguished/Honorary Member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Induction Ceremony • Freedom Hall

Wednesday, July 27

4:30 a.m. • Endurathon • Peden Field (Start and End)

Two-man Ranger Teams from across the Regiment, compete in a number of events to include road marching with a 40 pound ruck sack, bicycling, running, climbing and swimming. Competitors must stay within arm's reach of each other throughout the competition. The fastest team wins.

8 a.m. • Ranger Stress Shoot Competition • Farnsworth Range
Ranger teams compete for the best team in a stress-shoot training obstacle. The event tests Rangers on their combat skills including marksmanship and clearing obstacles.

8 a.m. • Ranger Sporting events • Stewart Watson Field, Engineer Field, Smith Gym

A variety of Ranger sporting competitions will take place throughout the day including combatives/boxing, football, softball and tug-of-war.

1:30 p.m. • Ranger Hall of Fame Induction • RiverCenter/ Bill Heard Theater

Distinguished and honorary members will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Distinguished members are inducted to honor and preserve the contributions of the most extraordinary U.S. Rangers in American History. Honorary induction is in recognition of extraordinary contributions to Ranger units, the Ranger Memorial Foundation, or the Ranger community.

2 p.m. • Boxing/Combatives Finals • Freedom Hall

4 p.m. • Barbecue and entertainment • Freedom Hall

Thursday, July 28

9 a.m. • 75th Ranger Regiment Change of Command Ceremony • National Infantry Museum Soldier's Field
Colonel Mark Odom assumes command of the 75th Ranger Regiment from Colonel Michael E. Kurilla during a formal ceremony on the National Infantry Museum field. Odom is a former 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment commander and a recent graduate of the National War College in Washington, D.C.

You can find out more at the following link:
rangerrendezvous.soc.mil/#

The association is excited to announce the following guest Speakers for our Banquet.



CSM Michael
T. Hall

CSM Michael Thomas Hall

Command Sergeant Major, Retired

Command Sergeant Major (CSM), Retired, Michael T. Hall was born and raised near Cleveland, Ohio and entered the U.S. Army in August of 1976. After attending Basic Training, Advanced Infantry Training, and Airborne School, he was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, (Ranger) 75th Infantry, Fort Stewart, Georgia. He served in a variety of positions to include mortar and 90mm recoilless rifle sections, and served as a Weapons Platoon Sergeant and Intelligence NCO.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

In 1983, CSM * Hall was assigned to the Citadel as a ROTC Military Science III Instructor and advisor to the Cordell Airborne Ranger Company. In 1985, he was re-assigned to the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment where he served as a Rifle Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, and Liaison Officer. In 1995, he was assigned to the 3d Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division as the Command Sergeant Major. In June 1996, he was assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment as the Regimental Command Sergeant Major. In May 2000 he was assigned as Command Sergeant Major of the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In November 2001 he was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

CSM Hall Retired on 31 July 2008 after 32 years on Active Duty with the US Army. He was retired by the 75th Ranger Regiment.

CSM * Hall was employed by Lockheed Martin Corporation working in Simulation, Training and Support as a Subject Matter Expert on Irregular Warfare and Special Operations providing expertise in the development of Live, Virtual, and Constructive simulations/simulators. CSM Hall * was recalled from retirement on 4 August 2009 to assume the duty position of Command Sergeant Major for the International Security Assistance Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Afghanistan/United States Forces Afghanistan and served in that position until 1 September 2010. He returned to the United States and retired again from active duty on 15 October 2010. CSM * Hall returned to Lockheed Martin, Global Training and Logistics, as a Business Development Manager for Irregular Warfare and Stability Operations. CSM * Hall joined the McChrystal Group in January 2011. CSM * Hall has been involved with operational deployments; Multi-National Force Observer Mission-Sinai, Operation Just Cause, Operation Uphold Democracy, Desert Storm, Phase III, Operation Joint Endeavor, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with OLC, Legion of Merit with OLC, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 2-OLC, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 4-OLC, Army Achievement Medal with 3-OLC, Good Conduct Medal-10th Award, National Defense Service Medal second award, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Arrowhead and Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal,

NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 4, Multinational Force and Observers Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Afghanistan Service Medal-ISAF, the Army Superior Unit Award, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award 1-OLC. He has earned the Expert Infantryman's Badge and Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Combat Action Badge. He has also earned the Jordanian, Dutch, German Netherlands and British Jump Wings. He is a Master Parachutist with Combat Star. He is Ranger, Pathfinder, Military FreeFall, and Air Assault qualified. He is a graduate of the Sergeants Major Academy. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from New York State Regents University. He was awarded the COL Aaron Bank Award from Association of Special Operations Professionals for contributing most to the advancement of the objectives and philosophy of the Special Operations Forces in 2009. CSM * Hall's resides in Columbia, TN. He is married to the former Brenda S. Webb of Sheffield Lake, Ohio. They have one son, Jeffrey, who currently works for the Veterans Administration in Murfreesboro, TN.



**CSM James
C. Hardy**

CSM James C. Hardy United States Army Maneuver Center of Excellence

Command Sergeant Major Chris Hardy entered the Army in January 1986 from Princeton, West Virginia. CSM Hardy completed Infantry One Station Unit Training, Airborne School and the Ranger Indoctrination Program at Fort Benning, GA, before reporting to his first duty assignment with Company A, 2d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, WA.

CSM Hardy's initial combat deployment was to Somalia with TASK FORCE RANGER. Subsequently, he deployed numerous times in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. His previous duty assignments include: Regimental Command Sergeant Major for the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA; Deployed as the Command Sergeant Major for the Rangers Regiment's Joint and Interagency Special Operations Task Force, Operation Enduring Freedom Command Sergeant Major, Regimental Special Troops Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning GA; Command Sergeant Major, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, GA; Command Sergeant Major, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT), Fort

TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Campbell, KY; Operations Sergeant Major, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT), Fort Campbell, KY; Commandant, Regimental Training Detachment, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA; 1SG, Company C, 3d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA; Battalion Operations Sergeant, 3d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA; Platoon Sergeant and Squad Leader, Company B, 3d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA; Platoon Sergeant and Squad Leader, Ranger Orientation and Pre-Ranger Programs, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA; and Squad Leader, Team Leader, Grenadier, and SAW Gunner Company A, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, WA.

CSM Hardy holds a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from Troy State University and is a graduate of the following military schools: Airborne, Ranger, Pathfinder, Jump Master, Air Assault, Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape High Risk (SERE), PLDC, BNCOC, ANCO, First Sergeant's Course, Battle Staff NCO Course, Sergeants Major Course, Class #52, and the Command Sergeant Major Force Management Course.

CSM Hardy's awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit – 2d Award, Bronze Star Medal – 3d Award, Meritorious Service Medal – 5th Award, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal – 5th Award, Army Achievement Medal – 8th Award, Good Conduct Medal – 7th Award, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze campaign star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze campaign star, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 4, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation (OEF/OIF), Valorous Unit Award (Somalia), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (OEF/OIF), Meritorious Unit Commendation (OIF) Expert Infantryman's Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge - 2nd Award, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist's Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Royal Thai Army Parachute Badge, German Parachute Badge, and the National Infantry Association's Order of St. Maurice, Centurion Award. CSM Hardy is also a Distinguished Member of the 502d Infantry Regiment and the 187th Infantry Regiment.

CSM Hardy is married to the former Angie Evans of Columbus, GA, and they have three children Jennifer (26), Jessica (24), and Clay (16).

I'm looking forward to hearing both of these fine Ranger NCO's speak on Saturday night. A great time is generally had by all, so if you've been sitting on the fence, get off of it and meet us in Georgia, you won't regret it!

Another post, Another Link Up.

While at a trade show at Ft. Hood, I had the opportunity to spend some time with the Hard Rock Charlie Company Commander during Operation Just Cause, Daniel B. Allyn. The former Captain is now a Major General! He is the commanding General of the 1st Calvary Division and was fired up about getting back over to the box to "break the spirit of the enemy" as he put it. You can check out his bio at this link: pao.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/about/leadership/cg.asp Here is a picture of the General and former 1/75'er Jim Campbell utilizing our marksmanship trainer. For some reason I failed to get a picture of us all together.



WRITERS AND STORYTELLERS WANTED

I've sent this request out before and still no takers? I guarantee you there are some Rangers out there that have some stories about their time in Battalion or perhaps even in Ranger school. Every time I've ever been around Rangers we typically participate in our favorite past times of pouring beer down our neck and "telling lies". We call it telling lies because the average folks would not believe it. Seriously, how many times have you heard someone say..."you can't make this sh*t up"?

So, I'm still looking for some of you "gap" Rangers from my era to start submitting some of those stories or if there are GWOT guys who have things they can or want to talk about we would certainly welcome those stories as well. Reach out to your unit directors or send them to me. If you don't want your name tape exposed, just say so, we will keep it confidential, well at least while sober.

I've tried to prime the pump before and will try it again, this time with a story from my RI days.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

We had just hit the patrol base and priorities of work were to begin. I had moved out of the patrol base and was in the ruck sack flop on the side of the road. It was a typical sultry Florida night and I was glad this 24 hour stint was about to be over. I had just put in a dip of Copenhagen and was under red lens flashlight taking some notes about the studs I was grading. Suddenly, I hear thrashing around and cussing and a student appears. "Sarn't..some dirt bag stole my rucksack". Now, I had to process that for a second. Typically, I hear about stolen chow or the come over and let me know that a sensitive item had been misplaced but this was the first time anyone had told me there had been a theft of an entire rucksack. "Ranger, my guess is your rucksack is right where you left it and you just can't remember where it is". "I mean who would want to steal your ruck?" The disoriented student proceeds to ramble on about his platoon being "full of Blue Falcons, could have been any one of them" he says. While his assessment of his platoon was spot on, the odds are still slim that the first ever ruck sack heist has just occurred. "Ranger, go back in there

and look around, my guess is you will find it under a palmetto plant, right where you left it". He mumbles "Roger Sarn't" and crashes back into the patrol base.

Some time goes by and I'm just about to walk back into the patrol base to check on things when out comes this same Ranger a bit out of breath and with a RUCKSACK ON HIS BACK. He looks at me and says "Sarn't, I can't find the damn thing anywhere." Now, I'm assuming he is referring to something else as, well, there is a ruck on his back. "What can't you find now Ranger?" Without missing a beat he says "my ruck, I looked everywhere it's not in the patrol base". I'm stunned. "Well perhaps you can explain the one on your back" I ask. He slowly looks over his shoulder turns to me and in the Florida moonlight calmly says "well, that's just fricking great, I guess when I find mine, I'll have to carry two of them..." he did an about face and went back into the patrol base. You can't make this sh*t up.

GOLD STAR

By Sandee Rouse



Sandee Rouse

either be very near or just over.

Since we will be in Cincinnati at our daughters wedding we will not be at the reunion. Ruth Stonesifer and Jill Stephenson will be there handling the Gold star activities. Please seek them out and introduce yourselves. I am sure you will be blessed and so will they.

As I write this it is May. This is a very special month in our family. There are several in our family that have birthdays in May. One is our Ranger, who was born May 29, 1968. His birthday is always within days of Memorial Day.

When I write the June article I always think especially about you, the Vietnam Vet. While you were enduring the indescribable



wages of an unpopular war, I was in a hospital room in Cincinnati kissing and holding the most beautiful blue eyed baby boy I had ever seen. Never dreaming that our 2 worlds would collide as he grew up to become a part of your Ranger legacy. Little did I know nor could I have imagined, where the dreams God planted in that baby would take him and our family, particularly me. Out of the depths of darkness and loss we have been allowed the honor of working with some of America's finest soldiers and their families. Everyone a hero to us.

I never question for a minute that he would be proud of the 75th RRA and the Gold Star work we have done together for the families of so many other Rangers, who like him, have fallen doing a job only they could do.

Everytime I say to his picture "Do you see what you have gotten me into?" He just smiles that wonderful smile back at me as if to say, "Yea, finish the mission mom."

I am so thankful that because of each of you that make up

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

the 75thRRA we are there for our Ranger families. I am most Thankful to Ruth Stonesifer and Jill Stephenson for coming on board to form the GS committee and allow the program to expand and serve. We have said to each other on more than

one occasion that we were left an impossible example to try and live up to.

When I try to explain my thoughts on being a Gold Star here is how I would explain it

BEING A GOLD STAR

Going on when there doesn't seem anything to go on for

One breath at a time, one step at a time, one day at time

Learning why I am still here and accepting my "new normal"

Daring to believe something good will come out of this

Staring at a star and knowing that part of me is up there too

Thanking God daily for the gift of memories that bring the smiles and tears

Always being grateful for the time God granted us together

Reveling in the life you died to give us and making each day count

Sandee Markwell Rouse
May 2011

In honor of US Army Ranger Medic James Markwell Operation Just Cause
12-20-89 and all the Gold Stars before, since and to come.

Have a wonderful summer, make each day count and give somebody a
smile it may be the only good thing in his or her day.

RLTW
Blessings
Sandee

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DISCLAIMER

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

Senior Discounts: Turn your senior status into a source of savings. Here's a round up of senior discounts for your perusal: Note: While every attempt has been made to verify the accuracy of these listings, offers are subject to change. Terms may also vary from location to location, so call to confirm the availability of these offers in your area.

- AMC Theaters - A discount of up to 30% is available for ages 55+ at most theater locations.
- Amtrak - Everyday. 15% discount on adult rail fare with some exclusions. Ages 62+.
- Arby's - A 10% discount at participating locations. Ages 55+.
- Banana Republic - 10% discount everyday. Ages 50+. Discount and age may vary by location.
- Belks - First Tuesday of the month. 15% discount. Ages 55+.
- Best Western - At least 10% off regular room rates. Late checkouts and other offers also available. Ages 55+.
- Burger King - A 10% discount at participating locations. Ages 60+.
- Chili's - A 10% discount at participating locations. Ages 55+.
- Choice Hotels - Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Sleep Inn, Clarion, Cambria Suites, MainStay Suites, Suburban, Econo Lodge, Rhodeway Inn Everyday. 10% discount with Mature Travelers rate. Ages 50+. 20-30% discount with advanced reservations (Sixty Plus Rate). Ages 60+.
- Denny's - AARP members get a 20% discount off the total check amount from 4pm-10pm. Coffee is \$1 a cup round the clock for members and guests.
- Goody's - Every Wednesday. 15% discount with some exclusions. Ages 55+.
- Goodwill - 10% discount one day a week for ages 55+. Specifics may vary by location.
- Greyhound - 5% discount on unrestricted passenger fares. Ages 62+.
- Hardee's - Everyday. 33-cent drinks. Ages 65+.
- Hyatt - Save up to 50% at participating hotels. Ages 62+.
- IHOP - A 10% discount at participating locations. Ages 55+.
- Jiffy Lube - Many locations offer a discount for ages 55+.
- Kmart - Gold K prescription discount program. Up to 20% discount on prescription medication. Ages 50+.
- Kohl's - Every Wednesday. 15% discount. Ages 62+. (Day may vary by store)
- Kroger - Day varies by location. 10% off total order. Ages 60+.
- Long John Silvers - Discount for ages 55+ at participating locations.
- Marriott Hotels - A discount of at least 15% for ages 62+. Good seven days a week.
- McDonald's - Everyday. Discounted senior coffee.
- Motel 6 - 10% discount at over 900 locations. Ages 60+.
- Mrs. Fields - A 10% discount at participating locations. Ages 60+.
- National Car Rental - Everyday. Call 1-800-CAR-RENT for details. Ages 50+.
- National Parks - Free entrance to national parks with purchase of \$10 America the Beautiful Senior Pass.
- Regal Cinema - A discounted senior movie ticket for ages 60+.
- Rite Aid - Join the free Living More Loyalty program, and save 10% off most purchases Tuesdays, plus 10% off cash prescriptions and Rite Aid brand products everyday. Bonus: Get 20% off purchases the first Tuesday of the month.
- Ross - 10% off on Tuesdays for ages 55+ at participating locations.
- Shoney's - Everyday. 10% discount. Ages 60+.
- Salvation Army Thrift Stores - Most locations provide discounts from 15% to 50% off. Discounts may only be available on certain days of the week with Wednesdays being the most popular discount day. Ages 55+.
- Sizzler - Typically offers a specially priced menu for seniors; other locations may provide discounts of up to 15% off the regularly priced menu. Ages 60+.
- SuperCuts - \$2 off hair cut. Ages 60+.
- Taco Bell - Free drinks for seniors at participating locations.
- TCBY - A 10% discount at participating locations. Ages 55+.
- Wendy's - A 10% discount at participating locations. Ages 55+.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

If you don't mind telling people that you qualify for senior discounts, www.seniordiscounts.com can be a good resource for saving on thousands of products and services including airlines, car rentals, travel, sports, recreation, shopping, restaurants, national parks, medical services, pharmacies, museums, and much more. The Web site also offers a free weekly newsletter that focuses exclusively on senior discounts. When you log onto the Web site, search by your zip code or city & state, and the category you're interested in. You will see a list that includes names and addresses, the amount of the senior discount, and the minimum age requirement. It doesn't promise the best deals available, but the site is a good place to start. When you contact any company, don't hesitate to ask about special offers, closeouts, or additional senior discounts that may be available. [Source: About.com | Senior Living 24 May 2011 ++]

VA Claim Denial Update 07: In a recent audit of the VA Disability Compensation System at 16 Regional Offices, the VA Office of the Inspector General estimates that the rating staff incorrectly processed 23% of the 45,000 claims inspected. The IG investigated offices throughout the US and focused mainly on the handling of the following five types of claims: extra-schedular 100 percent disability evaluations (TDIU); PTSD; TBI; Herbicide Exposure; and 5 Haas (Haas v Nicholson: blue water claims from Vietnam Agent Orange exposure). The processes evaluated ranged from mail handling to actual disability percentage awards. Of the 16 Regional Offices, Baltimore MD and Anchorage AK scored the lowest in compliance with VA standards. Both failed to meet 14 of the 15 process requirements. Extended management vacancies were cited as one of the linking factors between all poorly performing Regional Offices. Because of the vacancies, these offices lacked continuity and proper oversight. As a result, procedures were not developed or implemented to correct previously identified problems.

The Haas vs. Nicholson claims had the highest rate of error. In January, the VA released a report claiming the TDIU errors would have resulted in an overpayment of over \$1.1 billion by 2016. While this may be true, the VA made no effort to project the amount of dollars not paid to incorrectly denied veterans who would otherwise have qualified. It's quite possible that this amount might be much higher in the other direction. Meanwhile, at 83% of the 18 Regional Offices, Haas claims had a higher instance of the VA failing to follow VA policy. Five of 6 surveyed failed the standard. Haas claims involve veterans who were likely exposed to Agent Orange but never set foot in Vietnam. Prior to the 2006 Haas v Nicholson decision, mainly veterans who set foot on Vietnamese soil or road on

craft up rivers in Vietnam were entitled to the presumption of exposure. Now, the VA is still attempting to catch up to the claims backlog that was caused by the VA appeal of that 2006 decision. In 2009, the decision for Haas was upheld and the VA has since struggled to maintain continuity between offices in how the backlogged claims are processed. The report stated some of these claims were incorrectly denied after the initial Haas decision was upheld.

Veterans receiving denials or low-ball ratings within the past year for any disability ratings may want to consider immediately looking over their decision and request a copy of their VA claim file. If the time passed since the decision is close to the 12-month appeal deadline, contact your Veteran Service Officer to discuss the possibility of appealing it, if warranted. There are both for pay and Pro Bono VSO's. Suggest talking to the Pro Bono people first. Try to find one you trust who will handle your claim in a professional manner. Veterans already denied at the Board of Appeals review may want to consider speaking with a Veterans Law Attorney in their area, since VSO's cannot represent veterans before the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Two resources worth looking at are the National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA) and National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLS). There are many other attorneys out there as well. A simple Google search could render quality results as well. Just be sure the lawyer is accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Of course, confident veterans can always opt to represent themselves Pro Se before the court, as well. [Source: Military Advantage Blog Ben Krause article 21 May 2011 ++]

COLA 2012 Update 01: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the Consumer Price Index for April is up 0.8 percent over the March CPI. This is important for military retirees, and those drawing VA benefits, because the CPI is used to determine the annual cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) and rate adjustments to VA Disability and Compensation, Vets Pension programs, and other VA rates for the following year. The Military Officers Association of America reports that the April 2011 CPI is up 2.9 percent from the 2008 CPI. The 2008 CPI will be used to calculate the 2012 COLA since there has been no COLA since 2009. This means that if the trend continues the COLA for 2012 could be quite substantial. This will also mean an increase in VA Compensation and Pension programs as well as social security rates. On 23 MAY the House passed the H.R.1407 by a voice vote of 387 to zero and referred it to Senate committee where it was read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R.1407 would increase, effective as of 1 DEC 2011, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans by the same percentage of COLA that Social Security receives. Senate bill S.894 with 14 cosponsors would do the same if passed. [Source: Military Advantage Blog Terry Howell article 20 May 2011 ++]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2011

VA Hosts Veteran Small Business Conference in New Orleans Supports Veteran-Owned Businesses and Helps Them Compete for Federal Contracts

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs will host the upcoming National Veterans Small Business Conference and Expo, Aug.15-18 in New Orleans. It will be the largest nationwide conference of its kind focused on helping Veteran-owned businesses succeed in winning federal contracts.

“Veteran-owned businesses provide world class services and expand employment opportunities for some of our Nation’s most highly-trained and motivated men and women,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “That is why VA is proud to host this annual conference to help better prepare these veteran-owned businesses to compete and win contracts with the federal government.”

The conference, scheduled for the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, will provide Veteran-Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small businesses of all sizes with an opportunity to learn, network, and market their businesses.

The conference will offer a variety of new training sessions on navigating the federal acquisition process, including finance, compliance, business development, marketing, strategy, contract management, human resources, technology, and program management. The conference track sessions will be targeted for a variety of businesses from new business owners just back from theater to well-established Veteran-owned businesses looking to expand opportunities or increase market share.

An open house has been added to the event to give Veterans from both the conference and local region the opportunity to experience the wide range of resources available to the Veteran community.

The National Veteran Small Business Conference is open to both government and non-government personnel. For more information and to register for the conference, go to www.nationalveteransconference.com.

I KNEW WHAT I WANTED

By Wayne Lund

As I was growing I listened to Veterans talk and I knew what I wanted to be,
I wanted to help protect my home and country, so they would stay the land of the free.

I had listened to tales of Rangers and their pride in stories that were told,
The talks of battles that were fought, the stories seemed to be so very bold.

When I was old enough I took the oath, I become a soldier, I felt honor bound,
Early each morning I woke to the sounds of reveille, that was the home I had found.

After my basic and advanced training I volunteered to jump from high in the sky,
Next I applied for Ranger School, It was tough training and a times I thought I would die.

Now being a fully trained Ranger I was sent to fight in Viet-Nam, in that bloody war,
During combat there were many tragedies that I saw, hoping never to see any more.

I’ve been retired for more than 30 years, It really doesn’t seem like it’s been that long,
But no matter how long it’s been I still shed tears whenever I hear any patriotic song.

wlundlrp_ranger@hotmail.com

11 March 2011

HEALTH ISSUES

DISCLAIMER

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

Agent Orange exposure linked to Graves' disease in Vietnam veterans, UB study finds

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Vietnam War-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange appear to have significantly more Graves' disease, a thyroid disorder, than veterans with no exposure, a new study by endocrinologists at the University at Buffalo has shown.

Ajay Varanasi, MD, an endocrinology fellow in the UB Department of Medicine and first author on the study, garnered first prize in the oral presentation category for this research at the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists annual meeting held in Boston in April.

"Our findings show that Vietnam veterans who came in contact with Agent Orange are more likely to develop Graves' disease than those who avoided exposure," says Varanasi.

"The autoimmune disorder was three times more prevalent among veterans who encountered the dioxin-containing chemical. We also looked at other thyroid diagnoses, but we didn't find any significant differences in thyroid cancer or nodules."

Agent Orange is a defoliant that was used in Vietnam to destroy crops and reduce jungle foliage that could shelter enemy combatants. The herbicide contains dioxin, which has chemical properties similar to the thyroid hormones.

Graves' disease is an autoimmune disease associated with over-activity of the thyroid gland. This gland releases the hormones thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), which control body metabolism and are critical for regulating mood, weight, and mental and physical energy levels.

Varanasi and colleagues assessed the prevalence of major thyroid diagnoses in the Veterans Administration electronic medical record database for upstate New York veterans born between 1925 and 1953, the age group that would have been eligible for military service during the Vietnam era. They conducted the research at the Buffalo VA Medical Center.

They compared the frequency of diagnoses of thyroid cancer, nodules, hypothyroidism and Graves' disease in veterans who identified themselves as being exposed to Agent Orange (23,939) or not exposed to Agent Orange (200,109).

"Analyzing data on thyroid conditions, we found no difference in the prevalence of thyroid nodules or cancers between the exposed and non-exposed groups," says Varanasi. "Graves' disease, however, was three times more prevalent in the exposed group."

"Interestingly, hypothyroidism [lower than normal thyroid] was less common in the exposed group."

Varanasi says that in view of the known effects of dioxin on the immune system, further research should be conducted on the increased prevalence of Graves' disease in Vietnam veterans. His research group is planning to continue this investigation either in vitro or in animal models.

Additional authors on the study are Toufic Abdo, MD, David Kasinski, Amy O'Donnell, MD, and Stephen Spaulding, MD, all associated with UB.

The University at Buffalo is a premier research-intensive public university, a flagship institution in the State University of New York system and its largest and most comprehensive campus. UB's more than 28,000 students pursue their academic interests through more than 300 under-graduate, graduate and professional degree programs. Founded in 1846, the University at Buffalo is a member of the Association of American Universities.

Contact: Lois Baker

ljibaker@buffalo.edu

716-645-4606

University at Buffalo

Source: " <http://www.breakthroughdigest.com/medical-news/agent-orange-exposure-linked-to-graves-disease-in-vietnam-veterans-ub-study-finds> "

HEALTH ISSUES (CONTINUED)

VIETNAM VETERANS EXPOSED TO HERBICIDES DO NOT HAVE TO PROVE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE AND MILITARY SERVICE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VA BENEFITS.

WHAT IS ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE?



Ischemic heart disease involves a reduction of blood flow and oxygen to the heart; this results in the heart muscle not getting enough blood and oxygen. Usually there is a buildup of cholesterol and other substances, called plaque, in the arteries that bring oxygenated blood to the heart muscle. Over time ischemic heart disease damages and weakens the heart muscle, making it difficult for the heart to fill and pump blood to the rest of the body.

Ischemic heart disease is a common cause of congestive heart failure. People with this condition may, at one time, have had a heart attack, angina (chest pain), or unstable angina (sudden and increasingly worsening chest pain). Some people may not have noticed any previous symptoms.

FEBRUARY 2011



Vietnam Veterans of America
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
301-585-4000
vva.org

DID YOU EARN THIS BY SERVING IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM?



Have You Been Diagnosed With Ischemic Heart Disease?



IF YES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HAVE DETERMINED YOUR ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE IS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE OR OTHER HERBICIDES DURING YOUR MILITARY SERVICE.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- ✓ Chest pain behind the breastbone or slightly to the left of it. It may feel like heavy pressure, squeezing, or crushing pain. The pain may spread to the neck, jaw, back, shoulder, or arm
- ✓ Dizziness or light headedness
- ✓ Feeling of indigestion or heartburn
- ✓ Nausea, vomiting, and cold sweats
- ✓ Sensation of feeling the heart beat
- ✓ Shortness of breath
- ✓ Unexplained tiredness after activity (more common in women)
- ✓ Coughing that results in severe chest pain

DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

- ✓ Physical exam
- ✓ Blood chemistry panel
- ✓ CBC, sedimentation rate
- ✓ VDRL test
- ✓ Chest x-ray
- ✓ EKG
- ✓ Creatine kinase
- ✓ Cardiac catheterization
- ✓ MRA

TREATMENT

MEDICATIONS

- ♥ **ACE inhibitors:** a group of drugs that are used primarily to treat high blood pressure and congestive heart failure
- ♥ **Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs):** a group of drugs used to control high blood pressure, treat heart failure, and prevent kidney failure
- ♥ **Diuretics:** any drug that increases/elevates the rate of urination
- ♥ **Digitalis glycosides:** a heart stimulant used to treat congestive heart failure that cannot be controlled by other medications
- ♥ **Beta-blockers:** a class of drugs used for various heart conditions, including protection after a heart attack by reducing the effects of adrenaline and other stress hormones
- ♥ **Vasodilators:** medications that open (dilate) blood vessels
- ♥ **Anticoagulants:** drugs that help prevent the clotting (coagulation) of blood; these drugs tend to prevent new clots from forming or an existing clot from enlarging, but they don't dissolve a blood clot.

LIFE-STYLE CHANGES

- ♥ **Quit smoking**
- ♥ **Eat healthy** (low fat, salt-free foods; and reduce alcohol intake)
- ♥ **Begin exercise** (when stable) to improve blood flow

OTHER OPTIONS

- ♥ **Angioplasty:** a medical procedure used to open blocked or narrowed coronary (heart) arteries
- ♥ **Stent:** a wire metal mesh tube used to prop open an artery during angioplasty. When the balloon is inflated, the stent expands, locks in place and forms a scaffold. This holds the artery open. The stent stays in the artery permanently, holds it open, improves blood flow to the heart muscle and relieves symptoms (usually chest pain).
- ♥ **By-pass Surgery**

HELP FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The VA is responsible for providing health care for this service-connected disease. Should you choose to receive your health care elsewhere, VA will provide your medications, but the prescription will be re-written by a VA health-care provider. If your non-VA health provider completes the appropriate VA forms, you are not required to have a VA compensation examination.

Contact your Veterans Service Officer to file a claim for service connection or use the Agent Orange Fast Track Processing System at <https://www.fasttrack.va.gov/AOfasttrack/home.do> For more information, call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-877-222-8387.

Monthly compensation will be provided to you, once the VA has rated your disability.

HEALTH ISSUES (CONTINUED)

Vet Suicide: With veterans now accounting for one of every five suicides in the nation, the Department of Veterans Affairs is under pressure from the courts and Congress to fix its mental health services in an attempt to curb the death toll. "The suicide rate is out of control. It's epidemic proportions right now," said Paul Rieckhoff, the 9 executive director of the group Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "There are very few programs that are effective, and there's a serious lack of national awareness." While the government keeps no official tally of veteran suicides, the VA said last year that veterans account for roughly 20% of the estimated 30,000 suicides annually in the United States.

The latest attack on the VA came two weeks ago from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, which ordered a major overhaul of the agency. The court said that with an average of 18 veterans killing themselves each day, "the VA's unchecked incompetence has gone on long enough; no more veterans should be compelled to agonize or perish while the government fails to perform its obligations." Suicides among active-duty troops are also a cause of concern: In April, 25 soldiers killed themselves, equal to about half the deaths in Afghanistan during the month. Officials cite a number of possible reasons to explain the increase, including multiple deployments and more financial and family problems linked to the time away from home. On Capitol Hill, when the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee took up the issue 25 MAY, senators made it clear that they expect the VA to improve its performance. "We do not need the courts to tell us that much more can and should be done to relieve the invisible wounds of war," said Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state, who chairs of the committee. "Although some steps have been taken, the stigma against mental health issues continues within the military and VA care is still often too difficult to access. This has had a tragic impact." In at least 13 cases, Murray said, veterans committed suicide or died from drug overdoses while waiting to receive help from the VA.

Two veterans - one from the Iraq war, one from the Afghanistan war - appeared before the committee, testifying

about their long waits before receiving any services from the VA. One of them, Steven Bohn, 24, of Peabody, Mass., served in Afghanistan until he was injured in November 2008. He was hurt when a suicide bomber with 2,000 pounds of explosives drove a dump truck into a building, detonating it. Bohn said he was in the hospital for six months with severe internal and spinal injuries. His transition from military service to the VA has been less than smooth, he told senators. "I still have two herniated discs, which are pinching nerves in my neck and causing great pain, but I am uncertain what additional treatment might still be possible," Bohn said. "At this point, many months after becoming a veteran, I have yet to be assigned a VA primary care doctor."

Murray said that service members and veterans alike "continue to take their own lives at an alarming rate." She noted that in April, the VA's suicide hot line fielded more than 14,000 calls, or more than 450 a day, the most ever for a single month. "While it's heartening to know that these calls for help are being answered, it is a sad sign of the desperation and difficulties our veterans face that there are so many in need of a lifeline," she said. Antonette Zeiss, the acting deputy chief officer of mental health services with the VA's Office of Patient Care Services, said the department's call center had received more than 400,000 calls since it began nearly four years ago. Of those, she said, more than 55,000 were referred to local VA suicide prevention coordinators for same-day or next-day service.

George Taylor, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for force health protection and readiness, told the panel that "maintaining and enhancing the psychological health" of service members is a top priority for the Defense Department. And he said the department was "very concerned" about the number of suicides in the military over the past 10 years. But he said progress was being made: Last year, 293 service members died by suicide while on active duty, down from 310 the year before. Taylor said the department had succeeded in slowing the steady increases in suicides that began in 2006. [Source: McClatchy Newspapers Rob Hotakainen article 25 May 2011 ++]

FEATURE ARTICLES

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. REUNION / RENDEZVOUS 2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Note: Regimental events, meetings, etc., are *Italicized*.
Note: This is tentative as of 6/1/2011.

1900 - Finish

*Sports Awards Ceremony (Freedom Hall,
Lawson AAF)*

MONDAY July 25, 2011:

0900 – 1500 Reunion registration. Main lobby,
(Holiday Inn)
0900 – 2100 Hospitality room open. (Holiday Inn)
1200 – 1315 Yoga for Veterans & Spouses for stress
reduction & PTSD. Mary Anne Colledge.
(Holiday Inn)
*1600 – Finish Regimental Mass Tactical Jump & Ranger
Capabilities Demonstration, UTC (Friar DZ).*

TUESDAY July 26, 2011:

0630 – TBA Regimental PT (Stewart Watson)
0900 – 1500 Reunion registration. Main lobby,
(Holiday Inn)
0900 – 2100 Hospitality room open. (Holiday Inn)
0900 – 1015 Yoga for Veterans & Spouses for stress
reduction & PTSD. Mary Anne Colledge.
(Holiday Inn)
*1300 - TBA State of the Regiment Brief (National
Infantry Museum)*
*1430 - TBA Distinguished/Honorary Member of Regiment
Ceremony (National Infantry Museum)*

WEDNESDAY July 27, 2011:

*0430 – Finish Endurathon – 2 man Ranger teams compete
in a number of events, including a road
march, bicycling, swimming & running.
Competitors must stay within arms reach of
each other. (Peden Field [start & end]).*
*0800 – Finish Ranger stress shoot competition, (Farnsworth
Range).*
*0800 – Finish Ranger sporting events, (Stewart Watson
Field, Engineer Field, Smith Gym).*
0900 – 1500 Reunion registration. Main lobby,
(Holiday Inn)
0900 – 2100 Hospitality room open. (Holiday Inn)
0900 – 1015 Yoga for Veterans & Spouses for stress
reduction & PTSD. Mary Anne Colledge.
(Holiday Inn)
*1330 – Finish Ranger Hall of Fame Induction, (River
Center, Bill Heard Theatre).*
*1700 – Finish No host Regimental BBQ, (Freedom Hall,
Lawson AAF)*

THURSDAY July 28, 2011:

0830 – 1700 Spouses tour of Callaway Gardens and
lunch. Buses depart from Holiday Inn,
Manchester Rd. at 0830. Lunch, tour &
busses included.
*0900 – 1000 Regimental Change of Command, (Infantry
Museum, Soldiers Field).*
0900 – 1500 Reunion registration. Main lobby,
(Holiday Inn)
0900 – 2100 Hospitality room open. (Holiday Inn)
0630 – Finish 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.
BBQ, included in registration package.
(Holiday Inn).

FRIDAY July 29, 2011:

0900 – 1500 Reunion registration. Main lobby,
(Holiday Inn)
0900 – 1030 Navigating the VA, (Holiday Inn) Bill
Anton & Joe Little
0900 – 2100 Hospitality room open. (Holiday Inn)
0900 – 1015 Yoga for Veterans & Spouses for stress
reduction & PTSD. Mary Anne Colledge.
(Holiday Inn)
0900 – Finish Parachute jump for the old guys. Opelika,
Alabama.
1200 – TBA Guided tour of the new National Infantry
Museum, (Museum)
1700 – Finish Unit dinners, meetings, etc.

SATURDAY July 30, 2011:

0900 – 1000 Unit Director's meeting, (Holiday Inn)
0900 – 1015 Yoga for Veterans & Spouses for stress
reduction & PTSD. Mary Anne Colledge.
(Holiday Inn)
1030 – Finish 75th Ranger Regiment Business Meeting
& Election of Officers
1100 – Finish Spouses Luncheon and Raffle,
(Restaurant, Holiday Inn).
TBA – 2100 Hospitality room open. (Holiday Inn)
1400 – 1530 Navigating the VA, (Holiday Inn) Bill
Anton & Joe Little
1700 – 1800 Reunion Banquet, Cocktails
1800 – Finish Reunion Banquet, Speakers

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

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

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

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

UNIT AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I will be accompanied by _____ guests;*

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

NAMES: _____

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON @ \$40.00 \$ _____

BANQUET TICKETS # _____ @ \$40.00 \$ _____

TOTAL PAID..... \$ _____

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

Mail to: 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 577800

Modesto, CA 95357-7800

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

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION 2011 JULY 25 – 30, 2011 FT. BENNING (COLUMBUS), GA

THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.,
WILL HOLD ITS' BI-ANNUAL REUNION
AND BUSINESS MEETING ON THE ABOVE DATES.

OUR REUNION HEAD QUARTERS WILL BE
THE AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN NORTH, ON MANCHESTER ROAD.
WE HAVE A GUARANTEED RATE OF \$79.00 PER NIGHT.

THIS REUNION WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT RENDEZVOUS AND
CHANGE OF COMMAND. AT THIS TIME,
WE DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE OF REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES, OTHER THAN
THAT THEY WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME FRAME.
THE DECEMBER, 2010 (WINTER), & MARCH 2011 (SPRING),
ISSUE OF *PATROLLING* WILL CONTAIN SCHEDULES.

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

THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, INC. BANQUET
WILL BE HELD THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, 30 JULY 2011.
WE WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES FOR OUR
MEMBERS AND FOR THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, TO INCLUDE:

***BICYCLING ALONG THE RIVER WALK

***INTRODUCTION TO YOGA AND STRESS REDUCTION FOR SPOUSES

***INTRODUCTION TO YOGA & STRESS REDUCTION FOR VETERANS

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

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

“There’s nothing more fitting” 2-75 Commander publicly recognizes Rangers for valorous combat actions. Sgt. Christopher M. Gaylord 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TACOMA, Wash. – With the quiet, picturesque Puget Sound as a backdrop, members of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment were distinguished April 29 for the first time in a public setting for exceptional gallantry while engaged in recent combat operations in Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Dave Hodne, the battalion commander, awarded two Bronze Stars for valor; 11 Army Commendation Medals for valor; four Joint Service Commendation Medals for valor; 16 Purple Hearts; five Orders of Saint Maurice; and one Order of Saint Martin on the stadium grounds at Stadium High School. Ten Rangers who couldn’t be present also received awards.

The Order of Saint Maurice is special to the infantry community and recognizes individuals who, in the eyes of their senior leadership, have contributed significantly to the infantry and served it with distinction. The Order of Saint Martin singles out those who have rendered conspicuous, long-term service to the Army Quartermaster Corps.

Hodne’s decision to honor his Rangers in the local community – marking the battalion’s first-ever recognition ceremony outside the installation – was simple: to give the Rangers some much-needed face time with the public.

“It’s too easy to do an award ceremony in the confines of the unit area in front of our families, but it’s important that the community see these guys, because they give so much to their country and their nation,” Hodne said.

Hodne said there were civilians who showed up that otherwise wouldn’t have been afforded the opportunity had the ceremony been held on-post.

“There were some civilians from the local community who showed up because they heard about it through word-of-mouth,” he said.

“A lot of Rangers live off post, and their neighbors don’t have access to the installation, and they invited some of them out here,” he added.

In the true fashion of most heroes, Sgt. 1st Class Eric Echavarria, a platoon sergeant with the battalion who was

awarded the Bronze Star for valor for outstanding leadership during combat operations in Kandahar Province last fall, said he did nothing more than what was expected of him.

“I don’t think I was doing anything other than what I should have been doing; it was my job,” said Echavarria, who was quick to assemble a landing zone for the medical evacuation of a wounded comrade and continued to lead security and litter teams to the landing zone before personally signaling the incoming evacuation helicopter, even though it exposed him for several minutes to a barrage of enemy fire.

“I know they (other Rangers) would have done it for me just the same way,” he added. “There are other guys who deserve the same recognition because they went out into that hot area just like I did, knowing the risk.”

Capt. Brendan McCarthy, Echavarria’s platoon leader during the operation, doesn’t necessarily agree with Echavarria’s modesty.

“Just because everyone here (the 2-75 Rangers) would do it doesn’t mean it’s not a valorous act,” McCarthy said of his platoon sergeant’s exceptional courage. “And everyone here would do it because everyone here would gladly put their life on the line for another Ranger.”

“Any normal person probably wouldn’t,” he added.

McCarthy refers to the Rangers on Joint Base Lewis-McChord as a “dark matter” – something most people don’t fully understand, if at all.

“Being in the Ranger battalion, a lot of people don’t really know what we do or who we are,” he said.

For this reason, McCarthy says, it’s good for the public to witness the unit and know of its accomplishments – its uniqueness.

“It’s nice to see the unit publicly recognized,” he said, “and just being put out here on public forum, I think that’s the best thing.”

“For me, personally, it’s not about being awarded; it’s about recognizing the unit,” he added, “and about showcasing ourselves and that we are something special.”

As the words of the coveted Ranger Creed roared from the mouths of hundreds of combat-proven Rangers – some of the Army’s most elite war fighters – echoing between a canyon of high-rising concrete bleachers, wives gazed upon beloved

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

husbands; children upon fathers; a proud community upon a group of extraordinary Soldiers that until now have been mostly a mystery.

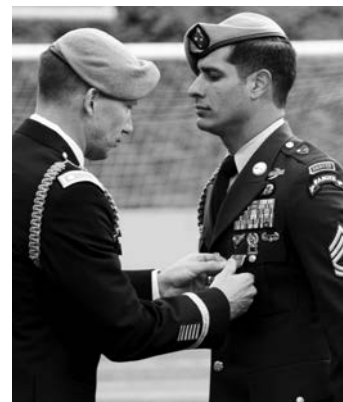
“This is the template for the 2nd Ranger Battalion,” Hodne said of the ceremony. “We’re the Pacific Northwest rangers and doing this in a venue with the Puget Sound behind us – there’s nothing more fitting.”



Lt. Col. Dave Hodne, 2nd Batt C.O., speaks to an audience of family, friends and members of the local community April 29 during an award ceremony at Stadium High School in Tacoma to recognize the valorous combat actions of 46 members of the Battalion, though some could not be present. The event marked the

very first award ceremony the Battalion has ever held off-post and in a public setting. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher M. Gaylord, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

LTC Hodne, 2nd Batt C.O., pins a Bronze Star on SFC Eric Echavarria. SFC Echavarria distinguished himself last fall during combat operations in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher M. Gaylord, 5th MPAD)



LTC Hodne pins an Army Commendation Medal on one of the Battalion's Soldiers. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher M. Gaylord, 5th MPAD)

I learned recently that David “Mad Dog” Dolby passed away. He won the Medal of Honor on his first tour in Vietnam; on his second tour he served in my platoon (2nd Platoon, C Co.) in 1969. He took me out on my first mission near Bong Song. He earned the MOH with an M-60 and asked me if he could take one to the field if he was able to “legally” get one. I said sure. When most of the company had left Bong Song for Phan Thiet but me, a CID officer came around and told me that someone took an M-60 from the guard tower the night before while the guards slept. Of course, I knew nothing about it. When I arrived in Phan Thiet, Dolby handed me completed yellow requisition slip that made it “legal”. Later, I was threatened with a court martial by a REMF officer if I continued to let him take it to the field because it wasn't in our “TO&E”. We had a good laugh over that. Dolby carried the M-60 on every mission. I took this photo of Dolby with 2d Platoon Sgt Henderson.

Lt. Rick Grimes



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Medal of Honor to 2d Batt Ranger. First Ranger MoH since Vietnam, second MoH award to living recipient in Afgan/Iraq wars.

USASOC News Release: 110601-03.

DATE POSTED: JUNE 1, 2011

www.soc.mil/UNS/Releases/2011/June/110601-03.html

Wounded Soldier to receive Medal of Honor for action in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (Courtesy of the Army News Service, June 1, 2011) - An Army Ranger who lost his right hand and suffered shrapnel wounds after throwing an armed grenade away from his fellow Soldiers will be the second living Medal of Honor Recipient from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On July 12, 2011, President Barack Obama will award Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry, with the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry. Petry will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions during combat operations against an armed enemy in Paktya, Afghanistan, May 26, 2008.

Petry now serves as part of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga.

"It's very humbling to know that the guys thought that much of me and my actions that day, to nominate me for that," said Petry, on learning he had been nominated for the medal.

At the time of his actions in Afghanistan, Petry was assigned to Company D, 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Petry's actions came as part of a rare daylight raid to capture a high-value target.

On the day of the actions that would earn Petry the Medal of Honor, he was to locate himself with the platoon headquarters in the target building once it was secured. Once there, he was to serve as the senior noncommissioned officer at the site for the remainder of the operation.

Recognizing one of the assault squads needed assistance clearing their assigned building, Petry relayed to the platoon leader that he was moving to that squad to provide additional supervision and guidance during the clearance of the building.

Once the residential portion of the building had been cleared, Petry took a fellow member of the assault squad, Pvt. 1st Class Lucas Robinson, to clear the outer courtyard. Petry knew that area had not been cleared during the initial clearance.

Petry and Robinson, both Rangers, moved into an area of the compound that contained at least three enemy fighters who were prepared to engage friendly forces from opposite ends of the outer courtyard.

The two Soldiers entered the courtyard. To their front was an opening followed by a chicken coop. As the two crossed the open area, an enemy insurgent fired on them. Petry was wounded by one round, which went through both of his legs. Robinson was also hit in his side plate by a separate round.

While wounded and under enemy fire, Petry led Robinson to the cover of the chicken coop. The enemy continued to deliver fire at the two Soldiers.

As the senior Soldier, Petry assessed the situation and reported that contact was made and that there were two wounded Rangers in the courtyard of the primary target building.

Upon hearing the report of two wounded Rangers, Sgt. Daniel Higgins, a team leader, moved to the outer courtyard. As Higgins was moving to Petry and Robinson's position, Petry threw a thermobaric grenade in the vicinity of the enemy position.

Shortly after that grenade exploded -- which created a lull in the enemy fire -- Higgins arrived at the chicken coop and assessed the wounds of the two Soldiers.

While Higgins evaluated their wounds, an insurgent threw a grenade over the chicken coop at the three Rangers. The grenade landed about 10 meters from the three Rangers, knocked them to the ground, and wounded Higgins and Robinson. Shortly after the grenade exploded, Staff Sgt. James Roberts and Spc. Christopher Gathercole entered the courtyard, and moved toward the chicken coop.

With three Soldiers taking cover in the chicken coop, an enemy fighter threw another grenade at them. This time, the grenade landed just a few feet from Higgins and Robinson.

Recognizing the threat that the enemy grenade posed to his fellow Rangers, Petry -- despite his own wounds and with complete disregard for his personal safety -- consciously and deliberately risked his life to move to and secure the live enemy grenade and consciously throw the grenade away from his fellow Rangers, according to battlefield reports.

As Petry released the grenade in the direction of the enemy, preventing the serious injury or death of Higgins and Robinson, it detonated and catastrophically amputated his right hand.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

With a clear mind, Petry assessed his wound and placed a tourniquet on his right arm. Once this was complete, he reported that he was still in contact with the enemy and that he had been wounded again.

After the blast that amputated Petry's hand, Roberts began to engage the enemy behind the chicken coop with small arms fire and a grenade. His actions suppressed the insurgents behind the chicken coop. Shortly after, another enemy on the east end of the courtyard began firing, fatally wounding Gathercole.

Higgins and Robinson returned fire and killed the enemy.

Moments later, Sgt. 1st Class Jerod Staidle, the platoon sergeant, and Spc. Gary Depriest, the platoon medic, arrived in the outer courtyard. After directing Depriest to treat Gathercole, Staidle moved to Petry's position. Staidle and Higgins then assisted Petry as he moved to the casualty collection point.

Higgins later wrote in a statement, "if not for Staff Sergeant Petry's actions, we would have been seriously wounded or killed."

Petry is the ninth servicemember to have been named a recipient of the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Of prior recipients, all but Petry and Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta were awarded the honor posthumously.

Included among those recipients are Spc. Ross A. McGinnis, Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael A. Monsoor, and Marine Corps Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, all for actions in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, Staff Sgt. Robert Miller, Sgt. 1st Class Jared C. Monti and Navy Lt. Michael P. Murphy were awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan.

Petry currently serves as a liaison officer for the United States Special Operations Command Care Coalition-Northwest Region, and provides oversight to wounded warriors, ill and injured servicemembers and their families.

He enlisted in the United States Army from his hometown of Santa Fe, N.M. in September 1999. After completion of One Station Unit Training, the Basic Airborne Course and the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program -- all at Fort Benning, Ga. -- Petry was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Petry has served as a grenadier, squad automatic rifleman, fire team leader, squad leader, operations sergeant, and weapons squad leader.

He has deployed eight times in support of the War on Terror, with two tours to Iraq and six tours to Afghanistan.

Petry and his wife Ashley have four children, Brittany, Austin, Reagan and Landon.



UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Todd M. Currie

Battle Company's Capture Of The 101st Division Tactical Operation Center, Reforger 1976

By Ron Fallon
With contributions by
Nels Nelson
Frank Magana
Reggie Salinas



The Warning Order was quick and the Operations Order was yet quicker. It was the annual Reforger exercise conducted in September 1976. The 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry was pitted against the 101st Air Assault Division. The 101st Division 'Screaming Eagles' were out there somewhere in the Ranger Area of Operations in southern Germany. The Ranger mission was a textbook 'US Army Ranger Battalion' mission; find the enemy, fix the enemy, and destroy the enemy. Company B 1/75, commanded by Captain Jeff Ellis, was given a Company reconnaissance sector of responsibility. The Company sector was further broken down into Platoon reconnaissance sectors and subsequently broken down into Squad recon sectors.

The 1st Platoon Leader, First Lieutenant Doug Dountz, moved the 1st Platoon to the edge of their reconnaissance sector and gave a quick Warning Order. The Weapons Squad Leader, Staff Sergeant Reggie Salinas, attached one machine gun crew to each Rifle Squad and SSG Salinas himself was attached to the 1st Squad led by Buck Sergeant Ron Fallon. As the Squad Fire Team Leaders prepared their Fire Teams for the mission the squad leaders assisted 1LT Dountz in developing a platoon reconnaissance plan. Within the hour LT Dountz issued a quick Operations Order complete with Squad recon sectors, PLT rally points and rendezvous points, and a few 'Ah Shit' contingency plans.

First Platoon's Squads headed out into their sectors of responsibility on their respective recon missions. Salinas and Fallon had worked together for about two years; they were both technically and tactically proficient and this would prove a perfect stage for what was to come later that evening. It was late afternoon and the 1st SQD was a few hours into the Recon Patrol using the Fan Reconnaissance Technique when

they took a short break. Shortly after the squad removed their rucksacks and settled in behind them in a tight security perimeter, way off in the distance they could hear an ever-so-slight humming or grumbling. Not recognizing the sound, the squad cut the break short and 'Saddled Up.' Remaining within their sector the squad cautiously changed direction and set out to reconnoiter the area where the sounds were coming from.

The humming grew louder and louder as they continued on. It was early evening now and growing darker by the minute, the type darkness that one can only witness in an old growth German forest. It was nearing EENT (end evening nautical twilight) when the squad heard what sounded like significant vehicle activity and the now distinctive sound of large generators. SGT Fallon radioed LT Dountz giving an initial Situation Report (SITREP) and continued surveillance. The AN/PVS2 Night Vision Device was a necessity as SGT Fallon and SGT Nels Nelson's Fire Teams low crawled to a suitable observation point (OP). The Rangers detected many generators, many vehicles, and a few soldiers. The sound was now almost deafening as more generators were fired up. The 1st Squad knew that this was a big find, but just how big they did not know! The Fire Team pulled back from the OP to the Objective Rally Point (ORP) and radioed another detailed SITREP to LT Dountz. The LT had already linked-up with the rest of the platoon and was heading toward the 1st Squad's ORP. That SITREP was also relayed up the chain of command. There were few if any other enemy sightings in the Company Sector. Armed with this information CPT Ellis told the 1st Platoon to hold tight and that Company reinforcements were on the way.

Earlier that evening CPT Ellis noted from platoon reports a large amount of movement into the company AO to include sounds of vehicle movement close to the company CP. He also noted an AC-130 circling overhead, something the OPFOR was using to try to find the Rangers. There was concern that the AC-130 might spot them, but CPT Ellis felt that with all the OPFOR elements moving into the area, there would be no way to tell the Rangers apart from the OPFOR elements. So he told the platoon leaders to keep going on their mission – particularly 1st Platoon.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

With that in mind, CPT Ellis mustered the remainder of Bravo Company and moved toward 1st Squad 1st Platoon's location. The 1st Squad continued reconnaissance focusing on routes of movement to the generators and locating the direction that generator cables were headed. The cables were on a narrow path. The 1st PLT arrived at the ORP followed shortly by CPT Ellis, LT 'Hog' Brown, the Executive Officer (XO) and the remainder of Bravo Company. The Ranger Company was now all formed up. As CPT Ellis moved forward through the dark forest, he noted looking through his NVGs, SSG Salinas standing toward the top of hill causing Ellis to remember that scene for years as something out of a movie. SSG Salinas gave the CO a quick SITREP saying that he had located what he thought was a large van situated at the top of the hill. Salinas moved with Ellis to where they could both see the van.

CPT Ellis, having commanded A/75th Ranger Co (LRRP) [long range reconnaissance patrol] which operated in support of US Corps in Europe, recognized right away that the van either belonged to a division headquarters or corp headquarters.

Ellis passed the information down the Ranger column. CPT Ellis instructed Salinas to go into the van, take it over, leave a guard on it and get the CEOs (communication call signs, frequencies, etc). Having done that, Salinas joined back up with CPT Ellis. Salinas stayed near the CO as he had one of the AN/PVS2s and he could be the Co's night eyes. The question now facing the company commander and team – "Now what?" Ellis looked down with his NVGs and noted the large, thick cable running from the van down a forest trail. At that point, CPT Ellis gave what came to be a memorable command – whispering to Salinas: "Follow the Yellow Brick Road!"

It was a no moon, chilly night, and by that time it was just before midnight. The weather became a factor favoring the Rangers. It became a typical German night in the fall – wet, cold, with a mist and light rain. Ellis had passed to the company leaders to not wear any rain gear in that it might make noise in brushing against trees, etc.. In essence, it was a perfect Ranger Raid Night! The Company was ready to move to the target, wherever and whatever it was. CPT Ellis turned to SGT Fallon and said, "Lead the Way Ranger" and 1st SQD moved out with two trusted Fire Team Leaders, Sergeants Steve Hawk and Nels Nelson, at the head of the Ranger file. Hawk was on point followed closely by Fallon and Nelson and the rest of the squad. They followed the generator cables up a narrow trail as they led Bravo Company toward the enemy objective.

It was pitch black, darker than a well-digger's ass. As 1st SQD slowly moved up the generator cable trail Hawk suddenly bumped his head on something hard. As Hog Brown would

say, "it was harder than a footlocker full of woodpecker lips." Hawk reached up and felt a long thick barrel of what turned out to be a 20 mm Vulcan Gun. SST Hawk was then 'Challenged' for the 'Password' by an enemy guard who was yet unseen. Thinking quickly, Hawk gave the 'Challenge' back to the guard. SGT Fallon then called for Hawk to give him the 'Password.' Hawk gave the 'Challenge' word again and Fallon said "Hawk, that's the 'Challenge' what's the 'Password.'" He said, "SGT Fallon, I forgot the Password." Fallon then started to reprimand Hawk for forgetting the Password as Fallon moved a bit closer to the guard. SGT Fallon then took the guard to the ground with a rear strangle take down. The encounter lasted fewer than 10 seconds. The enemy guard was bound with rope and thrown into the back of the Vulcan vehicle where another guard was deathly afraid to come out. The 1st Squad continued leading the Company by following the generator cables through a multi-layered defensive perimeter.

Confronted by another layer of defense, SGT Hawk 'Challenged' the soldiers and they gave the Rangers the 'Password.' The enemy sentries were then promptly captured, bound, and gagged. Just then a jeep in 'black out drive' pulled up. SGT Fallon made a quick plan with SGT Nelson for each of them to 'Challenge' the enemy in the jeep and to shine their flash lights in the faces of the two in order to ruin their night vision. If any Screaming Eagles saw the Ranger uniforms, they would know that they were not 101st soldiers. The enemy soldiers in the jeep were 'Challenged' and the flashlights shined in their faces. The jeep driver was especially irate about the lights in the face, but gave the 'Password' and they were allowed to pass. They were more than likely Military Police (MPs). Bravo Company was still in file coming up the generator path.

As Bravo Company moved forward, the Squad and Fire Team units of the entire Company were conducting similar operations disarming and capturing Vulcan Guns, vehicles, personnel tents, supply tents, radio trucks, and generators. SGT Joe Mattison captured a 'Rat Rig' radio truck. Thinking the stairs were located where they should have been, he went to charge up the stairs to the door, but was almost knocked out by the tail gate because the stairs were not in the down position. His Fire Team hopped up on the truck and took over the radio equipment, silencing all radio communication.

Scanning the area with his AN/PVS2, SSG Salinas saw some lights off in the direction of what appeared to be a GP Large tent. He handed the Night Vision Device to CPT Ellis who remarked that "the place is lit up like a Christmas tree." SGT Fallon's Squad was now securing a few enemy positions and SGT Frank Magana, another Squad Leader in 1st Platoon and his Fire Team Leader Don Carroll, were now near the front of the Ranger column with the CO. SGT Magana's Squad moved

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

toward the lights of the tent and hit a few strands of concertina wire. CPT Ellis knew that a tent with generator cables leading to the tent and concertina around the tent was a very good target. Ellis knew from his past experience with A/75th Rangers that the I-shaped tent was that of a division headquarters. It was too large for a brigade headquarters and too small for a corp headquarters. Outside there was only one individual standing by a tree, hunched over in the wet, misty rain – not alert at all and not noticing the Rangers standing about 100 feet away.

Having had the 1st Platoon dropping off people to control various enemy positions, CPT Ellis turned around to his company RTO (radio telephone operator) whispering, “Send up second platoon!,” which had the XO, Hog Brown, with them. The RTO replied back: “Sir, there’s no one behind us!” Ellis looked and noted that the only folks behind him were the exercise controller accompanying them and company and battalion RTOs. If it wasn’t so serious, it would be humorous. Ellis got on the company radio and called Brown: “Where are you?” To which Brown replied, “In the DIVARTY (division artillery) TOC!” It became apparent that Brown and the second platoon had followed a branch of the communication cable that went over to the DIVARTY TOC.

So now there were only Sgt Magana, Ellis, the exercise controller and two RTOs – not a large force by any means. Just as Ellis turned around, another individual came out of the tent door – with the large light behind him coming out of the tent. The individual looked toward the Ranger, but Ellis whispered – “He can’t see us, his night vision is screwed up.” But realizing that time was working against them, CPT Ellis said, “Let’s go!” and moving toward the tent, Magana quietly captured the guard while Ellis and the RTOs moved toward the tent.

CPT Ellis, .45 caliber pistol in hand entered the tent with Magana and battalion RTO announcing, “Gentleman, put your hands up, you have been captured by Bravo Company, 1st Ranger Battalion.” The tent was the 101st Division Tactical Operation Center (TOC). In the tent there were a number of 101st officers and senior NCOs, no doubt the G3 Operations Officer and G2 Intelligence Officer; there were gigantic map boards; and there were radios, field phones, tables, chairs. The 101st Division Tactical Operations Center, the command and control center of the entire Division was captured – without a shot fired as yet! Every 101st ‘Friendly’ position and every suspected ‘Enemy’ position was on the Situation Map. The Eagles were Screaming that night!

The 101st personnel looked like “deer in the headlights. Ellis told them to stand up and move to the back of the tables against the tent. Just then one of the 101st NCOs standing next to the large map, made a motion toward moving pieces on the map.

Ellis cocked his .45 saying, “Touch that map and I’ll blow your f---- head off!” to which the individual immediately stopped. Ellis later noted that he was laughing inside at the reaction of the individual, thinking, “I have no rounds in this .45 and what could I do - and if it had been me, I would have given the Ranger the “razberry” and moved the items.” But the 101st soldier immediately moved away from the map and joined the other members. The exercise controller instructed the 101st soldiers that indeed that had been captured and are required to respond to the Ranger instructions.

Ellis, leaving Magana and the Battalion RTO, who Ellis had told to notify Battalion Hqs what was going on, moved through the I-shaped tent going to the other side gathering the 101st soldiers there to move to where the rest were located. As Ellis rejoined Magana and the RTO, a field phone rang in the TOC, Ellis – worried that if it wasn’t answered, someone might come, picked up the phone, looked at the nearest 101st officer, noted his name, and answered the phone saying “DTC, ‘Smith’ (the individuals’ name)” to which the individual at the other end, asked for a particular individual and Ellis replied, “He’s not here.” The individual at the other end of the phone was whispering, saying his name that he was in the division commo van and that “There are Rangers in the area and were outside his van.” Ellis immediately said, “Hide the CEOI’s, scramble the frequencies and shut down the radios!” to which the individual said “Roger” and hung up at the other end. At that moment, the 101st Division TOC and its operations went “blank” – no communication with subordinate or senior level commands!

CPT Ellis moved down the table taking maps, CEOIs, operation plans, anything that looked of value and stuffing them into his pants pockets, and inside his shirt. Once he had everything, Ellis turned to SGT Magana and said: “Erase the situation map,” to which several of the 101st officers groaned and said “Oh s---!” Magana and the Battalion RTO methodically began to move the unit location pieces – totally rearranging them and obviously screwing up the division organization. Outside the Operations tent, Rangers were disconnecting generator cables and cutting large sections from others. The Maneuver Controllers were awakened and took control before any fist-to-cuffs could break out. The TOC was officially captured.

Having gotten what they needed, Ellis ordered the Rangers to withdraw and move back to their positions. The Rangers moved back along the same routes they came into the division TOC picking up the members that had been dropped off guarding tents that were along the route. Once back outside the perimeter, the Rangers moved independently to their rally points and hiding locations. It was now nearing BMNT (begin morning nautical twilight) and B Company, 1st Ranger Battalion was on the move to their next mission.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

When Ellis got back to the company CP location, he got a call from the Battalion S2, CPT Ty Tisdale, asking where the company CP was located in that he needed to come by and pick up the information Ellis and the team had captured. Apparently when the DTOC went off the radio net and the Rangers moved all the locations on the situation map and took all the items off the TOC table, the division had no idea where units were and no communication with them. Tisdale also wanted to get the information to our higher headquarters for their use in developing an attack to take advantage of the confusion.

Having passed the location to Tisdale, Ellis was just organizing the items to hand to Tisdale, when out of nowhere up walks Tisdale, complete in a German outfit – lederhosen and German hat – saying “Hi...great job!” Tisdale had been traveling around the exercise area in a Volkswagen bus dressed up as a German gathering intel. How Tisdale got there so quick is still today a mystery. And his outfit was definitely not a Ranger uniform! Tisdale passed along that the division was definitely screwed up not having the locations and no communication with all their elements. And with the CEOI’s – to include the ones in the division commo van – missing and in the hands of the Ranger higher headquarters, the Division CP was essentially blind. Tisdale needed to get the information – particularly the CEOIs and map locations - to the Ranger higher headquarters. Taking the items, Tisdale disappeared as quickly and silently as he had arrived.

Subsequently, the Ranger higher headquarters, using the information the Rangers had captured, conducted an immediate attack, taking out numerous units, in that the 101st was blind and out of communication. In addition, having the CEOIs – the higher headquarters was actively jamming the division and its higher headquarters communication nets. Thus the overall situation became a “safety factor” in the exercise with the units not being able to contact one another and the division and higher headquarters not knowing where their sub-elements were located and when they were under attack. The exercise was subsequently terminated two days early, while the 101st Division attempted to, contact their units and reestablish communications with them.

Several years later, CPT Ellis was at an infantry conference when a junior officer, who was in the TOC that evening, introduced Ellis to then LTG John Wickham, who was the 101st Division commander at the time of the raid. Having been introduced as the company commander of the Ranger company that captured the TOC without a shot fired, LTG Wickham was very gracious in complimenting the Rangers on their actions and asked Ellis: “Why didn’t you come and capture me?” to which Ellis replied “Sir, we didn’t know where you were and frankly, with all due respect, we didn’t need you, we got what we needed!” whereupon Wickham laughed and said: “Well done, please pass that on to your men if you see them.”

**2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT**

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham

As a general rule, the maxim of marching to the sound of the guns is a wise one.

-Antoine Henri Jomini



Kevin Ingraham

If you are reading this and are not in Georgia at our association’s reunion / Ranger Rendezvous 2011, then you are seriously remiss.

If you missed out, proper AARs will be published in the autumn edition, which I should be co-editing. As I am completing a BA in Russian history in December, John Chester seems to think that I should be putting all this new ‘book-larnin’ to gainful use. Guess I had to begin somewhere! This new challenge should be fun, right?

‘Real life’ concerns are keeping this quarter’s column short, which is not something I care for. That will be suitably



redressed next issue – provided that I don’t cause a galactic meltdown learning the new publishing software.

If you’re attending the reunion, please tackle me and make an intro. If you can’t find me where the food is, my cellular ball & chain is 607-221-1526. It’ll be good to match faces with names.

While there, one of my primary missions will be to try to make a better link between ‘The Battalion’ and us Association ‘FOGs’. This is a rare opportunity for this east-coaster as these rendezvous’ do not usually coincide with battalion’s training cycle, what with the rangers being off hunting the savages while we whoop it up in Columbus.

Consider this your pre-block leave safety briefing: get to the reunion and back home to mama all in one piece. See you in the courtyard!

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**Korean War Ranger MIA Comes Home.
Military IDs remains of Korean War soldier**

KEARNY, N.J. — The Defense Department on Tuesday said it has identified the remains of a New Jersey soldier reported missing in action during the Korean War.

Army Cpl. John W. Lutz of Kearny was buried April 13 at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Lutz was a 21-year-old member of the 1st Ranger Infantry Company when he went missing near Chaun-ni, South Korea, in May 1951.

After the 1953 armistice, surviving POWs said Lutz had been captured, marched to a prison camp in North Korea and died of malnutrition in July 1951.

In the early 1990s, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of human remains, including one with remains exhumed near the prison camp. Defense Department analysts ultimately were able to identify Lutz's remains with the aid of advanced DNA analysis. The Associated Press, via Army Times website. Posted online: Tuesday Apr 12, 2011.

This Quarter in 2d Battalion History

July 16, 1943. First officially authorized ranger insignia approved by the War Dept. The blue and gold 'RANGERS' diamond was designed by Lt Joseph Smudin and was worn until after D-Day. Both battalions ditch the "Sunoco sign" for the scroll originated by the 1st Ranger Battalion in 1942. The scroll was not officially recognized by the Department of the Army until 1984.



Ranger Diamond, 1944.

July 26, 2001. 75th Ranger Regiment dons the tan beret.

August 1, 1943. The newly formed unit is redesignated as the 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion.

August 13 – September 8, 1944. Battalion performs light infantry missions in the siege of Brest helping to defeat German General Ramke's paratrooper brigade. 1st Platoon, A Co particularly distinguishes itself by forcing the surrender of Fort 'Graf Spee' and its battery of 11 inch naval guns, allowing the capture of the Le Conquet Peninsula by the combined task force 2d Battalion was part of.

Rangers generally served as light infantry in the liberation of France as no thought had been given to their post-invasion employment, leading to frequent misuse. At one point, the Provisional Ranger Group is placed under the command of a colonel relieved of a regimental command for lack of aggressiveness!

August 15, 1972. H Co (Ranger) 75th Infantry is deactivated at Bien Hoa, RVN. H-75th had served the longest continuous period of combat of any ranger-designated unit, over three and a half years.

4-15 September 1943. 2d Battalion trains at the Scouts & Raiders School, Ft Pierce, Florida. Amphibious raids and landings remain the core capabilities of the 2d and 5th Battalions until D-Day.

September 21, 1981. An MC-130 crashes during a training assault landing at Indian Springs, Nevada. Six rangers are killed, including the battalion commander, Col. William Powell. Jimmy Bynum and Greg Gardner receive posthumous Soldier's Medals for rescuing rangers from the wreckage until the aircraft exploded.



**Indian Springs, NV,
September, 1981.**

September 29, 1989. The 'Ashe Street Shootout', Tacoma. Rangers lead the way to a more family safe/drug free neighborhood in the Hilltop District. Rangers prove Sun-Tzu's dictum that it is best when you can defeat your opponent without having to fight, or in this case, kill him.

www.thenewtribune.com/2009/09/27/895048/ash-street-shootout-the-night.html



2nd Battalion dayroom war trophies, 2004.



**Chaplin Cole, 2
October, 1976.**





3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat... You ask, what is our policy? I say it is to wage war by land, sea, and air. War with all our might and with all the strength God has given us, and to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs - Victory in spite of all terrors - Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival."
-Winston Churchill

I'm a big fan of quotes. When I was in, I had a giant book of military quotes. I started a quote of the week and posted one religiously. So I thought I'd start sharing one with ya'll at the beginning of each article here. I found this one especially relevant to the fight we're in now.

New Battalion Memorial

The new Battalion Memorial is now being built. Don't forget to take this opportunity to purchase a paver from the S-5 to help support this effort. You can also buy some outstanding items from the S-5 store. All available now online. Just go to: 375ranger.com

Veterans bonus for Ohio residents

Something that just came across my radar. If you're a veteran and live in Ohio, you may be eligible for free money. Take a look at this link and see if you qualify. veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/EligibilityTool_Veteran.aspx

Glory Boys Revisited

I wrote last issue that CSM (R) Jerry McClain was the originator of the "Glory Boys" name that is still used for 1st Platoon A company. At the reunion we had in July, Ranger Dean Hohl shared this picture with me. Then SFC McClain is the large black man front and center. He was always pretty hard to miss.



CSM Ray Devens

I thought it worth mentioning that my old PSG, CSM Ray Devens, recently assumed responsibility for the 25th Infantry Division. Anyone who ever had the pleasure of knowing him can attest to just what a character he is. One of my fondest memories of him occurred

during a airfield seizure mission on Lawson Army Airfield. I was the driver and he was in the Tank Commander's (TC), or passenger, seat. As we came screaming into the blocking position at the base of Cardiac Hill, he's out the door before I even get to a complete stop. The unfortunate OPFOR that day was a squad size element of RIP holdovers. All they saw before they cut and ran was a huge, bald headed maniac screaming at the top of his lungs and waving a giant Kukri knife as he charged towards them. I'm told they didn't break stride until they made it back to the barracks and were still breathing hard when they met with the Holdover PSG to quit.

There may, or may not be, another story about him refusing to fully JMPI a stick of bare ass naked Rangers. Apparently "squat/hold" takes on a whole new meaning when you have to maneuver testicles out of the way. But that's a story for another day!

Congratulations CSM Devens. The men of the 25th Infantry Division are damn lucky.

The Battle for Haditha Dam

I have wanted to learn more about this battle since I first heard about it. As luck would have it, I recently encountered a Ranger attending Columbus State University that was there. After we began talking, he agreed to give me his recollections of the event.

When this story takes place, Blake Ledford had been in Battalion less than a year, and had one previous deployment, in the fall of 2002, to Afghanistan. He deployed with 2nd Platoon, B/3/75.

Just prior to this, the entire Regiment was in-country preparing to conduct a very rare Regimental sized operation. It was canceled at the last minute as other elements blew through the planned objective. Alpha and Charlie Company were tasked with the seizure of H-1 airfield, and Bravo Company (+) drew the mission to take Haditha dam.

Haditha was critical target, as Saddam had threatened to blow it up and flood surrounding areas. One of the largest dams in

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

the world, the Haditha complex provided fully one-third of the Iraqi electrical grid load in 2003. Located northwest of Baghdad, the dam was built during the Cold War to provide hydroelectric power for central Iraq, including Baghdad. The Haditha Dam also controlled the flow of the Euphrates into the lower Euphrates/Tigris River Valley.



Iraq. The green triangle highlights the location of Haditha Dam. The red area is where the area floodwaters would have inundated if the dam gates had been opened or the dam destroyed. The yellow

area highlights the direction 3ID was moving to Baghdad. Image courtesy of USASOC.

Task organization looked like this:

B/3/75

1/B/3/75

2/B/3/75

3/C/3/75

2 X SNIPER TM

2 X 120 mm MORTAR

BN CCP (-)

BN CSM

VEHICLES

14 GROUND MOBILITY VEHICLES

4 CARGO HMMWV'S

MAJOR WEAPON SYSTEMS

7 X M2 .50

7 X MK19 40 mm

7 X JAVELIN

BN CONTROL

TOC (-)

BN XO

BN FSNCO

BN ETAC

BN COMMO CHIEF

RTO

TOTAL: 154 MEN

For this mission, Ledford recalls, the OPORD was written partially enroute to the launch site, and the objective wasn't disseminated until they were in their launch site. The mission paragraph was actually a mission sentence, and it was short and to the point: "Upon order, Bravo Company (+) seizes Haditha Dam".

Due to how hard and fast they had been moving since the invasion, the Battalion had pushed well beyond their support

units. This resulted in a daily ration of 1 MRE, 2 power bars and 6 bottles of water. In addition, since they anticipated this being a quick in-and-out job, no one took any extra socks, t-shirts or things of that nature. Due to the threat of NBC agents, Bravo Company had been in MOPP gear for the infil to the launch site, and would remain in it for most of the mission to seize the dam.

They arrived around BMNT and only found a couple of people pulling security. After quickly dispatching the security element, they set up began to search the area and set up blocking positions. They found a very large cache of AT rounds. The thought of what the Iraqi's could have done with all those AT rounds against the unarmored vehicles the Rangers were in was unsettling.

While they were waiting, Ledford's squad and one other from 2nd Platoon were tasked with clearing the East side of the dam. All 9 stories of it not including basement levels. Consider that they hadn't slept for the previous 30 hours and wearing a MOPP suit this had the potential to be a smoker. In addition, Ledford had the RFR (Ranger First Responder) bag. Since it was snap linked between his shoulder blades, he couldn't wear a camel back. He also had a skedco litter, shotgun, M203 and PMASK. *(As Ledford was telling me all this, I started laughing. I can just imagine what an absolute suck fest it was at that point, but wait, there's more.)* Every single door had been locked by the Iraqi's, and due to the threat of a bomb inside the dam, they couldn't use any breaching charges. Luckily, they had a giant crowbar and sledgehammer to use as a lockpick. 7 ½ hours later they finished clearing all the rooms! Adding insult to injury, once they got the bottom, they found out the elevator had just broken! Apparently the commo guy was pretty pissed. After this smoke session, it was decided to send a platoon to clear and secure the other end of the dam.

On the 7th floor they found about 25 Iraqi engineers who kept the dam operational. They were extremely compliant, no surprise there! Since there was no real plan to deal with EPW's, they locked them in a room until they could figure out what to do with them. It was at this point that they first begin to hear the sounds of battle coming from above.

When they got back up to the top, the rest of the platoon was lying down in the BP. An SA-9 was shooting 53mm at them from about 300 meters out. They had a few OP's pushed out, but due to the amount of space they had to cover with very few men, they consolidated most of the positions on the East side of the dam.

They soon started taking artillery fire from Iraqi 155's. This was a prelude to a Iraqi counter-attack consisting of approximately

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

400 bad guys. Bravo Company had a great field of fire, about 1200-1300 meters out. Ledford recalls that the Iraqi's approached in formation almost as if they were doing drill and ceremony. This attack was easily beaten off using close air support and indirect fire from the company 122 mm mortars. "We finally got to sleep about 2 hours the first night, and we had probably been going for about 40 hours straight prior. To say we were tired is an understatement, but because we were so wired from the fight, it was hard getting to sleep. I drew guard duty when we would normally have been standing-to, but because everyone was so tired, and we had the perimeter secured, everyone was asleep. As luck would have it, the Iraqi's started in with the arty again, and everyone was out in the open sleeping. I tried yelling "INCOMING" to wake everyone up, but they were so out of it from exhaustion, it took a few tries. They finally woke up and took cover".

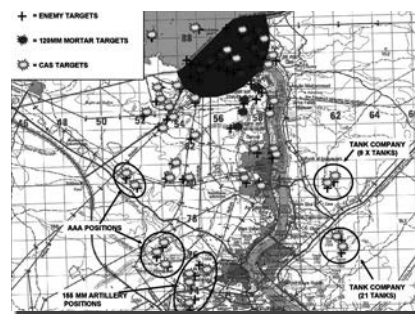
The artillery rounds were almost continuous for almost a week. Ledford vividly recalled someone in his platoon counting the rounds they took the 2nd day. That 200 a day round count would be average for their first week on the dam. It wasn't until day 7 on the dam that the artillery emplacements were located and destroyed. They had been throwing rounds from 27 kilometers away.

Another instance that Ledford recounts, is when the Iraqi's seemed to be walking the arty rounds in closer and closer. The Rangers couldn't figure out why they were suddenly getting more accurate, until someone spotted a lone Iraqi in the lake behind the dam. He was several hundred meters out sitting in a canoe! SSG Shaw dispatched the canoe with a .50 cal burst, and the Iraqi swam to shore to surrender. Afterwards, SSG Shaw said "Ledford, I thought I had seen everything until I shot a canoe with a .50 cal and saw a haji swim to shore butt naked to surrender".

Around day 3, one BP stopped an Iraqi cab crossing the bridge. Inside were 4 Syrians that were taking a cab to find "The Infidel" and fight him. Well, they found him and a bunch of his buddies. Ironically enough, the cab driver had been an EPW in the first Gulf War as a member of the Republican Guard.

During this time, CSM Birch was selectively targeting Iraqi's with an SR-25 sniper rifle. Birch, who is a legend in the Special Operations community, had recently taken over as the 3/75 CSM. He had infil'd on Ledford's jeep and stayed busy. "CSM Birch definitely led from the front. He was right in the middle during the initial assault and remained in the thick of the fight the entire time we were there. After he ran out of rounds for his SR-25, he picked up an AK and continued to smoke haji's".

Around day 7 a column of M-1 Abrams tanks had shown up and were crossing the dam. Ledford quickly found a piece of plywood and some paint. He painted a sign that said: "Security provided by B Co. 3/75 HAPPY MOTORING"



The intent had been for A Company to relieve Bravo in place after the first day, but they didn't make it until the 8th day. Alpha Company was moving in convoy to the dam, when

they saw an SUV with a woman waving them down, pregnant and apparently in distress. The Alpha Company CO, CAPT Russell B. Rippetoe stopped the convoy and approached the woman. With him were SSG Nino D. Livaudais and SPC Ryan P. Long. When they got to the SUV, the pregnant woman detonated a suicide bomb that blew the vehicle 45 feet into the air. All 3 Rangers were killed. CAPT Rippetoe was the first soldier from OIF to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. SSG Livaudais was the fourth. His father was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. Specialist Chad Thibodeau and Specialist Kyle Smith were badly injured.

The only casualties that Bravo Company took during the entire mission had been 3 injured from shrapnel and one other, PFC John Rego, who was injured while clearing a building when a roof collapsed on him. This resulted in a severely broken hip and medical retirement.

Once they had been relieved in place, Blake Ledford and the rest of his platoon took a swim in Haditha Lake.

BDA for seizure of Haditha Dam:

230+ EN KIA
29 x TANKS
9 x S-60's
14 x AAA pieces
28 x 155 mm artillery
22 x 82 mm Mortars
6 x 60 mm Mortars
8 x Ammo Caches
18 x Buildings
3 x Heavy Cargo Trucks
2 x Motorcycles
10 x Boats
1 x Canoe

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**Team 19**

After the Haditha mission, Bravo Company spent about 60 more days in-country. They came home, went on block leave, and did a quick turnaround and re-deployed back to Iraq. Within the first few days there, Blake Ledford was driving the rear vehicle in a convoy of 2. Ledford remembers the explosion that basically eviscerated the lead vehicle. CPL Andrew F. Chris was killed immediately. SGT Timothy M. Conneway would expire from his wounds a couple of days later. Everyone on the vehicle was hurt. Ledford remembers seeing one Ranger stagger to the back of what was left of the vehicle, bleeding profusely from his neck. As a Ranger First Responder, Ledford desperately wanted to render aid. Since he was the driver, he had to stay put in case they had to move quickly. Everyone else in the jeep was dependant on him. "Watching him bleed like that, where you think he's going to bleed out and you can't do anything, is probably the hardest thing I ever did in my military career. It tore my heart out." The profusely bleeding Ranger was Kanaan Merriken.

"The medic was busy treating the most critical casualties, and wasn't getting to him fast enough. By the time he did, Merriken wasn't expected to make it. His wounds were so severe his wife was quickly flown to Germany so she could try to see him before he died. He was medically retired BEFORE he got back to the States so that when he died his wife would get his benefits. That's how bad he was."

"As it turned out, he had more serious wounds that we didn't know about at the time. He had wounds to his forehead, and part of his frontal lobe had to be taken out to remove shrapnel."

A couple of weeks after the IED happened the platoon found out Ranger Merriken had regained consciousness, and even recognized his wife. About a year after this he had made a full recovery and stopped by the platoon to visit. "While it was great seeing him" Ledford say, "it was also really hard because it was a reminder of all that we had lost and how horrible that day was. A couple of years later, I had heard that he surrendered his 100% medical disability to go back into the Army. I didn't really give it much thought and considered it to be a bullshit rumor."

One of the things Ranger Ledford does on the side is film for the Best Ranger Competition. During the last day of the 2011 Best Ranger Competition, he heard wild cheering for Team 19, and SSG Kanaan Merriken. His brother had made it all the way back to 3rd Ranger Battalion and was competing in the Best Ranger Competition. He didn't get a chance to say anything to him then because he was in the middle of the Darby Queen.

"All this time I had no idea he had actually made it back and was living in the same town I was". They had a chance to catch up at the Super Supper that night. It was a great reunion.

RASP Graduation

Over the last couple of years I've had the honor to work with a number of young men that acquired an Option 40 Ranger contract. Via ArmyRanger.com, these men who aspire to be Rangers can request a mentor, someone who actually served as a Ranger. They get help with their PT, and get regular assignments in a number of different areas.

I was able to spend the better part of a year working with young Cameron. His father was a friend that served in 2/75 about the same time I was in. After attending basic combat medic AIT, he went to Airborne, and then RASP. He was one of two medics that graduated from the course. I had the pleasure of watching his class that started out with 167, graduate 65 Rangers.

Here's Ranger Cameron C. wearing his Beret and Scroll for the very first time. How I envy him the journey he's about to begin.



As an added benefit, the guest speaker for the graduation was none other than CSM (R) Iron Mike Kelso! I asked CSM Kelso for his speech so I could share it with you.

CSM Kelso Speech

Just think Rangers...after all the challenges you have faced and overcome...the sweat, the tears, the road marches...you are this close to joining the ranks of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Of donning your tan Berets. Unfortunately, you have one more challenge...you have to listen to me talk!

I know these Rangers have better things to do than listen to a retired Ranger, but I do want to make a couple of points.

LTC Eifler, CSM Merritt, CSM Meyers, distinguished guests, families and most importantly those Rangers of RASP class 04-11...GOOD MORNING!

It is a distinct honor and privilege to address these Rangers on this very significant day. Rangers, today you are entering a brotherhood, a brotherhood of warriors.

You are joining an elite unit whose sole purpose is to close with and destroy the enemy. Frankly, isn't that why you volunteered

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

for the Rangers? To face the enemy in ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy? The mere fact that you're standing in this formation answers that question.

Not far from here is the Ranger Memorial. The Ranger Memorial consists of eight monuments recognizing each of the modern Ranger eras, honoring the Rangers of the past, present and future. Each of the monuments speaks to the courage, the discipline, the selfless service of the Rangers.

Read the battle honors listed on these monuments. Consider for a moment the fire swept beaches of Normandy. The frozen hilltops of Korea. The leach infested jungles of Vietnam, Grenada and Panama. The streets of Somalia. The deserts and mountains of Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Those honors were earned by the blood, sweat and tears of the Rangers who fought and in many cases paid the ultimate price. The courage exhibited and sacrifices made by those Rangers are the legacy you are expected to live up to.

I assure you that the Rangers that have gone before have nothing but the utmost confidence and pride in the Rangers serving today.

I want to tell you a story of a Ranger Sergeant, SFC Castillo, who has as much if not more intestinal fortitude of anyone I know. I first met SFC Castillo during Ranger Rendezvous 2009. He was seated in a wheel chair. He was missing both legs. He had just completed a tandem parachute jump from 10,000 feet.

SFC Castillo once stood where you are standing today. On February 6, 2009, on his 9th combat tour, his platoon was conducting a foot patrol in Northern Iraq when he was seriously wounded by an IED.

Though seriously wounded he has certainly not lost his Ranger warrior spirit. In fact, he reenlisted while still in the hospital bed recovering from his wounds. In an interview conducted after the jump, SFC Castillo had this to say, "There's multiple close calls and there are multiple risks you take. Every soldier takes those. That experience alone is something I expected from my job...and at one point or another I knew I'd maybe get hurt at some point. But it's nothing that stops me from continuing to do what I had to do. I enjoy what I do and I love the people that I work with and most of all I do love my Country."

SFC Castillo reflects the high skills, physical toughness, uncompromising discipline and the willingness to sacrifice and meet the Ranger standards that is the Ranger culture. SFC Castillo is the personification of a Ranger Warrior!

In a few moments you will recite the Ranger Creed. There is no statement that says more about who Rangers are than the Ranger Creed. In this powerful statement are the ideals and standards Rangers live up to.

"Knowing the hazards of my chosen profession...never shall I fail my comrades...I will never leave a fallen comrade...readily will I display the intestinal fortitude..."

Listen to the words closely; you will understand the Ranger Esprit de Corps. You will understand why the 75th Ranger Regiment is second to none.

To the families, from one who's son has been in harm's way, along with the pride comes the stress of knowing your son is facing the risks associated with ground combat. You may rest assured that your Ranger is serving with the finest. He is well trained, his Ranger buddies are well trained, and his Ranger leaders are the most battle worthy leaders this Country produces.

And most importantly, your Ranger is where he wants to be! His mind is right. He is highly motivated!! He volunteered to serve his nation in a time of war. He volunteered for the infantry, he volunteered for the Rangers. He understands the risks. So be confident that he will do his duty and come home safe.

There are many passages in western literature that reflect the reasons why men risk themselves in battle. A speech from Shakespeare's Henry V I have always found inspiring. The King speaks to his men prior to the battle of Agincourt;

"Whoever does not have the stomach for this fight, let him depart. Give him money to speed his departure since we wish not to die in that man's company. Whoever lives past today and comes home safely will rouse himself every year on this day, show his neighbor his scars, and tell embellished stories of all their great feats of battle. These stories he will teach his son, and from this day until the end of the world we shall be remembered. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for whoever has shed his blood with me shall be my brother. And those men afraid to go will think themselves lesser men as they hear of how we fought and died together."

The Rangers standing before us are not afraid to go into battle. They are a band of brothers. They will do their Regiment and their Country proud.

Rangers I congratulate you on your accomplishment. I welcome you into the Ranger warrior Brotherhood. Thank you for volunteering to serve your Country.

I only have one regret. I wish I were still a Ranger Squad Leader leading Rangers such as you against the enemy.
RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!



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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

Beer and Bullets

In the last issue I mentioned the trips that the A Co. Rangers take to the hill top for a little R&R. They have since made another trip this spring but from the little I have heard there was inclement weather and the rain kind of spoiled some of the trip. No big deal for Rangers but soggy sleeping bags tends to dampen the spirit of fun and can reduce the shooting time. This April I had the opportunity to go on a similar trip out to the desert past 29 Palms here in California. This trip is referred to by the attendees as Beer and Bullets. The trip was started by a few Cathedral City Police officers about 22 years ago and has occurred a couple times a year ever since. I ride with a Sgt from the Cathedral City PD with the American Legion Riders group of which I am a member. Over time the attendance had grown to include members of other police forces that include sheriffs, highway patrol and Marines from the 29 Palms Marine Base some of which are retired. Along with these groups there are also friends and family. In earlier times the wives and girl friends attended but due to a variety of reasons the attendance is strictly male now.



The 20 attendees included Law Enforcement Officers, two Marine Captains, one Lieutenant (fresh out of Annapolis and headed to Afghanistan), four Gunny Sgt's (one retired), sons and friends with one old LRRP lurking in the back.

The trip starts typically on a Thursday and ends with a cleanup on Sunday. There are many cases of Beer brought to the event and thousands of rounds of various types of ammunition. In the morning a jarhead captain uses a big wok to cook potatoes, onions, bacon, chorizo and eggs. Lunch was pot luck of things everyone brought with one of the highlights being large homemade venison and wild boar sausage sticks. One evening two turkeys were cooked with all the trimmings. On Saturday evening large steaks are BBQ'd. There was a large



assortment of weapons that range from pistols to rifles to shotguns. Even black power was represented. There were guns from many foreign countries and varying configurations. The retired gunny Sgt brought out a single shot Thompson Pro Hunter pistol that fires a 308 bullet. That beast was loud and threw out a flame like a dragon when fired. There were a variety of targets lined up on a hog back about 30 yards out and steel plate targets spread around the desert mounds from 60 to 460 yards. So there was ample opportunity to test your skill in a variety of ways. Then when the shadows start to get long the

guns get put away and the adult beverages come out and a huge fire is started in the fire pit and the stories begin. I enjoyed this weekend and hope to do it again.

This ol LRRP playing with one of his toys. Rest assured it meets California requirements.



I hope to see all of you at the Ranger Rendezvous in Columbus, Georgia this July.

From Bob T. Murphy

Bob T. Murphy interviewed retired Col Bob C Murphy in Florida last summer about his time in the company.

One of the attractions of LRRP work in Europe in the early days was foreign training courses such as the French Freefall School at Pau, The British Army of the Rhine's Norwegian Outward Bound School and, in one instance, British Commando School.

Lt Bob C. Murphy managed to finagle his way into the Commando Course that ran in FEB-MAR 62 and made Honour Graduate.

"I went through the USAREUR phone book and saw that there was a British Liaison Officer to the US Army, a full Colonel," Bob recalls. I called him up and asked him if I could do SAS training. But that would have needed MOD (Ministry of Defence) approval so he couldn't help there. "How about the Commando Course", he asked? "I'd love to do it," I replied. So I sent in a 1049 with a copy to him. Some time later I got

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

called in to CO Major Porter's office. "I just got called by a very angry colonel from USAREUR."

It was permission for the course but it was space available, no per diem, own expenses. I drove my VW to England.

There was a one week orientation course on how to fire their weapons, and an endurance course orientation with a corporal to show me the ropes.

There were 16 officers on the course, 15 made it. I was in far better shape than the British officers. What can I say? They were great people and they never whined.

My team consisted of a Rhodesian, a Kenyan and me and they referred to us as the "Colonial Boys".

It was a good program. 10 weeks long and physically as tough as the Ranger tab course but an entirely different approach. We did a lot of mountain training in Commandos. Built sod shelters and it froze so hard we had to go back weeks later to break them down.

A lot of the people on the course put their equipment in the mess tent but I kept mine as did the others in my team. The tent burned down with 12 rifles and gear that night. There was a formation next morning, 10 guys with skivvies, didn't even have shoes. We were the only three who had all their equipment. The duty sergeant put them into the exercise anyway.

There was a Board of Inquiry. We were the 1st 3 called. A whole lot of screaming and shouting but we couldn't do anything. In the infantry we always keep our rifles I told them. I went to Aldershot for jump wings after the Commando School. I made Honour Graduate of the Commando School.



Six old LRRPs, reminiscing at the BBQ during the 2005 Ranger Rendezvous. L-R are Glenn Rucker, Bert Wiggins, Bob C. Murphy of V Corp LRRPs, Kirk Gibson from VII Corps LRRPs and Lee Farley V Corp LRRP.

Major Porter sent me back to England to get maroon berets for the company. I was to catch a C-47 at Wiesbaden. Manley Jones drove me to Wiesbaden but had gone off with a girl and my uniform, which I needed for the flight, was in his car. I called John Wilson back in the company and he drove straight over to Wiesbaden and brought me his Class As for the flight. So I went to the UK and got 200 berets for the company. My platoon sergeant, Virgil Craft had tracked down everyone in the company and got their cap sizes. The whole thing was generated in 24 hours.

I made the down payment on the berets and brought them back, but then Porter said it would be illegal to use the Company fund for berets. So a collection was taken up. But it disappeared. I got stiffed for half a month's pay but the beret company eventually got paid.

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

Ranger Rendezvous

The dates for the RR are posted (July 25-30, inclusive). Make your room reservations at the Holiday Inn as soon as possible, because they go fast (...hope there are some left by the time this is published). If the Holiday Inn rooms are all booked, there are several other hotels very close to it (such as the Doubletree), and you should be able to book a room somewhere. Check the RRA website for info, schedules, etc. as things are updated (www.75thrra.com).

Ranger Hall of Fame

Eldon Bargewell (MG, (Ret.)), will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame during



the week of the Ranger Rendezvous. I don't need to list his record or accomplishments here, because we all know what they are. There is no one more deserving of induction into the RHOE, in my opinion, although I should tell you that when I approached him at the last RR and told him that several of the B75 guys wanted us to nominate him, he told me that before he was nominated, there were several others who should be nominated and inducted first, including Ranger Voyles.

I do not yet have a copy of the nomination document, but will post one in the next issue. Congratulations, Eldon!!!

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

Not only are there a lot of Rangers from all eras on Facebook now, there are several "closed" Ranger groups with over 1000 Rangers and family members in the various groups. There must be over a hundred posts each and every day in the groups, covering every topic you can imagine, from photos to health alerts and anything else you can think of. If you want to reconnect with other Rangers from a variety of eras, I can't recommend this enough. If you don't have a Facebook page, go there, create one, search for my ID (it's my name) send me a friend request, and I'll invite you to the group.

Heard From:

Donald Aguilar - daguilar@cameron.edu
Eldon Bargewell - eldonbargewell@yahoo.com
Richard S. Beahm - see Facebook
Richard Black - see Facebook
Jim Broyles - jimmy.broyles@us.army.mil
Donald Bruce - sgmrgrbruce@aol.com
Steve Bump - smbump@cox.net
Dave Clark - clarkdl@soc.mil
Larry Coleman - lwcoleman@hotmail.com
Richard J. Garcia - garciamachine@comcast.net
Bruce Falconer - ba101vn@yahoo.com
Thomas Forde - tbforde@hotmail.com
Richard Foster (VII Corps LRRP Assn.) - bossfoster@yahoo.com
Kirk Gibson - khgibson@yahoo.com
Stan Harrell - see Facebook
Thomas Harris - twharris@gci.net
Samuel (Daddy) Haugh - 719-275-3974
Lidio Kercado - lkercado@bellsouth.net
Tim Leadbeater - timleadbeater@comcast.net
Greg Luevano - GOwithLuv@aol.com
Gary O'Neal - gary@oldwarriorcompany.com
Kim Maxin - kamaxin@yahoo.com
Mike Moser - rangermoser@gmail.com
Steve Murphy - rgrstevemurphy@gmail.com
Gene Newburn - kennewburn@aol.com
James Parker - rangerjdparker@yahoo.com
Greg Phillips - gphil49@aol.com
Don Purdy - doneldon@hotmail.com
Wild Bill Ramsdell - williamramsdell@q.com
Jim Reynolds - jreynolds@terry-thompson.com
Jeff Rice - jrice812@msn.com
Gary Scott - see Facebook
Pat Smith - see Facebook
Robert Lee Smith - rls1866@gmail.com
rls1866@yahoo.com
Leo Starkey - rgr3969@hotmail.com
Richard Stutsman - cdso79@twinvalley.net
Lynn Thompson - rtasp66@hotmail.com

Ricardo Torres - (check facebook)
Craig Vega - vega@viscom.net
Cheryl Visel (Jon's widow) - CVisel@aol.com
John Henry Voyles - 253-588-1179
Dave Walker - lrp67aviator@prodigy.net
Sealon "Doc" Wentzel - abnranger67@bellsouth.net
Dirty Eddie White - drtyeddie1@msn.com
Robert Wittwer - robert.wittwer@us.army.mil
Bob Woolstrum - bobwoolstrum@juno.com

NEWS:**Karin Ramsdell (R.I.P.)**

Hi folks Wild Bill here- My beloved wife Karin is no longer with us. She was in a car accident 16 March and suffered a fractured skull and internal injuries. It was a sideswipe and drag collision with a dump truck. The air bag did not deploy and even belted she was tossed from side to side and her head hit the windshield.

It was a Buick LeSabre and it has five airbags. They air evaced her by chopper to the Casper Medical Center and operated on her. They later discovered that she had abdominal bleeding and could not open her up because her head wound started to bleed again and it would not coagulate. She would have been a veggie so we agreed to pull the life support. She died peacefully at 1245 hours on the 20th.

Memorial Services will be held at the Cowboy Church in Gillette 1530 hours on Friday, the 25th of March, 2011. My POC is Bill Ramsdell, 2606 Bentley Court, Gillette, WY 82718, Ph# is 1-307-682-7321.

Please hold the Emails until further notice..

Wild Bill

(I understand that Larry Coleman spent some time with Wild Bill shortly thereafter).

**R.I.P. Steve Gamble
from Jim Reynolds**

Ranger Thompson

Not sure if this is you or not - but after the trip across the pond and returning to the States I was assigned to 3rd Platoon of B-Co. Rangers at Ft Carson. Pappy Haugh was the Platoon Sgt. Let me know if this is you. I have a few pictures of our Ranger Teams back then too. I was there before getting commissioned in 1983, got out in '91

Out Here

Ranger Reynolds (Bugs Moran's Team) - Ranger Purdy, Ranger Nick and Ranger Lucas with Ranger Gamble.

US Army Retired

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

Hey Marc

Sorry it took a little time to write back but I am at the age now that CRS sets it at regular basis. When you all left B75 to form 1st Batt. I went to Ft Lewis as cadre for 2nd Batt.. I was in Capt Robert Howards company as a squad leader then Platoon Sgt. Left and went to school at Arizona State and got commissioned and returned to the Light Infantry. at Ft Ord, Ca. Retired and went to work with Crescent City Police Department before moving to Florida and just retired from the Department of Corrections there. Now - selling cars. Not quite the rush but...

I had over 30 years of civilian skydiving before my back finally gave out. Man, I sure miss the "mission" days. Hey - do you have contact info on Pappy Haugh?

I have a facebook page - not real certain what my log on is half the time but I do have one. Who all from B75 is on there? I found a page that had a lot of us old rangers on it, Ranger Voyles and a few others. remember Gamble? Steve Gamble and I were close friends for years after the disbanding of B75 until the time he went to be with the Big Ranger in the sky. I miss him and Ranger Dennis Lucas too. I heard Ranger Bugs Moran was in NC but that is not confirmed at all (U.D. note: Bugs Moran passed away some time ago in Bosnia while on active duty).

I had a tour contracted a few years ago as convoy security across the pond but funding was pulled a month before departure. I was not happy. I wanted to go as a firearms instructor but convoy security was the offer. Figures.

I am fairly active with Ham radio - been licensed for 30 years now. Can copy morse in my head at over 50 wpm. There are quite a few vet frequencies that are popular with our age vets. You have commo with Nick or Purdy?

SO - whats cooking up there in PA? I have one question - How about them Packers...?
Out here

Greg Luevano

(rescued his email from a drive crash I had - apologize if I posted this before, and if not, that I did not get it included earlier).

Marc,

My name is Greg Luevano. I was a member of B Co Ranger, 75th Inf. ABN, 2nd Platoon from January 5, 1972 thru May 2, 1973. I was wondering if you could direct me to some web sites or written material such as books that would have information about the unit and or photos of the members in them that you could refer me to? I don't know if you were a member of B Co. when I was there, but your name sound

familiar? I think you left., (ETS) not to long after I arrived? I would love to hear about anything you got to say.

My buddy Pete Alvarez who was also in B Co live in the same area in the L.A. California area and are wondering if you keep in contact with anyone from the unit? I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Greg

P.S.: I got some photos of the unit that maybe I can post or send to you to post?

Richard Stutsman

Retired!! He is no longer a sheriff for Cloud County. He and his wife are waiting a sale on their house in Kansas, after which they will be moving somewhere...don't know for sure yet...but the way the housing market is these days, that may take a while.

Jim Broyles

Will be retiring from the Texas National Guard in October or November. He will be turning 60, so it seems that he has to retire. Joined a bunch of us on Facebook, and it's a trip hearing from him. He is trying to get to the RR, but is not sure yet that he can make it due to duty obligations.

Steve Bump

Lives in Oklahoma. After he retired, he worked for a large company for a while, and eventually left to start his own IT consulting firm. He will be at the RR if he can make it, but is not sure if his schedule will permit.

Cheryl Visel

Will be at the RR with he company, Airborne Supply. Her husband Jon passed last year (VII Corps LRRP). See her ads in the back of Patrolling. She provides a variety of clothing and other military memorabilia. She no longer operates her website.

Kim Maxin (from emails)

1. If Eldon Bargewell gets inducted, I know John Bell, Tom Pegula John Sanders and myself will be at the rendezvous. I sent info to Ranger Haugh and the more people who contact him would help. Please pass on my best to Lynn Thompson.

2. Just heard that Bargewell will be inducted in RHOF in July. Hoping to get Ranger Haugh there. The more third platoon people who come the more he will come. Can you get me in touch with Don Purdy (Gave Don Purdy's email address to Kim).

Mike Moser

Has been very active on Facebook in the Ranger groups. He and Jim Broyles and several of the others listed above are regular visitors. If you don't have an account, start one. If you do, look us up so we can all get in touch.

B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (Continued)**Bob Woolstrum:**

...says he won't make the RR since he will be working his usual EOD circuit. He also has a storehouse of information for anyone wanting to take a foreign jump course and earn foreign wings (yes, even as a civilian). See his email address, above.

Greg Phillips:

...Has left Renault Samsung, and is transferring his guidon to Chrysler here in the States (they made him an offer he couldn't refuse). He and his wife were recently shopping for a home in the Myrtle Beach area for after retirement.

If I neglected anyone I apologize. In addition to work, I also coach a high school lacrosse team, and that means that we either practice or play a game every day from 1 March through the end of May, so my time is at a premium until the season ends.... Plus, the CRS isn't helping. Have also been trying to get the VII Corps and C/58 members into the Facebook groups with the rest of us to facilitate communication.

Some of the members of the unit should edit their address books to correct my email address. My old email address no longer works. So please check your email address books. I don't want to miss anything coming in from all you guys.

Until next time:

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

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

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

Email: mthomp@ptd.net

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

VII Corps LRRP Association: Richard Foster

June, 2011 LRRP News Letter

Well, he's not the bastards of all bastards, but he was a cowardly BASTARD anyway, and now he's gone to swim with the fish. Too bad for the poor fish; now he'll pollute their watery domain like he did ours. Isn't it ironic and fitting that the last face he saw was that of a camouflaged American warrior on the giving end of an assault rifle. Bang! Bang! You're dead!

So, with that brief footnote to history, I welcome you to this June edition of our newsletter. I have several items to report and will be sending this out to all for whom we have a valid e-mail address. This will also appear in the Spring edition of Patrolling, the official quarterly magazine of the 75th Ranger

Regiment Association. For those of you who are not members, I strongly encourage you to join. Joining will give you an opportunity to re-connect with old friends and warriors and relive yesteryears. E-mail me for a membership application or come to the bi-annual reunion at Ft. Benning this July 25-30. The only things better than three days of free beer is the opportunity to sit around the pool embellishing old times and meeting the young warriors back from the sand box and the back(ward) hills and mountains.

I checked with the Holiday Inn North HQ and there are no available rooms left in the reserved 75th RRA block. However, there are other nearby mo/hotels available. You can call the Holiday Inn at 706-324-0231 and they can recommend nearby alternatives. Don't let this deter you; in fact, the other motels may even be more family friendly. Keep in mind that our Association Officers have a reserved room for any of our LRRP brothers who can get there, but cannot afford four days of stay. If you know of anyone who fits that bill, pass the word. All they have to do is get there and we'll do the rest. That's what we do; look out for each other as much as possible. If it's not needed, we'll use it for a day room of sorts or turn it back in. It's a double bed with lots of room on the floor for those who want to rough it. You get there; we'll take care of you. Gene Kauffman plans to attend and provide some room using his FEMA-gained points. I spoke with Gene a few weeks ago. He's willing to front us a room for a day or two, but may not be able to make it. When I talked with him, he was in NC dealing with their floods and that was before all those kick-ass tornadoes and flooding of the Mississippi. So, Gene, we hope they give you some respite and let you off. If your wife will let you go, so, too, should our Uncle.

Of the tornadoes, I tried to call Sam Storey in his Tennessee mountain hideaway and check up on him, but he only answers the phone if its God or Evaro calling --- and I ain't neither of them! Hopefully, no news is good news. Speaking of Zeke, I incorrectly ranked him as a First-Sergeant, when, in fact, he retired as a Sergeant Major. Sorry Zeke; I guess I was subconsciously demoting you because of all the Angry-9 cranking I had to do while you searched for weak signals.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Maltese family upon the passing of the Colonel's lovely and gracious wife, Jane. According to daughter Dee, her passing was not unexpected and she left this world peacefully. Our unit was represented with the attendance of Kirk Gibson, Col. Ellis Bingham, and John Fisher at her funeral gathering and wake. Rest in Peace, Mrs. Maltese.

Kirk has just returned from a two-week tour of Europe and WW II battlefields. He is hosting a similar tour through Laura at Specialty Tours at 717-877-2942 or e-mail her at info@

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

spec-tours.com. The dates are Oct 12-23 with a land cost of \$2700.00. The guide will be SFC Steve Mrozek, 82nd Airborne Assoc Historian (1984-2005). If you're interested, you can get the itinerary on page 34 of the 82nd quarterly magazine, Paraglide. More information can be gotten by contacting Kirk at 717-599-5894 or khgibson@paonline.com. He relayed that if enough LRRPs sign up, they may be able to include a stopover in Nelligen, our old "home away from home."

Okay, since I have no battle stories to relate (they are the prerogatives of you Lifers and those baptized by fire: God bless all of you) and no one responded to my solicitation of the aforementioned, I don't have much to offer. I was hoping to get some feedback from our initial ski and mountain training in the German Alps back in '61/'62. Except for Theo, the Loyal, no one offered to refresh my 50 year old memories. But it was a good time, for sure.

From Theo (a more knowledgeable source): 1st Sgt Patty Flynn, an experienced skier, took some "wannabe" instructors to Garmisch a week earlier to "train" them to be instructors. As Sgt Knaak put it, "...going up by cable car was the easy part; going down was not so easy unless you took the chicken shit, cable car way. The Sgts Knaak and Altieri took the trail down, thereby setting the standard by which we all would be judged. They came down to a "rolling halt", leading some Gebirgs Yaeger (German Mountain Troops) to remark, "They can't ski worth a damn, but they sure have guts!" Thus, were our "instructors born, and thus, did quite a few LRRPs wind up in the hospital.

(Say, what's this about the Mess tent going up in flames and Snuffy Smith chasing is WAC wife through the company area? Like Sgt Schultz, I know nothing; do you?

I only remember being introduced to this training by being given, along with everybody else, a pair of separate white ski slats and boot hardware to assemble into something resembling normal skis. But they worked, though the hardware was archaic and was not what we know today as breakaways. Injuries were few with a couple of twisted knees and, at least, one broken leg that I think belonged to Stevenson. (Cf photo)

Snow plowing up the beginners' slope, we managed to race to the bottom in a straight line. Not knowing how to turn or stop properly, we did what we could to spare ours and komrades good health by sitting down in the snow and using our asses to come to a stop. Needless to say, seasoned skiers did not appreciate our methods, since those ass-induced trenches interfered with their skiing pleasure. It didn't take them long to sic the ski patrol on us and send us back to our "tent city" until we learned how to come to a stop properly. That's where Stevenson broke his leg. It was the Germans' fault for chasing us away from their playground!

The next phase of that training was to ski cross-country. Now we had to throw on a loaded rucksack and M-14 and maneuver up and down small foothills. Trying to "walk" with skis sliding back and forth seemed like taking two steps forward and one back til we got to a point where we could turn and go downhill. Traversing downhill on a pair of skis with a forty pound ruck on your back turned into a small disaster. Unless you were a seasoned skier (like Theo) or were very careful, you went one way and the load shifted another way. The consequence was you on your ass and all those following having a few laughs and insults at your expense. Fortunately, it was a shared experience for many.

All in all, it was my only introduction to skiing and, in hindsight, a great experience. Next time, I'll try and relate patrolling across the mountains at night. And again, if you can recall your attempts at such or any other training or battle field experience, you have my e-mail. Share your embellished lies; no one will know the real truth because no one will truly remember it. LRRPs don't lie; only officers do. That's how they become officers.

Don't swing low sweet deuce and a half, cuz we ain't comin' home yet! See ya at the re-union (seven Brothers and counting).

Dick Foster, Pfc
USA LRRP Co (Airborne), '61-'62
President

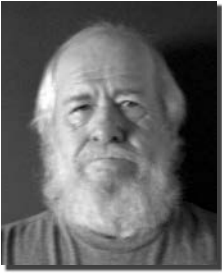
PS: I'm trying to include some photos of the days spoken of. Maybe you can identify the guys. They include Miller, Forde, Sgt McNeely, Gonzalez, Doe, Stevenson, Nuanez, et al.





C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Del Ayers



Del Ayers

I also am proud to congratulate Gary Dolan on his induction to the Ranger Hall of Fame. To those who arrived a day early and attended the induction ceremony on the 27th representing E20/C75, I am sure it greatly added to Ranger Dolan's proud day. I'm sure it was an experience we can all cherish.

We are all saddened by the news that Teddy Hamilton has lost his last battle with cancer. This was his last Vietnam battle which he fought bravely by filing successful claims with the VA.

Regis "Murph" Murphy has had two new books published "Kin" and "Dien Khanh". Murph disperses profits from his book sales to several Veterans Organizations and warrior families sacrificing in our current conflicts. Murph, you and everyone who pulls a buck out of your pocket and selflessly give not requiring or expecting a thank you can not remain totally anonymous. To those I know and those I don't I say a huge "THANK YOU" for those people whose lives you have gifted with hope and the knowledge that someone out there cares.

Last but not least. Wilkie's tribute to Bobby Scales has traveled a long journey to get here. I thank Doc Grove for making it possible for me to submit Bobby's tribute.

Until the next issue,

Be Well.

Del

A Forgotten Hero, Specialist Bobby L. Scales

Written by:

SFC (Ret) Bill Wilkinson (Wilkie)

E Co. (LRP) 20th Inf. Abn/C (Rangers) 75th Inf. Abn.

Teams 1/6 1-5

N Co. (Rangers) 75th Inf. Abn.

Team Leader/Juliet Team

I would like to dedicate this article to the memory of Spec. Bobby L. Scales, 1st Platoon E Co. (LRP) 20th Inf/Bn/C Co Ranger 75th Inf. Abn.



To all draftees, volunteers who were always loyal, team members, dedicated to the mission and always looked out for his fellow Rangers. An excellent example of this type of Ranger was Bobby Scales. Bobby may never have received a Medal of Honor or a Silver Star, but Bobby was a hero numerous times and never asked anything for it. Bobby was happy with a thanks from his team members.

On approximately 10 Nov. 1968 while Team 1-6 was on a reconnaissance mission in the Republic of Vietnam Team 1-6 spotted numerous enemy hooch's, high speed trails and bunkers. Serving as point man I moved along a man-made bamboo fence while Bobby was

my slackman. Just prior to approaching some hoochs an enemy soldier was in a tree with his weapon pointed at me, which I was not aware of at the time. With no warning a couple of shots rang out from my slackman Bobby. As I hit the ground I observed one enemy falling to the ground. I just looked back at Bobby and said "thanks". Bobby, with a serious look said, "I think he was going to shoot you." After that contact all hell broke loose for the next couple of hours with approximately 30 enemy soldiers, until Team 1-6 was safely extracted by helicopter.

On approximately 17 June 69 while 1st Platoon was attached to 173rd Abn. Bde., 1st Plt. Was co-located with N Co. Rangers 75th Inf. Abn. at LZ English on Ranger Hill. 1st Plt, along with it's 6 teams was assisting N Co. Rangers on numerous missions in Binh Dinh Province. Team 1-6 was taking a break in their tent area after returning from a mission that involved enemy contact. At approximately 2300 hours numerous mortars and rockets hit the LZ English area, including the 2/17 Cav and Ranger Hill. Also, enemy sappers had penetrated the perimeter and were running around shooting at anything that moved. At that point, Team 1-6 was attempting to take up a defensive position when a mortar round hit outside our tent. Shrapnel from the mortar hit me in the face and head knocking me to the ground. A piece of shrapnel hit my nose causing profuse bleeding that temporarily blinded me. I couldn't shoot my weapon or protect myself because I couldn't see clearly. With total disregard for his life and safety, Bobby ran to my location, with shooting and explosions all around us he picked me up and physically carried me to a bunker and placed me inside. Bobby then left the safety of the bunker to find medical help. When help arrived Bobby made sure I was secured and Medivaced to the hospital. I told Bobby thanks again prior to my departure. Bobby said again, with that serious look, "I'll see you when

C/75 - E/20 LRP (Continued)

you get back.” I found out later when I returned to my Unit that Bobby had also helped many other Rangers and soldiers that were hurt or wounded that night to safety. Bobby never received anything for his heroism but a “thanks”. Bobby was a hero to me and still is today 42 years later. Bobby died on December 24, 1987, the day before Christmas in Marietta, GA. from a series of seizures. I didn’t find out about his death until 2004. I was so shocked I still have problems with it today. If any of you Rangers had a friend and team member like Bobby you need to go out and find them as soon as you can (ASAP). I will never get over not finding Bobby before his death because now I can never truly thank him for saving my life on numerous occasions. Don’t let what happened to me happen to you, get out there and find your Ranger buddies that at one point in your life probably meant more to you than your own family members and closest friends did.

I talked to Bobby’s wife, Fannie, and she was very supportive of this article. I also advised Fannie that I wanted to get Bobby a Ranger brick at the Ranger Memorial at Ft. Benning, GA. Bobby had 5 children; 3 daughters and 2 sons. One of his daughters died of a brain tumor when she was 14 years old. Fannie still lives in Georgia where Bobby was laid to rest in 1987. Fannie advised me that one of their grandson’s served in Iraq in the U.S. Army. Fannie seemed very proud of her grandson.

God Bless Bobby and his Family.

**D/75**

Unit Director - Richard “Herd” Nelson

Hello everyone, this will be my last article before the reunion. I have talked with some of the members of D 75th and they are all doing well. I talked with Gary Olson right after the line of storms came through the country with so many devastating tornadoes since he lives in Alabama and so many of the people killed were in Alabama. He didn’t have any problems in his part of the state. He is planning on being at the reunion at Ft Benning the end of July.

When I talked with Ed “Maddog” Krause he told me that he and Jan were staying upstate Wisconsin at their cabin. He is planning on picking up Leo Supernight from Kansa City and drive down to the reunion. He also told me that he finally won his appeal for his service connected disabilities.

Carl and Rosie Norris are doing well; Carl told me that he has gained a lot of his weight back now that he has completed his



Chemotherapy. He is also walking every day on a treadmill. They are planning to go to Germany in June to visit Rosie’s family and after they get back will start to get ready to come down to Ft Benning for the Reunion. Their son and his family are planning to addend the reunion as well. He is a retired Special Forces officer and plans to meet with some of the people he served with while he was in the service.

I talked with Ken Dern today, and he and Linda are doing well. They do plan on attending the reunion as well. It will be the first time he has seen Supernight since

Vietnam. They went to Advanced Infantry training together and Jump school as well, and then both received orders to come to D Company together. When D Company deactivated we all went up to L Company together.

I also talked with Wally Hawkins today and they are doing well,

D/75 (Continued)

their Grandson Matthew, who we met at the last reunion at Ft. Benning, will be graduating from High School the week after I submit this article. Wally has received a new piece of equipment for his foot that allows the foot to bend properly when he is walking. As his back got worse he began having trouble walking. Wally informs me that this is a new piece of equipment that the VA has started using. He and Caroline don't know yet if they will be able to attend the reunion because that is also about the time they will be taking Matt to college. They will have to check the schedule closer to make the decision. Wally also informed me that they were receiving a lot of rain up there.

Mike and Sharon Warren are staying busy with their Grandkids, as school has been winding down where they live in Kentucky. They will be attending the reunion again this year but haven't decided which day they will get there yet. He also told me that they were receiving a lot of rain at their house. He will be speaking at the Memorial Day celebration again this year in his home town.

Moe and Cindy are also planning to drive in from South Dakota again this year. Moe told me they may not get there until Tuesday. The weather has started warming up out there so he is able to stay busy. Since he is still very involved with the volunteer Fire Department where he lives, he was just getting back from a homeland security conference. I did forget which state it was held in though.

I talked with Bear Papp today as well, he asked me to tell everyone that he and Caroline are doing well. They will not be able to attend the reunion this year; he did assure me that he will make it to a future reunion. I also talked with Steve Meade today as well he is definitely planning on attending the reunion and Roger Barbe may ride with either him or Billy Faulks. That is of course if Roger is still planning on coming. It is my understanding from talking to people from other parts of the country that Gasoline prices are almost a Dollar per gallon more than I have to pay here in Florida. At the price I'll be paying it will cost me about 2 ½ times more for me this reunion than those in the past.

Billy Faulks is planning on attending. He told me yesterday that he has been doing a lot of fishing and that he has caught a bunch of big mouthed bass, with the largest being about 8 lbs. He said that he has also been catching a lot of brim about hand sized, a good size for eating. That is one reason Roger maybe riding with him, one of Roger's plans was to come into Billy's place and then do some fishing before they head down to Benning.

Last month Mike and Vicki Jaussaud came down from Indiana to Tampa to take a Caribbean Cruise. He told me that he had finally retired. After they finished their Cruise they came over to Orlando to Visit one of our theme parks called the Holy Land Experience. That night they came by my house and they took me out to dinner. They told me that they were planning on attending the reunion. They headed back to Tampa that night and were going to visit Jim and Donna Owen the next

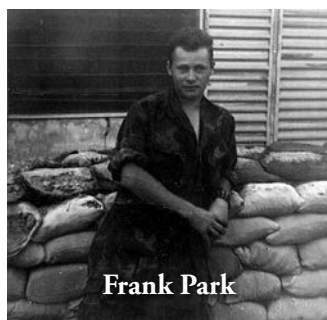
day. I hear that Jim is recovering well from his heart problems and that they are planning to attend the reunion as well.

When I talked with Tom Delaney last evening he was up in New York visiting his mother and the rest of the family. He and Jan are planning on attending the reunion again this year, and will arrive the day before the reunion starts. He has been doing some fishing and catching mostly bass. He did tell me that Fayetteville did get torn up during the tornadoes, but on the opposite side of town from where he and Jan live.

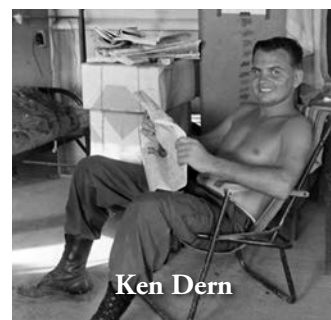
Ed Mercer is planning to attend the reunion as well. They will be coming in from Kansas. He tells me that he and Oneida have been doing well. I also talked with Bill "Fitz" Fitzgerald earlier this weekend and he and Kathy are doing well. He is not sure if he is coming down to Benning or not. If he does come down he will probably fly. One of the reasons he is not sure if they will be coming or not is that their Daughter who returned from the middle east last November may be getting promoted to Captain around that time, so they may be going down to Richmond Va. for those ceremonies.

As for me I am doing alright, the VA has been running a lot of tests on me because I have been getting lightheaded and dizzy. They think that I might be on too much blood pressure medication now that I have lost so much weight. When they check my blood pressure while I am standing it is significantly lower than when I am sitting. I don't see my cardiologist again until after I get back from the reunion. I am still keeping myself busy working around the house here in Orlando, I don't think my doctors would be happy if they knew I was using ladders to trim the trees in the back yard getting them ready for hurricane season to start in June.

RLTW, Richard "Herd" Nelson



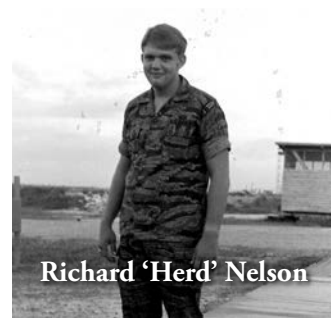
Frank Park



Ken Dern



Mad Dog & Leo



Richard 'Herd' Nelson



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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

The countdown to Buffalo is on (Sept 26-Oct 1.) I recently made my reservations at our reunion base of operations (Millennium Airport Hotel Buffalo, 800-323-3331) and urge you to do the same if you have not done so already. Be sure to mention you are with E Company, Long Range Patrol when you make your reservations.

For those on Facebook, Sal Disciascio has created a page for us, 9th Infantry Division LRRP, which can serve as an additional means of communication as the reunion draws closer. And congratulations go out to Sal who was married in April.

On the 9th Division Facebook page you will see a link from Allison Barley to the web page she has created for the reunion (www.AllisonBarley.com/LRRPBuffalo). This too will be an excellent way we can



keep up with the reunion activities Allison is coordinating for us. She mentions that there is a lot to do in the Buffalo area such as Niagara Falls, Erie Canal cruises and the Naval and Military Park. Thanks go to Allison for all the "recon work" and advance planning she has done for us.

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to return to Vietnam, you are about to find out thanks to Duane "Poncho" Alire who wrote the following article for Patrolling. Poncho and his good friend and fellow Ranger, Prescott Smith, toured Vietnam last year and I know you will find his account to be of interest. Our appreciation goes to Poncho for sharing his travels with us. Until next time, remember that:

Rangers Lead the Way



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

Unit Director - Tim Walsh



Tim Walsh

Greetings again!

I received a call and email from the son of one of the early 25th ID LRRPs. His name is David Dunlap, his father's name was Sgt James A. Dunlap. James passed away in

August of 1991. James served with the 25th ID LRRPs in Cu Chi in 1965-1966. He was with the 1st Btn, 27th Inf (Wolfhounds) prior to his serving with the LRRPs. After his service in 'Nam, he was an instructor at the Ranger School in Benning during the early '70's. David would very much like to get into contact with anyone who served with his father. I have previously contacted a couple of the early 25th ID LRRPs. Marshall Huckaby remembers Sgt. Dunlap as "Ranger Dunlap" because he had been to Ranger School. David would love to hear from anyone who remembers his father. His email address is: d.dunlap9@gmail.com. Please drop him a line if you served with Sgt. James Dunlap. Thank you.

Speaking of Marshall Huckaby. Marshall has once again stepped up to serve. He has volunteered to be the new 75th



RRA State Coordinator. Marshall will be responsible for, among others things; providing quarterly input for Patrolling magazine, act as liaison with the 3rd Btn, 75th Rangers to provide up-to-date info for current Rangers and work with Dave Regenthal to facilitate a link on the 75th RRA website to make any information he has available to the whole Ranger family. Please join me in wishing him well in his new endeavor. Marshall will continue as the F/75 Quartermaster, and I know most of you are delighted to hear that. Marshall continually impresses me with the quality and scope of the things he offers. I encourage you to look on the F/75 website (lrrp.com) to see the wide

variety of things available.

And in other Marshall news... he arranged to have the 25th ID LRRP guidon sent to 3/4 Cav, 25th ID in Afghanistan. CSM Kiefer received the guidon in late April and will display it along with other Vietnam era memorabilia.

One of the many benefits of being the F/75 Unit Director is the chance to meet Rangers from other eras. I recently had the

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

great honor to attend the funeral service for a World War II Ranger. His name was Ranger Charlie Eineichner. He served during WWII with the 1st and 3rd Battalion Rangers ("Darby's Rangers") in Europe. The funeral services were quite meaningful. Two of his WWII Ranger comrades were at the services.

I'd like to encourage everybody to attend the Veteran's Day ceremonies in Washington, DC this November (11/11/11). I went to the ceremony last November, it was the first time I had attended the Veteran's Day ceremonies in DC - won't be the last. Bill Mrkvicka and Dave Regenthal have been telling us what a great ceremony is has been, now I know how right they were. If you join the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund (VVMF) with a donation you are eligible for complementary "VIP" seating for the event. Let's make this an annual event.

I would like to encourage all of you to send along any type of communication you think is appropriate. If you would like, I'll include those letters, emails, etc. in my article. If you're

trying to get in touch with old teammates, or just want to let everybody know how you're doing, I'll try to get the word out. For example, I received a nice note from Fred Houghton in March. He recalled being at the '98 reunion and sitting with a bunch of guys looking at old photos and our "Blue Book" yearbook from 1970. Look forward to seeing him again. Got an email from Craig Waskow. Craig manages a golf course in Florida... tough work if you can get it. I also got a copy of an old picture from Tom Finney. Tom, Dick Ewald & I are sitting on a bunk in what looks like the hootch in Cu Chi sharing a beverage of some denomination. Thanks for keeping in touch. You can always visit the F/75 website at lrp.com.

I look forward to seeing everybody at the 75th RRA Ranger Rendezvous in Columbus, GA at the end of July.

Live Long and Prosper

Tim Walsh

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

Unit Director - Steve Crabtree



Steve Crabtree

Remembering John Bennett

I joined Company G RANGER, 75th Infantry in June of 1969. One of the first people I met after I finished Recondo School was John. I was sent to LZ

Baldy, about 13 clicks west of Da Nang. John had been pulling missions for several months as he arrived in country in April of 1969. We pulled missions together as members of Team Alabama. When I returned from an emergency leave I remember John laughing and laughing because I had to come back to Vietnam.



I don't remember exactly when we moved out of Baldy to LZ Hawk Hill but I do remember John moving with us. We both continued to pull missions together. In the rear we either played football or boxed. Now you have to understand; I stood at six feet two inches and weighed 230 pounds, John



was about five feet six or seven inches and weighed 160 tops. The other members of our team used to love to watch us spar because I was just about as fast as an excited snail while John could have stood toe to toe with Sugar Ray Leonard. He would hit me about 100 times a round while I don't think I ever laid a hand on him. The only problem was that he didn't have any weight behind his punches so I never got hurt. Unlike Mohammed Ali, John floated like a butterfly and stung like one too! After a mission we were all pulled back to our Company base camp in Chu Lai. We started a football game on the beach. Someone kicked the ball into the surf and John went after it. When he didn't return we started looking for him. I saw his arm roll in a wave and ran to him yelling for help. Within seconds help arrived and carried John to the beach. I cleared the airway and started mouth to mouth necessitation. The guys flagged down a Huey Medivac and we put John on board. We learned later that John had drowned. What a crappy way for a Ranger to die.



G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP (Continued)**Reunion 2011**

G/5 & E/51 held their 22nd consequent reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in June. We had in excess of one hundred Rangers, LRRPs, LRP's & guests attend. The Mayor of Myrtle Beach, the Honorable John Rhodes presented a proclamation to the Association, welcoming us to his city and thanking us for our service to our country. Kenneth Jungclaus, Assistant Service Center Manager for the Department of Veterans Affairs, was our guest speaker. He spoke about the benefits available to older veterans. A great time was had by all. We invited the family of George Olsen (KIA 3 Mar 70). His nephew, Michael Pearce and his sister Sharon drove down from New York with George's sister Diane. We presented them with a square that will be put into the 75RRA Remembrance Quilt being made by Ruth Stonesifer. The square contained our Association's logo and the names of each of the men who gave their lives in the line of duty. And will look like this:

**196th LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (LRRP)**

Robert Patrick McCormick

E COMPANY**51ST INFANTRY (LRP)**

Solomon Kalua Jr.
Daniel P. McLaughlin Jr.
Terry Ernest Allen
James Richard Davidson
Ramon Sanchez Hernandez
Ronald Bryniel Jonsson
Edward Martin Lentz
Jose Enrique Torres
James Edward Kesselhon
Raymond Charles Garcia
Alan Francis Angell
David James Ohm
Bradley Keith Watts
Harold William Kroske Jr.
Joseph Jess Gavia

G COMPANY RANGER 75TH INFANTRY

Joel Wayne Forrester
Arthur Edward Scott
Larry Joe White
Steven Karl Brooks
Stephen John Chaney
John Willie Bennett
Robert Joseph Pruden
George Thomas Olsen
Harold Edward Basehore Jr.
Edward Gerard Mathern
Larry Allen Mackey
Barry Howard Berger
David Lee Meyer
Thomas Edward Snowden
Danny Gerald Studdard

E COMPANY 51ST INFANTRY (LRS)

Spencer T. Karol

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

Unit Director - William T. Anton

No Submission**I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP**

Unit Director - Bob McGath

**Bob McGath**

As I sit down to write this article, my mind keeps flashing back to Vietnam.

The thoughts of Vietnam are slowly fading away, but on this day they are as vivid, as if I was still there. It, I am sure, has to do with the fact that it is pouring down rain and I have been thinking of the Company reunion coming up in a couple of weeks in Michigan. The one thing I do not miss about Vietnam is laying out in those rice paddies in the pouring down rain at night and the leeches that you would find in the morning.

I can not help thinking about some of those guys that for



one reason or another have never been to a reunion. I do hope that some of the guys find their way to the reunion this year. I would really like to see some of the guys that I have not seen since I left Vietnam.

This will be my last article as Unit director. The reunion and election of Officers will be held at the reunion. I have really enjoyed the position of unit director and wish the new Director well. I would also like to think everyone that sent me stories, poems and etc. I would also encourage anyone that has a story to tell or a poem to share, please send it to the Unit Director to get it in Patrolling so everyone can share it.

Again, Thanks for the support.
Wildcat 4 (CLEAR)

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

**Bob McGath and the
Monkey**



**Enrique Cruz
{KIA 2/27/1969}**



**Any one Remember this
pair?**



**Anthony Markevitch
(KIA 4/16/1969)**

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

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

Greetings to all my Brothers,

I haven't received news to the contrary so I assume most of us are well and just getting older. Someone told me these are the fun years but I'm still waiting for it to start. Then again, maybe I just need an attitude adjustment. But I suspect that will hurt so I'm putting it off till there is a painless version....

Cass Sove has made remarkable progress with her cancer treatment and is planning to be at the reunion with Tom. (You go Girl)

I had shoulder surgery on March 1st then a couple weeks later I drove out to California and helped Tom with a backlog of Assoc. business. My thought was it was late enough in the season that weather would not be a problem so I drove the car to save money as opposed to driving my 4-wheel drive Powerstroke. I was wrong again... I-80 out of Reno over Donner Pass was closed due to a nasty Spring snowstorm. I spent six hours stuck in a traffic jam due to an accident ahead of me. The State Patrol finally had to turn everyone back to Reno for the night. I made it over the next morning with chains on. Oh, about saving money? Chains (\$90), extra night in motel (\$100), extra meals (\$50), and due to aforementioned shoulder surgery, chain installation (\$35). I should have driven the pickup. Then it was five days of rain in (Sunny California)? But Tom and I did get that backlog of paper work cleared up and had a good visit. And I did wait for sunny skies before returning home.



On to other news. I was going to purchase memorial bricks for a couple of KIAs that did not have one but decided to put it off until our business meeting in July because in doing further research of the Memorial database I discovered that we actually have nine KIAs that do not have bricks. This would be a big cash outlay so we should talk about how we as a group want to proceed. At present the cost is \$280.00 per brick.

That's all I have for now so I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

FYI, I will be standing for election as Treasurer of the Assoc. at our business meeting in July. I am also willing to remain as your unit director which will also be voted on at our unit meeting. As always anyone else who wants the job is welcome to throw their hat in the ring.

Just received the following from Reuben Siverling:

Hey fellows,
I received some more "bragging rights". I may be a recovering banker but evidently still have enough rations in my ruck and ammo in my weapons to survive and thrive in that world of financing small businesses and keeping people employed. What an honor!! I've just completed my first year of "unemployment" and voluntary service as President and Chairman of Midwest Small Business Finance. The Regional SBA Office came to my office a couple weeks ago and shocked me and my Board

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

with this great news. Being # 1 in the Nation aint bad. They are flying Jim Hampton and me to D.C. 18-20 May to receive the award at the National SBA Convention during National Small Business Week. So far, there are arrangements for me and Jim Hampton, my Executive Director, to meet with and receive Proclamations from U.S. House of Representatives Sam Graves and Senators Blunt and McCaskill then a tour of

the White House and, at my request, a tour of the Wall, the Vietnam and WWII Memorials and more. I am so honored and blessed! Thanks for letting me share this with you great men of courage- my cherished friends whom I'm honored to still serve with. Reuben

Reuben H. Siverling



No Submission



No Submission



Another Ranger Reunion is coming up in July and I hope to see you there.

Many members have shown interest in attending, so we should have a great turn-out and increasing member attending to 150% from the 2009 Ranger Gathering, which had 67 there. Some members have notified me that they would like to come but have family plans, which takes priority as family comes first. To those of you who have not decided whether to come, you don't know what you're missing as everyone who attended last reunion had a great time and the weather was not as hot as the 2007 Reunion. Contact me if you need reunion information and accommodations, as I have reserved 61 rooms and have a few left. Members, bring your family members and friends and military team mates. The Ranger Rendezvous event at Fort Benning is happening during reunion, many activities going on for all to see.

I have received a lot of company information, documents and photos from members and have done my best to organize it all on my computer. Hopefully, someone can take on this position with better computer experience to do some organizing and get it on our own website. We still have a lot to collect from members, material from service in the



company. Members have to realize, if their time in-company belongings, material and photos are not gathered together with all the other company records, then we leave behind a incomplete history of our unit in every era.

Then unit members contact list contains information on each active member only and is updated every month. Contact me if you do not have this list and if you locate a lost member. I will be doing members search, using one of the search website that locates people. A couple of members will assist in this search as they are retired private investigators.

My position as your unit director the last two years has been a learning process, interesting and there has been so much material received from members and friends of the company on unit history. I've enjoyed communicating with members and hearing about their time in-company. Gathering all company information and placing it in 28 computer file folders that I have created and maintained. Many of you have been very active with the company and appreciate all the support from you. Sure, there has been a time I've question myself, why I'm doing this job but the support received for my work has motivated me to continue and leave the negative behind. So,

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

thanks you to all for allowing me to serve the company in the last two years. Hope that I represented all of you honorably and have answered your requests for company information and updates. A big thank you to Reed Cundiff for his work on being our editor for Patrolling

Before the reunion, I'll send out voting ballots for position of unit director and other positions. We as a Unit of the 75thRRA, have to fill more positions then just having a director, as it's too much for one member to handle. All members will have the opportunity to suggest name or volunteer for a position and final count of ballots will be held at the unit meeting during the Ranger Reunion.

Sad news received from Pat "Tad" Tadina that one of our company member "David Taitano 1968-69, passed away. Several members attended his services both in North Carolina, where he lived and in South Carolina, where his daughter lives and was laid to rest near her home. Tad placed his Ranger Hall Of Fame medal on David's chest, with a verbal message "Ranger On". Members in attendance: Pat "Tad" Tadina 66-70, Vance Webb 68-69, Joe Marquez 70, Drew Love 71, Don Giannattasio 68-69 and Allen Lohmann (70-71)

Mike Swisley wants to get John Blake's Sister Cathy Saint John a Life-Time membership for our company. Contacted the 75thRRA Secretary, Tom Sove and he said she could get a subscription membership, not a Associate Membership as I had thought they called it.

He informed me there is no such thing as Associate membership. Only persons who served in the unit can get a regular membership. She would get 75thRRA information and patrolling magazine. (Not able to vote on any 75thRRA subject) .he cost for Life-Membership is \$300 which, we that knew him, would able to contribute \$10 each

If you want to contribute, send a check to Mike. Once funds received are enough he will send to Tom Sove. Any funds left over will go into our company fund.

Mike Swisley
PO Box 3373
Bowman, CA 95604-3373

Information needed:

Names of members who have passed away
in the last two years??

Need time in-company / your short message about him /
photo / family contact

Here is what I have:

2009 Frank Norton 69-70

2009 Charles Ramsom 69-70

2010 Jim Robinson 68

2010 Rick Frame 68

2010 David Dolby 69

2011 David Taino year ????

Robert,

I had the honor of attending the visitation for one of our fallen. There were 4 or 5 of us from the hill in Bong Song. The family took a bunch of pics with different cameras. Hopefully, some pics will surface. David was dressed in greens with jump wings and medals. Tad gave him his Ranger Hall of Fame medallion (around his neck) to take with him to the grave. The family was grateful we were in attendance.

Don Giannattasio (68-69)



David Taitiano, (1968-69) funeral. Don Giannattasio, Andrew Love, Tad Tadina, Allen Lohman & Joe Marquez.

Carl Vencil, our nominee for RHOF did not make the final cut. This has been a bitter cut to those of us who know and respect him as one of the finest soldiers we have ever served with. Have received numerous e-mails on this but they are too inflammatory for this article. Carl noted that he is far more honored by the fact that his comrades thought this much of him than he would have been by actual being inducted.

**Jakovenko, SGT
Lewis, Rodger
Brown, SSG
Kaiaama, LT Vencill,
pilots.**



Remembrances of Sergeant Patino

I remember when Sergeant Patino was killed, Oct 70. I was never on his team, but everyone knew him. He was a respected TL, considered one of the best. He was always positive with a great sense of humor and he never looked down on anybody, not even newbies. He was just one of those natural leaders that exuded confidence which made you feel that everything would always be OK when he was around. The whole company was shocked by his death and there was a somber mood throughout

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

Ranger Hill for weeks afterward. I had been in the company less than two months and it was my first experience losing one of us. I cried for him going to sleep that night and struggled with my own mortality. Because if our best guy could get dusted, then what were my chances? Each Memorial Day I ride my Harley in the Rolling Thunder parade through D.C. I get a rubbing of Patino's name from the wall and tape it to my windshield because I want everyone to see that name and think about who he was. He is not forgotten.

Dave Cummings 70-71 Teams Hotel / India

I knew Patino as we came into country together. He was in the Air Force and wanted to do something better in his life and went through jump school at 30 and at 31 he joined N Co. 75th Rangers as a Specialist. I do believe I could be a little wrong with the age he joined the Army. We volunteered together for N Co 75th and it just took me a little longer to get back to the outfit because of some screwed up MOS I had at that time he said "maybe you are not cut out for this, and I said then fine I'm volunteering" and I did. I credit Robert Patino with making me want to be in the 75th.

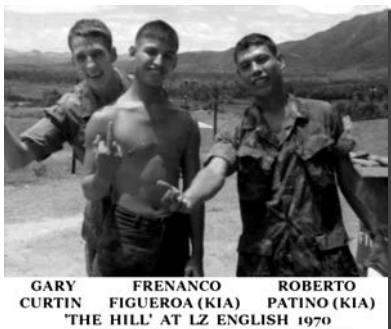
I knew Patino had a daughter who was eight years old, I think her name was Katherine, but I am not sure as we came into country together. I am happy that Danker has contacted his son and I can't wait for the reunion to be able to meet his son, and if Danker and Hansen would show up and with Blake's sister Cathy coming, that will make the trip even better than last time which would be hard to beat!

Mike Swisley

From Andrew "Drew" Love 70-71

We were on radio relay on Hill 603. I believe Patino was TL. The team found a bunch of people building bunkers. The location was 30 to 40 clicks from nearest village. No weapons were seen. Patino & another guy went to check things out after the team set up. Patino told them not to open up unless they heard fire. An AK open up & the result was about 14 KIA & about 20 POW with no friendly casualties. The POW claimed to be villagers made to build bunkers. The team was held in the Company Area until a MACV could investigate. The team escorted the MACV Team to the scene & Patino hit a booby trap. I think Blow, who had been on Oscar team, was on Lima at the time.

Drew



GARY FRENANCO ROBERTO
CURTIN FIGUEROA (KIA) PATINO (KIA)
'THE HILL' AT LZ ENGLISH 1970

Back in the early days

From Mark "Buddha" Carter

I was privileged to serve in the 173'd Abn Bde (SEP) from the summer of 1964 until mid-September, 1966. I was a rigger in 1964, when the brigade was on Okinawa, and for the first four or five months after the brigade went to Vietnam. Shortly before Christmas, 1965, I went to the Long Range Patrol platoon being formed by order of the Brigade's commander, General Williamson. The platoon was housed with Troop E, 17th Cavalry. I served the LRRP platoon until the middle of September, 1966.

I don't know the ins and outs of the jurisdictional disputes between the Cavalry commander and the brigade, but I was aware of some hard feelings between our upper ranks and Major Moore. I guess he thought of us as a recon element of the Cavalry troop. Although I thought Major Moore was something of a show-boater, I never had the impression he didn't know what he was doing.

We LRPs had a general distain for all things not LRP. We figured the boonie-rats in the line battalions to be over-gearred, but absolutely formidable. We called the cavalry troops "Pony Soldiers," a sort of slur, but for the most part I respected them as fierce and dependable soldiers. To me, the boonie rats in the brigade's line companies were animals that went into the jungle to feed on Charlies.

My event horizon pretty much stopped at the team level. I knew only what my team leaders told me. Major Moore was either somewhere far behind me in a convoy, or else high above me in his helicopter. We didn't think of him as being part of the LRP platoon.

For the first couple of months—the winter and spring of 65-66—we ran counter-ambush missions for the cavalry, as well as doing reconnaissance missions for the brigade. Between patrols I rode shotgun on a .50 caliber gun jeep. The gun was manned by Sid Smith, Van Boven, or Larry Jones. Jerry Linsner, another LRP team member, drove. I was aware of one other .50 caliber gun jeep in the troop, and it was also manned by LRP personnel. The Cavalry troops were serious, and when they deployed they went looking for trouble. We worked with the Aussies several times during this period, mostly as a reaction force appended to the cavalry.

We had minimal formal training in LRP tactics, relying on what we had learned from the TX's while we were still on Okinawa, augmented by the skills of the tab Rangers in the Herd. I have a vague recollection of an Aussie NCO from the 1 RAR helping us with the reaction drills.

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

Then our new platoon leader, Captain Palmer, arrived, things changed. We began to hit our stride as a unit. Our missions were threefold: recon, ambush, and raid. Right about this time Major Sutton took over the Cavalry troop, and we became creatures of the brigade, using the Cavalry only for base camp bunking, and feeding.

We organized ourselves into five teams, plus a headquarters element. We learned from mistakes. Every mission had three different phases, each with its own character: get in, walk around, and get out. We learned how to screw up each phase of the mission and survive to correct our errors. One of the things I found out was that a well-motivated individual can successfully OJT as a scout on a LRRP team, but when the whole team tries to OJT, odd things come about. Some mistakes are expensive.

At some point during the spring of 1966 we sent three of the five organized teams to Nha Trang, for training by the Special Forces Delta Project. We selected these teams by drawing team names out of a bush hat. My team and one other stayed behind with the cavalry troop. When the teams returned, they trained the rest of us intensely, doing the classroom work at night, and practicing reaction drills and insertion techniques during the day.

At least two of the SF instructors from the Delta Project came back with the teams. They helped us to get fitted out with our specialized gear. This is where the SOP for the gear we used originated. The SF NCOs helped us to commandeer rucksacks and other items from the local LLDB and Vietnamese Ranger units. Some items were donated, other items somehow just drifted to us through the ether.

We modeled our teams on a template given to us by Special Forces Delta project, right down to the two indigenous members of each team. These guys came from Vietnamese Rangers or LLDB units. I don't know what their selection process entailed. About a dozen or so Vietnamese moved into our hooch, all enlisted personnel. Some were Rangers, others were LLDB. Their officer, a lieutenant, didn't sleep in our tent. My team, under Sergeant Van Boven, had two of these men, Ut and Vinh.

They were skilled and dependable on patrol. I understand that a problem came up on some of the other teams, one that involved a WIA, when Kimball got shot through both feet, and another was when one of the VNs was spotted dropping paper shreds along the route of march during a patrol. The hot-skinny didn't trickle down as far as my pay grade, so I never got filled in on the details, and I never found out exactly why the VNs left the outfit. One morning they were just all

gone. Some Americans left the outfit around this time, too: mostly they left on their own volition, but at least one guy was sent to a line company by the common will of several team members. Working as a lurp isn't everybody's cup of tea.

I guess the unit designation was changed around this time from LRP to LRRP. The general authorized us to wear black baseball caps in basecamp. Somebody had LRRP tabs made for our hats, to go over our airborne tabs. I thought this was a little irreverent at first, putting something over my airborne tab, but I quickly got used to it. By this time we already had been blooded, bloodied, and set apart. The Cavalry troops called us lurps, but we called ourselves lurpbirds.

I drew these sketches in the summer of 1966, showing most of the stuff I carried. We all carried similar equipment as a basic load, stashing or tying it in the same place on our web-gear, in our rucksacks, in our uniform pockets, or dangling from our belts. The theory behind this uniformity was that our teammates might need to find certain items quickly. Items such as battle dressings, extra ammo, claymore's, the patrol notebook, the rucksack's grenade and the claymores come to mind.

Items that didn't make it onto my drawings included:

A BAR magazine pouch, clipped to my pistol belt. It held about 20 magazines for the M-16. I disliked the idea of reloading magazines during a fight, so I carried as many loaded ones as I could. Sometimes I used the cloth bandoleer that came with the ammo boxes to carry extra magazines, but they had a way of slipping out, so I abandoned that tactic.

A magazine loaded with tracers, in the upper left pocket of my fatigue jacket. This was used for drawing red lines from me to a target, for the benefit of a FAC or FO.

A Hi-Standard .22 caliber LR pistol, equipped with a humdinger of a silencer, carried by each TL.

We each had a small luminescent tab pinned to the underside of the brim of our hats. At night we would turn the back of the hat up, so that the guy behind us could see the tab in the dark. It was a theory, but in a triple-canopy forest you can't see the tab from a distance of greater than about 9 inches. Most times we moved at night with one hand holding on to the ruck of the guy in front, like a twelve-legged bug, feeling our way in the darkness.

Some items were discretionary.

Knives. I carried two, a standard issue Navy survival knife, and the Sykes dagger. Some guys carried a custom-made Randall, or the standard issue US Army field knife.

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

Pistols. I carried an S&W .38 Special, plus a handful of extra cartridges. Others carried the reliable M-1911 .45 caliber automatic. Some carried their pistols on their pistol belts, others used a shoulder holster. Al Ward carried a huge .357 magnum holstered in the center of his chest.

Our version of the M-16 had a three-prong flash suppressor. We found the prongs useful for busting the wire on C-ration boxes. However, the open end of the prongs snagged on bushes and vines, so we put tape around the muzzles to keep this from happening. When we made contact, we called it "breaking tape."

30-round magazines were rare, and the ones we got were not dependable. I guess that changed later. Some of us had taped two or three magazines together, north to south, so make reloading quicker. This didn't work out as well in the jungle as it did when riding in a jeep on a counter-ambush mission, so we stopped doing that. We practiced the tactic of dropping a partially expended magazine into the front of our shirts. This was so that if we used up all the loaded magazines, we'd have a bunch of magazines with two or three rounds each, instead of a bunch of empty magazines. Anything to buy a little time.

The forearm and stock of the M-16 were hollow plastic, which created a sounding board that amplified the sound of brush rubbing against it. We put tape on these parts to deaden the sound. Another reason for the tape was to break up the rifle's profile.

We experimented with AK-47s, grease guns, and M-79s. None of these weapons gained much traction while I was there. The two Vietnamese on our team carried M-79s, with either a shotgun or an HE round in the pipe.

Nobody took the regulation poncho out on patrol. It was too noisy. We procured light-weight ponchos, made of rip-stop nylon, from Special Forces. They were not waterproof, but if you knew how to rig them, you could breathe while sleeping in a heavy rain.

We all carried a Vietnamese ground cloth. This was a single sheet of rubbery cloth, and it was actually waterproof, and barely large enough for the upper body. It kept you from sinking very far into the mud, though, and reflected a tiny bit of heat back up from the ground.

We did not cook our rations. Everything was freeze-dried. We rehydrated the rice bag, added the spices and other items, then tied the top and waited half an hour or so for it to soften. No coffee or tea on patrol. No cans to open, because of the noise. Our gear was organized so that could be dropped in three stages: The ruck could be dropped if we had to run for it—just

reach into the top of the side pocket and pull the pin on the grenade and let it cook.

The web gear held our basic load of ammo, grenades, and some water. If we had to swim for it, we could drop the web gear—the CS grenades would most likely be expended by this time, but it couldn't hurt to get rid of any frags by throwing them indiscriminately into the bush behind us.

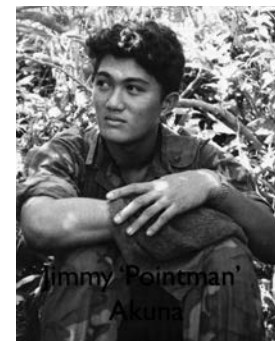
In my fatigue pockets I carried a map, a couple of magazines for the M-16 in a thigh pocket, a magazine with tracers in a shirt pocket, my pistol in a thigh pocket, my knives on my trousers belt, a bag of rice and my signal panels in a thigh pocket. I might stash a grenade in a pocket if I had time, and if I had any left. I also kept my notebook in my shirt pocket, but I wouldn't ditch that unless I thought I was about to be captured.

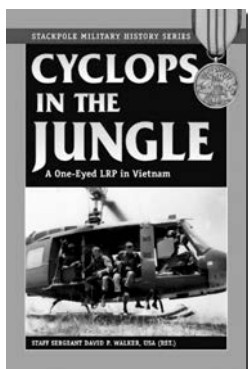
Mark Carter



HI Robert, here is a story for you. One day in 1971 Jim "Point man" Akuna, Allen Lohmann & Joseph Tompkins were walking on a trail which we were checking out. Jimmy tripped a trip wire; at the end of the wire was a 5 pound mortar round. which didn't go off, it just broke in two. The three of us were very happy it didn't go off. Jimmy took it back with him. One more; one night we found a place to sleep it was dark out so we really couldn't see well at all. I found a place and went to sleep. I woke up about three hours later with red ants all over my legs just eating away at me. At first I wanted to scream which, of course, I couldn't, but it was very painful. I had a hard time walking the next day and I was on point. Went back to base to see a doctor and he started to put rubbing alcohol on me. How I never got an article 15 is beyond me. I called him everything in the book. Well that's my story and I am sticking to it. Thank you.

Joseph Tompkins
70-71 team Alpha



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

Dave Walker has written a book *Cyclops in the Jungle* which has been published. The cover of the book is found below.

Two of the folks in photo are John Hines (L) and Chuck Lyons (R) from Team Hotel

Dave made a trip to Vietnam in 2001 which he describes below: Vietnam trip. Sponsored by the "Vietnam...A Quest for Healing" program and SFC (Ret.) Walt Bacak, we departed SEATAC 1 Mar. 2001 on Asiana Airlines for Saigon via Seoul, Korea. First few days were spent in Saigon in a nice hotel, and roaming various bars and tourist shops, to include a huge shopping area called the American Market...basically an Army/Navy store on steroids. Bought a mint condition (still in sealed wrapper and unopened reinforced box) aircraft chronograph for a MIG-15 there for 20 bucks, and a genuine-era NVA officer's leather belt w/buckle for 5 bucks. Place also had beaucoup counterfeit GI dog tags, made to appear battle-damaged. Also took sampan cruise on Mekong River.

We soon flew up the coast on Vietnam Airlines to Da Nang for a couple of days, thereafter moving up QL-1 in a small tour bus, spending nights in Hue (Perfume River sampan cruise), Quang Tri, then on to Dong Ha. Continued W. on QL-9 to Khe San, Rockpile, and Montagyard village on Laotian border. Returned to Quang Tri for a night then proceeding by bus South on QL-1 to back to Da Nang (Hai Van pass was terrifying) where we spent two nights, and afterwards on to include two days in Cu Chi with a tour of the tunnels. Continued South on QL-1 back to Saigon over next couple of days for brief rest, then boarded hydrofoil from Saigon to Vung Tau for three days of swimming and jet skiing. The place looks like the French Riviera. Departed Saigon on Mar. 21 for SEATAC on Asiana Airlines via Inchon, Korea. Trip was enjoyable for most part, to include our constant VN security companions who partied with us. Too many other items to mention. Below are two photos taken during the trip.

Dave "Varmint" Walker.

**Further Photos**

PILOT BRIEFING at Bear Cat

This is just before Teams 4 and 5 were inserted and got run all over the place two days later.



Ranger Bob "Red" Stouch and Mark Harringer in 1971



Bruce Baughn and Mike Potter in 1966

The Baja 1000

Ron Thomas used to race in the Baja 1000 and he felt folks might enjoy the below. The longest race in North America is the Baja 1000 that is raced every November.

The race is from Ensenada to La Paz. 1000 miles of dirt, rocks and big holes. Sometimes a little water that becomes a show stopper. That was our case.

Last year we went to Chile for the Dakar and for the 1000 our Chilean friend came north and raced with us. The week before the race we spent a week pre running the part that the Chilean would race. We did there 335 miles three times so they could have it in their heads.

I no longer get into the race car, it takes me way too long getting over the ride. So now I'm in charge of logistics. I drive a chase truck that is full of every part including a transmission. Because Baja is so skinny, the chase trucks stay on highway 1 and always have radio contact with the race car.

The morning of the race we staged the race car and everything was ready. I started down highway one and went to the 335 mile marker where the Chilean would get out of the car. At about 315 miles they got the car stuck in a water hole and it

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

took 2 hours to get out. Now we went from 1st place to 5th. The other drivers took up the slack and we finished in 3rd place. 1000 miles is a long way, you don't get much sleep and eat a lot of dirt. Saying that. It's well worth it. You guys should try it some time.

Editor's Note: We're in our sixties and seventies and Ron wants us to drive 1000 miles on fourth class roads with no sleep and eating a lot of dirt! We used to be young and full of vim and fire – now we are “mature” and frankly, just looking forward to that next nap.

To be noted, Robert also raced successfully in the Baja races. Several thousand miles of brain rattling driving may explain a lot about these two brothers in arms.



Photo of Ron and Car

Colorado on Saturday, 15 March. Tome was competing as a traditional Lakota in the “Golden-Age” division. He used to compete professionally on the Pow-Wow circuit when he was younger. He had by that time decided that the Rodeo circuit had become a bit to painful, he had finally realized that bulls were quite big and strong. Much of his regalia was put together by his grand-fathers and great-grandfathers and includes material that Antique Road Show would showcase. He has had to get federal permits for possession of the Eagle feathers and bones that have passed down by his ancestors. The head-dress has symbols awarded him by the Lakota warrior societies for his military and tribal service. Tome has placed Ranger and Vietnamese Airborne symbols on the bustle.



Photo of Tome and Bustle



Photo of Tome Dancing

**O/75 - 78TH LRP**

Unit Director - Michael Dolsen

No Submission

**P/75 - 79TH LRP**

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick

The Papa Company Rangers received quite a blow in early August when we got news of the loss of LCPL Kevin Cornelius, son of Jerry Cornelius. Jerry received the news on his birthday and after having spoken to Kevin earlier that day from Afghanistan where he was deployed. He was buried at Arlington a week later and several of our Rangers attended and some from other units. I wasn't there but I was told the Marine Corps handled the services in the most honorable way and Kevin was buried with full military honors. Shortly after that, we got news that Bill Davis had died in Tucson, Arizona. We had just buried his Father in March of this year and losing



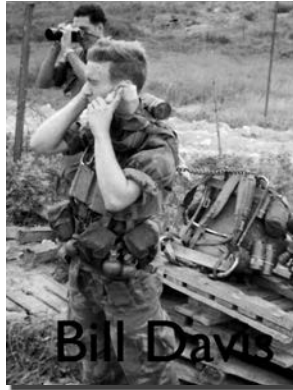
Bill was quite a blow to the family. As far as we can tell, Bill died of natural causes, but I knew he had several health issues going on. He just didn't complain very much and he kept the seriousness of it to himself pretty much. I never saw

it coming, but that's how it goes when you stay around as long as some of us have. I'd like to put a personal “Thank You”

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

a close and reliable friend to Bill for several years now and he kept Bill's best interests at heart while their friendship grew. There were many times when Marshall was the only one around that Bill could talk to and Bill had told me of his feelings towards Marshall and the support Marshall has provided him over the years. Bill served as the Papa Company Unit

out to Marshall Larsen, of E/50th LRP, who I introduced to Bill years ago at a reunion when I learned they lived near each other in the Oakland, California area. Marshall has been



nearly every night and they seem to stay close to the hotel so that was a nice touch. For the Friday night banquet, Ted and I were graciously allowed to escort Mrs. Elizabeth Merritt and Mrs. Katie Messerschmitt to the evening festivities and they were the "Belles of the Ball." Both of their husbands were deployed and expected home for Christmas this year for a change. Katie's husband, Major Mark, is a regular competitor in the Best Ranger competition, and has won it in the past. He works at Regiment with Elizabeth's husband, Rick, the Regimental Command Sergeant Major. We were honored to be seen with these beautiful, young girls!!

In November, I got a note and a call from Gary Hall, who was our Company Commander for much of 1969. He called to tell me that he and his family were coming over from Orlando to run in the Space Coast Marathon and ½ Marathon on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. I can't even drive 26 miles without a pit stop anymore, so the idea of running it seems ridiculous to me now. Well, Gary ran it with his daughter and her husband, and the other daughter ran the ½ Marathon. He finished and I couldn't be prouder of him. Gary and Patsy and I had gotten together for a nice breakfast prior to the event and we had a real good visit. I live right on the course so I got to see Gary come by that morning as he had to go up and then back by my house. He had his Papa Company Ranger shirt on and wore it proudly. I felt good seeing it go by and I'm told he will be running the ½ Marathon next year..... if you know what I mean!!

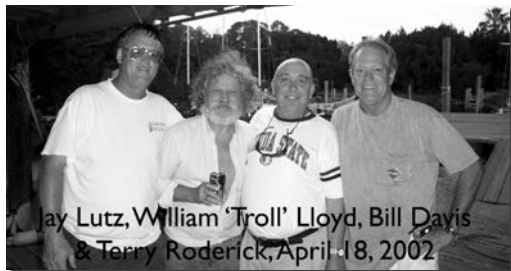
In December, I received an invitation from James DeSalvo, to attend the services for Ranger David Dolby at Arlington National Cemetery. David "Mad Dog" Dolby received the Medal of Honor in 1967 while serving with the 1st Cav. He served in both C/75th and N/75th also. He served 5 tours in Vietnam with different units and was well known within our Association. He had passed away in August 6, at Spirit Lake, Idaho, where he had been visiting friends. His services were scheduled for Monday, December 13th. I got in touch with Ted Tilson again and we decided to make a road trip and go to Washington, D.C. I was a bit scared at first because I don't usually leave the warm confines of Florida after about September 15th or so, when the ice roads begin to form north of Daytona Beach. I drove up to Gainesville, Georgia and spent the night with Ted and his lovely family, and Friday, we headed to Washington. We got into town about 6:00 P.M. and thankfully we were going in and not out of town. On a Friday afternoon we passed a traffic jam coming south on I-95 that had to go on for 50 miles or so. We got to the hotel and there were many people in the lobby and I wondered if they were all there for the Dolby services? After asking a couple of people, I learned that they were from all over the country and they were in town for the "wreath laying at Arlington"

Tour	Team/Leader	Report Date	Remarks
L-2	Hallam	28 Dec (69)	Company 7
L-2	Garcia	30 Dec (69)	The 1st
L-4	Durham	05 Jan (70)	Mission Group
L-8	Miles	12 Jan (70)	Company 3 RVN
L-8	Miles	18 Jan (70)	Mission Group
L-8	Miles	24 Jan (70)	Mission Group
L-8	Miles	27 Jan (70)	Mission Group
L-2	Garcia	01 Feb (70)	PL 31st
L-8	Pointe	04 Feb (70)	Company 5 RVN
L-8	Miles	07 Feb (70)	Mission Group
L-2	Garcia	14 Feb (70)	Mission Group
L-8	Miles	24 Feb (70)	Mission Group
L-8	Pointe	04 Mar (70)	Company 1 RVN
L-8	Pointe	06 Mar (70)	Company 4 RVN
L-8	Pointe	09 Mar (70)	Company 1 RVN
L-8	Pointe	05 Mar (70)	Company 1 RVN
L-8	Pointe	14 Apr (70)	Mission Group
L-8	Miles	25 Apr (70)	Mission Group
L-8	Miles	02 May (70)	1st Para Bn 31st
L-8	GEORGE	10 May (70)	Mission Group
L-8	Bon	24 May (70)	Mission Group
L-5	McNulty	02 June (70)	2nd Para Bn 4th

Bill's Mission List

Director for several years between 2002 and 2007 and did much to promote the company within the 75th Ranger Regiment Assn. He always had a friendly word to anyone who approached him and he will be sorely missed. Bill was also Special Forces qualified and arrived in the company in December 1969, along with Troll

Lloyd and Jerry Cornelius if my memory serves me correctly. Bill spent several months in the field and was involved in some pretty serious contacts while with us. I look at the list he kept of his missions and it brings back some memories for me on the dates he has listed. We plan to hold a small memorial service for him this coming summer during the Ranger Rendezvous and will announce plans closer to the event. Rest In Peace, Bill!!



Jay Lutz, William 'Troll' Lloyd, Bill Davis & Terry Roderick, April 18, 2002

In October, Ted Tilson and I attended the RBA of WWII Reunion in Columbus, Georgia. There were about 25-30 of the WWII Rangers there and they are still a lively and fun group to be with. We were guests of sorts of Mrs. Lynn Towne, who is a daughter of a WWII Darby Ranger. They have banquets

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

the next day and that they come every year. I knew about the truckloads of wreaths that they lay each year, but didn't think I'd be there for it or ever see it up close and personal. Ted and I decided to spend the next day, Saturday, at Arlington and to make sure Kevin Cornelius got one on his grave site. By the time we got there the next morning, someone had already put a wreath on Kevin's grave so we were able to relax and take in the activity and the masses of people who come out to do this honorable gesture for our fallen soldiers. The entire Iraq/Afghanistan section got covered. I was told that there are over 300,000 gravesites there and they just don't have enough wreaths to cover them all, so they pick certain sections to concentrate on each year. From what Ted and I could tell, if you got in line, you could get a wreath and take it anywhere in the cemetery and place it if you wanted. Ted and I were standing near Kevin's gravesite when we noticed a lady and her man friend standing at Kevin's gravesite and touching his gravestone. We walked up and ask if they had known Kevin? The girl replied she did not, but had been asked by her ex-husband to stop by and pay respects for him. Her ex was the first medic on site when Kevin was shot and right there with him and the other casualty they had that day. We spent the rest of the day "humping" the grounds and seeing all the different things there are to see there. We finished up a long day with a taxi ride to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial and the others in the area. Then back to the hotel. It rained Sunday and Monday morning it was cool. Actually in the 20's with 20 mph winds. Joyce Boatman and her daughter, Carol Jimenez, were there in attendance also, and that was a treat as we got to spend some time with them and Col. John Lawton, of N/75th. There were several Rangers and LRP's from N/75th and C/75th and some others I've never met before. Jim DeSalvo should be given a big attaboy for the way he put the services together for Dave and the organizing and planning he put in. The military people who assisted were great too. Jim has been a steadfast friend to Dave for many years and if you know Dave, you know that like the rest of us, he could be a handful at times!! Ha! Ha! It was a cold, windy day when Dave was put to rest. There was a real nice service in the Chapel where John Lawton provided the eulogy

and then the vehicle processional to the gravesite, led by the caisson with the flag draped casket and team of horses. It was a full military honors service as you would expect for a Medal of Honor recipient. It was well done and the day seemed appropriate as it was gray, cold, and windy.

Grace Mayer and I both communicated with a new Ranger Buddy we have. His name is James "Ike" Eikner and he lives in Texas. He had his 97th birthday in December of this year and is still living and loving life. He's a WWII Ranger and we're just getting to know him. We're looking forward to spending some time getting to know him better. Thanks to Lynn Towne who tells me about these wonderful Rangers who enjoy a kind word or gesture when you can do it for them. They are a classy bunch of men for sure.

July will be here before you know it, so begin to think about coming to Columbus this Summer and enjoy the brotherhood and friendships we have developed. Don't forget Nashville in 2012 and Bobby Hampton assures me he is working on putting on the best reunion we've ever had there. I hope you all made it through the holiday season safely and that you had a nice time. I had forgotten how much fun a nearly 2 year old could be.

Be sure and check with your VA provider if you feel you fall under the Agent Orange related illnesses recently added to the list by the VA. Ischemic heart disease, both forms of Leukemia, and Parkinson's disease are part of the Court Decision, *Nehmer vs the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs*. There is some serious retroactive funding there and this is separate from a regular claim as many were denied claims for heart disease in the past and they have changed their stance on that now and are awarding retroactive benefits. It's something worth investigating if you fall into this group that is affected. I'll be glad to share what I know if you want to contact me. That last issue of *Patrolling* had an article on it on page 13-14. John Chester told me the 75th RR Assn. plans to expound on this issue in the next few issues of *Patrolling* as it is a very important decision.

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Unit Director - Leon Moore

Hi guys hope everyone is well!

Well its summer all ready, hopefully we're over the wet spring.

In April Co. D was asked to loan some personal items to the Museum of the Solders in Portland, IN. Matt Simmons from the museum had contacted us through Max Anderson's wife Brenda, so began the relationship with Matt and myself.

I went to visit Matt at the museum, and I was overwhelmed with the amount of military items they had on display, not to mention the items they had in the storage area. Matt took me on a tour of the museum. They had a section for WW1, WW2, Korean, Vietnam, Cold war, Dessert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Other items were duce an 1/2s, jeeps, ¾ tons and other items too many to mention. The museum is doing

D/151 LRP/RANGER (Continued)

a display of the Indiana Veterans for this year's theme. It has a special section just for Co. D Ranger 151. Brenda Anderson loaned some of Max's items. Bruce Bennett found out they had a shirt of his, and loaned a few more items. Chuck Eads loaned a camo belt and other items. H C Cross-loaned a Ho Chi sandal from a VC who didn't need it anymore and camouflaged poncho. Steve Justus loaned his last patrol mission map. Charlie Manis along with a few other guys and myself loaned several items also. The 151-display looks awesome thanks to all the guys who help make it happen. The display will be there through November of this year. You need to see it if you can its worth you time.



enough for their help in putting this together. Matt did a great job working with us, thank God he is much younger than we are, or it could have really been screwed up. We donated money to the Museum and gave all the directors our Co. D challenge coin. I also told them not to use it in a challenge, do to being associated with us could cause them to buy anyway. In return the museum gave all of us a years membership to the museum, which was very nice of them. I plan on going back several times this year.

Here is a mission of Co. D Ranger 151 I found in a book titled PHANTOM WARRIORS

The museum had its annual business dinner on April 29th and Co D 151 was invited as guests. Matt also asked if one of us would like to be the guess speaker. I think he asked us because we would be cheap! A Ranger will do almost anything for a free meal. Well, I told him I had spoken before to the Wounded Warriors Comedy Operations in Greenfield IN to the Greenfield National Guard and friends about the history of Co. D 151, and I would be glad to do the same for them. The dinner was very good, Ted Dunn set up our Ranger 151 items for sell to anyone who wanted a part of the 151's memorabilia, which we were able to sell quit a few things. After the business meeting, I spoke about the history of the Vietnam War, and how the South Vietnamese Army and the Americans had it won two difference times. But thanks to our news media they caused the war to continue another 7 years, allowing thousands more troops on both sides to lose their lives, and countless numbers of solders to be wounded. That was one of the topics I hit on do to the fact few people are aware of what really happen in that war. Then, I spoke about Co D Ranger 151. We were the only National Guard unit to stay as a unit to do combat in that war, and what events, training, schools, and etc. that lead up to us being invited to join in the war games in Viet Nam.

Those who were in attendance from Co. D were as follows: Donald and Carol Blevins, Ron and Becky Blevens, Allen and Cindy Brown, Greg Brown, Gary and Connie Bussell, Ted and Karen Dunn, Leon and Laura Moore, Larry and Lyneel Pauley, Dwain and Sandra Robinson along with their Son and Grandson, along with about 80 plus members of the museum. There were Vets from WW2, Korea, Vietnam, Clod war, Iraq and Afghanistan. They were honored along with their wives. I hope I did not leave anyone out. I can not thank the guys

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Company D, 151st Infantry (Ranger), Indiana National Guard

Company D, 151st Infantry (LRP), Indiana National Guard, had arrived in South Vietnam on 28 December 1968. It had been selected to replace Company F, 51st Infantry (LRP) (Abn), as the long-range patrol element of II Field Force. Company F, 51st, had recently been deactivated, and its four platoons had been utilized to staff the newly formed 78th Infantry LRP detachment assigned to the 3d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division, and the 79th Infantry LRP detachment assigned to the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mech).

After Company D's activation, most of the company had traveled down to Panama to complete the U.S. Army Jungle Warfare School, while those who were not yet airborne-qualified attended jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Based at Long Binh, the new LRP company began conducting operations immediately upon arrival in South Vietnam. However, just over a month later, Company D, 151st Infantry (LRP) lost its "LRP" status when the Department of the Army decided to bring all the U.S. Army long-range patrol companies and detachments under the common heritage of the 75th Infantry (Ranger) regimental designation. That action went into effect on 1 February 1969.

A week later, the new Ranger company received a warning order from II Field Force G-2 for a recon team to go into an area twenty miles northwest of Saigon on a five-day recon/ambush patrol. No overflight was made, but aerial

319

Don't forget the RANGER REUNION starting July 25th at Ft. Benning.

Signing off Sgt. Leon Moore
Go with God's Speed

D/151 LRP/RANGER (Continued)

320

Gary Linderer

photos were used to locate trails, streams, and other prominent terrain features throughout the area, and also to pinpoint a number of suitable LZs and PZs.

SFC Pappy Hayes, the company operations NCO, assigned the mission to Sgt. Jack Jarvis's Team Two-seven. When Jarvis found out that his team had won the lottery, he quickly notified his AIL, Sp4. Terry MacDonald, and told him to round up the rest of the team. After the briefing, the team RTO, Sp4. John Mason, went off to grab a couple of extra batteries for his radio, while Sp4. Walt Hasty and Private First Class Schwartz headed for the ammo bunker to pick up grenades, claymores, and some belted ammo for Hasty's M-60. The sixth man on the team, a *chieu hoi* named Ty, would show up later.

Since its arrival and in-country acclimatization, the company had been running full tilt, with most teams working a grueling five-day-out/two-day-in patrol schedule. It was a tough way to break into the dangerous business of long-range patrolling, but Delta Company, 151st Infantry (Ranger) was probably the best-trained long-range patrol company to enter the war. The necessary experience would come with time.

The insertion went in at 1030 hours the next morning. With two Huey gunships in trail on the rear flanks of the insertion slick, the pilot flew right into the LZ and flared to a low hover in the north corner of an abandoned field covered with twelve-inch-high grass and scattered scrub brush.

High overhead, the C & C aircraft circled in a wide, lazy orbit, watching the insertion go in down below.

As the lift ship hovered four feet over the open clearing, the six-man recon team exited both sides of the aircraft and ran the last twenty-five meters into the wood line. Pushing inside the trees fifteen meters, they dropped to the ground in a tight circle and lay dog for another thirty to forty-five minutes while Mason established commo and called in a negative sitrep. Just before Jarvis signaled Ty to move out, Mason radioed the C & C to release the choppers.

PHANTOM WARRIORS

321

Maintaining a regular five-meter interval, the patrol moved west beneath single canopy. They moved slowly, staying in thick cover as much as possible. After two hundred meters or so, the team encountered a three-foot ditch, twelve to eighteen inches deep, running north to south. It looked like a runoff ditch, but it was bone dry at the time.

The patrol halted for a few minutes, then crossed the ditch and moved fifteen meters beyond it. There, under the trees, they discovered a major high-speed trail twelve to eighteen inches wide and running northeast to southwest. While the team set up security in the fairly open area around them, Ty and Jarvis checked out the trail. It wasn't long before Ty, who spoke reasonably good English, told Jarvis that he was familiar with the trail. He quickly added that there would be three enemy soldiers coming by at approximately 1700 hours.

Jarvis decided to pull back into the nearest cover to set up an ambush. Unfortunately, the nearest suitable cover near the trail was back at the ditch, fifteen meters away.

Quickly, the patrol dropped back to the ditch and set up a linear ambush. With four claymores facing the trail—one up and one down the ditch, and two more on their back trail—the six Rangers were loaded for bear. It was nearly 1230 hours.

Hasty took up a position watching the north end of the trail with MacDonald, while Ty and Schwartz set up on the south end. Jarvis and Mason were in the center with the radio. The six Rangers took turns pulling security and downing cold LRRP rations. Relying on Ty's knowledge of the local VC, MacDonald told Hasty he was going to cut some Z's, and asked Hasty to wake him at 1600.

At 1750 hours, everyone was awake and fully alert. Just like clockwork, the team heard voices coming down the trail from the north. Unknown to them at the time, the trail crossed the dry ditch just thirty meters north of the team. The voices sounded as if they were in the far end of the ditch when they first heard them. Suddenly, three VC stepped out of the brush

322

Gary Linderer

on the trail and began moving down it to the south. They were talking easily among themselves and looking down at the ground as if they knew there was no one within a hundred miles. Each had an AK-47 slung over his shoulder. They wore black pajamas, Ho Chi Minh sandals, and were bareheaded.

As the three enemy soldiers advanced down the trail, the Rangers secured their claymore detonators and held their breath while they watched the VC enter the kill zone. When Jarvis initiated the ambush, all four claymores facing the trail detonated in a millisecond. The Rangers immediately followed up the claymores with small-arms fire, expending multiple magazines into the kill zone.

As MacDonald ran a full magazine through his CAR-15, the last man in the enemy patrol unexpectedly broke out of the smoke and ran back up the trail to the north. MacDonald was caught unprepared by the maneuver, and was unable to reload and fire his empty weapon in time to stop him.

Grabbing the M-79, he put the sights on the spot up the ditch where the trail crossed it thirty meters away. Trying to time the shot to coincide with the fleeing VC's arrival, MacDonald fired the HE round and saw it detonate just as the VC hit the opening. Turning back to the trail, he recovered his CAR-15, reloaded, and joined his teammates in raking the kill zone. As he fired long bursts out on the trail, he was remotely aware that Hasty was, once again, melting the barrel on the M-60 to his left.

The Ranger machine gunner had previously earned a reputation in the company for his love of the weapon. The only problem was that once he started working out with the "bog," he forgot to let up on the trigger and fired until the final piece of brass kicked out of the chamber. He had warped more than one barrel in the short time the company had been in country.

Suddenly, MacDonald felt a searing pain in his back. He knew in a minute that he'd been hit. He'd always been told that if you were shot, you either felt nothing at all or you experienced a painful burning sensation. Just his luck that he

PHANTOM WARRIORS

323

got the painful burning sensation! He stopped firing and looked up at Hasty, who was still sweeping the trail with the M-60. Over the loud chatter of the light machine gun, MacDonald shouted, "Look at my back . . . my back is on fire!"

Without breaking stride on the M-60, Hasty looked down and snarled, "Man, I don't see no blood. You ain't hit!"

With that, MacDonald could only respond meekly, "Okay," then continue his firing. He would discover later that you should never stand on the right side of a maniac working out with an M-60. The hot brass has to go somewhere.

By the time each man had gone through three to four mags, and Hasty had burned up the two-hundred-round belt in his M-60, there was no longer any movement out on the trail. Jarvis immediately called a cease-fire.

The five Rangers and their Kit Carson scout waited in silence for nearly two minutes, watching and listening for any signs of life from out on the trail. There was no return fire. Jarvis and Schwartz stood up and stepped into the open to check the kill zone. At the same time, Ty slipped out to the right to check farther down the trail to the southwest. Back in the ditch, Hasty pulled out a Marlboro and lit it off the warped, red-hot barrel of his M-60. Kneeling beside him, rubbing his back, MacDonald said nothing.

Out in the kill zone, Jarvis and Schwartz found a single Ho Chi Minh sandal and a couple of major blood trails headed due west, where the two VC had crawled away from the trail. The two Rangers rejoined their comrades while Mason got on the radio and called in the contact. Jarvis told him to request an extraction.

By that time, it was getting late in the day. The patrol was two hundred meters from its designated PZ, and Jarvis wanted to get out of the area before dark. By then, every VC in the province knew an American recon team was in the area, and the VC could be counted on to try getting even.

The TOC soon radioed back and told Mason that the choppers were cranking up and would soon be on the way. They

D/151 LRP/RANGER (Continued)

324

Gary Linderer

would reach the team in "three zero mikes." Thirty minutes is a long time when you're sitting on the bull's-eye with sirens going off all around.

Ten minutes passed before the patrol began to hear signal shots fired to the south. The firing was coming from a number of individual weapons firing two single rounds in a row. They heard the two-shot signal two more times over the next five minutes. The second time, they were markedly closer. It didn't take a rocket scientist to realize what was happening. The LRRPs were about to have some company.

Jarvis instructed his men to take up positions in the trench and be ready to open fire on his command. Thirty seconds later, they heard the sounds of movement coming from down the trail about forty meters away. Jarvis thumbed the selector switch on his weapon to full auto and opened fire. As the rest of the patrol joined in, the enemy began returning fire. The rounds from the enemy weapons were snapping through the trees above the Rangers, sending a cascade of branches and debris raining down on them. Jarvis muttered a silent prayer, giving thanks for the shallow ditch they were in.

The two sides exchanged fire for thirty seconds; then Jarvis called for a cease-fire. As things quieted down they no longer heard firing from the VC to their south. However, seconds later, the team began receiving fire from the west, thirty-five to forty meters away. Jarvis couldn't be sure, but it sounded like two to three AKs firing short bursts. And their aim was improving.

As the Rangers began to return fire, Schwartz was shooting from his position in the ditch between Jarvis and Ty. Suddenly, the two men heard him shouting, "I'm hit . . . I'm hit."

Jarvis emptied his magazine toward the enemy, then looked down and shouted, "Where?"

Kneeling in the bottom of the ditch, cradling his arm, Schwartz looked up and held out his hand. From the look and the location of the tiny cut on his little finger, Jarvis quickly realized that the young Ranger had only sliced himself on the

PHANTOM WARRIORS

325

magazine release on the side of his receiver. Frowning and shaking his head, Jarvis turned and slugged Schwartz on the side of his head, taking the young Ranger's mind immediately off the pain in his finger and causing the wound to heal in record time. Combat-expedient first aid! Seconds later, the fully recovered Schwartz was once again firing into the trees across the trail.

Mason suddenly looked up and said, "The helicopters just radioed that they are five mikes out and closing."

Jarvis responded to the good news by reaching into the side pouch on his rucksack and pulling out a smoke grenade. Removing the safety pin, he casually tossed it out toward the trail. Seconds later, the customary *pop* was followed by a dense cloud of yellow smoke.

It was getting pretty close to dark by that time, and the prospects for a clean extraction were growing dimmer by the minute. Suddenly, two Huey gunships roared over the trees and identified the patrol's smoke. Mason reached the pilots on the radio and instructed them to make their runs south to north just west of the smoke.

Over the next five minutes the two gunships made two or three runs each, tearing apart the jungle on the other side of the trail with miniguns and rockets. The enemy small-arms fire immediately ceased.

Taking advantage of the momentary lull in the firing, Jarvis told Mason to call the gunships back and tell them that the team was going to blow their remaining claymores and head east. Seconds later, with four staggered blasts, the remaining claymores detonated north and south of the ditch and back toward the team's PZ. Before the smoke and dust had time to settle, the Rangers were up and running through the woods toward the PZ. They neared the edge of the clearing much quicker than they had anticipated, nearly charging right out into it without realizing that it was there.

By then the gunships had finished hitting the woods on the other side of the trail, and were over the PZ to cover the ex-

326

Gary Linderer

traction. Without hesitating, the lead ship made a quick gun run down the tree line on the east side of the PZ just as the team arrived.

As the gunship broke away over the top of the team, a Huey slick reported that it was on short final a hundred meters out and closing. Five seconds later, the chopper began receiving heavy small-arms fire from five or six AK-47s shooting from somewhere in the trees to the north. With a quick burst of acceleration, the Huey pulled out of the PZ and aborted the extraction.

One of the gunships came in immediately after the Huey had departed the area and made two more runs against the VC to the north. By that time, it was growing too dark to read. The C & C notified the Rangers down at the edge of the clearing that they would make one more attempt to pick up the team. If that didn't work, the Rangers would have to find a place to hole up for the night or escape and evade out of the area.

That time, as the slick approached the pickup zone, the two gunships, out on the flanks and slightly in trail, escorted the Huey in, firing up the surrounding woods as they came. Only a fool, or a fool's commanding officer, would step out in the open and face a deadly minigun. Even the door gunners on the slicks were firing.

As the Huey flared to a hover just above the clearing, the patrol broke cover five meters back at the edge of the woods and sprinted for the waiting chopper. Almost as one, the six men dove through the open doorway and took up firing positions from inside the open cabin. The slick pulled pitch and fought its way up and out of the tiny clearing, then struggled for altitude.

The team returned to the Ranger compound well after dark. The debriefing by their operations officer was thorough but short. It was Team Two-seven's first contact. Five broken cherries on a single patrol! As for Ty, well the South Vietnamese hadn't been a cherry for a long, long time.



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

Probable Developments in Indochina for the Remainder of 1951-National Intelligence Estimate- 35

This intelligence estimate was compiled and approved on 08/02/1951 by the following Departments of State, Army, Navy, Air Force and the Joint Staff. All those involved in the estimate agree with the findings. This period of time has to do with developments in the Tonkin area where present operations were in progress during the dry season of 1951 and 1952.

Conclusions

Four conclusions were drawn from this time period. They are 1. The ongoing stalemate was expected to last until the end of 1951. The Chinese at the present time have 30,000 "volunteers" that are being sent in as individuals or in small units to assist the Viet Minh. 2. At present the French are able to hold the Tonkin area. If the Chinese were to send in a larger force than the "volunteers" the French could be driven back to a beachhead around Haiphong, which the French should be able to hold for some time unless the Chinese were to attain air supremacy. 3. At present there seems little likelihood that the Chinese are willing to send additional troops as they are currently involved in Korea. 4. At the present time it is unlikely that the Chinese will become involved in Indochina in a large scale.

Discussion

The current situation in Indochina was one of a stalemate between the combatants. General de Lattre was put in charge of French troops. This seemed to raise the morale of the French troops and enabled them to repulse numerous Viet Minh attempts to take control of the Tonkin and Red River delta around Hanoi and Haiphong. The French were successful for the following reasons. 1. The energy of General de Lattre raised the morale of the French troops. 2. Available Mutual Defense Assistance Program. 3. The infusion of French reinforcements. 4. The Viet Minh were a guerrilla organization and were not used to large military operations. 5. The Viet Minh were lacking in knowledgeable staff and the lack of heavy weapons from the Chinese. It was known that the Chinese were supplying



the Viet Minh with technical help, ammunition, light weapons and some artillery. At this time it seems unlikely that the Chinese would increase their presents in Vietnam.

While the French were holding their own in combat, the political situation was not going well. The reasons were varied and include the French being slow with the transfer of some powers to the Vietnam government and a lack of strong leadership inside the Vietnamese government. The government had to

fight the French to be given control of some political and economic affairs of Vietnam. The Vietnamese did not trust the French supported government which caused the majority of the Vietnamese to have a wait and see attitude. Training was slow or non-existent for the administration functions a government needed and finally the inability of the different groups to unite for a stable country.

In January of 1951 there was a chance to form a cabinet that represented all the non-Communist groups, the problem was that Premier Huu created a cabinet that was made up of pro-French factions of the Premier's own party. This caused the Vietnamese people to view the cabinet as a puppet regime to France and caused the Vietnamese to not trust the government. The Viet Minh had been able to infiltrate areas that were under French control and convince the people not to support the current government.

The French were in the process of creating a National Vietnamese Army. At present the French have trained about 54,000 troops that have performed well, with plans to add another 46,000 troops to be trained. The increase of the National Vietnamese Army was going to take some time because the 46,000 troops had to have additional cadre to train the Vietnamese troops and equip the troops and for them to be broken into Battalion and Division strength units. The reasons for the slow infusion of additional troops included the ability to find competent officers for all the new command levels, lack of equipment, indifference of the population toward French control of the Army, and the different opinions of French and Vietnamese commanders as to who had control over the Army. The holding back of giving the Vietnamese

F/51 LRP (Continued)

generals control over the Army was part of the population not being in favor of the French supported government.

Perceived Viet Minh and Franco Vietnam Capabilities

The increase of morale by assigning General de Lattree to command French forces, replacements were arriving, the increasing size of the Vietnamese Army, and the arrival of Mutual Defense Assistance Program (MDAP) aid was thought to give the French the ability to launch limited offensive operations that could recover territory that had previously been lost to the Viet Minh. With the mentioned increases it was thought the current aid would not be enough to defeat the Viet Minh.

It was thought that given the current amount of Chinese aid the Viet Minh would not be able to gain control of Hanoi-Haiphong area. It was thought that the Viet Minh would be resupplied and strengthened by the end of the rainy season by the Chinese. The French MDAP(Mutual Defense Assistance Program) aid, troop reinforcements, French air superiority was increased by the arrival of a French Navy aircraft carrier. The French will be able to interrupt the flow of supplies to the Viet Minh that come by land or by sea. It was thought that by the end of December the French would have their fixed defenses completed and would give the French the advantage of fighting from fixed positions as opposed to the Viet Minh who use guerrilla tactics.

Chinese Communist Capabilities and Intentions

The Communist countries of China and Russia are wanting control over Southeast Asia and see that aligning themselves with the Viet Minh will assure that Communist control in Southeast Asia would be possible. The indications were that the Chinese were preparing for increased resupplying of the Viet Minh along with direct support in either cadre or troops.

It was thought that the French and Vietnamese forces would be able to hold the Tonkin area regardless of the amount of Chinese intervention. Should the Chinese send direct support in, it is believed that the French and Vietnamese army could lose some local areas to the Viet Minh. If the Chinese infiltration were to occur on a larger scale, then now, the French would be hard pressed to remain in the Tonkin area.

It is believed that the Chinese have the ability for large scale intervention with about 100,000 of Chinese field troops. The rough terrain of the boarder area allows passage only of small units of troops possible. Due to the terrain support of any offensives from the Viet Minh would be limited to about a week at a time due to the rugged terrain. The Chinese are presently upgrading their railroads and roads, and upgrading airfields in the boarder region in an effort to expedite resupply the Viet Minh.

If the 100,000 Chinese troops were to become more involved against the French, before the end of 1951, it would be possible for the Communist to push the French and Vietnamese army into a beachhead position at Haiphong which should be defensible unless the Chinese Air Force were to achieve air superiority. This outcome depends on future developments in Korea play out. The Chinese are currently heavily involved in the Korea conflict and are not likely to want a 2 front war when a certain victory was not assured and it would put a serious strain on supplying 2 fronts. It was felt that the current build up is in preparation to supplying the Viet Minh with "volunteer" troops and equipment.

The outlook for the end of 1951 is one of a stalemate without Chinese direct intervention. The increased of material and troops and the political control of the Viet Minh will be offset by the arrival of French reinforcements, the increase of MDAP(Mutual Defense Assistance Program), and moving towards a functioning National Vietnamese army.



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

No Submission



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



Bill Miller

Fellow Rangers and
Co Vans:

SIT REP: US ARMY Ranger Hall of Fame

To all our members
our nominee Col
(ret) Robert C. Murphy was not among the
twelve individuals selected this year. I firmly
believe that Bob is quite deserving of this
honor and we will resubmit next year.



Feature:

Welcome to Trung Lap

By

Bill Schwartz

If folks had told me when I was commissioned
in June 1959 that exactly three years later I
would be in combat in Vietnam, I would
have thought they were smoking some
illegal substances. But in June of 1962, there
I was, a first Lieutenant, Vietnamese Ranger
Advisor, giving on the job training to Ranger
companies rotating through Trung Lap, a
small defended camp surrounded by mine
fields near Cu Chi that over the years was
overrun from time to time.

Sad News

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of 1st
Sergeant (Ret) Paul Victor (Vic) Attaya on Sunday February
28, 2011. He is survived by his wife Margaret Tisdale Attaya,
two sons, three daughters and six grandchildren.

Vic was first a Marine, a member of the First Marine Divisions
Recon Company in Korea. During his career he served in the
Army Special Forces, then as a member of Advisory Team #21
as Senior NCO to the 11th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion (Biet
Dong Quan). He was 1st Sgt of the 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger
Regiment when he retired in 1975 at Fort Lewis, Washington.

His military service awards include the Silver Star, Purple
Heart (5), Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device
(3), Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star, Combat
Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Wings, Drill
Sergeants Badge, Vietnamese Ranger Badge, Nine Campaign
and Service Medals and 5 Unit Citations.

I served with Vic in 1968 as part of Team #21 and Vic's
daughter Kim lives about twenty miles from me, so I met with
Kim and presented her with a BDQ Ranger Badge, and Hat
pin along with several
photos I had taken of
her father in 1968.

From all of the
Biet Dong Quan ,"
Ranger Attaya you
will be missed!"



SFC Vic Attaya 11th BN 1968

After attending MATA 2, I joined the first group of advisors to
fly into Vietnam in uniform-or so we were told. We boarded
a Pan Am flight in San Francisco and the stews plied us with
booze all the way over.

The next day, we met with the assignments officer in the MAAG.
He had a southern accent and was bit sarcastic with a strange
sense of humor. He called two of us into his office and then
proceeded to show us photos of dead and wounded VC and
ARVN Rangers. I can still remember him saying with his nasal
twang, "Do you know where those photos were taken?" "No,
sir" we said. The major looked us in the eye and said, "Well,
they were taken at Trung Lap, and that's where you're going."

The next morning I arrived at Trung Lap along with two other
lieutenants and a couple of NCOs. One NCO was SSG Herb
Lloyd who later retired as a Brigadier General. Flew in on an
Otter, as I recall. After we landed we were taken to a little
club room that had bullet holes in the wall. Shortly afterwards,
two US lieutenants came in off patrol. One was carrying a
Schmeiser and the other a Swedish K. They seemed a bit
stressed and downed a couple of beers. That night the 50 cal
in the tree house started chattering putting rounds out to the
East and BDQ were firing small arms. Nobody had bothered
to tell us what to do and where to report in cases like that.
We tumbled into some depressions in the ground until the
shooting stopped. An interesting introduction to Trung Lap.
There were about 15 of us assigned to Trung Lap, seven
officers and eight NCOs. Almost all of us had previously been
assigned to either an Airborne Division (I'd come from 1st
Airborne Battle Group, 506 Infantry in the 101st) or Special
Forces and all the officers were Ranger School graduates. All of
us were also volunteers—guys who were basically bored with

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

the peacetime Army and thought that this would be our only opportunity to earn something besides the National Defense Service Medal to wear on our chest. Were we ever wrong. On the other hand, when the Cuban Missile Crisis broke, we were all upset because we thought our former units would be jumping into Cuba and here we were in this small little war. We operated similarly to a contemporary Special Forces A team. The "Ranger" companies we trained were essentially Infantry companies of average or below average competence, poorly paid and with very old surplus US equipment which became Ranger companies by direction of President Diem. Our job was to try to make them above average infantry companies in five weeks. Basically we taught fundamental Ranger and small unit infantry tactics to the Vietnamese and then went out and executed against a live enemy—who I swear was reading our training schedule. For example, you instructed in setting up an ambush by day, and then that night went out and tried to accomplish same. Ditto for search and destroy missions, hammer and anvil operations, etc. Almost every day we had to clear the road that led from Trung Lap to Highway 1, about 4 km, since it was frequently bushwhacked or mined by the local Viet Cong. The latter owned the local hamlets by night while we had control of a hamlet only when we occupied it. So here we are, no more than two or three small Ranger companies at any one time trying to clear an area that the 25th Division in its entirety barely cleared four years later. And we wondered why we weren't successful.

One thing about the way we trained the Vietnamese. We were certainly motivated to insure that the trainees understood the training since if they didn't we might have some real problems when we encountered the bad guys. This was particularly true since the first shot most always came at the American Advisor whose height relative to the Vietnamese certainly identified him.

When I arrived, the senior Advisor was a WW II/Korean War mustang major. He was due to rotate in a month or so and was intent on departing in one piece. He never went out on patrol. Sort of hung out in his hooch with the door closed. He grabbed me after a couple of days and said "I see you graduated from West Point." "Yes Sir" I said. "Good" he said, "that means you're an engineer." "No way Sir" I said. "I damn near flunked out of West Point in engineering." Which is very true. Had to take a turn out exam graduation week. Anyhow, this major ordered me to build the air strip to accommodate Caribou landings. Which in a pathetic way I did. My engineer classmates would have been in tears—it wasn't exactly an elegant engineering solution. Then when I finished the damn thing (the drill being patrol at night build the strip during the day), he told me to go to Saigon and fly in on the first Caribou.

The minefield started at the edge of the strip. We landed and stopped about 15 meters short of the minefield. That was my last engineering project. Speaking of the airfield, we were supplied by Otter or Beaver once a week or so. The bad guys often tried to shoot the aircraft down when it came in. We used the supply flights to ambush the bad guys. The pilots were not pleased.

The American public was told that we advisors were not participating in combat and would only defend ourselves if fired upon. The Australian government wouldn't even acknowledge that their advisers were in country much less in combat. One day, a visiting Australian adviser, captain, accompanied me and the Ranger company with which I was working on a patrol. The Aussie had been in combat in Malaysia and had about 10 years of service. To that point of my tour at Trung Lap, an occasional shot had come in my direction but nothing much more serious. This time, as we moved through the rice paddies closing in on a hamlet we were to sweep, the bad guys opened up. Naturally the first rounds came at me and the Aussie. This was my first real experience with a fire fight and, admittedly, I was feeling a bit of angst. The Aussie looked at me and said, "Ya know mate, if I were to be killed here today it would be awfully embarrassing for my government because we're not supposed to be in Vietnam." I just broke up laughing and got on with the job.

There is no doubt that the "adviser" war was quite different from my experience later as XO of an Infantry Air Cav Bn: far more structure in the latter. After all, I can't conceive of helping defend a fire base at night in the 1st Cav dressed in pajama bottoms and flip flops as we did from time to time at Trung Lap. And our schedule of five weeks of OJT with the Rangers followed by 3-4 days in Saigon for intense R&R certainly didn't mirror life at Fire Base Silver or Union. In some respects, Heller's Catch 22, which my Aunt sent me to read, made a lot of sense during that first tour.

The mixed feelings engendered by that first tour are sort of summed up by an experience I had on my way home. I was boarding an aircraft in San Francisco bound for Pennsylvania where my then wife and son were living. I was recently promoted to captain and was wearing a CIB on my Class B uniform. I was barely 26. A well dressed middle aged businessman came up to me and said "You know, Captain, you look pretty young to have fought in the Korean War." "I didn't fight in the Korean War" I replied. "I was awarded the CIB for combat in Vietnam." American Advisors had already been killed. If it weren't for wanting to be reunited with my wife and son, I probably would have tried to turn around and go back. The American public certainly didn't know what we were doing.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)



VN Officer 23rd BN



Joe Guerra 23rd BN



SSG Graves 23rd BN

Quote:

“Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free.”

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

Mu Nau

Bill Miller
Unit Director



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

No Submission





Special Operations Memorial

MacDill AFB, Florida



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



The walls flanking the central generic SOF warrior will hold individual engravings in addition to special operations organizational histories. Engravings may be purchased, and designed to reflect either the buyer's name and/or organization, or may memorialize another (past or present) special operator. To maximize the available space, the same individual will not be memorialized more than once. The memorial is located adjacent to the entrance to the US Special Operations Command Headquarters complex, MacDill AFB. Engravings are limited to eighteen (18) letters per line (including spaces); the number of lines may be purchased as follows:

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

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

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

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

2 Lines - \$100 ☐

3 Lines - \$250 ☐

4 Lines - \$500 ☐

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

Name: _____ e-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Mbr: 75 Rgr Regt Assn: ____ SFA: ____ SOA: ____ UDT/SEAL Assn: ____ ACA: ____ Total Amount: _____

<http://www.SOFMemorial.com>
<http://www.specialoperationsmemorial.net>

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.

Price of the above silver coins are \$50.00 each. (The price of silver has doubled). They are solid silver. Engraving cost will vary depending on number of characters, add \$5.00 for shipping.

If you order more than one coin, add only \$5.00 for the shipping. We have available through the coin company, bezels that fit around the coin so that it can be worn on a chain. Call for info.

We can now accept VISA or MASTER CARD and Pay Pal

To Order:

Call or e-mail John Chester

Phone: 410-426-1391

Fax: 410-426-0243

e-mail: john.chester3@verizon.net

Order Online: www.75thrra.org

Crunk Photography

*Do you have old pictures you
want to restore?*

*I can clean up a print, enlarge it, and
give you a digital copy.*

*No limit to the amount of pictures.
Call or e-mail Kaitlin Crunk for details*

970-640-1958

crunkphotography@live.com

www.crunkphotography.com



Desperate Lands

ISBN: 9870979784705

Regulo Zapata Jr.

Book Author

Buy Now!

\$19.95

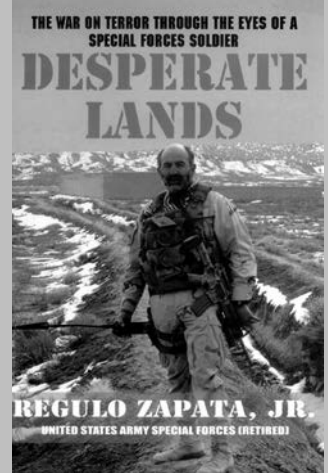
Order Online thru:

www.amazon.com

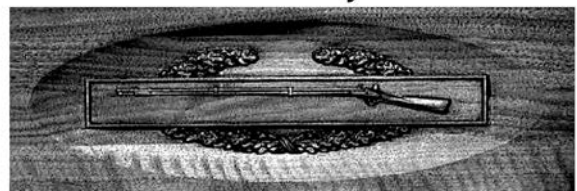
www.barnesandnoble.com

www.borders.com

www.nadorespublishing.com



"You Earned It, Show It!"



Military Recognition Plaques

www.PLFProductions.com

The card ads on these pages allow the Association to bring you a quality product (the magazine) at a cost that is sustainable by the Association. These card ads are a great deal, the cost is only \$100.00 for four issues. That's a years worth of advertising. If the advertiser has a web site, we will provide a link from our web site (75thrra.org) for an additional \$50.00, so for \$150.00 you will have a years worth of exposure as well as a link to your web site, for a total of \$150.00. We mail around 2,200 copies of the magazine each issue. The copies that go to the 3 Battalions and to the RTB are seen by many more people than the number of copies would indicate. That's a lot of exposure for a minimum cost.

As members, we should make an effort to patronize our advertisers. Most of us would prefer to deal with one of our own given the opportunity. Give it a chance, it helps the Association bring you a quality product at a reasonable price. Thanks to everyone that has signed up.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Wear Something Red On Fridays

KILROY Challenge Coin
www.sohk.us

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!



- ★ DECALS & SIGNS
- ★ PLATE FRAMES
- ★ APPAREL
- ★ CUSTOM WORK

www.SERVICEDECALS.COM



ELITE DEFENSE SYSTEM, LLC.

GERALD W. WILSON II
WILLIAM "BILL" DODGE
OWNERS AND CHIEF INSTRUCTORS
COLUMBUS, GA
106 ENTERPRISE COURT
SUITE C

SPECIALIZING IN CLOSE QUARTER COMBAT FOR MILITARY &
SECURITY APPLICATIONS, CIVILIAN SAFETY & SELF- DEFENSE

Mr. Wilson	706-566-8018	e-mail	gww2@earthlink.net
Mr. Dodge	706-442-7526	e-mail	wdodge777@msn.com
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT			

Southeast Alaska salt water fishing
salm on halibut bottom fish
whale-watching

Steve Lemire KG/75 Skipper
Lemire Charters

PO Box 293 Klawock, Alaska 99925
Phone: 907 401-3434

Email: lemiredarters@yahoo.com
web page: [www.outdoorsdirectory.com /](http://www.outdoorsdirectory.com/akpages/lemire)
akpages/lemire

Brian Radcliffe

SPECIALTY FIREARMS
Dealer - Broker - Importer

Red Cedar
Hunting Preserve

Owner - Trainer

(517) 376-0250



Mike Kelley

Ranger, 1st BN, 75th Inf

SMOOTH SHOT
GUN TUNER

A Super Gun Oil

Improves Performance
Reduces Friction and Wear
Reduces Operating Heat
Provides Rust Protection

Phone: 772-461-9000
Toll Free: 1-866-710-0212
FAX 772-489-0007

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



Special Operations
Memorial Foundation



DIRECT FROM NAM
Authentic Montagnard bracelets,
weavings, bows
Vietnamese arts and crafts
NVA/VC militaria and collectibles
Hundreds Of Items

FREE CATALOG WRITE:

Sampan Imports, 11893 N. 75th St, Longmont, CO. 80503
OR... check out our online catalog at: www.sampan.com



GEM REAL ESTATE, INC.
*Residential,
Commercial,
Mobile Homes,
Manufactured Homes*

Dana P. McGrath, Broker
Ranger K/75th
(239) 995-2436 (ofc)

68 Pondella Road
North Fort Myers,
Florida 33903

www.homesforsale-florida.com



**All-American
Recycling
Incorporated**

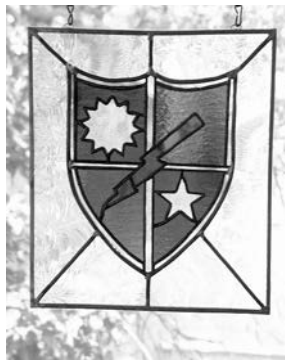
Roger Brown
1616 Murray Street
Columbus, GA 31906

Office: (706) 324-3249
Fax: (706) 322-3059
Email: ranger18588@aol.com

Preferred Financial Systems, Inc.
Bookkeeping and Tax Services

68 Pondella Road
North Fort Myers, Florida 33903
(239) 656-4544 (ofc)

Dana and Peggy McGrath



*The Now
and Zen*
LRRP

Stained glass, mosaics,
tables. Custom made and
custom design.

410-426-1391 John Chester



**IVY HOUSE
PUBLISHING GROUP**

www.ivyhousebooks.com

PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

1-800-948-2786

Dept. P • 5122 Bur Oak Circle • Raleigh, NC 27612



Richard & Maryann Gamez
Independent Members
Member ID# 08093487

www.presentation4men.com
www.presentation4women.com
www.presentation4trainers.com

1410 Wroxtton Way
Round Rock, Texas 78664
Richard's Cell 512.496.4658
Maryann's Cell 512.517.6818
AdvocareFiredUp@sbcglobal.net
www.Advocare.com/08093487

Richard Gamez 1st DIV LRRP - F/52 LRP - I/75

Jensen Beach Sign Company

HAND LETTERED SIGNS

**BOAT LETTERING
TRUCKS • GRAPHICS**



KEEP
AN
OPEN
MIND

Signs & Things

by Tyrone
Orange Ave., RIO

COLT TRANSPORTATION, INC.

"Pony up with Colt"

Military driving experience accepted!

Flatbed trucking out of Louisiana

e-mail: colttransportation@bellsouth.net

Drivers call 1-866-450-2658

**ONE EYED FAT OLD MEN**

ISBN# 1425915914 and

THE RIGHTERS

ISBN# 1425933300

by: Regis H. Murphy, Jr.

U.S. Army Retired at Houghton, LA

Now available at: 1-888-280-7715

and Amazon.com

Harness The Strength of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

- Complimentary & Quick Pre-qualifications
- Government and Conventional Loans
- Exceptional Service

Call Today!

Tom Jones

Home Mortgage Consultant

265 Cornerstone Blvd

Hot Springs, AR 71913

501-622-4129 Phone

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. © 2007 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved.



WWW.CUMBERLANDPARTNERS.NET

COMPANY: 877-211-1554

DIRECT: 770-932-9861

SAM@CUMBERLANDPARTNERS.NET

Sam Pullara

PRESIDENT

Senior Consultant

1000 PEACHTREE IND BLVD

SUITE 6-204

SUWANEE, GA 30024



"Your Tax Point Man"

Tom Workman

NOW specializing in: Helping you obtain a payment agreement; levy release; an Offer in Compromise or placing your delinquent taxes in a suspended status due to financial hardship.

'Ambushed by Tax Problems'? "Follow Me!"

Call 1-704-895-1835 or Email me at: TWork1dad@aol.com

FAX: 704-892-3353

Reasonable Rates whatever the case, "Rangers Lead The Way!"
"Charlie/Mike"

"COUNTRY VILLAGE FLORIST"

When it's "Scent" With Love

From: Louisiana To: USA

Toll Free: 1-800-942-0919

Michelle Tabor - Owner

R*L*T*W*!

Great Symbols of Freedom, All Cut From the Same Cloth.



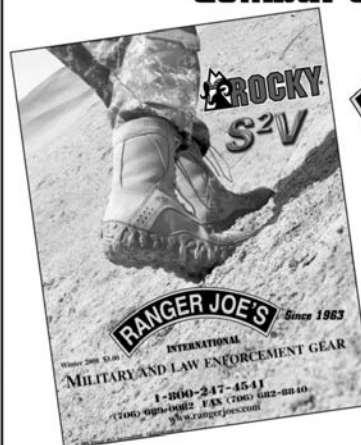
Visit our "Boots on the Ground" Booth at the Ranger Rendezvous 2011 and meet the artist behind all of our innovative military products.

When America puts her Boots on the Ground, there is no doubt where she stands. When someone wears our "Boots on the Ground" products, there is no doubt where they stand. Visit our new website for the latest in products and apparel designed for Patriots by Patriots.



themilitarysuperstore.com 678-475-1549

The World's Finest Combat Gear



**We ship to
military bases
and APO/FPO
addresses.**

Log on or Call for a Free Catalog

www.rangerjoes.com

1-800-247-4541



Do you still keep your old photos in a shoe box? Can you even find your old photos? Patriot Pages are scrapbook insert pages specifically designed by unit to help you keep up with your old photos and help make your scrapbook unique and like no other.

Our pages make a statement about you, your time in service and what you did. Each page helps tell your story making your old photos treasures to remember.

Reunion coordinators, we can make unique reunion gifts by taking some of your unit photos and making unique unite scrapbook pages for your next reunion. Visit us on line at www.patriotpagesllc.com or call us at 678-677-5147.



WWW.PATRIOTPAGESLLC.COM

OLD MOVIE TRANSFERS

Regular 8 - Super 8
to VHS or DVD
Background Audio Dub
Included on Silent Movies adds
to the Memories!



We can also copy your old
VHS Tapes to DVD.

HECK'S VIDEO PRODUCTIONS
517 East Fairview Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
www.hecks.net

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

THE ARMY RANGERS' GUIDE TO LEADING
YOUR ORGANIZATION THROUGH CHAOS



DEAN HOHL & MARYANN KARINCH

www.rltw.net

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

75th RRA
PO BOX 577800
Modesto, CA 95357-7800

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.



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

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Membership Application Form

Annual dues: \$30.00
Life membership: \$300.00
Subscription Only: \$30.00
Checks Payable to:
75th Ranger Regiment Assoc.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	DATE
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE
AREA CODE/HOME PHONE		AREA CODE/WORK PHONE	OCCUPATION

UNITS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS

REMARKS: _____

VISA or MASTERCARD # _____ EXP. DATE: _____

CHECK ONE: NEW APPLICATION _____ RENEWAL _____ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER _____

MEMBERSHIP CONTINGENT UPON PROOF OF SERVICE: ORDERS OR NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS YOU SERVED WITH IN THE UNITS LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. UNITS MUST CARRY THE LINEAGE OR BE IN THE HISTORY. WE ARE NOT JUST A VIETNAM ERA ASSOCIATION. ALL UNITS OF THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP



5307th
LRRP
LRP
RANGER
BDQ
LRS

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 577800
MODESTO, CA 95357-7800

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Medal of Honor Recipient Leroy Petry.
