

PATROLLING

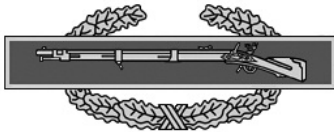
WINTER 2011 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 26 ISSUE III



*Mass tactical, Fryar drop zone,
Ft. Benning, GA, 2011.*

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



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

OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible 75th Infantry Rangers, and members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Companies, Long Range Patrol Companies, Ranger Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan; members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the 75th Ranger Regiment.
2. To sustain the Association. *Unlike the WWII Battalions and Merrill's Marauders, the 75RRA accepts members and former members of the Active Ranger Battalions. By doing so we are perpetuating the association. It will not "die off" as these two organizations someday will.*
4. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Ranger Battalions, successor units, or additions to the Regiment.

WHAT WE DO:

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

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

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

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

SECTION 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

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

SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors
BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment

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

SECTION 7: Long Range Surveillance:

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



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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,
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WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

Associate Editor comments:

Welcome to 2012. The personally cataclysmic final quarter of 2011 is done and gone and I am back with the program. I am typing this in John Chester's study where he is teaching me the mechanics of publishing Patrolling using the tried-and-true "performance oriented training" method. There is a good deal more to producing a journal like this than one would suspect – as it is with any new challenge. One of those things I am already well along on learning is that this community is as amazing as we think it is, and mostly in good ways. Another is that I am going to get to know a great many of you through your submissions and through working with you and through the issues that arise in the production of this journal. I'm looking forward to that.

The next issue should be on time. Thank you for your patience during this transmission period.

And remember please: Submit your imagery and photos separate from your text documents!

From John Chester

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Little



Joe Little

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmm “Impressive”
A Great Turnout for 2011 Ranger Rendezvous this year. Many really old faces showed up this year along with more first timers. Gary Linderer, John Looney and many more than I can recall names for;(my half timers kicks in every so often).The group of old timers as I refer are the founders/organizers of this great organization and at the helm then was Ranger Bob Gilbert.

However; we had one Ranger SFC Leroy Petry, recipient of The Medal of Honor for his actions in Afghanistan managed to show up a couple of times at the host hotel. Many had photo op with him. I spoke with him a little and was amazed as he mentioned several years ago he was at our Rendezvous as a PFC and felt intimidated by our band of Warriors and honored that many spoke to him. Now we are honored by his presence and hope to see more of him; however, we know the Army is running his schedule for now. I told him about his life membership and he accepted. All the new Patrolling Magazines including mine was taken by others for autographs; therefore, I did not have an application for Leroy to sign. Jason volunteered to take care of that; right Jason?? ;-)



Old LRRP/Ranger John Looney & young Ranger SFC Leroy Petry from 2nd BN.

Those of you that missed this one might of heard the Regiment made some changes on the normal routine demonstrations. Mas-Tac-Jump, Ranger assault on enemy with dog handlers turning loose on enemy, guns, explosions, guns blazing; old timers doing a subtle startle response trying not to be obvious; pickup of ground forces by V-22 Ospreys first day was impressive.



The second day was another day of long lines for registration and gathering in the hospitality room to celebrate old friendships and embellishing of experiences.



John Chester stated he planned on a bigger and better and he did just that. Many of the Ladies were at first reluctant of taking special bus for a full day at Callaway Gardens for guided tour and lunch. I wish I had a photo of the return and how much they seemed to enjoy. Therefore; I foresee a continued activity for spouse/Significant others and more family orientated events for the future of the 75th RRA Inc as our ranks median age is dropping as we increase our membership from the Ranger batts.

Okay, now what about our board. Well there was an election I requested a recount of the vote for the president, but that fell on deaf ears. I heard a lot of support and offers for assistance and it is humbling to say the least to lead the way for this association for the next couple of years as your President. There are some really big shoes that walked before me; therefore I have many good examples to follow. However; not a small task as we expand and work on funds and our important mission is to care for our brothers and families that care for our safety today.

The board as most know is: President from 25th ID LRRP well my APO address was that at first, but truly F/50th LRP to F/Co 75th Ranger. Jason Baker 1st VP, Wes Jurena 2nd VP, our two from 1st and 3rd BN. Tom Sove, secretary from K/75th, Roger Crunk, Treasurer from K/75th and not a board position is Kevin R. Ingraham as he has it old scroll 2nd BN.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

So we have a TEAM here that I feel are still living the Ranger code and creed as part of their everyday life and it is the way of this organization.

To use Bob Gilbert's words "So where are we; The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is now the largest of ALL Ranger combat associations". It is apparent, because of what we do for our brother Rangers. HOOAH RLW

We as aboard commit to move forward with the membership needs in mind. As we get settled in our positions and work on goals they will be published in next issue; however for now we want to build our membership internally and externally. Internal is for our existing members to bring back those that drifted away for whatever reason and our external is new members. We also want everyone to take a good look at possible candidates for Ranger Hall of Fame and get them nominated for RHOF

I also want to recognize Gene Tucker for about four years of service as State Coordinator a difficult task making sure all our brothers are put to rest with dignity and respect they all deserve.

Marshall Huckaby stepped up to fill that position and he has already taken on a couple of duties right after the close of reunion. Marshall is working with Sandee Rouse. I want all that can, to step up and volunteer to assist when called. I know firsthand how much the family appreciates when a group of Rangers are present and the silence as "ONCE AN EAGLE" ceremony is done and coin presented to family is an honor for both.

I heard some are organizing a unit reunions and think it is great. I know F/Co is doing Veterans Day in DC at the "Wall" many have not ventured there yet. What a supportive way to go to the "Wall" for the first time. I will be there as this will be the 24th year of being there with group from West Coast sponsored by South West Airlines and supported by the Vet Centers.

I want to thank all for the support offered, implied, suggested and rest assured I will call if I can remember which phone numbers belong to who on all the scrapes of paper I brought home.

In closing I thank John for not shooting me when I told him I was reluctant about this position. Some of you might know he is a champion sheet shooter and was also on Army shooting team. So running away was not an option. I know the Professor and Mary Ann are going on a three day cruise. No, no that was Gilligan's Island wrong Professor sorry Mary Ann.

Thanks to all for Your Service

Now for some humor

A Russian and a Redneck wrestler were set to square off for the Olympic gold medal.

Before the final match, the Redneck wrestler's trainer came to him and said 'Now, don't forget all the research we've done on this Russian. He's never lost a match because of this 'pretzel' hold he has.

Whatever you do, do not let him get you in that hold! If he does, you're finished.'

The redneck nodded in acknowledgment.

As the match started, the Redneck and the Russian circled each other several times, looking for an opening.

All of a sudden, the Russian lunged forward, grabbing the Redneck and wrapping him up in the dreaded pretzel hold.

A sigh of disappointment arose from the crowd and the trainer buried his face in his hands, for he knew all was lost.

He couldn't watch the inevitable happen.

Suddenly, there was a Long, High Pitched Scream, then a cheer from the crowd and the trainer raised his eyes just in time to watch the Russian go flying up in the air.

His back hit the mat with a thud and the Redneck collapsed on top of him, making the pin and winning the match.

The trainer was astounded.

When he finally got his wrestler alone, he asked 'How did you ever get out of that hold? No one has ever done it before !' The wrestler answered 'Well, I was ready to give up when he got me in that hold but at the last moment, I opened my eyes and saw this pair of testicles right in front of my face. I had nothing to lose so with my last ounce of strength, I stretched out my neck and bit those babies just as hard as I could.' The trainer exclaimed 'That's what finished him off?'

'Not really. You'd be amazed how strong you get when you bite your own nuts' !

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Wesley Jurena

Fellow Members,

I was elected to the Post of Association Treasurer at our recent reunion. I appreciate that vote of confidence from the membership. My intention is to serve the Association in an honest and forthright manner and according to the guidelines set forth in our by-laws.

I do not have a financial background so to be sure there will be a learning period on my part and I will depend on the rest of my fellow officers and past Treasurer's to get me up to speed.

For an explanation of where and what our accounts are I will just rely on the following from Tom Sove, our secretary:

"We have one operating account fund in Columbus, GA at Columbus Bank & Trust. We use this for our convenience solely for our reunions as we can do daily deposits while in Columbus, and local checks always work best for these things. We usually keep a nominal amount in this account. Whereas we get the balance up over \$10,000 during the reunion, we write a check to our main operating account and get the balance very low when the reunion is over. However, during the year, this account grows because all credit card transactions are deposited into this account. Our main deposits are at First Community Bank in Kansas City. We have three accounts: our CD, our Operating Account, and our Family Fund Account. Our CD is, of course, a savings mechanism. The Operating Account is what we pay our bills with and deposit normal income. The Family Fund Account is our restricted fund for use in giving out grants and donations. It is funded solely by donations. We solicit donations for Family Fund, Membership Fund, and Xmas Fund. All these Fund donations go into this one account."

The board is very happy with the service we receive from these institutions so I see no need to make any changes in this regard. Below is our income and expense statement as of this writing. Your Treasurer, Roger Crunk

INCOME

OPERATING ACCOUNT

DUES & MEMBERSHIP

DEPOSITS	49,837	
CREDIT CARDS	1,570	
PAY PAL	7,000	58,407
PATROLLING ADS	300	300
REUNION		
VENDOR FEE	150	150

FAMILY FUND

DONATIONS	23,933	
LESS: DISBURSEMENTS	-4189	19,744
SUB TOTAL	78,601	

EXPENSES

REFUND OF DUES,		
OVERPMTS	60	
BANK FEES	36	
BAD CHECKS & FEES	195	
PRINTING		
PATROLLING	23,847	
STATIONARY	927	24,774
COINS	463	
PINS (LIFE & GOLD STAR)	1,933	
WEB MAINTENANCE	3,000	
TAXPREPARATION FEE	750	
INSURANCE	340	
SUPPLIES		
OFFICE	443	
BANNER/GUIDON	483	
COMPUTER HRDWRE,		
SFTWRE, MNTNCE	862	1,788
POSTAGE		
PATROLLING	6,557	
DUES NOTICES	1,419	
OFFICE	1,153	
PO BOX	286	9415

SUB TOTAL	42,754	
NET INCOME	34,847	

ACCOUNT BALANCES

AS OF 7-31-11

OPERATING FUND - FIRST

COMMUNITY BANK	7,302
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OPERATING FUND -

COLUMBUS BANK & TRUST	22,956
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FAMILY FUND - FIRST

COMMUNITY BANK	28,824
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CD - FIRST

COMMUNITY BANK	26,352
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PAY PAL ACCOUNT	12,000	91,154
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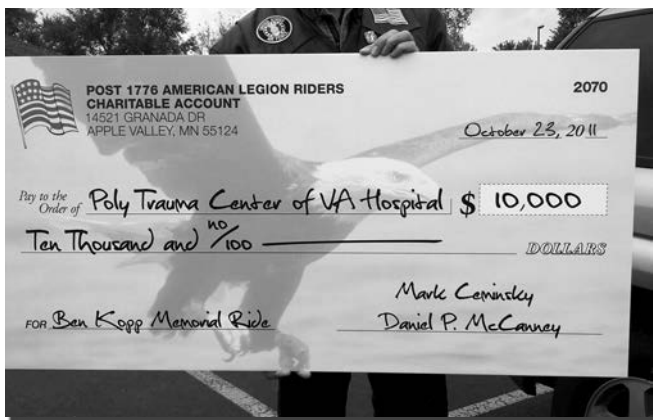
GOLD STAR

By Sandee Rouse

B Y: Jill Stephenson

It seems like just yesterday we were having a great time together at the Ranger Rendezvous and suddenly Thanksgiving is right around the corner.

Just before I attended the RR, I co-hosted a Memorial Ride (motorcycles) to honor my son Corporal Benjamin Kopp, along with a local post of American Legion Riders. We held a silent auction and raised \$10,000 for the Poly Trauma Unit at my local Veterans Hospital. On October 23rd, a small group of us delivered the check. We were able to meet some of the patients the money will directly assist and hear from the staff about how grateful they were for Ben's gift. Ben always put others first and would want nothing less than to know in death he can lend his name to lead the way in our community to help veterans in need.



In early October, I was the closing ceremony speaker at the Virginia Transplant Games in Midlothian, Virginia, which is just outside of Richmond (and also happens to be where one of my favorite Rangers lives). I was able to tell Ben's story of heroism off the battlefield as he became an organ donor. Ben's liver recipient participated in the three on the three basketball and won a silver medal. He's a very grateful father of three who readily credits Ben's selflessness for saving his life as he faced his own death from liver disease.

For the past two years on Veterans Day I have been privileged to be part of the ceremony held at the Vietnam Veterans memorial in St. Paul, MN, where I live. Tom Eckhoff, a Ranger, invites me each year. The group is mostly Special Forces, a couple Rangers and the local Laos veterans. I have led the pledge of



allegiance in the past, but this year I have been asked to speak about what Veterans Day means to me as a Gold Star Mother. In short I can say that the reason my son Ben joined the military was because of all the veterans that served before him. His great-grandfather had a special influence on him, but Veterans Day is never about just one man's service to our country. It's about honoring the sacrifices ALL veterans have made to ensure our freedoms and taking measures to ensure our younger generations are aware of those sacrifices and how it effects their lives today.

For the past two years I have also participated in Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery where Ben is laid to rest. It's a wonderful time to honor those that are no longer with us by placing a beautiful wreath on their graves. The contrast of the pine wreath and red ribbons against the white headstones row after row after row is stunning. This year I have decided to ride along with the convoy of semi's that will be delivering the wreaths to ANC. Best efforts are also going to be made to cover every single grave, so there will be approximately fifty trucks.

We begin in Harrington, Maine and commence the week long festive travels by exchanging wreaths with our Canadian neighbors. We then work our way down the coast through seven states and arrive in the DC area on the eve of December 9th to prepare for the distribution to honor and remember the fallen the next day. Ruth Stonesifer has made this trip in the past and I'm very excited to be able to do it this year. I have no doubt it will be a trip of a lifetime. Thank you to Ruth for convincing me to go and for helping me in the planning.

As we approach Veterans Day, I would like to offer my personal gratitude to veterans past, present and future for your service to America. Without your sacrifices America would not be the greatest country in the world. As we look towards Thanksgiving and the holidays to follow, let us remember our Rangers In The Sky and all of their families as they spend another season with an empty seat at the table. Let us also remember the Ranger Family we still have. I have felt incredibly blessed over the last twenty-seven months since Ben died to be welcomed to this wonderful family. Thank you to each and every one of you who have put your arms around me and comforted me in one way or another. Ben has surrounded me with such greatness.

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

Rangers Always Lead The Way in my book. Blessings and Happy Holidays to all.

As we approach the Holiday season, I am struck by the commitment of the Ranger community to remember its fallen heroes. This year marks the 10th anniversary of my son's death, 38 days after 9/11. I appreciated his fellow Rangers who reached out to me to let me know they remember his smile and sacrifice.

For the past 6 years I have been actively involved with the Wreaths Across America efforts to Honor, Remember and Teach. Each year thousands of fellow Americans assemble at National Cemeteries all over the country and world to remember the Veterans. They honor their service by placing holiday wreaths on their graves. This year marks the 20 Anniversary and the goal is to place a wreath on every marker at Arlington National Cemetery where this tribute started. That is over 300,000 graves and 50 tracker trailer loads from Maine. We can all help with this tribute by going to the website and donating 10 dollars or more to sponsor a wreath. <http://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org>.

Since Kris' memory marker is at Arlington I have been blessed to participate every year in placing the wreaths. I am always stuck as I watch the volunteers push baby buggies with wreaths and children in tow, to pause at a stone, place the wreath and read the name. You see, Gold star parents experience moments of panic that our sons and daughter will be forgotten. When I see the brigade of baby buggies and families paying tribute each year I know that when Kris stone is weather worn and maybe even unreadable, a mother and child will climb the hill in section MH, place a wreath on number 300 and remember my son. That is a comfort.

Ruth Stonesifer



Sandee Rouse

prayers are with the families.

As you read this, the year is new so I will say I hope your Holidays were blessed with peace and joy. I wish you the best year ever in the days ahead. The reality is, as I write this, Thanksgiving is still 10 days away, Christmas and the High holy days are fast approaching. Since our last issue of Patrolling we have lost the following Rangers our thoughts and

SGT Sandrino Plutino 1/75

Sgt. Tyler N. Holtz, 22, of Dana Point, Calif., 2/75

Sp. Ricardo Cerros Jr., 24, of Salinas, Calif., 2/75

Sgt. 1st Class Kristoffer B. Domeij, 29, 2/75

Pvt. 1st Class Christopher A. Horns, 20 2/75

I want to say how much I missed being with all of you this summer at the reunion but know you were Blessed by my 2 partners Jill Stephenson and Ruth Stonesifer. I am so thankful for the 2 of you.

On November 4 I attended the Memorial Service at 1/75 that honored 2 of their fallen Rangers SSG Jeremy Katzenberger and SGT Sandrino Plutino. I was Honored to meet their families and assured them that I and the 75th RRA stand ready to support and assist them in any way needed.

The association was well represented. As well as myself CSM & Brenda Acebes and State Coordinator Marshall Huckaby were there.

This issue is always the toughest for me to write. For so many Rangers and their families their absence is felt even more deeply now than most other times. Whether they are away doing their job or whether they are not coming home because they gave their all doing their job, they are missed even more this time of year. May all of you feel the comfort and peace that passes all understanding as God holds you even closer through these holidays.

For our family this will be 22 years of missing and remembering our Ranger. He has now been gone longer than he was here and yet he is always with us. What a wonderful blessing memories can be.

Again Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

As Always It is an Honor and Privilege to serve you
Blessings RLTW
Sandee



GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)



THE MIDST OF THESE JUNGLES

By Wayne Lund

*For awhile now we have been serving together both young and old,
Joining together to form our Ranger teams, we're standing
tall and so bold.*

*We have been patrolling in the midst of these jungles, and searching all around,
Knowing that sooner or later we will be facing our enemy on his own home ground.*

*Serving with this unit has made me harder than nails, ready to face any danger,
Because I'm the immortal soldier, The hard core fighter,
I'm a U.S. Army Ranger.*

*These brave Airborne Rangers are America's pride, they are considered the very best,
They've proven over this past year, on every mission they've never failed to pass any test.*

*We have finally realized that no matter how hard we fight we are in a no win situation,
Hopefully Uncle Sam will realize this and bring us home for
a well deserved vacation.*

wlundlrp_ranger@hotmail.com

2 March 2011

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, Joe Little, President

VA Emergency Care Update 06: The VA announced 12 JAN a change in regulations regarding payments for emergency care provided to eligible veterans in non-VA facilities. "This provision helps ensure eligible veterans continue to get the emergency care they need when VA facilities are not available," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. The new regulation extends VA's authority to pay for emergency care provided to eligible veterans at non-VA facilities until the veterans can be safely transferred to a VA medical facility. More than 100,000 veterans could be affected by the new rules, at a cost of about \$44 million annually. VA operates 121 emergency departments across the country, which provide resuscitative therapy and stabilization in life-threatening situations. They operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. VA also has 46 urgent care units, which provide care for patients without scheduled appointments who need immediate medical or psychiatric attention. For more information about emergency care in non-VA facilities refer to <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov>.

[Source: VA Press Release 12 Jan 2012 ++]

PTSD Update 84: According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 11 to 20 percent of the veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, a severe anxiety condition that can develop after exposure to an event that results in psychological trauma. That compares to 10 percent of the nation's Gulf War Veterans and about 30 percent of those who served in Vietnam. Military personnel who have been on missions that exposed them to horrible and life-threatening experiences can succumb to PTSD. Veterans for Common Sense, an advocacy group, claims that after a decade of war in Afghanistan and nearly nine years

in Iraq, between 100,000 and 300,000 service members are estimated to have fallen victim to PTSD. Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (R-NY), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, said the statistics on mental health problems, like PTSD, among current and former military personnel are sobering.

"Eighteen veterans commit suicide each day with almost a third receiving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs at the time of their death," Buerkle said. "Each month there are 950 veterans being treated by VA who attempt suicide. What's more, data from the Department of Defense indicate service members took their lives at an approximate rate of one every 36 hours from 2005 to 2010." Veterans account for 20 percent of America's suicides.

The Veterans Health Administration reported a 34 percent increase in the number of veterans using VA mental health services, rising from 897,129 in FY 2006 to 1,203,530 in FY 2010. The system is strained trying to keep up with the demand. Recently, the VA surveyed its front-line mental health professionals to determine if they have sufficient resources to get veterans into treatment. The results showed that almost 40 percent maintain they cannot schedule an appointment for a veteran in need of assistance within the 14 days mandated by the agency. Seventy percent answered that they don't have adequate staff or space to meet the mental health care needs of the veterans they serve. And 46 percent said the lack of off-hour appointments prevented veterans from accessing care.

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco is taking a long look to determine whether the VA is living up to its responsibilities. In 2007, Veterans for Common Sense

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

and Veterans United for Truth sued to address long delays veterans face obtaining VA disability compensation benefits and VA health care, especially treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. The claim noted that 85,000 veterans languished on a list for mental health care at the time the suit was filed despite a law requiring the administration to conduct a mental health assessment within 30 days of a patient's request. Such delays, they claimed, violate veterans' constitutional right to due process. According to recent VA reports, more than 850,000 veterans are waiting, on average, five months for a VA claim decision. An additional 250,000 veterans are waiting four more years for VA to decide their appealed claim. Last May, a three-judge panel agreed that the long delays violated the constitutional rights of veterans with mental health issues and ordered the VA to change the way it handles claims, asserting in strong language that they are too often "mooted by death." But the court vacated that decision and held a second hearing before the full panel last month. A decision is pending.

Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, said she is aware of at least 13 instances in which veterans committed suicide or died from drug overdoses while awaiting help from the VA. "We do not need the courts to tell us that much more can and should be done to relieve the invisible wounds of war," Murray said. "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." On 6 DEC Murray and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), ranking member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, sent a letter to George J. Opfer, inspector general in the Department of Veterans Affairs, asking him to launch an investigation into the mental health care wait times. "Especially at a time when we are seeing record suicides among our veterans, we need to meet the veteran's desire for care with the immediate assurance that it will be provided and provided quickly," Murray said. "We cannot afford to leave them discouraged that they can't find an appointment. We cannot leave them frustrated. We cannot let them down. We need to fix this now."

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), a unit within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is the agency

primarily responsible for meeting the health care needs of vulnerable patients. The VHA in recent years has made improving mental health care for veterans an institutional priority, implementing a five-year Mental Health Strategic Plan in 2004 to expand and improve mental health care. The agency increased mental health funding by \$1.4 billion annually between FY 2005 and FY 2008. A comprehensive study released last year by the Rand Corp., sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, assessed whether the VHA was maximizing its efforts to treat veterans with mental health and substance abuse disorders, concluded that services provided were "generally as good or better than care delivered by private plans" and that most veterans surveyed expressed satisfaction with the VA's care. The team determined that the VA maintained a higher level of performance in addressing mental health issues than private providers in seven out of nine major indicators. The VA's performance, for instance, exceeded private-plan performance in treatments utilizing medications and laboratory testing. The only areas in which the VA trailed private plans involved substance use disorder treatment initiation and treatment engagement.

That doesn't mean all is well. According to the Rand report, the agency doesn't meet its own performance guidelines. In particular, the number of veterans receiving and benefiting from evidence-based practices — generally the application of scientific research findings to the treatment of individual patients — was below the capacity of VA facilities to deliver such care. Regardless, most veterans expressed satisfaction with VA services. Using a 10-point scale on which zero represented the least satisfaction and 10 represented the greatest, 42 percent of veterans rated VA mental health care at 9 or 10. About three-quarters of veterans reported being helped by counseling or treatment received in the previous 12 months. Yet, despite the favorable impression of care, only 32 percent of veterans perceived improvement in their problems or symptoms. Paul Sullivan, Executive Director of Veterans for Common Sense, insisted the VA must do more to monitor negative post-deployment outcomes, such as homelessness, suicides, divorce and crime.

[Source: Evansville Courier & Press Bill Straub article 7 JAN 2012 ++]

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

VA Prostate Cancer Program Update 11: Prostate cancer screening with prostate-specific antigen (PSA) afforded no obvious prostate cancer mortality benefit during 13 years of follow-up in a large randomized trial. In fact, screened patients had a slightly higher prostate cancer mortality: 3.7 per 10,000 person-years, versus 3.4 for unscreened men. The results emphasize the need to find some means to identify patients who are most likely to benefit from PSA screening, said the first author of a report in the January issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. "Routine mass screening of the population, purely on the basis of a man's age, is not going to be an effective way of reducing his chance of dying of prostate cancer," Gerald Andriole, MD, of Washington University in St. Louis, told MedPage Today. "Having said that, that's not to say that no man should get PSA testing," he continued. "There are subsets of men in the population at large who do seem to stand a good chance of benefiting from PSA testing. 'Those are men who are young, with no comorbidities, and generally very healthy. These are men with the longest life expectancy overall. They are men who, even if they harbor a nonaggressive, slow-growing cancer, are nonetheless expected to live long enough to die of prostate cancer in the absence of it being identified and treated.' Screening also is reasonable for men who have an above-average risk of prostate cancer, such as African Americans and men with a strong family history of the disease, Andriole added.

The data offered nothing to change the conclusions of an earlier analysis of data from the same study, the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian (PLCO) screening program. After a median follow-up of seven years (up to as long as 10 years) the screened and unscreened groups had a similar prostate cancer mortality. The prostate cancer portion of PLCO involved 76,685 men who were ages 55 to 74 and cancer-free at enrollment. Study participants were randomized to annual PSA screening for six years or to usual care, which sometimes included "opportunistic" PSA screening. The initial report from the study showed a prostate cancer rate of 116 per 10,000 in the screened group compared with 95 per 10,000 in the control group. Prostate cancer mortality was 2 per 10,000 with screening and 1.7 per 10,000 in the control group. The current report showed that after a median follow-up

of 13 years, cancer incidence was 108.4 and 97.1 per 10,000 in the screened and unscreened groups, respectively. The difference represented a statistically significant 12% increase in cancer incidence in the screened group (RR 1.12, 95% CI 1.07 to 1.17). Mortality was 3.7 and 3.4 per 10,000 with and without screening, respectively, a nonsignificant difference. "This article updates with more person-years of follow-up our previously reported finding of no reduction in mortality from prostate cancer in the intervention arm compared with the control arm to 10 years, with no indication of a reduction in prostate cancer mortality to 13 years," the authors wrote of their findings.

Responding to the study, Otis W. Brawley, MD, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society, acknowledged that the results are consistent with other studies that have pointed to a potential harm from overscreening and unnecessary treatment of indolent prostate cancer. "This trial does suggest that if there is truly an advantage to mass [PSA] screening it is small," Brawley said in a statement. Even so, the results do not rule out the possibility of a benefit in some high-risk men or the value of PSA screening in men who want the test, he added. "I truly believe that a man who is concerned about prostate cancer and understands that experts are not certain that screening saves lives, but it definitely causes anxiety and needless treatment, can reasonably choose to be screened," said Brawley. "A man who is more concerned with unnecessary diagnosis and treatment might reasonably choose not to be screened. It is an area that needs to be left to an informed patient."

[Source: MedPage Today Charles Bankhead article 6 Jan 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.

TSGLI Payments Will Be Made for Qualifying Injuries

WASHINGTON (September 16, 2011) - The Department of Veterans Affairs

(VA) is extending retroactive traumatic injury benefits to Service Members who suffered qualifying injuries during the period Oct 7, 2001 to Nov. 30, 2005, regardless of the geographic location where the injuries occurred.

“Now all of our nation’s Service Members who suffered severe traumatic injuries while serving their country can receive the same traumatic injury benefits, regardless of where their injury occurred,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We at VA appreciate the efforts of Congress and the President to improve benefits for our troops.”

Effective Oct. 1, the Service Members’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Traumatic Injury Protection benefit, known as TSGLI, will be payable for all qualifying injuries incurred during this period. This retroactive benefit is payable whether or not the Service Member had SGLI coverage at the time of the injury.

The Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2010, passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in October of 2010, removes the requirement that injuries during this period be incurred in Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). This is welcome news for the many Service Members who suffered serious traumatic injuries while serving stateside or in other areas outside of OEF/OIF during this time period, but until now have not been eligible for TSGLI.

TSGLI provides a payment ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to Service Members sustaining certain severe traumatic injuries resulting in a range of losses, including amputations; limb salvage; paralysis; burns; loss of sight, hearing or speech; facial reconstruction; 15-day continuous hospitalization; coma; and loss of activities of daily living due to traumatic brain injury or other traumatic injuries.

National Guard and Reserve members who were injured during the retroactive period and suffered a qualifying loss are also eligible for a TSGLI payment, even if the cause was not related to military service, such as a civilian automobile accident or severe injury which occurred while working around their home.

National Guard and Reserve members make up more than 40 percent of the total force which has been deployed since 9-11. Those who are no longer in the National Guard or Reserves can also apply as long as their injury occurred while they were in service.

“I am extremely pleased that these total force warriors who defend our freedoms are getting the recognition and benefits they have rightfully earned in service to our nation,” added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

VA is working with the Department of Defense to publicize this change in the TSGLI law. Additionally, all of the branches of service are identifying any claims previously denied because the injury was not incurred in OEF/OIF and reaching out to those individuals.

Although applications are currently being accepted by branch of service TSGLI offices, benefits will not be paid until Oct. 1, 2011, the effective date of the law.

For more information or to apply for a TSGLI payment, Service Members and Veterans should go to: <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm> or contact their branch of service TSGLI Office (contact information available at above link).

Nasal Insulin Spray Shows Promise in Treatment of Alzheimer’s

WASHINGTON (September 13, 2011) - A small pilot study led by a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) researcher found that a nasal insulin spray improved memory, thinking

HEALTH ISSUES (CONTINUED)

skills, and functional ability in people with mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease.

Currently, there are no effective treatments to delay or prevent Alzheimer's.

"This research builds on several years of preliminary work by an innovative group of VA investigators and their colleagues, and we are gratified to see the progress that is being made on behalf of Veterans and all Americans who are at risk for Alzheimer's disease," said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Robert Petzel.

A VA team with the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System led the trial, which was sponsored in large part by the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The new findings appear in the Sept. 12 Archives of Neurology.

Previous studies found that low brain levels of insulin—the main hormone that turns sugar in the bloodstream into energy for cells—could contribute to Alzheimer's. Based on these findings, VA's Dr. Suzanne Craft has led efforts to test the benefits of restoring normal insulin function in the brain.

The new study tested a nasal spray that delivers insulin quickly and directly to the brain, with no harmful side effects, such

as increased insulin levels throughout the whole body. The trial included 104 adults with either amnesic mild cognitive impairment—in which people have memory loss that may progress to Alzheimer's—or mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.

The study volunteers received 20 international units (IU) of insulin, 40 IU of insulin, or a saline placebo, which were all given through a nasal delivery device for four months. Memory, cognition and functional ability were measured before and after treatment. Some participants also received spinal taps to test cerebrospinal fluid as well as brain scans before and after treatment. Treatment with 20 IU of intranasal insulin improved memory, and both doses of insulin preserved general cognition and functional ability. These results warrant larger trials of insulin nasal-spray therapy to help prevent Alzheimer's disease or slow its progression.

VA Chief Research and Development Officer Dr. Joel Kupersmith stated, "VA researchers are exploring a number of possible approaches to help prevent or effectively treat this devastating disease, and these are among the most promising results to date. We are proud to partner with NIH in supporting this vital work."

For more information on VA research, visit www.research.va.gov.

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.

HEALTH ISSUES (CONTINUED)

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.

NO TIME TO EVEN THINK

By Wayne Lund

Ranger teams are so proud and strong, their courage in any fight hides all fears,
Feeling a commitment to do what's necessary, showing a lot of pride in their young years.

Never thinking of the dangers that await them each and
Every single day,
Being assigned their missions, they're fully prepared as
they get underway.

While patrolling, if suddenly facing an enemy force these Rangers know what to do,
Putting out a heavy rate of fire, calling for support as they start running on through.

Being caught in the middle of an ambush, there's no time to even think of fear,
As Rangers they automatically fight as trained until they're finally in the clear.

These young Airborne Ranger fight as they've been trained, throwing all fears aside,
Knowing they faced a well trained enemy, by escaping from them they feel a lot of pride.

wlundlrp_ranger@hotmail.com 6 March 2011

FEATURE ARTICLES

75th Ranger Regiment Association Reunion coincided with Ranger Rendezvous

Below are some of the thousands of "faces in the crowd" at Ranger Rendezvous (top, then L to R) Ranger Leroy Petry, recent Medal of Honor recipient; Ranger Gary Carpenter, RHOH member and 1st Regimental CSM, with retired MG Kenneth Leuer, RHOH member and president of the National Ranger Memorial Foundation; Mandy Santiago, Gold Star wife of Ranger Anibal Santiago, who died 7/18/10 from injuries in Afghanistan; Ranger Mike Schlitz, injured by an IED in Iraq in 2007; Ranger Karl Monger; Ranger Bill Spies, a RHOH member; Ranger Steven Gawronski; Ranger AJ Zeller; 1st Ranger BN secretary Sheila Dudley with Ranger Richard "Dick" Stewart Jr., a RHOH member; Ranger Ron Hart; and WWII China-Burma-India veteran George Ward.



The 75th Ranger Regiment Association plans its reunions to coincide with Ranger Rendezvous so that its members can attend as many events as possible during the special week.

Founded in 1986, the 75th Ranger Regiment held its 2011 reunion at the Holiday Inn in Columbus, Ga. Many new and former Ranger Hall of Fame inductees were present for reunion activities and the final event, the July 30 banquet.

John Chester (far right) announced that after 11 years of service to the association, he was stepping down as president. The new president is Joe Little (right.) Chester will continue to edit "Patrolling Magazine."



A highlight of the banquet was the Native American Sacred Pipe Ceremony conducted by Rangers.

Several speakers were featured during the banquet including Ranger Rick Merritt, CSM of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Chester announced a few years ago that all Merrill's Marauders and WWII Rangers were given paid, life-time membership in the association. Their banquet and registration fees were waived for the 2011 reunion.

Seen below at the banquet are (seated) WWII Ranger Raymond "Noel" Dye, a Ranger Hall of Fame inductee; (standing L-R) Merrill's Marauder Vincent Melillo, Ranger Walters, Marauder Gabriel Kinney, Marauder Frank M. Breyer, Marauder medic Rich Murch and Ranger Gary E. Dolan, a 2011 Ranger Hall of Fame inductee. WWII Ranger Warren "Bing" Evans, at age 93, drove from Indianapolis to Columbus but missed the banquet. Marauder Bob Ketcham and his wife Betty started driving from Florida to Columbus for the banquet, but health issues forced them to return home.



Linda Davis is honored for 30 years with Rangers

Linda C. Davis, executive secretary, 75th Ranger Regiment, was recognized by outgoing regimental commander, COL Michael "Erik" Kurilla for her 30 years of service to the Regiment, longer than anyone has ever served. Her smile has remained constant as seen in the three photos taken at various points in her career.



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

This is the picture of the 25th ID LRRP guidon in Afghanistan. The 3rd Squadron 4th Cavalry displays the 25th LRRPs Vietnam Guidon. The Guidon is kept on display for visiting Senior Staff officers and the Secretary of the Army was told why the guidon was there. The Squadron CSM got permission to place the Vietnam Campaign ribbon on the guidon Staff.



REMEMBERING SSG ROBERT (PRUNES) PRUDEN RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR (POSTHUMOUS)

By: SSG Jesus (Chief) Moncada, G Company, 75th Rangers (Airborne), Americal Division

THE JOURNEY BEGINS IN GEORGIA

I reported to the US Army Ranger School at Ft Benning, GA in early November 1968 at the ripe old age of 19 years. It was bitterly cold even when the sun chose to pay us a short visit, and I was questioning the wisdom of volunteering for Ranger School during a winter training cycle. Ranger School was and is divided into three phases – the Benning phase, the Mountain Phase (Dahlongega, GA), and the Florida phase (the swamps at Eglin AFB). All in all, Ranger School is 8 weeks of sheer hell!

Upon reporting to the orderly room about two days prior to the start of our class, I was assigned to a barracks building in the Harmony Church area at Ft Benning, along with many

other students. The Ranger Training Cadre separated our large class into two major groups, primarily because our class consisted of over 200 students due to the needs of combat operations in Vietnam. In its infinite wisdom, the Army concluded it needed more Rangers. We were told that our class was perhaps one of the largest ever attempted. I don't know if that bit of information was true, but what does a 19 year old really know? In any event, our class was broken down into "enlisted personnel" and "commissioned officers." The barracks I was assigned to was comprised mostly of enlisted men with a small sprinkling of young 2LTs, most of whom were West Point or ROTC graduates, either Infantry or other assorted combat arms officers.

I found an open bunk and wall locker in the barracks, stashed my gear, and began to meet and greet the other students in the immediate area, one of whom was Bob Pruden. Also in the same barracks, I met David Smith, Arthur Scott, Roger Peet, Bill Dickerson and others whose names I don't remember. It was in fact a prophetic meeting that day, because I would later serve with Pruden, Smith, Scott, and Peet with G Company, 75th Rangers in Vietnam. Bill Dickerson ended up with the 173RD Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, who was killed in

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

action on May 13, 1969 in Binh Dinh Province. Pruden was quiet, friendly, and confident as I recall. We chatted as most soldiers do about our families, our hometowns, schools, and other friendly topics. Pruden was from Minnesota, Scott from Georgia, Peet from Illinois, Dickerson from Arizona, and Smith and I from California. Later that day and the next, because we weren't permitted to leave the area, we simply lounged around the training area, ate at the mess hall, and slept.

The first event of Ranger School took place at about 2am when the entire class was called to a mass formation for the purpose of a 7-mile fun run. After this first event, I rarely saw Bob Pruden again, as we were assigned a Ranger Buddy and placed into separate platoons for the next 8 weeks. Arthur Scott (Scotty) was my Ranger Buddy, and I don't recall the name of Pruden's Ranger Buddy. I would occasionally have brief encounters with Pruden and some of the others during the course of Ranger School, during which we merely acknowledged that we were lucky to still be in the course after each phase. By the end of the Benning Phase our class was reduced by at least a third, because of drop outs, injuries, and other training related accidents. Our class graduated approximately 70 students, and I recall shaking hands with Pruden at our graduation ceremony in Florida. I did not expect to see Pruden or the others with whom I graduated again, as we were to receive new orders. We were all proud of our accomplishments, especially being awarded the highly coveted black and gold US Army Ranger Tab. Without question, Ranger School was the most difficult thing I have ever done in my life. Along with developing strong leadership skills, Ranger School involves prolonged and sustained food and sleep deprivation, and extreme mental and physical hardship. It taught me, Pruden, and the others the qualities of perseverance, stamina, character, and more importantly I believe, the means by which I could call up an inner strength I thought was unreachable.

I received orders to attend Jump School (3 weeks) immediately after Ranger School, still at Ft Benning, GA, which I also completed. I was also fortunate that Scotty and David Smith also attended the same jump school class with me. I did not know where Pruden ended up after our Ranger School graduation. After jump school I received orders for combat in Vietnam, as did most of my friends, including Scotty and Smitty. I visited my family in California for the few weeks of leave prior to reporting to Ft Lewis, WA for further assignment to Vietnam. Due to the nature of the Army and the confusing manner in which it reassigns soldiers, I did not expect to run into old friends ever again.

ARRIVAL – “IN COUNTRY”

I reported to a personnel-processing station at Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam in early March 1969, where I received further orders to the Americal Division (a Light Infantry Div of three Brigades), whose HQ was in Chu Lai (I Corps). Within a day or two of reporting to the Americal Division Replacement Depot in Chu Lai, I unexpectedly ran into Pruden, Scotty, and Smitty, all of whom had also been assigned to the Americal Infantry Division. We were equally surprised and elated to bump into each other again! We expressed our hopes that somehow we might all end up in the same Infantry Battalion, either the 11th, 96th, or 98th Bns of the Americal as squad leaders or platoon sergeants, even though we knew it was practically impossible to expect such luck or providence. We were told to expect reassignment orders to a field unit within the week. We attended various classes on recognizing booby traps, studying the various areas of each Battalion, and other topics, while awaiting orders. We also began to acclimate to the extreme humidity and hot temperatures of Vietnam. One particularly hot and sunny afternoon, we were walking by a set of outdoor field bleachers on the way to the mess hall (me, Prunes, Scotty, and Smitty). SGT Gary Gentry, a rather tall and large Texan, and another unrecalled NCO were speaking to soldiers sitting on the bleachers, describing and asking for volunteers to a unit within the Americal Div who called themselves LRRPs (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols). Furthermore, this LRRP unit was less than 200 yards from the replacement depot. Gentry went on to describe all the other fine attributes, accomplishments, and advantages of being a LRRP. Naturally, we were quite interested, because these LRRPs operated in small teams deep behind enemy lines as a recon asset to the division – this was very much in keeping with our past Ranger training! What's more, one could only volunteer for the LRRPs – one could not be ordered to do so – and they would accept only the best from the volunteers. Me, Prunes, Scotty, and Smitty were standing off to the side of the bleachers away from the main crowd. SGT Gentry glanced towards us and noted our Ranger Tabs, after which he more or less challenged us to become LRRPs. “Why not?” we said to each other, it was worth investigating, as we all had previously “volunteered” for what the average soldier would describe as insane, crazy, or flat out stupid. Gentry sealed the deal by telling us that if we followed him to the LRRP unit he would buy us a beer in their club house/bar. Imagine that...bribery with a simple beer! I wonder how often that actually worked as a ploy? Needless to say, we followed Gentry and the other NCO to the LRRP Company area, which we later found to be E Co, 51st Inf LRRP (which would transition to G Co, 75th Rangers by April or May 1969, a short period after our arrival).

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Each of us was interviewed separately by 1SG Clifford Manning and then by the Commanding Officer (CPT McWilliams) in their orderly room. Next to the orderly room was a sturdy and tall wooden rappel tower, which added to the allure and mystique. After the interviews we cashed in on those beers that Gentry had promised us in the LRRP/Ranger bar under the orderly room. Yes, we were impressed, and we were excited about the opportunity to serve with the LRRPS, even though we recognized the inherent dangers, which were exponentially increased by going deep into the mountainous jungles with nothing more than a 6-man team. But we justified all this with the knowledge that goes something like this: "This is exactly what LRRPS/Rangers are supposed to do!" While we were enjoying our beers and speaking with a few of the LRRPs who wandered into the bar, we received news that CPT McWilliams had accepted each of us, and that we were to return to the Replacement Depot to await new orders assigning us to the LRRPs. We were also told that we would not be required to attend the mandatory Recondo School training on site, because we had previously attended Ranger School stateside – good news indeed! What truly struck me and the rest of our small group of "Stateside Rangers" was this simple fact: What are the chances of having been in Ranger School in Georgia, then being separated by official orders, then running into each other in Chu Lai, Vietnam months later, and finally, being assigned to the same combat unit – a LRRP/Ranger unit no less!?

OFFICIAL ORDERS TO THE LRRP/ RANGER COMPANY

Within three or four days we each received orders to report to E/51st LRRPS, which really upset a few of the folks at the Replacement Depot, because the Americal Infantry Bns had effectively lost four new Ranger NCOs. When the four of us reported with our gear, we were assigned to a hooch in the company area near a mess hall we shared with an aviation Bn. We were informed to await assignment to an LRRP/Ranger Team, with whom we would operate for an undetermined period of time. The conditions were explained that each of us (Prunes, Smitty, Scotty, and myself) would eventually become Team Leaders of our own teams, once we had proven our leadership skills in the bush. We were to go out on combat missions with proven LRRP Team Leaders who would assess our abilities under duress and actual combat conditions. Those proven leaders would in essence report our progress (or lack thereof) to CPT McWilliams for his determination. For a day or two we roamed around the company area, observing a bit of the training that was underway with the current Recondo School class, and learned as much as possible from other LRRP/Ranger soldiers who were not in the bush at the

time. We also took advantage of the down time by visiting the company supply room to pick out our ruck sacks, web gear, and other tools of the trade. We paid a special visit to the company armory and selected our individual weapons, which we inspected and cleaned thoroughly. In the company area, we ran into a Special Forces trained field medic who was assigned to the company, whom we simply called "Doc". Doc, who sported a sharp looking handle bar mustache, examined our inoculation records to ensure we had all the proper boxes checked off, and who issued us our individual "survival kits". Doc carefully went through the survival kits with us, showing us what they contained, how to use them, and explained that they would come in handy if we ever found ourselves in an "Escape & Evasion" situation in the bush. Doc had to personally witness our signing for these survival kits, as each contained pharmaceutical drugs, such as morphine and amphetamine. He also explained that he was required to inspect them from time to time to ensure we weren't using the drugs for personal use. Doc had been "in country" for some time, even a previous tour with Special Forces teams, and he informed us that he would also accompany LRRP teams on missions as needed – especially those missions where friendly casualties were likely or expected. Nice to be wanted or needed!

OUR ROOKIE MISSION

As luck would have it, on one particular day before being assigned to a team, I got stuck with pulling CQ (Charge of Quarters) in the orderly room – that meant an all nighter (no beer, no free time.....what a drag!). But after all..... what else could the Army do.....send me to Vietnam? At approximately 0500 or 0600 hours the next morning of my CQ duty (after the all nighter), Smitty barged into the orderly room to announce that he, Prunes, and Scotty were going on a hastily assembled combat mission into the bush to attempt to locate an NVA or VC base camp deep in the mountains west of Chu Lai. The Team Leader was to be SSG Henry Tabalno, while his Asst Tm Ldr was a SSG Jose Velasquez, both of whom were squared away and had pulled many missions with the LRRPs. Supposedly, the intelligence reports were rock solid. Tabalno was short one man for the mission, and he sent Smitty to the orderly room to ask if I would consider joining the team. My response was automatic – I was not going to be left out of the picture. We were friends who knew each other back in Ranger School and Jump School, arrived "in country" together, and I was definitely going to be a part of this party! Smitty advised me that insertion into the bush was about 2 hours away, that if I was going in with them, I was to hustle to get my weapon/ammo, food, gear, etc. together right away. Or, in Ranger parlance, "Get your shit together asap!" I was relieved

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

from CQ duties, and quickly began to get my shit together, and I had just enough time to receive the intel briefing and to “zero my weapon” minutes before we made our way to the Americal Div helipad for insertion. SSG Tabalno was a bit apprehensive, in that he was leading four new and unproven Rangers on their very first mission. I began to appreciate his concerns more so when he asked me if I was rested enough to go on the mission, given my all night CQ duties, and that he expected some sort of combat action (contact) based on the intel reports. Tabalno went on to remind us that we were being inserted by helicopter on top of a long ridgeline situated on a steep mountain close to a suspected enemy base camp. Me, Prunes, Scotty, and Smitty assured Tabalno that we were prepared and would follow his lead. Tabalno assigned Smitty to walk point, and that I would walk “6 o’clock” (last man on the team watching our back door). Tabalno would walk behind Smitty, and Prunes, Scotty, and Velasquez would fill in the middle of the patrol file.

THE INSERTION

The helicopter that would insert us into the bush landed on the Div helipad at approximately 0800, and it was all ready hotter than hell! Our LRRP/Ranger Team climbed into the bird, and I sat next to Pruden. While we were in the air heading to the insertion point, Pruden and I helped each other with our “face paint” (camouflage coloring) and we kept nodding to each other that all would be fine. Smitty and Scotty did the same, while Tabalno and Velasquez made sure the pilot got us to the proper insertion point.

By this time I was beginning to feel a bit sleepy, but the excitement and adrenalin of this first combat mission was enough to keep me primed and awake. We – the four rookie Rangers – were determined to prove that we were good enough to be LRRPs, that all other LRRPs/Rangers in the company could count on us, that we belonged. We had something to prove – and we certainly proved it later that day!

As the helicopter began to descend toward the ridgeline, Tabalno gave the command to lock and load weapons and to prepare to exit the bird from the right side open doorway. Suddenly, the helicopter stopped descending and established a hover about 20 to 25 feet above the ground. We all looked out and down, noting that the ground was an uneven slope with tall elephant grass. The elephant grass was thick and flowing to and fro from the “blade wash”, and it was impossible to really see the actual ground. The pilot indicated he was not willing to risk taking the helicopter any lower, and yelling over his shoulder that we would have to jump off the skid from the current height. Tabalno took a position on the

skid and jumped ahead of the team, disappearing into the elephant grass. The rest of us did the same, while Velasquez was the last to jump off the skid. When I hit the ground with full combat load and weapon, it was a literal “crash and burn” into the hard ground, which almost jarred my teeth loose. Within seconds, the helicopter was off and away, while we were left on the ground gathering ourselves to carry out the mission. Once the helicopter could no longer be heard, I heard a voice calling for help, but not in an excited and out of control fashion. It was sort of a “quiet call for help.” I low crawled toward the sound, and within 10 to 20 ft from my landing location, I found a “Punji Pit”. A punji pit is a rather deep hole (about 6 to 9 feet deep and wide enough for a man to fall into) with many sharpened bamboo poles sticking straight upward. It was Smitty! Smitty had jumped off the skid of the bird straight into this punji pit. He was standing upright in the pit with a bamboo pole impaling the right side of his face and another that had impaled his rucksack and gear. However, Smitty was not in panic mode, much to his credit, as evidenced by his request that someone should take a photograph of his situation while he was impaled by a punji stake. Tabalno and I carefully climbed into the punji pit, while the others fanned out to secure the immediate area. I found Smitty’s camera in his cargo pocket and snapped off a few quick photos, particularly of the stake that somehow and miraculously missed vital parts of his head (it nicked his jaw line and entered the fleshy part of his cheek exiting just below his eye). Tabalno cut the stake off just below his jaw line and we placed a hasty field dressing on one side of his face. In the meantime, Velasquez (the ATL) had radioed in the situation, and we soon heard a medevac helicopter approaching. Again, because the helicopter could not land on the uneven ground, we hoisted Smitty and his gear up to the skid of the bird, where he was assisted into the bird and off they flew. We spent a few minutes re-distributing the ammo and hand grenades we had taken from Smitty among ourselves.

THE MISSION

Needless to say, we spent much more time in the insertion LZ area than we should have because of Smitty’s injury. Also, those helicopters made a shit load of noise...not once, but twice! Unnecessary noise for a LRRP/Ranger team normally produces bad and unwanted results – even we rookies understood that much after all. As we were preparing to move out and up the ridgeline, Tabalno directed me to “walk point”, since that would have been Smitty’s role in the patrol. As we patrolled quietly up the slope in single file, it seemed we would never get past that damned tall elephant grass, which was efficiently slicing the hell out of my exposed arms and face,

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

and which would not allow me to see more than a few feet in front of my position. We patrolled past several well-used trails, but avoided them as much as possible. Within one or two hours of patrolling, we heard a single shot that came from our left. Tabalno halted the patrol for about a minute while we quietly listened for other sounds. Tabalno whispered to all of us that it was probably “a marker round” shot from an AK-47 by an NVA trail watcher. Not hearing anything else, we moved out again, heading higher up the widening ridgeline. About 30 to 45 minutes later we heard a second shot from another AK-47 - this time it had come from our right side. Rather than stopping again, Tabalno slid past me and began walking point, whispering to all of us to be more alert and that we would quicken our pace. Thankfully, about 10 minutes later we entered a thick, double canopied jungle, leaving the elephant grass behind, as we continued patrolling higher into the mountainous area that surrounded us.

At about 1400 hrs we stopped for a break in an area that provided good cover & concealment. We had a quick snack of “John Wayne candy bars” and crackers & cheese and rested for a few minutes. Tabalno and Velasquez quietly whispered their concerns to me, Pruden, and Scotty – that we could have been spotted by NVA trail watchers, given the marker rounds heard earlier, and if true, our trail through the elephant grass was not difficult to pick out if the NVA had begun searching. Tabalno then informed me, Pruden, and Scotty to set up a defensible position, that he and Velasquez were departing our position in separate directions to recon the immediate area. That seemed to make plenty of sense until we learned they were taking the two PRC-25 radios with them, so that they could communicate between themselves and our Tactical Operations Center (TOC) in Chu Lai. In other words, we three rookies would be on our own for an undetermined period of time, and without the means to communicate! Naturally, this scared the crap out of us.....but we were Rangers, and we didn’t have a choice in the matter in any event. Off they went in separate directions, as quietly as only LRRPS/Rangers can do. Scotty, Pruden, and I set up our individual positions and waited. Because I had not slept the night before, and because of the heat and fatigue of patrolling up a steep ridge line all day, I found myself dozing off while lying on the jungle floor. Scotty and Pruden were required to squeeze my arm or shoulder to keep me awake several times, which was made possible because we were lying and facing outward in a tight circle, within arms reach of each other. It was unbelievably hot, quiet, and boring as hell, with plenty of time to wonder if I had made the right decisions about volunteering for all this shit!

MAGUIRE RIG EXTRACTION

Approximately one to two hours later, Tabalno and Velasquez returned together to our position. Yes, we heard their quiet approach due to our vigilance (and fear), and we properly challenged them with the running password of the day as they approached. Tabalno quickly and quietly explained the current tactical situation to Scotty, Pruden, and myself. First, while they were out on their recon, they established that we were very close to an active NVA base camp (size unknown). Secondly, the NVA probably knew or suspected that a small LRRP/Ranger team was earlier inserted into the area, given the single shot “marker rounds” we heard earlier. Thirdly, while avoiding detection, Tabalno and Velasquez spotted several NVA teams combing through our general area in search of that LRRP/Ranger team. Yep.....that would be us!! Tabalno also added that the NVA were close by, and getting closer by the minute. Finally, and the most frightening, was that Tabalno had informed our TOC in Chu Lai the same tactical assessment, and requested an immediate helicopter extraction while we still had daylight hours. That helicopter extraction would be via a “Maguire Rig Extraction”, and that because the helicopter was enroute, we had to prepare for that extraction right away. We three rookies explained to Tabalno that we had never heard of a Maguire Rig Extraction, and therefore, we had no idea what the hell he was talking about! Tabalno and Velasquez were literally dumbfounded, given the looks on their faces. [For the uninitiated, a Maguire Rig is a device secured to the floor of a helicopter with six separate 150-foot lengths of rope that are anchored to that same device, and which are dropped from the helicopter to the ground via weighted sand bags. Once on the ground, a LRRP/Ranger straps into his rope line with an army Swiss seat and other gear, after which the helicopter lifts the entire team up and out through the trees. Three ropes go out each door of the helicopter for balance and weight distribution. A Special Forces officer in Vietnam, whose last name was Maguire, invented the entire contraption. Needless to say, this new technique had not been mentioned, introduced, or practiced in the good ole US Army Ranger School back in Georgia!] Tabalno and Velasquez simply informed us to follow their lead, to do as they do, and not to worry. Right.....no worries.....what other problems could possibly happen to us on this day.....our rookie mission!!

“HOT” EXTRACTION

Pruden and I were situated facing down slope in our position, while the rest were facing outward to cover their sectors. At the same moment, Pruden and I saw four to six NVA soldiers advancing toward us from lower ground, who were about 30

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

to 50 meters away. We were taking aim toward them, when suddenly and without warning, Tabalno or Velasquez began firing his weapon outward. The shit had definitely hit the fan...we were compromised! Pruden and I simultaneously sent out a full automatic burst toward the advancing NVA we had in our sights, dropping all or most of them. It was sheer controlled chaos.....aim, shoot.....reload.....aim and shoot again. I even had the presence of mind to throw a few fragmentation grenades. Somehow we maintained fire superiority and held the upper hand for a few minutes. Tabalno then yelled out that we had to move to another area with fewer trees to allow for easier Maguire Rig extraction. To a LRRP/Ranger in a fire fight this was pure madness.....moving to a more open area equals being in an exposed area that increases your chances of getting your ass shot full of holes. This was becoming increasingly insane rather quickly!

Tabalno began running and shooting controlled bursts toward slightly higher ground, which prompted the rest of us to follow him, with Velasquez covering our movement with short bursts from his CAR-15. Somehow, the five of us made it to a more open area about 100 meters from our original position, but still double canopy jungle. It seemed that the NVA were closing in on us from at least two separate approaches, and possibly from three. We still held the higher ground however, a definite advantage. We were huddling behind trees, rocks, or anything that provided cover & concealment while shooting, but we still had plenty of ammo, although I was running short on frag grenades. I was beginning to wonder if my first mission would be my one and only mission. In the chaos and focus of the firefight I never heard our helicopters arrival, until Tabalno threw out a smoke grenade (I don't remember the color of smoke) to identify our position for the pilot. I looked up and saw the bird through the trees holding a steady hover, and the ropes being dropped with the heavy sand bags. Cobra gunships were effectively shooting their mini-guns all around us, giving us just enough time to concentrate on wrapping our Swiss seats around us and waiting for Tabalno's order to tie in to one of the dropped rope lines. The arrival of the extraction helicopter also provided a sort of reprieve from being shot at by the NVA, as they began to focus their weapons fire on the helicopter. It suddenly dawned on me and the rest of us that if the NVA were able to bring down the helicopter while it was hovering, they would win on all fronts – they would have a LRRP/Ranger Team surrounded on the ground, and a downed helicopter in the same battle. We followed Tabalno and Velasquez's lead of tying into the individual rope lines. When I was satisfied with my rig set up, I began to acquire and to shoot as many NVA soldiers as I could see. We had to prevent them from shooting down the helicopter. I saw

that the rest of our team was doing the same once they were tied into their ropes. Tabalno looked at me and the rest of us to give him a “thumbs up” that we were securely tied in. At last, Tabalno gave the signal to the pilot that we were set for extraction. What a ride.....we were yanked violently upward and somewhat diagonally through the trees, while being slammed, poked, and abused by seemingly every branch on the way up! Within seconds, we were clear of the trees and in open air, speeding away from the NVA soldiers who were still shooting at us and the helicopter. As we spun in the air 150 feet below the helicopter, we had to concentrate on holding onto each other to prevent us from slamming into one another on our individual lines. We rode attached to those rope lines the entire trip back to Chu Lai, which was pretty damned amazing! I remember whooping and yelling for a bit, along with the rest of the team, celebrating our improbable escape and the fact that not one of us had been even slightly wounded. What kind of odds would a Las Vegas bookie give on those circumstances? What was equally amazing was that the trip back to Chu Lai took about 20 to 30 minutes; the air was clear and much cooler than on the ground; and the sun was setting over the mountain range in the west, from where we had just cheated death. What a paradox – a beautiful sunset amidst all this killing and violence! This was being a LRRP/Ranger in action!!!!!!

DEBRIEFING AND COOLING DOWN

When the helicopter gently brought us down in the Americal Div helipad field, we were met by Smitty (sporting a clean half-face bandage), the 1SG, and Pappy Rutherford (Opns NCOIC). Tabalno and Velasquez were immediately taken to the Division Intel section for debriefing, while Scotty, Pruden, and I were taken to our company area. While on the short drive to our company area, Smitty and Pappy Rutherford produced a few beers on ice in the back of our deuce and half truck for our pleasure. Those were some wonderfully cold and delicious beers! As you can imagine, Smitty was a bit pissed off because he had missed the entire party through no fault of his own. It was just his bad luck that he jumped off the skid and landed in a punji pit. It was more than a little funny when Smitty commented that it would probably be a good idea if we all had some real Maguire Rig training before the next mission.

After cleaning weapons, cleaning and stowing our gear, and taking a nice hot shower, we all met in the LRRP/Ranger Clubhouse (below our orderly room). All other personnel who were present and merrily drinking cold beers wanted to hear the details of our mission, including Smitty. There were plenty of congratulations and back slapping that was directed

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

at Pruden, Scotty, and me but more importantly, that which was evident was our acceptance of belonging with this group of crazy assed LRRP/Rangers. The crucible of direct combat had baptized us by fire on our first mission, we had survived, and now we were laughing and joking about the entire affair. Tabalno and Velasquez finally walked through the door of the clubhouse, went to the bar and ordered cold beers for themselves, Smitty, Pruden, Scotty, and I. We raised our beers high, following Tabalno's lead, while he looked at all of us and said, "You did good - welcome to the Nam!" Later that night in our clubhouse, Tabalno told me all of our missions were not like what we had just experienced, but that many were just as crazy or crazier. While talking with Pruden, Smitty, and Scotty, we were keenly aware that although we had been in Vietnam for only about two weeks, we still had a hell of a long way to go to complete our one-year tour. We also realized that we would not want to spend that year with any other group of soldiers. We were happy to be in the company of LRRPs and Rangers, soldiers who trusted each other, who helped each other without hesitation, and soldiers who were unafraid to face the most difficult of combat situations, even those who had never heard of a Maguire Rig!

FOOTNOTES

On 12 May 1969, SGT Arthur Scott (Scotty) was a Ranger Team member assigned to conduct Ranger operations out of LZ Baldy (a Fire Support Base), near Chu Lai, Vietnam. While on stand-down with his teammates on LZ Baldy, a significantly large NVA force attacked and penetrated the wire and defenses of the Ranger compound during darkness. SGT Scott, along with his fellow Rangers, secured their weapons and ammo and began to engage and to repel the NVA attackers. SGT Scott died that night on LZ Baldy from mortal combat wounds. LZ Baldy was repeatedly attacked for two consecutive nights after the initial attack. Many other Rangers were wounded during the defense of LZ Baldy. I was there. I often think of the quiet and unassuming son of a Baptist Minister who read his Bible daily – my friend and Ranger School Buddy, Scotty.....and I miss him.

On 20 November 1969, SSG Robert Pruden (Ranger Team Leader) was establishing an ambush position in the mountains West of Duc Pho, Vietnam. While doing so, NVA soldiers came upon Pruden and his team and engaged his team with small arms fire. Without regard for his personal safety, SSG Pruden stood and advanced toward the NVA soldiers, engaging the enemy with all that he had. SSG Pruden was gravely injured several times while he advanced toward the enemy, but he rose twice so as to continue his advance, until he killed enough of the enemy force to cause them to disengage. SSG Pruden died of his multiple wounds that day, but his heroic actions saved the lives of his Ranger teammates, whom he deeply cared for. As a result of his heroism, SSG Robert Pruden, a friend to me and all other Rangers who knew him, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (Posthumously). I often think of the quietly confident Ranger from Minnesota... and I miss him.



Early LRRP Operations in Europe – Long Range Commo

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Poor long range communications was the Achilles Heel of LRRP operations in Europe in the 1960s.

It was a problem that was never solved in the Provisional LRRP companies put together for Wintershield maneuvers and in most LRRP detachments. There was simply not enough

training in either Morse Code or the proper use of antennas, importance of location and the in-depth deployment of mobile base stations to establish effective comms.

VII Corps LRRPs probably came closest to solving those endemic problems with their emphasis on training and their constant use of the "Dit Pit", their own in-house code training facility.

Major Edward Hunt, VII Corps LRRP initial XO and eventual CO placed a heavy emphasis on long range communications

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

and said, "It took as much as eight months of training for LRRP personnel to become proficient at communications".

OSS veteran and founding CO of VII Corps LRRPs, Major Ed Maltese encouraged commo proficiency by the threat of hunger. His policy for FTXs was simple and effective. No commo, no re-supply of equipment or rations.

Both original DA authorized LRRP Companies in Europe had an advantage over provisional units in training and the deployment of three commo vans spaced to maximise chances of catching skip signals.

Both companies had an outstanding cadre of communications specialists including ham radio operators with extensive knowledge of wave propagation and effective employment of antennas, usually "doublets"(dipoles).

Early LRRP units used AN/GRC-9 and RS-6 for patrol radios, both of which required hand cranked generators to power for their transmitters.



**X 31 commo van
at Wildflecken in
1962. Photo from
Ron Dahle**

V Corps LRRP commo god Bert Wiggins was a ham radio operator copying 35 words per minute before he went into the Army. His interests were theoretical as well as practical and "Wave propagation was my baby". "I always wanted to play with antennas," he added in an interview with this writer in 2010. "It took a long time to figure out slant wires. They worked better facing away from the base station. He and commo team chief Ron Dahle made most of the doublet/dipole antennas that became a near standard in V Corps LRRPs for both the vans and patrol radios.

**Ron Dahle
communicating
in a van with
V Corp LRRP**



He was in the early 504th LRRPs at Mainz where they used both the AN/GRC-9 and the old OSS RS-6 radio. He recalls, "The RS-6 was originally designed as an espionage radio – it's four components could be carried in the four pockets of a field jacket. It would work on virtually any voltage and was a fine little radio when you could plug that rascal in. With a hand powered generator it was a sum-bitch. That little transmitter would suck up some current and it took two men and a boy to crank that bastard. We usually carried it as a back-up to the AN/GRC-9 or if one happened to end up in kamerade's farm house during a Wintershield exercise".

He said that the then new V Corps LRRP Company had both AN/GRC-9s and the new AN/TRC-77s when he arrived there.

Bert Wiggins expertise was as broad as his GT score was high and he developed the three digit code used by LRRPs which consisted of groups of three numbers. "There was less chance of errors with numbers," Wiggins says.

Early V Corps LRRP commo team chief Paul Tabolinsky transferred in from the 14th Armored Cav by July 1961 and found the company was still using the little four piece RS-6 as well as the ubiquitous AN/GRC-9.



**Picture of an
operator in the
receive van.**

Early VII Corps LRRP Patrol Leader (and later 1st Sergeant at V Corps LRRP Company) Bob Searcy recalls that when he arrived at VII Corps LRRPs, "There was no equipment. Nothing. Then we got two AN/GRC-9s for the whole company, one for each Killer platoon.

It took awhile for the patrol commo equipment to get up to speed with the introduction of the AN/TRC-77 CW radio and the AN/PRC-25 FM voice radio (Former LRRP commo team leader and retired SF CSM Ron Dahle points out that the increased power and range of the PRC-25 itself increased chances of detection of deployed patrols), but DA support for LRRPs was evident in the top notch commo vans supplied to both companies.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Commo Team Chief Paul Edwards (V Corps LRRP Co) spent his entire LRRP tour in the same commo team with Bert Wiggins and Russ Grazier.

"There was absolutely great equipment in the vans," he recalls. "Brand new state-of-the-art at the time. Everything worked.

"For short range stuff we used a whip. Long range always used doublets and we had several doublets in the van tuned to specific frequencies. We trimmed them when we needed to. The doublets were much more reliable than slant wires.

"We used tree climbers (pole climbers with longer spurs) to get antennas up in trees. Tabolinsky fell 40' out of a tree putting one up.

"We didn't train at distances that would have occurred on war. Used ground wave a lot, some skip.



Picture of an operator in the Transmitter van.

"We never used the receiver vans except for storage. Our vans had one transmitter and two receivers E-195 T-368. They also had an antenna tuner ME-165, Most guys bypassed it, but we did have to use it with the whip antenna."

Paul's comment pinpoints one of the many differences in commo practices between V and VII Corps LRRPs. VII Corps LRRPs did use their receiver vans and positioned them up to a kilometer away from the transmitter vans. They could transmit from the receiver van when necessary via a field telephone wire to the transmitter van.

"Our 5kw generators were only barely adequate. The four cylinder engines needed good clean fuel. No fuel tanks. They ran straight off jerry cans which lasted about four hours.

"It was 60 seconds off air if you timed it right. The off switch on the transmitter took five minutes to re-tune but then it took five minutes to warm up," Paul recalls.

But over at VII Corps the LRRP base station generators had "power transfer switching" which meant almost continuous uninterrupted power to the vans.

Former commo team chiefs at V Corps agreed that the company electronics maintenance shop was bad, so bad that Ron Dahle used to regularly stop by the Signal Maintenance Depot in Hanau and have his commo van equipment repaired on the way to the field. "If you were deploying they would fix you on the spot," he recalls.

VII Corps LRRPs, with better technicians, sent one to the field with every base station.

V Corps LRRPs never solved the repair problems on its commo equipment during the time that Paul Edwards and Ron Dahle were there.

There was a further competency/motivation problem when the V Corps LRRP Company got away from Murray and Wiggins as team chiefs. Their successors were often installed on the basis of rank and seniority rather than competency.

The AN/TRC-77 served well as a patrol CW radio but in early 1967 the new AN PRC-74 appeared. It was fully transistorized and slightly bigger than the AN TRC-77 but did not offer split frequency capability. It was however used for voice transmissions as well as CW and had the further advantage of several different battery packs including one that could use readily available military D cells. Both radios could power off a standard car battery or any other 10 to 18 volt DC source that could provide a sustained three amp current.

One of the worst vulnerabilities of a long range patrol behind Soviet lines was getting their positions compromised by radio direction finders when transmitting. A partial solution was the readily available GRA-71 Burst Encoder which could squirt messages through at about 300 words per minute for recording and subsequent slow playback by base stations.

The problem was that so much secrecy surrounded the burst encoders which had been in use since the late 1950s that they saw little use and few people knew how to use them. For the most part they remained locked up in LRRP Company safes even though German LRRPs, Special Forces, SAS and others had used them or similar units regularly for years.

Long range commo was without doubt one of the weakest links in LRRP operations in Europe.

The difficulties we encountered are almost inconceivable to younger soldiers who have grown up in the era of the internet, satellite communications and modern computers.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

It's a credit to some hard working commo team chiefs and operators in both vans and on patrols that the commo got through as often as it did. VII Corps LRRP records claim 95% of CW commo messages sent were received. I can find no commo performance records for V Corps LRRPs.

I am incredulous that there was so little contact between the two earliest permanent LRRP Companies in Europe.

They were pioneer units, blazing new trails, developing new SOPs and the first LRRP TO&E (Table of Organization and Equipment) in the US Army and it seems that they never spoke to each other, nor operated with each other in the field. In my hitch with V Corps LRRPs I had more contact with FSK300 the Bundeswehr III Korps LRRP Company than I did with VII Corps.

The first LRRP companies were based a few hours drive from each other but might as well have been on different planets. It seems each was intent on developing its own version of the

wheel. From this distance in time it seems that VII Corps was better organized for commo and that might well be a legacy of it's first commanding officer who, with OSS experience in WWII knew full well there was little point in deploying teams without effective communications.

As a scout, my hat is off to those commo gods that tried and often did make it all happen, but my personal preference was always scouting and it's welcome concomitant, the lack of parental supervision.

Back in the four man patrol days (prior to the 1965 LRRP TO&E) my Patrol Leader Dick Hoque, himself a good CW operator spent most of his time on mountain tops with the RTO trying to get commo.

Carrying the spare TRC-77 battery during insertions and occasionally humping water and C-ration re-supplies to the commo sites on top of various mountains was a small price to pay.



"I died at Anzio"

Senon S. Chavez, A Ranger's Story

Anzio was a prime example of the horror of war, It was a place where thousands died and death had No regard for nationality or status. Some who died

Disappeared forever in the mud and swamps. And, Of many of those who survived, it can be said that Anzio took their souls.

May Anzio never happen again.

-excerpt, Carlo D'este, Fatal Decision

We lived in San Patricio, New Mexico, a small little community nestled on the Rio Ruidoso (Noisy River) drainage, draining the southeast range of Sierra Blanca. Land of enchantment, land of chile. Spelled with an "e", not an "i". No kidney beans or tomatoes, to spoil the taste. Our chile was roasted, peeled, and eaten with a generous amount of garlic and trace of salt.

Ours was a ranching farming community, peopled by persons of mostly Mexican heritage. Sheep and the raising of apples were the mainstays. This was Lincoln County, home to Billy the Kid, Sheriff William Brady, Pat Garrett and the rest of the history of the *guvachos*.

My younger sister and I were adopted into the Yisidro and Pablita Chavez family. It was a big family. Eighteen children. Our mother had died when I was four, and my father had no one to take care of us. He was married and had thirteen children. We lived for a year in Juarez, Mexico with my mother's relatives. Not liking it my dad appealed to his sister to take us in.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

I arrived in San Patricio in 1951 when I was five. I enrolled in school and started learning English, lost in a sea of emptiness trying to find a father. I gravitated towards Senon, my adopted brother. If there was ever a hero in my youthful life, it was Senon.

He was a wild one this Senon. He was thirty-five years old when I arrived in San Patricio. Senon was a person with a gleam in the eye. Full of energy and relishing any excitement or danger, he was small of stature, but stout of heart.

I remember we had a five-year-old stud horse that roamed the range, and had bred mares. Never had a rope on him. A typical crazy stud horse and it was spring. The horse's name was Alacran (Scorpion), in honor of his disposition.

Senon ran the horse with some mares into the corral, segregated him and with the help of half the men in the valley got the stud hogtied and saddled. It was a big social event. Drinking wine was heavy then. They turned Senon loose into the open area in the orchard. It was a rodeo. Alacran unloaded him, Senon got back on. This went on through the morning, interspersed with hits of "La Copita", the wine the men favored. Senon was getting into it and so was Alacran. I was nine years old and I was impressed. Alacran, full of piss and vigor, was snorting, bucking, farting and shitting, all at the same time, and having a harder time unloading his tormenter as it went on. By sheer imposition of his will, Senon broke that stud from bucking and eventually into a good saddle horse. I never forgot that.

As I got older Senon took me under his wing and I helped him ride the range on horseback taking care of our sheep and cattle. He taught me how to hunt, stalk, read sign, kill and dress the game. The family had three hundred head of sheep and dogs running wild in a pack could quickly disseminate a flock. Our job was eliminating the dogs. Senon was a crack shot. About this time I started to realize that there was something more to Senon, something that he missed. It was those quiet times, that faraway look he would get, and the features in his face would get such sadness. Sometimes he would take to the wine bottle for days. I knew better then to ask, and bid my tongue.

When I was twelve Senon came home late one night. He woke me up with a comment of "hey trooper you're not suppose to be sleeping on guard duty". He started talking to me (all in Spanish) and I knew this was different. I knew he had been in the service but had never heard Senon say much

about it. For the first time I was given a glimpse of and heard about Rangers. It was a legacy being passed on to me. Both of us in our wildest dreams could have never envisioned what a role it would end up playing in my life. Looking back I can see I served as a release for Senon and prepared and set for me, my own rendezvous with destiny. For the first time in my young life, I heard about honor and devotion to duty and to the brotherhood forged in war. I also sensed just what a burden Senon was carrying with him. I heard about a man called Darby, and an outfit called, "Darby's Rangers".

Brig. Gen. William Orlando Darby, a 1933 graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point was the organizer and commander of First, Third and Fourth Ranger Battalions. The First Ranger Battalion was activated on 19 June, 1942 at Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland. These battalions known as Darby's Rangers, were commanded by Darby during most of their existence during World War II.

In order to better clarify the events Senon Chavez went through I contacted James Altieri, whom I had met at the Fiftieth anniversary of the Rangers at Ft. Benning, Georgia on 19 June 1992. Mr. Altieri began his career with the formation of the Rangers in Ireland, as an enlisted man. Starting a T/5 (technical corporal), Mr. Altieri rose through the ranks and upon receiving a battlefield commission, a platoon leader. Becoming company commander of F Co, Fourth Ranger Battalion at Anzio. He went on to write two books, *The Spearheaders*, and *Darby's Rangers*, and account of the Rangers in the North Africa, Sicily and Italian campaigns. Culminating with the eventual demise of the First and Third Ranger Battalions of Darby's Rangers at Cisterna. Mr. Altieri did confirm in both verbal and document proof that Senon S. Chavez is carried on the First and Third Battalion rosters. I utilized a military biography of William O Darby by Michael J. King, *Darby's Rangers* by Mr. Altieri, *Rangers in WW II* by Robert Black, and documents from the Darby Foundation in Ft. Smith, Arkansas (Darby's place of birth), to place Senon in the events that happened. I was amazed with the recollection that Senon had, and the accuracy they reflected when compared with my resources. This was done with a series of taped interviews in December of 1993. There have been many books written on Anzio and history concurs that Anzio was one of the bloodiest chapters to come out of World War II.

On that December evening I turned on my tape recorder and asked my first question of my adopted older brother, uncle, father, benefactor and brother Ranger. "Did you talk to

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

anyone about the Rangers,” I asked and like a flood it came out. Senon said: “No, nobody, nobody knew nothing, and I thought to myself, I am going to have to keep this to myself. It took me a long, long time to talk. I remember talking to you about the Rangers. That was about it. See people would start talking about the war and what they had done. I did this and I did that, but for me nothing. So now I have to get it out, because if people don’t believe me I don’t either, to me it’s all a dream. I am not talking about myself, I’m talking for everybody, the whole outfit. That’s what makes it. I tell people, I died at Anzio. I do not know why I live. I am part of the living dead. Out of all the people on a landing craft at Sicily, I am the only one that survived. We were hit by an M-88 howitzer round. All I remember was coming to the surface of the water and having legs, arms and a body parts landing all around me. It was a horrible shock to see this. I had been in all the campaigns from North Africa up the Sicilian boot and up the Italian mainland but still, nothing compared to Anzio”.

In Ranger type warfare the motto is: “Hit first, hit hard, and keep on hitting”. Living up to this motto, the Rangers of WWII with accounts of their dangerous and daring exploits, captured the imagination of the American public. Their campaigns and accomplishments left a legacy unsurpassed in the annals of American military history. Senon and his brother Rangers helped write this legacy in blood, determination, and perseverance of will.

Darby, tasked with the formation of an unconventional fighting unit, modeled it after the British Commandos. The name Ranger was picked because it personified the American history of ruggedness and similar to Rogers Rangers of colonial days. The basic foundation that made the Rangers a great fighting outfit, was that every man was a volunteer. Although deactivated after each conflict, this legacy and tradition continued into the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Darby’s Rangers were assigned the most dangerous missions. They spearheaded every invasion landing and land attacks in major battles, during their existence. This is a brief summary of those actions that involved Senon directly.

OPERATION TORCH ARZEW, NORTH AFRICA

Mr. Alteiri’s records confirm that PFC Senon Chavez joined the First Ranger Battalion on 28 January 1943 at Arzew, North Africa. He arrived with 7 officers and 101 enlisted

men from Ft. Devin, Mass. They got a resounding welcoming when they arrived at the Ranger area. The Ranger veterans sprayed the area under the vehicles of the replacements with automatic weapons fire. Some of the newly intimidated replacements including Senon went to existing companies. Company E would be Senon’s new home. The remainder were formed into Company “G,” which Lt. Col Darby established as a temporary training detachment.

SENED STATION-TUNISIA

On 7 February, the First Ranger Battalion was flown to Tebessa, Tunisia. From there they were trucked five miles east to II Corps headquarters. Two days later the battalion went to Gafsa where it received the mission of raiding an enemy hilltop position, manned by Italians and protecting Sened Pass, with the purpose of harassing the enemy, destroying his men and equipment, and conducting reconnaissance.

On the night of 10 February, Companies A, E, And F were loaded on trucks and moved to an assembly area about twelve miles from the enemy positions. They made a difficult night march of nine miles to a position overlooking the enemy. They rested and studied the enemy positions and completed their plan of attack during the day. The final briefing was given to the officers and noncommissioned officers and on down the line to the lowest ranked Ranger.

At sunset the Rangers with their equipment taped down, their faces and hands blackened, moved toward the enemy positions. Using the terrain features between them and the enemy, they advanced too within one mile of their objective. They waited until 2300 hours, just before moonset, fixed bayonets and then continued their careful approach using hooded colored flashlights for navigation and control. At five hundred yards the Rangers got on line with Company A on the left, Company E in the center, and Company F on the right. By use of radio and colored flashlights flashed rearward, Lt. Col Darby and Major Dammer could control and adjust each company as they moved on line toward the enemy.

By 0100 hours the Rangers had advanced to within 200 meters of the Italian position. At that point the enemy became suspicious and starting firing bursts of cannon, machine guns and rifle fire that went high, revealing their positions to the Rangers. Pfc. Elmer W. Garrison the only ranger to die at Sened, had his head blown off by one of the cannon. In Darby’s words, “we rushed them with bayonets and knives and gave them everything we had, we went in particularly for bayonet work, but we also caught a lot of them in their underground dugouts with our tommy guns and hand grenades.”

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

The Rangers drove the Italians off their position, killing seventy-five, capturing eleven men, five machine guns and a 50mm antitank weapon. This in less than thirty minutes. The Rangers suffered one killed and twenty wounded.

Senon's remarks to me about Sened Station were; "We caught them in their foxholes and we killed them all with knives and bayonets, and later Axis Sally who would talk and play songs for us Americans. Every morning after Sened Station we would hear her on the radio say; "every Ranger that will be captured, will be killed by his own knife." So they did not like us, they didn't like us at all. That is why we never carried anything identifying us as Rangers. If captured you would not tell them you were a Ranger." My only thoughts while Senon mentioned this was, what a way to get broke into combat!

KASSERINE

In Early February, The German Forces in North Africa were divided, General Von Arnim's Fifth Panzer Army holding against Allied forces that had landed in Torch and Field Marshal Rommel's Panzer Army Afrika, retreating before General Montgomery's Eighth Army. Allied high command wanted to seize Tunisia before the German's could link up. Allied forces expected an enemy offensive attack in central Tunisia but felt they could not hold. At the time, the extreme south wing of the Allied front extended from Gafsa southeast to El Guettar. In case of a major attack, Allied forces defending Gafsa would fight a delaying action, retreating north toward Feriana.

Two days after the Sened raid, the Axis offensive hit with an attack at Sidi Bou Zid. Orders were given for the evacuation of Gafsa. The First Ranger Battalion was tasked with fighting a rearguard action, while covering the withdrawal of II Corps, in some cases in chaos. It was a hazardous mission, on foot across an open plain, armed only with rifles, machine guns and sticky grenades and attacked by German Stuka dive bombers. Senon remembered that it angered the Rangers that the American army was retreating. The Rangers took up positions east of Feriana and were ordered to hold Dernia Pass and the road to Tebessa and remained on the defensive till March. Meanwhile, at Kasserine Pass, the 168th Regimental Combat Team was wiped out by Rommel's panzers. The Axis offensive in late February had ground to halt.

On 13 March, 1943, Darby's Rangers were attached and became II Corp's reserve under the command of General George S. Patton. On 13 March they moved to the vicinity of

Dernia, Tunisia and attached to the First Infantry Division. On 17 March, the Rangers, along with the Sixteenth and Eighteenth Regimental Combat Teams attacked Gafsa at 1000 hrs, found the town lightly defended and quickly captured it. There were not Ranger casualties.

DJEBEL el ANK

On 18 March, the Rangers were ordered to move toward El Guettar, and establish contact with the enemy. El Guettar was an important road junction and the Rangers found it undefended. Through patrolling and surveillance they found the enemy east of El Guettar, an Italian force at Djebel el Ank pass. The enemy forces, concentrated in the mountain passes numbered six thousand members of the Italian Centauro Armored Division.

The First Infantry Division received a warning order on 20 March, to attack along the Gafsa-Gabes road to take the commanding high ground. Less than a mile east of El Guettar, the road forked into two branches. The southern branch led to Gabes. The northern branch, known as the Gumtree Road passed through Djebel el Ank pass and on to Mahares on the sea.

The plan of attack called for the 18th Infantry to attack toward Gabes. The plan of attack along the Gumtree Road was a joint operation. The 26th Infantry would attack frontally up the Djebel el Ank pass, with the Rangers infiltrating enemy lines and attacking the positions on Djebel el Ank pass from the rear. At the pass, the enemy gun batteries were protected by emplaced automatic weapons and the naturally defensible terrain in the shape of a funnel. The 26th Infantry, attacking frontally, would find themselves going into the wide mouth of the funnel and get hammered by heavy weapons fire in the constricting neck of the pass. The Rangers mission while formidable and hazardous was vital to the success of the operation and the saving of lives of the men of the 26th Infantry.

With information gathered by two nights of Ranger patrolling and by Darby personally leading a daylight reconnaissance, he was able to map out a route to get his Rangers behind the enemy undetected. On the night of 20 March the Rangers made a six-mile march over terrain the enemy thought to be impassable. Over a torturous succession of hills and gorges, the Rangers in the dark made their way to a rocky plateau that overlooked the Italian positions rear at Djebel el Ank pass. There they awaited the dawn.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

The Rangers attacked at dawn, with a Ranger sounding charge on a bugle. With a support element firing machine gun and rifle fire, the Rangers firing their weapons and yelling battle cries, swept forward on line into a terrified Italian defense whose heavy weapons were pointed down into the pass. Surprised completely, the Italians put up a weak resistance and surrendered promptly. Any enemy that resisted, were killed.

Senon recalled that they were shelled steadily the two days before the attack. He remembered the night march into the area and that it was physically demanding. He remembers the sound of the bugle and running, working his weapon but not much else. Afterward he could see many enemy dead, and that most never had a chance to employ their weapons.

In Darby's after action report, he stated that two hundred prisoners were taken by the Rangers, but made no estimate of Italian dead or wounded. There were no Rangers killed in action and one was wounded. The 26th Infantry had an easy day through Djebel el Ank pass and took over a thousand prisoners.

On 21 March, the Rangers returned to El Guettar and moved into division reserve. On 23 March, the Axis counter attacked westward along the Gabes-Gafsa road wanting to regain ground lost. The attack fell upon the 1st Infantry Division and the Rangers were again called onto the front lines as a conventional infantry unit. The Rangers fell in on the left flank of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Infantry. The position was attacked at 1830 hrs by dive-bombers and sixty tanks and a battalion of dismounted infantry from the Tenth Panzer Division. The attack was broken up by heavy American artillery fire.

Through the rest of the month of March into mid April, the Rangers were used in conventional infantry defensive positions in and around El Guettar. Filling and plugging any potential hotspots that might arise. This cost the Rangers three killed and eighteen wounded. By 10 April, all the Ranger companies were reunited in Gafsa. The African campaign was over for the Rangers. Over 32,000 men of the Axis armies had been killed and 200,000 captured. The First Ranger Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of El Guettar.

Because of pending plans for the invasion of Sicily, General Patton instructed Darby to come up with plans for the formation of two additional Ranger battalions. After approval

from General Marshall, (Chief of Staff) Darby visited all replacement centers for volunteers for the formation of the two additional units. Darby, using his veterans from the First Ranger Battalion as cadre, organized the Third and Fourth Ranger Battalions on 20 May 1943 in North Africa. With all three Ranger battalions known as Force Ranger, and Darby commanding the First Ranger Battalion and in overall command of Force Ranger, Sicily awaited the Rangers.

Senon as a combat veteran of the First Ranger Battalion, was shifted over to the Third Ranger Battalion. He would be commanded by Major Herm Dammer. Senon remembers that while with the First they would say; "there goes Darby with his four hundred thieves," and when he was with the Third the saying would go; "here comes Dammer and his four hundred goats!"

OPERATION HUSKY (Invasion of Sicily)

Senon with the Third Ranger Battalion moved to Bizerte, Tunisia to join General Lucian Truscott's Third Infantry Division, who they would be attached too for the upcoming operation. While at Bizerte, Dammer's Rangers participated in practice landings on LCI's (landing craft, infantry) to prepare them for the invasion. Senon recalls; "they loaded us on troop ships on 4 July and the Germans bombed us right there at the docks hitting a troop ship anchored next to mine. While en-route to Sicily, we ran into a big storm and everyone got really sea sick."

The plan of attack called for the Third Ranger Battalion to land three miles west of Licata Green Beach (San Mollarella), seize all enemy installations on the beach, then attack in the direction of Mount Sole, regroup and attack Licata from the west. This was in conjunction with a pincer movement involving a forty-five thousand man force involved in the landings.

Senon landed on Green Beach at 0255 hrs on 10 July, to the left of Rocca Mollarella. The Rangers passed through a wide belt of barb wire while under machine gun fire, advancing to the base of Mount Polisca. Using the barbed-wire obstacles as handholds, they climbed the steep slopes to the high ground. On reaching the high ground, the Rangers systematically captured or destroyed every Italian position.

The aggressive action and careful planning paid off for the men of the Third Ranger Battalion. Only two men were wounded, one of whom later died of his wounds, during this action. The Third Ranger Battalion's mission accomplished, they were placed in division reserve.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

On 15 July, the Third Rangers were to spearhead a "reconnaissance in force" down the Favara-Agrigento road (Highway 122), bypass Agrigento and take Montaperto. Continue toward the port city of Porto Empedocle twenty-five miles away. It would give Patton's Seventh Army, a port closer to the front on the drive to Palermo.

At 1900 hrs found the Third Rangers on a night march toward their objectives. They hit a roadblock around 0400 hrs and attacked using fire and maneuver tactics. They took prisoner the 165 Italian survivors and sent them under guard to Favara.

At 0600 hrs the Rangers continued their march toward Montaperto. A short time later they reached a road junction (Highway 118-Raffadell road). They had approached the junction moving on a hillside overlooking it. When suddenly, an enemy convoy of ten sidecar motorcycles and two troop-laden trucks came barreling around a bend 500 yards away. The Rangers went to ground and set up a hasty ambush. They waited for the enemy to come abreast of them. When directly in front, four Ranger companies opened up with a devastating volley of fire. It was a deadly ambush, destroying all the vehicles and capturing the surviving forty Italian soldiers.

Pushing forward, they climbed the tall hill on which Montaperto was situated on and took their first objective without incident. On the other side of the hill directly under Montaperto, they spotted four Italian artillery batteries. Using their machine guns, rifles and ten 60mm mortars they brought to bear devastating fire on the enemy position. Within minutes the Italian artillery men were dead and their ammunition for the guns exploding.

South of Montaperto, was a sheer-faced hill that housed a coastal-defense control radio station. One company (Company C) was assigned to destroy the installation with the remainder of the battalion continuing their approach to Porto Empedocle. Company C eventually took the enemy installation capturing the command group of the Agrigento area, which were twenty officers and sixteen enlisted men.

By 1400 hrs Dammer had his battalion together and commenced the attack on Porto Empedocle. Overrunning machine gun emplacements and a series of house to house fighting, the Rangers took their objective. They set to building a hasty POW compound out of necessity. The Third Ranger Battalion had captured 91 Germans and 675 Italians

that day alone! They had one Ranger killed.

Senon remembers this operation as fast paced and action packed. Every bit of luck was on the side of the Rangers. It was truly a dream operation and every Ranger working as a team. So far out in front of other friendly forces, we could only be aggressive and it paid off he commented. The rest of July was spent in relative ease for the men of the Third Rangers. They pulled minor guard and POW guard duties. When arriving in Palermo Senon recalls some street fighting. He remembers: "I got away from my company and stayed for three days and two nights in a hotel. Eating chicken, bread and drinking vino. The young women would bring us anything we wanted. When we got back they were waiting for us and were in the process of pulling out."

On 7 August, the Third Ranger Battalion was attached to the Third Infantry Division. Two days later they were moved to San Agata and given 50 pack mules. For the next nine days they operated totally independent and traversed over 100 miles of incredible rough terrain. Rooting pockets of resistance in the high mountains overlooking Messina. Senon recalls that he could see the mountains in Italy. At the conclusion of his "mule packing days", Senon with the Third Rangers were returned to Corleone to join the First and Fourth Rangers and prepare for the invasion of Italy.

Ed. Note: This article will be continued in the next issue.

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Todd M. Currie



Todd Currie

1/75 Notes

On 26 July 2011, Mr. Vic Power, Owner of Kevin Barry's Pub, Savannah, GA was nominated by 1/75 and inducted as

Honorary Member of the Ranger Regiment at Ranger Rendezvous.



On 20 August 2011 a Run/Walk for the Fallen was held at Lake Mayer, Savannah, Georgia in honor of the 42 Rangers killed in combat or training since 1974. This event was held in conjunction with the Run/Walk at Regiment.

1/75 Ranger Ball, 3 December 2011

Attention all current and former 1/75 Rangers and their significant others: the 2011 Ranger Ball will be held on 3 December 2011 at the Savannah Int'l Trade and Convention Center. The POC for this event is Shelia Dudley. Sheila can be contacted via e-mail at dudleys@soc.mil or telephonically at (912)414 4061.

1/75 Ranger Memorial Stones are available for installation in November 2011. If you are interested in purchasing one, please go to the website listed below for Stone Application: www.1stbn75thrrgtmemorial.com

October 3rd, 2011: The 1/75 Sua Sponte Foundation is hosting the 1st Annual SFC Lance Vogeler Memorial Golf Tournament at the Southbridge Golf Club, Savannah, Georgia. Honoring those who have given the most.

Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & Last Place; 50-50 Raffle; Longest Drive Prize; Eagle Prize; Hole in One Prize Marshmallow Drive Contest and Many More Events and Prizes! Free Food! Free Beer!

8:00am Shotgun Start

All Proceeds Benefit The "Sua Sponte" Foundation

Point of Contact: matthewlyda@yahoo.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SFC Lance Vogeler

SERGEANT ALESSANDRO LEONARD PLUTINO

Killed in action on August 8, 2011
Operation Enduring Freedom

Sgt. Alessandro Leonard Plutino, 28, was killed by enemy forces during a heavy firefight while conducting combat operations in Paktiya Province, Afghanistan. Plutino was a Team Leader assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion,

75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. He was on his sixth deployment in support of the War on Terror with three previous deployments to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

Sgt Plutino was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in February 2007, where he served as a rifleman, grenadier, automatic rifleman, and a Ranger team leader. As a Ranger, Plutino selflessly lived his life for others and distinguished himself as a member of the Army's premier direct action raid force, continuously deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, and fought valiantly as he served his fellow Rangers and our great Nation. Sgt Plutino is survived by his mother Dianne Hammond and his father Sandro Plutino, both of Pitman, N.J. U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://news.soc.mil>



Medal of Honor Recipient SFC Leroy Petry and Shelia Dudley inducted as Honorary Members of Order of Rogers' Rangers.



On 27 July 2011, Linda Davis, Regimental Secretary and Shelia Dudley, 1st Bn Secretary were inducted into the Order of Rogers' Rangers (Honorary) by Regimental Sergeant Major Rick Merritt.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)



First & Third Ranger Battalions jump into Fryar DZ, July, 2011.



Roger B. (Hog) Brown, Bill Winget, Chris Brewer



JJ Ellis and Gary Carpenter Swapping lies about the good old days.



Battle Co. 1/75 originals with BG (R) K.C. Leuer.



COL Kurilla passes command of 75th Ranger Regiment to COL Odom.



MG (R) K. C. Leuer watching the proceedings.



Rangers Bill Winget, Joe Stringham, Chris Brewer, Todd Currie, Steven Brown.



Karen Murphy talking with SP4 Adam Bates, 1/75 Ranger Bn.



MOH winner SFC Leroy Petry, 2/75 Ranger Bn. and Todd Currie at Regimental C of C.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham

Welcome to 2012. Tidbits: Patrolling is in a transition period where John Chester, our editor for the last twelve years, is passing responsibility for producing this journal on to me. This will not affect my UD duties or this column. Battalion is back at home station as this



Kevin Ingraham



is written, where they are beginning their cycle of individual and unit training cycle for when they return the point of the nation's spear. Our forebears from the Vietnam H Company, 75th Infantry will be presenting the company guidon from the Vietnam War to the inheritors of their history and honors, 2d Ranger Battalion, establishing a physical link between the ranger generations.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**CREDIT WHERE DUE DEPT**

Most of this column in the last issue was penned by LTC David Hodne, the battalion commander. While he was credited at the end of each item, I want to make sure that he gets all the credit for some outstanding authorship and not me. There was a little confusion out there. LTC Hodne keeps the families of his rangers informed about what their men are doing in training and at war. He graciously consented to allow these communiqués to be published here so that we alumni can have some insight into the history they are making. Once again, his communiqués constitute almost the entirety of this edition. There is little in the way of light reading this time. Tragically, seventy-plus rangers were wounded or injured on this last deployment. With the four KIAs, this was the costliest deployment experienced by 2d in this war. In addition to Rangers Holtz and Cerros, whose press releases appeared last issue, two more rangers and a member of their task group were killed during an assault on October 22d. (USASOC News Service, Oct. 23, 2011)

Two U.S. Army Rangers and one Cultural Support Team member were killed in action Oct. 22, during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Killed were:

1Lt. Ashley White, 24, was assigned to the 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina National Guard, Goldsboro, N.C., and attached to a joint special operations task force as a Cultural Support Team member. SFC Kristoffer B. Domeij, 29, was assigned to HHC. PFC Christopher A. Horns, 20, was assigned to Co. C.

All three service members were killed during combat operations when their assault force triggered an improvised explosive device near Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. A native of Alliance, Ohio, White was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Medical Service Corps Officer after receiving a commission from Kent State in 2009. White is survived by her husband Cpt. Jason Stumpf of Raeford, N.C., her parents Robert and Deborah White, twin sister Brittney and brother Josh, all of Alliance, Ohio.

A native of Santa Ana, Calif., Domeij enlisted in the U.S. Army in July, 2001 and joined the 75th Ranger Regiment in April, 2002 where he served as a Ranger Joint Terminal Attack Controller. He is survived by his wife, Sarah and daughters Mikajsa and Aaliyah of Lacey, Wash.; his mother Scoti Domeij of Colorado Springs, Colo., and his brother Kyle Domeij of San Diego, Calif. Domeij was on his 14th combat deployment in support of the War on Terror. A native of Colorado Springs, Colo., Horns enlisted in the U.S.

Army in July, 2010 and joined the 75th Ranger Regiment in March 2011 where he served as an assistant machine gunner and automatic rifleman. He is survived by his parents Larry and Tamara Horns, and his sister Tiffany of Colorado Springs, Colo. Horns was on his first deployment in support of the War on Terror.

“SFC Domeij was the prototypical special operations NCO—a technically and tactically competent Joint Terminal Attack Controller and veteran of a decade of deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan and hundreds of combat missions. His ability to employ fire support platforms made him a game changer on the battlefield—an operator who in real terms had the value of an entire strike force on the battlefield,” said Col. Mark W. Odom, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

“Ultimately PFC Christopher Horns represents everything which is great about the United States. He placed his fellow Rangers, the Regiment, and his nation before everything else in life,” said Odom.

“Lt. White, a member of a Cultural Support Team, played a crucial role as a member of a special operations strike force. Her efforts highlight both the importance and necessity of women on the battlefield today.”

“SFC Kris Domeij will be dearly missed by the men of 2nd Ranger Bn. He was one of those men who was known by all as much for his humor, enthusiasm, and loyal friendship, as he was for his unparalleled skill and bravery under fire,” said LTC David Hodne, commander 2nd Bn., “This was a Ranger you wanted at your side when the chips were down. He and his family are very much part of the fabric that defines 2nd Ranger Bn. He is irreplaceable...in our formation...and in our hearts.”

“On his first combat deployment, PFC Christopher Horns demonstrated all the qualities we look for in our U.S. Army Rangers. Courageous and disciplined, he lost his life while pressing the assault in an area known for insurgent activity,” said Hodne. “He earned the universal respect of seniors and peers alike. We will honor his service and remember his sacrifice. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Horns family.”

“This Battalion mourns the tragic loss of 1st Lt. Ashley White. Ashley was an incredibly talented officer and teammate who lost her life while committed to making a difference in our effort in Afghanistan,” said Hodne. “She demonstrated a level of quiet courage that set the example for others to follow, and we will never forget her sacrifice. Her family is in our thoughts and prayers.” USASOC Public Affairs Office. Release Number 111023-01A. Slightly edited for space.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

Veteran's Day 2011. Communiqué from LTC David Hodne, (written while still deployed).

To our Ranger Families and Friends back home, as our Nation has done every year since 1919, on the 11th of November, America will pause to honor our Veterans. President Wilson proclaimed the first "Armistice Day" to occur the year after the end of the First World War with the sole purpose of filling a day with "solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service." The purpose of Veterans Day remains a celebration to honor America's Veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

In the wake of our recent losses, the intent of this letter is not to open recent wounds as we recently laid our fallen to rest. The purpose of this letter, in the context of Veterans Day, is to remind us that we share in the company of great Americans... Rangers ... Veterans. I wish I could publicly share their successes here or communicate the details of their contributions to our Nation. In the manner in which they bravely conduct their operations, these men constitute the modern generation of veterans who earned their rightful place alongside previous generations of our National heroes. This Veterans Day, the Rangers of this Battalion will commit themselves to another day in harm's way, our wounded will spend another day in treatment and recovery in multiple hospitals, and our families will spend another day concerned about their deployed loved ones. In spite of this, it remains our duty to honor the significance of this day.

Prior to commencing one of his recent morning briefs following a series of attacks, the Commanding General of the International Security and Assistance Forces (COMISAF) provided personal comments and condolences. The nature of these losses, he stated, can seem overwhelming, but they must not cause us to lose sight of the enormity of the overall ISAF mission. He encouraged all to grip this moment and grieve for the many fallen, but to grieve with a purpose and a focus on redoubling our efforts to bring a level of peace and stability to a country that has existed for 30 years under extreme circumstances and war. COMISAF reiterated the mission of the 49 ISAF nations is a noble one. He further stressed our mission is not just about Afghanistan, but is a campaign for the greater good.

On this Veterans Day I extend my personal thanks to all Veterans, past and present, who gave so much in support of their Country. I also want to take a moment to thank the families of our Rangers. In this endeavor of service, our families sacrifice much as well. In many respects the spouses and children of this Battalion gave more of themselves than they ever thought possible...some of our families have seen all 15 deployments. I'm comfortable with the knowledge that

our children will look at the support we provided to each other during this time in our lives as something that will be nothing less than remarkable. The yet untold stories of the Rangers and their families will build and inspire a generation of great citizens because of the strength and sacrifice represented in our ranks. Your children will be proud of you.

In honor of Veterans Day, I've shared excerpts from my remarks honoring each of our fallen comrades. I wish you could have heard the more compelling stories told by their peers describing them...their stories were fitting tributes, some impromptu, that are likely only captured in the hearts of their fellow Rangers. Many years from now, we will look back on our service in support of this great Nation. Most will reflect on past experiences that few will be able to relate to. I hope more will pause to tell these remarkable stories of our fallen. We are better for having known each of them. One day, they will come to define a heroic generation of Americans. This letter will never do justice in describing the depths of our grief.....Nor will it serve to adequately describe the measure of our commitment.

Rangers Lead the Way!

(signed) David M. Hodne, LTC, Commanding.

Tributes to our fallen Rangers, presented by LTC Hodne in a memorial service held in the combat zone on Veteran's Day, 2011:

Remarks in honor of SGT Tyler Holtz

I cannot help but pause.....When I walk the second floor of the building that currently houses C Company here on Camp McDowell (named after 2/75's SFC Dave McDowell who lost his life in Helmand Province in April 2008). The north end of the building hosts the photos of our fallen from this Task Force. I still remember talking to SSG McDowell almost daily at Ft. Benning while we were both serving in the Regimental HQs. We took pride in being part of the elite few "West Coast" Rangers who served together at Regiment. I cannot help but pause.....When I walk the first floor of the HQs of the Task Force HQs. This too, hosts the photos of our fallen. The loss of such talent among an elite group of special operators is simply staggering. Some of us have far too many friends on those walls. I could not help but pause.....When I looked at the American flag flying at half mast over B Company last night....The flag wasn't tattered...in fact it was obviously relatively new....Except for the fact that it bore multiple bullet holes...

This particular flag was carried with pride by SGT Tyler Nicholas Holtz. President Kennedy told the world, "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers..."

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

Today in mourning a fallen Ranger, it's important to clarify that we also remember this young man and brave warrior. A member of this Task Force and 2d Ranger Battalion – we remember a comrade who selflessly lived his life for his country, and his fellow warriors. Today we remember SGT Holtz and honor his memory and selfless service.

On 23 September 2011, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 2d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment participated in an operation in a dangerous valley in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. This, of course, is the same valley that became infamous given the tragic loss of our comrades in the weeks preceding this operation. SGT Holtz was no stranger to the danger presented here, and in recovering the fallen from that CH-47 crash site, he was no stranger to the cost of operating there. Weeks later, fully knowing the hazards of his chosen profession, SGT Holtz boarded a helicopter with his platoon. SGT Holtz personified our creed...100% and then some. In maneuvering with his squad towards a suspected enemy location, SGT Holtz was in front of his fire team when he was mortally wounded while in close contact with the enemy. 1st Platoon and Bravo Company did not falter. They assessed, treated and evacuated their fallen while simultaneously eliminating the immediate threat. This entire company remained in this inhospitable valley and continued clearance operations in zone for over 24 hours. This is how Rangers honor their fallen. B Company certainly honored SGT Holtz in every respect. Two weeks ago, our nation paused to remember the 10th Anniversary of the attacks on September 11th. This group paused to do the same at this very flagpole.

Tyler was only 12 years old on September 11th 2001 and in imagining what he was like back then...I suspect at the time he didn't give much thought to the lessons our nation learned as he went off to soccer practice that morning...he admitted as much in the informal survey 1SG Barrett conducted a few weeks ago. He likely didn't pay much attention to the fear that crippled many across the country...he likely didn't pay much attention to the fact that some learned for the first time that evil is real, our tallest buildings can collapse, and our national security is an illusion. He didn't need to pay much attention...he was after all only 12 ...but a few years later he ultimately became a man who did something about it. In the years that followed, Tyler grew into the mountain of man that we knew as a Ranger Fire Team leader in 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, B Company. I have no doubt that in his teenage years following September, 11th 2001...leading up to his decision to become an Army Ranger...he learned that courage does not waiver, bravery has no limits, and service to his Nation was very, very important.

This Regiment and this Battalion are eternally grateful for young men like SGT Holtz.

He became the man the Platoon came to know as the "Holtz Tool". There was not a door, lock, or gate that this Ranger could not breach. I told the Rangers of his platoon last night that in filling out Question 17: (Accent) on his ISOPREP... he wrote "American" followed by an exclamation point...Men like SGT Holtz are rare.

Men like SGT Holtz are what make Ranger formations stand out...and also what make them very lethal. In the two weeks that followed this recent 10th anniversary of 9/11, I would argue that many back home have already dismissed the thoughts and lessons from that fateful day from their conscience. They dismiss the thoughts that this ongoing effort to prevent it from happening again often involves sacrifice... and it comes at a great cost...sometimes too great...

We certainly do not forget the lessons we learned in the decade following 9/11. In honoring men like SGT Tyler Holtz, we cannot afford not to. This formation learned and understands that freedom is worth defending, sacrifice is worth honoring... and the loss...is worth remembering. We also learned in this recent decade that heroes still exist. In the case of Tyler Holtz, heroes don't just exist...they endure forever.

Rangers Lead the Way!

Remarks in honor of SPC Ricardo Cerros

SPC Ricardo Cerros was killed in action on 8 October 2011 during combat operations in Logar Province against known enemies of the United States of America. He was a 25 year old Ranger rifleman.

Unassuming...Quiet...Intelligent...He was a son...a brother ...and a friend to many. SPC Cerros was a valued member of 2d Ranger Battalion. SPC Cerros was also a member of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company...A battle-hardened platoon that demonstrates in each and every engagement...that they are Rangers.

In the early days of this war...even before we were tested...I heard a Ranger Battalion Command Sergeant Major describe that there is nothing on this battlefield that can defeat a Ranger platoon. In observing the men of these Ranger platoons...I absolutely know that to be true. These Rangers inspire fear.

On 8 October 2011, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 2d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment conducted a raid in a remote village in Logar Province, Afghanistan. This particular village hosts an impossible maze of compounds surrounded by equally difficult terrain. This village hosts determined insurgents that readily consider suicide attacks as a viable option.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

As this raid went into the early morning darkness of 08 OCT, 2011, SPC Ricardo Cerros, maneuvered with his platoon in the narrow alleyways leading to the target. As the Platoon prepared to breach the gate an insurgent rushed at the force while another barricaded himself in a well-defended position that provided good fields of fire. His platoon sergeant was immediately hit and fell at the opening of the breach. A Ranger platoon sergeant lay wounded. This platoon sergeant undoubtedly felt the sharp tug as he was pulled away from this vulnerable and exposed position. Very few of us can relate to the relief associated with knowing one of your Ranger buddies was nearby to lend a hand while under fire. SPC Ricardo Cerros, with only 7 months in Battalion, instinctively grabbed his platoon sergeant along with another Ranger to pull him to safety. This would be one of his final actions in the moments before SPC Cerros lost his life. The one he'll be remembered for...

Ricardo's action conjures the image of one of the most noble gestures in the business of soldiering...to put oneself at risk to come to the aid of a wounded soldier under fire. Once immediately out of the opening in front of the gate, SPC Cerros placed himself in front of his wounded platoon sergeant in a narrow alleyway to provide security while his squad leader and another Ranger NCO resumed the assault against the remaining insurgent barricaded inside. In the din of the battle a hand grenade exited the gate towards these brave Rangers. Most were able to seek some form of cover. SPC Cerros chose to shield his fallen platoon sergeant with his body. Following the blast, SPC Cerros and one of our Afghan partners lost their lives. 1st Platoon and Bravo Company did not falter. In spite of their wounds they pressed the fight. Joined by fellow Rangers they eventually reduced the compound eliminating the threat. ...and they cared for their fallen.

This is a remembrance ceremony. As we look at the display to honor and remember SPC Cerros we also very much mourn his loss. The respect, care, and support that we show our fallen...and their families...defines us as an organization as much as the operations we conduct.

In remembering SPC Cerros, knowing he gave the last full measure of his life, we often learn more about ourselves and why we commit to this effort. Most importantly, in remembering SPC Cerros we reflect upon and learn more about the man we served with. That is our duty...our responsibility...to carry on his memory and honor him with our continued service. As you look at the display of SPC Ricardo Cerros...

Some will remember the brainy, quiet, kid when he first showed up to 1st Platoon, Bravo Company last March. He had an affinity for video games and when asked about his background, he told his fellow Rangers he had a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from the University of California at Irvine.

Others will remember him as he transformed into the young Ranger who learned to skillfully handle his Squad Automatic Weapon, or who dedicated himself to physical fitness. Leaders will remember him as the type of Ranger you wanted to train. He was intelligent and mature. He handled responsibility with diligence. He applied himself to becoming a pro.

I will remember him as the unassuming warrior...

The one you want standing silently on your flank...

The one who endures and shares hardship without complaint...

The one who you can count on...to pull you out of the breach...

Courageous...Instinctive...Disciplined...

I will remember SPC Ricardo Cerros...a U.S. Army Ranger

Remarks in honor of SFC Kris Domeij, 1LT Ashley White, and PFC Chris Horns

In the wake of our loss...it is easy to lose perspective.

This loss of perspective can occur within the heart of a single individual.....Or it can occur within the hearts of the collective formation....Particularly when the fallen include those rare souls among us who touch so many across it. They include a young Ranger...the son of proud parents who was on his first combat deployment. A young officer, who stepped forward to be part of something special, and in doing so, made this unit more effective on target.

And, the senior NCO...the one with the unmistakable swagger...the same swagger he had when he first came to the unit 9 years ago...and a man who makes this unit special... We will forever be better citizens and better Soldiers for keeping all of them close in our hearts. ...knowing that the hazards of our chosen profession are very real...yet very special people are willing to meet them head on.

We stand here together tonight to honor these three great Americans.

PFC Christopher Horns

1LT Ashley White

and SFC Kris Domeij

All three were valued members of this Task Force.

On 21 October 2011, 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 2d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment targeted a Taliban Commander during a night raid in the Zhari District of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. This particular village hosts one of the remaining Taliban sanctuaries within the reach of Kandahar city...and equally out of reach of the Battle Space-Owning units. The Rangers of this Platoon knew the risk associated with the Taliban Commander who operates in this particular area laden with IEDs. During the clearance of

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

the main compounds, multiple IEDs exploded both in and outside of the compound. In the series of blasts that erupted within the assault force formation, SFC Kristoffer Domeij, 1LT Ashley White, and PFC Christopher Horns lost their lives from the blasts. It is natural to grieve in the face of what happened. But in doing so, we must maintain perspective... This is a remembrance ceremony.

As we look at the displays that honor and remember SFC Domeij, LT White, and PFC Horns we also very much mourn their loss. The respect, care, and support that we show our fallen...and their families...defines us an organization as much as the operations we conduct. Take comfort in the fact that Ranger LNO teams are working from coast to coast back home to look after their loved ones back home. In remembering each of these great Americans, knowing they gave the last full measure of their life, we often learn more about ourselves and why we commit to this effort. We gain perspective.

This is how we maintain perspective... As you look at the display of PFC Chris Horns...He was the quintessential new Ranger who wanted to do the right thing. Quiet but proud, he was the guy you could pick out in a formation in the dark... because he either carried the SAW or had a litter on his back. I look at his photo and in his face I see pride...Pride in being a Ranger. Pride in being a good man...

As you look at the display of 1LT Ashley White...She wanted to be here and wanted to contribute. She demonstrated a level of quiet courage that set the example for others to follow. She became a member of her platoon and we will honor her for her contributions to our efforts here. I look at her photo and in her expression I see energy and confidence...the expression of a leader who wanted to make a difference and wasn't afraid to take risks.

As you look at the display of SFC Kris Domeij I hearken back to a conversation with the CSM about Ranger formations. Ranger formations at all levels from the platoon to the battalion are unique. They have their own character, their own nicknames, and I maintain that they are never defined by one man. Having seen him serve with energy and enthusiasm in multiple Ranger formations...I am willing to make an exception for Kris Domeij. Men like SFC Domeij are irreplaceable...in our formations...and in our hearts.

I look at his photo and I see a friend. One I laughed with... and one I "stole" equipment from...I also look at his photo and I see the expression of a professional...the man who built the reputation of Ranger JTACs.

We will honor their service.
We will remember their sacrifice.
They have earned this.

God Bless our great Nation, our Task Force, and our Battalion.
May God be with and strengthen their families back home.
Rangers Lead the Way



This Quarter in 2d Battalion History:

- January 1, 1969. The 75th Infantry is activated as a parent unit under the Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS). All approved long range patrol units were to share ranger heritage and be redesignated as 'Ranger' under the CARS 75th Infantry.
- January 2010 The 'Quad' is no longer. The original barracks and support buildings are demolished to make way for modern facilities and barracks.
- February 1, 1969. Company H (Ranger) 75th Infantry activated at Phouc Vihn, Republic of Vietnam. Concurrently, E Company, 52d Infantry was deactivated. All personnel and assets remained. In the mid-'80s, 2d Battalion was assigned the lineage and honors of H-75th.
- February 2, 1967. 1st Cavalry Division LRRP component activated. Provisional detachments organized and attached to the division's 1st and 2d Brigades.
- February 2, 1986. 2d Bn (Ranger) 75th Infantry is redesignated 2d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.
- February 3, 1986. World War II battalions and Korean War lineage and honors were consolidated and assigned by tradition to the 75th Ranger Regiment.
- February 25, 2003. Combat jump by elements of HHC, A and C Companies and B Co, 3-504th Parachute Infantry near Chahar Borjak, Nimruz Province, Afghanistan at 1345-1445Z.
- February – April 1944. D-Day mission rehearsals conducted on Isle of Wight by 2d and 5th Ranger Infantry battalions.
- February 14- March 26, 1975. 2d Bn (Ranger) 75 Infantry unit cadre training at Ft. Benning, GA. 2d Battalion conducts its first battalion sized mass tactical parachute drop when it redeploy to home station at Ft Lewis.
- February 2003. 2d Battalion deploys to what becomes Operation Iraqi Freedom in April.
- March 15, 2001. Gen. Shinseki approves "request" by 75th Ranger Regiment to adopt the tan beret.
- March – April 1944. D-Day mission rehearsals conducted on Isle of Wight. On April 27, 2d Battalion moves to the invasion staging area in Dorset.



3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

Rangers,
Not much to report this issue. With block leave and the holidays, it's been pretty quiet. I do have a couple of great things to share with you though.



Scott Billingslea

It recently came to my attention that an 8 year old boy in Dallas had just been diagnosed with bone cancer. Pretty scary stuff especially for a kid. It just so happens that this young man's all consuming passion is to be an Airborne Ranger. He has Scrolls and Tabs plastered over just about everything he owns. Right before he started chemo he received in the mail a certificate naming him an honorary member of 3/75! Needless to say, he was beside himself. Reports from his mom are he hasn't taken off his Ranger sweatshirt since he got it. A huge thanks to LTC Evans and CSM Noland for making it happen. They graciously made that happen during the Mogadishu Mile run this year.



I've had the very great honor of being the 3/75 Unit Director for over 4 years now, on 2 different occasions. As I stare down the impending new year, and a new job with it, I find myself unable to fill the Unit Director role to the level that you and the men of 3/75 deserve. I'll be handing the position to someone else as soon as a replacement is identified. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me through the 75th RRA website.

Soldiers compete for Army's best medic title

By Lori Newman
Fort Sam Houston News Leader

CAMP BULLIS, Texas, (Army News Service, Nov. 15, 2011) - Sixty-two Soldiers from across the Army competed in a



grueling 72-hour two-Soldier team competition at Camp Bullis Nov. 4-6 to earn the title of best medic.

The inaugural Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Clark Jr. Best Medic Competition was dedicated to the 13th command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Medical Command.

Clark's family came from Florida to participate in the dedication ceremony and meet the competitors.

"It is appropriate that such a prestigious competition be named after Command Sergeant Major Clark. He was one of the most respected leaders and noncommissioned officers in the history of our command," said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Sandra Townsend, keynote speaker for the dedication ceremony.

"[Clark] was a mover and a shaker, known for making every place he went better. He understood the important role of medics in the Army and the trust Soldiers and leaders must have in the Army Medical Department," she said.

In the end, Sgt. 1st Class John Maitha and Staff Sgt. Christopher Whitaker, representing the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., secured the title of the Army's Best Combat Medic Team.

"We had no idea where we were place-wise, so we just kept going as hard and as fast as we could on everything," Maitha said.

The first day of the competition began with a physical fitness challenge, which included a three-mile run and pulling a tire that weighed several hundred pounds.

The obstacle course tested the team's agility and physical strength. Each team needed to complete 15 of 19 obstacles as quickly and safely as possible.

The M-9 stress shoot mimicked a combat situation where every shot counts. Teams showcased their marksmanship skills, completing three separate firing engagements while evacuating a simulated casualty on a litter.

"The M-9 stress shoot was the most fun," Maitha and Whitaker said.

Once the M-9 stress shoot was complete, the two-Soldier teams marched six kilometers to the next part of the competition, the M-4 stress shoot.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

"We liked the night land navigation because it was challenging and it was different," Maitha said. "They filled us in on a Black Hawk helicopter heading to an unknown [helicopter landing zone] and we had to figure out where we were before we could even start the course."

The advanced land navigation course began at 11 p.m.

Teams were flown by helicopter and inserted into the rugged terrain of Camp Bullis. Once on the ground, each team had six hours to locate 12 grid coordinate locations using terrain association and topographical maps.

"The night land nav was definitely the toughest," Whitaker said.

Early the next morning, the candidates tackled the urban assault lane. Using simulated munitions similar to paint ball rounds the Soldiers had to engage the enemy while treating casualties and defending themselves.

The day combat medic lane tested the candidates' ability to perform casualty care in close quarters as well as their ability to evacuate wounded to a MEDIVAC aircraft.

The night combat medic lane tested the competitors' ability to perform medical tasks under the cover of darkness using the Tactical Simulator for Military Medicine. The teams were required to gain fire superiority, stabilize their casualty and move them from the simulator into a ground evacuation vehicle.

Mounted land navigation tested the candidates' ability to provide medical treatment while en route to the medical treatment facility.

At 5 a.m. the next morning each two-Soldier team worked together to complete a 75-question written exam designed to test their tactical and technical proficiency.

After the written exam, the Soldiers moved to the virtual convoy combat simulator. The simulator provided a 360-degree simulated battlefield allowing the candidates the opportunity to perform basic Soldier skills while mounted in a simulated environment.

This event joined teams together to compete the scenario, engaging hostile targets and calling in situational reports. The leadership reaction course tested each team's ability to think, lead and work together to negotiate eight obstacles. The final event was a timed 2.7-mile buddy run, testing the fortitude and endurance of the competitors. Each team had to complete the run carrying a 180-pound casualty on a litter.

Shortly after Sunday's last event, an awards ceremony was held at Camp Bullis.

Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, Army surgeon general and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command, and the Clark family presented trophies to the winning team and recognized all the teams for their accomplishments during the 72-hour competition.

Pricilla Clark congratulated all the competitors. "You have been tested beyond human capability and you have come through this standing and smiling," she said. "You have given us the true definition of never giving up."

Staff Sgts. Gabriel Mendoza and Gabriel Valdez, representing 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., accumulated the second-highest points total and placed second in the competition.

Third place was secured by Spc. Allen Klingsporn and Spc. Austin Kreutzfeld from the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

RANGER HALL OF FAME UPDATE

A quick note on some changes to the Ranger Hall of Fame packet criteria. The biography section of the RHOF packets is being condensed to a 500 word limit. A few more changes are supposed to be announced in January, but don't wait until then to submit your packets. The review committee will proceed with their normal process. Once they have identified the candidates that will be submitted for possible induction, any additional changes that need to be made can be done at that time. If you have someone you feel is worthy of induction, please get the packet in to your Unit Director ASAP!

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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

By the time this is read winter will be almost over for most of us. I hope you all survived and had a nice series of holidays. At this juncture Christmas is shaping up to be great. The boss (my wife Sandy) has arranged for our daughter and her husband to come down to the desert with the grand babies to spend their first Christmas with this old LRRP. Nothing could be better than that.

Another event that surprised this Band of Bandits was the announcement by down under Bob T. Murphy of his plan to marry Mary Rossi on the 1st of December. Yes that Murphy. Bob was smitten with Mary at the reunion and invited her down to OZ and she accepted and has decided to stay awhile. Mary was the widow of a P company ranger and so she has a history of putting up with guys with attitude. I wish them both the best of luck and happiness.

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

I will leave you with a couple of stories from Tom Brizendine.



Picture of Tom drawn by his son in law.



Reflections of Sgt. Tom Brizendine A/75th

Going on three day stand down with Co. B, 1st. Bn. 6th Infantry at Chu Lai Americal Division.

1st day.....Turned in all old ammo and ordnance, debriefed on the previous operation...Got something to eat at the field mess hall, and took a shower in the field shower. Fell asleep under a GP medium tent.

Woke up at dusk, and went back to the mess tent to eat, then got a beer that had been chilled with real ice and fell asleep. Woke up just at morning twilight, and went to the mess hall for some coffee. Rest of the day was spent doing nothing, but movies were being showed in an outside area theatre, (John Wayne in "The Green Berets"). Next morning, was called to a meeting by Cpt. Jessup at the Co. Command tent. Details of the next mission and the Co. Went down the chain of Command if he was killed. Me, just arrived in the company less then a month before, and being an ex Combat Engineer, was last in command of officers and senior NCOs', and was told to keep mum about the next day until the Co. Brief the company in mass.

Just at the break of dawn, the company was assembled for the day's mission.

Going into a "hot LZ" in the northwest Queson Valley. First liftoff would be in two hours, and we were told to pack extra ammo. We came into the LZ in trail, as the chopper hovered about 3 feet off the ground, we unassed the birds and set up a DP. We had a platoon of ARVN that was supposed to stay with us the entire mission, but left to celebrate TET right after landing. The next hour, we lost our first man KIA. The point man for first platoon. As we progressed into the triple canopy jungle and a slight uphill incline, we started to receive

light automatic rifle fire which increased as we progressed up the slight slope where the jungle got heavier. Always hated traveling in single file, but that was the order given to us. I still put flankers out about three yards. Any further then that, and we would lose contact with them. The little FM radio's that fit on our helmets was useless except in line of sight. Enemy fire increased by adding mortar fire to the automatic small arms fire.

CO called in an air strike to our left front.

A FAC came in low and fired a rocket into third platoon, injuring several men. "SORRY ABOUT THAT", as he left the area.

Enemy fire was getting heavy as we looked for a defensive position which we found to the left and forward of us. It was an abandoned trench system from either the ARVN or the NVA on a small hill with a clear view of some rice paddy to our front.

As we moved into those trenches, I discovered a booby trapped grenade, and passed the info on up to the CO. As we settled into those positions, the CO. Told me to take my platoon on patrol and try and figure out what we were up against. My platoon took a small trail to the front and trailed back to the right. We got about 30 feet and was pinned down by heavy direct small arms fire from the jungle about 30-40 feet away.

SSG Mason was to my right, and one of our machine guns was to the left. Sgt Mason let out a grunt and said I'm hit. He was laying face down, and I rolled him over to see where. The round had hit his pistol belt, and ricocheting up into his intestines, leaving them hanging out. I replaced his guts and put a field bandage on to hold them in place. And called for our medic. The medic was busy at the front of the patrol tending to a couple of other injured men. I dragged SGT Mason back to the DP, and went back to my men. The machine gun bolt locked up and would not eject a round, despite all attempts to eject it. I grabbed the gun by the barrel tripods and kicked down as hard as I could in the cocking handle, finally ejecting the round and a new on inserted going off and barely missing my head. I told the platoon to return back to the DP as I hosed the area down with a 20 round mag, and silencing the automatic fire from the front left. Another patrol from third platoon had gone to the left of the DP in search of water. They also were forced back into the DP by small arms fire.

Captain Jessup ordered a resupply of food, water and ammo.

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As the choppers came over and did a kick out, most of the resupply fell into enemy troops. Captain Jessup then re ordered another run on ammo but try and hover so the ammo could be kicked out in our DP. As the chopper came in it was taking fire and the ammo was kicked out and two replacements jumped out, one had a case of ammo in each hand and broke his leg on landing. He never got to fire a round. We settled down as it was getting dark, and I went to the CP for a briefing. I came back to my platoon CP, and opened up a can of C-rations, my RTO had started a small fire to heat up some hot chocolate, and had lifted his C-ration can to drink it just as a mortar round landed by an old tree trunk and sending shrapnel through his cup and right jaw knocking out a tooth. The man was really pissed that his chocolate was ruined and said that was the last package of hot chocolate he had.

Medic came over and patched up his jaw, making him look like he had the mumps. Captain Jessup took him as his own RTO, as his had been wounded. I put another man as my RTO. That night we continued to received small arms and mortar fire.

Next morning the Co. Called for fire from one of the batteries in our AO, but they could not direct fire to our location. We continued to fire our 82's in indirect fire to keep the enemy from getting to close. Finally, the CO told us to take cover as he was getting naval gunfire to support us. Next thing I hear is a roar like a freight train coming. The USS New Jersey had fired their big guns, and that freight train noise was the one thousand pound round coming in. Those things shook the ground as they hit, sending shock waves over us.

We also got aircraft support either from the Air force or Navy. Can't rightly remember after all these years, but those jockeys came in at tree top level, so close you could see the pilots and the empty 20 MM shell casings being ejected as they made their gun runs. Next pass was dropping 500 pound butterfly bombs you could hear the whiz/buzz as shrapnel flew by, and the third pass was the dropping of napalm. You could see the torpedo shape as it left the aircraft and hit. Sending blasts of concussion, hot air, and feel the suction as the air was drawn back into the flames.

Amazingly, those little folks just kept on coming as we fired on them in the rice paddy to our front. You could see them real clear...Dressed in Kaki colored clothes.

The next day we started withdrawing back to an LZ for extraction. We found out later that our company had gone up against the 22nd NVA regiment.

That was a DANGER CLOSE Bomb run.

I still get chills and break out into a cold sweat as the adrenalin flows.

Tom
A/75th

**Does this look like a crusty
ol Warrior or what?**

**Reflections continue**

Just outside of the Americal Division and on Highway 1, is a Village called "ANTON". There once was a railroad bridge, and a highway bridge. Both destroyed by the VC. The Engineers put in a new bridge, with the Infantry securing it.

Nice accommodations with bunkers on both sides and a TOC. Leisure time! No ambush patrols to run, just be sure nobody tries to blow the bridge up again. I was in the TOC with SGT. Ames and my radio operator. Had just cleaned my M-16. We heard a lot of yelling coming from the other side of the bridge and the words "VC,VC" I grabbed my M-16 and a bandoleer of magazines and headed out the door of the TOC. The ARVN's on the other side was firing their weapons at a gook crossing the bridge. I yelled DUNG LAI, DUNG LAI. And the Vietnamese raised his arm and said something in Vietnamese. Just then SGT. Ames came out with his M-16 and said "GRENADE"!

I yelled one more time to stop in Vietnamese, as he came between myself and our bunker on the other side of the highway. He raised his arm and let go of the grenade. I shot him once, but he kept running. I flipped the selector switch to "AUTO GITTEM", and unloaded a full magazine into his ass. Everything in slow motion.....I watched as chunks of flesh left his body as well as the wallet he had in his pocket. He went down and I did too. The frag went off, and I was immediately back on my feet with another mag loaded, but the guy was in no mood to continue the fight.

MP's came in a jeep, threw the dude in the back and hauled off to the hospital. About an hour later, the MP's came back and asked what had happened. I told them, and SGT Ames told them also. Didn't stop them from hauling me to the MP station where they booked me for murder. About two hours later, the BN Exec came and signed for me, and took me back to the bridge. At this time I had just about two weeks left in country, but my hearing was scheduled for two weeks after

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that. I was found not guilty by Justifiable Homicide, taken to the airport and put on a plane with a ban on me from serving in Vietnam for one year. 11 months later I was back in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne at Phu Bai.

Tom
A/75th



**Bill Maxwell with V Corp
LRRP circa 1968**

MAXX DID THE LRRP THING HIS WAY

V Corps LRRPs were a colorful bunch with unique ways of doing things but even given that, Bill Maxwell was in a class of his own.

The always affable "Maxx" came to the company from V Corps Post HQ as a Day Report Clerk. He had an infantry MOS but always worked in the office. He did two hitches in the company including one as a Killer platoon sergeant and the oddest thing was that he was officially a leg. No jump wings, or at least no US jump wings and no jump pay.

Maxx was a leg but he was also an experienced sky diver and had done a military free fall course with the French Army at Pau while on his first hitch in the company.

Maxx started skydiving within a month of joining the company with the LRRP parachute club which included Chet "Skinny Injun" Smith, Paul Sullivan, Lee Farley and mail clerk Bruce Warmouth. and others. He got 20 jumps in his first six weeks in the company, mostly out of Budigen Army Airfield on L-20s and H-34s. John Wilson was the company S-3 and helped arrange the planes flown by pilots who needed the flying time.

Maxx did a tour in 'Nam and called the company up from the repo depot on his return to Germany in August 1967. 1st Sergeant Bob Searcy (formerly a PL in VII Corps LRRPs) knew Maxx well and got him back into the company as 1st Platoon Sergeant

Searcy found a regulation about "prior parachute experience" which applied to the Pau French Army course and got approval for US jump wings for Maxx who made his first pay jump the next day. At that time he had approximately 180 jumps.

He made E-7 with a 11F Infantry Operations MOS at about the same time he became platoon sergeant.

V Corps LRRPs (officially Co C, LRP, 17th Inf) transferred back to Fort Benning in May 1968 and Maxx remained behind in Germany and migrated to A company of the 509th in Mainz and a few days later went TDY to the 8th Infantry Division parachute team in Bad Kreuznach.

In August of that year it was back to Vietnam to the same unit he had served in on his first hitch.

On his return to the US he became an Army recruiter in Ohio for almost eight years before retiring to Texas for another career on the road as a truck owner operator.

He retired again at 62.

This writer was fortunate to catch up with Maxx and his lovely wife Michiko in the summer of 2010 in Houston. Great people. Good stories.

By Bob Murphy



Bill Maxwell and Michiko are living in Houston, TX



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

I understand that there was a delay in getting the last issue published, so I do not know what was included in the published version. So...I will try to cover recent events here, and apologize if we missed something along the way.

RANGER HALL OF FAME

Eldon Bargewell (MG, (Ret.)), was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame during the week of the Ranger Rendezvous. Again, 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 RHOF, in my opinion, although I should tell you that when I approached him at the last RR and told him that several of the B/75 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. So... CONGRATULATIONS, ELDON !!!

RANGER RENDEZVOUS

I could not make it to this year's RR due to work obligations, but understand that many other attended (some for the first time ever, such as Mike Moser), and they thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Dave Cummings attended, as usual, and we understand that he is now one of the Unit Directors, so CONGRATULATIONS, DAVE! If anyone has photos they would like to contribute to Patrolling that were taken at the RR, please send them along to me.

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 - Marc L. Thompson) send me a friend request, and I'll invite you to the group.

NEWS:

JIM BROYLES

CSM BROYLES RETIREMENT

CSM Jim Broyles retires this year, after a long period of service to our country. Mike Moser was able to travel to Texas for the ceremony, and submitted the following report:



From: Michael Henry Moser

Re: CSM Jim Broyles Retirement - October 2011

If you get a chance, please repost at other sites the comments about Jim's retirement. Jim was not only the oldest Ranger on duty but the last Vietnam Vet.

I wanted to share with you some of CSM Broyles retirement party and some of his Bio. I know that like most Rangers Jim is not going to brag on himself. I'm going to do that for him. Jim has a great story and I'll stack him against ANY Ranger that has worn the TAB.

After 34 years Bonnie and I had the Honor of attending CSM Broyles retirement party. Jim was also kind enough to let us stay at his ranch, feed us, and send a truck load of Texas beef back with us. We got to meet his lovely wife June. June was made an honorary MG to keep Jim in line.

This old SSG was allowed to speak before a room fully packed with 5 General Officers, 36 CSM's and SGM's and more 04's, 05's, and 06's than you could count. I told a few stories about the B/75 days. I presented CSM Broyles with a shadow box. I gave him this box not only on behalf of the B/75 guys but all his Ranger buddies. This box contained all four scrolls from the Ranger Units Jim served with: L Co. Rangers, H Co. Rangers, B Co. Rangers, and 1st Ranger Bn. (Originals).

The box contained his rank, branch, 75th Crest, and Ranger Tab. I also made him an arrowhead to match the Texas guard shoulder patch. Included was a plaque inscribed with the following:

CSM JIM BROYLES: Thanks for over four decades of combined service in law enforcement and the U.S. Army. Congratulations to the oldest Ranger on active duty, from your Ranger Buddies at B Company 75th Inf. (Ranger). (THIS RANGER HAS ALWAYS LED THE WAY).

For those that don't know CSM Broyles he was the CSM for the entire Texas Guard. He had 102 CSM's and SGM's below him. The Texas Guard has over 19000 soldiers: the 36th Division, 13 BCT's, 1 Airborne Battalion, and two SF companies, plus some other units. This position was equal to that of an Army CSM (i.e. 3rd Army as an example). Only the CSM of the Army held a higher enlisted position if I understand things correctly.

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LTC (R) Anton a (RHOF) Ranger was also at CSM Broyles retirement party. He was Jim's CO, and CO of H Company Rangers in Vietnam. They had not seen each other since 1972. LTC Anton told me "Jim was one of my best Rangers". He told a story about the six man Ranger team Jim was on. They had set an ambush up on the "trail", and when the firing was over 132 NVA regulars had gone to see their maker. Anton said it was a record. In one month H Company had more enemy KIA's the a whole Brigade of the 1st Cav. LTC Anton told me H Company Rangers were the most decorated Ranger Co. Hooah.

Jim's Ranger team did not get a scratch. Rangers:132, NVA:0.

As I sat and watched the men and women of the Texas Guard talk about CSM Broyles it was clearly evident the impact Jim had on their lives and careers. Jim not only excelled in his duties but made sure those he came in contact also excelled. It made no difference to Jim, from 08's to E1's his mentorship over the last ten years as a CSM has been felt in the entire Texas Guard. I must say I was extremely impressed by the quality of leadership in this unit. Jim I'll shut up now and let you enjoy your retirement. You have earned it. It is an honor to call you friend and a GREAT privilege to call you a RANGER BUDDY. You are a RANGER's RANGER and you get a PLUS 25. (I was going to give you more points but you used your F***ing Finger to point at the map). RLTW. HOOAH.

U.D.'s note: The HOOAH above is the old B/75 HOOAH, not the wimpy, half-assed Hooah you tend to hear these days... In tracing the oral history of that expression back, it is beginning to become clear that the first time it was used was in the 2nd Ranger Company in Korea, which is where CSM Joe Gooden started to use it, and he brought it to B/75 when he was the First Sergeant of the unit.

We included a photo of Jim Broyles standing next to a poster on the wall (SFC Broyles, also an Airborne Ranger!). The poster was in the 36th Infantry Division HQ's in Iraq.

**GARY O'NEAL:**

There is a new book about Gary to be released this coming year. I'm including some of the info from the Facebook page about the book here:

"American Warrior" by Gary O'Neal with David Fisher
Book by best selling author, David Fisher, to be released in 2012. Based on the life of Gary O'Neal, Army Ranger Hall of Fame. See Gary's American Warrior page at:
www.facebook.com/AmericanWarriorGaryONeal

American Warrior

In July 2010, Gary O'Neal was inducted into the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame. His plaque reads: "Chief Warrant Officer Gary L. O'Neal is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for nearly 40 years of service to his country and its allies. From Vietnam through both Gulf Wars, Chief Warrant Officer O'Neal served as a private, noncommissioned officer, Special Forces warrant officer, and special operations GS civil servant, in conventional and unconventional warfare on land, air, and sea. He has served with every branch of the US military, on every continent in the world. Ranger O'Neal bears scars from bullet wounds, shrapnel wounds, and bayonet-knife wounds from at least nine separate combat engagements. His service is characterized by nearly every combat qualification, multiple combat tours in Vietnam to include incursions into Laos and Cambodia, and long periods of perilous service in virtually every country of Central and South America. He has served on personal security duty for general officers in the Middle East, and also trained tens of thousands of American and foreign military personnel in every theater of the world.

His career is highlighted by Ranger-LRRP duty during Vietnam, his selection for duty with the US Army Parachute Team (Golden Knights), Department of Defense's first Antiterrorist Team (Blue Light), and the US Army's first Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Course.

His awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" device, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, Army Achievement Medal (3), Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, Master Parachutist Badge, Master Military Freefall Badge, and Combat Diver Badge."

Here is a brief extract: Page One:

"Although there was no legal compulsion to the performance of military duty; yet every man of full age and size was expected to do his full share of public service. If he did not do so, he was 'hated out as a coward.' Even the want of any

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article of war equipment, such as ammunition, a sharp flint, a priming wire, a scalping-knife or tomahawk was thought highly disgraceful. A man who, without a reasonable cause, failed to go on a scout or a campaign, when it came to his turn, met with an expression of indignation in the countenances of his neighbors, and epithets of dishonor were fastened on him without mercy.” -The Great West, by Henry Howe (1861) On Memorial Day, 2009, I went on up to the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. It was a beautiful, sunny day. A nice young lady was standing at the front gate and as each person entered she handed them two roses. There was a big box right next to her, and she was taking the roses out of that box. Two at a time. When she handed me my two roses I stopped there and I smiled and I said politely, ‘Excuse me, ma’am, but you’d better give me that whole box. I got a lot of friends here.’ I have sat on the mountaintop and seen the eagles soar. I sat on that same small staked-out piece of land that Sitting Bull and Black Elk, Red Cloud and other great chiefs had sat long before me and looked outside to find themselves. I sat there all alone for four days and four nights, and I said my prayers and sang my songs and asked the elders to guide me to a peaceful place. For a time, my spirit flew with those eagles, but when they went to nest it came home to me. When I came down from the mountain, only I knew what I’d left behind. I know who I am. I know what I’ve done. And I know who I did it for. I don’t pretend to be anything but what I am: I’m a soldier, I’m a warrior. I am an American fighting man. For the last half century, wherever American soldiers were fighting an enemy, some piece of me was there. If I wasn’t there myself, someone I’d fought alongside or trained to kill silently or taught to survive was there. It didn’t matter if it was a jungle, a forest, a field or a desert, if Americans were on the ground some part of me was there. I’ve got plenty of wounds to prove it, although sometimes I think the deepest ones are those you can’t see. My reputation is pretty direct. At Ft. Bragg it has always been possible to find experts in almost every aspect of warfare. Shooting any type of weapon, all the martial arts, surviving on the land, there is always someone there who can teach how to do it. But when my name was mentioned there people would respond, “If you want to know about combat, go see O’Neal. He’ll teach you how to kill.”

So... when you get a chance, check out Gary’s new book!

BOBBY REEVES:

Does anyone remember Bobby Reeves? This is part of a conversation on Facebook regarding stuck lowering lines, etc.

At least you got it lowered - Bobby Reeves (old brown-boot E7 from Group - busted to E1 or E2, etc.) got his quick-releases jammed on a mountain ruck...

Those were the old-style triangular frame rucks, with the top of the triangle at the base of your neck; the other two points of the triangle ride your hips. You rig it upside-down so you have two points of contact for the quick-releases, with the top of the triangle pointing down. After exit he could not get it to release no matter what - the drop altitude was lower than it should have been and he didn’t have time to cut it away with his boot knife before impact. Apparently the impact of landing, though, was sufficient to finish the job he started of trying to get the quick-releases free, and the top of the fully-loaded frame impacted the top of his foot once he hit the ground. Messed up his foot and ankle something fierce - don’t remember if he ever jumped again, but I could be wrong.

Bobby was a weapons primary MOS in Group, and had been busted a couple times before, worked his way back up to E7, this time I believe it was to E2 (?), and sent to a Ranger company. Worked his way back to PFC, went to Ranger school in my class, and got automatic E4 from that. I believe that he also regained E5 within a short time afterwards, but CRS has kicked in, so don’t quote me on that.)

Bobby was one of the best land-nav guys I ever met, and a walking encyclopedia of military history, usually expressed in terse, colorful terms.

That may have been the same (night) jump that I landed flat on my back after my PLF in an elevated cactus patch about 10-15 feet across with no apparent means of exit - Larry Coleman and a couple others rescued me by using logs placed from the ground into the cactus patch that butted up to the bottom of my boots, walking up the logs, and levering me onto my feet so I could walk (stagger) down the logs off the cactus patch. Our CO landed about 30-50 yards away from me in a deep ravine - his chute caught on a tree growing out of the side of the ravine, suspending him on the side of the ravine. He was attempting to crawl up the suspension lines (dragging his ruck still attached via the lowering line) to the tree when he was finally located and pulled out of the ravine by his parachute by several other Rangers.

Good times, good times...!

(Here is more on that particular jump, which I KNOW that many of you remember... That particular jump was actually supposed to be a fairly standard Company FTX, with a C141 night equipment drop on a yet-unused just-surveyed and approved DZ. It was properly surveyed, and the drop duration, aircraft speed, and other variables were all properly calculated.

The thrill of it arose in that the 141’s were piloted by Guard pilots who were not used to dropping troops, even during daylight.

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After the preliminary jump commands, when we all stood up and hooked up, things got a little strange. From our viewpoint (not being able to see a damn thing inside the aircraft) we could tell something was a little off... the aircraft was approaching the DZ at about the right speed, the door was opened and the spoiler deployed. And then... we could feel the aircraft losing altitude (I thought to myself - maybe he was too high - the drop was to be conducted at 1250 feet AGL - and he's bleeding off altitude to get to the proper height). The drop zone wasn't all that long, and we had been briefed not to dawdle and unass the bird ASAP so that the entire stick would get out in time. As an aside, Jim Broyles was probably next to me in the stick, either in front of me or behind me... we seemed to get manifested together all the time.

Suddenly, we could feel the pilot goose the throttles and the noise from the door get extremely loud - you know when you get used to jumping certain aircraft, how you can pretty much tell from the sound when you're at the right drop speed, etc.? Well, we were well above that speed, with the nose pitched up at a significant angle, and the door noise was serious. So... THEN THE GREEN LIGHT CAME ON!

What had happened was that the pilot had throttled back to the nominal drop speed and configured the aircraft to maintain altitude (he thought), and suddenly realized that he was way too low approaching the DZ... So he increased throttle and pulled the nose up to gain altitude. Once the light came on, we departed the aircraft rapidly, as instructed, but, unfortunately, instead of 1250 AGL, we exited at about 700 feet AGL, at speed tens of knots above nominal.

The medics were very busy that night. We had several leg, foot, and ankle injuries, in addition to the "razor burns" suffered by several Rangers when their helmets were ripped off as they exited the aircraft, and the injuries from being "bounced" off the side of the aircraft, etc.

You know how when you jump a 141 you do the little "bunny hop" out the door so that you don't jump out past the spoiler and fuse your chute and suspension lines from the jet blast? We were mostly pretty experienced jumpers, and had seen "cigarette rolls" and their effects, but also had never exited a 141 via the door at that speed... the increased speed turns the "bunny hop" into a "bunny slam" (against the side of the aircraft). Sgt. McIntyre had his M16's barrel completely bent around his left leg from the impact with the aircraft. The medics were very busy that night.

Once the pilot decided to compound his mistake, the actual locations that jumpers would impact also changed, so now we had people landing in ravines and other undesirable areas, instead of the surveyed drop zone, hence my dilemma,

and that of our CO. Plus we were jumping T10's (highly maneuverable - LOL), had to expend time dropping our rucks on the lowering lines (time being a commodity we did not have in abundance that night), at an altitude of approximately 6000 feet above sea level (thinner air - faster drop), and could not easily see the ground.

I remember that my personal experience went something like... shuffle... door... hop... SLAM (aircraft)... Holy Crap... check canopy... check for jumpers (can't see shit)... drop the ruck... pull the leg quick release on weapons case... hands on risers... feet and knees together... SLAM (damn that was fast)... OWWWWWWWW!!!

The monster cactus I was hung up in had spines about 2-4 inches long, but wasn't poking me in the back or head (luckily protected by the parachute harness and helmet), but that wasn't helping my ass, legs, or arms.

After Larry Coleman and Colvin (I think) rescued me, our CO (Doc Wentzel) got retrieved from his ravine, and we went administrative so the medics could take care of all the injuries, they secured a pair of pliers, so there I was, on the DZ, with my pants down around my ankles, with Larry pulling big-assed spines out of my backside with a pair of pliers while he and 3 or 4 others with flashlights were making wisecracks of the usual nature. We went ahead and conducted the FTX, and I was still finding little chunks of cactus spine embedded for a few days... literally a pain in the ass...

There are a few guys in this group that probably remember that particular jump (Broyles, Moser, Bruce, Harrell, Parker, Aguilar...).

On second thought, you could probably call it a high-speed leadership reaction course... think I failed - it's difficult to lead with your pants down and everybody cracking jokes at your expense....!!

HEARD FROM:

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 Leo Starkey - rgr3969@hotmail.com
 Richard Stutsman - cdso79@twinvally.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
 (If anyone notices an incorrect email address here, please contact me so I can update it).

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

Some of the members of the unit should edit their address books to correct my email address. My old email address no longer works. So please check your email address 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 November 15, 2011 Patrolling Report

Winter submission

Richard Foster, President

Never underestimate the power of one. Tom Forde was able to make contact with Chuck Straehl after some 50 years. Chuck was one of the original members of the Company in 1961 and later made a career out of the Army Reserves. Ironically, Cheryl Visel discovered and bought his original JayHawk crest from an antique store some 5-6 years ago. She bought it for \$40, I think.

I suspect you're wondering where this is all going; be patient. Chuck was given an old set of names and serial numbers from orders putting us on jump status, and has been able to locate and make contact with eight of our guys, otherwise lost to us, in his spare time. Don Heitman (heitmand@aol.com /317-253-2925), Gerald Fox (gcdm6156@hotmail.com /814-722-0121), Cal Dean (wayneandann@comcast.net /304-366-0330), Robert Crews (850-892-5858), Paul Carlisle redwine4u2@att.net /205-822-8912), Tom Cassida (r.cassida.civ@mail.mil /719-382-5584), and John Barr (johnbarr621@bellsouth.net /334-298-5937). Don Taufer's in the works. These guys never knew we existed outside of the Company and most intend to make our off-year reunion in Harrisburg, PA, July 20-23, 2012. I expect some 20-30 members at Harrisburg next year. Those already committed are Dave Clark, Jim Handlin, Dick Roach, Tom Forde, Steve Lengel, Kirk Gibson, Freddie Bailey, Sam Storey, Zeke Evaro, Harlis Kelly, John Fisher, Mike Holub, Theo Knaak, Don Wagaman, Cheryl Visel, and I.

As for the itinerary, one has yet to be set, but Kirk Gibson is our point and will set up arrangements. Plan on visiting Gettysburg Battle Field, Hershey's Chocolate factory, Fort Carlisle, etc, not to mention C-ration-type free libations. We'll let you know the details once they're set. Kirk e-mailed me an account of his and others' return to Germany and the World War II sites. I hope to include it and its ensuing photos in this submission, barring some anticipated cyber-world glitch on my part. (INCLUDE THREE ATTACHMENTS HERE)

Sick Call: I spoke with Jim Joiner (the Jungle Man), finally. Jim's doing as well as can be expected, except that the pain is affecting primarily his legs and hips. But Jim's always been a tough old bastard and is going to try and make the 101st Airborne Division's Snowbird reunion in Tampa in January. Go for it Jim; we'd like to see you there and in Harrisburg. I think you can do it! You guys can contact Jim at junglejim327@juno.com.

Tom Lake, tomlake_1@msn.com, seems to be doing much better, based upon some of the Wal-Martian e-mails he's putting out. If you haven't seen them, take my advice and stay

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

out of the Colorado Springs Walmart. I swear I saw him in a couple of the photos. If so, I see why the ultra light crashed --- it twern't ultra light no more!

Tom Forde was able to track down Art Dolick, dna1938@gmail.com, in CA. The last time we saw or heard from his sorry ass was at our off-year reunion in Colorado Springs many moons ago. Art's doing better after his bout with cancer.

I haven't heard from Diane or John Repecko, revlingdoor@aol.com. The last I heard from Diane, he was losing weight badly and was well below his fighting weight. Hang in there John and Diane. Let us know how you guys are doing. You've got friends out here.

And lastly, I haven't heard from Jim Jackson, jrjack101@yahoo.com (706-561-0001) in some time. After suffering his stroke, he was recuperating amazing well; making plans to get on with his life the way it was and helping others. He devised a little bottle gizmo to help stroke victims regain their fine motor skills and had already run out of the ones he made. Give Jim a buzz if you think you can benefit from his little invention. If you're not taking care of your blood pressure and cholesterol now, you might want to contact Jim while you're able. A stroke, aside from being a silent killer, is a bitch to live with --- for you and your loved ones. See your Doc regularly and get it under control!

This little side note on Sick Call: Guys, we don't know how you're doing if we don't communicate with each other. I get a lot of shit in e-mail, as I'm sure you do; however, if we have time to send or read it, then we should be able to make time for a little personal "What's up?" note to one another. Just like I said above about the Power of One, we may not really know or remember each other after 50 odd years, but we damn sure know somebody who knows somebody, who knows somebody else, and so on. Spread the word for God's and each other's sake. I'd like to make that a Direct Order, but except for my

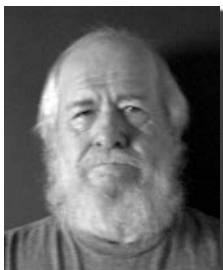
promotion by Theo Knaak to Pvt. E-10, I'm only an ex-Pvt. Get with the program or we'll start calling you that dreaded L-word. 'Nuff said. PS: Speaking of that, I heard from Bob Bannon and his wife Ligia. They passed on a holiday greeting to all and hope to retire in a couple of years. Maybe then, we'll see them at one or all of our "get togethers". Keep working you two --- those of us on Social Security need the security.

Side notes of some or little importance: 2012 dues are due in January to Tom Forde, 80 Carolina Dr, New City, NY 10956. They're still \$30 a year; Lifetime \$300; same as 75th RRA dues. You'll be reminded all year, just in case your dementia kicks in or you're just plain cheap or you're trying to scam us. If you can't afford it, tell Tom and we'll cover it; just consider it one of the few Entitlements you've earned and we don't mind paying. Its part of who we are.

Cheryl Visel's Airborne Supply Store expects to be at our Reunion. For those of you out of the loop, Cheryl is John Visel's widow, but still one of us. At the last reunion, I ordered a personalized jacket from her and it turned out to be much better than I expected. And I, believe it or not, have high standards! She can do anything with her sewing machine and supply of patches. I'm not sure if she's doing e-mail or phone business or both, but she can be contacted at cvisel@aol.com or 517-596-2908 or (c)517-937-1441. You can also check out her back-cover page ad in Patrolling.

That's about it, Rangers. If you get a chance or inclination, check in on Mark Thompson's (B Co Rangers) Ranger Facebook. It's a damn good setup, whether you like FB or not. Til then, Stay inside the box --- your volunteering days are almost over.

Dick Foster, President
VII Corps LRRP Assoc.
bossfoster@yahoo.com
(c) 352-281-0983 (wk'ends pref - they're free minutes!)

**C/75 - E/20 LRP****Unit Director - Del Ayers****Del Ayers****THANKS**

My father served gallantly in WWII. As he crawled from the FOP as the sole survivor of an artillery spotter patrol on Mt Vasso hit by a German 88 he was treated by a medic and sat on a mule which took him to the rear.

After two years rehab he met and married my mother. As a close family I can remember my Uncles (both

paternal and maternal) engaging in conversations at picnics about their WWII experiences and exploits. Uncle Don lost a leg at Normandy with the Rangers, Uncle Bob having his ship sank in the Straits, Uncle Ted crawling up the beach of IWO, and Uncle Jim blown off a ship in the South Pacific.

As the years passed the stories faded. The one regret that remained for each of my Uncles and my Father was that they had not been able to Thank the men who sacrificed to save their lives. These warriors were never able to thank their brave benefactors.

C/75 - E/20 LRP (Continued)

I chose to enlist for Airborne and serve as a warrior in Vietnam. E20 Team 44 Feb 19, 1968 was in a fight to the death in Cambodia. Thanks to Lt. Bob Stein the O-1 Pilot Don was in attendance at our reunion in 2011. Don's diligence and radio relay and coordination of assets were critical to Team 44's extraction on Feb 19, 1968.

Lt. Stein was in St. Louis with Oscar Carroway attending a reunion. While at the registration desk they spoke with a gentleman named Jim. As the conversation grew Jim related that on Feb 19, 1968 he had flown an extraction mission for a Long Range Patrol team in Cambodia.

Jim remembered the date because he was not scheduled to fly as Feb 19 is his birthday. He did not want to die on his birthday. His quiet personal day was put aside and he and his crew galvanized into action to pull a Long Range Patrol out of a desperate fire fight to the death.

Jim and his gunship crew forced an overwhelming NVA force back from Chippergates 44 position enabling our patrol to be extracted by both jungle penetrator and McGuire rigs.

My Father and Uncles are gone now and I am sure they have now been able to thank their brave comrades of WWII. Perhaps these old warriors conspired to allow me to personally Thank Don and Jim. I hold out hope that I will be able to thank the others involved in the Feb 19th rescue. If not now I'll find you later.

Chippergates 44 was lost. We were not willing to quit. Our resolve was equaled by young men who we did not know. Dashing by air to yank ground pounders to safety.

We were five warriors and we would never surrender. Five warriors came out alive that day because men we didn't even know fought tenaciously to rescue fellow warriors.

To those who rush to save brothers you do not know your valor will never be forgotten.

My Grandfather was never able to thank the man who gave him a mask to ward off the mustard gas in the trenches and my father and uncles were never able to thank their benefactors. We of Chippergates E20 LRP ABN have been able to thank two of our unknown and perhaps with some good luck we will be able to find the others.

WWI to Afghanistan has left young warriors with "I owe". We who were saved may never know your name but we will never forget your heroism.

**Trip to see Daryl Presley**

By: Del Ayers

Tom and Ann drove to Murfreesboro to let Sharon and Ann hang out while Tom and Ray drove to Toledo to meet Bob and hang out with "the Elvis".

I planned to fly to Nashville and ride with Ray and Tom, but Delta could not get me there, so I got a rental car in Cincinnati and drove to Toledo to meet them.

Tom, Ray, Bob and I had a great visit with Daryl Presley. We have talked on several occasions but I had not seen Elvis since Sept

68. Bob had to leave early but Elvis took Tom, Ray and I to dinner at Toledo's upscale Japanese chop and cook it at your table restaurant.

The next morning Daryl met us for breakfast and brought Bubba to see us off. I'm not sure that Bubba and I parted friends. Half a sausage link was less than he expected. I'm sure that Bubba will forgive me in time.

The drive back to Nashville for Tom, Ray and I was filled with memorable stories and solving issues we Vietnam comrades and Veterans face.

Ray had petitioned for an earned Purple Heart last year. We found the petition to the board had not been correctly submitted. Ray's petition is now in the hands of the Army Board of Corrections. My expectation is that I will be able to announce in the spring issue that Ray has been awarded his earned Purple Heart while serving with E20 LRP ABN.

"CUDOS"

By: Del Ayers

2011 Reunion is now a memory. We who attended are home safe. Special Thanks to Bones and Milt for their diligence and planning.

Special recognition to Mrs. Lonnie Dolan, Gary Dolan's mother who was there to attend his induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Although she was scheduled to return home Thursday she was able to re-schedule her flight and stay on until Sunday. At 87 years young Lonnie's dynamic energy, quick wit, infectious humor and insight quickly gained her the respect and love of all. When Gary bid everyone goodnight Friday evening and went off to bed "Momma" Lonnie remained long after to visit with each of us.

C/75 - E/20 LRP (Continued)

I would also like to say a special thanks to the wives and significant others who sent their men and to those who attended and let their men frequently abandon them to hang with their brothers.

2011 Fort Benning Reunion

By: Milt Hendrickson

The 2011 E20/C75 reunion was a great success with a number of first time reunion attendees. Before I go any further there are some names that need to be recognized for their assistance in enabling me to organize some events. First I would like to say thanks to all the below mentioned names, Ranger Smokey Wells for putting me on the right track to set up the Honor Guard, next Ms Linda Davis Regimental admin assistant for providing me with a point of contact for the Honor Guard, and SMG Ballesteros for providing the Honor Guard and lastly the Regimental Special Troop Battalion who provided the smart looking Rangers that were the Honor Guard.

This years reunion was a special reunion as I mentioned earlier we had some first time attendees, but also the unit had the pleasure of seeing another one of our comrades inducted into the Ranger Hall Of Fame, Congratulation Gary Dolan, with Gary's induction that makes 2 members of the unit inducted 2 years in a row, an honor for them and a lot of pride for our unit.

Other memorable moments included Gary Dolan's Mother Lonnie she was a real trooper at 86 she out lasted most of us staying up listening to stories and telling a few of her own (we love you momma Lonnie) other events included our memorial to our fallen brothers, the Infantry museum tour which everybody enjoyed, some saying they could spend an entire day there and our dinner and our raffle after the dinner in which funds were raised for the unit fund.

Saturday morning we held our Bi-Annual business meeting. There was not much in the way of old business discussed. A few minutes were given over to Vaughn Davidson to ask if anyone was lacking the receipt of earned medals to please contact him and he will help in that effort. New Officers were elected for the next two years, Darryl (Bones) Benton as President, Milt Hendrickson as Vice President, James Worth as Secretary, Dean Baker as Treasurer, Gary O'Neal as Sgt. At Arms, Tom Bragg as Chaplin and Del Ayers Vet Rep. Discussions were held about next years mini reunion to be held in Colorado Springs near Fort Carson. John "LT" Eder, Gary O'Neal, and Joe Hayes volunteered to set this reunion up. It was decided that we should start the 2013 Fort Benning reunion earlier in the week so as to have more time to coincide with the Ranger Rendezvous and change of command and be able to interact more with the young Rangers before they leave after the change of command.

Milt Hendrickson and Darryl Benton will continue to assist and coordinate the 2013 reunion, any other volunteers would be greatly appreciated. It was voted that the 2013 reunion would be held at the Wingate hotel again.

BRIDGE DEDICATION

By: Darryl "Bones" Benton

I would like to say it started with an email I received a few weeks ago on the 5th of June 2011 . The email just said "Hey, there is a family, the Robinson family, looking for someone that knew their Uncle and Brother in Vietnam ". His name is Loyd E. Robinson. In particular they are looking for Darryl "Bones" Benton who was with Charlie Rangers in Vietnam 70-71.

At first I kind of went into shock. The last forty years I have tried to keep closet doors from busting open that hold back memories I'm not sure I want to dwell on any more. While I'm proud as hell to have participated and been part of Charlie Company Rangers in Vietnam, it's some times tough to relive the bad moments. I remember the day we lost Loyd, "Robbie" as we called him. Suddenly upon receiving this email I could hear the contact on the radio again. I heard the radio saying one KIA. No name. I ran through my head the members I knew on that team. At this time we were not receiving replacements and we only could put together a few teams of veteran troops at any given time. I knew Warner was out there and Robinson. To this day I cannot remember who else.

You see, it did not start on June 5th, 2011, it started way back on 4th of July, 1970.

It started in a snack bar at Ft. Benning, Ga. Where I met Loyd Robinson and Steve Mantooth a couple of troops who were there for the same reason as I. We were there to be turned in to Paratroopers. We became Paratroopers over the next 4 weeks after the 4 th of July ended. As anyone can tell you who have been there, Jump school does not leave time to socialize much. Any friendships are developed during chow hall breaks or moments before falling into exhaustive slumber.

We all three made it out of Jump School and went on a nice bus ride to Ft. Bragg NC to become Special Forces Troops. We jumped into Camp McCall and went through 5 more weeks of grueling training. To this day, I'm not sure after it was over where I blew it, but apparently I did and so did Mantooth and Robinson. We all said goodbye one night in the barracks for the next day we were all going home for 12 days and then we had to report to Ft. Lewis Washington. We said our goodbyes and off we all went to our perspective home states. When we ever met again, we would be Airborne Infantry Troops in Vietnam.

C/75 - E/20 LRP (Continued)

I'm not sure when Robinson or Mantooth got to Cam Rahn Bay. I got there and was wandering around on my first day waiting to be assigned to a unit when I bumped into Mantooth. I asked Mantooth if he had run into Robinson and he said no. I took Mantooth and we went surfing. That's a different story.

The next day we received our orders for the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Upon arriving at Charang Valley, the 173rd Headquarters we ran into Loyd Robinson. He was just a day ahead of us. We pulled some guard duty and went on the outside of the perimeter on a day patrol with a bunch of noisy troops. It was uneventful, thank goodness. That evening as we were about to go to chow a truck pulled into the base camp. A tall rather lanky Sgt. Bolton stepped out of the truck and wanted an audience. A small formation was arranged for anyone who may want to listen to what he had to say. Sgt. Bolton was a Charlie Ranger. He told us if we wanted to stay alive we should probably get on his truck and volunteer for Charlie Rangers. He told us we would have to endure some more OJT, on the job training, but our chances of staying alive would be greater if we fought in a smaller more trained unit.

The training that followed was intense but without a lot of bullshit. Even if we stayed and passed the training we would have to be accepted by a team of veteran Rangers if we were to stay attached to this group. Robinson, Mantooth and I all became Charlie Rangers. We were all put on different teams. Mantooth and I went to the 4th platoon and Robinson to the 1st platoon. After my first mission with the 4th platoon I was sent to the 1st platoon who at that time was located in Pleiku. Bolton was there, Doc Gove was there along with Robinson and I. We were a tight knit group in Pleiku away from the rest of the company. 1st platoon had about three working teams so I never ran on the same team as Robinson because they always tried to put newer troops with older troops to even things out. That's where I met Warner we were on team 1-5. Robinson was with McCabe and Spearman on team 1-3. We ran missions out of Pleiku for the next 4 months. We joined the rest of the company in Ahn Khe at the first part of March. The company had lost Thorne and Scott the latter part of February. The base camp of Ahn Khe had shrunk to the size of a mole hill and a runway when we arrived back. The field was HOT with gooks. The missions were intense and there was not much stand down time between them. We lost Sgt. Spearman that month. We had a few wounded over the next two months and there were no more replacements however a few new troops arrived but the company was getting ready to stand down soon. On June 11, 1971 Loyd Robinson became Charlie Ranger's last KIA.

I can still hear the radio over the base camp loud speaker saying we have one KIA.

June 5th, 2011 I picked up the phone and called the niece of Lloyd Robinson her name is Beverly Nissel. I told her my name was Darryl "Bones" Benton. I told her I knew her uncle and had served with him in Vietnam. She got pretty excited; I got tears in my eyes. It seemed like yesterday I was with her Uncle. She told me she was the young age of 12 when we were in Vietnam. I thought your Uncle and I were the young age of 19 when we were in Vietnam. Lloyd Robinson was KIA at 21 years old; I was only 20 at the time.

Beverly said they were going to dedicate and name a bridge in West Virginia to her Uncle Lloyd. She asked if I would please be there, it would mean a lot to Lloyd's brothers and sisters. I told her it would mean a lot to me. She told me the family would be honored if I would be there. I told her it would be an Honor for me to attend. She asked if I had any pictures I could send. I said I would begin immediately to send the few I had. She asked if I knew any other Rangers that knew Lloyd and might want to attend. I told her I would try and find the ones I knew. This was going to happen in two weeks on the 24th of June 2011. Exactly 40 years and 13 days from the day I heard that loudspeaker say one KIA. I hung up and cried for awhile or maybe I just had some shit in my eyes.

I then called Gary Dolan who had passed around through the internet the call to "Ranger Up", we had a mission to accomplish. I told Gary I was going be there. He asked if I would do the Fallen Eagle Ceremony, I told him I would if we could get enough Rangers to show up. It was very short notice. Immediately I heard from Ranger Gordon Hockman, 75th Ranger from 1981 through 1984. C company 1st Bat. He told me he lived in eastern West Virginia and would show up and support the effort. Thank goodness this Ranger made the effort. He showed up with his lovely wife and added a whole lot of class and some real beauty to the rest of the ugly, I mean seasoned looking Rangers that showed up. Joe Hayes drove in from Detroit, Luke Bolton drove in from Raleigh, North Carolina, Gary O'Neal drove in from Raiford North Carolina and Steve "Doc" Gove rode his motorcycle from Kansas with his dog Toto. OK, maybe Doc did not have a dog. When you included me, we had a six man team present and accounted for.

We met the family the first night at the home of Nettie Gregory, Lloyd's sister. There we also met Col. Kevin Gregory an active duty Artillery Officer and Lloyd's nephew. Loyd had another nephew, Ranger Benjamin C. Dillion who was KIA 10/06/07, B Co. 3/75th There we had a great food off the grill and a lot of neighborly West Virginia hospitality. We became part of Lloyd's family, or maybe Loyd's family became part of us. We all got comfortable with each other and then went through what was to take place the next day. It was humbling, tearful, and at times down right full of laughter and a comfortable

C/75 - E/20 LRP (Continued)

peace came over us all. The Robinson family was feeling closure and the Ranger team was feeling the mood.

The following was written in the Intermountain News:

Bridge renamed for Roanoke man
Robinson was killed by enemy fire in Vietnam
June 25, 2011
By John Wickline - Staff Writer, The Inter-Mountain

The nephew of a fallen Army Ranger told those who gathered on a bridge over a wind-swept Stonewall Jackson Lake Friday that they should remember the words of Gen. George S. Patton.

"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died," said Col. Kevin Gregory, whose uncle SP4 Lloyd Eugene Robinson was killed 40 years ago this month while on patrol in Vietnam. "Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."

Family, friends and those who served with the Roanoke man gathered on Oil Creek Road to see a bridge dedicated in Robinson's memory. Robinson graduated from Lewis County High School in 1969 and, like his older brothers, joined the military. He enlisted in the Army and earned his way into an elite Ranger unit, Company C of the 75th Infantry. He was killed by enemy fire on June 11, 1971, nine months after being sent overseas.

"We talk about freedom, but this is where we understand what the price of freedom really is," said West Virginia Sen. Doug, D-Braxton.

The resolution to name the bridge in Robinson's memory came from Delegate Peggy Donaldson Smith, D-Lewis. She said the bridge just off U.S. 19 south of Weston is the perfect spot for honoring one of America's fallen heroes.

"He played here as a child," she said. "He jumped in the river here before we had the lake. It's so peaceful and calm here."

Darryl "Bones" Benton, who served in Vietnam with Robinson, recalled a man who was always positive, "true to himself, his country, and his God."

"Lloyd, like many members, volunteered for the Army at a time when many young men were trying not to get drafted," Benton said.

Gregory said he listened to the stories of the men who served with his uncle, and he told the audience those veterans may not even realize the impact they have on today's soldiers. He said many of those serving today strive to honor the memories of those fighting men and women who came before them.

"From my foxhole, I appreciate what you have done for our nation and our military," Gregory said.

Born Feb. 17, 1950, Robinson was the 10th of 13 children born to Richard Charles and Adeline Williams Robinson. His sisters, Lena Nissel, Grace Alderman, Nettie Gregory, Betty Mitchell, Hazel Blake and Kathyryn Craig, along with three surviving brothers, Jim, Roscoe and Johnny, were all presented with copies of the state resolution and with copies of the Department of Highways signs that marks each side of the bridge. The sons of three deceased brothers of Robinson, Rick, Jackie and George, also received the resolution and sign.

Contact John Wickline by email at jwickline@theintermountain.com.

The ceremony took place on a clouded Friday morning, however it did not rain, it was rather comfortable. Our six man Ranger team was received with the utmost honor and respect. For me it was a wonderful welcome home and thank you from a very large group consisting of various Robinson family members and local town folks.

After the ceremony we all proceeded to the fellowship hall down the street where we had refreshments and a get together with a lot of the local folks and family. We then went to the Mountaineer Military Museum in downtown Weston, run by Ron and Barb McVane. Ron is a Khe Sahn siege Marine Vietnam Veteran. There Barb had set up a Memorial to Lloyd in the front yard. We toured the Museum and talked with the locals. It was a moving tribute to all of West Virginia's fallen Sons.

We then headed up the road to Lloyd's grave site with niece Beverly, our tour guide and Ranger sister for the entire three days. We placed a wreath at Lloyd's gravesite and paid our respects to our fallen Ranger brother.

The next day we were guest at the Robinson family reunion where we were all given West Virginia Base Ball Hats and made official sons of West Virginia and the Robinson family. If ever you are asked to "Ranger Up" for such a ceremony, show up. It meant a whole lot to Lloyd's family, and it perpetuates our history as a unit and shows the world we still take care of our fallen brothers. It should be the mission of each and every one of us, until the last survivor.

Bones
Darryl Benton, C/75th, 70-71 June 27, 2011

C/75 - E/20 LRP (Continued)

ECHO LRP/CHARLIE RANGER ASSN., INC.
WARNING ORDER (Revised 11/11/11)
Happy Veterans Day!!!

GATHERING OF RANGER WARRIORS, HH6's, RANGER SISTERS, AND FAMILIES @ THE COLORADO SPRINGS RADISSON HOTEL.

1 – 4 August, 2012.

(Search www.radisson.com/coloradospringsco_airport)

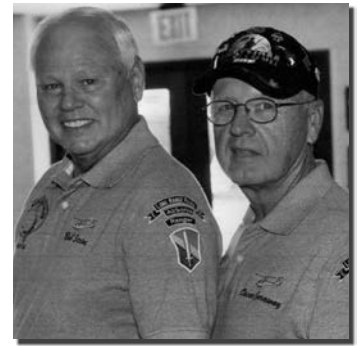
2 adjoining suites/party rooms. Large meeting room daily. Free breakfast daily. Free shuttle from Colorado Springs Airport. Only minutes from Ft. Carson. Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, US Air Force Academy, cool weather, and lots of other activities including beautiful golf courses and scenery. Gary "Big O" O'Neal has many contacts with the 10th Special Forces Group stationed at Ft. Carson and will get us a tour or something special. He was at Ft. Carson last week.

***We will have a banquet on Friday, 3 August at 1800 hours.

***You may book your rooms beginning 18 November, 2011, at \$99.00 per night (discounted rate). Mention you are part of the August, 2012 Ranger Gathering. OPERATIONS ORDER WILL FOLLOW ASAP! L-T



**Steve "Doc" Gove,
Darryl "Bones" Benton
and Gary O'Neal.**



**Bob Stein and Oscar
Caraway.**



Rangers and Robinson Family members at Bridge.



**Ranger Wives, Significant others and of course
"Momma" Lonnie.**



Oscar Caraway.



Milt Hendrickson.



C/75 Rangers at Fallen Heroes Ceremony.



After the Starlight Patrol.



Lloyd Robinson.

**D/75**

Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

No Submission**E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP**

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

No Submission**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP**

Unit Director - Tim Walsh

**Tim Walsh**

Greetings!

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who attended the last 75th Ranger Regiment Association reunion (July 25-30, 2011 in Columbus, GA). Dave Regenthal took numerous pictures including a great shot of all the guys who were there (see website: lrrp.com). Co. F had about 42 guys in attendance - many brought their families as well.

During the Co. F "business meeting" at the reunion we discussed an off-year reunion. It was decided that we should finally take $\frac{3}{4}$ Cav up on its continuing offer to attend one of their reunions. This is the proverbial "win-win" situation for Co. F. They have done all the ground work, getting the accommodations, setting the agenda, arranging for activities... all that stuff. All we have to do is show up and enjoy. A little background; the $\frac{3}{4}$ Cav association ("Mackenzie's Raiders") has been having reunions for, well, forever. They have invited "the LRRPs" from the 25th Infantry Div (including Co. F) for the past several reunions. Marshall Huckaby and others have attended a few of these reunions and has had nothing but good things to say about them. So our next off-year reunion will be May 16-20, 2012 in Nashville. It might be too late to take advantage of the special $\frac{3}{4}$ Cav reunion rate, but here's the reservation info:

Millennium Maxwell House Nashville
2025 Rosa L. Parks Blvd
Nashville, TN 37228-1505
Phone: 615-259-4343

If the Millennium Maxwell House does not have any " $\frac{3}{4}$ Cav"



rooms left they have made arrangements for an alternative hotel not too far away at:

The Spring Hill Suites
250 Athens Way
Nashville, TN 37228
Phone: 615-244-5474

Dave Regenthal has started a Co. F Facebook page for us. Please contact Dave, Bill Mrkvicka or me to get access. We want to keep access restricted to only LRRP/LRP/Ranger guys, no family, friends, ex-wives, etc. And we're going to keep the content relevant to Co. F. No political ramblings, please. There are numerous other avenues for that kind of social networking. We have over 35 members so far! I understand that you have to already be on Facebook to be granted access to the 25thID/LRRP/Ranger page. So get involved and join us on Facebook. It's a great way to keep up to the minute on all things LRRP/LRP/ Co. F.

I have had a few requests for more patches, pins, coins, decals, stickers, belt buckles, t-shirts, polo shirts, bobbleheads and other Co. F stuff. Okay, maybe not so much the bobbleheads. Marshall Huckaby is looking into ordering coins, stickers, patches and belt buckles. If you're interested in buying any of those items, go to the lrrp.com webpage or you can let me know on Facebook or by email at twalshx2@comcast.net.

I have two of the "Cassilly" F/75 polo shirts available. Both are large, one is the "patriotic" (red, white and blue collar) and the other is white. Both have the F/75 scroll. You can see an example on our Quartermaster link from the lrrp.com page. Those polos are \$37.00 a piece. Let me know.

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

A recurring theme is the question of whether anyone would be interested in going back to Vietnam. I have had a couple guys tell me they have been back and liked it. One guy has been back twice. Once much earlier and again a couple of years ago. He says he's glad he went back early, because he didn't like it nearly as much the second time. So I'll ask the question; Is there any interest in going back? If there is, we may be able to arrange some sort of tour or package deal. Keep in mind that the one thing everybody who has returned to Vietnam says about going back is that it ain't cheap. My personal view is that I'd rather spend my limited vacation funds closer to home. And even if I hit the Lotto my preference would be to go back to Hawaii (Aloha, Pineapple!) or the Caribbean. But if there's enough interest we'll look into it.

Speaking of Marshall Huckaby. He's been very busy doing some great things for the Co. F family. He had a company near him make a Co. F banner to use at reunions and other Co. F functions. He had our guidon sent to the troops in 3/4 Cav in Afghanistan. And also sent a box of cigars to the 3/4 Cav troops over in 'Stan. They certainly appreciate both, but are really looking forward to "lighting up" one of the cigars 11/11/11 in honor of all our fallen comrades. Thank you Marshall from all of us!

IMPORTANT! Ischemic Heart Disease. At the 75thRRA reunion in Columbus earlier this summer Dan Nate reported that the VA has recognized that exposure to Agent Orange

while in Vietnam is presumed to contribute to the development of Ischemic Heart Disease. Ischemic Heart Disease involved a reduction of blood flow and oxygen to the heart. There is usually a buildup of cholesterol and other substances, called plaque, in the arteries that bring oxygen to the heart muscle tissue. Over time, this damages and weakens the heart muscle making it difficult for the heart to fill and pump blood to the rest of the body. I urge you to go to the following website to learn more about Ischemic Heart Disease from the VA:

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/ischemicheartdisease.asp#research.

Co. F's own Joe Cassilly has been named Outstanding Disabled Veteran of 2011 by the DAV. We congratulate Joe on his career as Assistant State's Attorney since 1982 and decades-long commitment to fight for disabled peoples' rights.

That's it for this issue of Patrolling. I will be sending an issue of the Co. F Pointman newsletter to everybody on the Co. F mailing list. It contains much of the same info so if you already know most of the stuff in this article, bear with me.

Live long and prosper

Tim Walsh
twalshx2@comcast.net
313-590-6673

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

Unit Director - Steve Crabtree



Steve Crabtree

Steve Crabtree submitted an article for this issue of the magazine, but I, exercising the editor's prerogative, hi-jacked his article for the feature article section of this issue of the magazine, because I felt that the story of a Medal of Honor winner was a matter of general interest. (See the Pruden article.) I do want the record to reflect that Steve fulfilled his obligation and the reason these hallowed pages are blank, rests entirely with me.

John Chester





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

Unit Director - William T. Anton

A NEW STRATEGY FOR AMERICA'S WAR ON TERRORISM

America's current thinking on how to defeat radical Islamists is split along two very different schools of thought. Republicans, following what is known as the Bush Doctrine, advocate the military model of taking the fight to the enemy and seeking to democratize the Middle East. Democrats, by contrast, propose the law enforcement model of better cooperation with nations and more security at home. Although we have implemented aspects of both policies, the way forward is anything but clear. For one thing, our fight against terrorism is complicated by the fact that we are not fighting standing armies. Estimates are, about 15 percent of the world's Muslims either support or have mixed feelings of terrorism against us.¹ This amounts to some 250 million people, scattered across dozens of ethnic groups and nations, including many countries friendly to the United States. This small but dangerous minority is united by a fanatical hatred of the West.

America needs to move beyond criticizing President George W. Bush. Yes, the purported threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction was based on poor intelligence and did not materialize. But it's also true that Coalition forces toppled a brutal dictator and introduced Iraq and Afghanistan to democracy, which, if successful, may spill into nearby nations, making the world safer.

Unfortunately, democracy can't be thrust on people who think of security only in tribal terms. Democracy involves a lot more than casting ballots or people wildly demanding change in the streets. It requires rule of law, enfranchisement of minorities, intolerance of corruption, a free press, private property rights, religious liberty, and a transparent economy.

Geographical Perspective

Why has the Arab world been eclipsed by the West and so many East Asian nations? Mort Zuckerman, editor in chief of U.S. News and World Report, perhaps said it most aptly: "Their governments are inept and undemocratic . . . their societies riddled by class privilege and corruption, their economies inefficient and backward. . . . Their problem is systemic: Until they shed their neurotic and outmoded resentment of the rest of the world, they will fail."²



Bernard Lewis, a leading Middle East scholar, states that the total nonfossil fuel exports of the Arab countries (about 300 million people) amount to less than those of Finland, a country of only five million inhabitants.³ Brigitte Gabriel, raised amid Lebanon's civil war, points out that in 1998, a grand total of three technology patents were granted to the entire Arab world, whereas the Republic of Korea, with about one-eighth the population, received 779. Moreover, one-third of Arab men and half of Arab women are illiterate.⁴

Too often, Arab leaders stand silent or, worse join the hatred when their people lash out. Radical Shiites imposed harsh Sharia law in Iran and have de facto control of Lebanon through funding the terrorist organization Party of God, more commonly known as

Hezbollah. Iran also funds Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Palestinian Hamas, the Zionist Resistance Movement. In Iraq, the Shiite majority, currently led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, will stay in power whether democracy succeeds or not.

The Sunnis, who are the vast majority of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims, have plenty of radicals of their own. Salafism (also known as "Wahhabism"), a conservative branch of Sunni Islam, is the state religion of Saudi Arabia. Radical Sunnis control Syria via the Baath Party, and the Gaza Strip via Hamas. Indeed, the United States' two archenemies, al-Qaeda and the Taliban, are Sunni. Al-Qaeda was spawned primarily by Arabs, the Taliban by Pakistanis. And the Taliban continues to threaten Pakistan, a dubious U.S. ally whose popular support for our policies has dipped to the lowest among our Muslim allies.⁵

Where Do We Go from Here?

We are waging our fight against terrorism conventionally, in much the same way we fought in Vietnam. This type of warfare—pitting riflemen against riflemen—produces high casualties and plays into the enemy's strength of tolerating losses that we would find unacceptable. And as in Vietnam, we assured the Iraqis and Afghans that their struggle was vital to our security, which encouraged both nations to let us carry the fight.

This strategy won't work. We must limit our military activity to those arenas where we can wield superior weaponry. Protracted guerrilla wars are wars of attrition, and winning requires the support of the people. If the local people are unwilling to step forward in adequate numbers with adequate determination to

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

win their own fight, we must cut to the chase and recognize, in months rather than years, that they were never really motivated to begin with. We can still support those whose aims coincide with ours, but only with arms—not with more of our sons' and daughters' blood.

We lost the Vietnam War, but we won the larger Cold War because the Soviets' economy imploded. We can win this war by focusing on our real fight: the global economic challenge. For America to remain a beacon of hope, justice, and economic opportunity, we must reduce our national debt of \$14 trillion and promote superior education and the free market. For without an educated people and a robust economy—one supported by productivity, not by indebting ourselves to countries that do not have our best interests at heart—we will forever be obstructed by fossilized organizations such as the United Nations. Or, worse, we will lose our technological edge and fall subject to the whims of China or unscrupulous coalitions led by Russia or Iran.

Our war against terrorism has diverted too much of our human and economic capital (\$1.2 trillion for Iraq and Afghanistan so far, according to the Congressional Budget Office). Why can't our Arab allies send troops or deliver the financial aid they promised following Saddam Hussein's fall in 2003? We must acknowledge that we can't win this war with infantry and tanks. We can lose it, though—by being afraid to call the terrorists what they are, by not acknowledging that we're fighting radical Islamists, or by thinking we can appease those same radicals by closing Gitmo. Terrorists captured abroad have a special status. They're not POWs, nor are they domestic criminals, who have the U.S. constitutional right to be imprisoned here. Gitmo provides an optimum remote and secure environment safely operated by the military. And meanwhile, we can still take the fight to our enemies as we did with Osama Bin Laden, not with regular military forces but covertly through the CIA, State Department, FBI and special-ops soldiers, or by tactical air strikes.

Yes, many Muslims hate us. But we would do well to remember that the terrorist attacks of 9/11 came not from enemy combatants living abroad but from civilians living here. And those who tried to destroy our transatlantic aircraft with liquid explosives in 2006, as well as those who planned mass murder at Kennedy Airport and Fort Dix in 2007, were well-educated Muslim citizens from friendly nations. And the 2007 suicidal firebombing at Glasgow Airport and the thwarted attack at London's Luton Airport, as well as the 2009 Fort Hood massacre, were by Muslim medical doctors residing in country. In 2010, we had the failed car bombing at Times Square, also by someone of privilege, wealth, and a good education, who lived right here.

In the introduction of the U.S. Army / Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual, Sarah Sewall states the need for "U.S. forces to make securing the civilian, rather than destroying the enemy, their top priority. The civilian population is the center of gravity—the deciding factor in the struggle. . . . Civilian deaths create an extended family of enemies—new insurgent recruits or informants—and erode support of the host nation." Sewall sums up the book's key points on how to win this battle: "Sometimes, the more you protect your force, the less secure you may be. . . . Sometimes, the more force is used, the less effective it is. . . . The more successful the counterinsurgency is, the less force can be used and the more risk must be accepted. . . . Sometimes, doing nothing is the best reaction."⁶ This strategy, often termed "courageous restraint," has certainly led to some success on the Middle East battlefield, yet it fails to address the central truth: the terrorists we face are mostly homegrown.

First Vietnam and now our "war on terror" should be teaching us to choose both the battle and the way we fight it very carefully. Nation building is enormously expensive. And in a country hopelessly mired in corruption, tribalism, religious strife, and just plain old reactionary intransigence, it's flat-out impossible. Sometimes, doing little or nothing abroad is the best course. Keeping 47,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and 96,000 in Afghanistan only diverts us from focusing our brains, brawn, and technology on the real threat: domestic security and the global economic challenge. And this misallocation of our resources enables our real enemies to laugh while we continue to bleed. America is a big country. We can admit our mistakes, step away from peripheral fights, and still stand tall.

¹www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/feb09/STARTII_Feb09_rpt.pdf

²Mort Zuckerman, "The Triumph of Desert Storm," U.S. News and World Report, March 11, 1991, 76.

³Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong?* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).

⁴Brigitte Gabriel, *Because They Hate* (New York: St. Martins Press, 2006).

⁵Pew Research Center Global Attitude Project, "Obama More Popular Abroad than at Home, Global Image of U.S. Continues to Benefit," June 17, 2010, pewglobal.org/files/pdf/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Spring-2010-Report.pdf (accessed Aug. 27, 2010).

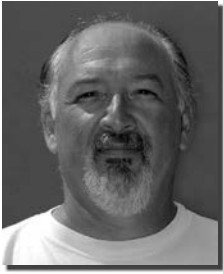
⁶Sarah Sewall, introduction to *The U.S. Army / Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Robert C. Ankony, PhD, is a sociologist who writes criminological, firearms, and military articles for scientific and professional journals and special-interest magazines. He served as an Army Ranger in Vietnam and is the author of *Lurps: A Ranger's Diary of Tet, Khe Sanh, A Shau, and Quang Tri*, revised ed., (Lanham, MD: Hamilton Books, 2009). Nominated for the Army Historical Foundation's 2006 and 2009 Distinguished Writing Award.



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

Unit Director - David Flores



David Flores

Hello one and all. I have had it pretty easy this last half of the year. Let me explain, after being elected as the next Unit Director for our company, I started thinking about what to write about for the next article in Patrolling. That's when Bob McGath told me he already had the next article done, so I had some breathing room. A month or so later, Greg Bennett sent me a story for Patrolling, how often does that happen? That covered the next Patrolling issue. Then our newly elected secretary wrote a great news letter for our members about our recent reunion. There was no improving on what Dave Hill had written, so I am putting his news letter in for this Patrolling article. I will add some additional info and pictures.

Along with all the fun stuff Dave mentioned, we also have business to attend to. So one of the mornings, before we start the fun stuff, we get down to our business meeting. We start with a prayer and then a salute to our fallen brothers. Then, we had elections for our new officers. The rest of the meeting goes as most do; new business, old business, etc. We closed with Dave Hill reading a poem to our fallen brothers.

The last night we have our banquet dinner, where we have "The Missing Man Table Ceremony", before we eat; another tribute to our fallen brothers. After dinner we return to the hotel hospitality room. Our company has one last tradition to do. We all have a final drink, to our fallen brothers. We do these things at every reunion; we will never forget our fallen

The company news letter and some pictures of our reunion are next.

Dave Flores, Unit Director

2011 1st ID LRRP-LRP Ranger Reunion Newsletter

Greetings One and All

The 2011 LRRP-LRP- Ranger Reunion- Davison, Michigan

Starting in 1993 (a few members having met at the 75th Ranger Regiment Association Reunion at Fort Benning,



Georgia in 1992), those who served in our unit during the period 1966-70 began to hold a unit reunion every other year. The first, singular, 1st ID LRRP-LRP Ranger unit reunion was held in 1993 in Greenfield, Indiana, then Colorado Springs in 1995 and onward from there. I attended my own first reunion in 1999 in Branson, Missouri. There I again met my excellent first Team Leader, Ronnie Luse, my 2nd (and also excellent) Team Leader, Paul Elsner and a man to whom I will always be grateful, Cobra gunship Pilot, Larry Taylor (whom I never actually met until that time, except as a hazy, helmeted figure on the other side of his plexiglass canopy). I am sure has been, as it was for me, like that homecoming we never received from our countrymen when we returned from our own tours of Vietnam. However, to again see the

guys with whom we served in combat, to meet their families and to reminisce about those days when we had so depended on each other, not just to survive, but to accomplish our mission-that was better than any other possible homecoming I could imagine. We never really needed (and still don't) the understanding of uncaring civilians; our self-respect and the respect of those with whom we ran missions is rich enough in its own right.

From 8-12 June, 2011, our unit veterans held their tenth biennial reunion in Davison, Michigan (just northeast of Flint, Michigan). Our gracious hosts were John and Patty Candiloro. John is also a veteran of General Motors, knows the area well, and he and his wife, Patty (a former school teacher) acted as our guide to local attractions. He and Patty put on a great event and all of us forty-one attendees are very appreciative of the results of their efforts. We all felt "at home" in their home area. We also literally made the nearby VFW Post our own for a couple of nights (I think they may still be talking about, "those Rangers", who stopped in back in June). The Davison VFW were also great hosts and we really appreciated their hospitality. Unit members and their families visited automotive museums in nearby Flint and Detroit, the "German Festival" in the village of Frankenmuth, local golf courses and the usual, but always memorable, nearly round-the-clock bull sessions at the event hotel. John and Patty had arranged for a hospitality suite in our base Comfort Inn and it was seldom empty during the course of the reunion. On the night of Saturday, 11 June, we were treated to a fine seafood buffet at the local restaurant,

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

before returning to our digs at the hotel. The next morning many got together for a final breakfast before officially ending the reunion and heading back home or onward, continuing their travels (being retired does have that benefit of more time to travel). I hope that many more will be able

to attend our next reunion in 2013 near Washington, DC, to be hosted by Bob and Sharel Busby.

Written by,
Dave Hill, Unit Secretary



2011 Reunion attendees.



2011 Reunion attendees wives.



Salute to our fallen.



Poem reading by Dave Hill.



Saying Grace at the banquet dinner.



Missing man table.

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

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

Greetings Brothers,
I hope all are well. Considering our age group we seem to have a few medical issues that come up from time to time. Please keep your Brothers and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

It has been a busy few weeks at my house between last-of-season farm work and travel. In September I traveled to Tennessee for my Dads 88th birthday and family reunion. On the way I stopped off in Oklahoma City to visit with Jack Werner. He is well and working as hard as ever. On the return trip I caught up with Reuben Siverling and Herb Reichel in Kansas City. Thanks guys for the visits.



Rangers gathered in LaPorte, Texas to be with Ray and daughter Stephanie and it was an honor to serve as her Pallbearers. Those attending were: Roger Crunk, Wayne Mitsch, Ken Nelson, Harry Phair, Duane Sells, and Leslie Williams. Despite the many medical problems she suffered through over the years she still had a smile and a sense of humor for all of us and she will be greatly missed at our future gatherings. Ray, you and Stephanie are in our thoughts and prayers. You may make a donation to the Family fund or the Wounded Warrior Foundation in her honor.

Thanks to Bill Filippini for the following report:

On a sad note: Ray Allen's Wife Janice passed away Oct. 28 from a stroke. She was a true Ranger Wife and a real friend to K-Co and Ray's Brother LRRPs. Several K-Co

During the August, 2011, reunion of the K 75th 4th Division Rangers/LRRPs, in Dearborn, MI, it was learned that Lonnie Gibson of Jellico, TN, who lost his life on Sept. 28, 1969, in

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

Binh Dinh Province during his tour in Country, had a military plaque marking his gravesite but no headstone. Also that his classmates were taking donations to purchase a headstone. There was no explanation for the lack of a headstone, but the Rangers/LRRPs graciously turned out their pockets to contribute.

On Oct. 9, 2011, some of the Rangers/LRRPs who became acquainted with Lonnie during his 84-day tour of duty, attended the dedication of the headstone at the Jellico Cemetery, Jellico, TN. They were asked to unveil the headstone, speak and make their presentation from the Rangers/LRRPs, in memory of Lonnie. Those attending, especially Lonnie's family members, were very grateful to learn what Lonnie's LRRP duties were during his service and at the time his life was lost. Those representing the Rangers/LRRPs were Stan Craig, Gary Shellenbarger, Emmett Mulroney, Calvin Gotts, Denny Ferguson and Roy Simpson.



Presentation: Lonnie's great great nephew holding the presentation from the Rangers/LRRPs.

LRRPS 1: L-R: Emmett Mulroney and Roy Simpson with Lonnie's sister Charlotte Adams and Dennis Ferguson, Calvin Gotts and Gary Shellenbarger with sister Jeri Douglas.



LRRPs (2) 1: Emmett Mulroney, Stan Craig, Denny Ferguson, Roy Simpson, Gary Shellenbarger and Calvin Gotts.

Also Bill reports that the guys from the Dearborn gathering donated a total of \$1025.00 toward our KIA brick purchase. Thanks to all who donated. We now have enough to purchase all thirteen bricks. My thanks to the unit for stepping forward and getting this job done. Hopefully by the time you read this all the applications will be turned in to complete this.

Wayne Mitsch reports that our bank balance after the brick purchase is \$1785.00

Please pass on to other vets.

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: vetrecs.archives.gov

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

As I write this I am in California for a Veterans day gathering with Tom Sove, Wayne Mitsch, and Rick Noble. The four of us are all former team leaders of Romeo-7. We always have a great visit thanks to our hosts Tom and Cass Sove.

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

Unit Director - Jerry Gomes

*No Submission***M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP**

Unit Director - Don Tillisch

It seems like we were at the 75th Ranger regiment Association 2011 Reunion just yesterday. As I write this, it's going on 3 months since we were there and the winter issue of Patrolling is coming out.

I spoke with Tom Zastrow a few weeks ago and he was doing well. He and his wife and family live in Anchorage, Alaska, where Tom is a contractor. He also enjoys fishing, and the last time we talked, he was returning from a successful fishing trip with his limit of salmon. If you want to contact him, his e-mail address is tsc@gct.net.

Patrick Dougherty sent in a couple of photos of him and three members of the 199th LRRP who completed Recondo School in the Spring of 1967 and were members of the unit prior to the unit being re-designated 71st Inf. Detachment, (LRP) (ABN). These pictures were taken at Cat Lai.

Jerry Kallen and I spoke earlier today and he informed me that he was feeling great and he had a small out-patient eye surgery on Monday as that he will soon be back to normal. We are all very happy that Jerry is doing so well and look forward to seeing him at the next Ranger Rendezvous in two years. Jerry also sent two photos.



L-R; Ables, Dougherty, Baldwin & Frohm.



L-R; David Wolfenbarger, Jerry Kallen & Ron Ratliff.



L-R; Terry Fralich, Tom Burke, Mike Ronnington, Clyde Washington & Jerry Kallen.



Ft. Benning Reunion, 2011.

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

Unit Director - Robert Henriksen



Jay Borman, who some met at the last reunion, is planning to do a large format photo book on LRRP and Rangers from RVN era. He discussed this folks from our unit, C, H, and L Rangers and their antecedents. Such books seldom make money and are "labors of love" for those authors/compiler that put them together. He has received good consideration from the other units and a number of us think that this would be an excellent project to support. Those photos will probably

disappear when we do. He may be contacted at: JBorman@express.com

The only photos he has been able to obtain from TIME-LIFE are those that Co Reenmeister took in February 1967 of Team 4 before an infiltration. The below is of the point man Manuel "Pancho" Moya and will probably be used. Moya was from A/1/503rd and probably came over to LRRP with

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

Carlton Vencil, Roger Brown et al. He was Jakovenko's valued TL before Jake left and was as good a point man as one could ask for. He unfortunately was killed in a car accident 30 years ago in northern New Mexico.



Does anyone know anything about a Don Lange. The following is from his son.

Hello,

My dad, Don Lange from Chicago was a LRRP with the 173rd Airborne Division, 74th Infantry Detachment. He was recruited by and a close friend with Laslo Rabel. I am trying to find anyone who might have known him.

Thank you,
msltacom



From Tome Roubideaux on this subject. N.B Tome admits that he made an effort to not get close to newbies. And my recollections (Reed C.) is that once I became a TL I really knew no one except those on teams 3 and 4.

I served as 1st Scout or 2nd Scout during my time with LRRP Platoon or 74th LRP...besides being experienced LRRP with the added skill of being a combat tracker from a Free World Armed Forces tracking school In USARPAC. In December of 1967, we were designated as the 74th Infantry Detachment (LRP) and were unaware of this re-designation until we returned to Tuy Hoa....The 67/68 workload (Dak To, NVA Troop Movement & TET) preempted the importance of that



admin action. Simply not mission essential at the time. In case, The LRRP Platoon's TO&E, and The Westmoreland directive was rescinded /changed. Thus allowing us to meet the Mission of Long Range Patrols which included combat patrols while keeping the point and area recon capability. Which by the way, Gen. Abrams was adamant about in his strategy of locating the VCI/NVA Support and logistics systems, IE caches and supply systems. (Abrams Papers, Carlisle Barracks). As the Platoon was reconstituted at Tuy Hoa and began to fill the TO&E for the 74th Infantry Detachment (LRP). There were only 18 of us that were operational and ran on Tad's, Wade's, Trembley's, Rabel's, Tompson's, and Sandy's Teams at least in my time with the Platoon and with the early 74th until 15 June '68

Although, Memory in itself is unreliable in the short and long term according to recent Brain and memory research (Lofton, Etc). And personally, after a mini stroke my own memory has been somewhat effected...I suggest you inquiry with Tad, Frenchie, "Joe" Welke, Kelner, Jersey, Fletcher, "Doc" Clarke, COL. Bazaki, Art Silsby, Frank, S. "Spradlin", "Schoonie", Nesby, Pipkin, Moran, J. Simmons, 'Ski, and other LRRP Platoon members (67/68) we have yet to locate (ETC, Pedersen, Olson)

As you know the other folks who could confirm this fellow were Holland, Wade, Jerome, Harland, Rabel and "Rock" Trembley all of which were KIA in '67/'68. Also, "Santi" Santiago, John "Tomson", "Turtle", "Teach", "Cat" Catozzi and others who could confirm this fellow and were with the LRRP Platoon and early 74th LRP from February to June '68 (when was assigned) have passed on due to medical issues and circumstance. Anything after that time period my journals do not cover...as I went MACV and Later N /75th RGR Also, during this period of time, we had LRRP operatives in MACV RECONDO School, Dero'sing, WIA or KIA. Some LRRP Candidates that were accepted by the board left after a mission or two and were RTU back to the Brigade TO&E units for obvious reasons. But, we LRRP Platoon guys knew each other, simply because there was a hand full of us running back to back missions with as team mates or as fillers for each other's teams. In other words, Some of us came in from one mission... debriefed, repacked, got a warning order/patrol order, and went right back out with another team leader. '68 was a rush and blur in terms of number of missions ran. Those kinds of circumstances create cohesion and lifelong relationships. From January to June '68 We received a number folks to begin to fill

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

the 74th's TO&E at Tuy Hoa and later at Bong Son. Most of us were running back to back mission from Dak To II and early '68. Although, I had allowed myself to become close to the LRRP platoon team mates, I did not make any effort to know most of the replacements in those early '68 days with the 74th Infantry Detachment (LRP). Friendly... Yes!...Close ...No!

I was on my 3rd tour the after having come from "Gun Fighter" Emerson's 2/502nd Recondo platoon, and the 1/101st LRRP prior reenlisting for the 173rd BDE. Experience had taught me that getting to close to guys beyond being a team mate could be emotionally rough if they got dusted or hurt. I had enough ghosts to live with by then and did not need any distracting emotives that could endanger my team mates or impede my decision making or situational awareness in carrying out my assigned duties.

It's quite possible this fellow was flying below my radar. Try as I might I cannot find Mr. Lange name in my research materiel or can I recall him on the teams during my time with the LRRP Platoon or with the 74th LRP, circa '67 or June '68. Now, I can be wrong!!!! But, I suggest you ask the folks I listed earlier in this email as they were both in the LRRP Platoon and early reorganization days of the platoon to the 74th Infantry detachment (LRP) TO&E during that time period...and they may have better memories, journals or orders that could confirm this fellow. I have seen the photos...But, be advised that almost all of us either wore our berets and MACV Recondo School Arrowhead or the plastic covered pocket patch with the LRRP tab over the Airborne Tab on our Khakis while on extension leave, R&R or when we dero's'd. I did not observed that detail in those photos nor did John Jersey.

In Regards

Dr. Tome Roubideaux DSW (Retired)

LRRP,LRP, N Co. 75th RGR, MACV TM 162

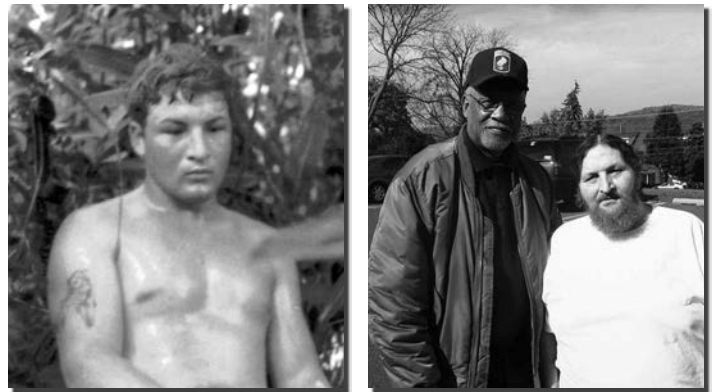
Rick Jones (erstwhile Operations Officer for N Rangers) has sent on a few photos of his time



David Cummings sent some photos of a few derelicts (I mean fine retired and semi-retired old Rangers) on a Thunder Run.



I enjoy keeping in contact with Bob Stouch and include photos of him back in the day and another with a guy from B/2/503 Ed Kearney



Ed Kearney from B/2/503 makes us all look like dwarves



It would be delightful to get photos of us back in the day and as we are today, with/without wives and kids



0/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael Dolsen

No Submission



P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick

Remembering Bill Oleskevich

It is with great sorrow and regret that we announce the passing of Ranger William "Bill" Oleskevich, of Evergreen, Colorado. Bill died unexpectedly on October 10, 2011 at home with his family. Bill was born on June 27, 1951 so you can see he left us way too early. Bill came to Papa Company in December of 1969, just before we lost Dowd's Dirty Half Dozen right before Christmas in 1969. It was a tough time to come into the company and we were reeling a bit from the losses we suffered at that time. Bill was a welcome addition to



Bill Oleskevich.

our ranks with his can do attitude and eagerness to please and to do the dangerous job we were tasked with. He was a young, highly motivated PFC who was ready to join the fight. He was on the short side in stature, but he stood out with his muscular frame and he was as physically fit as any member of our unit from the start. If you knew him, you knew that it was very important to him that he keep his body strong and fit and he continued that during his entire life. He eventually went to SSG Terry Bishop's team, Killer 1-1, for quite a while and learned the trade and became a Ranger who didn't need a lot of guidance, but began to share his knowledge and experience with those younger Rangers who followed him into the company. He moved into more responsible positions on his teams and showed leadership qualities that came with experience. That's how we did it in Papa Company. It was a completely different kind of war we were fighting from the training we were receiving stateside before deploying to Vietnam. Bill served honorably and with valor in our company and was recognized as a



true warrior in every sense of the word. He had the respect of all of us and was well liked in the company during my time there.

I left in November 1970 and Bill was still there finishing his tour. He extended for another 6 months after I left and stayed in the company for most of the time until it was de-activated in July 1971. Folks, that's a long time in such an active unit. He later moved into the Commo/Operations section of the company and served as a training NCO

for new guys coming into the company before he left to come back to CONUS and begin the rest of his life. He and Dan Wagoner who both spent a long time in the company became closer friends and their friendship continued up until Bill's surprise passing.

I probably had spoken on the phone with Bill less than a week before he died and he sounded real good to me at the time.

I lost track of him after I left

Papa Company but we reunited sometime after at a Ranger Rendezvous. He was initially stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. with the 82nd Airborne Division after Vietnam and he and Gregg "Spud" Gain linked up at Bragg and roomed together for a while. We had quite a few former P/75th Rangers who ended up at Fort Bragg after their tours in Vietnam and before they left the Army or re-enlisted and continued their careers. Gregg and Bill have remained close friends for all these years and never got too far from each other. Larry McNew has remained close to Bill and his family over the years and they had a special bond like so many of us do with one another at times. We'd like to recognize and thank Larry for going out to Colorado to assist the Oleskevich family with anything he could at this terrible time in their lives.



**Gain, Oleskevich & McKnew,
1992 Reunion.**



**Bill 'Stump'
Oleskevich & Gregg
'Spud' Gain.**

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

**Bill Oleskevich & Jose Dominguez,
1970.**

join us and it's always a pleasure to have her with us too. They had two children, Michael, 35, and Sonia, 32. Both children had granddaughters and from a short note I just got from Joyce, they were one of the major reasons he looked forward to getting up every day.....

Terry, Right now I'm still dealing with a lot of personal and financial paperwork so I'm not able to contribute a lot. Bill & I were married 39 years on Oct. 7, five days after he passed away. We have a daughter Sonia, her daughter Juliana; son Michael and his daughter Amber. Bill was honest, hard working, stubborn, opinionated, had morals and values. He loved his family and showed us a part of him that most people didn't get to see. He was a loving son, brother, husband, father and grandfather. His granddaughters were the apple of his eye. He had tea parties and played the prince & the princess with his 3yr. old granddaughter.

Yep, that's the Bill I knew. He was all those things and way more. Obviously he will be missed by more than just his family and hopefully he will be remembered fondly by all those he touched. The memories we leave behind are our personal legacy and hopefully we can leave a smile on someone's face when they take the time to remember us. Rest in Peace, Ranger Brother...

On a more positive note, we'd like to pass along our blessing and best wishes for Mary Rossi and Bob Murphy, a 5th Corps LRP, who lives in Melbourne, Australia. Yes, OZ!! At the barbeque at the hangar at Lawson Field in 2009 during the Ranger Rendezvous, I was standing and playing around with Joyce Boatman and Mary Rossi when Bob Murphy and a friend walked up and asked to take a picture of us. I introduced them to Joyce and Mary and shortly headed out to do whatever it is I do in a social setting. Mary lost her husband, Mike, to cancer over 8 years ago and has been living in Ohio and carrying

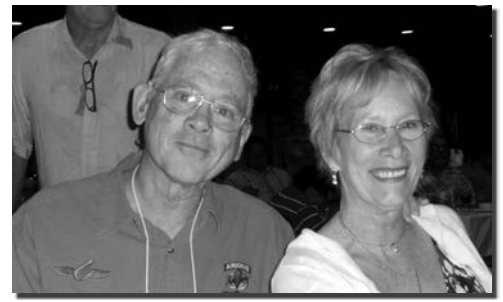
on with her life, which included her Papa Company Ranger family. She could have easily gone on her own way and left all this behind, but

she didn't. Not only her, but several other widows who are beginning to fill our ranks slowly, unfortunately. Anyway, Bob, being the sneaky LRP that he is, somehow began a long distance relationship with Mary from Australia via e-mail and they met up again at the 2011 Ranger Rendezvous. When I first saw them together, I knew something was up. They both had the glow of high school sweethearts and it seemed they were inseparable during this year's Rendezvous. I'm happy to announce that Mary has since moved to Oz to be with Bob and that they plan to tie the knot and make an honest woman out of Mary again shortly. Plans were for a Veteran's Day wedding but legal snafus have moved it to December 1st. We'd all like to send them our best wishes and to congratulate them both. It's such a cool story that I want to just go on and on about it, but I'll spare you all. Joyce and I were invited to go to Oz to be the Best Man and Maid of Honor, but it looks like we won't make it. We were both honored that these "kids" would think so much of us to even ask. "Blue skies and fair winds to you both" as you embark on some new adventures in your lives. The Papa Company Rangers are pleased to absorb Bob into our family and expect him to be a valuable addition. That being whether he likes it or not !! Ha! Ha!

Dave Barfield and Bobby Hampton are working hard putting our next company reunion together for next summer in Nashville, Tennessee. I went to a F/51st LRP reunion they put on a few years back and let me tell you, these guys know how to get it done !! We hope for a large turnout this summer as we are all getting older and the excuses for not traveling are getting harder to dispute. We invite any of you other LRP's and Rangers to join us as soon as we get the details set and begin to solidify our plans. We expect the dates to be in late July as usual.

Rangers Lead the Way !!

Terry B. Roderick, Unit Director



Bob Murphy & Mary Rossi.



D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Leon Moore

No Submission



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

The 2011 F 51 LRP reunion in New York was a success. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the many offerings that are in and around New York City. We had a total of 32 signed in members not counting member significant others. A more in-depth article will be in the next issue. Again Thanks go out to John Chichester for hosting the reunion and getting everyone where they were suppose to be.

Our 2013 reunion is going to be in Louisville KY. More information will be coming in following articles. I want to Thank Dick Moyer for this article. Dick had copies of his first experience with a LRP unit at the reunion. I think most of us know some of the feelings Dick talks about.

(LRP REPLACEMENT) MY FIRST MISSION AS A LRP

I arrived in Vietnam during the final throws of the infamous Tet Offensive. I had just come off of a three week leave after jump school, at Fort Benning. We landed at Bien Hoa Air Base at night. The base was being probed by enemy motor fire, "Welcome to Vietnam"!!

We were transported to the Replacement Center by buses once the "all clear" warning was issued. I spent 5 or 6 days at the center waiting to be assigned to a unit. I assumed I would get assigned to one of the airborne units that were currently deployed in "Nam".

I was pulling guard duty near the food storage area when an NCO came and got me telling me I had just been assigned to the "F" Company 51st Infantry Airborne, Long Range Patrol, a "LRP" company. I thought "What the hell is a LERP?" I and another replacement were driven by jeep to the company area. We were driven down a road that led to a gate and a gate guard. A sign over the gate read "Welcome Camp Linsy, Latten." The whole compound had a high berm built around it. The driver said "Good luck...these guys are crazy bastards!" as he dropped us off at the Company Office. We were introduced to the first sergeant and the executive officer and assigned to a platoon. I was assigned to first platoon where I was directed to a hutch and a bed, and then went to the supply room where I was issued bedding and my field gear.

After getting settled in a little, we went to the mess hall for dinner. After dinner, I was free to kind of roam around the compound and check things out. I introduced myself to several men in the area.



They had an enlisted men's club at the end of the platoon where you could get a soda or a beer and come chips or other snacks. They even had a makeshift outdoor movie screen. At night they would show a movie if they were able to get one.

The next morning, I started to be trained on what they did and how they did it. I first was given a refresher course on first aid, you were required to be able to dress wounds, flush eyes, give albumin through an intravenous catheter to help replace blood loss during major bleeding, and morphine surrets for pain. There were no medics assigned to F Company.

I was then instructed on what was expected of me and how I was to rig my own equipment that I would be carrying in the field. Then I was told what our mission was. A 5 or 6 man team would be inserted into enemy territory to collect intelligence. We were to do this hopefully without being detected. I was thinking to myself, "Holy shit!! What have I gotten myself into?!" Then I remembered what my Dad had told me as I was boarding the plane headed to Fort Dix where I would be leaving the States to be deployed to "Nam". Dad's exact words were "Do not volunteer for anything!!"

A few days passed before I was assigned to a team. There were several duties that you would be assigned to while you were not in the field. Gate guard, T.O.C. Guard, fill sand bags, rebuild and reinforced our ammo bunker, etc. I was assigned to a team and the next afternoon we were briefed on our mission. We were inserted by helicopter into an area that had just been hit by an air strike. We put on our camouflage jungle fatigues and painted our faces with camo sticks. We boarded the helicopter and were whooshed off to our landing zone, (LZ). The chopper whooshed down to tree top level and we flew several meters before the chopper dived into the LZ that was selected. We were out of the chopper before it touched ground and then the chopper immediately took off again. We ran for cover into the thick jungle. We moved stealthy through the jungle after assuring ourselves that we had not been detected. The team leader moved us several meters from the LZ and we set up our defensive perimeter and waited to observe the area.

At this point I realized that my jungle fatigues were soaking wet from sweat. Night was coming fast from the dense jungle that surrounded us. As darkness closed in around us, we could hear rustling and then voices. We came to the ready, and as

F/51 LRP (Continued)

we did so, an enemy soldier ran right passed the edge of our perimeter. A team member quickly dropped him with a burst from his M-16. The radio operator advised headquarters that we had made contact with the enemy. We were instructed to see if the enemy soldier was alive, and if so, be prepared to bring him to the LZ and he would be extracted with the team. The soldier was alive but gravely wounded. We were instructed to start for the LZ. It was pitch black and we are trying to get through the jungle carrying the wounded soldier. It was surreal feeling the warm blood touching me on my cold sweat soaked jungle fatigues as I took my turn carrying the wounded soldier. We made it to the LZ and the team leader handed me a strobe light and told me to hold it straight up. As I stood straight up and reached high into the air I turned on the strobe light and thought how long it would be before bullets start flying at me. We heard the chopper coming and

swooped down and we ran to it as quickly as possible. We were flown to a med evac unit where we delivered the wounded enemy soldier: he was alive but barely. We were then flown back to our company area to be debriefed. After debriefing, we went to our hutches, cleaned up a little, and went to the mess hall they opened up and gave us some hot chow.

We went back to our hutch and tried to settle in for the night. As I lay there on my bunk I thought, "This is going to be a very long tour, and will I survive?" From that point on, I made sure I listened to the men that had been doing this for 5 or 6 months and were still alive. My father's words came back to me again, "Do not volunteer for anything!" And to this day, I don't remember volunteering to be one of these crazy bastards!!

Dick Moyer

**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

BDQ Reunion 2012:
I have tentatively
set a date for the
2012 reunion;
(April 19, 20,& 21)
in Columbus, GA.

However certain things need to fall into place to meet that date. We have a number of BDQ who live in the area and I believe everyone would like to see the new Infantry Museum.



Saigon—were outnumbered 3 to 1.

Two U.S. Army advisers were killed in an assault on an outpost on a hill about a half-mile west of the fort.

Weather Favors Reds

"I got the s.o.b.'s that shot them," said Staff Sgt. Henry McNeal of Pittsburgh, Pa. He and a fourth U.S. adviser were unhurt.

In launching their attack, the Communists took advantage of poor weather conditions that grounded U.S. and South Vietnamese support planes.

Feature:
U.S. Ships Bombard Attacking Viet Cong

Extracted from the Evening Star, Washington, DC
November 22, 1965

Saigon, South Vietnam (AP): South Vietnamese forces beat back the heavy Viet Cong assaults on the central coast today with the help from bombarding U.S. Navy Ships offshore and air strikes later. U.S. and South Vietnamese Officers said at least 200 of about 1,500 attackers were killed.

The South Vietnamese—defending a fort in Thach Tru village, 20 miles south of Quang Ngai and 320 miles northeast of

The attack broke before dawn and the U.S. advisers called for the bombardment from two 7th Fleet destroyers lying offshore. McNeal said the Navy shells kept the attackers down until the weather cleared later in the day. Then U.S. and South Vietnamese planes and U.S. Marine helicopters attacked with napalm bombs and rockets.

Red Bodies Strewn Around

Viet Cong bodies were strewn inside the fort, in the rice paddies in front of it and on the outpost hill.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

Attack planes silenced six 81mm Viet Cong mortars that were firing on the hill.

U.S. and South Vietnamese officers on the scene said at least 200 Viet Cong were killed. Associated Press correspondent George Esper said he counted more than 100 bodies.

Officials said government casualties were light, but Esper said their casualties appeared to be moderate. Many of the rangers were killed inside the fort in close-in fighting. At one spot about 20 bodies of government soldiers were attacked side by side.

Attacked Six Times

The rangers were divided into three companies, one inside the fort, one on the hill outpost and one north of the village of Thach Tru.

The Viet Cong assaulted the fort six times during an eight-hour period. They were beaten off by small arms, automatic weapons and hand grenades.

Many of the Viet Cong were wearing brown khaki shirts and short black pants. A commemoration button reading "Dien Bien Phu Battalion" was found on one of the bodies. This battalion fought in the decisive battle at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 where the Viet Minh defeated the French.

Government troops also captured nearly 100 enemy weapons, many of them late model types including recoilless rifles, light machine guns and Chinese-type assault rifles.

As many of you know Command Sergeant Major Henry passed away August 13, 2011 in Kileen, Texas.

Sitrep

Our Ranger from down under AATTW WO Arthur (Robbie) Robinson returned home from a recent hip replacement and is back on the net. I know he would love to hear from his Ranger friends.

Arnold AFB:

In early October several of us got together at the Arnold, AFB recreation area. Attached are a number of photos.



Fran and Sam Conn



Hilda and Mike Martin



**Bob Murphy and
Doug Perry**

The Rangers of Omaha Beach

These often six-foot waves
Stormed ashore, surging over
That Midwestern-named, but still
European beach.
Below the "Pointe du Hoc" they
Drove upward into two days
Of advance and loss: 50 of their 250
Fought into the heights. Those remaining
Passed on earthwards, into unit history.
Leaving behind the first blood sacrifices
That all great mortal undertakings in war
Then and now, seem to ask.

Some may since dare to forget
With our passing time's quiet years
The necessary violence that
So few to consider or allow, but
Without which success in war
Most often demands.

Mike McNamara
32nd ARVN Ranger BN

Quote:

"Remember officers and soldiers that you are free men, fighting for the blessings of liberty. - General George Washington

Mu Nau, Bill Miller, Unit Director

RANGERS:

On Friday, 11 November 2011, a group of comrades laid wreaths at the Vietnamese Rangers (Biet Dong Quan) Living Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. The Vietnamese Ranger Memorial was installed in 1995, and has been the site of several Veteran's Day observances. We will remember.

Biet Dong Quan Sat!, Jim Waters, TD42BDQ

**Arlington, 11
November, 2011**





MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

This Page Dedicated to the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), Merrill's Marauders, Our 75th RRA Lineage.





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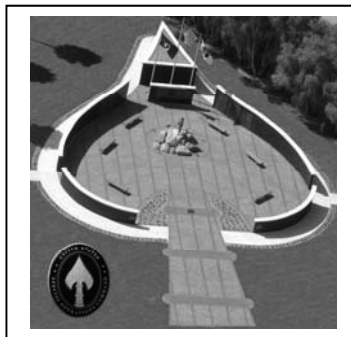
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There were potential issues concerning the ownership and copy right of the figure on the reverse of the coin, the figure that we referred to as "Ruck Man". The new layout will allow much more space for engraving. The other side of the coin will remain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

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

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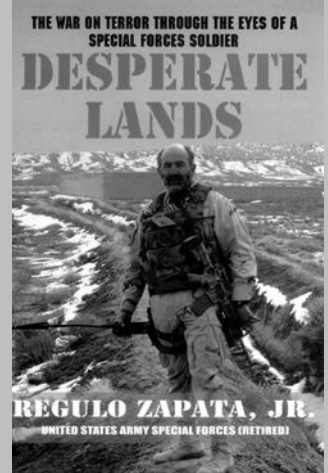
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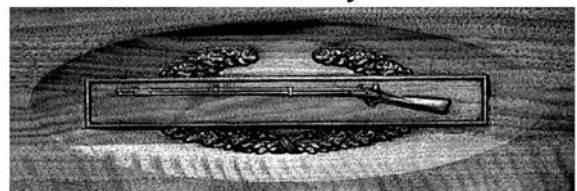
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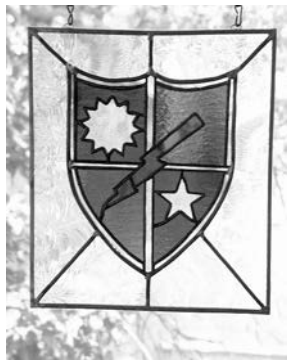
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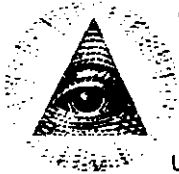
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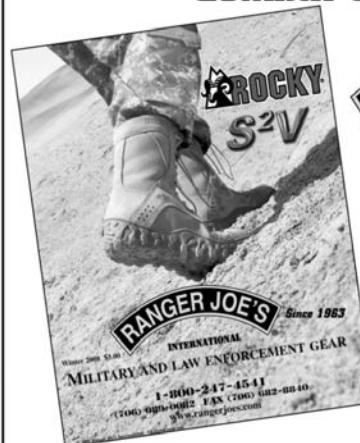
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75th RRA
PO BOX 577800
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This Christmas season we have made donations to each of the three Ranger Battalions and to the Special Troops Battalion for the benefit of the young Rangers and their families. If you wish to contribute to the Family Fund, it is not too late. Please mail your contribution to the address above. If you send one check for a contribution and your dues, please specify how much goes to each. Thank you.



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